



Family

West Chicago Church of Christ

www.wcfamily.org

Volume 44, Issue 32 • August 5, 2012

A Preacher's Perspective

Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. ²⁵ Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.

1 Corinthians 9:24-25

What special honors indeed we have seen these past days as the finest athletes in the world have strained every sinew, have pushed themselves beyond pain, have given their all for the honor of their nations, the glory of their sport, and for their personal dreams of medals.

I was so happy to see Janet Cherebon-Bawcom run in the women's 10k run on Friday. She finished 12th, but what a story for her life! To have been on the field of competition and to have seen the crowd, heard the din of encouragement and felt the electricity in the air from this event that captures the hearts of the nations like no other event. Good work, Janet! (She is the daughter-in-law of a friend from Harding, Dean Bawcom.)

The text from **1 Corinthians** is one in which Paul urges us to take seriously our Christian race. It is important that we not only enter the race, but that we finish it as well.

Is the apostle urging us to compete against one another, and to seek recognition as the finest of those in the Christian race? No. He is simply emphasizing that the effort and training which is required for athletic success, success which is for a wreath that perishes should not be more than the serious effort we put into our Christian walk, our "race."

But there is an important distinction between the races of the London Olympiad and the race in which every Christian competes: our victory is assured and our prize is certain. Our champion has already run the race and we cannot fail if we are careful to run in His strength.



The great text from **Isaiah 40** states it most wonderfully: ³¹ but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. **Isaiah 40:31**

In the might and power of our Savior, with the strength of the Holy Spirit, we can accomplish whatever God calls us to do. We run in His yoke. He carries us to certain victory. And the most imperfect, weak and flawed of His creatures will know the power of victory if their race is run in His grace.

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. 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.



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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.

Worship Order

Welcome, Announcements, Birthdays *Paul Mullins*
 Kids Connection *Brian Gifford*
 Praise Songs *Dewayne Smith*
 #71 *As the Deer*
 #390 *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*
 #467 *We Have an Anchor*
 #332 *Lead Me to Calvary*
 Communion *Peter Drumheller*
 Prayers, Pass Emblems & Collection
 #590 *Jesus Is All the World to Me*
 Sermon *Chuck Miller*
 #912 *Burdens Are Lifted at Calvary*
 Prayer Cards *Bob Voigts*
 #853 *When We All Get to Heaven*

Birthdays & Anniversaries

July 29 . . Charlie Hearn, Steve Ongalo, Rhonda Triplett
 July 30 Christopher Robinson
 August 2 Jamie Miller
 August 6 Nathan Dean
 August 8 Jason Day
 August 10 A.J. Deitrick, Mike Urso
 August 11 Cole Livermore

Dates to Remember

TODAY Community Groups
 August 8 Sign Language Class
 August 10 Mens Prayer Breakfast
 August 12 Community Groups
 August 15 Senior Citizen Breakfast
 August 15 Sign Language Class
 August 17 Mens Prayer Breakfast
 August 19 Community Groups
 August 26 Shannon Gifford Baby Shower
 August 26 Leadership Meeting/Praise Sunday!

Records You Helped Make

Sunday Morning Bible Class 41
 Sunday Morning Worship 70
 Contribution \$2,086.45

Nursery Workers Joan Avey, Shelby Root
Collection Counters Mike Henkel, Paul Mullins

In Our Prayers...

Herman Aultman, Bobbie Whitman's brother, is recuperating from pneumonia.

Chris Czernik fell and broke her back. She is staying with a relative. Her address is 26W121 Jewel Road, Wheaton, IL 60187 and her cell phone is 630-330-7744.

Pat Johnson, Dana Howard's aunt, has health issues.

Sue Lake, Marion's sister-in-law, is having serious issues with her liver. She is on the list to receive a liver transplant. **Sue's mother, Nola**, has diabetes and has a sore on her leg that is not healing.

Rose Stirrup, Kelly Ieler's mother, had cancer surgery this week. The Ielers are visiting her in Canada.

Bob York fell while traveling and broke his shoulder and three ribs. He is back home after some time in Delnor.
Moms-to-Be:

Lauren Avey – Justin & Joan's daughter-in-law

Kathryn (Lemley) Garner

Armed forces:

Josh Aultman – Bobbie Whitman's grand-nephew

Ryan Gleason – Dana Howard's nephew

Kristen Hauser – a friend of the Avey's, Afghanistan

Jacob Headtke – U.S. Marines, RCC alumni

Taylor Mathews – Mike's middle son

Joey Wertz – the friend of Lynette Root's friend, Iraq

Jonathon Young – a Warrant Officer in the army

Missions:

City of Children – Ensenada, Mexico

Obadiah Doka – Nigeria

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

News from Jon Mercer

July 24, 2012

Dear Family at West Chicago:

Greetings from Alaska, "The Last Frontier!" I am living in Anchorage with my sister-in-law, Nancy, the wife of my brother Jim. Nancy went to Illinois in April to visit some former classmates and invited me to return to Alaska with her for two weeks. I decided to go with her, but I received such a warm welcome from the people in her church and was so impressed with the beauty and majesty of Alaska that I decided to stay indefinitely. I felt like I had been lifted out of Rockford by the Lord and placed in a spiritual intensive care unit. I began attending church six days a week and experienced joy and victory that I hadn't known for years. The people in Nancy's church really



know and love the Lord and have extremely spirit-filled worship services.

Within two weeks of arriving here I had seen eight moose and three bears, as well as bald eagles, dall sheep and musk ox. The musk oxen produce fur that is eight times warmer than sheep's wool and native Eskimo women knit it into hats and scarves costing over \$135.

I have been fishing on the Prince William Sound and other waters three times. A man in Nancy's church has a twenty-two foot boat and takes people out to fish for halibut and salmon. The first time I went we fished for halibut and shrimp – we didn't catch any halibut but we trapped 100 shrimp. The second time we caught twenty-six fish – twenty-four silver salmon and two pink salmon. The third time, last Friday, we caught seventeen fish including one black bass. There are fish filets in Nancy's freezer that will last for months.

A month ago, I went on a 200-mile motorcycle trip. The first time I had ever ridden on a motorcycle. It was wonderful to be able to sit on the bike and see an unobstructed view of the mountains and everything else around you. I rode the first half of the trip on a two-wheeled Harley Davidson bike and part of the return trip on a three-wheeled Spyder. There were nine bikes and I was the only passenger. I am enclosing a photo of myself standing next to the Harley at the half-way point.

I have been applying for work here in Anchorage, but without success so far. I had two exciting interviews at a local Ace Hardware store, but they never called me back and I applied for a maintenance man's job at Nancy's church, but lack the carpentry and drywall and electrical experience the job requires. Please pray that God would lead me to a job that is suited to my abilities. *(continued page 4)*

Today!

Community Groups are scheduled to meet TODAY.

Only the southeast group is planning to meet (at the building following services). Feel free to join them if you don't have a group. "...They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. – Acts 2:46-47



Shults-Lewis Annual Day

There will be a short meeting in the teen room after worship today to discuss hosting a booth at Shults-Lewis Annual Day. The event is on Saturday, September 15. We are aputting together two baskets to be sold in the auction. Please sign up in the foyer for items to be donated to go into the baskets. Quilts and afghans made to be sold in the auction are usually a big hit. Questions, see Lynette Root.

The Golf Outing is Friday, September 14. You may register online at www.golfinvite.com/shultslewisfall.

Sign Language

Maxine Garon has graciously offered to teach us some sign language to be able to better communicate with Joyce Eakins. These classes will take place during our regular Wednesday evening Bible classes on August 8, 15 and 22. Everyone, of every age, is encouraged to attend. Let Sally know if you plan to attend so we know how many handouts to copy.



High School Graduates

Bibles were purchased for Rachel Hearn and Daniel Henkel to celebrate their high school graduation. The Bibles are located on the bulletin table in the foyer. Please highlight your favorite verse(s) and write your name next to the verse. Daniel is leaving for Harding University soon, so please complete your highlighting by August 8.

Baby Shower

Ladies are invited to a Baby Shower Luncheon in honor of Shannon & Levi Gifford on Sunday, August 26. It will be held in the fellowship room right after worship. Gift ideas are coming soon!



Teen Parent Connection

Teen Parent Connection will be meeting on Mondays this year starting September 17. Please let Sally know if you are willing to provide meals.



North Park Church of Christ is taking their youth group to Six Flags on Tuesday, August 14, and Wednesday, August 15. They are purchasing 2-day passes for \$50 (negotiated by Jason Willis). They are planning to stay at a hotel near there overnight which would add \$25 on to the cost. So, the total cost of the event is \$75 per person, plus meals.

Meals would be on your own. Jason and Jon Miller are talking about having coolers available so everyone can bring lunches/meals to help keep the cost down.

Jason is inviting our youth group and also planning to invite the Naperville and Cardinal Drive youth groups and probably some others, as well.

We would like to know if any of you who are in grades 9-12 are interested in going. Jon will be driving our group up to Six Flags Tuesday morning and will be staying with our group, so feel free to contact Jon at 630-816-7755 if you have any questions.

If you are interested, but can't pay for this event, please contact Chuck or Don. This is just two weeks away, so we really need to know your interest asap!

The Magi Project

Healing Hands International will pick up Magi Boxes in October. As in the past, we are a collection site. If you are interested in organizing a Magi Project at your work place or school, please see Sally. School supplies are a great addition to a Magi Box.



Jon Mercer continued from page 3

I pray that you are all well and experiencing rich blessings from the Lord. God is so good. Someone said "God is too wise to make any mistakes, and too good to be unkind." Someone else said, in explaining how to be a hero, "get your confidence back, be yourself, and let God fight your battles." God has given me victory over sin and doubt and fear through the blood of Jesus and the promises in his word. I am truly privileged to be where I am right now.

Please pray for Paul that he will have the strength to prevail and the ability to join you on Sundays.

I treasure your friendship and miss the fellowship there. May God bless you daily.

Love,
Jon

Check the bulletin board
for Jon's letter and more photos!