



**On Mother's Day, May 13, you will have the opportunity to give a special offering to support the Raytown Summer Lunch Ministry.** In both worship services, you will receive a designated offering envelope that you can use to give in honor or in memory of all those supportive people in your life who have fed you physically and spiritually.

We provide lunches from July 9 - August 10 and we need your volunteer time as well to help prepackage food, pack lunches, and help deliver lunches to children. We partner with 12 other churches and organizations to deliver lunches to 21 different locations in the Raytown School District.

Last year we delivered a total of 13,931 lunches, which averaged 498 lunches per day. We had a total of 1,800 volunteers giving over 3,243.5 hours of service.

**It costs only \$45.00 to provide a healthy lunch with milk or juice for one child for 5 weeks.**

Can we count on you to help financially support this needed program and can we count on you to volunteer this summer to be a part of this blessing for our community? We know that we can because together WE can make a difference.



Raytown  
Summer  
Lunch  
Ministry



## Summertime

Dr. Bill Tenny-Brittian

Although we've seen snow three out of five Sundays in April, summer really is coming. What summer means for many churches is that "everything" shuts down because "everyone" goes on vacation, heads out to the lake, etc.

Of course, that's not true. Few people jump into their cars on Memorial Day weekend and disappear until Labor Day. Yes, there are a couple in our midst who opt out of weekend activities because they have a summer home at the lake, but most of us don't have a summer home. (And I'm grateful to those gone-all-summer people who have signed up for E-Giving so they keep up with their support of the church, even in their absence.) And yes, summer time is the perfect time for Sunday picnic, Sunday drives, Sunday yard work, and lazy Sunday morning sleep-ins.

But summer is also the perfect time to dig deep for your spiritual development ... and you can even do that at the lake. Below are some things you can do to ensure your summer doesn't tarnish the luster of your heart and soul.

**RightNowMedia.com** Most of us get our news from screen technology and increasingly we're turning to our phones, tablets, and computers for entertainment. That's why so many of our members and friends are signed up with RightNowMedia. There are over 15,000 Bible study, devotional, conference, marriage enrichment, studies for guys, gals, and kids at RightNowMedia. And they're all free. Choose a study or two, pause binge-watching *The Office* (for the fourth time) for an evening, and explore your faith with refreshing clarity.

**YouVersion App** Summer's a great time to engage in some serious Bible reading. The YouVersion Bible app is available for virtually all operating systems, so whether you're a iPhone or Android user, iPad or Tablet, or even on your computer they've got you covered. The app has literally thousands of translations, so you can find your favorite, and it'll even read the Bible to you if you don't want to squint while you're catching some rays. They've added the option to add "Verse Art," as well as take notes so you can hang on to your reflections.

**BibleGateway.com/devotionals** For summer inspiration, there's nothing like a devotional reading. Whether you love the classics, prefer a men or women's focus, need encouraging leadership thoughts, or you're getting ready to lead a family devotional time, you'll want to hook into BibleGateway. They have over 50 daily devotional options, including podcast devotionals that will move, touch, and inspire you.

**Daily Scripture Readings** Not sure where to start reading in your Bible? Join with others at Raytown Christian who have adopted the Chapter-a-Day Reading Plan. Pick up the Scripture Reading Postcard at the Information Center in the lobby and follow along.

**Digging Deeper, Going Further** If you're looking for depth to your discipleship, take home the Sermon Worksheet each week and work through the five daily Bible readings and reflection questions. The daily readings follow the Chapter-a-Day Reading Plan that RCC is engaged in and the questions will help you explore and deepen your well of faith.

**Prayer Summit and Bible Study** Gone on the weekends? Join us for the Weekly Wednesday Summer Bible study and enliven your faith. Join your friends who are studying the life of Jesus through The Gospel of John. This is an in-depth Bible study, though no experience is necessary.

The Summit includes Christian novices as well of seasoned Bible vets, so you'll fit right in. During the summer months, there will be a light snack supper for the participants.

**Summer Worship** And, of course, Sunday is still the Lord's Day and the leadership at Raytown Christian Church will continue to lead quality, guest-friendly worship services. Whether you're a Classic Worship kind of person or prefer the deep BASS of Praise Worship, we'll be there for you and your friends. Join us for the Summer in the Son worship series that will explore more about who Jesus is, what he taught, and what he expects of us.



## RCC Kids

Ben King, Director

Summer is quickly approaching and from talking with kids there are about 28 days of school left depending on the district they are in. **This summer we are planning to have RCC Kids meet all summer** with the exception of a few dates. RCC Kids will offer a variety of activities including movie nights, game nights, Vacation Bible School type activities, and other summer fun. Currently I am working to recruit some high school juniors and seniors to assist and lead Wednesday night activities. If you know anyone who might be a good fit for this, please put me in contact with them.

Over the summer as part of finishing my Master's degree, I am working on crisis plans to be posted in the rooms for fire, tornado, medical emergency, and intruders. I am also going to put together a detailed volunteer ministry plan for the children's department that will include new positions in order to handle growth. Another part of what I will be doing is laying out an internship program for the children's department to bring in young adults who

will help pour into and relate to the kids on a weekly basis.

The Family Carnival is next Saturday **May 5th from 2:00PM to 4:00PM**. We are looking forward to games, face-painting, bounce houses, fellowship and fun. If you would like to assist with this event, please talk to me or our children's ministry volunteers. We look forward to seeing you there!

Are you telling me some people don't want to help in the Nursery??  
Are they Crazy??  
Have they seen how cute I am??

**NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

DO YOU ENJOY CHILDREN AND LOVE CUDDLING BABIES?  
OUR NURSERY IS IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS.

SEE BETH FIELDS OR CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU CAN HELP WITH THIS IMPORTANT MINISTRY!

 **2018**

CONGRATULATIONS to our high school seniors who will be graduating this month! We are so proud of you! May God continue to bless you on your future endeavors and know you will always have a home at Raytown Christian!

**Brett Wilson** – Raytown HS  
**Emily Sweeney** – Homeschooled (Raytown)  
**Jack Scanlon** – Raytown HS  
**Tierney Brailsford** – Lee's Summit HS



## RCC Youth “The Inspirations”

Kim Lawhead, Director

The Inspirations had a good month digging deeper into why they believe in Jesus and what evidence they can share with others. During May we will be going through the book of Jonah during our Wednesday evening gatherings. Jonah and the whale is not just children’s story, but rather a story of obedience to God and choices we can make along the way.

**NEEDED:** The Inspirations are in need of a male sponsor for the 2018 Mission Trip to Red Lake, MN.

We will be working on the Chippewa reservation on home maintenance (painting, mobile home skirting) and the construction or repair of decks, stairs and wheelchair ramps. Youth and sponsors will be working alongside other youth and adults from around the country and have the opportunity to share their faith and their testimony with others. In addition, youth and adults who participate deepen their relationship with Jesus along the way. The trip will be July 14 – 22. If this is of interest to you, please contact Kim Lawhead at 352-4891. Thank you!

### Roller Skating – May 6<sup>th</sup>

Inspirations will be going roller skating on May 6<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 – 4:30 PM. We will be leaving from the church at 2:00 PM and returning around 4:45 PM. If you wish to meet us there, the address is:

#### Landmark2 Skate Center

701 SE Oldham Court  
Lee’s Summit, MO  
64081



An Elder Care Attorney will be the speaker at our next Care Ministry Continuing Education Session. It will be held on Tuesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. The event is open to all. You will not want to miss this event!





## Outreach

Carol Frevert, Chair

### Food Pantry Totals for March, 2018

Families:	74
Adults:	90
Children:	57
Seniors:	52
Total Served:	199

### Completed Outreach Events

#### Raytown School Community Resource Fair – Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>

Raytown Christian Church participated in the Community Resource Fair that was held at Raytown High School on April 14 from 11am – 2pm. This event is organized by social workers of the Raytown School District to provide resource information to families in the Raytown School District.



Outreach would like to thank Mary Bower & Carol Frevert for representing RCC as we gave out a healthy snack of “cuties” and handed out information about our church, our Enhancing Education summer tutoring program, and the Raytown Summer Lunch Ministry. Also special thanks to Kim Lawhead (an RCC member) who works in the Raytown Schools and helps to organize this great resource day for the community.

### Cash & Career – NEW Summer Ministry

This summer RCC will be hosting a summer program called Cash and Career for 12-15 year old students. It is directed by Bill Snyder and Brendan Irving from The Compass Experience and it blends classes and a working internship at a local Raytown business Tuesdays through Fridays.

This summer program runs for 6 weeks, from May 29 - July 6 and the focus is to:

- teach what is needed to succeed in business and life
- provide opportunities to associate with positive role models
- place students in internships to learn invaluable work skills and experience

When students complete the program they will get paid a stipend for their hard work.

Outreach would like to thank both Bill Snyder and Brendan Irving for attending the Raytown Community Resource Fair where they were able to begin recruiting students for this program.

CHURCH...Outreach wants you to know that RCC is KNOWN in Raytown as the church that does things for the community and people of Raytown.



Micah Ministry is a service of Independence Blvd Christian Church that we support. Micah Ministry is a free evening meal on Monday nights and we would love to take the small bus full of RCC attendees to help serve the evening meal and work in the clothing closet to offer free clothing and personal care products to all of the guests who attend.

We meet at church at 4:30 and ride together to help serve the meal from 5 - 7 pm, returning to the church by 7:30. If you prefer, you can drive yourself and meet us there.

There is a sign-up sheet at the Information Center in the lobby, if you are interested in going with us to serve.

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## Decision Making: How it Works

Dr. Bill Tenny-Brittian

Have you ever wondered how decisions get made in a church, and in particular how they get made here in the Raytown Christian Church? As I've worked with churches in the past, it's a common question by church members and church leadership, though the better question is "How do decisions get made in a healthy organization?"

Let me start off with saying, once again, how excited I was when I was approached by the Raytown Christian Church Search Team back in 2016. One of the documents they shared with me was the RCC Constitution and Bylaws. When I read how decision making was handled I became really excited. Why? Because the way RCC makes decisions is *the* model

for healthy organization decision making ... and that's a rare thing to find in churches today.

So, how are decisions made at Raytown Christian Church?

Let's begin with the Senior Minister, not because the pastor makes all the decisions, but because ultimately, no matter what the decision is, s/he is responsible for those decisions. In the words of Harry S. Truman, "The buck stops here." I'm ultimately responsible for pretty much everything that happens at Raytown Christian Church. Dirty windows? I'm ultimately responsible. Hymn and music selection? Yep, I'm responsible. Hiring and firing? It's on me. Typos in the bulletin? Batteries fail in the microphone packs? Greeters at the front door? Coffee in the lobby? Attendance up or down? Me.

Of course, I can't do everything ... and you don't want me to. I'm really good at what I'm good at. And one of the things I'm really good at is finding people to bring around me to take up the slack for the things I'm not particularly good at.

Our bylaws recognize this and makes provisions for hiring/recruiting ministry directors, leaders, and staff to ensure the ministries of the church function well. Because the Senior Minister is responsible for the Big Picture, ultimately every position in the church is responsible to him/her. Therefore, it's important that the staff, ministry directors, and ministry leaders are leaders who can do well what the Senior Minister doesn't do so well. And so it's incumbent upon the pastor to hire/recruit experts in their ministry areas, because the pastor has to trust that they will do what needs to get done. It turns out, one of the things I'm good at is identifying passionate experts who are able to embrace the RCC mission and vision, who are able to lead others, and who are goal and results focused.\*

And that's where I find the genius of our bylaws. Because it's not possible for the Senior Minister to do everything, the bylaws give decision making authority to the ministry leaders. They make the day-to-day decision and the long-term decisions for their respective ministry areas. Each staff member, ministry director, and ministry leader has been given the responsibility for results in their ministry areas, they're given the authority to make decisions within the rubrics of mission and vision and budget, and they're held responsible for the outcomes of those decisions. And the person who holds them accountable is ... the Senior Minister because s/he is the one who is ultimately held responsible for those decisions.

So, what does the Church Board do? They are responsible for five main things. First, they serve as the accountability supervisors for the Senior Minister. They hold him/her responsible for the faithfulness, effectiveness, the sustainability of the church. Second, in consultation with the Senior Minister, staff, and the ministry directors, they develop and oversee an annual budget that is presented for adoption by the congregation each year. Third, they set policy as needed, although most of our policies are already in place, so the board rarely deals with policy issues unless a change is needed. Fourth, they develop a nominations team each year to fill positions on the board. And fifth, they are the communicators and cheerleaders of the church's mission and ministries.

With that in mind, as an example, let me share how a recent decision got made. As 2017 came to an end, it seemed clear to the Praise Worship Leaders that the service was not generating the excitement that's needed to sustain growth with our target audience (young adult families). The Vision Task Force had already made recommendations about spending significant funds to update the worship space technology, but the Praise Worship Leaders were unsure whether or not that alone would create the energy needed. And so, they had a

number of discussions about what to do and during those conversations there were some reflections about what it "used to be like" when the service was held in the Fellowship Hall. The Praise Worship Leadership Team studied the pros and cons of a move, visited a local church that is meeting the needs and attracting young adult families, and made the decision to relocate. The team did its research on how much the move would cost and approached the Board to discuss financing the move. The Board worked with the Endowment Trustees and a funding agreement was approved. The rest, so to speak, is history.

In short, here's the decision-making process:

1. Someone has a great ministry idea and presents it to the responsible Staff Member or Ministry Director.
2. Staff or Ministry Director evaluates the idea against the congregation's mission/vision/values and determines if the idea will help the ministry reach the church's mission and vision. If so, then they look at the budget to determine if there is adequate funding. If there is, they have the authority to make and to implement the decision then and there.
3. However, the truth is, at this point, there are few decisions that get made without the Senior Minister being consulted. However, let me say this: I have hand selected my staff (and they're all "staff" in my book, some just aren't paid!) and I trust them implicitly and explicitly. When a staff member makes a decision, I stand behind them ... because I trust them. I've "hired" experts who know what they're doing much more than I do.

**Suanne Comfort...**

is an expert in **Classic Worship Arts...**

I trust her.

**Julie Steele...**

is an expert in **Praise Worship Leadership...**

I trust her.

**Carol Frevert...**

is an expert in **Outreach...**

I trust her.

**Jo Ann Hudson...**

is an expert in **Discipleship...**

I trust her.

**Phylis Goforth...**

is an expert in **Networking and Marketing...**

I trust her.

**Ben King...**

is an expert in **Children's Ministry...**

I trust him.

**Tim Meier...**

is an expert in **Member Care...**

I trust him.

**Jenn Wetzal...**

is an expert in **Office Management...**

I trust her.

**Ryan Lemen...**

is an expert in **Property Management...**

I trust him.

*\*When it comes to hiring a paid part-time or full-time staff member, the Human Resources team serves to ensure any potential staff hire meets the qualifications necessary for the position, and they make sure the church's hiring and termination policies are adhered to.*

Each of these leaders do their jobs and do them well. We work together as an incredible team. Our staff meetings are deep, meaningful, caring, and above all, productive. We all have the church's mission and vision and values and the church's future in our hearts ... and you've entrusted it into our hands. We make hard decisions and we're not always popular because of it – leaders often have to make decisions that not everyone likes. But we're your leadership team and we hope you'll trust that we're making the decisions that need to be made ... and that we're not making them in a vacuum.

# May 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>		<b>2</b> 1:00pm Food Pantry  See recurring activities	<b>3</b> 6:45am Mayor's Prayer Breakfast @ RCC 8:00am Men's Breakfast 7:00pm Elders Meeting	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  2:00pm – 4:00pm <b>Family Carnival</b> Rain or Shine!
<b>6</b> See recurring activities 2:00pm RCC Youth Roller skating @ Landmark	<b>7</b> 4:30pm Micah Ministry Night 6:00pm AA 7:00pm Alanon Scouts	<b>8</b> 5:00pm Staff Meeting	<b>9</b> 10:00am CWF 11:00pm Food Pantry  See recurring activities	<b>10</b> 10:00am Four Seasons	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> <i>Mother's Day</i> See recurring activities	<b>14</b> 6:00pm Four Seasons to Balgame AA 7:00pm Alanon Scouts	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 11:00pm Food Pantry  See recurring activities	<b>17</b> 8:00am Men's Breakfast	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> Youth Bake Sale See recurring activities	<b>21</b> 6:00pm AA Searchers Potluck 7:00pm Alanon Scouts	<b>22</b> 6:30pm Care Team Training	<b>23</b> 11:00pm Food Pantry  See recurring activities	<b>24</b> 10:00am Four Seasons 7:00pm General Board	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> See recurring activities	<b>28</b> Memorial Day Office Closed	<b>29</b> 8:00am – 11:00am Cash & Career	<b>30</b> 8:00am – 11:00am Cash & Career 11:00pm Food Pantry  See recurring activities	<b>31</b> 8:00am – 11:00am Cash & Career	<b>Recurring Activities:</b> <b>Sundays:</b> 9am – Classic Service, Sermon Study/10:30am – Praise Service, RCC Kids, Adult SS <b>Wednesdays:</b> 5pm – Jr. Choir/5:30pm – Dinner, Primary Choir/6pm – RCC Kids, Youth Bible Study, Prayer Summit & Study/7pm – Sanctuary Choir	



# Family Carnival

**Saturday, May 5th**

**2:00-4:00pm**

**Rain or Shine!**

**Raytown**  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
6108 Blue Ridge Blvd.  
Raytown, MO 64133  
[RaytownCC.org](http://RaytownCC.org)