



RAYTOWN CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Christian Pilot

January 2017

Visit our website RaytownCC.org for information on Upcoming Events & Activities & Regularly Updated Information

Raytown Christian Church is a lot larger than most of us realize. Based on attendance, did you know that RCC is larger than 88.6% of US churches? With over 400 people active in the congregation, it's impossible for the church's office, staff, or board to communicate one-on-one with everyone. And so, to make sure church information is available to everyone, we provide the following communication tools:

1. The Classic Worship Bulletin provides relevant announcements for the week
2. The Announcement Slides that are displayed prior to worship include upcoming events
3. The CoPilot is a printed Announcement flyer that contains current events and is posted throughout the church every week and provided to the Adult Sunday School classes
4. The Pilot newsletter has articles, ads, and a calendar of scheduled events and is available electronically or in print versions for you to pick up at the church building
5. The website has the church calendar that is updated as needed so that it is always current
6. Breaking news and events are regularly posted on the church's Facebook account
7. There are a variety of church-wide email lists that you can sign up for. See inside for more information.

If you're committed to "keeping in the know," please choose a couple of these options to keep up with on a regular basis. Your office, staff, and board will be diligent to keep these channels up to date so the information is always available for you to go find when you need it most.





Six Tools to Deeper Spirituality

Every so often, I get a question about what tools I use and recommend for spiritual development and I thought I'd share them with you in this month's Pilot.

1. The Bible

Of course, the most important tool for anyone exploring Christianity or committed to growing deeper spiritually is the Bible. However, I've learned that many people are confused by the different translations and versions that are available. Most of us who were raised in the church were brought up on the King James Version (KJV) or the Revised Standard Version (RSV).

The KJV was translated from Latin, Greek, and Hebrew in 1611 and reflects the poetic literary style of Shakespeare and other writers of the time. It has been revised and updated many times over the years, but its prose have a lasting beauty. However, most modern Americans find the KJV very difficult to understand, since it retains archaic vocabulary and sentence structure. The RSV was the first translation of the Bible designed to be easier to understand than the KJV. However, it too retained much of the archaic sentence structure and most Americans find it difficult to read as well.

I personally use the New International Version (NIV) for study work, but will regularly look at other versions to get a broader sense of how translators have handled the original languages of the Bible. I still like the Good News Bible and will turn to The Message to get a different perspective. But when someone asks me "What's the best version of the Bible to read?" my response is always "Whichever one you will pick up and read." If you're new to the faith or new to regular Bible reading, the NIV Easy Reader's Version is good, the Message is good, and the English Standard Version is good, especially if you get the printed version because it has lots of extra "helps."

2. Bible App

We live in a different world and though I've relied on the printed version of the Bible since I was in kindergarten, I rarely pick up my trusty leather bound Bible anymore. Today, I'm virtually never without a library of Bibles and Bible reference tools since I carry them on my phone, iPad, Droid tablet, and computers.

There are quite a few really good Bible Apps today. Probably the most popular is YouVersion.com (available for virtually all operating systems). Personally, I've been using the OliveTree.com Bible app for over a decade. I use it because I have access to literally hundreds of books, commentaries, encyclopedias, and original language resources as well. Olive Tree is available cross platform and is a free program, though it has limited free Bibles and books. However, the NIV, KJV, New King James, and the English Standard Version (Bible text only) are all available for free.

3. Bible Reading Plans

I have an appointment with God almost every morning. During that time I read from the Bible, I write in my journal, and I pray. Over the years, I've come to depend on a Bible reading plan to keep me from reading the same books and passages over and over while neglecting others. There are a number of websites that provide reading plans, and nearly every Bible App includes a variety of reading plans. I use Wayne Cordeiro's *Life Journal Reading Plan* that takes me through the Bible in a year, but there are many plans that are less aggressive so you can read through the Bible over a couple of years.

4. Journals

I've been a regular journaler for over two decades. Getting started wasn't particularly easy for me. It all began with a New Year's resolution to journal every day that lasted all of two weeks before I gave up. I tried the next year with a new journal and a companion book. It lasted less than a month. The next year, though, I let myself off the hook by saying "I'll journal when I feel like it." Since then I've filled up numerous journals and have changed my journaling habits as the mood hit me.

Because I don't sit still to pray well, I've found that by journaling my prayers I spend more significant and meaningful time with God ... and I hear more from God as well. I journal differently each day, based on what I'm feeling like.

Sometimes I use Wayne Cordeiro's SOAP plan. S – I jot down the **S**cripture that caught my eye in my reading. O – I write my **O**bservations about the passage that caught my eye. A – I write an **A**pplication of what I've learned from the passage and observations ... this is the *what am I going to do about it part of my reflections*. P – I then make a commitment to God in a written **P**rayer.

Other times, I reflect on the events of the previous day or week (or like last week, I reflected on the last year).

Sometimes, I feel a bit creative and I'll haul out my colored pencils and draw during my journaling time (my books *Prayer for People Who Can't Sit Still* and *High-Voltage Spirituality* available in the church library both have a number of other journaling ideas).

I've always journaled with pen and paper, but I know a number of folks who use Google Docs, Evernote, or other apps to record their reflections in.

5. Digging Deeper, Going Further Bible Study

Each week the sermon handout sheet has a Digging Deeper, Going Further Bible study worksheet for those who want to take the Sunday service to the next level. The study is created for both individual and small group use.

6. RightNowMedia.com

Raytown Christian Church has purchased a subscription license for all our members, guests, and participants to RightNowMedia.com. RNM has over 14,000 Bible study and Christian training videos from hundreds of different pastors, professors, and other scholars and teachers. Over the next few Wednesday evenings, I'll be leading a study on the book of James using Francis Chan's study from RNM. There are handouts available for download from the site and if you cannot attend the study on Wednesdays, you can follow along by viewing online.



Member Care in the New Year at RCC

After training and commissioning, Care Teams are ready for their ministry to our members in 2017. Team leaders for Critical Care (hospitalization & hospice) are John Fields and Mary LaPlante; for Extended Care (those home-centered): Jon & Kathy Le Chien; for Bereavement (funeral meals and follow-up): Barbara Carmack; for Stephen Ministry (confidential spiritual nurture and support): Robin Smith and Lynn Brown.

In addition, a Clergy Team of Disciples pastors from our Region has been integrated into our care program and will be ready to conduct funeral services as needed for our members and families.

We are blessed with dedicated individuals at RCC, and you may be assured that their gifts of compassion in Christ's name will strengthen our congregational life together.

Spam: 1. N. Unwanted and unsolicited email; 2. A potted meat product popular in Hawaii (and mostly nowhere else)

The last thing Raytown Christian Church wants to do is fill your inbox with unwanted emails that are irrelevant to you. To that end, RCC has a number of email lists that you may ... or may not ... want to be included in.

The following email lists are available and open to all:

Bereavement

Upcoming Events/Announcements

Pilot Newsletter

General Board Packet

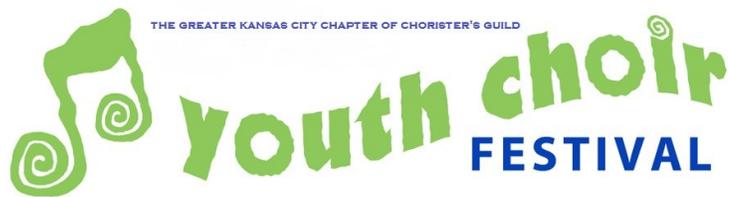
If you would like to be on one or all of these lists, please sign up by emailing Jenn (office@raytowncc.org). *Be sure to include what emails you would like to receive from the list above.*

If you are currently on one of these lists and would like to be removed, please let us know by emailing Jenn (office@raytowncc.org) or calling the church office (816) 353-1708.

Please be aware: If you are not on the Bereavement List, you will not receive email notifications of funerals, memorials, viewings, etc.

Inspirations Schedule

1/8	Sing 9:00am Bells 4:30pm
1/11	Choir 6:00-7:00pm
1/15	No choir or bells
1/18	Choir 6:00-7:00pm
1/22	Sing 9:00am Bells 4:30pm
1/25	Choir 6:00-7:00pm
1/29	Sing 9:00am KC Youth Choir Festival 12:00-6:00pm



The Greater Kansas City Chapter of Chorister's Guild will hold their Youth Choir Festival on Sunday, January 29, at Village Presbyterian Church. Our Inspirations have been learning the music this fall in preparation for working with an outstanding clinician that afternoon before the concert/worship service at 5:00. Raytown Christian parents have always provided wonderful support for this event. Mark this day on your calendar to hear some great youth sing some wonderful anthems.

Outreach Corner

Food Pantry Totals for

November 2016:

Families: 117

Adults: 129

Children: 81

Seniors: 94

Total People Served: 327

December 2016:

Families: 87

Adults: 102

Children: 59

Seniors: 73

Total People Served: 234

Completed Outreach Events

Angel Tree Outpouring

Thank You Church!!!!

Angel Tree is successful because of the outpouring of love from all of us. We were able to provide two Christmas gifts each to 82 children in the Raytown area who have a parent incarcerated. It truly is a blessing to see so many of you open your hearts and billfolds to take a name from the tree, purchase a gift, and return it wrapped ready for children to open from their parent.

We are also thankful for all those who made phone calls to the children's parent/caregiver, to those who organized and sorted the gifts by family for delivery, AND especially to the very brave and faithful who came and delivered the gifts on the weekend of "ice and snow" on December 17.

We also want you to know that we are ever thankful to the owners and employees of the Daily Double Lounge, in the Woodson Village Shopping Area, who partner with us and take over 25 tags from our Angel Tree to provide gifts. They are a blessing from the Raytown community who share their love to the Angel Tree children.

Angel Tree Outpouring

Thank you, Church, for your gifts of mittens, gloves, caps, head bands, scarves, etc. We received 122 items, some of which were sets, to donate to Robinson Elementary School as our initial act in our partnership with the school. Elaine Schulze will be representing RCC at a meeting January 5th with Robinson officials to see how we can support them through the Caring for Kids program.

Upcoming Outreach Events

New Outreach Ministry---RCC Baby Care Closet

We are just beginning this new Outreach Ministry: The RCC Baby Care Closet. The focus is to help provide some basic baby needs for parents with a new baby in the family.

We are asking for the following **NEW** donations:

- sleepers and onesies up to 6 month size only
- burp clothes and small bibs
- receiving blankets and regular baby blankets
- baby bath towels and washcloths
- size one disposable diapers
- baby bath and baby care products

If you are interested in helping with this ministry, please contact Carol Frevert.

Thank you for all of the wonderful donations of baby items at the Baby Shower for Jesus. Your hearts are BIG and we are thankful.

RCC Ministry Fair

On December 4 , we hosted a ministry fair to show the varied ways you can volunteer or get involved in our many Outreach Ministries and Community Ministries housed in our church.

In 2017, as you make your NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS, maybe one resolution could be to volunteer or get involved in one of our awesome ministries.

Angel Tree	Kairos	Embracing Education
Raytown Summer Lunch Ministry	Food Pantry	
	Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts	
Girl Scouts and Brownies	Alcoholics Anonymous	

If you are wanting to reach out in a new way, please contact Carol Frevert.

Men's Challenge Breakfast

Jan 14, 9 AM, Conference Room

Huge delicious breakfast!

Great study and conversation

Led by Sam Goforth

Every guy invited!

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 15th

Please plan to attend this very special meeting to vote on the 2017 Budget.



RAYTOWN CHRISTIAN CHURCH

6108 Blue Ridge Boulevard

Raytown, MO 64133