

THE ROCK

Following Jesus and Showing Others the Way



Vol XXXIX Number 1 January 2019

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**Measuring Our
Faithfulness:
November 2018**

General

Rec'd \$70,428.59
Goal \$71,600.00

Year to Date

Rec'd \$881,172.10
Goal \$841,400.00

Average Weekly

Attendance

Worship 385
Sunday School 203

Food Pantry Served

Families Served = 140
Adults = 289
Children = 184
Bags given = 700
New Clients = 8
Eggs = 205 doz
Meat = 700 lbs
Turkeys = 140

The Rock (USPS #016052) is a non-profit publication published monthly at Cornerstone Christian Church, 8930 N SR 267, Brownsburg, IN 46112. 317.852.2411
Periodical postage paid at Brownsburg, IN 46112

POSTMASTER

please send address changes to:

The Rock

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OUT OF MY MIND

Tim Hughes, Senior Minister

If you do very much reading about the subject of Christmas in today's printed media you can come away somewhat bewildered. One study says that people who get an early start on Christmas decorations are happier than those who don't. Another study says that workers are less productive with Christmas music playing in the background. Another article complains that Christmas songs are too simplistic and don't take seriously the problems of the world. We read in the newspaper about flash mobs bringing joy to shoppers in malls, and then we read of someone dressed up like the Grinch driving their car through a neighbor's Christmas decorations.

Last year my wife and I took our annual drive through the highly decorated neighborhoods near us and spotted a house that went all out with Christmas decorations of every kind. Next door to them was the single word spelled out in lights, "ditto."

There are polls and arguments about whether Christmas is a religious or a secular holiday. Mayo Clinic says that tuning into music is good for our emotional and behavioral health, and is especially helpful for those suffering from Alzheimer's disease. Another study says just the opposite. This study says that Christmas music reminds people of all the things they have to do before Christmas and it creates stress and anxiety for them.

Some retailers claim that Christmas music, along with scents associated with Christmas, results in people staying in their shops longer and buying more

things. I would attest that stores that have free samples of Christmas goodies will encourage me to stay in those shops longer. Whether or not I actually buy the products is another matter.

We might think we can find relief from all this Christmas chaos in Bible studies, but there are plenty of articles debating whether Jesus was born in a stable, a cave, or some other arrangement. People go all out to prove their point and draw their conclusions which may or may not be just more speculation on tiny details that don't really matter.

With most things in life when it comes to making sense of all the noise around us we have to keep the main thing the main thing. When we focus on Jesus, some of these other matters may rage on, but they are put into perspective.

Galatians 4:4-5 "But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship."

Luke 2:6-7 "While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them."

Matthew 1:22-23 "All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us")."



We are celebrating the successful *Imagine Initiative Campaign* which was kicked off this Fall. Our goal was \$2.2 million to put toward a \$3.4 million building and renovation project. On Sunday, December 2 we reported commitments in the amount of \$1,916,000.00, stock fund contributions of \$184,000 and available cash in the amount of \$100,000. This initiative has been an incredible step of faith, and exercise of prayer, vision and unity. Many thanks to all of you, and many thanks to God. To Him be the glory.

Youth Ministry

Matt Crossman

Cornerstone Student Ministries . . . *Not just for teens...*

We will have **Sunday Night Youth Group** on January 6, 13, and 20 from 6-8 pm.

Games in the Dark

January 26, 6-10 pm. You know all those awesome games you wish you could play in the church with all the lights out? This is a night totally dedicated to that. So if you know "Break-in" and "Sardines" then you know what we're talking about. However, we've got a lot more planned than just those two games so you don't want to miss this night. Cost is \$5 per person.

Middle School Mission Trip Meeting

January 27, 4-5:00 pm. If you signed up for the middle school mission trip you need to be at this meeting. The Church Birthday is right after so you can just stick around for that.

Children's Ministry

Ben Radant

New Check-In System Coming in 2019

Parents, we will have a new check-in system beginning in January 2019. This new system will help Cornerstone to move forward in our efforts to provide better security for our students. *Please note that beginning in January, ALL students will require a claim sticker from an adult in order to be picked up.* So be sure to keep your tags. We also ask that you be patient as we attempt to make this transition as smooth as possible.

Camp Allendale

Registration will begin for Cornerstone on Wednesday, February 13 at 6 pm. Remember that you are signing up for the grade your child will be going into the school year in the Fall of 2019. Once we have our camp code, it will be passed on to you. Go to <http://www.camp-allendale.org/summer-camp/registration/> for your registration.

Here are the weeks that Cornerstone will be attending for summer camp:

1st Grade – June 22

2nd Grade – June 21-22

3rd-4th Grade – June 23-28

5th-6th Grade – June 23-28

check for updates... CornerstoneRock.org



January 2019						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

February 2019						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 30	31	Jan 1, 19 Office Closed	2	3 6:15pm Zook Home Group (211, 205) 7:00pm Prayer Gathering (Auditorium)	4 1:00pm Euchre Club (MPR)	5 9:00am Food Pantry Open
6 Celebration of First Fruits Sunday Celebration Services & Sunday School 6:00pm Youth Group (Rms 210, 211, 214,	7 6:00pm HC Theatre (MPR, 212, 214) 6:00pm Martin Girl Scouts (Room 210)	8 9:00am Fit & Flexible (MPR) 6:00pm Worship Team Rehearsal (Auditorium)	9 4:00pm Youth Praise Rehearsal (211) 6:00pm HC Theatre (MPR, 212, 214)	10 10:30am Adult Ministry Committee 6:00pm HC Theatre (MPR, 212, 214) 7:00pm Prayer Gathering (Auditorium)	11 1:00pm Euchre Club (MPR)	12 Harrold (Multipurpose Room)
13 Celebration Services & Sunday School 6:00pm Youth Group (Rms 210, 211, 214, 215, MPR)	14 6:00pm HC Theatre (MPR, 212, 214)	15 Carpets Cleaned The Rock Newsletter Deadline 9:00am Fit & Flexible (MPR) 6:00pm Worship Team Rehearsal	16 4:00pm Youth Praise Rehearsal (211) 6:00pm HC Theatre (MPR, 212, 214)	17 4:00pm Theory Workshop (210, Aud) 6:00pm HC Theatre (MPR, 212, 214) 6:15pm Zook Home Group 7:00pm Prayer Gathering	18 1:00pm Euchre Club (MPR)	19 9:00am Food Pantry Open
20 Celebration Services & Sunday School 6:00pm Youth Group (Rms 210, 211, 214, 215, MPR)	21 6:00pm Martin Girl Scouts (Room 210) 6:00pm Capital District Christian Men's Fellowship (MPR, Kit,	22 9:00am Fit & Flexible (MPR) 6:00pm Worship Team Rehearsal (Auditorium)	23 4:00pm Youth Praise Rehearsal (211) 6:00pm HC Theatre (MPR, 212, 214)	24 6:00pm HC Theatre (MPR, 212, 214) 7:00pm Prayer Gathering (Auditorium)	25 1:00pm Euchre Club (MPR)	26 12:00pm Smith (Multipurpose Room, Kitchen) 6:00pm Youth Games in the Dark
27 Celebration Services & Sunday School 6:00pm Cornerstone Birthday Dinner (Auditorium)	28 6:00pm HC Theatre (MPR, 212, 214)	29 9:00am Fit & Flexible (MPR) 6:00pm Worship Team Rehearsal (Auditorium)	30 4:00pm Youth Praise Rehearsal (211) 6:00pm HC Theatre (MPR, 212, 214)	31 6:00pm HC Theatre (MPR, 212, 214) 7:00pm Prayer Gathering (Auditorium)	Feb 1	2

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

2019 1st Quarter, January — March

Doctrine and Theology

Combined Sunday School January 6...New Classes Begin January 13

Join us as we kick off a new Sunday School Quarter. All Sunday School classes, during their normal class times, will meet in the multipurpose room for a continental breakfast, a lesson, and great fellowship.

Not in a Sunday School class? No problem! Our Combined Sunday School is a great time to meet new people and to get plugged in to a great class.

**NEW CLASSES
BEGIN
JANUARY 13!**

Classes Begin at 9:00 am

COLLEGE & CAREER FAITH BUILDERS

Join us as we watch and discuss a video series in which Nabeel Qureshi shares the powerful story of his journey from faith in Allah to faith in Jesus Christ. Along the way, he gives valuable insight into Islam, sharing cultural, intellectual and theological barriers that often stand in the way of Muslims accepting Jesus. Nabeel's testimony will deepen your understanding of American Muslims and draw you closer to Jesus as you consider the amazing ways He works today.

DEAD THEOLOGIAN SOCIETY

Too often the Christian attitude toward suffering is characterized by a detached academic appeal to God's sovereignty, as if suffering were a game or a math problem. Or maybe we expect that since God is good, everything will just work out all right somehow. But where then is honest lament? Aren't we shortchanging believers of the riches of the Christian teaching about suffering? In Embodied Hope we will consider the example of our Lord Jesus. Only because Jesus has taken on our embodied existence, suffered alongside us, died, and been raised again can we find any hope from the depths of our own dark valleys of pain. As we look to Jesus, we are invited to participate not only in his sufferings, but also in the church, which calls us out of isolation and into the encouragement and consolation of the communal life of Christ.

EMBODIED HOPE: A THEOLOGICAL MEDITATION ON PAIN AND SUFFERING

HALAS

The New Testament letter of Galatians has been called the "Magna Charta" of Christian liberty. What was the function of the O.T. Mosaic Law and its relationship to God's grace manifested in Christ and the Gospel by which we are saved. Is man saved by faith and works or faith alone? These questions are answered in Paul's letter to the churches in the Galatia region which he had established on his first missionary journey through the area.

SONRISE

In the book of Matthew, Jesus taught the people through sermons, illustrations, and parables how to prepare for life in his eternal kingdom by living properly in this world. Those teachings guide us yet today. Join us for a study of Matthew and a look at prophecy fulfilled, faith strengthened, and life made fruitful.

Classes Begin at 10:30 am

GALATIANS

MATTHEW

9:00 am

College & Career
Room 210
*Seeking Allah,
Finding Jesus*

Dead Theologian Society
Room 212
Embodied Hope

Faith Builders
Room 215
*Seeking Allah,
Finding Jesus*

10:30 am

Halas
Room 105
Galatians

Sonrise
Room 214
Matthew

As the school year resumes in January, so do our Sunday evening youth services. One great feature of our student ministries is the youth led worship time. If you are a student in middle school or high school who sings or plays an instrument, contact Matt Crossman or Collin Moneymaker to learn more about getting involved with our Youth Praise Team.

Connections Ministry

Larry Vinson

Over My Head and Under My Heart: *Let's Be Real...*

Pop quiz, Hot Shot... a person comes up to you and asks how you are doing?

What do you say?

Most of us hear that question and an automatic response fills our brains, "Good. How are you?" I wonder, however, if that should always be the response. Sure, I get that we shouldn't be transparent about every aspect of our lives to every single person that asks, but what about those within our church community? When they ask how you are doing, should the blanket answer be the one we give?

Hebrews 10:24-25 gives us a clue to this topic, "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near" (ESV).

The author of Hebrews reminds us that the point of church, outside of worshipping God, is to encourage one another and to lift each other up in the love of Christ! How can we do that if we do not trust one another with the issues of our life, if all we give are superficial answers to common questions? My challenge for 2019 is to be more open and honest about my struggles and I hope that you prayerfully consider joining me. Life is tough, but it's even tougher when you're facing it alone. Let's come together and be there for one another so we can draw closer to Christ as a faith family!

Pop quiz, Hot Shot... a person comes up to you and asks how are you doing?

What will you say?

CONNECTIONS MINISTRY UPDATE

If you are interested or have questions, please contact Larry Vinson,
larry@cornerstonerock.org.

Wild Game Feed Donations

Throughout the month of January we will be accepting donations of wild game meat and door prizes for our 3rd Annual Wild Game Feed. Please contact our Connections Minister, Larry Vinson, by emailing larry@cornerstonerock.org if you have items you'd like to donate.

New Family Promise Dates for 2019

Please email Larry for additional information. Please mark your calendar for the upcoming weeks:
March 17-24; June 16-23; September 8-15; December 1-8

Community Life

Christmas Offering

The leadership is designating through December 23 as the time to receive our Christmas offering. The offering will be directed to IDES (International Disaster Emergency Services). IDES works through local churches in disaster-struck areas, using local volunteers. We will request our offering to be directed to the areas recently ravaged by hurricanes in the Florida panhandle and the wildfires in California. Separate Christmas offering envelopes are available on the resource table in the lobby.

Young Adult Fellowship

Group...YoungAdults@CornerstoneRock.org

We have planned a Christmas Brunch on Saturday, December 29 at 10:00 am with a white elephant gift and potluck. For additional information, please email the address above.

2018 Year End Contributions

We are closing out 2018 in a few weeks. To claim a deduction for contributions you make to the church, we must receive your contributions by the end of the year. Contributions made in the year 2019 cannot be deducted on this year tax return even if the check is dated 2018. There is one exception--a check that is written, mailed, and postmarked this year even if it is not received by the church until the new year. Please contact Dale Steele or Wes Yoder with questions.

2019 Offering Envelopes

Envelopes are available in the lobby for those who regularly use the envelopes. Please contact Dale Steele or Wes Yoder with any questions.

If you do not have envelopes with your name, please sign the list for the next available envelope number.

If you are using electronic payments, please pull your envelopes and leave in the box provided. All envelopes not picked up will be mailed.

Capital District Christian Men's Fellowship (CDCMF)

Dinner is served from 6-7 pm. The program begins at 7:00 pm. Please sign up on the Sunday tear off.

Cornerstone will be hosting on January 21. Chris Philbeck from Mt. Pleasant Christian Church in Greenwood will be the guest speaker.

Volunteers will be needed before and after the program. Desserts are also welcome.

The Food Pantry Shelves Always Need Extra Items *WEEKLY!*

You could help by bringing . . .

Needed Monthly...

- ⊙ Gift Cards
- ⊙ New or Used Paper Bags
- ⊙ Applesauce
- ⊙ Baked Beans
- ⊙ **Beef Stew**
- ⊙ Breakfast Cereal
- ⊙ **Chicken Breast (canned)**
- ⊙ Chicken Noodle Soup
- ⊙ Corn
- ⊙ Corn Muffin Mix
- ⊙ **Crackers, Saltine**
- ⊙ Diabetic Foods
- low sodium veggies & soups
- fruit in own juice
- bread (sliced wheat low sugar)
- ⊙ Diapers (size 1-6)
- ⊙ Diapers (adult small)

- ⊙ **Dish Soap**
- ⊙ **Drink Mix or Juice Drinks**
- ⊙ Ensure
- ⊙ Fruit
- ⊙ Fruit Cocktail
- ⊙ Green Beans
- ⊙ **Healthy Snacks individually wrapped**
- ⊙ **Jelly**
- ⊙ Laundry Detergent
- ⊙ Mac/Cheese
- ⊙ **Meat, canned**
- ⊙ Noodles
- ⊙ Noodle Mix Dinner
- ⊙ **Oatmeal**
- ⊙ **Pancake Mix**
- ⊙ **Paper Towels**
- ⊙ Pasta
- ⊙ Peaches, canned
- ⊙ **Peanut Butter**

- ⊙ Peas, canned
- ⊙ Pineapple, canned
- ⊙ **Ramen Noodles**
- ⊙ Rice Mix Dinner
- ⊙ Skillet Dinners (boxed)
- ⊙ **Sloppy Joe Mix**
- ⊙ Soups
- ⊙ Spaghetti O's
- ⊙ Spaghetti Sauce
- ⊙ **Syrup**
- ⊙ Taco Mixes/Kits
- ⊙ **Toilet Paper (4 roll pkg)**
- ⊙ Toiletries
- (Soap, Shampoo, Conditioner, Toothpaste, Deodorant)
- ⊙ Tomato Soup
- ⊙ **Tuna**
- ⊙ Vegetable Beef Soup
- ⊙ Vegetables, Assorted



Make it easy to stock the shelves...bring a case of any one item

Donations for the Pantry...

Checks made payable to Cornerstone Christian Church; memo: pantry

POSTMASTER
please send address changes to:

The Rock

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY CORNERSTONE



Join Us for Cornerstone's 39th Annual Birthday Celebration On Sunday, January 27 at 5:00 pm

We invite everyone to this celebration of the "birth" of Cornerstone. We will have a catered buffet dinner of fried chicken, ham, cheesy potatoes au gratin, green beans, applesauce, biscuits, apple butter, and birthday cake!

The cost for this event will be \$5 for adults; \$3 for children age 12 and under (under age 2 is free); with a maximum charge of \$20 for your immediate family.

Reservation envelopes will be available in the lobby.

Please complete the information on the front of the envelope, insert cash or check (made out to Cornerstone) and place in the offering plate on Sunday or drop it by the church office by **January 13**. ***Reservations must be purchased in advance*** to allow for enough meals to be prepared.