



Raytown Christian Church
RaytownCC.org
office@raytowncc.org

The Christian Pilot

July 2017

Visit our website for more information on upcoming events & activities & updated information.

We Need Your Financial Help To Make Our Church...



We have a lovely church used many times each week by our members and our surrounding community. Much has been done at our church to make it accessible to those with physical disabilities...the outside ramp, the inside ramp, the elevator, and dedicated stalls in our bathrooms. However, our members and visitors can only use these amenities if they can open the doors.

To be fully accessible, we need to make both sets of the two main doors electric - those at the top of the outside ramp and our main entrance and also the doors to our main restrooms. This will require a total of four openers - inside and outside at the two main doors and two openers for each of the bathroom doors.

Our church leadership has given the approval for this work to be performed. We want to be able to be open to all people, no matter what their limitations are. Leadership has approved a quote that will make this happen, which will total about \$11,000.

As this is outside the budget for this year, and we would like to get this in place as soon as possible, we are coming to you for financial assistance. If you're able to give please be sure to note in the memo section of your check or write on your envelope if giving cash "Automatic Doors". Whatever you are able to give will help us reach this goal!



Who's My Neighbor?

Dr. Bill Tenny-Brittian

A couple months ago, the RCC Board appointed a Visionary Task Force to put together a comprehensive plan for bringing to life the recommendations of the 2014 Sustainability Team. Between then and now, the Vision Team has been developing a step-by-step strategic and tactical plan, beginning with reviewing, evaluating, and creating a unifying foundation of mission, values, and mission. Over the past couple of months, this column has been reviewing those foundations a bit at a time.

Research is a part of that work, and a couple weeks ago I pulled the demographic and psychographic reports for our “Maximum Ministry Area,” sometimes called our MMA. The boundaries of a church’s MMA are determined by the distance someone is likely to commute to attend a church based on effective marketing. For RCC, that number was determined (by using a membership plotting tool) to be approximately a 12 minute commute in all directions, though the boundary is cropped at I-435 to the west and I-70 to the north based on the studies that suggest people are unlikely to cross and interstate highway to attend a church.

If you’ve been living in Raytown for some time, you’re likely aware that the demographics of the community has been shifting on multiple levels. And if you’re new to the area, you may not be aware of the shift that’s taking place now. So, with that in mind, let’s get to know our neighbors a bit better.

First, the numbers:

- There are about 73,000 people in our MMA. Over the next ten years, the area is expected to grow by fewer than 300 people.
- Of those 73,000, about 51,000 are not active in a local church.
- The area is projected to grow by about 1 percent over the next ten years, which is statistically irrelevant.
- The average age in the area is about 40 years-old.
- The largest age segment is between 34-54 years-old and the second largest virtually tied between those over 65 years-old and those between 5–17. This suggests the largest segment of the population reside in family-households with children.
- The majority of the adult population have some college. On the other hand, less than 10 percent haven’t completed high school or equivalency.
- About 44 percent of the family households are single-parent households.
- The median family income is \$58,350. Over the next five years, the average family’s income is projected to actually decrease to \$57,919.
- About 58 percent of the population is White, 32 percent are Black, and less than 6 percent are Hispanic. Interestingly enough, ten years ago, those numbers were nearly identical and aren’t projected to change significantly over the next ten years either. Racially, our area is stable.

Demographics are all about numbers. But numbers aren't terribly helpful when trying to figure out how to reach our neighbors. Thankfully, there's a field of research called psychographics that looks at the proclivities and practices of different people groups. Originally, psychographics were created for use by big corporations to help them develop effective marketing strategies. Today, the research is available to churches as well, giving us a fairly clear picture of the values, beliefs, practices, and proclivities of the people groups who live around us.

The first thing of note is the religious practices of our neighbors. In our community, nearly one-third of our neighbors (~22,000) say they have no religious affiliation whatsoever. They're not Christian, they're not Buddhist, they're not Islamic, they're not agnostic. When asked about their religion, they say they're "None." But of those Nones, one-third say they are interested in spirituality.

The top three reasons people in our community say don't attend church is because (1) churches are filled with judgmental people; (2) churches are too focused on money; and (3) when they visited a church they didn't feel welcome.

The top reason formerly churched people dropped out of church is because the church was non-supportive during a personal or family crisis. This was followed by a church's overemphasis on money.

Another key revelation is that over a third of those who live in the MMA are young adults who are committed to personal betterment. These "Achievers" are actively seeking to have a better life through their career, family, relationships, etc.

These Achievers in our community are mostly under 40 years-old and most have children. However, they're also more likely to be the head of single-parent households, which suggests they have a high interest in ensuring their children are well served.

Interestingly, although an overemphasis on money was cited as a key reason why people won't go to church (or drop out of church), the top concerns of those who live in our MMA are about managing finances.

And finally, the ministries that are most likely to appeal to those in our MMA are: (1) quality Christian education for children; (2) family development; (3) opportunities to make a difference in the community; and (4) relevant personal spiritual development groups.

Of course, this is just the tip of the proverbial iceberg when it comes to demographic and psychographic reports. However, even this is suggestive about what it may take to reach our neighbors. For instance, the data infers:

- Providing excellent programming for children is going to be important.
- Helping visiting single parents feel their children are secure from non-custodial parents is another factor.
- Helping younger adults find fulfillment in their vocations and avocations may be a key.
- Ensuring our hospitality is extended for a diversity of visitors will be necessary.
- Connecting people to meaningful, hands-on ministry may attract a number of people.

Your Vision Team is working hard to discern the most effective course of action for reaching and connecting with those in our community. But one thing we are sure of already ... pretty much everyone who wanted to be in church last Sunday was in church last Sunday. And that means we have our work cut out for us: It turns out that the neighbors we're called to reach out to and to connect with are those who didn't want to be in any church last week. And it's up to us to show them that there's value in being a part of the Raytown Christian Church.



Outreach Corner

Carol Frevert,
Outreach/Missions Chair

Food Pantry Totals for May, 2017

Families: 124

Adults: 154

Children: 85

Seniors: 95

Total People Served: 334

Completed Outreach Events

Special Offering for Embracing Education - Sunday, June 25th

Thank you to everyone who helped financially support a child to be a part of our summer tutoring and enrichment program this summer. There are approximately 20 children who have been accepted into the program. They will receive assistance in math, reading, and writing, have field trips for enrichment, and be a part of the Mid-Continent Library summer reading program. Children will receive a light breakfast when they arrive each day, a mid-morning snack, and will take a lunch home each day from the Raytown Summer Lunch Ministry. We ask your prayers for the teaching staff and assistants who will be working with the children. We know they will be a blessing to the children and their families. If you are interested in volunteering to read with the children, please contact Tracy Colin, Embracing Education Director. The program begins Wednesday, July 5 and ends Friday, August 4.

Micah Ministry Service Night

Raytown Christian took 8 volunteers to help serve the evening meal for Micah Ministry at Independence Blvd Christian Church on Monday, June 12. We also took the many generous donations of clothing, shoes, socks, towels, blankets and sheets that are given out through the clothing closet. Thank you to the following volunteers: Frank and Donna Zeller, Susie and Jenni Arnold, Eric Dawes, Carol Mozley, Exine Harness, and Carol Frevert.

Appreciation & Gratitude to Clarissa Schilling

Clarissa Schilling has been the Food Pantry Coordinator for over 6 years. She has resigned effective June 30 to pursue working more for Hallmark and to manage extra family commitments. Clarissa has been instrumental in helping organize and manage the Food Pantry and move it to serve clients in an efficient and effective way. Her energy and commitment to serving others will be missed.

Upcoming Outreach Events

Summer Lunch Ministry

In July, God's Hunger Warriors will begin gathering every weekday for six weeks at RCC to pack and deliver lunches to over 500 Raytown children who might otherwise not eat at all. Our congregation has been richly blessed by this ministry and we hope you will join our interfaith and intergenerational group this summer. How can YOU be a blessing?

Volunteer...

- on our re-packaging day on Wednesday, June 28, 9 - noon
- to be a sandwich maker/lunch packer/re-packager
- to work in the kitchen to make preparations for the day's planned meal
- to drive or ride along to make deliveries at area apartments

Thank you for the donations of sandwich and snack baggies and napkins that will be used every single day to send lunches out to the children.

We will be selling Raytown Summer Lunch Ministry t-shirts in July for \$10. If interested, please contact Carol Frevert.

Summer Food Pantry Closure

Raytown Christian Church Food Pantry will be closed during the summer months between 7-1-17 through 8-15-17 in efforts to fully support the Raytown Summer Lunch Ministries. Clients were given a list of other Raytown community area food pantries and were given a list of Summer Lunch Ministry delivery sites. The RCC food pantry will reopen on Wednesday, August 16 and will be open on Wednesdays only from 1 - 3 pm. Our pantry will be open one day a week and clients will be served once a month and must show proof of living in the Raytown School District. Shirley Townsend will be the new Food Pantry Coordinator. If you are interested in volunteering in the Food Pantry, please contact Shirley Townsend.



Inspirations...Youth In Motion

As summer starts, the RCC youth are still preparing for our mission week and also starting to look forward to the fall.

July 2nd

Team Building

Team building fun will begin at noon.

July 15th

Mission Trip Load and Lock In

All mission trip participants will need to help load tools and personal items beginning at 3pm on the 15th of July. We will be having a lock in to ensure everyone is present and ready to hit "The Road" the next morning.

July 16th – 23rd

Mission Week at East Moline, Illinois

Please keep our youth and sponsors in prayer as we are the hands and feet of Christ. In addition, pray that the faith and personal relationship with Christ is strengthened for each participant so that we return excited to share the Good News with others and share in Christ's mission here in Raytown upon our return.



Tech Arts
Keyboard Player
Videographer
Hospitality Team
Website Manager

Contact the church office if you are interested in helping in any of these areas!



Moderator's Minute

Steve Smith

In his 1961 Inaugural Address, President Kennedy, in his heavy Massachusetts accent, said "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." I know some of you are now hearing the sound of his voice saying those words. Great speech. Great memory. We can, of course, say the same thing about Raytown Christian Church. In our beautiful Midwestern voice, **"What can you do for Raytown Christian Church?"** We have so many opportunities to serve our Lord and our Church, especially this summer. Our Continuing Education Program and our Summer Lunch Program both begin July 5th. Maybe you could teach or read a book. Or maybe you could make a lunch or deliver lunches or donate plastic baggies. The Youth trip is July 16-22nd. Maybe you could make a donation to support the program. The nominating committee, led by Gaylord Salisbury along with Sue Bambini, Beth Fields, Kyle Hornbostel and Robin Smith, are searching for people to be elders, deacons and members-at-large. Maybe you could fill one of those roles. You see, the opportunities to serve the Lord and our Church are endless. Every job is important. So ask yourself, **"What can I do for Raytown Christian Church?"** Where is the Lord leading you?



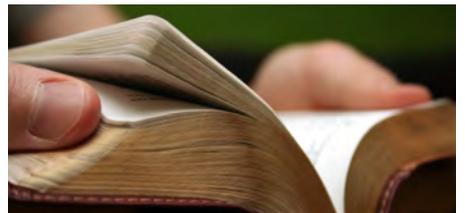
CWF is again sponsoring an all church "school supply drive". REAP will be our recipient of choice as they serve Raytown children. They always run out of spiral notebooks, pocket folders, rulers, index cards and colored pencils if you need some ideas while shopping. We will collect until July 16th. REAP volunteers will be packing the back packs on July 17th so that the children have them before school begins. Just bring your donations to church and put them in the container marked "school supplies", we'll do the rest.



July 16th - 23rd - East Moline, Illinois

Recommended Daily Reading List

7/1 Acts 1	7/11 Acts 9	7/21 Acts 18	7/31 Acts 26
7/2 Psalm 1	7/12 Acts 10	7/22 Acts 19	
7/3 Acts 2	7/13 Acts 11	7/23 Psalm 4	
7/4 Acts 3	7/14 Acts 12	7/24 Acts 20	
7/5 Acts 4	7/15 Acts 13	7/25 Acts 21	
7/6 Acts 5	7/16 Psalm 3	7/26 Acts 22	
7/7 Acts 6	7/17 Acts 14	7/27 Acts 23	
7/8 Acts 7	7/18 Acts 15	7/28 Acts 24	
7/9 Psalm 2	7/19 Acts 16	7/29 Acts 25	
7/10 Acts 8	7/20 Acts 17	7/30 Psalm 5	



CARE MINISTRY TRAINING

Tuesday, July 25 at 7:00pm

We will meet in the beautifully redecorated Youth Lounge for our next Care Ministry Training. Our focus will be on Prayer, especially **Intercessory Prayer**, that is, learning how to pray effectively for the needs of our care receivers, whether **Healing and Recovery** or simply **Comfort and Peace**.

Jesus tells us in John 14:12-14, that as his followers we can do greater things than He did. One thing included in that promise is that through Prayer we have the power to ask for and receive healing and help for ourselves and for others. Not because we ourselves have such power or are by nature especially gifted in that area (some of us may have that gift, but not all of us do.) But our heavenly Father promises to hear and answer our prayers and that makes Prayer the most important “work” that we can do on behalf of our care receivers. We will consider and discuss how we can do that better.

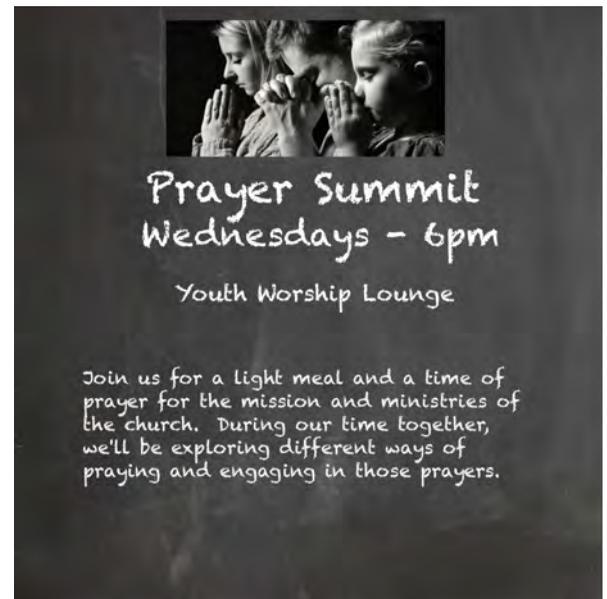
If you are one of the 30-40 members currently serving in some area of Care Ministry, please remember to report your service to your Team Leaders. Those serving in **Extended Care** are encouraged to submit a report to Jon & Kathy LeChien, your team leaders. **Reporting forms** are available in the church office and completed forms should be put in an envelope with Jon and Kathy’s name on it and returned to the office. **Stephen Ministers**, as always, should report to Lynn Brown or Robin Smith.

We have a wonderful Care Ministry here at Raytown Christian Church—a group of the most active and dedicated Caregivers that I have ever known, who faithfully devote their time and their prayers for their fellow members and others. We can be proud of that; I am privileged and grateful to work with all of you.

If you have not been involved in this ministry, but would like to be, please contact Jenn at the Church Office or myself at (816) 679-5602 or email: timary74@yahoo.com. If you or someone you know is in need of care visits, communion or prayers, please contact us as well.

I look forward to seeing you all on **July 25 at 7pm**.

Rev Tim Meier, Care Ministry Coordinator



**Raytown Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)**
6108 Blue Ridge Boulevard
Raytown, Missouri 64133



Youth Mission Trip Community Gift Collection July 1 - 15

Group Work Camps asks each participating church to join them in presenting a gift to the community in which we are serving. This summer, we will be collecting non-perishable food items to go to the East Moline Food Pantry at the request of those families we will be helping with necessary home repairs. The youth would like to ask for these donations to be placed around the cross in the Youth Worship Center (downstairs). We will box them and take them with us for the opening worship.



July 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:00 Classic Worship Sermon Discussion 10:30 Classic Worship DOCKids Worship Adult Sunday School 12:00 Youth Group Team Bldg	3 6:00 AA (Open Meeting) ICOC 7:00 Alanon Scouts & Cub Pack Girl Scout Troop 4024	4 Office Closed 	5 9 – 1 Embracing Education 9 -1 Summer Lunch 6:00 Prayer Summit 7:00 One Desire Practice	6 9 – 1 Embracing Education 9 -1 Summer Lunch 8:00 Men's Breakfast 7:00 Elders Meeting	7 9 – 1 Embracing Education 9 -1 Summer Lunch	8
9 9:00 Classic Worship Sermon Discussion 10:30 Classic Worship DOCKids Worship Adult Sunday School	10 9 – 1 Embracing Education 9 -1 Summer Lunch 6:00 AA (Open Meeting) 6:30 Gilchrist Kairos 7:00 Alanon Scouts & Cub Pack Girl Scout Troop 4024	11 9 – 1 Embracing Education 9 -1 Summer Lunch 5:00 Staff Meeting	12 9 – 1 Embracing Education 9 -1 Summer Lunch 6:00 Prayer Summit 7:00 One Desire Practice	13 9 – 1 Embracing Education 9 -1 Summer Lunch	14 9 – 1 Embracing Education 9 -1 Summer Lunch	15 Noon H&H Lunch
16 Youth Mission Trip 9:00 Classic Worship Sermon Discussion 10:30 Classic Worship DOCKids Worship Adult Sunday School	17 Youth Mission Trip 9 – 1 Embracing Education 9 -1 Summer Lunch 6:00 AA (Open Meeting) Searchers Pot luck 7:00 Alanon Scouts & Cub Pack Girl Scout Troop 4024	18 Youth Mission Trip 9 – 1 Embracing Education 9 -1 Summer Lunch	19 Youth Mission Trip 9 – 1 Embracing Education 9 -1 Summer Lunch 6:00 Prayer Summit 7:00 One Desire Practice	20 Youth Mission Trip 8:00 Men's Breakfast 9 – 1 Embracing Education 9 -1 Summer Lunch	21 Youth Mission Trip 9 – 1 Embracing Education 9 -1 Summer Lunch	22 Youth Mission Trip Returns
23 9:00 Classic Worship Sermon Discussion 10:30 Classic Worship DOCKids Worship Adult Sunday School	24 9 – 1 Embracing Education 9 -1 Summer Lunch 6:00 AA (Open Meeting) 7:00 Alanon Scouts & Cub Pack Girl Scout Troop 4024	25 9 – 1 Embracing Education 9 -1 Summer Lunch 6:30 Care Team Training	26 9 – 1 Embracing Education 9 -1 Summer Lunch 6:00 Prayer Summit 7:00 One Desire Practice	27 9 – 1 Embracing Education 9 -1 Summer Lunch 7:00 General Board	28 9 – 1 Embracing Education 9 -1 Summer Lunch	29
30 9:00 Classic Worship Sermon Discussion 10:30 Classic Worship DOCKids Worship Adult Sunday School	31 9 – 1 Embracing Education 9 -1 Summer Lunch 6:00 AA (Open Meeting) 7:00 Alanon Scouts & Cub Pack Girl Scout Troop 4024					