



Family

West Chicago Church of Christ

Volume 40, Issue 19 • May 18, 2008

A Preacher's Perspective

What lessons are to be learned at a dance recital. Yesterday, my precious granddaughter Rebekah was part of a wonderful program of young ladies (and a few boys) who are learning grace of movement with music. Bekah, of course, was clearly the best. Now, for most people, of course, the show-stealers are the little ones in their tutus who have no clue about rhythm, coordination or choreography. But their little souls are perfectly in tune with their Maker, and theirs is perfect performance.

As each little foot tapped out its own version of time, as each chubby leg offered its unique take on grace, the hearts of the crowd were captured and angels could almost be seen hovering above.

One of our favorite performers ignored the more-or-less synchronized efforts of her troupe of four to explore her own interpretation of the musical form. At one point she became lost in wonder at something on the floor and gave it her attention for a while before returning to the theme of the moment. And no expression on her face suggested that for one moment she was concerned that her own version of dance was less than sufficient for our entertainment. She was a joy.

How interesting to observe the advance in coordination and sophistication which comes with each passing year. The teen ballerinas were elegant and graceful in a very special way. But there was no refinement of technique or demonstration of agility which could rival the pure joy and beauty of the little ones.

So what is the goal of training and development of skill and athleticism? How can the pure perfection of innocence in children be improved upon? It cannot be. That's why we must savor it and hold on to it. We do not want to ever lose our joy in the child within us or the children which surround us.

I love the Psalm of David in which he reveals some of the secret of his God-loved heart:

O LORD, my heart is not lifted up, my eyes are not raised too high; I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me.

But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a child quieted at its mother's breast; like a child that is quieted is my soul. **Psalms 131:1-2 (RSV)**

What a powerful fountain of renewal and spiritual energy is the realization of our total, helpless, innocent acceptability to God our Father as the joy of His heart. We are the apple of His eye.

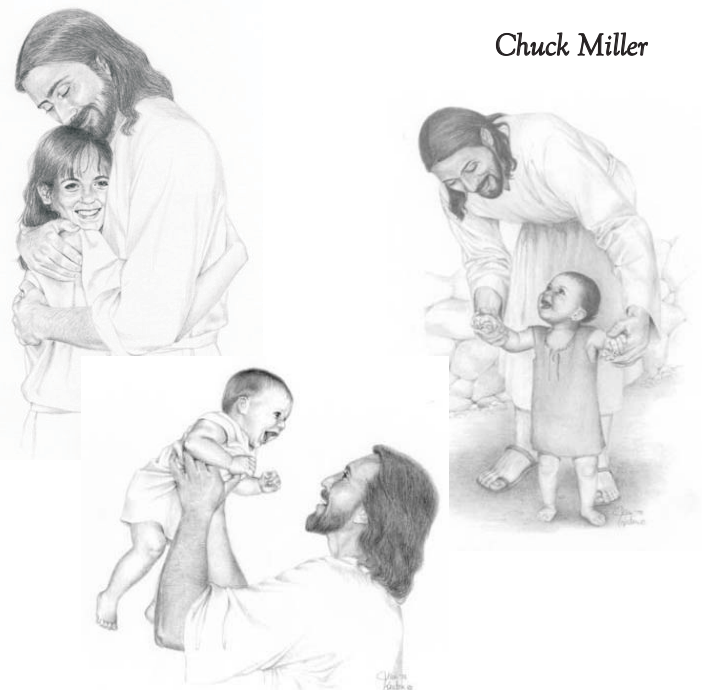
He delights in us as a grandparent who watches that special princess in her first dance recital and remembers her birth, the birth of her parent, and every precious moment which has preceded.

How your God adores your soul.

Jesus affirms that link between the fathomless mind of God and the perfection of children as He commands that we permit the little children to come to Him. Children could always approach Him and always were at ease in His arms.

As we walk with Jesus in deepening our faith, we pray that we can grow in power and love to endure even a cross, but always with the joy and perfect praise of a little child.

Chuck Miller



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 worshipping our Father in heaven will be uplifting and encouraging.

Bible classes are available for all ages. Babies can be taken to the nursery located at the back of the auditorium. All other children meet in classrooms downstairs. Teens meet in the teen room, which is also located at the back of the auditorium. Adult classes meet in the auditorium and in the fellowship room downstairs.

Our Small Group Fellowship program takes place during the fall, winter and spring months and is on the first and third Sundays of each month and is in lieu of the Sunday evening worship. The Small Group Fellowship schedule does change occasionally due to holidays.

You are an honored guest and we want to thank you for being a part of our worship this morning!

- Sunday Morning Bible Class 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
(The Sunday Morning Worship is interpreted for the deaf.)
- Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
(No evening worship on Small Group Fellowship Sundays)
- Wednesday Evening Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of our elders.

Elders:

- Don Brewster** **Bob Jett**
- Chuck Miller** **Bob Voigts**

Deacons:

- Justin Avey:** Benevolence, Fellowship, Stewardship & Leadership
- Jay Hearn:** Worship & Pulpit, Communications, Outreach, Education, Benevolence
- Cliff Plummer:** Fellowship, Benevolence, Education
- Curt Robinson:** Education, Stewardship & Leadership
- Rick Root:** Communications, Education, Stewardship & Leadership
- Paul Stirrup:** Stewardship & Leadership, Benevolence



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This Morning...

Please take a moment to fill out an attendance card, especially if you are a guest this morning. Please pass them to the aisle to be picked up before the sermon. 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
- Singing - *Dewayne Smith*
- Announcements - *Steve Link*
- Singing
- Prayer - *Kyle Wheeler*
- Singing
- Lord's Supper
- Contribution and Prayer Card Collection
- Sermon - *Chuck Miller*
- Singing
- Prayer Card Responses and Prayer - *Bob Voigts*
- Announcements
- Singing
- Closing Prayer - *Scott Fordyce*

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- May 18 Scott & Bridgette Fordyce (anv.)
- May 18 Jeff & Kelly Ieler (anv.)
- May 22 Elizabeth Henkel
- May 23 Scott & Carrie Drumheller (anv.)

Dates to Remember

- May 18 Connection Point @ Park Forest
- May 21 Seniors Breakfast
- May 23-26 RCC Teen Retreat
- June 5 Food Pantry Delivery
- June 7 Leadership Meeting
- June 12 Shults-Lewis Putt-Putt Golf Outing
- June 15 Father's Day
- June 22-26 Vacation Bible School!

Records You Helped Make

- Sunday Morning Bible Class 92
- Sunday Morning Worship 132
- Wednesday Evening Bible Class 45
- Contribution \$4,617.50

In Our Prayers...

Justin Avey has a tumor on his pancreas.

Bob Czernik is very ill and struggling with cancer.

Margo Smetana, the infant daughter of Steve Link's friend, had a heart transplant several months ago. She is not doing well and may need another transplant.

Troy, the stepson of Lynette Root's friend, is home from the hospital and stable.

Freeda Witham, Sally Hearn's mother, is not feeling well. She is recovering from pneumonia and may be having problems with her gall bladder.

Vacation Bible School is in the planning and coordinating stages. Pray that we can be a light to each other and to our community.

Those suffering with long-term issues:

Herman Aultman – Bobbie Whitman's brother

Sylvia Atten – Dana Howard's friend

Andrea Bailey – a former member from California

Irene Barnes – Lynette Root's aunt

Paul & Judy Bertrand – Lynette Root's parents

Lisa Beverly – Sandy Boyd's sister who has MS

Bonnie Bingham

Leona Boston – Lynette Root's aunt

Jim Brannon – Pat Brewster's brother-in-law

Mary Brent – Joe Kirts's sister

Nancy Brewster

Jim & Julie Chavez

John Day

Lisa DeVaney – Marie Hayes' daughter

Al Dorsey

Doug Dorsey – Al's son

Chad Englebach – Marie Hayes' grandson

Amy Ferguson – a former member from Montana

Jean Gray – Linda Vantreese's sister

Elizabeth Griffin

Josephine Haggerton

Sarah Hayden & family – Maria Zeisler's relative

Mary Henkel – Mike's mother

Kathy Huml – John Pedersen's sister

Amy Kalupski – sister-in-law of Julie Chavez's friend

Joe and Star Kuhnle – Chuck & Bobby's foster son

Debbie Lawrence – Bobbie Whitman's niece

Don Lemley

Anne Librande – Joanne Johnson's mother

Steve Link

Jack Lockett – the father of Charlie, Mike, Shelley,

Julie Chavez, Missy Kissane, & Becky Pedersen

Mike Lockett – Joan's son

Laura Mahan – Shirley Rucker's daughter

Steve & Melissa Massie family

Danielle Nichols – Alyssa Milam's niece

Tim Miller

Josh Otte – Chris Czernik's nephew and the son of Marion Lake's cousin

Doug Peterson

Pat Ronzheimer

Adonnica Schmittou – the sister-in-law of former members Matthew & Debbie Allgood

Kay Schrader

Chester & Phyllis Sittler

Bruce Snyder – Bob Voigts' cousin

Cindy Stewart – Bob Voigts' cousin

Ollie Taylor – the niece of Lynette Root's friend

Linda Vantreese

Eudie Voigts – Bob's mother

Jim & Jamie Winner

Jim & Jeremy Whitman

Rick & Gina Zamora

Mothers-to-be:

Missy Day

Armed forces overseas:

Greg Billings – Justin Avey's employee

Wes Clark – the son-in-law of Lynette Root's friend

Dustin Meritt – Justin Avey's employee

Chris & Jennifer Roberts – Cathleen Longfellow's sister & brother-in-law are going to Iraq for 16 months, they have a 1-year-old daughter

Shane – the son of LeAnn Sexton, a friend of Lori Plummer

Missionaries:

Jarrold, Allison, Soledad & Levi Brown – Honduras (especially for their adoption process of Soledad)

Obadiah Doka & Family – Nigeria

Dry Bones Ministry – homeless teens in Denver, CO

Keith, Kim, Candace, Laura & John Mark Lango – Brazil

Makinde Olufemi – Nigeria

Shults-Lewis – the teens, their families, the workers

Enoch & Jeannine Thweatt – Taiwan – check the bulletin board for a current newsletter

Joe Voigts – China – also pray for the churches and all the new Christians – Joe will be home in July

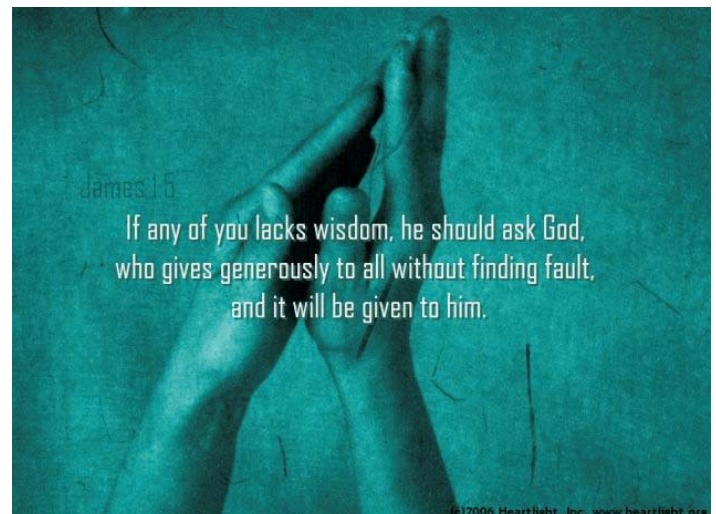
Nursery Workers

Bev Day, Marianne Stirrup



Collection Counters

Justin Avey, Mike Henkel



Honduras Trip

The Honduras Mission Trip is scheduled to depart on Sunday, August 3 (note date change) and will return Sunday, August 10. Today is the last day to hold a spot for the trip, so let Emily know if you'd like to go.

The mission group traveling to Honduras will be meeting during Bible class time starting TODAY downstairs at the Miller's home.

If you would like to provide financial support to help those who are making the trip, see one of the elders, or give cash or a check and clearly indicate it is to support the trip.

Missions Prayer Group

~ SUNDAYS ~
8:45 - 9:15 a.m.
Teen Room



Thank You!

A big "thank you" goes out to **Lori Plummer** for the Mother's Day fans she created for each of our ladies. Make sure you pick one up in the foyer.

Thank you to **Frances Shearer** and **Pat Brewster** for helping to create our flower garden downstairs. Make sure to go down and check it out! Kids, write your name neatly on one of your flowers.

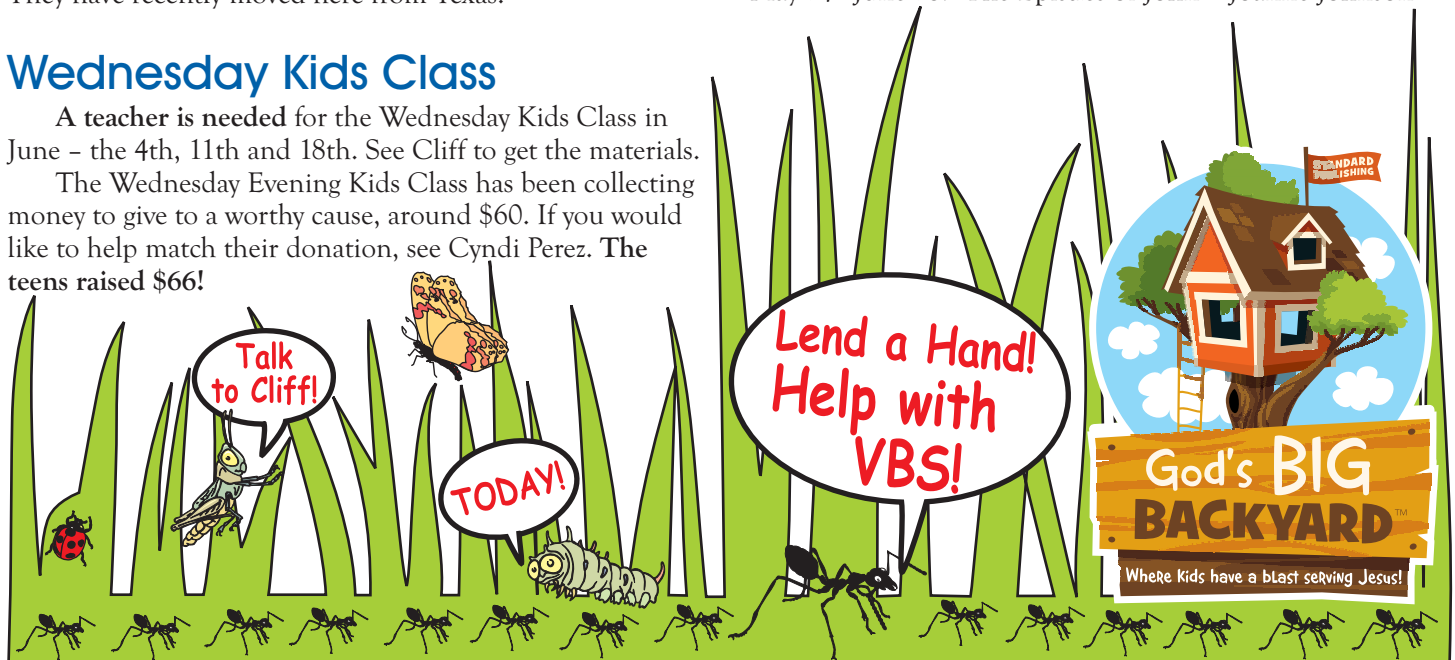
Welcome!

The Watson family has placed membership with our church family. Make sure to meet Kenn, Sherry, Cleta, and Emily. Their address is: 5N530 Deer Run Drive, St. Charles, IL 60175 and their phone is: 630-584-0850. They have recently moved here from Texas.

Wednesday Kids Class

A teacher is needed for the Wednesday Kids Class in June - the 4th, 11th and 18th. See Cliff to get the materials.

The Wednesday Evening Kids Class has been collecting money to give to a worthy cause, around \$60. If you would like to help match their donation, see Cyndi Perez. The teens raised \$66!



Youth & Family News

TEENS: There is a **Connection Point** at Park Forest this afternoon. Meet at the building by 1:45. Bring \$5 for dinner at Aurelio's after the Connection Point. We should be back to the church building between 8:00 and 8:30 this evening.

Rockford Christian Camp sessions are beginning with the Memorial Day Teen Retreat, May 23 - 26, for teens who have completed grades 7-12. Applications and information are available on-line or see Cliff.

The teens raised \$66 to support the Wednesday Evening Kids Class. Good Job!

PARENTS: Please note RCC retreat fees are \$75 and camp fees are \$150. Be sure to register two weeks prior to any camp session to forego late fees.

SENIORS: This Wednesday, May 21, is the **Seniors Breakfast**. See you at the Colonial Restaurant on Route 38 by Randall Road at 10:00 a.m.

Benevolence Needs

One of the families from the community that visits our food pantry needs furniture. A mother with 15 children has recently moved from a two bedroom apartment into a four bedroom house. She specifically mentioned a table and chairs, two beds, and a washer and dryer.

Green Lake Encampment

Check the bulletin board for information about the **Green Lake Family Encampment** on August 11-16.

Wednesday Ladies Class

Following is the plan for our Ladies Bible Class:
May 14 - June 18: The Epistles of John - Joanne Johnson