

**September, 2013**

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Dear Friends~

Am sitting inside the church looking out on our patio with picnic tables. The big fat rain drops are bouncing up off the tables as they fall almost in celebration. Rain that cleans our air, nourishes our fields. Rain tucks us inside, slows us down, causing us to pause, reflect, dream, and plan. In a few weeks these tables will welcome students to our 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter ministry after all home Friday night football games. In a few weeks these tables will welcome our first Alpha Course students and our growing First Wednesday Children's program. Tables now cleaned by the rain, tables that will sit 32 people in our outdoor learning space. Tables that will serve fun food like Buckeye Pizza made by the Rowley boys, hotdogs from our new friend Vic, hot popped popcorn ,and pop. Tables that will serve delicious meals prepared by our Alpha Cooks Juanita Weeks and Shelly Baker. Can you tell I'm hungry. I literally can't wait to welcome twenty additional children to First Wednesday and share Jean and Barbs home-made macaroni and cheese together. YUM! Rain makes me hungry! I have always thought that God romances us in the rain and wind. Getting our undivided attention. Refreshing our soul. It is in moments like this that I am positive that I want to retire and live in an abandoned church building one day. A building that once had enough space for ministry but where a growing congregation has outgrown its provided space.

Isn't it wonderful when life fits. Every area of our life just fits. Isn't it frustrating when kids outgrow the clothes we just bought them six months ago. Isn't it frustrating when we find ourselves outgrowing the things that once brought us joy and held purpose like rain.

The writer of Ecclesiastes reminds us that there is a time for everything. Friends, it is time! Time to let go of things that no longer fit. Time to dare to try new ministry opportunities. Time to follow the Lord deeper than ever before. Time to literally partner with God in changing human history!

May the wind of the Holy Spirit be welcome to lead us, fill us, fuel us for this time. A time we will never have again. Friends, it's time~

No Greater Joy III John 4 Your Pastor, Kym



Years ago I heard about a ministry called 5th Quarter. A church provided safe space for youth to hang out after home football games. Last year we launched this and will be continuing it again this Fall. We ask for your prayers as we open up our hearts, minds, and doors on six Friday nights: Aug. 30th, Sept. 6th and 27th, October 4th and 18th, and Nov.

1st. This is offered for 7th-12th graders after the game (estimated time 9:00 -11:30 p.m.) so they can be home to meet their curfew. We welcome members who can help us play sports with, serve them delicious pizza, popcorn, hotdogs, s'mores, and most of all serve them as the hands and feet of Christ. It's going to be a blast! Go Pirates!



## If you could ask God 1 question, what would you ask?

Bring this and any others questions you have about life to our Alpha Course being offered every Sunday night starting Sept, 8th (6-8:00 p.m.) That night is our special Introductory Dinner so people can hear more about Alpha. Juanita Weeks and Shelley Baker will be serving as our Alpha Cooks. We will continue to meet every Sunday night through Nov. 24th. There are brochures in the welcome center at church you can look at, or you can just go on line and look up Alpha Course. Invitational letters are also being sent out. PLEASE PRAY FOR THIS MINISTRY. Many people come to faith in Christ, develop life-long friendships, and discover their gifts for ministry and service through Alpha. Am so excited to see what the Lord does through this ministry!!!!!! Pastor Kym

# A sign of a healthy church is babies crying...

toddlers wiggling, and parents getting up and leaving the Sanctuary during Worship.




To come along side parents our church has just hired a Nursery Minister.

We actually invited Linsey Gamble to interview and come on staff here. Linsey will start her duties Sunday September 8th. Along with Linsey will be one volunteer each week. Parents may drop their children off from 10:15 and pick them up by 11:45 a.m. Parents will be receiving a letter about this and guests with children will receive a welcome packet. Jesus said Let the little children come unto me and forbid them not for such is the Kingdom of Heaven."

We open up wide our arms to Linsey and the children and families she will minister to. To help prepare our new nursery room the church is hosting a

Baby Shower for Jesus Sunday September 1st during Worship. We have registered at Wal\*Mart under the baby registry first name degraftumc and last name babyshowerforjesus please note all words are in small letters and all words go together. You can register on line or just obtain a list of needed items from the church or the store will print one out for you. IF you do buy a gift from this list please make sure the store removes this item off our wish list. All items over \$39.00 dollars have already been purchased. Items ranging from 2-25 dollars are still available. Isn't this is exciting. Jesus also said, "whatever you do for the least of these you do for me." A Baby Shower for Jesus~ what a way to start this ministry. Please pray for Linsey, the volunteers, and each child and family.



Date	Children's Sermons	Greeters	Lay Reader
<b>Sept. 1</b>	<b>Deb Orr</b>	<b>Lucinda Holycross Martha Jackson</b>	<b>Dave Knight</b>
<b>Sept. 8</b>	<b>Darcie Jenkins</b>	<b>Jon &amp; Amber</b>	<b>Karol Rader</b>
<b>Sept. 15</b>	<b>Pat Holt</b>	<b>Terry &amp; Shirley King</b>	<b>Mike Madden</b>
<b>Sept. 22</b>	<b>Pastor Kym</b>	<b>Dale &amp; Sue Hirschfeld</b>	<b>Connie Madden</b>
<b>Sept. 29</b>	<b>Deb Orr</b>	<b>Martha Siders Meghan Orr</b>	<b>Chad Perk</b>
	<b>Jr. Church</b>		
<b>Sept. 1 Sept. 8 Sept. 15 Sept. 22 Sept. 29</b>	<b>Kids Stay Janet Siders Jenni Stratton Holly Biederman Deb Orr</b>		

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# Sunday School

Come join us as we begin a new year at  
Sunday School!

Grow, Proclaim, Serve is the curriculum.

Sunday School begins on Sunday,  
Sept. 8 at 9:30 a.m.



You don't want to miss the 1st  
3 minutes of Worship either!

# Mission Team

## Another Successful Free Sale!

227 people attended and lots of items were taken home. What was left was packed up and taken to Global Thrift Shop by our volunteer, Sue Harper. Thanks, Sue, for all your help! Thanks to all the great volunteers who helped with this ministry to our community. We couldn't do it without you! Missions Team will be considering modifying the free sale to just include clothing, shoes and school supplies to help families get ready for school.



# Finance News

The minutes and financial reports were approved.

Kelly Kauffman presented a request for \$500 for furnishings and accessories for the Sunday School classrooms.

Items no longer being used from the nursery and classrooms will be put in the Free Sale.

Discussed posting a list of needs for the nursery and having a "Baby Shower for Jesus" to furnish the nursery.

Deb Mohr was designated to dispose of the electronic equipment not being used.

Donations for 1st Wednesdays from January to August totaled \$876.80

To date, \$3,093 for apportionments have been paid.

The Financial Committee passed a motion to contribute 3% from the total of the General Fund each month to pay our apportionments.

Next meeting is Sept. 12, 2013



## 1st Wednesday

1st Wednesdays Kids Club (Rainbow Bridges) is starting again beginning Sept. 4th.

All Riverside K-6 kids are invited to attend.

There is no cost for the program.

Transportation is provided from the school.

Sessions run from 3-5 p.m. with a free meal being served to participating kids and their families.

The congregation is being asked to provide a dessert (cookies or cupcakes) for the meal.

Registration packets are available in the gathering area of the church.



### September 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8/25 7:00 PM Youth Group	26 7:00 PM Exercise!	27 Sharon Holsberry 7:00 PM Exercise!	28 6:00 PM Praise Team	29 Sarah Minnich 11:30 AM Sr. Lunch 7:00 PM Exercise!	30	31
9/1 7:00 PM Youth Group	2 Office Closed 7:00 PM Exercise!	3 7:00 PM SPRC 7:00 PM Exercise!	4 Matt Roach 6:00 PM Praise Team	5 11:30 AM Sr. Lunch 7:00 PM Exercise!	6	7
8 7:00 PM Youth Group	9 Gregory Reeder 7:00 PM Exercise!	10 7:00 PM Exercise!	11 6:00 PM Praise Team	12 Randy Ransbottom 11:30 AM Sr. Lunch 7:00 PM Exercise!	13 Dustin Leiss	14
15 7:00 PM Youth Group	16 Janet Smith 7:00 PM Exercise!	17 7:00 PM Exercise!	18 6:00 PM Praise Team	19 11:30 AM Sr. Lunch 7:00 PM Exercise!	20 Newsletter Due	21
22 7:00 PM Youth Group	23 Jen Bowman 7:00 PM Exercise!	24 7:00 PM Exercise!	25 6:00 PM Praise Team	26 Hayden King 11:30 AM Sr. Lunch 7:00 PM Exercise!	27 Cierra Rhoads	28 Adam Harpest
29 7:00 PM Youth Group	30 John Linet Brody Rhoads 7:00 PM Exercise!	10/1 Megan Leiss 7:00 PM Exercise!	2 Jim Grandstaff Silas King Samantha King 6:00 PM Praise Team	3 11:30 AM Sr. Lunch 7:00 PM Exercise!	4	5 Larry McMillen Natalie Roell



growing spiritually and showing Christ's love through action in our community

**Mission Statement:**

**"To grow spiritually and show Christ's love through action in our community."**