

Cridersville Chronicle

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February 2019

From the desk of Pastor Mark Hollinger

I hope that you are doing well and surviving the resurgence of winter. This past month has revealed a new challenge to our church with the departure of Nichole Bachar as our church office administrator. She will be taking a job with Allen County Children's Services on February 4 and we wish her Godspeed and the surety of God's providing. We are in the process of interviewing and securing a new person for that position and ask that you be in prayer for us, that person and the interview/hiring process.

In light of all that I figured that I would write something light for this month's newsletter. In February we will be observing Valentine's Day. It is full of cards and candy and gifts. It is one of the heaviest card sending days in the U.S. with over 150 million cards exchanged and over 1 billion worldwide. Some other interesting factoids: More than 35 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolate will be sold for Valentine's Day as part of the \$1 billion worth of chocolate that is purchased for Valentine's Day in the U.S. Women purchase approximately 85 percent of all Valentine's Day gifts but 75% of the 189 million stems of roses that are sold in the U.S. on Valentine's Day are purchased by men. And on average there are 250,000 marriage proposals on Valentine's Day.

The origin of Valentine's Day is not so easily discovered as the facts above; there are several legends and proposals. The actual story has been lost due to several ancient tales and legends that come out of early Christianity and the time of the Roman Empire. The one story that seems to be the most accepted comes out of the early church and involves a saint, Saint Valentine. Of all that I read I as to the possible origins of the holiday, I would like to think this one to be the true story since it speaks of love, sacrifice and perseverance in the faith.

In the third century the Christian church was under heavy persecution and one of the persecutors was Claudius II, emperor of Rome 268 to 270 AD. At that time Rome was under heavy threat from divisions within the empire and outside raiding armies, particularly the Goths. To secure the army, Claudius, who had been a career general in the Roman army, issued an edict that Roman soldiers could not marry. The thought at the time was that if you were unattached to a girl or family you would be a better soldier. A soldier without family or romantic entanglements would not be distracted emotionally from his duties to emperor and country.

At that time there was a Christian bishop in Rome, Bishop Valentine. He was sympathetic to the young men and women who wanted to marry but were denied that union because of the emperor's edict. Valentine would meet young couples in secret and solemnize their marriages in secret. Eventually he was jailed and the story develops further that he taught his jailers blind daughter while he was imprisoned. Eventually, after repeated failed attempts to force Valentine to deny his faith and proclaim allegiance to the emperor, he was put to death. Before he was

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Greeters

3) Ernie & Jenny
Numbers

Jean Fox

Jane Bowersock

10) Rick & Connie
Rees

Sue Hinegardner

Cindy Weaver

17) Gene & Neita
Border

George & Kathy
Krites

24) Mel & Sue
Numbers

Heather & Jeff
McKenzie

Pastor's Desk Continued

beheaded, the jailers daughter was miraculously healed and her sight restored and one of the last correspondents from Bishop Valentine was given to her and it was signed, "from your Valentine." Eventually Bishop Valentine attained sainthood and it is further believed that Bishop Valentine was executed on February 14, 270 AD and thus the commemoration of St Valentine's Day falls on that date.

Valentine has become known as the patron saint of young lovers. If Valentine were here today, he would say to married couples that there comes a time where you're going to have to suffer and stand up for the faith. It's not going to be easy to maintain your commitment and your vows in marriage. Don't be surprised if the "gushing" love that you have for someone changes to something less "gushing" but maybe much more mature. And the question is, are you ready to persevere in your covenant of marriage apart from those first romantic gushing feelings of love?

So Happy Valentine's Day, and don't forget to honor those you love on Valentine's Day remembering, that if the origins stated above are correct, Valentine's Day is an opportunity to declare our sacrificial and selfless love for those with whom we have made deep commitments of love.

Yours in Christ

Pastor Mark

Liturgist

3)

10)

17)

24)

Nursery

3) Rachel Hewlett
& Youth

10) Judy Eversole
Diana Eversole

17) Heather
McKenzie

Josh Conley

24) Jason Maddi/
Emma Rumbaugh

Power Express

3) Communion—
No Power Xpress

10) Youth

17) Youth

24) Youth

Ushers

Terry & Susan Bay

Cindy Waever

Jane Bowersock

Dime Collection

Lakeside for youth has started their dime collection again in the Ministry Center. If you have any questions please contact Jeff Reichelderfer.



Book Notes

“**JOSHUA**” and “**JOSHUA AND THE CHILDREN**” written by Joseph F. Girzone are very interesting books.

The author, Joseph F. Girzone, is a retired priest. Joshua is a quiet, simple man, lives in a small cabin on the edge of town, and is a carpenter. Some people reported about a child in the poor part of town who was very ill, but after a visit by Joshua, recovered completely. In Joshua and the Children where Joshua again is a stranger in town, the children are drawn to this kind, gentle man. The adults are very suspicious. Does this remind you of anyone?

Have you read any of Francine Rivers books? She tells a great story! “**REDEEMING LOVE**” will hold your interest from cover to cover. The book jacket says it is a powerful retelling of the book of Hosea.

Dr. Wood Kroll, an international Bible teacher, is the author of “**7 SECRETS TO SPIRITUAL SUCCESS**”. The “secrets” Are: #1: Check for Vital Signs; #2: Develop Intimacy With God; #3: Establish Good Growth Habits; #4: Enlist Superior Help; #5: Manage Temptation; #6: Retake Strongholds (If You Fall, Don’t Stay Down); #7: Keep Your Eye on the Goal.

Hope 2019 is a great year for you!

Ash Wednesday

Save the date for Ash Wednesday service on March 6th at 7:00 pm



February Birthdays

- 1) Dan Gowanlock
- 4) Bea Musser
- 5) Cindy West
- 6) Ken McCaslin
- 10) Aaron Wagner
- Janet Pack
- Meghan Martin
- 11) Eric Pierson
- 14) Marie Snider
- 19) Lisa Katterheinrich
- 20) Evan Humes
- 21) Kari Houser
- 24) Jane Plummer
- Rick Rees
- 25) Taylor Lucas
- 26) Elizabeth Martin

February Anniversaries

- 11) Dave & June Reichelderfer
- 12) Gene & Neita Border
- 13) Steve & Margie Humes
- 24) Ora & Kaye Seese

Ch-Ki-Lo Food Pantry



The Christmas distribution on December 20th was very successful, with 67 households comprised of 206 individuals receiving food for their holiday meal and nearly 70 children receiving presents from our Angel Tree. Santa and his helper elf brought smiles to many of our clients' faces as well. We are very grateful for the hard work of all our volunteers and to those who contributed so generously to our food baskets and Angel Tree gifts. We have so many people from our congregation and the other sister churches in our community who work very hard all year who aid our clients. They are very grateful and so are we!

In December we served 110 households comprised of 80 seniors 60 years and older, 123 adults ages 17-59 years, and 127 children, for a total of 330 individuals. We purchased 2411 lb of food from WOFB for \$115.10, 510.5 lb of food from various other sources for \$1205.03, as well as receiving 3410.5 lb of food from donations, for a total of 6292 lb for the month.

For the year, we served 988 households, comprised of 794 seniors 60 years and older, 1154 adults 17-59 years of age, and 921 children, totaling 5805 individuals served. There truly is a great need in our community for our services and we are so blessed to be able to help so many people put food on their table. Again, we thank everyone so much for their hard work and generosity!

Volunteers needed!

Office:

Our office administrator, Nichole Bachar, will be leaving us for a full-time job with Allen County Children's Services starting February 4th. In anticipation of some vacancy time in the office until we establish a new hire in that position, we are seeking people to volunteer their time in answering the phone and attending to visitors in the church office. If you are interested and available, please call the church office or talk with Pastor Mark. We wish Nichole God's blessings as she starts this new venture in her life.

Scrip:

We are in need of a scrip coordinator. Our scrip program (Great Lakes Scrip) offers gift cards that non-charitable organizations members use as a means to raise funds. We have been a participant in SCRIP for five years and have generated money for our youth ministry and other ministries within our church. We are in need of someone to coordinate this program. We will train you and you will have the assistance of other members and our office administrator in managing this program. If you have a passion for your church, our youth and numbers, we could use your services in this financial ministry. Please contact pastor Mark or call the church office.

January Attendance & Offerings

Date	Attendance	Sunday School Attendance	General Fund Offering	Capital Improvements
December 30	98	38	\$1290.	\$50.00
January 6	108	37	\$3326.00	\$200.00
January 13	73	37	\$2481.00	\$52.00
January 20	cancelled	0	\$0	\$0

CRAVE

- Feb 3 "Soup"er Bowl of Caring Luncheon
 Feb 10 Crave Movie Night

Youth Soup Luncheon



Support our youth group on Sunday, February 4 after church for a soup luncheon to raise funds for Lakeside Summer Camp.

The luncheon is on a free will donation basis. All the church is welcome to stay and enjoy the food and fellowship.

We would like to invite all adults and all children to attend our *All Church Bowling* event



The youth will be holding their annual bowl-a-thon to help raise money for Lakeside church camp at Astro Lanes in Wapakoneta on Sunday, February 24 from 12-2 pm. The whole church is invited to attend.

Souper Bowl of Caring



February 3rd brings our fundraising to a close, as we cheer on the teams at the Souper Bowl. Vote with your dollars for your favorite team and feed families in need of a hand up this winter.

AFC- Jerry Johnson

Discontinued Coupon Program

The Veterans have discontinued taking coupons. But if you would like to continue to bring them in the Office administrator knows of a group in Lima that disperses them to those who use coupons in the local area.

Many people rely on them to make ends meet. So please don't hesitate to contact the church office if you have any questions.

Thank you and have a blessed day.

Year-End Contribution Statements

2018 Year-end Contribution statements have been mailed. If you have not received it or would like it to be emailed to you please contact the church office.

Our deepest sympathies to families who have recently lost loved ones:

Family of Brooks Bush



During Lent each year, we use the season of preparation to connect and support our mission ministry partners, raising funds through our designated Lent and Easter offerings. Take some time to get to know our ministries below, and join us each week in worship to learn how each ministry connects and share Christ's love and work.

Ghana Water Project

While Ghana has made great strides in providing water for its population, there are still 16% of its rural population without access to an improved water source (JMP 2015). With respect to sanitation, the situation is much more grim. Only 15% of the population has access to safe, private, and hygienic sanitation, while 19% of the total population and 34% of the rural population continue to practice open defecation (JMP 2015). This resulting in disease burden, especially on children, is great, with 25% of child deaths attributable to diarrhea. While a community may have a water point, or sanitation facilities, they may not be adequate to serve the current population. Which results in rationing supplies, long lines, long walks to seek additional sources of water, and/or a return to unimproved sources of water and acts of frustration. Giving to this ministry will be used to construct more water sources in communities and schools, to keep pace with the population needs of each area.

Anti-Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery and is the second largest criminal industry in the world. The United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons defines human trafficking as the recruiting, transporting and harboring of persons by use of threat, force or deception for the purpose of exploitation. Traffickers take advantage of vulnerable persons with false promises or physical abduction, forcing them into contract slavery, forced labor and sexual trafficking. According to the U.S. Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report 2015, the number of adults and children currently in forced labor, bonded labor and forced prostitution is 20.9 million. Worldwide, 3 out of every 1,000 people are victims of human trafficking. Giving to this ministry will be used to reinforce investigation, education, and rehabilitation efforts locally and worldwide.

Good Works Ohio

Good Works OH desires, as Jesus does, to bring good news to the poor, specifically in the midst of the rural poverty in Athens, OH. In the long term, their hope is to build bridges between Christians and non Christians from different socioeconomic backgrounds and people in poverty. Their work is to meet needs for shelter, food, transportation and companionship, and communicate clearly that the recipients are loved and valued by God. Good Works, OH wants the people they are reaching to discover what they are also capable of contributing--that they have gifts and skills to share. Finally, they seek to raise up the importance of service to people in poverty to the church, and communicate that serving the poor is a starting place, but Christians can also know and love people living in poverty and deliberately incorporate them into the life of the body of Christ.

Auglaize County Crisis Center

The mission of the Auglaize County Crisis Center, Inc is to provide coordinated family intervention to ensure the safety, dignity and self determination of those involved in the cycle of family violence. This organization provides 24 hour crisis intervention, safe confidential shelter, food, transportation, case management, legal advocacy, family crisis management and programs of prevention and intervention. They provide programs that help families recognize the characteristics of unhealthy relationships, and seek to reduce the risk of interpersonal violence within potentially harmful households. They also provide job skills training, job searching, transportation support. All funds go towards training, supporting, and empowering a holistic future for these families.