



FLOOD RAYTOWN WITH WINTER WARMTH

January 21st & 28th

CWF is overjoyed with thanks for all of the donated hats, gloves, and scarves given to their mitten tree during December. So, our plan now is to Flood Raytown with gifts of winter warmth. On Sunday, January 21 and January 28, there will be sets of gloves, hats, or scarves tied together with a wish of warmth from RCC at the Information Center for church members to take out into the community. These sets can be given to neighbors, tied on light poles, tied in parking lots of Raytown businesses you use, tied at bus stops OR use your imagination to find different locations to reach out.

It's fun to pick your locations, place these warm gifts and go by later to see if they have been taken. We pass on the warmth of Jesus Christ's love in our hearts through these gifts of warmth to others in the name of RCC. Plan to be a part of this outreach ministry.



RCC 2018

Dr. Bill Tenny-Brittian

It's a new year ... and that means every newspaper, radio journalist, television news and news-magazine (an oxymoron on both counts), and every print magazine is going to running scads of articles on the theme *New Year, New You!*

At Raytown Christian Church we don't reserve the New Year for life renewal – we do that all year long. And over the past eighteen months, together we've been strengthening the church's spiritual foundation in our leadership and in the congregation. During that time, we've focused more on building our own discipleship practices than we have on reaching others for Jesus Christ. Too many churches are so focused on growing their numbers that they forget that without strong and faithful leadership and church members, growth is unsustainable.

And so, with the dawn of the new year, the infrastructure at Raytown Christian Church is strong enough to begin building bridges into our community. We're ready, as a congregation, to turn our attention from growing our hearts to reaching the hearts of others.

To that end, we've put together a flurry of activities designed to make it easy to invite our neighbors to experience warm hospitality, to make new friends, and to explore what it means to be a Jesus follower. Below is a list of the "big" events we'll be hosting this year – but all of these are "in addition" to the activities we're already doing.

March: Abundant Living Ministry Seminar

A 60–90 minute seminar on some aspect of Success in the Workplace. Guest speaker and exact date yet to be set.

March 25: Breakfast with the Bunny

A one hour brunch and Easter Bunny photo op between worship services.

April 1: Easter

On Easter Day we'll also be publically relaunching our late-morning worship service.

April–May: Spring Fling Family Carnival

A community wide party for young families. Designed to connect those in our ministry area to our membership.

June: Summer Men's Focus Event

Men are one of the most difficult demographics for the church to reach. Under discussion is the type of event that will draw men ... we're thinking BBQ, car show, sporting demonstrations, or ??

July: Summer Day Camp

Once upon a time, Vacation Bible School seemed to draw families from far and wide – but it turned out that nearly everyone was already in another church! Instead of VBS, we'll be offering a one-week Day Camp designed to stimulate the hearts and minds of children.

September 9: Fall Kick-Off Event

A relaunch of our Children's Ministries and a boost of our Family Ministries.

September 20: Job Fair at RCC

Part of the Abundant Living Ministry, the Job Fair at RCC is being designed to be a personalized blessing to those within a 12 mile radius of the church.

October 27: Family Harvest Festival

More than Trunk-or-Treat, the Family Harvest Festival will help us make real-world connections with young families in our ministry area.

December: Drive Through Light Show and Live Nativity

Details are still being worked out, but we'll leverage our driveway design to begin creating a community light show. On at least one of the evenings, we'll also host a Live Nativity and invite the community to stop by and share a cup of hot cocoa.

December 24: Christmas Eve

Continuing our traditional candle service and expanding our Children's Focused Christmas Eve service.

Most of the dates and descriptions are tentative, but each of these events is in the process of being planned. Our goal is to become one of the most talked-about churches in town, but that will only happen with a LOT of help from you. We're going to need everyone in the church to begin making plans to being a part of these public events. We need visioners, planners, organizers, managers, and lots and lots of help. And we'll need lots and lots of Word Of Mouth Marketing.

The New Year is the first year where we'll see the church's vision really begin to come to pass.

Please be in prayer for:

God's favor in these ministries
... and ...

How you will be supporting the vision with your Time and Talent.



Children's Ministry

Ben King, Director

With a new year at hand it presents itself with the opportunity to do and start new things and try to keep the commitment for a year. With the new year I am looking forward to some new events and to what God has in store for 2018. With these events, we will need volunteers to assist in making them happen so please be praying about how you can get involved here in the new year.

I want to thank everyone who assisted with the Children's Christmas Eve service. Marie and I would like to thank everyone for the many blessings bestowed upon our family this Christmas they were greatly appreciated.

If God is calling you to get involved in Children's Ministry in 2018 let me know and I will get you connected.

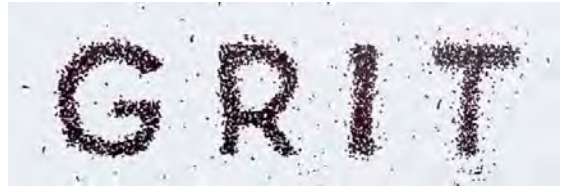




There will be a parent/youth meeting **on January 7th at 12:30 – 1:30 PM for all 6th – 12th graders and their families.** On the agenda will be:

- Schedule for Jan – Jun 2018
- Mission Trip Registration and Information – July 2018
- Fundraiser brainstorming
- Sign up for parent/interested adults to assist with group activities and/or providing meals

You don't have to have a youth in Inspirations to attend the meeting. If you are interested in helping out or leading a lesson/activity, you are welcome at this meeting! Please contact Kim Lawhead with any questions at 352-4891.



Mission Trip – 2018

The Inspirations will be serving in Christ's name in Red Lake, MN this July. We will be experiencing life on a closed Chippewa reservation. During the week, the youth (6th – 12th grade) will have the opportunity to spruce up homes, build ramps and stairs and to share the Gospel with residents. In return, there will be numerous worship and cultural awareness opportunities for those attending.

The Native populations survive on reservations by pure grit – just as several of the individuals mentioned in the Bible. During the spring semester, we will study the stories where GRIT plays a part in the individual's determination and ability to spread God's love to others.

Those who attend Raytown Christian will have the opportunity to join alongside us by **Sponsoring a Mile** during the month of January. **Each mile will cost \$5.** Those who sponsor will have their names listed in the trip information shared with the youth to include in our daily devotionals. We will pray over our church family while we travel and will invite all sponsors to a luncheon upon our return so we can share our stories.

Youth will be available during Sunday mornings in January at the communication center to register those wishing to sponsor a mile. We look forward to being the Body of Christ to others.



Outreach

Carol Frevert, Chair

Completed Outreach Events during December

Food Pantry Totals for November

Families: 93

Adults: 61

Children: 31

Seniors: 92

Total served: 185



Raytown Christian partnered with Angel Tree, a program of Prison Fellowship that allows us to provide Christmas gifts to children who have a parent incarcerated. We provided two gifts each to 73 children or a total of 146 gifts.

We are so appreciative for the heart of our church as you shopped and purchased gifts for all of the children. We also want to express our sincere thanks to the Raytown Three Trails Kiwanis and the Raytown Daily Double for their generous financial support and purchasing of gifts for our Angel Tree children.

It certainly takes many others as well to help make this project successful: outreach ministry members who called all of the families to receive gifts and then decorated and hosted the Angel Tree each Sunday morning, New Life Sunday School class who met to sort and bag up all the gifts to be taken to each family, and church members who delivered the gifts on Saturday, December 16. The delivery teams were: Jon and Kathy LeChien, Fred and Pat Steele, Ron Jensen, Steve and Robin Smith, Carol Frevert and Mary Bower, Tim and Mary Meier, Tammy Hartman, Gary Eicholz, and Nancy Bailey.

Special thanks are extended to Ruth Channels who has headed up the Angel Tree project for several years. RCC Outreach Ministry has been blessed by her dedication and love of this ministry.

Raytown Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony



RCC provided candy canes attached to postcards with RCC Christmas events listed. Approximately 250 were handed out to children who visited Santa after the Tree Lighting Ceremony.

We also thank our church members who took postcards after church on December 3 and shared them with neighbors and friends.





Nativities Around the World Display, Dec. 8 – 10

Rev. Margi Colerick shared her amazing collection of over 600 nativities with Raytown and Raytown Christian Church. It truly was an amazing journey to Bethlehem through her wonderful collection. From the beautiful crystal ones to the whimsical animal ones, it was a joy to see and share. Rev. Margi also provided a scavenger hunt through the nativities for children and all adults young at heart to complete.

Special thanks are given to Diane and Vivian Brown who are personal friends with Rev. Margi and were able to coordinate this display being at our church. Diane also did an amazing job recruiting all of the volunteers.

This could not have been possible without the many volunteers who helped carry in, unload and set up the plastic tubs full of nativities, who worked as hosts during the Friday, Saturday and Sunday open times, and who helped repack, load, and carry out the nativities. Thank you church for supporting this wonderful opportunity.

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office Closed 	2	3 1:00 Food Pantry No Wednesday Evening Activities except Sanctuary Choir	4 8:00 Men's Breakfast 7:00 Elders Meeting	5	6
7 12:30pm – Youth & Parent Mtg See recurring Sunday Activities below	8 6:00 AA 6:30 Kairos 7:00 Alanon Directions Discipleship Scouts	9 5:00 Staff Meeting	10 11:00 CWF 1:00 Food Pantry See recurring Wednesday Evening Activities below <i>No Junior Choir or Bells</i>	11 10:00 Four Seasons	12 See recurring Wednesday Evening Activities below	13
14 Noon Getting Started Class See recurring Sunday Activities below	15 Office Closed 	16	17 11:00 Four Seasons to Theater 1:00 Food Pantry See recurring Wednesday Evening Activities below	18 8:00 Men's Breakfast	19	20
21 See recurring Sunday Activities below	22 6:00 AA 6:30 Stephen Ministry 7:00 Alanon Directions Discipleship Scouts	23	24 1:00 Food Pantry See recurring Wednesday Evening Activities below	25 10:00 Four Seasons 7:00 General Board	26	27
28 See recurring Sunday Activities below 3:00 Import Night @ Spence Hecox's	29 6:00 AA 7:00 Alanon Directions Discipleship Scouts	30	31 1:00 Food Pantry See recurring Wednesday Evening Activities below			

Recurring Activities:

Sundays: 9:00 – Classic Service, Sermon Study/10:30 – Praise Service, DOCKids Worship, Adult Sunday School/11:45 – Inspirations Choir/12:30 – 2:30 – Youth Group/2:30 – Inspiration Ringers/5:30 – Chalice Bronze

Wednesday Evenings: 5:00 – Junior Choir/5:30 – Supper, Junior Bells, Primary Choir/6:00 – Prayer Summit, DOCKids, Youth Bible Study/7:00 – Sanctuary Choir, One Desire

Let's Build a Snowman!

So far we have had an exceptionally warm "winter" and have not had any snow to build a snowman outdoors. SO...let's build a snowman in the lobby.....out of TOILET PAPER.

Our Food Pantry is in need of toilet paper to give out to our food pantry clients, so it's time to collect toilet paper during the month of January, 2018. There will be a collection area in the lobby in the corner by the front doors, so watch to see the progress week to week as we actually try to build up a snowman. **Collections will be accepted January 1 - January 28** so watch for sales and help us out.



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