

CHATHAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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Sunday Worship Service 9:15 AM
Bible School 10:45 AM

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Chatham, IL
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I recently got an email from Bill(y) Carroll, and yes he did sign it that way, which I loved! Anyway, he asked if I would write out a metaphor I had shared with him twenty-two years ago about baptism. He said he had shared it hundreds of times with people who had questions about baptism, and recently shared it with a leader in his church who is convinced that a person's sins are not forgiven until the moment of baptism because it's in that moment that you come in contact with the blood of Christ. He just wanted to make sure he hadn't strayed far from the way I had said it. In asking for it, however, he actually stated it better than I remembered it, and when I told Marilyn about it, she said she'd never heard me say it. So, for Bill(y), Marilyn, and anyone else who might have wondered about the relationship between salvation and baptism, here goes.

As we noted in our study of I Peter last Sunday, Peter does state that baptism saves us, not by removing dirt from our flesh, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience. And at his conversion, Paul was told to rise and be baptized, and wash away his sins. He then explained in Romans 6 that we are buried with Christ through baptism, and if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, we shall share in His resurrection. There is apparently, therefore, a direct connection between baptism and the forgiveness of sins. In fact, I believe something even sacramental happens in baptism, because God does something for us in baptism that goes far beyond what we are doing. But to suggest that the moment before baptism a person is lost, and when they come out of the water they are saved, may be going too far.

I think when Jesus told Nicodemus that unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of heaven, He painted a picture of a process, and not just a singular event. It's true that a birth is an event, but the baby is alive before coming forth from the womb. And Jeremiah's call and John the Baptist's leap indicate that the Spirit works prenatally. To suggest, therefore, that a person cannot be spiritually alive before baptism, in my opinion, goes against the picture Jesus painted. (Continued inside)



THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

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Christ in Youth

move

**AND THEN HE MET JESUS...STORIES FROM THE LIFE
OF PETER**

JULY 17-21

**PLEASE PRAY FOR GRACE, ABBIE, REAGAN, COURTNEY,
EMILY, TATE, MARK AND TINA AS WE DRAW CLOSER
TO EACH OTHER AND JESUS DURING OUR
CONFERENCE THIS YEAR**

STATISTICS

Worship 106
Offering \$5,435.11

SERVING THIS SUNDAY-7/16/17

Greeters Gary & Lori Gredzieleski
Visitors' Stand..... Judy Marlow
Communion Meditation..... Jack Stucki
Chris Luzio
Ushers.....Connor Bales
Kirk Polley
Kent Ballard
Will Bartels
Rick Polley
Jeff Edmiston

WORSHIP NURSERY

Toddlers Nikki & Anna Hunley
InfantsRenee & Madison Bales
Sunday School
Toddlers Julie Divjak
Infants Jeni Sperry

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY-7/23/17

Greeters Judy Marlow
Visitors' Stand..... Rick & Janet Polley
Communion Meditation..... Jack Stucki
Chris Luzio
UshersConnor Bales
Kirk Polley
Kent Ballard
Will Bartels
Rick Polley
Jeff Edmiston

WORSHIP NURSERY

ToddlersJulie & Abbie Divjak
Infants Kelly Donaldson
.....Courtney Bales
Sunday School
Toddlers Julie Divjak
InfantsBonnie Ruebush

NO PAPER NEXT WEEK

RAPPIN' WITH RICK CONTINUED

I've come to believe that when someone comes to faith in Christ a spiritual conception takes place, and that that new life continues to grow spiritually "in utero" until the moment of birth. Baptism, then, is the birth, when the person is actually born again. He is alive in a "prenatal" relationship with Christ before that moment, but at baptism that relationship becomes "postnatal".

I think this understanding avoids the pitfalls of baptismal regeneration on the one hand, and baptism as nothing more than a symbolic act on the other. It recognizes that baptism as a physical act saves no one, but when done in faith it assures the believer that they have indeed been washed in the blood of Christ and made acceptable in the sight of God.

At what point in the process of coming to life in Christ our sins are actually forgiven might be as hard to prove as when life actually begins in the womb. What's not open for debate is that if you believe that Jesus died for your sins and you have been baptized into Him, your sins have been forgiven. The moment it happened is, in my opinion, of little concern.

God Bless, Rick



All ladies are invited to a bridal shower for Mindy Ballard on Sunday, July 30th at 3:00 in the fellowship hall. Mindy and G have no formal registry, but we are excited to shower them with love as they prepare to begin their journey of marriage with a trip to Ireland to explore their heritage.

Let Us Pray For...

- Scott and Gerri Williams with many health problems in their immediate and extended family.
- Beryl Reese's cousin's husband having cancer surgery.
- Jamella Reese recovering from carpal tunnel surgery.
- Renee Bales' friend with aggressive cancer and family concerns.



For those going to CIY this year, we will leave from the church on Monday at 8:30am. Our first stop will be the Galleria in St. Louis where we will explore the mall, eat lunch and return to our favorite stores we visited earlier this year when we did the escape room. I'm under pressure to get my first pedicure, Tate, help me resist!

We will then travel to Central State University in Warrensburg, MO where we will be all week. We have a free afternoon on Thursday and will be going to the Worlds of Fun amusement park. They have great rides and a water park for us to explore. Bring a towel, swimsuit and sunblock if you plan on getting wet and with the projected temperatures, I think we will all want to get wet!

We will return somewhere around midnight on Friday. Bring enough spending money for incidentals throughout the week, but remember the amusement park is covered if you do the bonus bucks assignment. I am looking forward to praising God all week with the kids and uncovering the truths found in His Word!



Another win for the softball team! To be more exact, our second win of the season. Otto Huber pitched a complete game and confused the opposing team all afternoon with his outstanding curve ball. Connor Bales brought his golden glove and was a wizard at third base. There also was a bald, older guy with a goatee running around the outfield making some plays that probably would have made the ESPN highlight reel. Let's get another win Sunday at 3:15 when we play Sherman United Methodist on Diamond #2.



Lake Springfield Christian Assembly

After this week, the majority of our kids will have attended the camp of their choice this year! Thank you all for encouraging our youth to experience LSCA where Christ is glorified and the gospel is taught. It is a blessing to have it so close to our community!

Next week, Carter Hunley will be attending Junior Camp on July 16-20. Also, later that week, Tristin Johnson and Sophia Llosa will be attending Day Camp 2 on July 21st. Drop them off an encouraging note if you think about it!



It has been several months since our first meeting concerning the mission trip to Mexico next year. We decided we would look for a time in June of 2018 to be involved with a building project for Casas por Cristo. Details on the cost of the trip and other items were discussed, but if you would like to hear about it for the first time or review them with me, just let me know.

Andrew Sexton will be here on Sunday, August 13th, for our morning worship service. During Sunday School, he will be able to meet with those committed to going and those strongly leaning towards going for more in-depth, application type questions. I'm looking forward to seeing Andrew again and our 2018 Mission Trip!



There are no swim and studies until August for the kids, however the pool will be open Sunday after softball for all interested.