



Gary Black
Senior Pastor

Son Times

FROM G.B. TO THEE . . .

School has begun, vacations are over, weather is mild, church is in session!!

Not great poetry but you get the drift. The Fall 2011 season of ministry is upon us and I want to share a few things you can expect and pray about in the coming days.

September 10th Walk Thru the Old Testament

September 11th Kickoff a church-wide study of James

SEPTEMBER 11 WILL BE A SPECIAL DAY!

9:15 Fellowship breakfast for all

No Sunday School today

10:00 ONE COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE!

FALL BIBLE TEACHING

September 10, Saturday, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 is Walk Thru the Old Testament! You have heard us promote this and I am personally asking you to sign up for this day of learning in an upbeat and fast paced atmosphere. Adults cost \$25. All students receive complimentary admission because we believe in the high value of this day of teaching the Old Testament. Please pre-register with Debbie Keutzer with your check payable to CCC. Lunch is being provided by Judy Dickison and her team.

Kids in the Book is part of the WTOT for elementary children grades 1-5. Michelle Ross and her team will be present to assist the speaker who is trained for this age group.

Pre-school age children will have child-care throughout the day thanks to Emily Jamison and her team

Please pray for a Holy Spirit filled day as Sharon Monahan and her prayer team lead us to pray each day for this.

FALL SMALL GROUPS BEGIN THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 11!

The New Testament Book of James will be our church-wide study under the theme, Developing a Faith That Works. Every small group will study this book so please sign up for a group and be ready to begin with the very first message from yours truly on Sunday September 11! 15 of our own members have collaborated to write a 60-day devotional to keep us connected to James from September thru November. The Small Group studies are also written by Shannon and myself to help us be in lock step with the Sunday message, the daily devotions, and the small group studies.

FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL – RECOMMIT ON SEPTEMBER 11

We provide Sunday school classes for all ages at 10:15 on Sunday mornings. Calling all parents of students, elementary age, and pre-school, we offer Bible classes for all age groups including adults. I encourage you to take the opportunity to recommit to this hour for your family on Sundays!

FALL – A TIME OF TRANSITION

Our church family will be in a time of transition this fall as we say farewell to Shannon, Lindsey, and Cash Poindexter. Their last Sunday with us is October 2, which just happens to be their fifth anniversary of their ministry with us. Shannon will be sharing their future plans in the weeks to come. Personally I have felt blessed to have had the opportunity to know and partner with Shannon these five years. Together we have grown in our understanding of what it means to be called a minister or pastor of a congregation. His next chapter in life sounds like an excellent opportunity for his gifts, interests, and the call of God upon his life. As a church family, we have seen our student ministry grow each year in number, spirit, and service for the Lord. Under Shannon's capable guidance the student ministry has had some commendable achieve-

ments. Each year, a larger number of students attended CIY which has had ongoing positive results in the lives of many. Each year our Wednesday night Revolution Clayton has experienced an increase in the number of students. For two years now, the student ministry has participated in the Andy Project, a ministry to the homeless in downtown Indy. These are just a few of the areas that have Shannon's direct fingerprint upon them. We wish the Poindexter family God's blessing and favor as they move to this next opportunity.

At the time of this writing a transition plan is being developed for our student ministry. The details will be shared as soon as they are available.

FALL VOLUNTEERS

Fall is also a time when volunteers are needed to serve in many ministries including children and student ministries. "Many hands make light work." Many volunteers keep the church fresh and alive. Our children's ministry team leader is Beth Archer. Please be ready to say yes if you are invited to serve.

AN UNUSUAL OPPORTUNITY

As I close, let me invite you to hear Kobi Kimhy speak at Plainfield Christian Church on Sunday evening Sept. 18 at 6:00 p.m. Kobi was our guide in Israel and is coming to speak. Many of our group will be attending and this would be a great opportunity for you to hear a genuine Israel tour guide without going to Israel!

As the Summer concludes and Fall begins, may I encourage you to be present in church on September 11! It will be a great day of reconnection with our church family, an important time of recommitment to our church mission, and an uplifting day of worship of the Living God!

ONE WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:00 A.M.

SEPTEMBER 11

9:15 FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST FOR ALL

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL THIS DAY ONLY



Julie Black



Hi Friends,

I was blessed last week to attend the Women of Faith Conference held at Conseco Fieldhouse in downtown Indy. Please don't judge me, but I've never been a huge fan of women's meetings/conferences/workshops in the past for various reasons. But I said yes to going to this event because several of the ladies from CCC were attending, and I knew I would enjoy being with them. I was pre-judging this conference, the speakers, and the music before I had even ever attended! The Lord has a funny way of humbling us sometimes, doesn't he! Before I left for downtown Indy Friday morning, I remember a story Gary told me once about attending a conference and listening to a speaker named Bill Bright, who was involved with Campus Crusade. Mr. Bright stood up and announced his topic, which Gary was extremely familiar with from reading his book on the subject. So, even though Gary's heart sank because of the topic, he said to himself, "oh, well – I'll listen and try to get something out of this"! Gary told me that God spoke to him in a big way through Bill Bright's talk!

The Women of Faith speakers were outstanding! They had Biblical perspective and life experience to share with us, and they were all outstanding communicators. The overall message that came through to me through all the speakers and musicians was that we are all broken, but God knows and loves us deeply, and is with us through the hard times of life. It might sound clichéd on the written page, but hearing some personal stories of faith from some special women was a huge inspiration for me.

One of my favorite stories in the Bible, one of those stories where I almost can imagine being there, is the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus, right after Jesus had been crucified. I love the classic oil painting by the Swiss artist, Robert Zund, of the two men walking with Jesus on the dusty road from Jerusalem. Here's Max Lucado's thought on that story in

He Still Moves Stones:

"Your disappointments too heavy? Read the story of the Emmaus-bound disciples. The Savior they thought was dead now walked beside them. He entered their house and sat at their table. And something happened in their hearts. 'It felt like a fire burning in us when Jesus talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us' (Luke 24:32). Next time you're disappointed, don't panic. Don't give up. Just be patient and let God remind you he's still in control. It ain't over till it's over."

The Women of Faith Conference reminded us one more time (I think we all need reminded a lot!) of God's amazing, crazy, beautiful promises to us. Hebrews 10:23 says "let us hold firmly to the hope that we have confessed, because we can trust God to do what he promised".

Blessings,

Julie



The SonTimes is now available on our church website at:
claytonchristian.org



Kids Bits by Beth Archer

September is an exciting time for our school age children as they get back into the school activities, new teachers, seeing their school friends on a regular basis again. As we kick into the Fall schedule here at Church, we have lots of exciting things planned for the kids. Discovery Club will begin Aug 24. Charla Elmore and her team have great fun planned for the kids on Wednesday evenings. She always creates an evening of laughs, and high activity for the children all the while teaching them the great messages of God's love. Make sure the elementary age child in your life joins in the fun. Sept. 10 will be the Walk through the Bible day for our Church. It will be a great day of learning for all ages. You will definitely want to make sure your children attend and take full advantage of this great day. As we wrapping up the summer activities for our children, lets take time to say a HUGE thank you to Carmen Yost and Alannah Bartee for all their tremendous help and teaching with our children this summer. They volunteered their time to be with the children, plan many activities, teach Power UP and Sunday School. Their efforts have made a difference in the lives of our children.



Walk Through the Old Testament will be coming to CCC on Saturday, September 10, 9 - 4:30. In just a few action-packed hours, the world's most popular Bible-based seminar will change your life and the lives you touch forever. Your dynamic instructor will lead you in a highly creative, interactive learning adventure that is as much fun as it is effective. Using hand motions, catch phrases, and group review, you'll understand the Old Testament like never before. It will rekindle your desire to read the Bible and pray daily. Plan on being a part of this 6 hour workshop right here at Clayton Christian Church! The cost of \$25 includes the 6 hour workshop, a workbook, lunch and snacks. Students in grades 1-6 will have a different program at no cost. Preschool ages will have child care provided.

See Debbie Keutzer if you are willing to help with this event.

Important Dates to Remember:

September Calendar

04	Sunday Services
07	Wednesday Night
10	Walk Thru the Old Testament
11	Sunday Services
12	7:00 pm Ministry Leaders
14	Wednesday Night
16/17	Clayton Fall Festival
18	Sunday Services
	10:00 a.m. Fall Festival church service at Leonard Park
	6:00 p.m. Kobi Kimhy – Israel Guide- Plainfield Christian Church

21	Wednesday Night
25	Sunday Services
28	Wednesday

October Calendar

02	Sunday Services
05	Wednesday Night
09	Sunday Services
10	7:00 Ministry Leaders
12	Wednesday Night
16	Sunday Services
19	Wednesday Night
23	Sunday Services
26	Wednesday Night
30	Sunday Services

July 2011 Statistics

	2010	2011
Sunday School	93	83
Worship	249	224
July, 2011		
Total	\$32159.56	
Missions	\$210.00	
Bldg	\$700.00	
Imagine	\$4071.00	
Other Desig.	\$220.00	



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Glad you asked that!

Question: I've been watching the reports in the bulletin each week concerning the "Budget Need, Year to date, (YTD)" and the "Budget Giving, YTD". The growing discrepancy is quite large. How are we handling this?

Answer: The last 2 and a half years have presented a challenge to all of us. The economy, along with jobs, plunged yet consumer prices have grown. The result has been felt in most segments of our society including we here at CCC. We presently are running over \$30,000 behind our budget needs. The way we calculate this is to simply take our yearly budget and divide it by 52. We actually don't spend on this even schedule and by the way our 2011 budget was less than 2010, but it is a good way to track how we are doing. Gary mentioned in one of his messages that we have made all of our mission obligation payments, made payroll and paid all our bills, so where is the shortfall?

The Elders have been monitoring this trend for several months and the way we have coped is by reducing the budgeted mortgage payment. Just what does that mean? Each year, included in our budget, is our scheduled mortgage payment that was established upon completion of the construction of this church building in 2001. As years passed and finances allowed, we would make extra payments. At the kickoff of our *Imagine More* campaign, we were several months ahead of our budgeted scheduled mortgage payments. Now as we pay the *Imagine* money exclusively on the mortgage principle, it has propelled us even further ahead of these payments. We

continue to make interest and principle payments, just not the size we budgeted, (around \$400 less each week).

Yes the lights are still on, but the reserve monies we started the year have been eroded by the \$30,000 shortfall. We operate each week with no reserve or emergency money.

So what is the answer? We would like to be making our normal mortgage payment in addition to the *Imagine* payment. That would really help decrease the principle. Our building keeps getting older and will have increased maintenance. Our ministries continue to meet the needs of our body and the community. But money is running low. A 10% increase in budget giving would erase the shortfall. To put that into perspective, a \$100 a week giver increases by \$10 or a \$50 giver add \$5. Doesn't sound like much, but multiplied by all our givers, it would have a tremendous impact. Please pray concerning these needs. Let God lead us to His solution. *Glad you asked that!* Bill Jamison



Clayton Christian Church
 Established 1863