

# May Edition of The Christian Pilot



## A Message from the Moderator

Candy Sprick

April Showers bring May flowers. May is full of celebrations and new beginnings. It feels like the Earth just comes alive, doesn't it?

Well, my Friends, Raytown Christian Church is coming alive as well! In April, the Board shared some rather unpleasant facts about our financial situation. Even though it was not very pretty, we have linked arms, pitched in and are slowly making some good progress. We have found a new strength within ourselves to address challenges and tackle the issues. I've said it before but will say it again: We are stronger together!! Remember, God WANTS this team to win.

An effective team has a common goal, respect for one another, and are emotionally mature. Emotionally mature Christians manage their emotions, have empathy for others, own their mistakes, and bounce back from challenges. They do not talk badly about others, nor do they gossip.

*"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." – Ephesians 4:29*

We have so much to celebrate in this season of renewal!! But we must be careful not to sabotage our own efforts with un-Christian like behavior or poison words. To paraphrase another scripture: We can do hard things with the strength of Christ! But we need each other. Choose kindness. Choose responsibility. Choose grace. We must prove that our hearts are pure and loving to please our Lord. We need His continued blessings as we move forward together.



## A Message from Pastor Michael

To be a part of the church in this hour is a privilege and an honor! We have come so far, and Scripture gives us the reason why. It is the Christ in us that has caused us to thrive in some of the darkest times. We have been given dynamic principles in which God has given us to overcome, to succeed, and to grow as Christians in this present world.

My prayer for Raytown Christian Church is that God will continue to keep us on the upward road spiritually, and also in every additional matter. The principle of fasting and prayer has always been a great tool in ensuring that this happens for us. My challenge for our church is that we dedicate one day per month to fasting and praying; seeking the face of God for our lives and for our church. I believe that this window that's created by fasting and prayer will give God the access that he needs to come in and do his wondrous work amongst us and we will testify that We witnessed the hand of God moving on the behalf of Raytown Christian Church.

**Our day of fasting will be every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month beginning May 15<sup>th</sup>.** I ask that you dedicate the day to inward prayers unto God while sacrificing *AT LEAST* one meal between 12am and 5pm. The Sanctuary will be open for individuals who desire to come and pray during that time as well. Let's seek God together!

**"But we will devote ourselves to prayer  
and to the ministry of the word."**

Acts 6:4





## Stewardship Update

Elaine Schulze,  
Administration & Finance Chair

We have much for which to give thanks!

RCC has received a very generous donation from the Cottrell Family Trust. The donation was directed to the General Fund and the Outreach Ministry. Bob and Joy Cottrell were long time, active members and we give thanks for their donation and the impact they continue to make in this church and community.

With grateful hearts we have received two generous Over and Above donations which will be used to reduce the gap between our projected revenue and expenses. We are thankful for these over and above gifts and for each of you faithfully fulfilling your tithes and pledges.



## Outreach Corner

Mindy McDaniel,  
Community Relations

Earlier this month Raytown Central Middle School's snack pantry was empty, and when told of this situation, RCC generously gave snacks to replenish this much needed resource. Not all children come to school with full stomachs, and they rely on a snack or two to get through the day. They now have snacks to offer to hungry kids until the end of the school year!

Lynn Brown (representing RCC) provided breakfast treats to the 50 Raytown Success Academy's staff members. Raytown Christian Church appreciates the challenges and support these staff members provide to the young students.

This Mother's Day, RCC will celebrate Moms and their babies with a Diaper Drive! We will be supporting "Happy Bottoms," a program administered by the Sisters in Christ. RCC members have donated diapers in assorted sizes, along with baby wipes, for Moms needing some extra help in keeping their little ones clean and dry.

Raytown's Summer Lunch Program begins this month! RSLM provides Raytown School District children requiring assistance with a bag of groceries once a week. These groceries provide the students with breakfast and lunch items through the summer vacation months. There is still time to donate your time and funds to this wonderful program! To donate, simply make your check payable to Raytown Summer Lunch Ministry and drop it by the church office.

To sign up to volunteer please visit this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CAFA62B-ABF4C25-raytown>

Email any questions to:

[raytownsummerlunch@gmail.com](mailto:raytownsummerlunch@gmail.com)

Please remember – RSLM will be using our refrigerators and freezers in the kitchen from May 20 – August 13. If you or your group have anything in those appliances – please remove it by Sunday, May 19.

Kairos Outside of Western Missouri is having a fundraising night at Culvers in Independence (4220 S. Little Blue Parkway), Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup> from 5-8pm. All tips and a percentage of sales generated (less tax) during the fundraising night will go to Kairos Outside of Western MO.

Thank you, Raytown Christian Church members! Your love of Jesus overflows in so many ways, ministering and supporting so many in need of His grace and salvation.



**Are you a people person?**

**Our Evangelism Team is looking to add a couple of people for visitor follow up. If you're interested in helping with this VERY important ministry, please see Mindy McDaniel.**