



THE HAPPENING

September 2016

What's Happening

Events

Wed Night Studies
Dinner @ 6PM
Classes 6:30-7:45 PM

Open Gym Thursday Evenings
6:00 PM

Chosen servers

Sept 4 Moore/Defevers

Sept 18 Courtney/Otto

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September 2016 Minister's column by Rev. Craig Pinley

At three separate times during a one-week span, the lives of people I've met in my past came to light and brought a smile to my face and a few tears as well.



On a Monday I received a Facebook message from a previous choir member from college, alerting me to the death of my choir director, Dr. Bernard "Bernie" Izzo. Dr. Izzo, a Christian hailing from a Roman Catholic background, taught me how to sing and after taking a number of opera performance classes under his tutelage and singing in college choir and madrigal groups, I was able to use that training and eventually perform with a music ministry not long after my undergraduate days were over. I had originally headed to North Central College to play baseball and it helped that the school had a radio station and a public relations department that I could work at while I earned a Communications Studies degree. But Dr. Izzo was the best gift I received from college and certainly has helped me bless others throughout my ministerial life.

On a Wednesday, my computer screen was turned sideways and – since I have no technical aptitude for fixing such things – I got in touch with one of the smartest guys I know, an amateur teammate living in Chicago named Joel. Joel and I had played on a championship team while I was living in California and eventually played together again in the Chicago area. He's a strong Christian from an Episcopal background, a valued teammate, and a person I respect highly. He checked online, found a quick solution, and I was back at work.

On a Friday, I was alerted to the death of a parishioner from the previous church I'd served. Joyce (and her late husband Ardell) had been folks I'd visited frequently, she'd been part of a Wednesday morning Bible study, and she was a valued sounding board and voice of wisdom. She'd been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and I'd called her at the hospital recently; but instead of bemoaning her fate, she told me about how excited about she was for her next 'adventure' and I was reminded of how she and these other two friends had impacted my life for good, words coming from I Thessalonians 1:2.

"We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."

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The Evangelical Covenant Church

That Bible verse really encapsulates the theme for the fall sermon series I decided to preach. It is addressed “**to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**” That is how the apostle Paul opens his letter to this fledgling church, a congregation that had many who’d had no grounding in the faith but who’d stood up to the very real persecutions they had faced.

Paul wrote two letters to this church in Thessalonica – it’s likely they were written in 50-55 AD, basically two decades after the death and resurrection of Jesus – and we can trace Paul’s journey to that area (Macedonia was the larger region) by looking at accounts from Acts chapters 16-17 and then in chapter 20.

Paul addresses a few key issues in 1 and 2 Thessalonians. First, he reminds them to remain pure in the Lord, especially regarding issues of sexual immorality in light of their existence in such a pagan society. Second, he reminds them to value getting along with each other – there were a number of Jewish converts to the faith and still more who had no real religious upbringing – and appreciating the different histories that had led them to each other in Christ.

Third, he tells them to keep busy, that idleness in the midst of such need in their midst was not to be tolerated. Fourth, he cautions them to stay alert for those who are communicating a theology that is contrary to the gospel. And, finally, he admonishes those who are divisive, telling the church (2 Thess. 3:15) “do not regard them as enemies, but warn them as fellow believers.”

Beginning September 11, I’ll preach from 1 and 2 Thessalonians and will continue through October 23. I’ll use texts from both 1 and 2 Thessalonians in this sermon series, but the primary texts being used are:

Sept. 11 – Acts 17:1-15 and I Thess. 1:1-10 (the Acts text gives context for how this church evolved)

Sept. 18 – I Thess. 2:1-12

Sept. 25 – I Thess. 2:13-20

Oct. 2 – I Thess. 3, 2 Thess. 2:13-16 (in signposting our Week of Prayer at Redeemer for Oct. 2-8)

Oct. 9 – I Thess. 4 (as part of our combined service before our church’s Annual Business Meeting)

Oct. 16 – I Thess. 5

Oct. 23 – 2 Thess. 3

I’m excited to preach from Paul’s encouraging epistles to faithful people and I hope you’ll make the effort to be present in worship as we learn together. And as we get into our fall programming, we’ll begin our children’s ministry and Wednesday night adult studies on September 7 with meals beginning at 6 p.m. and our educational portion of the evening occurring from 6:30 to around 7:45 p.m. A men’s Bible study is being offered on the first and third Tuesday of the month, with Jim Miller providing leadership. We’re also starting our youth ministry programs and offering Confirmation to a group of young adults in middle school. Please join us at Redeemer for our fall offerings.

IN CHRIST,

Pastor Craig



The Evangelical Covenant Church

President of the Congregation

Our Town Hall meeting in August between services was well attended and quite informative. We spent a large amount of time discussing the many areas around the building in need of repairs; skylight and support beam in the Sanctuary, flat roof repairs, AC units and the children's wing. Sunday School is about to start with new curriculum and Lisa Bowersox will be leading the program. In order to make this a successful program we are in need of additional staff and helpers. Please see Lisa if you are willing to volunteer. Safety and security around the Redeemer campus has been discussed and it has been decided to re-establish physical security by changing the locks on exterior doors and all alarm codes. This will allow the issuing of keys to individuals as needed to occur as it has not been done for almost 10 years. I will be investigating the purchase of emergency medical equipment so that when it is needed we have it available. The budget committee is working on the proposed budget for recommendation to Consistory and then will be presented to the congregation for a vote at our annual meeting which is scheduled for October 9th.



If you have any questions, concerns, input or compliments please do not hesitate to contact me.

May God bless and keep each of you safe.

In Christian love,

Sam

Are you a young person grades 7-12? Got one living in your house? It's here! Youth group - every Sunday night from 6:00 – 7:30pm. At the Muller's, 5612 Red Oak Ct in Fairfield. Join us for games, songs, skits, and teaching for both junior and senior high. We'll tackle some hard stuff and some fun stuff too. Don't miss out!

**YOUTH
GROUP**



DIG IN
CREATING DEEPER BIBLE EXPERIENCES FOR KIDS

We are in need of Helpers during Children's Church – both services; Leaders for Kindergarten – 2nd grade at the 2nd service; and Substitutes for both services. We are only asking for a 4 week commitment once or twice a year to fulfill our need from Sept 11, 2016 to

August 27, 2017. We are adding the additional volunteers so that we adhere to our child protection policy, which requires us to have two adult volunteers in our children's ministry activities.

We have a new and exciting curriculum called Dig In! It's fun for the kids, easy for Leaders to prepare and flexible to the Leaders desires and talents. Adults of all ages are welcome to volunteer – your only requirement is to want to love and nurture our children! Please contact Lisa Bowersox to add your name.

Kudos to VBS Helpers for a Great Week

Thanks to the more than 60 people who helped participate in various parts of our "Cave Quest" Vacation Bible School week from July 31 through Aug. 5. We had over 60 who registered and had between 30-35 children on an average night, with stories focusing on being a light to your world and using Peter, John the Baptist, and Jesus as our main story character studies.

A special thanks goes to Lorrie Newmister, who directed the week's events and coordinated volunteer efforts, a huge undertaking. Lori Lohrer coordinated meals each night, which was a blessing. Tim Myers was the Bible story teller and was outstanding. Imagination station leaders Oscar Crespo-Tirado and Lisa Mannix made a mean bat goo and taught other fascinating stuff. Mary Pinley, Emily Balsbaugh and her sister Abby Brown combined to lead an energetic opening and closing and Julie Beyer led fun games inside and outside. Behind the scenes, Sam Lohrer and Dan Wittmer ably helped with sound and video.

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