



FBC Focus

Winter 2016-17 | Volume 16, Issue 5

Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER

- 4 Meals from the Heartland, 6-8pm
- 12 Happy Wanderers: Operation Christmas Child, 5:30pm
- 19 Game Night, 6pm
- 20 Awana Soup Supper, 6pm
- 23 Thanksgiving Service, 7pm

DECEMBER

- 10 Happy Wanderers: Lunch & Christmas Play, 10:45am
- 11 Adult Christmas Choir
- 11 Children's Christmas Musical, 9:45am
- 17 Youth Group Christmas Party
- 24 Christmas Eve Service, 6pm
- 25 Combined Worship, 9:30am
- 30 Youth Group Winter Blitz

JANUARY

- 1 Combined Worship, 9:30am
- 21 Game Night, 6pm
- 23 Happy Wanderers Scavenger Hunt, 10:30am or 5:30pm

Fellowship Bible CHURCH

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Remember to live By Pastor Rodney De Ronde

I have a terrible time remembering certain things. At least once a week I'll spend several minutes, or more, wandering around my house, retracing my steps, trying to find my cell phone. Often times I end up picking up the receiver for our land-line telephone to call my cell phone in a desperate hope that I'll hear it ring.

Worse than not being able to find my phone is my inability too often to remember names. Unless I'm married to you, had a front row seat at your birth, or you happen to have been a starter for the '86 Celtics basketball team, there is no guarantee I'll be able to remember your name.

It's frustrating to not be able to find my phone and embarrassing to forget a name, but it's not the end of the world, nor is it a matter of life and death. Most things aren't. There is one thing, though, that God tells us we can't afford to forget.

After forty years of doing donuts in

the wilderness, the nation of Israel was about to take over the land God had promised to their parents. But before they did, Moses needed to give them a refresher course as to what God had done for them to this point, and as God's people, what was expected of them. One of the most important things Moses told them had to do with their memory. And it didn't have to do with where they put their basket for collecting manna or where they parked their camel. It had everything to do with God.

Moses writes in Deuteronomy 8:18-19, "You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may confirm His covenant that He swore to your fathers, as it is this day. And if you forget the Lord your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I solemnly warn you today that you shall surely perish." Over and over, Moses tells Israel to remember what God has

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Elders seek alternatives on building project By Mike Broerman & Steve Mineart, Elders

It was announced to the congregation on Sunday, October 16, that the Elders have decided not to proceed with the Northeast addition plans which were presented at the beginning of our capital campaign last fall. After further study and conferring with several contractors, it was determined the design could not be altered sufficiently to reduce costs to nearer the amount originally estimated and pledged.

To update you financially, the latest bid of \$1.3 million was received from Henning Paric Construction. This amount was still substantially in excess of the \$910,000 architect estimate when we sought the congregation's support,

but was less than the initial bidding response of \$1.5 million. We discussed the pledged amount of \$606,505 and the balance remaining, if we proceeded. While we believe the project was doable and the funds could have been given by the congregation over an extended period, we felt the cost of the project and the financial undertaking was more than the benefit to be received, and we did not desire to hamper other ministry opportunities.

If you made a pledge and question whether to proceed, we would leave that in your discretion. The intended project that was voted on will change in some

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Remember the Lord daily

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done for them over the years. To not forget all God has taught them to do. And so these memories didn't die out in a generation, He commanded them to tell their kids these things.

Israel was God's idea and His creation. He had birthed, nurtured, protected and sustained them from day one. From elderly Abraham, to his miracle son Isaac, to a family of a million plus souls rescued from slavery in Egypt, to a nation now standing on the edge of the "promised land," no one could take credit for their history other than God. All God asked of them, if they wanted to have a bright tomorrow, was to keep Him in their thoughts today. To fail to remember God was and is the worst of "slippery slopes." If they forgot God, Moses told them, they would begin thinking about other gods, which then would lead to worshipping and serving those gods. And where Moses said that "slope" would ultimately lead was death. In other words, if you want to live, remember God. Sadly Israel did the very thing Moses has warned them not to do and paid the price for it. They literally lost everything.

We may be tempted to ask how they could have done such a thing. God had done so much for them, given them so much. And what He was asking them to do wasn't rocket science. It was very clear, written both

in stone and on parchment. But unfortunately we too often aren't much different than Israel. God made us, sent His miracle Son to rescue us from our slavery to sin, and has extended to us an eternal hope in His resurrection. Yet our worship and service is too often given to someone else. Like Israel, we choose not to remember and we pay with our lives.

We can do things to help remember where we put our phone or the name of the neighbor down the street. What are you and I doing "to remember the Lord [our] God?" Let me give three suggestions.

First, simply make it a "daily reminder" to thank the Lord for what He has given us and done for us in Christ. If we're tempted to question whether He really cares for us or loves us, this reminder nips that in the bud.

Secondly, and something you might have expected, read the "to do list" God gave us through His word. Some of you can't imagine getting through the day without a list to remind you of what you need to do. The Bible is the "to do list" of all "to do lists" that we can't live without.

Thirdly, keep Sunday worship a priority. One of the main reasons for getting together as a church family is to help us remember the Lord our God – real simple. For those responsible for leading worship on Sunday mornings, we do our best to make

Elders seek prayer, ideas for building project

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aspect. It is our intention to move forward, but we are uncertain what the end project will look like and the anticipated cost. We hope that you continue to support the concept and the needs we have outlined, without knowing the final result. As of October 30, the building fund has \$368,135.20.

In the meantime, alternative designs will be explored. We will continue to seek a cost-effective way to meet the needs and objectives originally identified: improving access to the existing basements, moving childcare spaces to the ground floor, and providing additional space for Sunday School, Awana, and other activities. This could include building a multipurpose structure on the southeast corner of the property. One contractor recommended building an addition onto the west of the building. We will

be considering all alternatives. There also remain non-negotiable site improvements to meet city requirements for parking spaces, set-backs and permeability for rainwater.

We welcome your comments and covet your prayers. This was not an easy decision, and we appreciate all the hard work, effort and planning that has gone into this project by many different people. However, the board felt that we can accomplish something similar – probably not as nice, but still usable and functional – at a lesser cost. As the Elders, Building and Property Team, and others involved continue to pursue this project, we continue to be thankful for the faithful giving toward these improvements, and continue to need your prayers for God's leading.

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Holiday Services & Special Events

Thanksgiving Service

Wednesday, November 23 at 7:00 p.m.
(No Awana or Youth Group)

Adult Christmas Choir Performance

Sunday, December 11
during Worship Services

Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 11
during Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Saturday, December 24 at 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship Service

Sunday, December 25 at 9:30 a.m.
(No Children's Church; No Sunday School)

New Year's Day Worship Service

Sunday, January 1 at 9:30 a.m.
(No Children's Church; No Sunday School)

Save the Date!

Love INC Dinner & Dessert Gala
Friday, February 10 at 6:00 p.m.

Him the center of all we do. That our heads get filled with Him as we recall, or possibly hear for the first time, how awesome He is, and our hearts and wills appropriately respond to this jarring of our memories in humble and loving worship and obedience. This is what leads to Life. Pray that we'd never forget.

Are we producing fruit? By William Chilcote, Awana Commander

I am thankful for all of our dedicated Awana workers who have chosen to share their Wednesday nights with our children and help them grow spiritually.

We could use a few more helpers in Sparks and T&T, if you have 20 or 30 minutes free to be a listener. We can have as many as 28 Cubbies, 43 Sparks, and 33 T&T kids. God has blessed us with quite a few children from the community. It is wonderful to hear these kids recite their verses, hear their testimonies and see them learn.

As pastor has been teaching through Matthew, activity and fruit are two things that stick out. In these parables, we see active farmers planting and harvesting. They are not sitting inside drinking ice tea and watching "Survivor" on TV. We also see the seed being active in either growing strong, growing weak, or dying. Does our life work (seed) produce fruit? James Chapters 1 and 2 touch on hearing and then doing what we have learned.

We have many opportunities at church, like the neighborhood survey, Awana, nursery, teaching classes, worship team, and preparing food for activities, to mention a few. We have the chance to invest in people's lives and encourage them with what God is doing in our life.

Have you ever talked to someone who is hurting or facing a tough decision? Take a leap of faith and offer to

pray on the spot with them. You don't have to bow a knee and lift your arms. Just say something like, "Can I say a quick prayer for you?" The prayer could be, "Dear Lord, help Fred to have wisdom and understanding as You work in his life right now."

For an introvert like me, it is not easy or natural for me to do this. When the Holy Spirit leads me to do this, I do try to listen. I have yet to have someone mock me or refuse when I have asked. It is not to say that it won't happen, but I use this as a way to encourage you to work out your faith and be fruitful. A pastor challenged me several times to be outgoing. I think God chuckles a little every time I try and do this, but in His chuckling, His reassuring hand is on my shoulder saying, "go ahead I am here to guide you." 2 Corinthians 12:9 says, "For my power is made perfect in weakness."

Pray for the following: Good health for our families as we minister; spiritual growth in our lives so we are overflowing with the Holy Spirit as He works in our lives; open hearts and minds in our community; strength to endure and grow stronger in our faith through trials; and diligence to seek God first in our daily Bible study.

Happy Wanderers (Age 50+) Events:

Operation Christmas Child Event

Join us as we eat finger foods and watch a DVD about Operation Christmas Child on Saturday, November 12 at 5:30 p.m. in the Sunday School Building. After eating, we will shop for items to fill shoe boxes. Those who don't enjoy shopping can stay behind to play table games.

Christmas Play

All ages are invited to an outing to the Christmas play at Marian Avenue Baptist Church in Washington, Iowa, on Saturday, December 10. Tickets are free, but limited. There are currently 13 available. Carpool from FBC at 10:45 a.m. for lunch at Pizza Ranch in Sigourney before the play. Cost for the play is a freewill offering. Sign up at the Connection Center or our website.

Scavenger Hunt at New Hope

Come learn more about the ministries at New Hope and participate in a friendly "thriftology" competition to outfit and accessorize a mannequin with items from the thrift store. Join us Monday, January 23 at 10:30 a.m. for lunch or 5:30 p.m. for supper. Watch for more details.

Winter Blitz sneak peak

By Pastor Georgie Filber

Winter Blitz 2017 has been in the making for some time now, and it is exciting to see things coming together. With a mix of the best from the past, and some awesome new additions, this could be the best Winter Blitz to date. Here is a sneak peak:

Music - *With Once Voice* is a gifted band from California that has done some touring in the U.S. They have played at other youth camps and retreats, and their lead singer is planning to lead us in worship for the weekend. You can check out their music at withoncevoicemusic.com.

Speaker - Frank Gil is a gifted speaker and youth pastor at Epikos church in Milwaukee. He writes for Youthmin.org and travels to speak at youth conferences around the U.S. Frank is funny, engaging and has a great heart for connecting students

with God's Word. You will be blessed and challenged by Frank.

More! - Come on, you didn't expect all the big surprises to be revealed in this article did you? There is one more thing you may want to know. By memorizing Romans 5 (all 21 verses), you will receive a \$25 discount. All 21 verses need to be said at one time to Pastor Georgie by midnight of December 25.

The Winter Blitz is open to all current Middle and High School Students and takes place from Friday, December 30 through Sunday, January 1 at Hidden Acres (www.hacmps.org) in Dayton, Iowa. The cost for the Winter Blitz is \$100 (scholarships are available). The cost includes everything for the weekend: transportation, food, lodging, T-shirt and everything else.

Get ready... this Winter Blitz is going to be awesome!

Game Night

Saturday, November 19 at 6:00 p.m.
High School & Adult Games
Middle School Games
Childcare available for younger kids
Bring a snack to share!