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It has long been the goal of our elders to send around 25% of the offerings we receive to missions and other benevolent or ministry related organizations. When we make our annual projection of financial needs and planned giving to others, we try to plan accordingly.

This past year, however, the amount we had planned to send to Andrew Sexton for his work with Casas Por Cristo was not utilized because he resigned his position. When we asked Dave to let us know the current percent of giving that was going to others, he informed us that it is just over 17%, and that even after adding the James Project we would probably end the year at 20%. To bring our percentage closer to where we want to be, the decision was made last week to send special offerings to a couple of our missions for relief work.

As you know, Haiti was recently struck by a devastating earthquake that killed thousands and left more than a million homeless. Fortunately, Haitian Christian Ministries, which we have supported for several years and is in the northern part of Haiti, was not directly impacted by the earthquake. They are, however, sending resources and teams to help those in the south. To assist them in ministering to those who are in even more need than they are, we have sent HCM \$5,000.

We also recently learned that Ati Yangmi is distributing much needed food and supplies to villages that have been shut down due to covid restrictions. She has also been working with Jesse's daughter and husband to set up water filtration systems in villages that must boil or buy the water they need. For \$300 they can provide clean drinking water for 200-300 people. Fifteen villages that are ministered to by graduates of LBI have requested such systems, and we are sending \$5,000 to meet needs and to help make that possible.

God is obviously blessing us so we can bless others. God Bless, Rick



THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

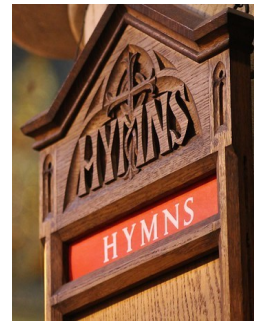
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Hymn Singing Sunday



The hymnals are back in the pews, and we are planning to use them on our annual Hymn Singing Sunday.

For over forty years many in our church have made a trek to Turkey Run over the Columbus Day weekend, and since that now includes most of our praise team we're going to be singing nothing but hymns on October 10th. Everyone will be given the opportunity to call out a hymn number, and we'll do our best to sing at least one verse of it.

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Sunday Worship Service 9:15 AM
Bible School 10:45 AM

STATISTICS		
Worship	9/12	82
Offering		\$3,835.72
Worship	9/19	89
Offering		\$15,503.30
Worship	9/26	95
Offering		\$5,778.30

A DIRTY GIFT

You may have noticed that the offering on September 19 was considerably larger than usual. That was because of a dirty gift. Or better said, a gift of dirt. \$10,000 was given to fill in the low wet areas of our lawn and the many holes that are a danger to kids playing and those who ride the Kubota.

A big thank you to our anonymous donor.



To our church family,

Thank you so much for the flowers, cards, and prayers. My mother who lives in St. Louis appreciates it too. We are blessed with a wonderful family in Christ.

Jim, Shannon, and Higgins Family

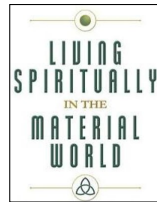


We began supporting the work of IDES on a monthly basis this year, and Jeff Greene, the Director of Church Relations will be with us this Sunday morning. He will be briefly presenting the work of IDES during the worship service and meeting with the adult classes to share more detail and answer questions during the Sunday School hour.



On September 19th Susan Green went into labor in church during Rick's sermon. Fifteen hours later Rose Marie was delivered at home weighing 7 lbs. 6oz, measuring 20 ins. Rick was delighted to learn that his sermon actually inspired someone into action!

Congratulations to the Greens on the safe arrival of a beautiful baby girl.



In the introduction to *Living Spiritually in the Material World*, we read in class that "Acres of Diamonds based on a sermon by Temple University president Russell Conwell (1887-1925), is still in print and remains one of the most influential books ever published." When Rick asked if anyone had ever read it, Wayne Hutchens said he had, and Rick said he thought he had. The next Sunday Belinda brought a 1915 first edition to show it to Rick, and graciously entrusted it to him. When he got it home he realized he had never read it, and couldn't put it down.

The first part of the book is the famous lecture that Conwell delivered hundreds of times to thousands of people. It is then followed by a fascinating biography and a brief autobiography of an amazing man. Rick found the entire book to be one of the most delightful, inspiring, enjoyable books he's ever read.

This Sunday at 6:30 all adults are invited to join us as we explore the first lesson in our book from college presidents of old. If you aren't here, you may miss finding a diamond that will enrich your spiritual life.



Pre K-5th Grade

Our annual trip to Pumpkin Creek Farms will be on Sunday, October 17th after Sunday School. Outside of a few extra dollars for some yummy snacks, like those AMAZING donuts, the cost for admission is \$6.00. Also, we will have to stop for a little lunch along the way so money will be needed for whatever fast food restaurant the kids choose. They have never not chosen McDonalds, so we will see if this year is any different.

Tina and I have always enjoyed this afternoon with the kids. In addition to the usual attractions, the corn maze is even bigger this year with a marked Easy Path along with a Difficult Path for those who want to stay in a little longer. We will be returning to the church around 3:30 that afternoon. Be on the lookout for a signup sheet to be on the bulletin board soon!

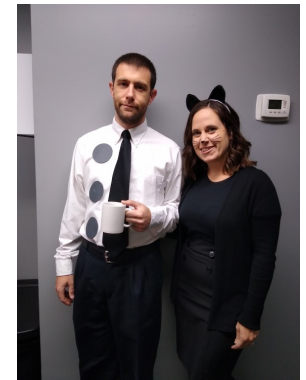


The kids have a few practices under their belts and are doing fantastic! In case you haven't heard, this year's play centers around Beaker and the gang getting ready for a Science Class Christmas Party. Throughout the evening, the true meaning of Christmas is discovered by the kids. I am already looking forward to that fun morning of praise and worship!

Make sure you have these important dates in your calendar. December 5th will be the technical rehearsal with the dress rehearsal scheduled for December 11th. Then, Sunday morning December 12th will be showtime.



Sunday night activities here at the church are off to a great start. Last Sunday was just fantastic! There were 26 energetic youngsters having fun in their youth group sessions. It really warmed my heart to see the kids not only having fun, but discussing key points in Scripture to lean upon their entire life. If your child has not made it out yet this year, it certainly is not too late. The curriculum this fall is material they need to hear, especially with the lies of the world all around them. In fact, make it a family evening here at church. Based on the number of attendees for Rick's class, many seem to be enjoying that as well.



Jr/Sr High School

Remember when Jim and Pam from the Office showed up at our Halloween Costume Party last year? It was a blast as we played a few games, carved some pumpkins and enjoyed delicious fall treats. Let's do it again this year! The night to put in your calendar is Saturday, October 23rd. All you will need is a suitable costume for a church event and I will take care of everything else!