

# The Karusograph

A ministry of



Volume 58

March 2016

Issue 3

[clintonfcc.com](http://clintonfcc.com)

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
OF Clinton

Take a look at what's  
happening at FCC in March.



## Annual Pancake & Sausage Breakfast

March 12th 6:30am - 12:30pm

\$5 per person

4 years old & younger eat free.

See a mission trip student for your tickets! Tickets are also available in the office or at the door. This fundraiser supports the junior high & high school mission trips.

## Parent XP

March 6th at 5:30pm in the  
Cable Building.

We want our JH and HS parents to get a little taste of what their student does each week. Please join us! We would love to get to know you better. Please call the office to RSVP.



## March 2016

This month we will start a sermon series entitled, "Cross Words." We will be taking a look at the words of Jesus at Calvary. You will not want to miss it!



Please join us for our one of our  
Easter services on March 27th.

Our traditional service is at  
8:15am and our contemporary  
service is at 10:45am.

## The Gospel According to Greg

Greg Taylor  
greg@clintonfcc.com

This year is unique for a few reasons. First of all, it is a leap year, meaning we have 366 days, instead of the usual 365. Second, Christmas (and New Year's Day 2017) falls on Sunday, no big deal for many, but less than ideal for church attendance and such. And finally, Easter is very early this year – March 27 to be exact. Over the past decade, a “month of March” Easter has happened just twice. As I type this article, Easter is just over five weeks away – hard to believe!

When many think about Easter, visions (and smells) of Easter egg hunts (I can almost smell the vinegar), and baskets of candy and family dinner feasts are usually part of the process. When ministry staff think about Easter, huge morning worship attendances are typically swimming through our minds. But when I really slow down and think about Resurrection Sunday, the word **HOPE** almost always comes to my mind. I love that word. **HOPE**.

Legendary college basketball coach Bobby Knight (aka The General) has a much different take on the word **HOPE**. Knight accomplished it all – he won NCAA championships, an Olympic gold medal with actual amateurs, and did this while boasting one of the highest graduation rates in the entire NCAA. He also threw chairs, chewed out officials and once slapped/mockered CBS reporter Connie Chung during a 60 minutes interview.

In his book, [The Power of Negative Thinking](#), Knight states the word **HOPE** (as most people understand it) is the worst word in the English language. The General says it is foolish and lazy to tell yourself (or others) that “things are going to be all right.” He says things will only be all right if somebody steps up and does something!

## The Gospel According to Greg

Continued

Believe it or not, I think I actually agree with Bobby Knight! I think optimism. **HOPE** is not a baseless, faithless silliness that will never materialize. **HOPE** must have reason. Or as Peoria preacher Bryan Wilkerson once put it, "**HOPE is a Who!**" **Hope** is Jesus Christ!

Easter is the story of **HOPE**. Easter is the story of how Jesus Christ overcame crucifixion and was raised to life again! Easter is the story of how fallen sinners like you and me can become the righteousness of God! **HOPE is a Who!** The Apostle Paul said it like this in 2 Corinthians 5:21, "God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." So what should we do with Resurrection Sunday? If you were to read the verse of scripture right before 5:21, the term Ambassador is used to describe and define followers of Jesus. "We are therefore Christ's Ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us!"

So what's the point? Let's make the most of Easter in 2016. Easter egg hunts and family dinners are great, but let's make sure we take time to tell the story of **HOPE!** Let's make sure we tell the story of Jesus – that **HOPE is a Who!**

Blessings,  
GT



Brochures are available at the information desk or church office.

### Spiritual Disciplines

April 8-10

at Little Galilee Christian Camp

Come and join us for a weekend of spiritual growth as we learn how to make time in our lives to get silent before God using spiritual disciplines to guide us. This retreat is open to both men and women.

# Kent's Corner

**Kent Hickerson**

Barbara Johnson once wrote, “The sounds that perplex us on Earth will be a thing of the past when we walk down those streets of gold. There won't be any irate drivers honking at us; no talking alarm clocks crowing at us; no computers beeping at some mistake we've made; no metal detectors ringing to stop as we hurry to our office or airplanes. We'll leave behind all the earthly sounds that frustrate us, as well as all those words that annoy us.

Never again will we hear:

“Your appointment was yesterday.”

“This lane is closed.”

“Your application is denied.”

“Your account is overdrawn.”

“Your payment is overdue”

“There's been an accident.”

“The Principal wants to see you.”

“We've done all we can do.”

“I'm sorry.”

“Too late.”

“Too bad.”

“Good-bye”

“Oops.”

Isn't it wonderful to think we're bound for Glory, where there will be joyful sounds and loving words? In that great choir gathered in Hallelujah Square, we'll sing what Christians have predicted for decades in the majestic old hymns:

“We'll sing and shout the victory.”

“Glory in the highest, I will shout & sing.”

“I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow.”

“And there proclaim, My God, how great thou art.”



**Men of All Ages:** On March 1 & 15, the men's ministry group, Reload, will meet from 6am – 7am at the Cable Building. Please come and bring a friend! Any questions, contact Adam Brucker.

## This n That

### March Shut - In Birthdays

**5th**                      **Treva Torbert**                      96 years  
Manor Ct/Liberty Village  
1 Park Ln  
Clinton, IL 61727

**14th**                      **Dody Thomason**  
Woodside at Friendship Village  
1390 N Drake Rd  
Kalamazoo, MI 49006



**16th**                      **Bob Adcock**  
Evenglow Lodge  
215 E Washington  
Pontiac, IL 61764

## Celebrating Members in their 90's

**9th**                      **Marjorie Anderson**                      92 years  
35 Cypress Drive  
Clinton, IL 61727

Send a card to help celebrate their birthdays or send a note to others on the nursing home list. You will make their day!



### We rejoice with & congratulate:

Gage & Rachel Lyons, 9607 Violet Valley Rd, Clinton, IL, on the birth of their daughter, **Andi Jane**, born February 5, 2016. Proud grandparents are Randy & Ann Anderson and Jeff & Pam Lyons.

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." Philippians 4:6*

# Nursing Home Prayer List

members & relatives of those at First Christian Church, Clinton

Updated 02-22-16

*Manor Court/Liberty Village*  
1 Park Lane, Clinton, IL 61727

**Theda Adams**  
**Donna Arnold**  
**Thomas E. Bray**  
**Mildred Burns**  
**Betty Burris**  
**Larry Chapman**  
**Helen Dorrell**  
**Delbert Fields**  
**William Hoffman**  
**Fayetta Isaac**  
**Marie Jackson**  
**Gene Jones**  
**Betty Kyle**  
**Judith Larson**  
**Dave Lewis**  
**Ray Martin**  
**Wilma Mestinsek**  
**David Mosley**  
**Lura Murphy**  
**Margaret Murphy**  
**Dora Neal**  
**Al Perring**  
**Don Polen**  
**Dena Polen**  
**Helen Polley**  
**Norma Reilly**  
**Louise Smith**  
**Georgia Sobolewski**  
**Virginia Stein**  
**Kathy Strange**  
**Treva Torbert**  
**Juanita Turney**  
**Shirley Utterback**  
**Allan Webb**

*Aspen Ridge Care Center*  
2530 N. Monroe, Decatur, IL 62526  
**Shirley Thompson**

*Hawthorne Inn/Liberty Village*  
(Supportive Living)  
1 Park Lane, Clinton, IL 61727

**Mary Burton**                      **Helen Shelton**  
**Audrey Fields**                  **Ernest Thorp**  
**Norma Hollibaugh**              **Helen Thorp**  
**Ike Leisner**                      **Dorothy Yedtman**  
**Mildred Meeks**

*Good Samaritan*  
20705 W 151st St. Room 106  
Olathe, KS 66061  
**June Cheatham**

*Evenglow Lodge*  
215 E Washington  
Pontiac, IL 61764  
**Bob Adcock**

*Brookdale North Phoenix*  
4050 E Bluefield Ave.  
Room 122  
Phoenix, AZ 85032  
**Colleen Stephens**

*Woodside at Friendship Village*  
1390 N Drake Rd  
Kalamazoo, MI 49006  
**Dody Thomason**

## Young at Heart

**David Buck, Coordinator**

“Think of a victim as someone who spends a lifetime waiting for life to begin. The victim’s dreams and hopes often remain dormant with little chance to materialize because this style, in it’s extreme, encourages people to trust the power of outside forces more than their own. They doubt their capacity to make their life happen according to their aspirations, so they wait to be rescued or blessed by good fortune. It is little wonder, then, that when trauma strikes, people who behave like victims under ordinary circumstances feel undermined and overwhelmed and become totally immobilized. Your greatest power in the face of adversity is your power to choose how you will react.” Squire Rushnell

For our next meeting on March 2, we will have a special singing guest from Decatur, Illinois. Then on April 6, we look forward to having Dr. Stephanie Cluver. She is always a delight! “While we’ve youth in our hearts, we can never grow old.” Olive Wendell Holmes

Our 2nd trip of the year will be on March 15th to the New Cisco Country Opera in Monticello with all of our regulars. Dinner will be served at 5pm so we will be leaving at 4pm. It will be fun to see the group again. “The joy of the Lord is your strength.” -Nehemiah 8:10KJV

We can bless people with the words of our mouth. We can speak life to them. The power of life and death is in the tongue. We can choose to speak life. When we edify or exhort, we are urging people forward. Just think of it, we can hold people back or urge them forward just by our words. “Death and life are in the power of the tongue; and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.” -Proverbs 18:21KJV



*Area Men's Fellowship*

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### **Area Men's Fellowship**

**When:** Tuesday, March 1 at 7pm

**Where:** Leroy Christian Church

**Who:** Jason Smith, pastor of the Clermont Christian Church, Indianapolis, IN

**Menu:** Chicken casserole, mashed potatoes, green beans, & dessert

## This n That



We will be having a Discover FCC class on Sunday, March 13th at 5:30pm. This class is for anyone interested in becoming a member of FCC and knowing more about our church. If you want to attend, please call the church office to sign up! 935-3139.

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Volunteers are needed for Mom's Coffee Break. It's the 3rd Friday of the month from 9:45am - 11:45am. You will not be needed every month, but will be contacted a few weeks in advance to see if you're available. Please consider volunteering in this great ministry! Please contact Lindsey Moody if you are interested in volunteering. 217-871-1985



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Our **Proverbs 31 ministry** is in need of new leaders. Holly Goldsmith, Dana Karcz & Teri Schaefer have been doing the planning & preparation for cooking for over 10 years and are ready to move on to other things. Proverbs 31 cooks 6 times a year, preparing meals for the freezer to individuals or families that are in need due to an illness, hospital stay, or loss. When someone needs a meal or 2, the food just needs to be warmed up & a delicious meal is ready to eat. Maybe your small group, Sunday school class, or a few individuals would be willing to take over the planning & implementation of this ministry. Please contact Greg Taylor or Karen Rice, 935-3139, if you might be interested in helping with this ministry.

Proverbs 31 will be preparing & cooking foods for the freezer on **Tuesday, March 15th** at 6 pm in the downstairs kitchen. Please join us as we fix meals for many different needs in our community. Men & women of all ages are welcome! This outreach ministry is for all, church & community!

## Next Steps Update

With the blessing of the Kenneth Smith estate gift our Next Steps renovations are being fast tracked. The design development committee has basically completed their work, designing the lower level nursery/pre-kindergarten suite and the upper level office/adult education suite. These designs have been drawn and are displayed on the wall of the corridor leading to the Family Life Center for your information and viewing. Our architect is currently working on the construction documents, which are necessary to bid the project. Once the project is bid, we will then be able to determine how much of the project we will be able to complete. While we believe that there will be enough funds to complete these parts of the renovations, we will only complete those that funds are available for which will be unknown until construction bids are reviewed and awarded.

The current plan is for construction to begin immediately following VBS week on June 13, 2016 and is scheduled to be complete by mid November 2016. To be able to maintain our programming through the construction, all lower level renovations will be completed first followed by the upper level renovations.

With the size of the estate gift and not immediately needing the funds, the bulk of the estate gift has been invested in a short term investment with the Solomon Foundation. While paying a healthy rate on the investment, which will help provide necessary funds for this renovation, the Solomon Foundation works with Christian churches to build and enhance their ministries. This estate gift will not only be a blessing to our church locally but also to other churches across the country.

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### BLOOD PRESSURE

FCC will be offering free blood pressure checks

**Sunday, March 6th**

Where: **Library**

When: **9 am - 9:30 am**

**11:45am - 12:30pm**

This is not a diagnosis, just a measuring & recording of your blood pressure.



## Worship

Samuel Green  
Samuel@clintonfcc.com

### *“Come, Follow Me”*

What is the cost of following Jesus? What does it even mean to follow Him? What does it mean to be his disciple, in his own words and teachings? Over the next several months these are the questions that we will be wrestling with. The journey will not be an easy one, but we will wrestle together and hopefully become better disciples and image-bearers through the process. Let us reflect on possibly the hardest teaching of Jesus in regards to his followers and a challenging quote from one of the current leading New Testament scholars as we prepare our hearts for the course laid out for us in the coming months.

*“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother, and wife and children, and brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.*

– Luke 14:26-27 New English Translation

*“To follow Jesus means to drop what you are doing; to suspend a previous activity; and to enter into a life of attachment, adherence, and following of Jesus. It is a shift of allegiance; it is an alteration of priorities; it is a suspension of our will to Jesus’ will.”*

– Scot McKnight

***Where does your allegiance lie?***  
***Go in peace to Love & Serve the Lord.***



**IF: Table** is place to gather women of all ages and share a simple meal and dive deep with people over real stories and Christ centered conversations. A time for a whole lot of laughter – and maybe a few tears – but time spent that leaves us with glad hearts. Full hearts. Grateful hearts.

**Our next IF:Table is Thursday, March 10th at 7pm in the Family Life Center. Hope you will join us!**

## **The Dunkin' Pick-Me-Up With Cody**

**Cody Monkman**  
cody@clintonfcc.com

What is "XP"? What is "Parent XP Night"?

Those are two questions that you may very well be asking. "XP" is our short way of saying "experience." "Parent XP Night" is an opportunity for parents to experience what their students experience on a weekly basis.

On Parent XP Night, we will be switching things up a bit! Instead of our regular student ministry activities, we want to gather together with all parents of our JH and HS students. Our heart in doing Parent XP Night is to get student ministry leaders in the same room with parents to help equip both sides to be spiritual leaders that can cultivate an authentic faith in the lives of students. Come join us on March 6 from 5:30pm-7:00pm in The Cable Building for Parent XP Night.

*Refreshments will be provided. There will be no student programming on this night.*

Please RSVP by calling the church office at [217-935-3139](tel:217-935-3139).

With Dunkin' Love,

Cody



## **Junior High**

**Breakfast Club** meets Friday mornings at 7:15am in the Cable Building

**JHM** meets on Sunday in the cable building from 10:45am - 11:45am

**JH Sunday School** meets from 9:30am - 10:30am in the Cable Building

**JH Community Groups** meet on Sundays from 5:30pm - 7pm in The Edge

**CIY Believe** is April 1st & 2nd. Sign ups are going on now! Cost is \$40 before March 6th. (\$80 after the 6th). Please register and make payment on the Reveal Student Ministry website

**Parent XP Night** - March 6th at 5:30 in the Cable Building. We want our JH and HS parents to get a little taste of what their student does each week. Please join us! We would love to get to know you better. Please call the office to RSVP.

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## **High School**

**Breakfast Club** meets Friday mornings at 7:15am in the Cable Building

**HS Reveal** meets on Sundays from 5:30pm - 7pm in the Cable Building.

**Parent XP Night** - March 6th at 5:30 in the Cable Building. We want our JH and HS parents to get a little taste of what their student does each week. Please join us! We would love to get to know you better. Please call the office to RSVP.



**Allison Hitchings** - [allison@clintonfcc.com](mailto:allison@clintonfcc.com)  
**Cassandra Benton** - [cassandra@clintonfcc.com](mailto:cassandra@clintonfcc.com)

Children are a gift from the Lord. They are a reward from him. Psalm 127:3 NIRV

Bringing a new child into the family is exciting, joyful, humbling and even intimidating. The knowledge that God is entrusting you with such a blessed gift and tasking you with enormous responsibility can bring things into focus. What becomes more clear is the need to keep God active in your family life, the need to commit to raising your child in God's way, and the need to rely on Christ for strength.

On Sunday, April 17 a Parent Commitment/Child Dedication ceremony will take place in the Sanctuary at 9:30. Parents will be given the opportunity to publicly commit to put God first in their home, to teach Biblical principles, to be a Christ-like example, and to seek God's grace and wisdom.

Parents also need the help and support of our church family. They need us to come alongside them in love as mentors, encouragers and friends. Parents and children need us to pray for them...not just during the ceremony, but continually. Each of us has a role to play in the life of the children of our church.

Please join us for the Parent Commitment/Child Dedication ceremony on April 17!

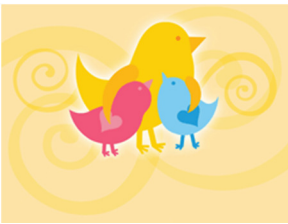
*Cassandra & Allison*



**Mom's Coffee Break** will be meeting the 3rd Friday of every month from 10am - 11:30am. Grab a cup of coffee and enjoy some relaxing time, building relationships with other moms. Right now our discussions are centered around No More Perfect Moms by Jill Savage. Please contact Lindsey Moody at 217-871-1985 if you have questions. Childcare is provided.

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**Moms & Tots Playgroup** meets the first Friday of every month from 10am - 11:30am in the First Kids Area. Come have a playdate with toys, activities and snacks for your little one while getting to know other moms in the community. For children ages 0 thru Pre-K. Please invite your friends! Watch for special events through the year on our Moms & Tots Facebook page or our email list.



FCC is having a Parent Commitment/Child Dedication on Sunday, April 17 at 9:30. If you are interested in this event, please pick up an information packet from the welcome center or the church office.

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We would love to have you join others from our church as they travel to the **Christian Village** in Lincoln, IL. We fold laundry, clean tables or just talk with the many residents who reside at the Christian Village. We will leave at 8:30 am on Thursday, March 17 & return between 2:30 - 3 pm. *This ministry is open to anyone, men & women!*



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### **Annual Pancake & Sausage Breakfast**

**March 12th from 6:30am - 12:30pm**

\$5 per person, 4 years old & younger eat free  
See a mission trip student for your tickets! Tickets are also available in the office or at the door. This fundraiser supports the junior high & high school mission trips.



Throughout the months of January and February, we have been going through a sermon series called “Current Issues”. We have studied a variety of issues throughout this series that are key points of discussion in today’s society. Things like abortion, immigration, marriage and several other important topics. If you weren’t able to attend one or more of these services, I would like to encourage you to go to our website [www.clintonfcc.com/media](http://www.clintonfcc.com/media) and check out the ones that you may have missed.

I personally have really enjoyed not just the topics being discussed but more importantly the manner in which we have talked about them. We tried to take what is a important/controversial topic and give some context to where the issues have been coming from and how it is impacting people today and then look at what the Bible might say on that topic. We have not been giving everyone an answer to what they should believe about the particular current issue, which I think is a key part of this series.

We aren’t trying to sway people to one point of view or another but to just take a biblical perspective on how we should be looking at things. I have found that in the process of going through these current issues and seeking a biblical perspective, it has given me greater clarity to the issues overall. For example, Greg shared during his message on politics that we should be praying for the leaders that have been placed in authority by God. I think that our natural human tendency is for us to complain, argue, slander, etc. when it comes to a particular politician or policy that we don’t like or agree with. What if our first step was to pray for our politicians? How would that change the way we interact with others when it comes to discussing politics?

What other current issues need to be looked at with a biblical perspective? How might that change the way we interact with the rest of the world? I think that in all things our first step should be to try to gain a biblical perspective on the issue. It might help us to respond in love before anything else. God bless!

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