A Preacher’s Perspective

It’s a difficult thing to understand the life of God in us. We perceive all of life through the very narrow window of our own experience. Though we cannot remember a time before our consciousness, we have never been apart from our connection to the Holy Spirit of God. The life which was the beginning of our existence was a spark lit by that Spirit. We knew security and peace in our mothers’ wombs in fellowship with the Holy Spirit. The psalmist wrote, “I praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” He notes that we were knit together by God, and that He knows us in all our historical acts and thoughts before they ever came to be.

(Psalm 139)

So, when Jesus tells His disciples that He is the vine and that they (we) are the branches, His teaching is a wonderful and somewhat incomprehensible thing. His life flows in us and through us.

There is a holiness and presence within those who are His which is not really perceptible, yet it is there. We see it best, perhaps, at a distance. As we look back at the lives of our brothers and sisters in the body after a lifetime of service, we see that divine hand and influence. As we look into the tiny faces of the newborn, we see that divine beauty. As we celebrate in a familiar hymn, we see it “when love, in one delightful stream, through every bosom flows.”

In worship, we can sense the binding together of our spirits in His Spirit. We share a common response to the reading of the Word, and we join hearts around the communion table in a transcendent meal which connects us to that upper room with the disciples, which celebrates the present reality of the Spirit with us, and which points us to the feast to come in the glorified kingdom.

More difficult to sense is the speaking of the Spirit to us in our thoughts. They do feel like our own thoughts, but then a friend’s face or name will come to mind for no reason we can think of. I believe that is Spirit work. In study or in dialogue about scripture, a text comes to mind or a meaning seems clearer than we had understood before. That I think is the Spirit’s gentle influence. We can resist. We can quench. We can distort. But God’s present love for us is as real as the nourishment which takes minerals from the soil, water from the skies, sunlight from the heavens and converts them into the nourishment of an abundant vineyard.

God’s life is in us. Celebrate it.

Chuck Miller
This Morning ...

Please take a moment this morning to fill out an attendance card, especially if you are a guest. Prayer cards are also available in the pew rack. You may choose to have prayers by the elders, a prayer warrior or by the whole church family. If you choose “whole church family” it will be announced following the sermon.

Order of Worship

Welcome ......................... Curt Robinson
Praise Songs ..................... Rick Root
  #797  Lord We Come Before Thee Now
Introduction & Prayer ............. Curt Robinson
Kids Connection .................. Brian Gifford
  Acts 2:43-47
  #557  Rise Up O Men of God
  #539  Higher Ground
  2 Corinthians 11:2-3
  #560  Living by Faith
  #961  There is a Balm in Gilead
Communion Message ............... Don Brewster
  #350  When My Love for Christ Grows Weak
Communion
Sermon ............................ Chuck Miller
  #934  Softly and Tenderly
Prayer Cards ..................... Bob Voigts
  #421  Sweet, Sweet Spirit

Welcome to the West Chicago Church of Christ

If you are visiting with us, we especially want to welcome you. We pray our time together worshiping our Father in heaven will be uplifting and encouraging. You are an honored guest and we want to thank you for being a part of our worship this morning!

Bible classes begin at 9:30 and are available for all ages. Babies can be taken to the nursery located at the back of the auditorium. Pre-school and elementary-age children meet in classrooms downstairs. Teens meet in the teen room at the back of the auditorium. The adult class meets in the fellowship room.

Our Community Groups meet every Sunday throughout the year, except for the last Sunday of each month. The last Sunday of each month, we will meet at 6:00 p.m. for a time of praise and fellowship.

A weekly web-cast of our Sunday morning worship services is available by following these instructions:
  http://wcfamily.viewnetcam.com
  Username: wcfamily
  Password: 6302312062
  Click “SINGLE” tab
  Allow any Active X controls

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of our Elders: Don Brewster  Chuck Miller

Our Deacons are:
  Justin Avey: Benevolence, Fellowship, Stewardship & Leadership
  Jay Hearn: Worship & Pulpit, Communications, Outreach, Education, Benevolence
  Curt Robinson: Education, Stewardship & Leadership
  Rick Root: Communications, Education, Stewardship & Leadership

Sunday Morning Bible Class .................. 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship ..................... 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening (last Sunday of each month) . . . . 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Bible Class .............. 7:00 p.m.

350 East James Avenue
West Chicago, Illinois  60185
(630) 231-2062
wcfamily@wcfamily.org  www.wcfamily.org

Date to Remember

TODAY ........ Chili & Soup Potluck Luncheon
January 17 .................. Ladies Class
January 18 .................. Seniors Breakfast
January 19 .................. Teen Parent Connection
January 20 .................. Mens Prayer Breakfast
January 22 ................ Community Groups
January 24 ................ Ladies Class
January 26 ................ Teen Parent Connection
January 27 ................ Mens Prayer Breakfast
January 29 ................ Leadership Meeting/Praise Sunday!

Records You Helped Make

Sunday Morning Bible Class .................. 64
Sunday Morning Worship ..................... 105
Wednesday Evening Bible Class ............. 25
Contribution .................................. $5,665.16

Nursery Workers
  Carrie Drumheller, Jackie Robinson

Collection Counters
  Justin Avey, Mike Henkel
In Our Prayers...

Phyllis Cisse, Cindy Drumheller’s mother, is in rehab recuperating from a broken pelvis. She is doing well.

Obadiah Doka and his family in Nigeria are very fearful of the violence happening in northern Nigeria. The Christians have been warned to move out of northern Nigeria by a Islamic group. Pray for their safety and the continuation of his ministry. A recent letter from Doka’s sponsoring church is posted on the bulletin board.

Lloyd Embree, a friend of Joyce Eakins, is very ill with cancer. Please pray for him and his wife.

John Giovanni, a friend of Lynette Root’s brother, has a brain tumor. He is undergoing chemotherapy and radiation, but the doctors are not giving him much hope.

Josephine Haggerton was in the hospital last week because of some falls; no serious injury.

Bobbye Miller was in the hospital again recently with pancreatitis. Chuck will start radiation in February.

Those suffering with long-term issues:

Herman Aultman – Bobbie Whitman’s brother
Justin Avey
Paul & Judy Bertrand – Lynette Root’s parents
Herman Biggers – Josephine Haggerton’s brother
Bonnie Bingham
Nancy Brewster
John Day
Al Dorsey
Doug Dorsey – Al’s son
Joyce Duke – Bobbie Whitman’s sister
Joyce Eakins’s siblings
Brad Fowler – Joan Lockett’s nephew
Lisa Gleason – Dana Howard’s sister
Lauren Helton – Josephine Haggerton’s nephew
Kathy Huml – John Pedersen’s sister
Mason Hutchins – friend of
Alec Boyd & Rourke Mullins
Debbie Lawrence – Bobbie Whitman’s niece
Myrna Levake
Anne Librande – Joanne Johnson’s mother
Jack Lockett – father of Charlie, Mike, Julie Chavez, Shelley Prosser, Missy Kissane, & Becky Pedersen
Mike Lockett – Joan’s son
Joan Mullins – Paul’s mother
Josh Otte – Chris Czernik’s nephew & the son of Marion Lake’s cousin
Helen Plummer – the mother of Joan Avey and Cliff J.D. Potts – the father of Cyndi Perez
Scott Robinson – Curt’s brother
Kay Schrader
Phyllis Sitler
Bruce Snyder & Cindy Stewart – Bob Voigts’ cousins
Ernie & Rose Stirrup – Kelly Ieler’s parents
Jim Whitman

Connection Point is next Sunday, January 22, at the Naperville Church of Christ. Please sign up outside of the teen room. Brian Gifford would like to get as many youth together for this as possible. We’ll meet at our church building at 2:00 p.m. and should be back around 7:00 p.m. At this student-led event, Epic Fail, we will think about the grace and power of God in the lives of ordinary, broken people like us.

WINTERFEST trip in Gatlinburg, Tennessee – Thursday, February 16, through Sunday, February 19 – Ian, Christina, Brian and Shannon will be chaperoning the trip again this year. An awesome time was had last year and they are looking forward to another great time this year! Plans are to leave the building around 7:00 a.m. Thursday morning and drive straight through to Gatlinburg. This will allow us to go on a group hike during the day on Friday before all of the activities kick off that evening. Hopefully, this will give you more time to unite as a group and enjoy time in God’s awesome creation…the Smoky Mountains!

Moms-to-Be:

Lauren Avey – Justin & Joan’s daughter-in-law
Nana Dukeman – Marion Lake’s niece
Shannon Gifford
Jamie Miller
Christina Voigts

Armed forces:

Joe Amato – Bob & Betsy Jett’s son-in-law is in Afghanistan until the middle of March.
Josh Aultman – Bobbie Whitman’s grand-nephew
Ryan Gleason – Dana Howard’s nephew
Jacob Headtke – U.S. Marines, RCC alumni
Joey Wertz – the friend of Lynette Root’s friend, Iraq
Jonathon Young – a Warrant Officer in the army

Missions:

City of Children – Ensenada, Mexico
Living Room Café – Chicago
Mission Lazarus – Honduras & Haiti
Shults-Lewis – the teens, their families, the workers
Enoch & Jeannine Thweatt – Taiwan
Teen Parent Connection - West Chicago
Joe & Allison Voigts – Korea
Students of Joe Voigts – China
Ayodele Waleola – Nigeria
Today!

Everyone is welcome, especially those who are visiting, to our annual Chili, Soup & Sandwich Luncheon immediately following worship in the fellowship room. Beware of Dan Vantreese’s super hot chili!

Bookmarks

“Who I Am in Christ” bookmarks are available in the foyer. They include “Who You Are in the Family of God in West Chicago” on the back. There are plenty for everyone!

Community Groups!

Community Groups are scheduled to meet next weekend. Our purpose is to 1) provide time together in a less structured setting than our Sunday morning worship and 2) grow in love by connecting with others. Some questions to ask yourself, “Has the enemy stolen my joy?” and “Do I focus on negatives rather than love?” Don’t forget to invite your friends and neighbors!

Bible Class Teachers

Please sign up to teach the Wednesday evening 0-4 aged class. A sheet is posted on the bulletin board.

Ladies Bible Class

The Tuesday morning Ladies Class will begin a new course of study soon, Light My Path Ministries, God’s People and Their Callings, by Debbie McAfee. Contact Pat Brewster if you would like to join the class. Class begins at 10:00 a.m. in the fellowship room.

Teen Parent Connection

Meals are needed for the Thursday evening Teen Parent Connection meetings that will be held at the end of January and in February. If you are willing to prepare and/or serve a meal or donate money for a meal for approximately 15 people, see Sally.

New Address

Kim Sitler has a new address: 3153 Riverbirch Drive #102, Aurora, Illinois 60502. Her new email address is ckpsitler@comcast.net. Her phone number is the same as before, 630-632-2626 (cell only).