

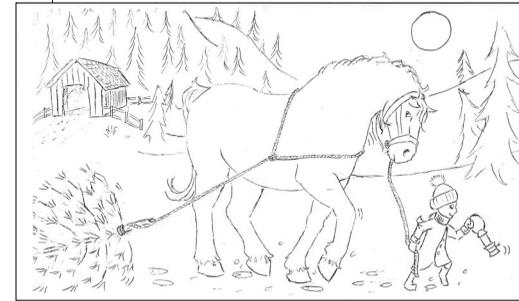


THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

VOLUME 47

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NUMBER 2



A card from Kody...
a young man who visited last summer
after finding a note on the fridge left
by Louann at a horseshoeing school.

Greetings to the Chatham Christian Church!

Not sure if you all remember me, but I sure remember you! I was able to visit with you one Sunday last summer. It was my first time away from home and I can remember feeling pretty miserable after my first week of school. I was weary and lonely and in need of fellowship. When I showed up to the church building that morning, I wasn't sure what to expect. What I found inside your doors was just what I needed. There were songs sung to bring praise to God, a fine sermon preached by pastor Rick from God's holy and sovereign word, and fellowship with fellow brothers and sisters in our Lord, Jesus Christ. And for an extra bonus I was able to hear the Woockman's story and the work that they are doing. Oh, yeah, and I got a free lunch! Any road, I just wanted to say "thank you" to the church for...well, being the church. You were (and I pray still are) light and salt. I am grateful for the love that was shown to me. I also wanted to inform anyone who might possible be interested in whatever happened to me. Well, after my first two weeks of school, I packed up my few belongings thinking that I was headed for home. The night before I left, I found a farriers textbook in the classroom written by a man name Chris Gregory. By reading it I found that he had a farrier school of his own in Lamar, Missouri. I decided to take the scenic road home by way of Lamar to visit the school and see if it would be a good place to attend in the future (If you don't recall, my wrist had been giving me lots of trouble). I left Springfield Saturday afternoon and arrived in Lamar after midnight. I slept in the bed of my truck (I've always wondered why it was called that) and in the morning I drove to McDonald's to brush my teeth and dress for church. It was at church that Sunday morning where I met Mr. & Mrs. Gregory. They were both excellent farriers and teachers, but more than that, they were Christians. Long story short, I ended up staying and completing the course! I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

A very grateful
Kody

P.S. My card seems to be unfinished. Any kids there who like to color? If so, I'd greatly appreciate their assistance! Thanks.

"Father Abraham had many sons,
Many sons had Father Abraham;
I am one of them, and so are you,
So let's just praise the Lord."

That's the beginning of a silly little song that kids love to sing. As the song progresses they are raising a right hand, a left foot, turning around, and sitting down. I guess I never thought about the implications of the song...until I read that Muslims, Jews and Christians were all singing it together at an interfaith gathering in Springfield.

I'm sure you're aware that all three faiths claim Abraham as their spiritual father. You may not know that Baha'is do so as well. That makes four major religions all claiming a connection to Abraham, a connection that many would suggest minimizes the difference between world religions, and gives them equal validity.

The Jewish claim is, of course, without question. The Muslim claim is based on the fact that Arab nations descended from Abraham and Hagar, and the Baha'is claim descent from Abraham and Keturah.

In Genesis we do discover that Abraham sent Hagar and Ishmael into the desert, and that the sons of Ishmael settled to the south of Canaan all the way to the border of Egypt. He later sent the sons of Keturah and his concubines to the land of the east. Islam originated in Arab lands in the 7th century, and Baha'i in Persia in the 19th. It seems to me that their identity as sons of Abraham has more to do with the ethnicity of the founder than commonality of faith.

In Romans and Galatians Paul makes it clear that we become children of Abraham by sharing the faith of Abraham, and we become heirs of promise through Jesus, the seed of Abraham. And that the only way various people groups can become one is by becoming one in Christ Jesus.

In Genesis 25:18 the NIV notes that the sons of Ishmael lived in hostility toward all their brothers. Sadly much of that hostility remains today, and it won't go away by simply singing a silly little song together. It will only go away when all acknowledge Jesus as Lord, and the Prince of Peace.

God Bless, Rick

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Sunday Worship Service
Bible School

9:15 AM
10:45 AM

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Chatham, IL
Permit No. 9

STATISTICS

Worship 124
Offering \$6,851.49

SERVING THIS SUNDAY-1/15/17

Greeters Bill & June Carroll
Visitors' Stand..... Bonnie Ruebush
Communion Meditation..... Bill Carroll
Jack Stucki
Ushers Connor Bales
Kent Ballard
Chris Luzio
Brad Stirmell
Jim Trimberger
Kirk Polley

WORSHIP NURSERY

Toddlers..... Erica Blakley
Jake Divjak
Infants..... Kelly Donaldson
Reagan Formea
Sunday School
Toddlers..... Julie Divjak
Infants..... Jonathan & Jeni Sperry



We've reserved the fireplace room at Fulgenzi's for our Sweetheart Banquet to be held on the evening of Valentine's Day. All we need now is someone to plan the program. If you would be willing to plan an evening of laughter and romantic thoughts for the couples attending, please let Rick know ASAP.



YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT

Jr./Sr. High Students

Your willingness to take time and serve others instead of yourself has always brought joy to my heart. As we are being molded into the image of Christ, an attitude of service emerges when we realize that is exactly what Jesus did for us. He left Heaven to serve, not to be served. He is our Lord and our desire should be to follow in his footsteps.

So, let's meet here at the church on Saturday, January 21st, at 10:00am for a service project. I have a particular idea in mind, but that could change over the next few weeks. You won't need to bring anything other than your energetic, young body ready to do a little work. In fact, you won't even need to ask your parents for lunch money. Lunch will be provided! Four hours should be enough time to get everything accomplished so plan for your ride home to be at CCC around 2:00. Looking forward to a fun afternoon!



Jr./Sr. High Students

Winter Jam in Peoria is coming up soon! This year, the Christian concert will be on Sunday, February 12th at the Peoria Civic Center. Winter Jam has made it a priority to keep the cost of the concert down to encourage attendance enabling the Good News about Christ to be shared with as many people as possible. It is only \$10 to see 12 artists!

Some of those include Crowder, Britt Nicole, Tenth Avenue North, Sadie Roberson, Thousand Foot Krutch, Colton Dixon and many more. I hope all of you attend as it will be a great night together. A sign up sheet will appear on the wall soon, in the meantime, consider going to the concert with us!



All adults are welcome to come fellowship on Friday, January 20th, for a night of laughter and games. There will be plenty of options to find a game that suits your style as there are usually 3-4 games going on simultaneously around the room. Last time, some stayed until 1:30 in the morning!

I'll be here at 6pm that evening, but feel free to come at your leisure. If you would like to order pizza, that will be available, but all are encouraged to bring a snack to share with the group. A sign up sheet will be posted Sunday. If childcare is needed for your family, please make a note of that on the sign up sheet and I'll do my best to round up some providers.

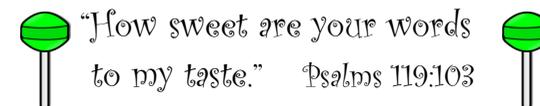


Jr. High Students

The Believe conference will be here soon and I'm excited! Not only do we have fun and lots of it, but the discussions and growth around our relationship with Christ that the conference enables is priceless and impactful. We were still talking about a theme from two years ago in Junior High Youth Group last week!

This year's theme "Open" centers around 2 Corinthians 9:11. Here Paul writes, "You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." We all tend to give into self and hold onto the blessings from God. I think it will be an interesting theme to discuss as we relate this passage back to our lives, to our time with friends and to the resources God has given to us.

A sign up sheet is on the wall! The conference begins on the evening of March 3rd and concludes the afternoon of the 4th. We will be spending the night at the Hotel de Hubers so the only money needed will be for food and registration. Early registration (\$55.00) ends on 2/1/17 so let's get signed up soon!



Kids: The assignment is easy. Just tell me what you learned in Sunday School and you can take your pick of some delicious candy. Your visits to my office is the very best way to end a morning of worship!

Life of Christ

This Sunday at 6:30 we will be visiting the Mount of Beatitudes in our study of the *Life of Christ*. Those coming are encouraged to read through the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew and chapter 11 in our book before coming.



I'm so grateful for your thoughtfulness, your kindness, and your generous heart. Thank you for your calls, visits, but most of all, thank you for your prayers.

Nancy & Dan