

WHITING COMMUNITY CHURCH BAPTIST LIGHT

From the Pastor

Why it is Important to Attend Worship

Perhaps you've heard people say, ***"I'm not walking away from Jesus, but I am done with the church."*** This statement is becoming increasingly common in our world today. This trend is no surprise. We Americans prize our individualism.

People are hurt by people in the church. Just like the rest of the world, the church is filled with people struggling to love well. The charge against Christians being judgmental and hypocrites is not just a Christian problem; it's a human nature problem. Christians and non-Christians alike with a shred of honesty acknowledge this truth.

There is a problem with this statement, *"I'm not walking away from Jesus, but I am done with the church."* The problem, simply put, is that it is impossible to do. **If you walk away from the church, you also walk away from Jesus.** You may disagree with me here. If you do, and you are a person who rarely attends church, I encourage you to set up a time for us to talk about this.

Here is the reason for my position. Part of what it means to love Jesus and to walk with Jesus is to obey Jesus' teachings. The Bible teaches...

"...Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me."

-John 14:23-24

"...let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

-Hebrews 10:24-25

Jesus founded the church. I didn't. Paul didn't. Therefore, Jesus gets to make the rules.

Financials

Our 2015 General Fund Approved Budget is \$80,710. Our goal is to raise a minimum of \$6,725.83 per month in order to meet this budget. As of the end of November, we are \$3,083.50 over budget.

Gen fund income:
\$77,067.67

Gen fund expense:
\$59,806.33

Phone Numbers

Church: 920-722-4312
Pastor Nick's cell:
920-252-1290

Ladies' Bible Study

Wed., January 13, 2016
6:30 - 7:45 pm

This month, we will begin studying the book of Ephesians.

With great anticipation - additional Biblical characters will continue to visit the Ladies' Bible study in 2016!

All ages are welcome.

Annual Business Meeting & Potluck

Scheduled for Sunday, January 31, 2016 after worship.

"Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit."

-Ephesians 2:19-22

Jesus established apostles and prophets to be, according to Ephesians 2, the foundation of the church, with Jesus as the chief cornerstone. Then he built it with teachers and pastors and ordained that there be a structure of local churches in the body of Christ called the church.

There are unchurched, dechurched, and rarely go to church type of people who think they can substitute something for organized church. The problem with this type of thinking is that it doesn't line up with the Bible or historic orthodox Christianity. We can't just make a new path because we relish individualism.

We can't keep Jesus but leave the church. Nor can we love Jesus well, but have a weak or meaningless connection to the church. Jesus didn't teach that. Jesus did not give us that as an alternative choice. We can't make Jesus up. He is the Jesus of the Bible or he is the Jesus of our imagination. If he is the Jesus of the Bible, we take the whole Jesus. We can't carve him up in pieces. And the whole Jesus is the Jesus who loves the whole church. Jesus died for the church.

This is why I stay in a church. I hope to see you Sundays at worship.

Pastor Nick

Annual Reports Due

Ministry leaders, staff, and committee leaders need to submit their report for the annual report no later than January 10th. Reports should be submitted to Lori Bowers. Electronic submissions are preferred and can be sent to Lori at lbowers@new.rr.com.

Community Clothes Closet

The Clothes Closet's mission is to provide free clothing to those in need. The organization has been serving disadvantaged families since 1980. The non-profit organization has been collecting and distributing clothing, towels, blankets and household items to those that are referred to them. Referrals come from services organizations such as Red Cross, St. Joseph's Food Pantry, domestic abuse shelters, county agencies, schools, churches and others.

Clothing is more than a basic need, in this day and age, image is important to fit into society, to build self esteem and to advance their careers. The remarkable thing about the program as they get free clothing which in turn increase their immediate income. They can spend their limited income on other necessities such food, shelter and child care.

Our mission project for January is collecting NEW hats, mittens and gloves.

Parking Lot Replacement Project

The current condition of the asphalt parking lot represents approximately 40 years of use and is critical WE establish continuous growth in funds to support full replacement rather than performing continuous reactive maintenance repairs that would essentially consume our efforts in meeting full replacement costs. Typical life of asphalt pavement 20-40 years.

The estimate to replace the parking lot is \$75,200. This cost is broken out into two pieces. The removal, grading and install is \$38,700 and the installation of 2 required storm sewer catch basins is \$36,500.

OUR goal to raise and complete this project is five years. This said, accomplishing this project in this timeline could cost \$80,000.00 resulting from product / labor cost increases.

With current designated funds and factoring in worse case, WE would need to raise \$16,000.00 annually through fund raising events, donations, etc... WCBC has a history of pulling through these types of project costs and I believe WE can certainly prove continuance of this history.

Our current status of funds shown below is relative to a positive start to accomplish our goal of five years. In keeping with the fund totals below, NOT utilizing, we would have 4-years remaining to raise the full amount; \$80,000.00.

- Emergency Fund @ \$7,700.00
- Emily Grant fund @ \$7,500.00
- Parking Lot fund @ 850.00
 - Total - \$16,050

If you would like to donate to the parking lot fund, please note that on your offering envelope. To fund this project as well as the general fund, please consider giving sacrificially above the amount you normally donate to the general fund.