



Gary Black
Senior Pastor

Son Times

GB to Thee...

Pray for our Elders/Search Team

The Elders are praying and studying to determine the job description for our next Associate Minister. Elsewhere in this newsletter, Tom Kinman shares the process we will follow for selection. The last few Sundays we have set aside some time to specifically pray about how to proceed. We want God's person for this time and place in the Kingdom. Please continue to make this a matter of earnest prayer in your family and your life. We are asking each person to set aside 30 minutes per week to pray, humble yourself, seek God's face, and intercede for our church on this matter.

SERVE WITH COMPASSION

We want to be a church where people live like Jesus as they serve with compassion. We have several opportunities to serve in extra ways in November and December.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD – You have heard us announce this effort to fill a shoe box to partner with Samaritan's Purse this Christmas. Though we are sending toys and other needed items the most important part of this is that the gospel message will be shared with those children who receive these shoe boxes filled with gifts. November 13 is the last Sunday to bring your shoe boxes to the church. They will be delivered to the distribution point that following week.

BIBLE STICK FOR MILITARY – Nov. 6 & 13 we will have a table in the hall for you to help send the New Testament to those in the military. The cost for each bible stick is \$25. These are being sent by Faith Comes By Hearing, the same organization that supplied the MP3 New Testaments last fall.

SMALL GROUP SCHEDULE – Our study of the Book of James will continue through November concluding with the final Sunday message on Nov. 27. The final small group study of James would take place the week of Nov. 27. Wednesday Night Small groups will continue meeting through Dec. 14.

CHRISTMAS 2011

Christmas Eve – We will offer two identical services on Saturday evening Dec. 24.

Christmas Day – One Combined Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. All will join together for a great celebration of worship on the day we set aside to honor the birth of Jesus Christ.

Author: Unknown

Each December, I vowed to make Christmas a calm and peaceful experience. I had cut back on nonessential obligations...extensive card writing, endless baking, decorating, and even overspending.

Yet still, I found myself exhausted, unable to appreciate the precious family moments, and of course, the true meaning of Christmas. My son, Nicholas, was in kindergarten that year. It was an exciting season for a six year old. For weeks, he'd been memorizing songs for his school's "Winter Pageant." I didn't have the heart to tell him I'd be working the night of the production. Unwilling to miss his shining moment, I spoke with his teacher. She assured me there'd be a dress rehearsal the morning of the presentation. All parents unable to attend that evening were welcome to come then. Fortunately, Nicholas seemed happy with the compromise.



So, the morning of the dress rehearsal, I filed in ten minutes early, found a spot on the cafeteria floor and sat down. Around the room, I saw several other parents quietly scampering to their seats. As I waited, the students were led into the room. Each class, accompanied by their teacher, sat cross-legged on the floor. Then, each group, one by one, rose to perform their song.



Because the public school system had long stopped referring to the holiday as "Christmas," I didn't expect anything other than fun, commercial entertainment...songs of reindeer, Santa Claus, snowflakes and good cheer. So, when my son's class rose to sing, "Christmas Love," I was slightly taken aback by its bold title. Nicholas was aglow, as were all of his classmates, adorned in fuzzy mittens,

red sweaters, and bright snowcaps upon their heads. Those in the front row - center stage - held up large letters, one by one, to spell out the title of the song.



As the class would sing "C is for Christmas," a child would hold up the letter C. Then, "H is for Happy," and on and on, until each child holding up his portion had presented the complete message, "Christmas Love."

The performance was going smoothly, until suddenly, we noticed her; a small, quiet, girl in the front row holding the letter "M" upside down -totally unaware her letter "M" appeared as a "W". The audience of 1st through 6th graders snickered at this little one's mistake. But she had no idea they were laughing at her, so she stood tall, proudly holding her "W".



Although many teachers tried to shush the children, the laughter continued until the last letter was raised, and we all saw it together. A hush came over the audience and eyes began to widen. In that instant, we understood the reason we were there, why we celebrated the holiday in the first place, why even in the chaos, there was a purpose for our festivities.

For when the last letter was held high, the message read loud and clear:

"CHRISTMAS LOVE"

And, I believe, He still is!!



Julie Black

A Note From Julie...

Hi Friends,

Our staff here at CCC read and discussed a very practical book this summer by John Maxwell called Everyone Communicates, Few Connect. Shannon, Gary, and I had some good discussions about the topic, and we all felt the book had many helpful things to say about communication.

I was thinking about how communication is a staple of our existence – at home, with friends, with co-workers, with church family. Studying through the book of James this Fall in our small groups and the Sunday messages, we are reminded of the capacity of our communication for good or evil. It's interesting that James was writing to committed Christians, but that he has to reprimand and correct these committed Christians for things such as: angry words (1:19), uncontrolled words (1:26), judging words (2:12), fighting & quarrelling (4:1-3), slandering (4:11), boasting and bragging (4:16), grumbling (5:9), and swearing (5:12). Nice, right?! Those are damaging things that our words are capable of.

On the positive side of words and communication, we can connect, encourage, instruct, and lift each other up. I remember being a high school student and attending church at Kokomo Church of Christ. My family didn't attend with me, but the adults who worked with the students always found ways to notice and encourage me. There was a stocky businessman named Ed Berndt (he was an insurance salesman and his moniker was "the Round Man with the Square Deal"), and he was an outstanding high school Sunday school teacher who made us all feel welcome and appreciated. I like the fact that many folks at Clayton are friendly and kind to visitors as well as to one another.

The Lord has called us in the church to a high standard. The New Testament has many "one another" directives for believers within the church. One of the principles in Maxwell's book is that **connecting with people always requires energy**. To reach out and find common ground with a stranger, a visitor at church, or even a family member takes effort and energy. Let us follow the example of Christ, who daily connected with people for the sake of the Kingdom.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 Encourage one another and build each other up.

Blessings,

Julie



Kids Bits by Beth

Our Children, Our Blessing, Our Future

On any given Sunday, our church halls are filled with over 50 children. Each one of these children bring so much joy and happiness to our church family. Each of these children bring joy and happiness to their parents, their siblings, their grandparents and all of the other important people in their life. God has blessed us with the opportunity to help teach and raise these children with faith, love, and understanding. Thankfully each Sunday, we have teachers and worship leaders ready to provide valuable lessons and worship to help our children grow and know Jesus. Their learning about Jesus doesn't happen only on Sunday morning. It should be present in all parts of their life, in every waking moment as they play with friends and family; as they spend time with their family and caretakers.

An important way that each of us can reinforce and help our children grow and learn to know Jesus is to talk with them about Jesus. Take time to ask them about what they did in Sunday School, or Wee Worship or in Power UP. Ask them about the lesson and what their memory verse is. Find a way to relate what they learn to something you know or an activity that will reinforce what they have learned. With all of us, young and old alike, what we learn needs to be applied to real life before it 'sticks'!

So, showing our children that Jesus is our friend by being friendly and loving to all is a real life lesson that helps our children learn to trust in Jesus. Showing our children that we are to be obedient to Jesus by teaching them to be obedient in a loving and trusting way is a real life lesson that helps our children learn to trust in Jesus. Showing our children that our God is merciful and forgiving by our acts of forgiveness is so critical to their understanding that God is real in our lives. Whether you are a parent, a grandparent, or a child care giver... regardless of your role, remember, we show God's love to our children through our actions. Children learn most about Jesus by watching and copying our acts of love and kindness to all.

Be a part of helping our children learn to love and trust our Jesus.

Important Dates to Remember:

November

- 02 Wednesday Night: Meal at 5:50 – Cleanup at 6:30 Groups at 6:45
- 06 TIME CHANGE Sunday Services – Worship at 8:45 & 11:00
SS at 10:15
Bibles for the Military – Bible Stick
Operation Christmas Child
- 09 Wednesday Night
- 13 Sunday Services – Veteran’s Day Sunday
Bible Stick Project
Operation Christmas Child – last day to bring shoe boxes
- 16 Wednesday Night
- 17-19 Gary at National Missionary Convention in Atlanta
- 20 Sunday Services
- 23 No Wednesday Night – Thanksgiving Break
- 24 Happy Thanksgiving!
- 27 Sunday Services
- 30 Wednesday Night resumes

December

- 04 Sunday Services
- 07 Wednesday Night
- 11 Sunday Services
- 14 Wednesday Night
- 18 Sunday Services
- 21 No Wednesday Night – Christmas Break
- 24 Christmas Eve
- 25 Christmas Sunday – 10:00 service only!!
- 28 No Wednesday Night
- 31 Saturday – New Year’s Eve

CCC HIRING PROCESS – October 2011

1. Our process is simple but effective. This is a similar process used when hiring previous youth ministers. We have made a few changes to include more voices in the process and a more definitive role for the congregation.
2. The Elders will formulate the job description. Stakeholders in the ministry area may be included in the process of determining qualifications, competencies, chemistry, and commitment.
3. A Search Team from the congregation will be invited to join the elders. The Search Team may consist of a representative of the Children’s Ministry, a parent, a respected spiritual leader other than an elder, a representative from the Student Ministry.
3. The Sr. Pastor takes the lead in gathering resumes, making contacts, talking with other churches, colleges and anyone who may know of a candidate. Elders/Search Team members and the congregation may bring names and/or resumes to the Sr. Pastor for consideration. The Sr. Pastor serves as the day to day supervisor of this position and therefore serves as the initial interviewer. The goal is for everyone on the staff, elders/search team and congregation to be in agreement before someone is hired.
4. The Sr. Pastor may have informal and formal meetings with candidates.
5. Strong candidates will be invited to meet with the elders/search team. If more than one candidate is being considered, each will be interviewed and the front runner will be asked to return.

6. The strongest candidate will meet with key volunteers in the appropriate area of ministry. If everyone agrees or mostly agrees, the person will be confirmed by the elders and presented to the congregation as our candidate.
7. The congregation will give their input informally & formally. An affirmation of the candidate will be conducted at a congregational meeting.

8. The elders will put together a salary and benefits package to include:

- Cash salary (including housing allowance)
- Retirement (6% of total cash income)
- Insurance (health, life, disability) (Staff pays a percentage of the premium)
- Continuing education
- Conferences
- Auto expense for mileage

If you have questions, please contact me.

Tom, Chairman

August & September statistics

	August		September	
	2010	2011	2010	2011
Sunday School	98	100	98	74
Worship	250	245	260	219
	August		September	
Total	\$37,792.93		\$27,321.53	
Missions	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Building	\$875.00		\$700.00	
Imagine	\$4,860.00		\$3,727.50	
Other Des.	\$1,362.00		\$414.00	

The SonTimes is now available on our church website at:

claytonchristian.org



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Ministry Team Meeting Minutes September 12, 2011

Attendance: Jim , Beth , Gary , Julie , Tammy , Jim , Jason Shannon

Pastor's Leadership Minute: Gary discussed obstacles of church growth from "7 Reasons Why Churches Choose to Have a Smaller Impact"

Secretary's Report: The minutes were reviewed and approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Shannon reported that the offerings have slightly increased over the last month.

Building: Maintenance has been completed on the toilets. The HVAC system has been cleaned/serviced and maintenance has been performed on the lock to the main front doors.

Business Director: The 2012 budget proposals are currently due to Shannon. He will be finalizing the budget numbers and will present the 2012 budget at the next ministry leader's meeting.

Grounds: The floors will be stripped and waxed near Thanksgiving.

CARE: Meals have been provided for the Jamison and Neier families. Names of families needing assistance at Christmas time are being collected from Mill Creek East. If you or your small group would like to help a family at Christmas, please contact Tammy Johnson at 317-407-0113.

Children's Ministry: Beth reported that the classrooms are currently fully staffed and attendance has been steady.

Communications: The newsletter articles are due October 18th

Evangelism: Nothing to report at this time.

Adult Ministry: Fall small groups are going well. Gary has had several people share with him what a blessing the James study has been.

Missions: We are currently meeting our financial missions obligations.

Music and Creative Arts: Julie is planning and recruiting for the upcoming Christmas season. A new computer is needed for the sanctuary. Another projectionist is needed for the team.

Site Development: Nothing to report at this time.

Student Ministry: The students have been very positive during this time of transition and enjoyed a good first meeting last week.

Host: Jim said that his team is in need of new greeters and servers.

Elders: A committee is being formed to assist in the search for the new Associate/Student Pastor. The Terms of Office for Church Leaders were discussed as well as possible candidates to fill these roles.

No other business was discussed at this time.

The next ministry leaders meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 14th.

Respectfully submitted,
Tammy



Clayton Christian Church
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