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THE KNOLL NEWS

EDITOR: Bill Coley

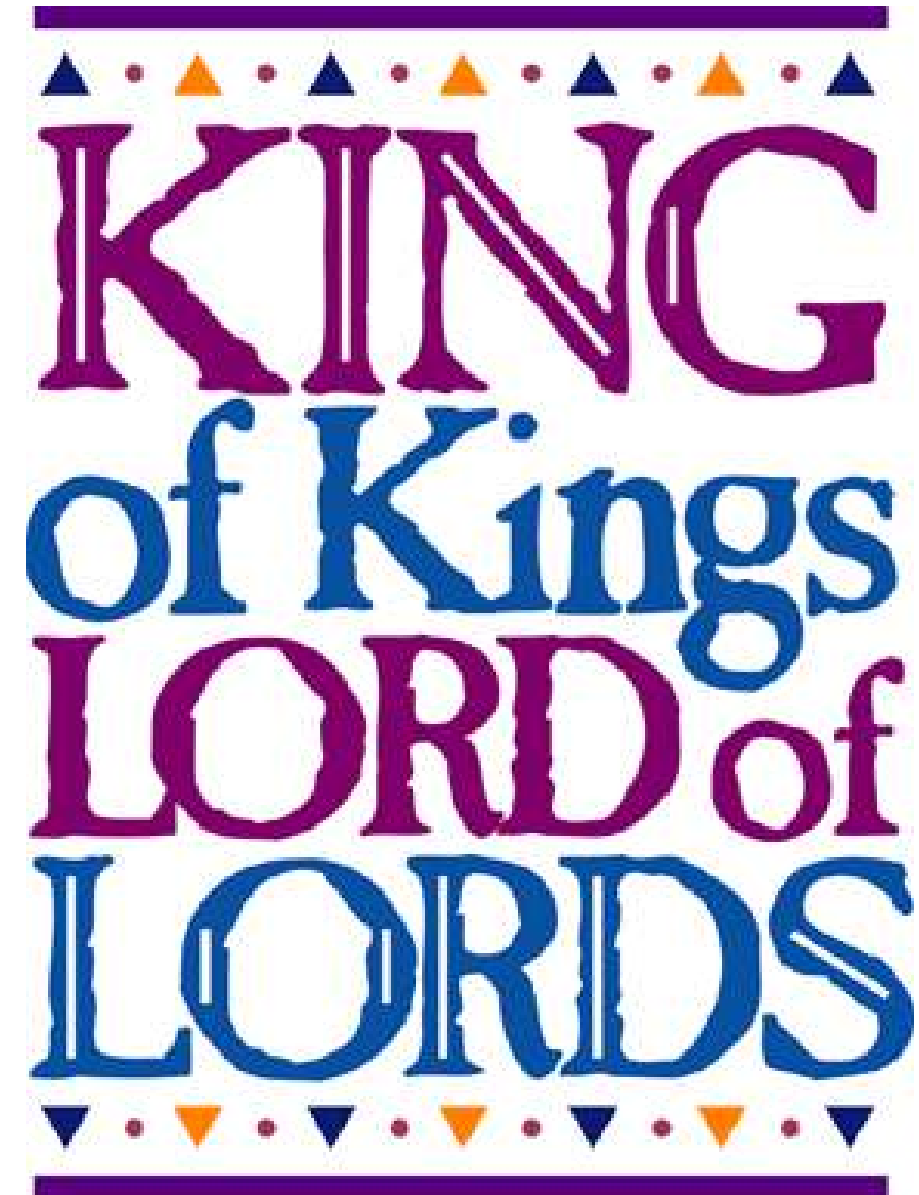
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THE KNOLL NEWS

First Christian Church of East Moline

May 2019



ANDFROMBILL

by Bill Coley

As a freshman at the University of Iowa in the fall of 1975, I had two dorm roommates. One was quiet and reserved in demeanor, much as I was back then. He and I got along well from our first meeting. The third person in our room, however, was in multiple ways the odd man out. He was vocal and demonstrative. His choice of words and tone of voice - my goodness, his entire persona! - was very different from ours.

He had long hair, which even in my late teens I had no hope of growing, but that wasn't the thing that set him apart from me. What created a gulf between the two of us was the music he listened to. I moved into Iowa's Burge residence hall as a fan of what I later came to call "elevator music." Back then, select FM stations programmed what the industry called "easy listening" music. Easy listening meant mostly instrumental, mostly soft, soothing, gentle, non-descript melodies that made for inoffensive background noise in department stores, elevator cars, and Bill Coley's dorm room.

But my second roommate didn't listen to "easy listening" music. He listened to rock, in which electric guitars were the stringed instruments, not violins, and pounding drums drove the beat, not some barely noticeable, never intrusive knock in the distant reaches of the recording. In particular, my second roommate had a thing for some guy named Bruce Springsteen. I remember the shock of his asking to play the new Springsteen album on my new and quite powerful stereo system... whose speakers had never been asked to pass along anything more testy than a bossa nova version "God Didn't Make Little Green Apples." I consented, but wondered what he possibly heard

in the cacophonous collection of sounds the album called "Born to Run."

Today I look back on those days with wry and humble pleasure because by the time I graduated from Iowa, I no longer listened to "elevator music." In fact, it wasn't more than a year or so after my year in Burge Hall that I was listening to songs with words and driving rhythms, and even electric guitars. And for the last many years I have been a seasoned, passionate, and opinionated fan of... Bruce Springsteen. Today I am much more like my second roommate than the first (except the hair thing).

I revisit my first year in college so as to reflect about the influences of our lives. I don't remember his name, but that second roommate influenced my life. The people who led the Sunday school classes in which I participated as a child influenced my life. The pastors who preached, the teachers who taught, the neighbors who... all influenced me, all had added something to the mix that made me the person I am today, just as the people of your life have helped shape who you are today.

Some of those influences were bad, let's confess. Not every person who crossed our paths and affected our development did so with good intentions, but help shape us they did. Essential to maturation, it seems to me, is having the courage and taking the time to acknowledge our influences. Sometimes to the conclusion that an influence was not good for us, but most of the time to the conclusion that God planted that person, that experience, in our lives for a reason.

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"Not every person who crossed our paths and affected our development did so with good intentions, but help shape us they did."

NEEDTOKNOW

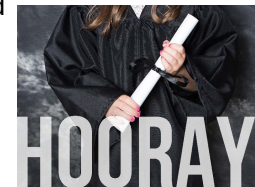
ANDFROMBILL (cont.)

Essential to living as a mature follower of Jesus is checking the way we influence others - our kids and grandkids, of course, but others as well. We cannot accurately predict how long the effect of our words and conduct in any given moment will last, so it's best to act and speak as if our influence will last lifetimes, ours and others'.

YOU'RE INVITED!

Celebrate with Ashlie and her family as she graduates from Quad Cities Christian School.

The family invites you to stop by to add your applause for Ashlie's accomplishment at an open house they'll hold in our fellowship hall on **Sunday, June 2, from 2-4pm.**



And speaking of events to which you're invited, remember that **Nicole Sullivan's wedding** day is just a week or so away now (Saturday, May 25, at 3:00 p.m.) Oh, we should



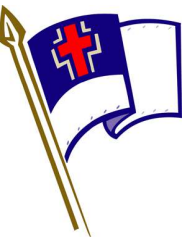
Marriage

probably mention the guy she's marrying. His name is Josh Brown. Good guy. Great couple. Sorry we didn't mention him earlier.

Anyway, you're invited to celebrate the beginning of their marriage. It'll be fun and nostalgic and filled with hope for a bright future. Come and join us.

Day of Pentecost brings special worship

We'll interrupt the "In the Beginning" sermon series on June 9 so as to hold a special worship that will celebrate the Body of Christ, the church. We'll praise God for the creation of the church. We'll give thanks for the invitation Jesus offers us to be part of his Body in the modern world. We'll celebrate in the lobby after worship with some special goodies that will be provided. Join us on what the Christian calendar calls the Day of Pentecost.



6th anniversary breakfast potlucks on June 2

We're excited to announce that the June potluck breakfast will be the eighth anniversary of that monthly meal. The breakfasts began in June 2011 as a natural outgrowth of the success and satisfaction produced by our annual Easter breakfast potlucks. Join us around the table for food and connections. As always around FCCM, bring food to share if you can, but come anyway if you can't or don't want to bring food. God ALWAYS provides!

Spring is a season for new beginnings.
Where do you need to start over?

INTHENEWS

Celebrate Helmets of Hope's fundraising success

We praise God for the recent fundraising success of our essential household supply ministry to veterans called Helmets of Hope. Just since the first of this month, we've received \$220 in donations from groups or individuals, and earned \$225 at our second-ever Make-and-Take event and more than \$300 at a flea market/craft fair. On average, our Helmets ministry spends \$400-\$500 a month, mostly on the supplies we provide through our partner agencies to veterans who move off the streets and into housing of their own. So the \$700+ income result from this month prompts our great thanks.



Our Helmets Team has birthed a team of crafters whose next event is a craft fair in Andover on June 1. But get this God-thing aspect of the Andover event: It happens to be a fundraiser for a veterans memorial in Andover, which produced an energized response from the organizer when she discovered that veterans are the focus of our Helmets ministry. As a result, publicity for the Andover craft event will feature information about our work. Praise God!

And one other Helmets financial matter: To-date in 2019, we've received \$2,210 in donations from more than 20 groups and individuals. In the same time frame last year, we received just \$95 from three donors. God is moving in our Helmets of Hope ministry!

Operation Christmas Child ministry news

Within the last week we've formally accepted Samaritan Purse's invitation to serve for a second consecutive year as an Operation Christmas Child (OCC) drop-off center, which means other churches, groups, and individuals will bring to our church their completed shoe boxes filled with age- and gender-appropriate gifts and personal items for children of developing nations. Last year we welcomed and packed into cartons more than 1,000 boxes. In the months to come, look for your chance to serve on the team that will staff this year's center.

Remember that this year we're recommending monthly emphases on different items that you can collect for use in the OCC boxes we'll create as a congregation so that you'll have a variety of items to donate when we begin our congregational collection in the fall.

Here's the list of monthly emphases so far (of course, you can purchase ANY items at ANY time!)

January: Hats, gloves, scarves

February: Accessories

March: Quality crafts

April: Stuffed animals

May: Toys

June: Hygiene items



The Church is the Body of Christ, EVERY member of which matters. That includes you.

INTHENEWS

Annual rummage sale is here

We rely on our annual rummage sale for an important infusion of funds to underwrite our congregation's ministries. This year's sale is set for **Friday and Saturday, June 7 and 8, from 8-3pm each day**. On their 2019 ministry claim forms, several people expressed willingness to help plan and execute this year's sale. For those people and everyone else, we'll hold a planning/initial set-up event for the sale on **Wednesday, May 29, beginning at 6:30 p.m.** You can express your desire to help at this



year's sale via the sheet now posted at Mission Central. We'll need people to plan the event, to set up the items, to serve at the sale, and to clean up afterwards.

But more important right now than staffing the sale is our **gathering items for the sale**. We will welcome your donations of clothes, housewares, electronics, shoes, kitchen items, small appliances, etc. We're currently collecting things in one of lower level classrooms. If you need help unpacking your vehicle when you bring your donations to the church, OR if you want someone to collect your items from your home and take them to the church for you, simply contact the church office (for the pick up) or show up on Sunday morning or during the day on Tuesdays-Fridays. We'll gladly welcome your generosity.



We can change the way we think, or change the way act, or change both. As followers of Jesus, we're changed in every way.

Our June centennial event: A picnic on The Pointe

Our series of monthly events to honor and celebrate our 100th year as a congregation continues in June with a potluck picnic on The Pointe, the beautiful area under the trees on the knoll on the east side of our building on **Saturday, June 15, beginning at noon**.

We've added a twist to this meal, however: We've invited several other UT-area congregations to join us as a way to say thanks for their partnership and neighborliness over the decades.



We expect to eat, enjoy each other's company, and play some team games around the picnic tables. *(if the weather acts up, we'll hold the event in fellowship hall)*

The potluck rule for this meal is the same as usual...except that meats and drinks will be provided. If you want to bring food to

share, bring something other than those two. But if you can't or don't want to bring food to share, come anyway because God ALWAYS provides!

Just four more Centennial events remain before our 100th birthday celebration in October. Here's a look at what's planned for the coming months:

June - A picnic potluck on The Pointe

July - A River Bandits baseball game

August - Preparation of items for the time capsule we'll bury on Centennial Weekend

September - A sightseeing cruise on the Mississippi Belle

PATTERNSANDPEOPLE

Attendance

<u>DATE</u>	<u>Sunday Groups</u>	<u>Sunday Worship</u>
April 21	15	38
April 28	8	17
May 5	9	16
May 12	7	28

Finances through April 2019

Income	\$21,748.00
Expenses	\$25,370.92
Needed for 2019 Budget	\$20,758.36

Prayer Matters



Recent Concerns

Marty Long - home following hospitalization
Paula Clark - home following brief hospitalization
Barb Bennett-Hakanson - Illini Restorative Care, rm. 184

Homebound

Ethel Dawson - 2638 5th St Ct, East Moline

SERVERSANDSUCH

Serving in June

- Welcome Team -
Karen Lavalle

- Praying at the Table -
Maurine Unzel

- Preparing Communion -
Marsha Jones

- Providing Childcare -
Deb Langley

- Multimedia Operator -
Dawn Dumoulin

- Presenting LifeSounds -
Jackie Hume

- Serving Communion -
Shari Coley

NOTE: You can help with any of these Sunday morning ministries! Contact the church office to make yourself available.

A Birthday in June

Alaina Warren-Ayala	2
Rick Clapp	9

An Anniversary in June

Jill & Jake Burbridge	22
Bonnie & Jerry Thompson	30

NOTE: We can't tell people about your birthday or anniversary unless you tell us. Contact the church office with your information



Spring cleanup this weekend

Though it looks like the weather may play havoc this weekend (Saturday, 8:00 a.m.) with our plans to resume our Rise Up, Church! projects on the east side of our building, we will STILL hold our annual spring cleaning on the inside and on both levels. We invite you to join our efforts to sweep, dust, collect, mop, and prepare the building for the months ahead, including Nicole Sullivan's and Josh Brown's wedding on May 25. [NOTE: If the weather permits, we'll also do some outside work, but at the moment, the forecast is not promising.]



INTHENEWS

OUR NEW WEBSITE: A SPECIAL REPORT

When we launched our church's website in April 2014, we celebrated our move into the online world. We were new and inexperienced, but our efforts produced a website that informed people about our church in ways previously unavailable to us.

It wasn't just our efforts that got us on the Internet, of course. We had a lot of help from the company that "hosted" our site - the company that made sure whenever people typed www.fccem.org into their web browsers, they would see our site.

Though we've had a great relationship with our web host over the last five years, we're moving to a different company starting next week. We're making a change for a couple of reasons: **1) We want to offer a way for people to make donations to our church via our website**, but that requires us to provide the latest in security technology so that donors will know their credit card or bank account numbers are totally safe and protected when they use them to donate. Our current host does not offer that level of security, so we're changing; and **2) We want to take advantage of the new host's services**, which in many ways are more modern and tech savvy, and therefore will create a sleeker, more enjoyable experience for people who visit our site.

We've put in lots and lots of hours preparing to launch the new and improved fccem.org, and now are about ready to go live. The new site's biggest improvements are its modern look, its ease of navigation (*a column of links to various elements of our site is ALWAYS be on the screen, making moves to other places on the site simple*) its advanced media capabilities (*playing sermon audio recordings or videos is easier and better looking than ever, for example*) and of course its safety and security features that will allow us to offer online giving.

We invite you to visit the new fccem.org next Friday, May 24, anytime after 10:00 a.m.

About mobile and online giving

In our February issue this year, we offered a lengthy primer about the value and possibilities of online giving and what we hope to gain from offering it at FCCEM. Here is some of the information we provided back then, as it is still accurate and valuable:

Online giving is the ability to make a donation to the church in the amount of your choice using a credit card, a debit card, or a withdrawal from the bank account of your choice. We'll have a button on our church website that visitors to our site will be able to click, and then very safely, quickly, and securely give a donation to our church. They'll be able to make one-time donations, or set up automatic payments/withdrawals on the schedule of their choosing. Because this option will be available on our website, anyone with Internet access - people living anywhere in the country - will be able to give to our church in just a few clicks and keystrokes.

[SPECIAL REPORT CONTINUES ON OTHER SIDE]

OUR NEW WEBSITE: A SPECIAL REPORT (cont.)

Mobile giving lives up to its name: It's mobile. We'll offer a free app for download to tablets and smart phones, by use of which people will be able to make donations to our ministries - again, very safely, quickly, and securely. In addition, we'll be able to accept donations at offsite fund-raising events (in fact, we've just started to accept such donations at Helmets fundraisers).

Some questions you might be asking:

WHY ARE WE ADDING THESE GIVING OPTIONS? DOESN'T OUR CURRENT SYSTEM WORK?

Our current system works well, but the world is changing and so are the ways people make payments. People don't use cash or checks as much as they used to. Of course many people do, but more and more households pay bills through their banks, buy items online using their credit cards, and have auto-pay arrangements to pay off monthly balances. We're simply giving people a choice.

WHEN WILL THE NEW GIVING OPTIONS BE AVAILABLE?

The online giving option at our website will be available at the launch of our new site. The mobile giving option will launch within the next month or two.

WILL THE NEW OPTIONS MEAN I WON'T BE ABLE TO GIVE THE WAY I CURRENTLY GIVE (BY CHECK OR CASH)?

Absolutely not!! The new options will be precisely that, options. If you're satisfied with your giving method, GREAT! Nothing about the way you give will change in any way.

WILL THESE NEW OPTIONS ACTUALLY BE SAFE? WHAT ABOUT CYBER-SECURITY AND IDENTITY THEFT?

The system we're signing up with fills its system with security measures. It gets real techy real fast to try to explain them, so let's just say that making a donation to the church will be as safe as using your credit or debit card at a local store. We wouldn't even consider working with a service that wasn't completely secure for those who used it.

ALMOST EVERY SERVICE COSTS SOMETHING. HOW MUCH WILL THESE OPTIONS COST?

For donors, these options will cost absolutely nothing. A person who makes a \$25 donation to the church in June using one of the new options will receive a statement at the end of the year that will show said \$25 donation just as always. For the church, however, there WILL be costs. For donations made by credit and debit cards, the fee will be 2.9% of the donation + \$0.30. So if someone in California makes a \$100 donation to our Helmets of Hope ministry to veterans, we'll pay a fee of \$3.20 [\$2.90 (2.9% of \$100) + \$0.30] For donations made by bank withdrawals, the cost will be 1% of the transaction amount, plus \$0.30. [or \$1.30, in the \$100 donation example] Our conviction is that by offering these new options, we'll receive enough NEW giving to cover the fees AND to add to our church's financial bottom line

Please Note: Such fees are NOT unusual! Credit card companies ALWAYS charge stores a certain percentage for their services. We chose the service we've chosen in part because it does not ALSO charge a flat monthly service fee. Some companies charge a \$15-\$30/month flat fee in addition to the percentage fees. The company we've chosen does not.

HAVE QUESTIONS? DON'T HESITATE TO ASK!