



## A Message from The Moderator

Candy Sprick

It's August! And particularly THIS August, we are in the time of "Team Mentality." From the Olympics to the upcoming Presidential election, we see teams forming and working together to accomplish some lofty goals. I need only mention the Royals, Sporting KC, the Current, or the Chiefs to illustrate the strength that comes from working successfully as a team.

I guess it's safe to say that Jesus had His own team too. To use a bit of colloquialism, His "OG team" consisted of the first twelve disciples, who quickly multiplied their numbers and achieved some amazing things! As Christ's followers, WE TOO are part of that team...and can do amazing things for the Kingdom of God! At Raytown Christian Church, we have many ministry teams and are revitalizing or creating new ones. What a joy to be part of such an active family of believers doing God's work in the world.

We have an election coming up. I'm talking about the church election, when we will be voting in new members of the Board, Elders, Deacons, and some updated bylaws. This latest revision of the bylaws is a labor of love from a team that is carefully reviewing the current verbiage and will be proposing some minor changes to make it clearer and more accurate as it pertains to RCC today. Attached to this email along with the Pilot is a copy of our current ByLaws. Please take a look so you can be informed when the changes are proposed.

Also notice the Departments and many Ministries here at RCC. You will find a brief description of the Ministry responsibilities beginning on page 21. To which of those Ministries do you feel a calling? How can God use you to do His work? Remember the words Pastor Michael used recently in that God chooses YOU for HIMSELF, but allows US to benefit from HIS choices.

It's time, RCC. It's time to hear the call, make the decision, and say "Yes!" to Team Jesus. May God bless us abundantly!



## Stewardship Moment

Elaine Schulze,  
Administration & Finance Chair

It's time for a midyear financial update, church family. Our leaders and staff continue to scrutinize expenses and look for revenue opportunities. We have had three fundraisers, two generous over and above donations from members and a generous memorial donation to the general fund from the Cottrell family. The congregation continues to generously support the church and ministries. As of the end of June, our expenses are \$33,000 below what was budgeted. That's all good news!

Here's the not so good news. As you know, and this is important, we do not have a balanced budget. Revenue for the summer months is running around \$3000 per month less than what was pledged. This is commonly known as the summer giving slump. It's understandable you're not thinking as much about church while you're enjoying your well-earned vacation and summer activities. But please take a look at your recent Contribution Statement to see if perhaps you need to do a little catch-up. Life happens so if your situation has changed and you need to adjust your pledge, you can contact Jenn in the office. For your convenience, online giving is available on our website at [raytowncc.org](http://raytowncc.org)

Thank you for your faithful support of Raytown Christian Church and our ministries. We continue to be blessed and to be a blessing in this community.

Each of you should give what you  
have decided in your heart to give,  
not reluctantly or under compulsion,  
for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:7



# CHURCH FUEL

A couple of months ago, some church leaders began discussions of how we can move forward. To that end, we joined a national organization known as Church Fuel, which shares ideas and resources for promoting church growth. The cost of the program is being underwritten the worship department. The Church Fuel team consists of Susan Bizorik, Suanne Comfort, Tracy Colin, Janelle Dyer, Mary Oyler, Elaine Schulze, Steve Smith, Candy Sprick, Kristal Wilson and Pastor Michael. Our initial task was to create our Two Page Plan, which is listed below.

## Purpose

*This is the ultimate reason we exist. It doesn't change and is never completed.*

Our purpose is to help people say "yes" to Jesus and become His faithful followers.

## Mission

*This is related to our purpose. It helps us fulfill our purpose and is something we want to achieve by a certain date. Once accomplished, we select a new mission, in line with our purpose.*

Our mission is to develop a dynamic worship service that will bring in five new households by the end of 2024.

## Values

*These describe who we are and what we believe.*

Spiritual growth  
Community involvement  
Open to all seekers  
The power of prayer

## Distinctives

*These are what make us different from other churches.*

Our partnerships with the community  
Importance of communion  
Care ministry  
Stephen Ministry

## Keystone Ministries

*These are not all our ministries, but ones that we deem the most important.*

Adult education  
Outreach  
Worship ministry  
Care ministry  
Stephen Ministry

## Annual Goal #1

Create a meaningful, dynamic worship service by the end of 2024.

### 90 Day Focus to be achieved by Oct 31st

1. Investigate the use of contract musicians/worship leaders.
2. Hire a dynamic worship leader to incorporate praise and traditional music.
3. Train AV/tech people to facilitate worship and stream services flawlessly.

## Annual Goal #2

Develop well-defined procedures for welcoming visitors and integrating new members into church life.

### 90 Day Focus to be achieved by Oct 31st

1. Review current practices for visitors and new members.
2. Study the Church Fuel Visitors System.
3. Reinstate the Directions program for new members.

## Three Year Vision

To become a thriving, Spirit-filled, self-sustaining church that is a resource to the community and serves every walk of life.



## Outreach Corner

Mindy McDaniel,  
Community Relations

*Raytown Christian Church members, your generosity and kindness are amazing! Thank you for sharing Jesus' grace and love to so many.*

### August events –

The River of Refuge School Supply Drive is over! Raytown Christian Church generously donated 22 backpacks and 428 individual and packaged school supplies to start the students off fully supplied for the new school year. Jesus' love shines through your kindness and generosity!

Raytown's Summer Lunch Program ends this week. Thank you RCC for your generous donations of time, food, and funds to support this worthy program!

August 11 and 18 will kick off RCC's Kairos Fundraiser. Mary Meier and Char Daugherty will share what the Kairos Ministry's weekend is like, and how volunteers share with women with incarcerated loved ones. This is a life-changing event for both the volunteers and women served. RCC is a generous donor to this ministry, with several members organizing the event and attending the weekend to pray over the women.

### On-Going Ministry Opportunities –

#### **Evangelism –**

In the past few years, Outreach's Evangelism Ministry team (Larry and Kathleen Stevens) visited all visitors with a Welcome Bag and a fresh loaf of bread. After 3 years of dedicated service, Larry and Kathleen have decided to retire from the team. A huge thank you to Larry and Kathleen for carrying out this important Outreach ministry! Several visitors have returned because of their warm welcome, along with the personal welcome and kindness of our RCC members! RCC's Outreach Evangelism Team is diligently searching for members to join our Evangelism team! This includes visiting visitors, non-returning visitors, and members we have not seen in church for a while. We have had one RCC member volunteer to join our team, but we prefer to send our Welcomers out in pairs, as working together is a better way to approach our visitors. If you would like to become a member of this particularly important team, please contact either Mindy McDaniel or Tracy Colin to volunteer. This is an exciting new step for our Outreach team! Thank you in advance for volunteering to share your kindness and love of Jesus to our visitors and missing members who might return to our church family.



## Thank You!

From:  
Tim & Mary Meier

We want to thank everyone for your cards and kind wishes as we celebrated our 50th Wedding Anniversary. And we also want to thank you for the many prayers and cards that we received as we were going through our surgeries in April. Your thoughtfulness, kindness, and especially your prayers carried us through.

God bless each one of you,  
Tim & Mary Meier