



Congregational Christian Church The Red Brick Church in Stillman Valley

(Evangelical, Independent)

207 W. Roosevelt Road, PO Box 370
Stillman Valley, Illinois 61084-0370
Rev. Dr. Chris Brauns

JANUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER

CHURCH PHONE
645-2526

CHURCH FAX
645-2247

CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESS
Cccoffice1@comcast.net

TIME OF SERVICES
Worship Service – 9:00 am
Sunday School – 9:00 am
Worship Service – 10:30 am

Read 2 Corinthians and look forward to getting to know this letter in coming months.

I feel a bit like a parent with a child at camp. My computer is in the shop meaning I am writing this on a substitute computer and I don't have convenient access to my every day files. So what you get here is more a "stream of consciousness" than the normal newsletter article.

I have now completed 12 years as a pastor at the Red Brick Church meaning I have written an even gross (144) of articles. So far as I remember, my goal each time I write a newsletter article is to choose a topic (or set of topics) that will offer useful information to the church.

The annual meeting will offer an opportunity to reflect on 2016 — another year which God worked our church in so many wonderful ways — so I'll skip that material for now.

Second Corinthians is the most obvious point of emphasis going into 2017. For several reasons, it has been a time since I preached consecutively through a book and I can't wait. It is the kind of preaching I am most comfortable with and there are so many benefits for the congregation. Here I list three:

- Preaching through a book gives the congregation the opportunity to really get to know a book of the Bible. We will review the introductory matters about 2 Corinthians (author, date, audience, issues) many times.
- Preaching through a book is the best way to equip the congregation to study the Bible for themselves.
- Preaching through a book will allow you to know (more or less) what is coming. Prepare by reading the next section.

I have been preparing to preach on 2 Corinthians for some time. Many of you will know that I meet each May with a study group in Lake Geneva, WI. Most of the group completed the same doctoral program. Each year we study a book of the Bible with a renowned scholar. Most recently, we studied 2 Corinthians with George Guthrie, so that was a part of my preparation.

Another exercise I find myself increasingly doing when studying a book of the Bible or topic is to make a glossary of topics that you need to know in order to study the book. In 2 Corinthians, this means I have to know something about Corinth, covenant, the Cross, and many other terms. I have spent many hours on my 2 Corinthians glossary. I will invest many more.

JANUARY GREETERS

If you are interested in being on our "Greeter Team", please contact Bev Bjorklund at 815-234-5665.

Jan 1 st :	Tom and Ashley Stahl
Jan 8 th :	Carl and Elizabeth Jacobson
Jan 15 th :	Dan and Lori Houston
Jan 22 nd :	Grady and Millie McCoy
Jan 29 th :	Bruce and Deb Bonne
Feb 5 th :	Dave and Pat Ewald

JANUARY NURSERY

<u>January 1st</u>	
9:00 am	Tom & Ashley Stahl, Tessa Baker
<u>January 8th</u>	
9:00 am	Stacy Coester, Mandy Poliska, Crystal Dunseth
10:30 am	Lee and Shannon Hickey
<u>January 15th</u>	
9:00 am	Tessa Baker, Chelsea Colon, Jaime Wrasse
10:30 am	Jane Jones, Aly Behmer
<u>January 22nd</u>	
9:00 am	Tessa Baker, Justine Loyo, Sharon Rhodes
10:30 am	Alice Daniels, Donna Arnold
<u>January 29th</u>	
9:00 am	Stacy Coester, Susan Cahill, Joanna Easley
10:30 am	Carl and Elizabeth Jacobson
<u>February 5th</u>	
9:00 am	Tessa Baker, Jamie Brauns, Barb Hale
10:30 am	Eric and Kendra Booker

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

SS Superintendent:
Brooke Adams

Our average weekly Sunday School **Attendance** for the past two years during the month of December is listed below:

December 2015: 76
December 2016: 80

Our average weekly Sunday School **Offerings** for the past two years during the month of December is listed below:

December 2015: \$ 22.55
December 2016: \$ 21.03

WORSHIP SERVICE REPORT

Our average attendance at Worship Services for the past three months is listed below:

October Average: 294
November Average: 277
Dec. 4th, 11th, 18th Average: 270
Christmas Eve 4:00 pm Attendance: 207
Christmas Day 9:00 am Attendance: 93

CHAIRMAN OF BOARDS/COMMITTEES

Deacon Board – Clayton Midtsem	262-4245
Deaconess Board – Deb Bonne	645-2771
Trustee Board – John Cox	985-9202
Trustee Board – Paula Hufford	645-2506
CE Committee – Janice Amundson	645-7010
Memorial Committee – Jeff McLindsay	440-2042
Missions Committee – Cathy Midtsem	979-3715
Music – Pastor Tim Michalek	645-2526

**February Newsletter
Articles are due in the
church office by
Tuesday, January 31st**

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through December 30th, 2016

Total Approved 2016 Budget = \$418,620

Divided by 52 weeks/year = \$8,050/week

Budget Giving through Dec 31 \$418,620

Actual Giving through Dec 31 \$423,600

Budget Giving vs Actual Giving \$4,980

Actual Expenses through 12/31/16 \$395,250



If the church office does not have your email address, please email it to Jana in the office at our email address of:

cccoffice1@comcast.net

The email address for Pastor Chris is:

cdbrauns@gmail.com

The email address for Pastor Tim is:

timothymichalek@gmail.com

We will be emailing out announcements, news articles, coming events, etc., so don't miss out!! Be sure we have your email address.



IN CASE OF BAD WEATHER . . .

We will cancel AWANA if there is NO school that day or if school is let out early due to bad weather.

Updated cancellation messages will also be left on the church office answering machine (645-2526).



LADIES BIBLE STUDIES

Both of our Ladies Bible Studies will begin meeting again very soon! Both groups will be doing the Jen Wilkin study entitled, "Women of the Word: How to Study the Bible with Both Our Hearts and Our Minds".

We all know it's important to study God's Word. But sometimes it's hard to know where to start. What's more, a lack of time, emotionally driven approaches, and past frustrations can erode our resolve to keep growing in our knowledge of Scripture. How can we, as Christian women, keep our focus and sustain our passion when reading the Bible?

Offering a clear and concise plan to help women go deeper in their study of Scripture, this book will equip you to engage God's Word in a way that trains your mind and transforms your heart.

Workbooks are \$8 each and will be available for purchase at either study.

Mom's & More

The Friday morning Moms and More Bible Study Group will be starting up on Friday, January 13th from 9:00 to 10:30 am in the Adult SS Classroom. Childcare will be provided. If you have any questions about the Friday study, please contact Amy Michalek.

Women of the Word

(Women's Evening Bible Study)

Our Tuesday evening study will begin meeting on Tuesday, January 10th from 7:00 to 8:30 pm in the Adult SS Classroom. Please contact Jamie Brauns if you have any questions about the Tuesday evening study.



Reports from all boards and committees are needed in the church office no later than Friday morning, January 13th. Chairmen of all boards and committees should check with each respective secretary to be sure if the chairman or secretary is to write the report this year. Again, please be sure that all reports are in the church office by the morning of the 13th.

Our annual meeting this year will be on **SUNDAY, JANUARY 29th at 4:00 pm** in the church sanctuary. Reports for the annual meeting will be available in the back of the church on Sunday, January 22nd for all active members and non-members. Please bring your report with you back to the meeting on the 29th. Extra copies will not be available at the meeting.

Please be sure and review each report prepared by all committees and boards prior to the annual meeting. We will not be going through each report individually, but will open up the meeting by addressing any questions and concerns from the congregation in regards to these reports. After all questions have been answered we will vote to approve the reports as a package.

As members of a congregational church, we have both a responsibility and privilege to come and have a voice and vote in deciding issues our church faces for the upcoming year.

ANNUAL MEETING
Sunday, January 29th, 2017
4:00 pm

REPORTS DUE FROM BOARDS:
Friday, January 13th @ 9:00 am

FROM PASTOR TIM!



We are busy!! We resume our WWBS (Weekly Wednesday Bible Study) on the 11th, we have our Youth Group this Sunday, Jan 8th, and Jan 13 - 16 we will attend our Winter Retreat in Oregon. (See article on Snow Camp in the newsletter!)

Youth Bible Study: Our Youth Bible Study meets on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. The Youth Bible Study will not meet this Wednesday, January 4th; they will meet again on Wednesday, January 11th.

Youth Group this Sunday, January 8th! Jr High will meet at noon at the church. The Sr High will meet at Nick and Chelsea Colon's home (5202 E Walden Road, Byron) from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

The youth group is serving lunch at the Rockford Rescue Mission on Jan 21st and Feb 18th ~ 11:45am-1:15pm as part of our Monthly Ministry Activity. We do need you to sign-up for available space. JH, SH, parents and other church family are welcome to join us!

Upcoming Events

January 4th – NO Bible Study.
 January 8th, Noon to 2pm – JR High at Church
 January 8th, 5 to 7 pm – SR High at Colon's
 January 13th to 16th – SH/JH Snow Camp
 January 21st at Noon – MMA Serve at Rockford Rescue Mission

February 11th and 12th – MMA "Loving on Our Widows" project
 February 18th at Noon – MMA Serve at Rockford Rescue Mission

March 5th, Noon to 2 pm – JH at church
 March 5th, 5 to 7 pm – SH in home

April 15th and 16th – Sr High Trinity 260 Conference



AWANA GRAND PRIX RACES

Saturday, February 18th

Our annual AWANA Grand Prix is scheduled for Saturday, February 18th in the church fellowship hall. Check-in is from 1:30 to 2:30 pm and racing begins promptly at 3:00 pm.

Please remember: If you plan on racing your derby car at our Grand Prix, you must purchase your car from our AWANA Store . . . (sorry, no Cub Scout cars). All cars will have to be checked in, weighed, and measured before our races begin. Trophies will be awarded for speed and design.

AWANA Derby Cut-Out Clinics

Mr. Darren and His Pit Crew will be available once in January and once in February to help clubbers cut out their derby cars! The first clinic will be on Saturday, January 28th from 1:00 – 3:00 pm and the second clinic will be held on Saturday, February 11th from 9:00 to 11:00 am. Bring your derby cars and your design with you to either one of the clinics and they will help you get your car cut out for the derby!



Thank you to all who participated in and came to support our Sunday School Children's Christmas Program. Their music was a blessing, and we are proud of our children. We will begin an electronic check-in system for the preschool Sunday School classroom within the next month. We are looking forward to loving, learning and serving in 2017! Please continue to encourage and pray for our teachers.

Brooke Adams
Sunday School Superintendent

2016 SS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PICTURES

Sunday, December 11th, 2016



Youth Group News . . .



YOUTH WINTER RETREAT January 13th – 16th SIGN UP TODAY!!

Our Jr. & Sr. High Winter Retreat will be held on January 15th – 18th and we will be staying at the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center in Oregon. We're joining E-Free Mt Morris, Rock Valley Bible and Morning Star Church this year at the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center. Cost is \$50 and scholarships are available. Sign up on our church website – you can even pay online! Deadline for sign-up is TODAY! Please contact Pastor Tim if you have any questions!

Picture of Youth Group Christmas Parties



Storing Up Treasure

Two of the highlights for the kids in **AWANA** are the Christmas & Spring AWANA stores. In fact, if you want see the fun they have just come on down to our next store on April 5 and you can personally help them shop or get through the checkout lines. Of course the greatest gift we want them to receive is being called a child of God (John 1:12). In Romans, Paul reminds us the way they can unwrap this gift - through hearing God's word (Rom 10:17) - exactly what they are doing at AWANA as they learn God's word during handbook time and hear how it has meaning for their life during devotions. Then through our missions nights (M&M) and other devotion times we talk a lot about sharing that gift - which brings us full circle to the idea of storing up treasure (Matt 6:19-21). True, the AWANA store's "treasures" are not rust or moth free, but we hope in all of the what is being accomplished at AWANA that kids are learning to treasure God's word and Jesus in their hearts to set them on the path to store up real treasure. Keep praying for the kids being reached in our AWANA ministry and the leaders who are storing up treasure as they serve these kids.

Darren Daniels, Deb Smits
AWANA Co-Commanders

CHRISTMAS CAROLING



JANUARY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship Services 9:00 am COMMUNION	2 	3 CE Board 6:30 pm Deacon & Trustee Mtg 6:30 pm WEBS BEGINS!! 7:00 pm	4 AWANA 6:00 to 7:30 pm Youth Bible Study 7:00 pm	5 	6 Reports for ANNUAL REPORT are due in office!!!! SNOW CAMP BEGINS!! M & M BEGINS!! 9:00 am	7 YOUTH GROUP SNOW CAMP
8 Worship Services at 9:00 & 10:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am Jr. High Youth Group - Noon Sr. High Youth Group - 5:00 pm	9 YOUTH GROUP SNOW CAMP	10 Deacon Board Meeting 6:30 pm WEBS 7:00 pm	11 AWANA 6:00 to 7:30 pm Youth Bible Study 7:00 pm	12 TRUSTEE BOARD MEETING at 6:45 pm	13 M & M 9:00 am	14 
15 Worship Services at 9:00 & 10:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am YOUTH GROUP SNOW CAMP	16 YOUTH GROUP SNOW CAMP	17 Sr Fellowship at Cardinal Café 9:00 am WEBS 7:00 pm	18 AWANA 6:00 to 7:30 pm Youth Bible Study 7:00 pm	19 MISSIONS MTG 6:30 pm	20 M & M 9:00 am	21 AWANA DERBY CUT-OUT CLINIC 1:00 - 3:00 pm
22 Worship Services at 9:00 & 10:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am ANNUAL MEETING 4:00 pm	23 	24 WEBS 7:00 pm	25 AWANA 6:00 to 7:30 pm Youth Bible Study 7:00 pm	26 	27	28
29	30	31				



JANUARY 2017 AWANA SCHEDULE

Wednesday, January 11th

It's M & M (Missionary) Night at AWANA's on the 11th. Clubbers should bring their missionary bank with dollars and change in them to club in exchange for an individual size packet of plain M & M's. We will be viewing our fourth Boyd Family Video clip update from Vienna, Austria.

Wednesday, January 18th

We got "PJ Night" at the club on the 18th! Wear some comfy **and** appropriate PJ's and slippers this night. Tennis shoes needed for game time!

Wednesday, January 25th

It's "Super Bowl Night" at club on the 25th. Wear your favorite jersey to club! We will be playing some Super Bowl games and it is also another of our Praise and Worship Nights at club! If you love to sing or hear children sing, come join us at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary!

Saturday, January 28th

This afternoon will be our first AWANA Derby Cut-out Clinic! Bring your car and design with you to the church fellowship hall between 1:00 and 3:00 pm and the Pit Crew will help you cut your car out!

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

PO Box 370

Stillman Valley, IL 61084

**** RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED ****

