



The Christian Pilot

February 2017

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

Let's Build a Snowman ... Inside!

We don't want any more snow outside, but let's have fun during the month of February and build a snowman inside...out of toilet paper!! We are asking for donations of toilet paper to be given to our Food Pantry and to REAP (Raytown Emergency Assistance Program).

Personal care products and paper goods are not always easy to obtain and our donations can help our Food Pantry provide these to our clients.

Remember to bring your toilet paper to the lobby area and place in the marked donation tubs. THEN...watch for the snowman to be built. Like "Frosty", he may even have a scarf, hat, and pipe.

Winter Warmth Blessing for Raytown - February 12th

On Sunday, February 12, we will be blessing the Raytown community with 100 sets of winter sock hats and gloves. We need ALL of us to take a sock hat/glove set and give it away to someone in Raytown. We will have sets for boys, girls, women, and men and we will have a tag from RCC on the set that blesses the person you choose. Maybe it's someone in line at the post office, grocery store, Wal-Mart, McDonalds, Dollar General, on the street, at Sonic or even a neighbor. It's your choice....just make sure it is in Raytown.

Since February is the month of Valentine's Day, we can warm someone's hands, head, and heart with our blessing of gloves and hats.



Faith Sharing Made
Simple

Whenever a pastor mentions the word “evangelism” or the phrase “faith sharing,” they can be certain that a large section of the church has immediately tuned out. In fact, when I pitched the book *Hitchhikers’ Guide to Evangelism* to my publisher, they told me “Evangelism books just don’t sell.”

Part of the reason the “E” word is so dreaded is because most of us have images running through our heads of being asked to knock on doors or asking our friends if they know Jesus.

First off, pretty much everyone hates doing those things ... including most clergy. Not only do we hate doing it, most of the time behaviors like that are unappreciated. Second, that kind of evangelism isn’t just off-putting, it’s ineffective in today’s world. Most Americans have been inoculated from churchified evangelism methods and when someone tries, their negative impressions of Christians and the church are hardened.

Over the years, what I’ve found is that the best way to share your faith is to rely on the instructions found in 1 Peter 3:15. “Always being prepared to give an answer to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.” Peter makes three presumptions in that verse.


First, he assumes you have a reason for hope. That is, you have made a personal and meaningful commitment to Jesus Christ.

Second, he makes a presumption that you can articulate your hope. In other words, you can put into words how you relate to Jesus Christ. It turns out, many, if not most, church members have no idea how to put their faith into words. Instead, most Christians share how much their church means to them rather than how much Jesus means to them. And that’s a non-starter in today’s world. The sad fact is, most non-Christians aren’t interested in church. But studies and polls show that they are interested in finding a religion that would make a real-life difference in their real-life lives. And so it’s important that Christians are prepared and ready to share their real-life faith. (Dr. Kris and I did a video some years ago on how to articulate your faith story if you’d like to learn: <http://ctalk.tv/5faces>)

Finally, Peter presumes people are asking about your hope. Truth is, faith sharing is easy if someone asks you about it. The problem is, it’s a rare Christian who gets asked about their faith, especially by someone who isn’t already a Christian (or a lapsed church attender).

But it’s not difficult to get people to ask about your faith. On the other hand, it is time consuming and most of the time it “won’t just happen.” It’s necessary to prepare the fields, sow the seeds, and nurture the seedlings if you expect to reap a harvest ... in this case, if you expect people to ask you about your faith.

Prepare the Fields: This is where most long-time church members suffer a “fail” in faith sharing. It’s simply not possible to be faithful to Jesus’ Great Commission to make disciples if Christians aren’t hanging around and befriending Atheists, Agnostics, Nones (people with no faith), and Dones (people who have quit the faith). Step one for most Christians is to spend less time in the church building and with their church friends, and then being intentional in investing significant time with those who have or have had no use for religion. In other words, go make some new friends!



Sow the Seeds: This part of evangelism is nearly my favorite part. This is where you get to Be The Church for others. It's where you invest in blessing others! The seeds you're going to sow with your new friends are the seeds of friendship, openness, and conversation. They're not necessarily the seeds of the "gospel." They're not Bible verses. They're not even invitations to church. In fact, sometimes they're not words at all! You sow seeds by opening up repeated opportunities for increasingly deeper conversation. But you've got to scratch the soil very gently at first, and then dig down a little at a time.

Over the years, I've done this by visiting <http://Brownielocks.com> and checking their daily calendar for upcoming opportunities to "share" and open the doors for light conversation with my friends, neighbors, and acquaintances. Here are some examples and ideas you might be able to adapt for your own seed sowing:

- Feb 1 is Candy Making Day. If you don't make candy, you could buy some "homemade" candy and take it a friend or two with a note that says "Was thinking of you on Candy Making Day."
- Feb 9 is both Bagel and Pizza Day. It might be fun to combine the celebrations by inviting a couple of friends over to make personalized bagel pizzas. If that doesn't spark some great conversations, nothing will!
- Feb 15 is Random Act of Kindness Day ... and it's Gumdrop Day too. Remember that Random Acts of Kindness don't need to be anonymous. Do something really awesome for one of your unchurched coworkers or neighbors and include a bag of gumdrops.
- Feb 19 is Chocolate Mint Day and Best Friends Day. I'll bet you can use your imagination here!
- Feb 27 is Cupcake Day. Bake (or buy) a dozen cupcakes and deliver them to your unchurched friends and let them know about Cupcake Day.

The point of all this is to be a blessings and sow the opportunity for light conversations that can be developed into deeper conversations. And it's when conversations get deep that the Holy Spirit has an opportunity to work best.

Nurture the Seedlings: Sowing and nurturing take time. It's an investment in the lives of those who don't yet "get it," so it could be an investment that tries your patience and temperance sometimes. But if you're patient and persistent, the 1st Peter 3:15 questions will come. If you're doing your part, they always come ... the Holy Spirit will make sure of that. The query may come in the form of a request like "Will you pray for me?" Or in the form of a tough question like "Why would God ... ?" It could come with a confession that doesn't sound like a question, but really is: "I've been so empty for so long ..." Or it could come from an inner nudge, "I was wondering if it would be okay if I came to your church?" (Believe it or not, I've had that question asked of me several times over the last few months.)

Every Christian is expected, commanded, and commissioned to engage in making more disciples. Indeed, that's the primary (and perhaps sole) purpose of the church. Take a look at your calendar and see where you're spending your time. If you haven't been spending time building friendships with those who aren't Christians, block out some time this week. Make some homemade candy (Feb 1); find some way to leverage Groundhog Day (Feb 2); or hand out some Double Bubble on Bubble Gum Day (Feb 3) to start building relationships and planting seeds. Invest in being a blessing to those outside of the faith with your kindnesses and your time and you'll be rewarded with opportunities to share your faith. And that's what being the church is really all about.



Inspirations - Youth in Motion

The Inspirations, and especially Kim, would like to thank all those who have served by providing a meal/snacks or leading the evening youth group discussions during January! It is a blessing to hear from others and grow in the faith. This semester we have great things planned to help further our goal of being the change in ourselves through growing our personal relationship with Jesus; being the change in our community by serving both within the walls of RCC and in Raytown; and by being the change in the world. This last change is something that seems at times the least obtainable, however, the youth and sponsors of the Inspirations know it only take a small stone to create large ripples. If we affect those closest to us, you never know what a difference you can make.

Youth groups will continue from 6-8pm on Sunday evenings during the month of February.

February 5th - No youth groups

February 12th - Keepin' It Real with Kim

Love makes the world go round

February 19th - Summer Commitment Sunday

Planning for summer trip/fundraisers for Group Workcamp Participation

February 26th - Open Mic

Come prepared with any topic/question and we will look together to see what the Bible might say and discuss

If you are an adult who is interested in helping with the Inspirations or would like to provide either a meal or a lesson one Sunday evening, please contact Kim Lawhead at 816-352-4891. If you feel like working with teenagers is something you enjoy – come join me. These kids are amazing and everyone should get a chance to know them.

Inspirations Schedule

2/1	Choir 6:00-7:00pm
2/5	Sing 9:00am (no bells)
2/8	Choir 6:00-7:00pm
2/12	Sing 9:00am; Bells 4:30pm
2/15	Choir 6:00-7:00pm
2/19	Sing 9:00am; Bells 4:30pm
2/22	Choir 6:00-7:00pm
2/26	Sing 9:00am; Bells 4:30pm



Inspirations Summer Mission Trip

Summer Mission Trip planning is underway! We are going to be joining Group Mission Workcamps to assist residents in East Moline, Illinois, with necessary home repair. **Dates for the trip are July 16 – 22.** We will be spending the whole week in East Moline with other Christian youth from around the country. Each day will be filled with hard work, getting to know our neighbor and daily devotions/worship opportunities. Some possible fundraising opportunities being planned include a spaghetti dinner, the Palm Sunday breakfast, a potato bar and a car wash. **A deposit of \$50 for each participant is due by March 1st.** If you would like to participate in this mission trip, but finances are tight please contact Kim Lawhead at 816-352-4891. No one should miss this amazing week serving others, growing in faith and fellowship and becoming closer to Jesus as you become His hands.



I would like to express my sincere gratitude for all the prayers, expressions of encouragement, cards, flowers and meals prepared so lovingly by those who served on the meal train! This journey has been longer than expected but through it all, this body of Christ has surrounded me and my family with Jesus' love and tangible support and care. Raytown Christian is a true blessing!

Kim Lawhead and family



Moderator's Minute

I am so pleased to report that our annual budget was approved at the Congregational Meetings on Sunday, Jan 22nd. There were a few no votes and I would like to hear from those of you who voted no so I could get a better understanding of your concerns. Whenever speaking about the budget, one must think about revenues, and that's true now as well. Some who usually pledge have not yet turned in one for this year. If this is you, please pray about this, and hopefully make a pledge to help support the many ministries of Raytown Christian Church.

Also at the Congregational Meetings, several new Board members and other positions were approved. Thank you to Jeff Steele for accepting Vice-Moderator; DiAnne Atkin, Secretary; Don Burns and Julio Bambini as members-at-large; Sam Goforth, elder; Exine Harness and Lazaro Dixon, deacon. Thanks also goes to the nominating committee of Larry Frevert, Julio Bambini and Sandy Fattig.

Lastly, I am pleased to announce that Kelley Zimmermann and Sandy Kohler have agreed to coordinate the creation of a new picture directory. Instead of using Olan Mills, we will create it ourselves. Pictures will be taken before and after Sunday worship services. No dates have been set yet, but it will happen soon. We also want to get pictures of our home-centered to include. Cellphones are amazing cameras. What do you think? A new picture directory!!

I am excited about the new year and about building the future of Raytown Christian Church. Working together and praying together, we can make a difference!

Support us when you shop
for Valentine's Day

Buy your gifts at
smile.amazon.com and Amazon donates.

amazon smile

Visit smile.amazon.com and select Raytown Christian Church as your organization. Each time you purchase from Amazon on smile.amazon.com The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate **0.5%** of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges.

Men's Challenge Breakfast

Saturday, February 4th - 9:00am

Office Conference Room

Huge delicious breakfast!

Great study & conversation led by Sam Goforth

This month we're hosting Breakfast With the Cops &

Raytown Police will be joining us

Men of all ages are welcome!



RAYTOWN CHRISTIAN CHURCH

6108 Blue Ridge Boulevard

Raytown, MO 64133

February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 1:00 Food Pantry 5:00 DOCKids Chimes 5:30 Dinner 6:00 DOCKids Club & Choir Adult Study Inspirations Choir 6:30 Sanctuary Choir	2 8:00 Men's Breakfast 6:30 One Desire 7:00 Elders Meeting	3 1:00 Food Pantry	4 9:00 Men's Challenge Breakfast
5 9:00 Classic Worship 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Praise Worship Adult Sunday School 11:30 After Hours Coffee Fellowship	6 6:00 AA 7:00 Alanon Scouts & Cub Pack	7 9:30 Raytown Garden Club	8 10:00 CWF 1:00 Food Pantry 5:00 DOCKids Chimes 5:30 Dinner 6:00 DOCKids Club & Choir Adult Study Inspirations Choir 6:30 Sanctuary Choir	9 10:00 Four Seasons 6:30 One Desire	10 1:00 Food Pantry	11
12 9:00 Classic Worship 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Praise Worship Adult Sunday School 11:30 After Hours Coffee Fellowship 12:00 Getting Started Class 4:30 Inspiration Ringers 6:00 The Chalice Bronze Youth Group	13 6:00 AA Kairos 6:30 Gilchrist 7:00 Alanon Scouts & Cub Pack	14 Happy Valentine's Day! 	15 1:00 Food Pantry 5:00 DOCKids Chimes 5:30 Dinner 6:00 DOCKids Club & Choir Adult Study Inspirations Choir 6:30 Sanctuary Choir	16 8:00 Men's Breakfast 6:30 One Desire	17 1:00 Food Pantry	18 12:00 H&H Lunch
19 9:00 Classic Worship 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Praise Worship Adult Sunday School 11:30 After Hours Coffee Fellowship 4:30 Inspiration Ringers 6:00 The Chalice Bronze Youth Group	20 Office Closed 	21	22 1:00 Food Pantry 5:00 DOCKids Chimes 5:30 Dinner 6:00 DOCKids Club & Choir Adult Study Inspirations Choir 6:30 Sanctuary Choir	23 10:00 Four Seasons 6:30 One Desire 7:00 General Board	24 9:00 Adventures In Learning 1:00 Food Pantry	25
26 9:00 Classic Worship 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Praise Worship Adult Sunday School 11:30 After Hours Coffee Fellowship 4:30 Inspiration Ringers 6:00 The Chalice Bronze Youth Group	27 6:00 AA Stephen Ministry 7:00 Alanon Scouts & Cub Pack	28				