

First Christian Church Chronicle

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February, 2016

JOIN US FOR A...

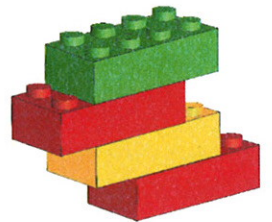
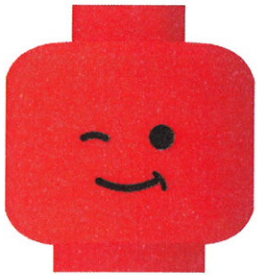
Wild Winter Weekend!

Saturday, Feb. 6th, 9:30 am – noon

LEGO DAY AT GFCC!

Free event for all kids grade 4 up thru grade 6. We will show the Lego Movie, have some Lego-inspired treats, games, and FUN!

Volunteers needed to help; please sign up in the Fellowship Hall.



AND THEN

Sunday, Feb. 7th, 5 pm

SUPERBOWL BASH

Here at the church. Everyone is invited.

Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall so that we have a head count.



DON'T MISS THE FUN!

Little Re@lity Check by Shawn L. Cornett

We talk about our mission and purpose at Griffith First Christian Church quite a bit. Our mission is:

Helping People Follow Jesus

This is based on a couple of different passages of Scripture. It is rooted in Luke 9:23 (NIV) where Jesus said, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." We are called to be followers of Jesus. This means that we must daily take up our cross and follow Jesus where He leads us. It is a call to a daily sacrifice and putting to death our wills in order to do God's will. What does a follower of Jesus do? This can be summed up in the greatest commandments and the great commission. First, a follower of Jesus loves God and loves people. Matthew 22:37-39 (NIV) says, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Jesus was quoting the books of Deuteronomy and Leviticus to make His point. If we don't love God and love people, we are not fulfilling God's commands. Jesus said in Matthew 22:40 that the entire Old Testament was wrapped up in these two commandments. If you are not loving God with all that you are and have and loving people as you love yourself, it's a pretty safe bet that you are not following Jesus. How can I make such an assertion? It is because these are the marks of a follower of Jesus - loving God and loving people. The second thing a follower of Jesus does is to help other people follow Jesus. We find this in Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV), which says, "Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.' ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'" Jesus told His disciples (followers) to make other people what they are - disciples. The job of Helping People Follow Jesus is not just for the minister or the elders. It is not just for the deacons or the super spiritual Christians. It is everyone's job to use the gifts that they have been given to help people follow Jesus. You may help people who don't know Jesus get to know Him and start following Him by sharing your faith or inviting them to worship with you. You may help people who do know Jesus follow Him better by mentoring them or teaching them. You may help people follow Jesus by contributing as a volunteer or financially to the ministry of GFCC as we seek to fulfill our mission.

When we take our mission seriously and begin to truly love God and people and help people follow Jesus, we'll

see more of God's amazing work in our church and in our lives. Let's commit ourselves to working together for God's glory by Helping People Follow Jesus. - Shawn



- Sat., March 12th, our Annual Easter Eggstravaganza.

- Sunday, March 20th will be

Fellowship's Annual Palm Sunday Brunch.

- VBS week will be June 13-17. Watch for more information soon on all of our events.



CHURCH DIRECTORY: The updated non-pictorial directory is now available - pick yours up at the Information Center whenever you are in the church.

ONLINE DIRECTORY Please submit a candid family photo to gfccdirectory@gmail.com. The on-line directory is password protected and NO personal or sensitive information will be shared. If you would like for us to take your family photo, please see Leti Garcia to arrange it. Thank you!

Ladies, you're invited:



Friday, Feb 19th starting at 6:30 p.m. here at church. Please bring a \$5 unwrapped gift and a treat to share with the group. Sign up so we know how many to set up for. Invite your gal pals! Any questions, see Denise Kelley or call her at 864.1567. As always, we will take up a love offering for the Rapha House Ministry.



Lincoln Christian Women's Conference

Wed., April 27, 2016. \$35 by 4/20, \$40 after.

Register at www.lincolinchristian.edu/cwc
Lunch included. 9 a. "Soul Support" Michele Cushatt, author of *Undone: A Story of Making Peace With an Unexpected Life*. Dr. Dinelle Frankland, Prof. of Worship at Lincoln Christian Seminary, speaking from Psalm 23.



Grow Your Faith

GFCC offers weekly opportunities to GROW YOUR FAITH. The building is bustling with study groups Sunday – Thursday each week. Most of the studies are free but some have a small fee connected to a workbook. If you need assistance covering the cost of any of the material, please speak privately with your facilitator.



In a recent interview with Anita O'Dell, here is what she had to say about Ron York's Bible Studies:

Which of Ron's Bible Studies do you attend?

Anita: We (she and her husband) attend both the Sunday and Wednesday studies.

Why do you like Ron's studies?

Anita: Because he really knows what he is talking about, he knows the Bible backwards and forwards. We've really gotten a good education.

What do you like about the group?

They're both small groups, really nice people, and we care about each other.

Why would you recommend someone coming to these studies?

Anita: The subjects are very interesting, not overwhelming, and comfortable.

Sunday 5 pm – Ron York, Holy Spirit

Monday 6:30 pm – Bob Rukes and Albert Garcia, Thessalonians "How Can I Be Sure?"

Tuesdays 1:30 pm – Shawn Cornett, Philippians "Finding Joy in Joyless Times"

Wednesday 9:30 am – Peggy Mauch, "Pursuing God's Beauty" by Margaret Feinberg

Wednesday 6:30 pm – Ron York, Revelation

Thursday 6:30 pm – Tony and Sandy Martinez, "The War Room"

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Fellowship Ministry's Movie Night

Sat., Feb. 20th.

Watch for more details soon.
See Joe or Nancy Rodriguez for questions.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1: Jeremy Gates
- 3: Loree Vaughn
- 4: Tim O'Brien
- 5: Mark Batliner
- 6: Rita Carmin
- 8: Ben Pugh
- 9: Victor Garcia
- 14: Darrel Grubbs
Lisa Ferrell
- 16: Tom Chumley
Felicia Head
- 18: Shannon Cornett
- 19: Janis Francis
Ann Sarbon
- 20: Cole Devitt
- 21: Kristen Finney
- 25: Stacy Pierce
Malena Schueberg
- 27: Suzie Fogarty

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

None that we know of?

(Remember if we miss your birthday or anniversary, just let us know. Email us or jot it on your attendance card Sunday.



INFORMATION YOU CAN USE:

If you have old electronics to get rid of here's the place to take them.

Tradewinds: 3198 East 83rd Place, Merrillville Just east of Southlake mall, off of Colorado St.

<http://www.tradewindsnwi.org/>

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Life has taught us that love does not consist in gazing at each other, but in looking outward together in the same direction. – Antoine de Saint-Exupery.

GET TO KNOW OUR MISSIONARIES...

Each month, throughout 2016, we will be highlighting one missionary or mission organization. Please take the time to read about the missionaries GFCC supports and pray for their ministry throughout the month.



Oblong Children's Christian Home

*Hope for children.
Help for families.
Healing through
Jesus Christ.*

This is what the Oblong Children's Christian Home located in Oblong, Illinois is all about. The vision statement of OCCH is to glorify God by providing Christian homes and programs for at-risk and troubled youth where they are disciple to become responsible, productive, maturing Christians. OCCH is a safe place for a child to live, as counselors work together with the child and their parents/guardians to reconcile the difficulties that they are facing.

When children come to stay at OCCH, they are placed in a home with caring house-parents and other children ranging in age from 5-17. These group homes operate just like any other family with an atmosphere rooted in Christian values. The house-parents lead the family in daily devotions and help the children with their studies. The children are expected to help with chores. Doing yardwork like pulling weeds and planting flowers, helping at mealtime, taking out the trash, and in return they receive an allowance for a job well done. OCCH is also active in their community. In the summer, the children help out at the county fair doing whatever needs to be done. In the fall, they are involved with the Oblong Fall Follies and help serve and clean-up at the community Thanksgiving Day feast hosted by one of the area churches. They also visit residents of the local nursing home. It is by living in a family setting and being active throughout the community that they can build healthy relationships by demonstrating God's love and serving others.

GFCC has given monthly support to Oblong Children's Christian Home for many years. The missions team would like to thank you for helping OCCH and all our missionaries through your financial gifts and your prayers. If you have any questions or would like to know more about OCCH visit www.oblongchristianhome.org, or you may join us at our next missions meeting Sunday, February 7 at 2pm.



Elder-Berries' Annual Valentine & All-Birthday Party

Coming up Thursday, Feb. 11th here at the church at NOON. Please note time change. Everyone please bring a dish to share. Sandwiches and punch and cake are provided. Contact Melissa Rothchild if you have questions at 934-0762. This ministry is for anyone age 55 and older or already retired. Join us!

Watch Us Grow!

Alex Bersin was our first New Member of 2016. He transferred his membership here on January 3rd. He lives at 406 N. Harvey St. in Griffith. **Eric Caudy** was baptized into Christ on January 10th - he lives at 269 - 174th Place in Hammond, 46324. And **Lisa Ferrell** of 1449 N. Arbogast, Apt. 0-H in Griffith also transferred membership here on the 10th. We welcome all of you to our church family.

If YOU have questions about baptism, please do not hesitate to contact the church office, or speak to Shawn or any elder.



Recovering from surgery: Mary Jackson, Jay Gauthier, Sarah Morin, Dianne Murdock, Sue Potts, Fred Cruciani, Richard Francis

Family of Mabel Reeves.....sympathy & comfort.
Family of Phyllis Dykstra.....sympathy & comfort.
Family of Jim Willhoit.....sympathy & comfort.
Muehlbauer Family.....loss of Aunt Frances.
Delores Smessaert.....recovering from heart attack.
Shawna Lecea.....upcoming skin cancer surgery.
Renee Sierra.....health issues.
Bruce Bodin.....broken hip & femur; healing & pain relief.
George Nagy.....recovering from stroke.
Kenny Johnson.....failing health, guidance for family.
Connie Zaborski.....battling serious infection.
Kelly Kadiz.....brain tumor, upcoming surgery.
Robbie Gradger.....brain injury after fall.
Gary (O'Dell).....personal & health issues.
Hardin Family.....health & job situation.
Jane Pigg.....serious eye problems; treatments.
Bob O'Dell.....battling cancer; health & strength.
April Purcel.....health issues.
Zach Felty.....cancer.
Mitch Hopp.....leukemia.
Matt Markovich.....battling leukemia.
Dan Salas.....stomach cancer.
Rojas Family.....Son being deployed overseas.
Pregnancy.....Danielle Poer
Military personnel.....God's protection.



PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION HAS BEGUN

..for the Fall, 2016 School Year.

2-day Class (for 3 yr olds) on Tues. & Thurs., 9-11:15 a.m. Cost is \$90/month.

3-day Class (for 4 & 5 yr olds) on Mon., Wed., Fri., 9-11:30 a.m. Cost is \$120/month.

5-day Class (for 4 & 5 yr olds) Mon. – Fri., 9-11:30 a.m. Cost is \$150/month.

Child must be 3 by Aug. 1st to begin. There is a non-refundable \$40 registration fee, due with the return of your application. If registered by May 1st, that fee is discounted to \$30 and your first month's tuition will be reduced by \$10 as well. Call the church office for questions or to get signed up. Spread the word!



BAPTISM CLASS FOR KIDS:

AGES 8-12

Dates: Feb. 21, 28th & March 6

Time: 10:15-10:55 a.m.

If your child has been asking questions about what it means to get baptized, or when they can get baptized, then this class will be very helpful. We use age-appropriate curriculum and Scripture to help your child have a better understanding of making this decision. It is important that your child attend all 3 sessions. This class will take place several times a year so if they are not quite ready yet, or this time of year doesn't fit your schedule, they can attend when it is offered again. It is important that parents attend the last class with their children for a short period of time. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall so that we can be sure to have enough materials ready. If you have any questions, please see Shawn or Lisa Bubala.



KIDS FOR CHRIST: We are having a GREAT year at KFC! The kids love wearing their KFC shirts each week. They are learning Bible verses and earning prizes as they do. We are averaging 56 kids a week. Last week we had 59! Remember we meet every Thursday night from 6:30-7:30 pm. The kids sing fun songs, play games, have snacks and class time to learn about the Bible and how much Jesus loves us. Bring your friends! Ages 4 yrs old thru grade 6. Any questions, call the office or see Terry Stinnett. Note: We now also offer a Bible study for parents during this time each week. So parents, come on out!



FUEL Jr/Sr High Youth Group

Every Sunday from 3-5 pm (unless specified), upstairs in the 3rd floor "Filling Station." All teens invited – and bring your friends! See Eddie or Debbie Baran for questions.



BASKETS OF BLESSINGS

Like most of you, I am looking forward to spring and warmer weather. The holidays were full of anticipation and excitement. Now, we are back to reality and the cold gray days of winter. It won't be long until the signs of spring start sprouting. I've been taking advantage of the time indoors to do some reorganizing and purging. Maybe you have, too. We need to come together and restock the shelves for the Baskets of Blessings ministry. We used a lot of baskets for the Holiday Food Drive so we need to replenish the supply. We need round baskets with handles (not Easter baskets). Also, we are low on items needed to fill the baskets. Since we have many new members who may not be familiar with this ministry, it's a recycling, re-purposing, re-gifting ministry. We make gift baskets for our church family to lift them up during a difficult time. There are many reasons for the gift baskets some of which are surgery, the loss of a job, an injury or accident, etc. There is a container behind the Welcome Center for basket donations. Maybe you received a gift for Christmas that just "isn't you" - donate it to Baskets of Blessings. That's what we do – recycle and re-gift. We can always use cologne, body wash, body sprays, lotion, etc. (both women and men). We need tea cups/saucers and coffee mugs (without advertising logo). We can also use candles – all scents and sizes. Anything we can put in a basket makes our hearts smile. We also put snacks and candy in the baskets. If you buy boxes of microwave popcorn, snack bars, hot chocolate, chips, etc., maybe you would be willing to donate a snack or two. We can always use CD's and DVD's as well as reading material and inspirational items. We know you are creative and come up with some terrific ideas because we've seen them. You are what makes this ministry a success. "BOB" was started in March, 2012. Since that time approximately 100 baskets have been assembled. Thank you to our Heavenly Father for giving me this idea and thanks to all of you for making it a reality. In His Service, Sharon Chumley



HAMMOND FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:

Tomato products, Spaghetti Sauce, Oatmeal, Canned fruit, paper sacks. Also collecting hats, gloves, scarves. Bring to church, we'll get it delivered. Thanks!



February



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 BIBLE STUDY 1:00 PM (Groundhog Day!)	3 Women's Study 9:30 am Revelation Study 6:30 pm Pickers 7 pm	4 Coffee 9:30 am at Les Cafe Kids For Christ & War Room Study 6:30 pm	5	6  Kids' Lego Day 9:30 am - noon
7 MISSIONS MEETING 2 PM  SUPERBOWL BASH 5 PM	8 BIBLE STUDY 6:30 PM	9 BIBLE STUDY 1:00 PM	10 Women's Study 9:30 am Revelation Study 6:30 pm Pickers 7 pm	11 Coffee 9:30 am at Les Cafe  ELDER-BERRIES Valentine & Birthday Party Here At Noon Kids For Christ! & War Room Study 6:30 pm	12	13
14  VALENTINE'S DAY  FUEL 3-5 pm Bible Study 5 pm	15  President's Day (No Preschool) BIBLE STUDY 6:30 PM	16 BIBLE STUDY 1:00 PM	17 Women's Study 9:30 am Revelation Study 6:30 pm B.O.B. Meeting 6:30 pm Pickers 7 pm	18 Coffee 9:30 am at Les Cafe Homeschoolers 11:30 am Kids For Christ & War Room Study 6:30 pm	19  Women's Bunco Night 6:30 pm	20 Fellowship Movie Night 6 pm
21 Kids' Baptism Class 10:15 a.m.  FUEL 3-5 pm Bible Study 5 pm	22 BIBLE STUDY 6:30 PM	23 BIBLE STUDY 1:00 PM	24 Women's Study 9:30 am Revelation Study 6:30 pm Pickers 7 pm	25 Coffee 9:30 am at Les Cafe Homeschoolers 11:30 am Kids For Christ & War Room Study 6:30 pm	26	27
28 Kids' Baptism Class 10:15 a.m.  FUEL 3-5 pm Bible Study 5 pm	29  LEAP DAY! BIBLE STUDY 6:30 PM					