

# WHITING COMMUNITY CHURCH BAPTIST LIGHT

## From the Pastor

### Witnessing Through Forgiving

If I ask you if you share your faith, what would you say? Do you do it? Why? How? If you do not do it, why not?

I never met anyone share their faith on a consistent conscious basis who was not burdened for the unbeliever. Are you burdened for the sheep without a shepherd (Matthew 9:36)? “Be burdened” for the lost. I think Jesus commands it of His disciples. God wants to set the weight of His glory on our hearts (Isaiah 6:3). To allow it to rest on our chests until it breaks our hardened hearts, that we might spread the weight of His glory. Our prayer is this, “Lord use me to spread Your holy name in my sphere of influence.”

God wants our hearts to be burdened for the lost (Luke 15). This is how Jesus lived His life. We must do likewise. The Holy Spirit doesn't want to give us another system for outreach, or a marketing department (at least not at this time). The power of the gospel is not in a laminated poster, or a billboard. The power of the gospel is seen when God's people bear God's image.

You recently heard three sermons on forgiveness, Fritz on August 9<sup>th</sup>, and mine on August 30<sup>th</sup> and September 6<sup>th</sup>. Considering this context, an evangelistic witness can occur when we forgive, despite the presence of deep pain. We share our faith when we extend forgiveness, namely, cancel the other's debt, and seek to bless them. This is what Jesus does for us, so we in turn, go and do likewise.

Jesus hung on the cross. God is burdened for the lost, and seeks to forgive and reconcile a lost world to Himself. We do not stop short of this painful, yet beautiful, expression of the gospel either. There are no short cuts to spreading the gospel. The call to witness and the call to forgive are real. At the core of Christianity, there is a real cost. That is why we see many in Scripture stop following Jesus.

Prayer: “God, break our hearts for the things that break Yours. Help us forgive, so we can look more like You.”

-Pastor Nick

**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 August, we are \$231.79 under budget.

Gen fund income:  
\$53,574.88

Gen fund expense:  
\$44,085.54

**Phone Numbers**

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

**Church Rummage Sale.**

A church rummage sale will be scheduled for the end of October or early November. Clean out your closets, basement & cupboards to find items to donate to the rummage sale. Details to follow.

**Online Giving**

If you are tired of bringing in checks on a Sunday for offering or often find yourself forgetting, look no further! Most banks have a free service called Bill Pay in which they will send checks directly to church for you. Interested? Check out the offering drop down button on the top right corner of the church website:  
<http://www.whitingcommunitychurch.org> for information on how to set it up online through different banks. Or if you are interested but not tech savvy, walk in to your nearest bank and they can help you set it up. Again, it is free, easy and can be setup, increased, or cancelled at any point. Any monies received through the Bill Pay option will be deposited into the church's general fund. Talk to Ben Van Stratten for any questions.

**FCL - Families Connecting with the Lord**

Thursday, October 15 & Thursday, October 22

Dinner: 6-6:30 PM

Bible & Family Activities: 6:30-7:15 PM

The FCL classes held this past June & July were such a success that we have received requests to continue meeting throughout the year. We will be gathering for fall, winter, & spring sessions (each session being two weeks, one night each week, in length). Whether or not you attended the meetings in June & July, you are invited to join us as we continue to learn how to make God-centered conversations, prayer, and Bible time as families a priority in our lives. There are no limits on family size or generational relationship. All are welcome!

Please reply to Barb Moravec or Pastor Nick by October 11 if you will be participating. This will help greatly with the planning, purchasing, & preparing of food for the dinners

**Operation Christmas Child**

We will use October to get a jump start on filling our shoe boxes. We can use our boxes or you can use your own. The boxes need to be at the collection site November 16-23.

Children who receive Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes have the opportunity to enroll in a 12 lesson discipleship program, the Greatest Journey. Led by trained local teachers, children become grounded in their faith and learn how to share the Gospel with others

Last year over 10 million boxes were collected

## Tree Farm News

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As a timber producing tree farm, the churches property in Wautoma works with Bell Timber to effectively manage and thin the forest. When trees are thinned, they are sold for a variety of uses. One of the most common uses is as pulpwood for the production of paper. As our trees get larger, they are also used for lumber and telephone poles.

Bell Timber holds meetings annually to discuss various topics important to tree farm owners. As caretakers of the property, Dave and Donna Mentink attend these regularly. This year, Dave attended the meeting held at the Chula Vista resort. In addition to focusing on the issue of invasive species, they reviewed changes in wood prices. Recent drops in those prices demonstrate the effective timing of our last thinning, as the prices paid were near the last peak in pricing.

Over the Labor Day Weekend, we had good group camping at the tree farm. We had about 15 (including Zeke the dog) spend at least one night, and several others who visited for at least some part of the weekend. Remember that the property is always available for members interested in camping, hiking the trails, and other outdoor activities. Whether in an RV, a tent, or using the cabin, the property is there for the day, the weekend, or longer. As always, reservations for use of the property can be made with Dave and Donna Mentink.

As we continue into the fall, please keep in mind that we have hunters who utilize the property for both bow and rifle hunting seasons. While the property remains available for other uses, it is vital that all visitors check in with the Mentinks to ensure information on current hunting on the property can be shared. This is for both the safety of everyone and the success of the hunters.

If you have any questions about the tree farm, please take a moment to check in with Pastor Nick, the Mentinks, or Tom Romnek. You can also ask other members and you are likely to find many have at least one story about time spent there.

## World Mission Offering 2015

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This year's theme is Stretch Forward- "Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before, I press on toward the goal" Philippians 3; 13-14.

2/3 of the world still does not know the fullness of God's love through Jesus Christ. There is an urgent need to stretch forward and be part of new and surprising things God is doing through International Ministries.

We need to support the men and women who are serving around the world today. But there is also a great continuing need to raise up, place and support many more global workers and missionaries. These people will work to share the gospel and meet pressing human needs to teach, heal, serve and encourage others in the name of Jesus.

The World Mission Offering is essential In our ongoing efforts to recruit and sustain new and existing missionaries.