



October, 2017

FROM PASTOR CHAMBERS: October is a busy month at Spring Hill, but we have so many incredible events planned and so many ministries that need prayer. Be in prayer for AWANA, for with “puggles” starting up, we have several 2 year olds which presents a new challenge for classroom space. After several meeting and discussion with those involved, we pretty much have worked out what we are going to do with moving some things around in the next month or so, but the goal is for effective and efficient ministry. Pray also for our youth group, for several 6th graders have moved up from AWANA and are adjusting this fall to the new dynamic on Wednesday evenings. Pray also for Good News Club starting up at Bridgeview Elementary, in which we can go in and present the gospel to these public school kids. As of this writing, we have 75 kids registered for Good News Club after school on Wednesdays. Be in prayer for those volunteering their time to lead; pray also these students are accepting of the Word of God; and pray that we can reach their families for the Lord Jesus Christ. October also means that we will be in the beginning stages of planning for 2018. Pray that God gives us wisdom in our meetings for the direction that He wants us to go vision wise. The goal is and always will be “servant hearted, kingdom minded, and Christ focused.” I really believe the Lord is doing something in our church and my prayer is that He will continue to work in hearts and send people our way.

On Sunday, October 8, the youth group will be helping with the evening service - with singing, taking offering, and I will give them a challenge from God’s Word, before their “Snack ‘N Yak” activity after church. My prayer is that we will see more teenagers from our Wednesday evening service come to our Sunday morning/evening services. On Sunday, October 15, we will be having our annual “Fall Music Festival” during the pm service, and would love for anyone who wants to sing or play and instrument participate. Looking forward to a good evening there. On Sunday, October 29, we will be welcoming again Dr. Jack Reiss, director of Baptist World Missionary Outreach Ministries to speak Sunday morning and evening. Bro. Jack has been a dear friend of mine for many years, we have been supporting him as a missionary for about a year now, and I am looking forward to hearing what the Lord has for us through his preaching that Sunday. It will be the fifth Sunday of the month, so I am planning on a fifth Sunday focus and fellowship, where our focus once again is on the Jewish people, as Jack Reiss grew up as an Orthodox Jew, accepted Jesus Christ as His Savior, and has been preaching for several years, leading a mission board “to the Jew first, and then the Greek.” Sunday evening on the 29th we will have finger foods in the fellowship hall after the service as well as a “Passover Demonstration” that Bro. Jack did when he was here May of 2016. I wanted him to do it again in our service because several people wasn’t able to attend that Sunday and it is such a good presentation that I learn something new each time I hear it!

I want to also encourage our people to grab some “invite cards” found on the visitors’ table in the foyer and when people knock on your door on the evening of October 31st (Halloween) just give them some candy and an invite card. October is going to be a great month, and looking forward to seeing what the Lord is going to do in our church...

ON RAISING KIDS WHO ENJOY CHURCH: About a couple months ago Stephanie read this blog and shared it with me. I enjoyed it so much I want to share it with the congregation especially those parents in our church with young kids. Understand that I am a father of a 19 month old little girl, so I am learning every day, therefore I really don’t have any opinions either/or towards this article, for it just got me to thinking, which is the point of any good article or blog whether or not you agree or disagree. I honestly don’t have all the answers on this subject, I simply lean on the Lord everyday and read up on things and pray for my family...The following was written by Christy Fitzwater and can be found on the web at club31women.com...

How can we raise children who enjoy going to church? How can we keep the conversation open to understand our children in this area? It was a two-day retreat for the high school students. A very cold retreat, I might add. (On September 11th it got down to 23 degrees here in Kalispell, Montana.) The guest preacher had been talking about finding joy in the Lord instead of just doing the church routine and the Christian school routine. We broke into small groups, and the conversation eventually came around to motive for going to church. *It’s hard when my parents make me go to church,* said one of my guys. A valuable question was raised: **How can you go to church for the joy of it if your parents make you go? What if you got home from this retreat and your parents said they now felt you were old enough to make the decision for yourself about whether to go to church or not. Would you still go?** I asked.

There was a collective gasp, and they gave that question some serious thought. I was sitting there looking at students who had been church and Christian schooled, and I could imagine it would be easy to grow weary with the expectations of all of it. At the same time I was thinking like a parent, wondering how parents could help their kids not just do the church thing out of obligation. **My own two kids, one 20 and one 17, have never balked at going to church with us.** In fact, they have enjoyed it and have been sad when they couldn’t go for some reason. How in the world did we manage that? Was it something we did? Or are they perfect, as I have suspected? (That’s proud momma talk there) So I’ve been chewing on this question for a while and would like to make the following observations: **What Environment Would Make a Kid Want To Go to Church?**

- **My husband and I look forward to going to church.** We both love Christ and find great joy in singing to our Lord. We both highly treasure the Scripture and can’t wait to open our Bibles. Even when we’re exhausted or busy, we will not miss connecting with our family of believers. For us, church is a rich experience and a worthy place to invest our lives. Maybe our kids have learned to enjoy church because **they’ve watched how much we enjoy worshipping the Lord and caring about the body of Christ.**

- When our teenagers went through the church doors, we handed them off to youth leaders who highly valued them and very quickly **mentored them into places where they could serve**. My son, at 17 years of age, is leading the singing in youth group and has taught the Bible lesson there on more than one occasion. The youth leaders treat him like an adult. The **expectations are set high** for him, and he is thriving in that environment.
- My husband is a pastor, but no one at our church has ever expected our kids to be perfect because they're pastor's kids. My daughter and son have had so much room to be flawed people who have been accepted and loved by their church family. **We carry that grace from our home to church life, too. Our kids hear us apologize when we mess up. We forgive them when they mess up. So much grace.**

I grew up in a tiny church in Wyoming, and I can see how the above three elements were true for me. My parents enjoyed church. My church family there highly valued me and encouraged me to take on leadership responsibility, but they also seemed to overlook my failings. So I looked forward to going to church.

WHY STUDY DOCTRINE? When I first went into the ministry, I wrote out a "doctrinal statement" for my ordination council. That doctrinal statement gives everything I believe about the Bible and about the claims of Christianity, and I told my council "why" I believed it the night I was ordained (I've spent my ministry explaining the "why" in every sermon I preach). Every five years I go back and restudy everything I believe in order to make sure there are no "cracks" in the foundation, and I have been in the process of doing just that in the last month. I believe that every Christian must know and understand their doctrine, for without doctrine, you have no foundation on which to stand and you will fall prey to every "belief" that is out there, whether it is true or false. Now understand that there is a difference between doctrine and preferences, because many people today take their preferences and opinions and talk like it is doctrine - so know the difference. Why then is it so important to know and study doctrine? **1) It shapes and form our beliefs. 2) It determines our behavior. 3) It provides the parameters of our beliefs (and keeps us from wandering all over the place, following the latest "popular" teacher or fad) 4) It's confines allow us to think freely. It doesn't limit; it expands the limited. 5) It grounds our faith on reasonable bases and relieves us of yielding the effects of "feelings." 6) It helps us live a balanced and well-adjusted Christian life. 7) It determines the ways in which we minister in our various roles. 8) It provides us with the materials to build an effective faith. 9) It assists us in understanding and interpreting Scripture. 10) It enables us to give credible answers to questions about the way in which we live.** Do you know your doctrine? Do you know what you believe and why you believe it? Are you inspecting the foundation? (10 points taken from a blog I read everyday "The Woodchuck Den" written by retired pastor Chuck Wood).

CHURCH EVENTS FOR OCTOBER: Remember the official "church calendar" is located in the church office and on www.shbcwv.com If you lead a ministry and desire to plan an activity not yet on the calendar and need it announced for Sunday, please let us know by **Friday morning** so that it can be announced in the bulletin each week.

Sunday, October 1 - Lord's Supper - pm service

Wednesday, October 4 - Good News Club begins at Bridgeview Elementary School; Youth Group Singing @ Hospice House at 7 pm; Shut in Committee Meeting at 8 pm

Sunday, October 8 - Youth Service - Sunday evening, CURE Youth Group providing singing and involved in the evening service; followed by "Snack 'n Yak" Activity afterwards

Monday, October 9 - Ladies Bible Study @ 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall; Advisory Council Meeting @ 7 pm in the Choir Rehearsal Room

Thursday, October 12 - Sunshine Seniors going to "Jolly Seniors" at Cross Lanes Christian School for service and lunch - leave church at 10:00 am

Sunday, October 15 - Fall Music Festival - Evening Service

Monday, October 16 - Budget Committee Meeting @ 7 pm - Pastor's Office

Friday, October 20 - CURE Youth Group - Bonfire at the Pauley's House - TBA

Saturday, October 21 - CURE Youth Group - Union Mission Store - TBA

Sunday, October 22 - Quarterly Business Meeting - pm service

Monday, October 23 - Ladies Bible Study @ 7 pm - Fellowship Hall

Saturday, October 28 - Community Canvassing and Continental Breakfast (weather permitting) - 9-11 am; Sunshine Seniors - Booth Brothers Concert in Milton TBA

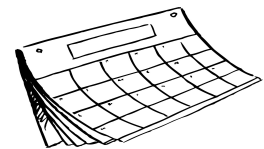
Sunday, October 29 - Dr. Jack Reiss speaking am/pm services; Passover Demonstration pm service; Finger food fellowship after the evening service

Monday, October 30 - Deacon's Meeting - Youth Room - 7 pm

*Teen Christmas Play Practice - every Sunday evening @ 5 pm

*Handbell Practice - every Monday evening @ 5:45 pm

*Choir Practice - every Sunday evening @ 4:30 pm



NOTABLE AND QUOTABLE: "When we depend upon organization, we get what organization can do; when we depend upon education, we get what education can do; when we depend upon man, we get what man can do; but when we depend upon prayer, we get what God can do!" - A.C. Dixon