

Church Bell

October 2016



"Follow The Bells"



**Cortland
Christian
Church**

Reverend

Donald P. Barnes

153 Grove Drive

Cortland, Ohio

Phone 330-637-4611

officeatccc@gmail.com



Our word "**baptize**" is translated from the original Greek word "**baptizo**", which means to immerse.

Pastors Pen

"A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones." Proverbs 17: 22

He skips gleefully up the aisle in front of the cash registers. All of three-foot-tall, he bustles with energy and excitement. His grandmother is close behind, the distance enough to grant the child some independence, but close enough to intervene if he strays too far. I watch him as he dances by and think to myself: "If I could 'bottle' his joy and enthusiasm, I could make a cool million." You know what I'm talking about. Children have a certain type of joy and excitement about the world. Everything is new and fun – a simple walk down the aisle elicits spontaneous, unbridled joy. It's real – genuine – and all too often lost by those of us that have reached the point of adulthood on life's journey. We know it when we see it – we long to share in its essence – joy, unbridled joy. Gracious God, help me to reclaim the joy you have ordained for your children.

As the story goes, Solomon is the wisest man to have ever laced on a pair of sandals. Not surprising that wisdom literature found in scripture is attributed to this sociologist / anthropologist. Solomon spared no expense or energy as he sought out the basic tenants that season life with meaning, purpose, and quality. Proverbs 17: 22 offers a great example. According to Solomon, our perspective on life affects our physical and spiritual vitality. Joy is good – despair is bad – and it's my opinion, just my opinion, that despair ought not have a place in the life of the faithful.

What does the joyful life "look" like? Consider the following story (author unknown) – and if you don't laugh you have lost your joy.

I got a letter from Grandma the other day. She wrote: The other day I went up to a local Christian bookstore and saw a "HONK IF YOU LOVE JESUS" bumper sticker. I was feeling particularly sassy that day because I had just come from a thrilling choir performance, followed by a thunderous prayer meeting, so I bought the sticker and put it on my bumper.

Boy, I'm glad I did! What an uplifting experience followed! I was stopped at a red light at a busy intersection, just lost in thought about the Lord and how good He is... and I didn't notice that the light had changed. It is a good thing someone else loves Jesus because if he hadn't honked, I'd never have noticed! I found that LOTS of people love Jesus!

Why, while I was sitting there, the guy behind started honking like crazy, and then he leaned out of his window and screamed, "For the love of GOD! GO! GO! JESUS CHRIST, GO!" What an exuberant cheerleader he was for Jesus! Everyone started honking! I just leaned out of my window and started waving and smiling at all these loving people. I even honked my horn a few times to share in the love!

I saw another guy waving in a funny way with only his middle finger stuck up in the air. Then I asked my teenage grandson in the back seat what that meant, he said that it was probably a Hawaiian good luck sign or something. Well, I've never met anyone from Hawaii, so I leaned out the window and gave him the good luck sign back. My grandson burst out laughing... why, even he was enjoying this religious experience!

A couple of the people were so caught up in the joy of the moment that they got out of their cars and started walking towards me. I bet they wanted to pray or ask what church I attended, but just then I noticed the light had changed. So, I waved to all my sisters and brothers grinning, and drove on through the intersection.

I was the only car that got through the intersection before the light changed again and I felt kind of sad that I had to leave them after all the love we had shared, so I slowed the car down, leaned out the window and gave them all the Hawaiian good luck sign one last time as I drove away.

Praise the Lord for such wonderful folks! Grandma.

Are you laughing? Are you smiling in your spirit? Is it real – genuine? Joy is all too often lost by those of us that have reached the point of adulthood on life's journey. We know it when we see it – we long to share in its essence – joy, unbridled joy. Gracious God, help me to reclaim the joy you have ordained for your children. May the joy of the Lord be with you. Amen



Our Worship Assistants

Elders:

October 2	John Molnar and John Klamut
October 9	Justin Klamut and Joyce Lewis
October 16	Carol Robinson and John Molnar
October 23	Amy Seger and Larry Dix
October 30	Bob Johnson and Joyce Seagle

Deacons: Phyllis Hake 330-638-3973
Barb Bradford, Terry Swauger,
Judy Hansel, Mackenzie Polakoff,
Carol Glancy, Cindy Miller

Deaconess: Carol Robinson

The Church Office will be open on Monday-Thursday
9:00am.-Noon Phone: 330-637-4611
Feel free to call or stop in if you have
a question or need help.

Coffee Hour Hostesses

Thanks You



October 2	Pat Taylor and Virginia Carr
October 9	Sharon Hopkins and Curtis and Anita Bell
October 16	Effie Welch and Judene Ainsley
October 23	Carolyn Sparhawk and Diana Martin
October 30	Barb Bradford and Jon and Sarah Kloboves

Big or small?

Can you tell me why a \$10 bill looks so small
at the grocery store but so big at church?



FINANCIAL UPDATE OF CHURCH OPERATING FUNDS

Fund	SEPTEMBER			Year-to-Date		
	Income	Expense	Net	Income	Expense	Net
General	5,981	8,386	-2,405	73,613	70,025	3,588
Building (Mortgage)	2,684	2,048	636	18,554	18,429	125
Total>>	8,665	10,434	-1,769	92,167	88,454	3,713

Mortgage Balance: \$115,992

"Happy Birthday"

October 8	Rachelle Elhert
October 11	Linda Chagnot
October 14	Diana Martin
October 19	Gerry Payne
October 19	Anita Bell
October 26	Ron Miller
October 28	Joyce Eckard

I WISH
FOR YOUR LIFE TO BE
FILLED
WITH EVERYTHING
THAT MAKES YOU
HAPPY



"Happy Anniversary"

October 1	Alice and Gary Everitt
October 21	Kathy and Larry Dix

Don't Take Yourself Too Seriously... Relax!

A merry heart does good, like medicine. — Proverbs 17:22



I work with a lot of leaders. And one thing I've found is that many times they take themselves much too seriously. Of course, they're not alone. I meet people in every walk of life who have too much doom and gloom in their attitudes. They simply need to lighten up.

No matter how serious your work is, that's no reason to take yourself seriously.

If any person had a reason to take his job and himself seriously, it would be a President of the United States. Yet it's possible for even people holding that position to maintain their sense of humor and keep their egos in check.

For example, when Calvin Coolidge was asked if he was attending the Sesquicentennial Exposition in Philadelphia, the President answered, "Yes."

"Why are you going, Mr. President?" a reporter asked.

"As an exhibit," answered the rotund Coolidge.

If you tend to take yourself too seriously, give yourself and everyone else around you a break.

Recognize that laughter breeds resilience.

Laughing is the quickest way to get up and get going again when you've been knocked down.

**** This afternoon there will be a meeting in the south and north ends of the church. Children will be baptized at both ends.**

**** Tuesday at 4:00 p.m. there will be an Ice Cream Social. All ladies giving milk please come early.**

**** The choir will meet at the Larsen house for fun and sinning.**

**Church
Bulletin
Bloopers**



Is anyone among you sick?

Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them, and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord.

James 5:14



October 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Aerobics
2 Service 10:30 am	3 Aerobics	4	5 Joyful Noise Bible Study	6 Aerobics	7 	8 Aerobics WOW Shawn Peura
19	10 Aerobics	11 	12 Joyful Noise Bible Study	13 Brownie Troup Aerobics	14	15 Aerobics Chow Quiz Night
16 Se 	7 Aerobics	18 	19 S/S Prep Bible Study Joyful Noise	20 Soup and Sandwich	21	22 Aerobics
23— Service 30 Service	24 Aerobics 31 Halloween	25 Trunk or Treat 6:30-8pm	26 Joyful Noise Bible Study	27 Brownie Troup Aerobics	28	29  Aerobics

While the Pastors Away

While Pastor Don and the Mission Team were gone for a week, we had special guests giving the message on "Sunday Morning"

On the first Sunday, Joyce Seagle, one of our members gave a wonderful message. She is always willing to lead us prayer and to help give the message.

Our church has a number of good speakers that volunteer to give the message for us when necessary. Larry Dix, Amy Popichak and John Klamut also help out when called on.

On the second Sunday, Pastor John O'Hara gave the message. Pastor O'Hara spent some time with us a few years back as an interim minister. We all came to know and love him and appreciate all he did for us and we always enjoy having him come back and visit or speak to our hearts.

Pastor John and Coleen are members of our church, however they live a distance from here in Massillon, Ohio. So they only visit once in a while. We are so fortunate to have Pastor John and Pastor Don as our spiritual leaders.

Pastor John and Pastor Don and their wives are good friends.



Pastor John O'Hara and his wife Coleen

Clowning Around



Let us introduce our resident clown. The little gal is always up to something. Always a step ahead in her thinking and then she is always ready to go when the time comes. She is a go-getter, an inspiration to everyone. Never a frown or a sad day as far as we know.

Her name is Jean Scott, a member of CCC. You may have seen her, she was standing on the corner of High and Main Street with this sign to invite everyone to our Soup and Sandwich. Many saw her and came to have lunch and fellowship with us. We had some new faces this month, maybe due to our little clown.

Jean is active with the Mission Team, not able to go with them this year, she actively organized, put together the Chinese Auction Baskets for the Mission Teams Spaghetti Dinner, she is active with our Cookie Sale, and many other activities of the church. She and her daughter Kim are busy with our Soup and Sandwich activities, making pies and helping in whatever way she is asked. She is always there with her sweet smiling face to greet people, always doing Gods

work.

Kudo's to Jean for her volunteer work at CCC. Keep up the smiles, inspiration, and the volunteerism.
We greatly appreciate a your enthusiasm and all the help.

COACH

and I will learn

CHALLENGE ME

and I will grow

BELIEVE IN ME *and I will Win*



And
Just To Play
Fair



That is a quote that professional coaches use.

However, it could be changed to say—-->

Maybe this motto could help us all have a better life
filled with great ideas, interesting thoughts and
conversation, peace and happiness.

**Tell me, I'll forget
Show me, I'll remember
Involve me, I'll understand**

The Building Fund

There is the story of a pastor who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation:

"I have good news and bad news.

The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program.

The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."

October



31 DAY SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN

EACH OF THE SCRIPTURES BELOW TAKES TEN MINUTES OR LESS TO COPY OUT. COMMIT TO SPENDING TEN MINUTES EACH DAY LISTENING TO GOD'S VOICE AS YOU SIMPLY COPY THESE TEXTS OUT OF YOUR BIBLE.

Week 1

DAY 1- JOSHUA 1: 7-9
DAY 2-DEUTERONOMY 7:11-14
DAY 3-1 TIMOTHY 6: 6-10
DAY 4-1 TIMOTHY 6: 11-13
DAY 5- 1 TIMOTHY 6: 14-16
DAY 6-MATTHEW 11: 27-30
DAY 7- JEREMIAH 33:2-3

Week 3

DAY 15- LUKE 9: 23-27
DAY 16- 2 CORINTHIANS 5: 6-10
DAY 17- 2 CORINTHIANS 5: 11-15
DAY 18- 2 CORINTHIANS 5: 16-21
DAY 19- ACTS 4: 11-12
DAY 20-COLOSSIANS 2: 6-10
DAY 21- JOHN 10: 1-4

Week 2

DAY 8-HEBREWS 13: 1-4
DAY 9- HEBREWS 13: 5-8
DAY 10-1 JOHN 2: 1-6
DAY 11- 1 JOHN 2: 7-11
DAY 12-1 JOHN 2: 15-17
DAY 13-REVELATION 21:3-8
DAY 14-HEBREWS 12:1-3

Week 4

DAY 22-JOHN 10: 5-8
DAY 23-JOHN 10: 9-13
DAY 24-JOHN 10: 14-18
DAY 25-MATTHEW 11:1-6
DAY 26-JOHN 15: 1-4
DAY 27-JOHN 15: 5-8
DAY 28-JOHN 15: 9-14

Week 5

DAY 29-JOHN 15: 15-19
DAY 30-JOHN 15: 20-25
DAY 31- CHOOSE YOUR OWN VERSE



Open my eyes that I can see, the wonderful things out of your law,

Psalms 119:18

Only a Year

A fellow went to the doctor who told him that he had a bad illness and only a year to live.

So he decided to talk to his pastor.

After the man explained his situation, he asked his Pastor if there was anything he could do.

"What you should do is go out and buy a late '70 or early '80 model Dodge Pickup," said the Pastor.

"Then go get married to the meanest, ugliest woman you can find, and buy yourselves an old house trailer in the panhandle of Oklahoma."

The fellow asked, "Will this help me live longer?"

"No," said the pastor, "but it will make what time you do have seem like forever."

The Same in My Business

A minister waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him in front of the service station. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump. "Preacher," said the young man, "I'm sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip." The minister chuckled, "I know what you mean, It's the same in my business."



On a hot summer night this week in September, seven ladies from CCC got together to create brightly colored fall centerpieces for the fellowship tables. Arrangements for other areas including the altar, were also made. It is so nice to see a fresh look each season as we change the centerpieces. The fall flower arrangements are so colorful and brighten up any nook and corner where they are placed.

Each person who helped had different ideas so the arrangements are all slightly different. Maybe the same flowers but a whole new concept on how each flower should be placed. There was a lot of talent on hand to make these arrangements.

Betty Stanley donated all the flowers and her time to help us if we needed it.

Our crew consisted of Effie Welsh, Phyllis Hake, Judene Ainsley, Darlene Ball, Dorothy Moss, Joyce Hall, and Betty Stanley. Hopefully they will comeback in a month or 6 weeks to make or freshen up our Christmas arrangements. The flowers are here and ready.

A Great Big "Thank You" goes out to all those who volunteered to be creative and also have some fun.



Happy Birthday Edwin

Sunday, September 25 at CCC



**The Niemi Family
honored Ed 's**

"90th " Birthday

**with a luncheon after church.
All were invited to attend the
Birthday Festivities**

Menu

Chicken and Ham Salad
Croissants
Cocktail Meatballs
Veggies and Dip
Hot Pepper Spread with
Crackers
Potato Chips
Grape Salad, Strawberry
Pretzel Salad,
Macaroni Salad, and
Tossed Salad
Fruit Tray

Punch and Coffee
Birthday Cake

Lots of fun, food, and
family and friends

Many of Edwin's family and friends
attended, along with his Dairy Queen
friends/owners and neighbors.

He had a big smile on his face the
whole time as he visited with each and
every one who attended.

Edwin has a very interesting past, his
military service, his travels with his job
at Wean Engineering, owner of Dairy
Queens and a long time member of
Cortland Christian Church.

He and Eileen have four children and
several grandchildren.

What a well lived life.....



Church Chuckles

The Pastor was making a visit on his trusty bicycle when he turned a corner and came upon a young boy trying to sell a lawn mower. "How much do you want for it? Pastor asked.

"I need just enough money to buy a bicycle," the boy explained.

After a moment of thought, the preacher asked, "Will you take my bike in trade for it?"

"Mister, you've got yourself a deal."

The preacher took the mower and began to crank it. He pulled on the cord a few times with no reaction from the machine. The preacher called the boy over and said "I can't get the mower to start."

The little boy said, "My dad says you have to cuss at it to get it started."

Pastor replied, "I am a minister, and I cannot cuss. I have been saved for so long I don't even remember how to cuss."

The little boy looked at him with a sparkle in his eye, "Just keep pulling on that cord and it'll come back to you."

Christian Church Cemetery



In a few months, the Historical Society in Cortland will be unveiling some plans for an major project concerning the Cortland Christian Church Cemetery. Many changes need to be made before the information is totally lost, they are hoping to repair the stones on those buried there to help preserve our history. We need helpers from the community: information and photos of headstones, etc.

The headstones need to be restored or repaired before the names are worn off from time and the elements. If you are interested in helping with this project, call or email Sally Lane at slane411@gmail.com or call [330-307-3258](tel:330-307-3258).



Joyful Noise

Speaking about the Choir, we don't have one. We have instead, "Joyful Noise," a group of friends who want to bring music their kind of music into the church by singing some contemporary or southern gospel songs and many of the old familiar loved hymns. Our choice!

If you would like to sing with us, let us know or just come to a practice on Wed. evenings at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary.

We are just friends who get together to sing, and you are welcome to join us.



Elders Corner

I Trust. I think I can translate faith as trust don't you? In Luke 8:22-25

we have an example of faith that can be translated as trust:-

22 One day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side of the lake."
So they got into a boat and set out.

23 As they sailed, he fell asleep. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was
being swamped, and they were in great danger.

24 The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!" He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging
waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm.

25 "Where is your faith?" he asked his disciples.

Where was their trust?

I thought about this during some of my recent trips. Every day, I place my trust, or faith, in people. I realized that many of those people I don't even know. I don't know their names, what they stand for, their qualifications, their mood, nothing. I trust the guy that put the brakes on my car – though I don't know his name. Same with the guy that actually made the brakes or the person driving the truck barreling down the road behind me – I don't know them. I trust the airlines to get me there (though if you know me then you know I don't necessarily trust them to get me there on time). I trust the pilot flying the plane, the technician that worked on the plane's engine and on and on and on. In many cases, I am trusting this unknown being with my life.

So why is it then that I have such a difficult time placing my trust in the Creator of the Universe? Why do I struggle with placing my trust in a Savior that has made his name known to me and many others? When things aren't going smoothly, I look around trying to figure out what to do. I don't just have the natural trust in God. As I thought about this, I started to look for scripture relating to faith. And when the above popped up, I realized that I am not the only Christian to struggle with that issue. The disciples had spent a lot of time living with Jesus. They had witnessed the miracles, heard the words, heard THE WORD, and yet, when the storm came – they panicked. And, as is with us, Jesus was right there and yet, they panicked.

So, the next time you struggle with your faith, remember, it is a well-worn path- that struggle. Other Christians, including the disciples themselves, struggled and struggled. It does not mean you lack faith – it just means you are human and Jesus will use that time to ask you "Where is your faith?" When he does rebuke the wind and the raging waters, use that to reinforce your trust.

Submitted by Larry Dix

CCC Recipe Box

This recipe is a popular -requested one. It is delicious!

Pepper and Bacon Dip

2—8 Oz. Cream Cheese
1/2 c. chopped pepper rings
1-1/2 c. pepper Jack
1/4 c. juice from jar

6-8 slices Bacon, cooked crisp and finely chopped

Put all ingredients in Crockpot on High for 1 hour or 2 hours on low.

From the kitchen of **Sarah Kloboves** who has offered to share it .

Thank You!!

Requests

*The women of CCC are
some pretty good cooks.*

*The is proven by the many
requests we have for a
sharing of recipes. So a
"Recipe Box" will be added
to our Church Bell.*

*If there is a recipe that you
would like to have and one
of our members has made
maybe they will share it.
Just ask. Or share one that
you have made and has
been requested many
times.*

Here below are our shut-in members or members of concern.

Please!

Drop them a card or a note of encouragement and let them know how much we care!

Grace Wagner

175 Wall Street
Cortland, Ohio 44410
330-637-5957

Vera Kidd

Community Skilled Nursing
Room 221
1320 Mahoning Ave.
Warren, Ohio

Phyllis Beer

Lake Vista
41 Heron Circle
Cortland, Ohio 44410

Raymond Kline

502 Arcaro Street
Cortland, Ohio 44410

Helen Carleton

477 N. High Street
Cortland, Ohio 44410

Jean Davis

87 Lake Vista Dr.
Cortland, Ohio 44410

Vivian Jensen

Meadowbrook Nursing
3090 Five Points -Hartford Rd
Fowler, Ohio 44416

Frank and Gloria Zanin

18170 N.91st Ave.
Apt.1210
Peoria, Az. 85382

Take time to smell the flowers and
share them with someone..

Send a card to someone just because you are thinking of them, or maybe a phone call for the same reason, for a birthday or a troubled day in their lives. How about sharing a dinner you have prepared or a pie you baked. Try to always send a card when someone is ill or in the hospital.

Be a friend to those struggling with every day worries or illness. We all need these little rays of sunshine.

A card or a phone call means so much to those who can't get out. And about. To know someone cares.







Halloween Trunk or Treat

October 25th
6:30pm—8pm

Please, Come help.

Have a treat table or share one with someone.

- ★ Wear your costume
- ★ Candy
- ★ Cortland Police and Fire Departments
- ★ Trick or Treat Safety Info
- ★ Storytelling
- ★ Donuts and Cider

This is a fun night for everyone







Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him. Sarah said, “God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me.” — Genesis 21:3, Genesis 21:6

Think about laughter you’ve heard in the past few days. Maybe unbridled laughter of joy, or a bitter laughter of heartache. Maybe warm laughter with a dear friend, a mocking laugh, or the you-either-laugh-or-cry kind of laugh.

Laughter can communicate a lot.

Abraham laughed at the thought of his having a child after a century on this planet (Genesis 17:17). Sarah also laughed; her childbearing years were ancient history (Genesis 18:12)!

Of course God wouldn’t appreciate their laughter of disbelief, but He undoubtedly joined in the laughter of rejoicing, of delight, and of awe as Abraham and Sarah celebrated the birth of their long-awaited son. Their joy at this precious baby, their gratitude for God’s faithfulness, and their amazement at his timing all bubbled over in laughter that couldn’t and shouldn’t have been contained.

Their mouths were filled with laughter because the Lord had done great things for them. **And did you know that Isaac means “laughter; he laughs”?**

Thank God for those occasions when His blessings have caused your joy to overflow in laughter!

Excerpted with permission [The Story Devotional](#), copyright Zondervan.

Soup and Sandwich

Our first Soup and Sandwich went off with a exciting start for the season. We had great organization, Chuck and Linda Chagnot do an outstanding job of getting things together, supplies and groceries, and believe me they also work right along with the rest of the volunteers.



The day went on like everyone knew what they were doing :) Sold out of most food, very little left. There were a lot of new faces at this event, maybe the word is out how “tasty” our soup and sandwiches are.



This is a fun project and the proceeds go to help bring down the balance on church mortgage.

CCC cooks put out some mighty fine food.

**Next Soup and Sandwich is
Thursday,
October 20**

11:00am-1:00pm



A Good Way to Start a Day

Set an alarm or maybe two, on your phone and one on your clock. The first is when it would be good to get up, and the second is when I'd jolly well better get up.

Most of us are not a morning persons, so easing into a day slowly seems right.

Crawling out of bed, letting the dog is out and making sure that everyone that needs to be up is up, turning on the television to the morning news, and making myself a cup of coffee, is generally the morning ritual.

It's not a bad way to start the day, but maybe there is a much better way.

Realizing that if the first thing I pay attention to is what's happening in our world, those images and words impact my view of the rest of the day. But if the Word of God is the first thing I give my heart and mind to, I see everything as under the control of my all-good, all-powerful, and all-loving heavenly Father. It's hardly surprising that this new start to my day has had a huge impact on my life.

Repeat the verse several times. It's become a great way to start a day:

*Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love,
My love will fall and fail, but God's love never will.*

for I have placed my trust in you.

The psalmist is very intentional here: trusting God is an act of the will.

*Show me the way I should go,
I pray, "Show me, Father, which way I should go today."*

for to you I entrust my life.
I say, "My life is Yours, Lord, and I trust You with everything."

Then I pray these simple words:

"Good morning, Lord! I don't know where You are going today, but wherever You're going, I'm coming' with You!"

A good way to start the day every single day is to declare the Word of God and thank Him for it.

The moment I awake, say Psalm 143:8 (NIV)

Five Minutes in the Word

What does the Bible say about beginning your morning with prayer and with the Lord? Read these key scriptures.

Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life. – Psalm 143:8 NIV

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. – Lamentations 3:22–23 ESV

Weeping may last through the night, but joy comes with the morning. – Psalm 30:5

It is good to proclaim your unfailing love in the morning, your faithfulness in the evening. – Psalm 92:2

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. – Mark 1:35 NIV



Cherokee Legend

Do you know the legend of the Cherokee Indian youth's rite of Passage?

His father takes him into the forest, blindfolds him and leaves him alone. He is required to sit on a stump the whole night and not remove the blindfold until the rays of the morning sun shine through it. He cannot cry out for help to anyone.

Once he survives the night, he is a MAN.

The boy is naturally terrified. He can hear all kinds of noises. Wild beasts must surely be all around him. Maybe even some human might do him harm. The wind blew the grass and earth, and shook his stump, but he sat stoically, never removing the blindfold. It would be the only way he could become a man!

Finally, after a horrific night the sun appeared and he removed his blindfold. It was then that he discovered his father sitting on the stump next to him. He had been at watch the entire night, protecting his son from harm. We, too, are never alone.

Even when we don't know it, God is watching over us, Sitting on the stump beside us.

When trouble comes, all we have to do is reach out to Him.

Cherokee Prayer Blessing

May the Warm Winds of Heaven
Blow softly upon your house.
May the Great Spirit
Bless all who enter there.
May your Moccasins
Make happy tracks in many snows,
And may the Rainbow
Always touch your shoulder.

Moral of the Story

Just because you can't see God,
Doesn't mean He is not there.
"For we walk by faith, not by sight."

A beautiful email from Joyce Eckard



Women of Worship

W.O.W. met in September with the guest speaker

Betty Strawderman

telling how she has housed and fed over a hundred wayward and lost children over many years. She told how she was able to do this at first on her salary and just a few kids, but when she kept getting more and more children with no one to care for them she had to seek help. With her guidance, she now has two other women or families that have taken in children. This is God working through her. She got the calling. She is now getting outside financial help.

When we have leftovers from a dinner or soup and sandwich we take them to her and the kids. They are always so grateful for anything that they are given, clothing, food, etc. One of the kids wanted the recipe for our chicken salad so he could have his teacher at school help him make this recipe.

If you ever have a chance too hear her speak, don't miss it. She is energetic, compassionate, and caring.



Left -Right

Betty Strawderman and Linda Chagnot



Our Mission Team is Home

Looks like they really were working even though they all say how much fun it was! Can work be fun, "yes" when you are working together for a common goal. "Habitat for Humanity"

Thanks , Team 2016

Pastor Don,

Your group has been amazing!
Thank you so much for coming.

Best,

Eric Mason

Development Coordinator
Habitat for Humanity
Greater Birmingham

