

# April

## Little Lambs Family Night



Mrs Ludy had many helpers getting ready for the Little Lambs Family Night on March 31.



## Missions Sunday School



The Kindergarten-1st grade class made Chilean rain sticks during the April Missions Sunday School.

## 61st Annual Pancake & Sausage Day - April 9, 2016



Denny Foor and Todd Morrison, have been coordinators for Pancake Day for the last 12 years. Their wives, Jennifer and Dee, have been willing partners each of those years.



Our 50 volunteers served 530 people at our 61st Annual Pancake & Sausage Day. That's about 1500 pancakes and 250 pounds of sausage.



### Sunday Worship Services

Morning Worship 9 am-10 am  
J.A.M. (ages 3 - PreK) every Sunday  
K-3 Children's Church 1st & 3rd Sundays  
4-5th grades 1st & 3rd Sundays  
Sunday School 10:30-11:15 am

### Youth Groups

Wednesdays  
Jr. High 6:00 pm Jordan McKinsey, leader  
Sr. High 7:30 pm Danny Kaupp, leader

### Pastoral Staff

Andy Huette, Sr. Pastor  
Grant Stauter, Associate Pastor

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# CHRIST COMMUNITY

CHURCH OF GRIDLEY  
May 2016

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## Dear Church Family,

By the end of 1 Chronicles, King David has triumphed over the enemies of Israel, his throne has been established, and there is peace and security in the land. Life is good for Israel. That is, life is good until King David decides to take a census of the people in Israel. Despite a warning from his right-hand man, Joab, that the census would bring guilt upon David and Israel, David proceeds. It's not immediately evident why Joab knew that the census was not of the Lord, but it appears that pride was David's underlying sin. He wanted to enumerate the prosperity of his kingdom and revel in the (false) security of the great number available troops in Israel. As a result of David's census, the Lord brings three days of pestilence as judgment upon the nation for Israel.

This oft-overlooked story is one that has occasionally led me to question the common church practice of taking attendance on Sunday mornings. Though taking a national census and counting people in the pews are considerably different acts, nearly every church I can think of takes attendance, and publishes it somewhere to be seen. Knowledge of the attendance can be helpful for the purposes of planning and preparedness, but such publication can also be a false gauge of faithfulness and, worse, a source of pride for pastors and church members alike. I'm bringing this up because recently our weekly "census" has risen significantly, and it's important for us to consider what this increase means for us as a church family through a biblical lens.

First, increased attendance is a cause for humble thanksgiving, rather than pride and self-congratulation. Scripture is clear that "God gives the growth" (1 Cor. 3:7), that "He gives and takes away" (Job 1:21), and that "God added to their number daily those

*"Increased attendance is a cause for humble thanksgiving. . ."*

who were being saved" (Acts 2:47). It is wonderful to hear a loud chorus of singing in worship from a room stuffed with people on Sundays, to rejoice in the recent "baby boom" at church, and to see new faces joining the church, but we must be clear—this is all the gift of God. I'm not talking about just giving a head nod to God, I'm talking about really believing that God gives the growth and giving him all the thanks for His increase. Woe to us, if we credit the gifts of God to our own supposed works in the same spirit of David's census.

Secondly, God's gift of growth is an entrustment of responsibility. A meaningful purpose behind taking attendance is to have accurate data by which to make decisions. Trends can be observed, space in the building can be rearranged, a wall here or there can

be knocked out, chairs can be set up, and nursery space can be re-distributed with accurate information. Just as when families grow, bedrooms need to be shared, chores need to be divvied up, and the relational dynamics are modified; so it is in the church family. Growth is a blessing that calls for stewardship that is realistic without being pragmatic. The elders are praying regularly about how to be responsible stewards of the growth God has given, and I ask you all to join in praying for God's leading and wisdom.

*"Growth is a blessing that calls for stewardship..."*

Thirdly, while we pray and talk about if more permanent long-term adjustments are needed, I want to ask you to consider serving in a few small ways:

- Seating: Please consider moving up front a few rows to create seating space in the back for those who have mobility difficulties, those with young children who may need quick access to the door, and for our guests.
- Parking: If walking a bit is no problem for you, please consider parking across the street at the pool or on Hillcrest St. and using the sidewalk to the east of the parsonage.
- Welcoming: Greeting one another is an integral part of Sunday worship. The entire church family is the "welcoming committee," so if a new attender needs help finding the nursery, or Sunday School, please step in and show them the way. If you don't know someone, don't hesitate to introduce yourself. The increase in attendance is an increased opportunity to practice Christ-like hospitality.

This is an exciting time for the Christ Community Church family. Let's proceed with humble thanksgiving, with prayerful discernment, and with a spirit of sacrificial service to others.

*Grace and Peace,  
Andy*

*Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.  
Romans 12:13 ESV*

*One  
Another*



# Meet Christ Community's Missions Team



The Missions team met with Wes Crump in March to learn more about his planned work with the Traveling Team, a missions training and mobilizing organization. Pictured front row L-R: Betty Kaupp, Wes Crump, Robin Wahls, Keri Hany; back row L-R: Delmar Smith, Chuck Albritton, Seth Foor, Grant Stauter.

## Wall of Beautiful Feet



Pictures of the missionaries that Christ Community supports monthly are on the wall outside of Pastor Andy's office.

## Core Convictions

### That Drive Our Commitment to Missions

**The Purpose of Missions** is to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to all nations in order to bring people into fellowship by faith with God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**Beautiful Feet**—the work of global evangelization—is a core value of Christ Community Church, rooted in Romans 10:15: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" The following Core Convictions drive our commitment and provide direction for how we do missions.

- Beautiful Feet display God's Character.
- Beautiful Feet proclaim Jesus in word and deed.
- Beautiful Feet call for sacrifice.
- Beautiful Feet will succeed.



Our website, [www.christ-cc.org](http://www.christ-cc.org), has a full explanation of our Core Convictions.

**The Missions Team exists** to lead Christ Community in its effort to participate in the Great Commission in cross-cultural contexts. The Missions Team maintains close contact with our missionaries and seeks to teach and encourage every attendee at Christ Community to be obedient to the Great Commission as either a go-er or sender.

Some of its primary objectives are to coordinate missions education at Christ Community; maintain contact and provide holistic care to our missionaries; assist in preparing Christ Community missionary candidates to go to the field; and coordinate cross-cultural trips for our congregation.

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- **Encourage** It's hard to provide holistic care to families who live on the other side of the world and may not have a reliable way to receive care packages. Some ways the Missions Team tries to get around that obstacle are:

- Skype with them 1-2 times a year; email regularly.
- Host lunches for them when they are home on furlough.
- Send a pastor to visit them on the field every 2-3 years.

- **Pray** Our monthly prayer calendar lists current requests from the mission workers we support. Many of them have told us how they are encouraged when they visit Christ Community and are approached by people within our congregation to ask them specifically about their work—learned by praying for them monthly. Prayer calendars are at the Welcome Center.

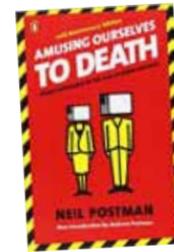
- **Educate** Since 2012, the Missions Team has taught a missions Sunday School curriculum 3-4 times each school year to our PreK through Sr. High students. They've learned what it means to have *Beautiful Feet*, memorized Romans 10:15, learned who our missionaries are and have been exposed to basic missions principles.



Abby Huette taught the 4th-5th grade missions class in March and April.

- **Prepare** The decision to become a long-term cross-cultural missionary is not a quick, spontaneous decision. Prayer, counsel, and preparation is needed before anyone leaves as a career-missionary. Therefore, Christ Community has a set of guidelines to help assess each missionary candidate's preparedness. The Missionary Preparation Plan is part of our Policy Handbook, available at the Welcome Center.

book review  
by Cory Deckard



## "Amusing Ourselves to Death"

"Americans no longer talk to each other, they entertain each other. They do not exchange ideas, they exchange images. They do not argue with propositions; they argue about good looks, celebrities and commercials."—Neil Postman

Those words by Neil Postman in *Amusing Ourselves to Death* were written in 1986. Let me repeat that; those words were written in 1986. Before laptops, smartphones, DVRs, high resolution cameras, and worldwide wireless connectivity were commonplace, this was Postman's prophetic vision of our future culture. I find it amazing that a social commentary written 30 years ago by a self-proclaimed "secular Jew" can be relevant to Christians today, but remarkably it is. He accurately predicted the rise of the image and the fall of the word as our primary method to understand every area of importance.

In the first part of the book, Postman speaks a lot on what he calls "cultural death." Cultural death is the result when amusement becomes the way we disseminate information and the basis for interpersonal relationships. Our current information age that presents every trivial piece of data as information actually provides us less contextual knowledge to act upon when making decisions. So while we have access to millions of unconnected, random pieces of information we don't know how to segregate the important parts into a practical, actionable manner. This deviates from Christ's plan for us to be a people of action. 1 Peter 1:13, "therefore with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming." It takes action to have a sober mind. A sober minded believer takes the necessary action of protecting their mind and hearts from the influences of the world. They aren't passive about what they allow to infiltrate their minds through

mediums of social media, TV, or movies. Being sober is setting a high standard of morality and integrity in the spirit, mind, and body.

My favorite part of *Amusing Ourselves to Death* comes when Postman argues that the best TV is junk TV. His reasoning is that it delivers exactly what it promises and does not lie about its capability to educate, edify, or inform. He shows that the commercial format of current media has destroyed any chance that truth can be communicated by the television. What's the solution to this problem though? Postman's answer is that there is no solution. If people are gaining their cultural sense, understanding major issues and experiencing community through a system that can't deliver these things with any value, then we have already amused ourselves into oblivion 140 characters at a time. That's a pretty grim perspective and one that is postulated throughout the second half of the book. It's important to remember, though, that Postman is writing from a secular point of view and not through the lens of Christ.

Don't grab this book and be fooled by its miniscule 163 pages. It's a tough read cover to cover and will leave you convicted on the quality and quantity of media that you consume. I've answered five texts, watched a pretty hilarious YouTube clip, and checked my Twitter feed twice in the past hour that I've been writing. Postman would say, "People will come to adore the technologies that undo their capacities to think." Maybe he's right. —Cory Deckard

Check out *Amusing Ourselves to Death* from our church library.

## Batter Up!

Christ Community's softball team has brought home hardware for three years running. In 2013, they earned the runner-up trophy. In 2014 and 2015, they were the El Paso Parks & Rec champs.

Everyone is invited to join Christ Community's co-ed softball team. The league runs from July through September. Games are played on Sunday evenings at South Pointe Park in El Paso.

If interested, please see or email Cory Deckard at [corydeckard@gmail.com](mailto:corydeckard@gmail.com) by June 5th.



The 2015 team: back-to-back champions. The 2016 team will defend the two-time title. (No pressure. It's all for fun, fellowship and fitness.)

### May Birthdays

- 1 Teron Fairchild
- 5 Susan Buchanan
- 5 Stacy Ludy
- 6 John Krone
- 8 Max Foor
- 8 Cory Cooper
- 11 Sydney Butikofter
- 11 Todd Palmer
- 12 Paige DeVary
- 14 Cari Schultz
- 15 Brady Sanders
- 19 Collin Buchanan
- 19 Marcia Mool
- 20 Addison Benedict
- 21 Linda Hartzler
- 21 Noah Ludy
- 23 Scott Edwards
- 23 Grant Stauter
- 24 Ian Hall
- 25 Tony Palmer
- 25 Calvin Riggs
- 26 Micah Meiss
- 28 Jaykob Kiefer
- 28 Jessica Krug
- 31 Mattie Buchanan

### Anniversaries

- 4 Kathy & Tom Hany
- 15 Trent & Erin Kaupp
- 16 John & Pat McKey
- 17 Neal & Katie Jeffreys
- 18 Melvin & Ruth Grace
- 28 Todd & Jennifer Morrison
- 29 Charles & Marsha Albritton
- 31 Ron & Marcia Mool
- 31 Brent & Traci Kelly

### New Birth

- April 11 Steele Kye Hitchens  
Parents: Holly & Chad Hitchens

### Attendance & Offering

4/3	345	\$11,417
4/10	383	\$ 8,199
4/17	376	\$ 9,676
4/24	388	\$ 6,479



See Cory by June 5 to play this summer.

If you know where the 2014 trophy is, please contact Cory!