

Walnut Community Bible Church

125 E Jackson St.
Walnut, IL 61376

Phone: 815.379.2645
E-mail: wcbc@mchsi.com
Senior Pastor: Eldon Cook
Associate Pastor: Nathan Richey

Worship Service: Sunday 9:00 AM
Breakout Classes: Sunday 10:45 AM

Our Mission:
To Know Jesus Christ
and
To Make Jesus Christ Known

Walnut Community Bible Church is an evangelical community of faithful believers committed to living out the Great Commission in Bureau County, IL and around the world. If you would like to get more information about our church please see our website listed below.

www.WalnutCommunityBibleChurch.org

Are the best years still ahead for WCBC?

When people look at the signs of healthy vs. unhealthy churches, a few things always rise to the top. Informed examinations will point to five key things: (1) outwardly focused ministries, (2) retention rates of members, (3) conflicts over facilities, (4) an emphasis on prayer, and (5) pastoral criticism. If these five areas are positive, then a church is usually considered to be healthy; but if these areas are a cause for concern then the greater health of the church is probably at risk as well.

I am very encouraged with where WCBC stands today. In each of these areas, Walnut Community Bible Church is remaining strong in the midst of so many declining churches in Illinois. (1) We have vibrant ministries such as Kool Kidz, we have a strong missions team, and the excitement that Celebrate Recovery is bringing to the church is truly contagious. (2) While attendance has dipped some in the last year and half, we are indeed ministering to our current families and we continue to attract new families to our church. (3) It was truly humbling to watch as we got the carpet installed recently and we saw people defer to others judgment and generously give to the project. (4) The resurgence of the Tuesday night prayer meeting and the answered prayers have really been something to behold. And finally, (5) what a blessing this Pastoral Appreciation Month has been. Not just for the pastors, but for our church as a whole. We truly do appreciate the hard work of our pastors.

So are the best years still ahead for WCBC? If there is any truth in the indicators then we can expect years of faithful ministry on the horizon. And now is a the perfect time to lend a hand as we chart the course and set sail into the future that God has planned.



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WCBC UPDATE

volume 6, issue 11

November 2011

God Wants You At The Prayer Meeting (and I can prove it)

Not everyone can attend the weekly prayer meeting at 6:30 on Tuesdays at WCBC, but many who can, choose not to. There is likely a long list of reasons not to be present even if your schedule allows you to attend; but, here are two passages from the Word that show God's heart on the matter.

(1) I desire that in every place the men should pray
— *1 Tim. 2:18 (ESV)*

Well, the church building is indeed a “place,” and a very good place at that, where we should be in prayer. And lest you think that only the men need to be praying, think again:

(2) All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women... — *Acts 1:14 (ESV)*

That is a picture of the early church, and the important thing is not just that the women were there; but that together, men and women were devoting themselves to prayer. Devoting themselves means: regular, sought out, periods of fervent prayer. So, whatever is on your list of reasons to go AWOL from the prayer meeting, remember two things: (1) God wants us to meet for prayer, and (2) the record of the early church is that the men and women understood God's desire that “His house should be a house of prayer” and so they devoted themselves to that work. See you on Tuesday!

Scripture Memory

You were called
to one hope
at your calling...

Ephesians 4:4 (HCSB)

Have an idea for an article??

Do you have a topic you would like to write about? Maybe a news-worthy item you would like to report? Talk to Pastor Nathan because there is usually room in the upcoming newsletter for articles, stories, or news reports from people like you.

October 3rd Board Meeting Overview

The meeting was called to order by David Anderson. Board members present were Rob Allen, David Anderson, Steve Capes, Brent Jamison, Kim Nelson, and Pat Nichols. Also present were Annie Nichols and Pastor Nathan Richey.

September’s financial statement showed that regular offerings for the month were \$20,792.80. Total Expenses for the month were \$20,686.69. *These figures do not reflect daycare income or expenses.*

In a special report it was noted that since funds are tight, perhaps the purchase of fruit and donuts should be suspended. The board agreed and moved to discontinue fruit and donuts on Sunday mornings.

The minutes from the most recent Missions and Outreach Committee meeting were reviewed by all. Annie Nichols gave a special update on the Celebrate Recovery trip to Plymouth, MN.

The offering box locks are installed and the board discussed surrounding issues and consequences.

Pastor Nathan reported on the upcoming visits from the Eipperles and Pastor Bontha. He also reported that the lighting in the sanctuary will need attention soon, that Olan Mills is scheduled to take picture for a new directory at the end of January, that it may be time to consider new church management software. He also proposed a part-time Missions Correspondent to assist the Missions Team.

The board noticed several ways that God is at work at WCBC: He is preparing us for Celebrate Recovery; He is testing our resolve to be accountable for one another; He is at work in Pastor Eldon creating enthusiasm and building excitement; He is working in the Sr. High youth.

Pat closed in prayer. Meeting adjourned.

Attendance and Giving

This section of the newsletter is designed to keep each of us informed about the weekly attendance and giving at WCBC.

The offering column includes tithes, offerings, and breakout offerings. It does not include funds designated for special projects.

Week	Attendance	Offering
9/25/11	172	\$9,581.56
10/2/11	181	\$4,546.55
10/9/11	134	\$2,833.88
10/16/11	165	\$5,680.19
10/23/11	164	\$4,658.44

Weekly Offering Needed for Budget: \$4,807.70

Average For These Weeks: \$5,460.12

Selfless by Troy Campbell

Words of Vision Study Series



“When I hear someone referred to as selfless I envision a person who has given their time to serving others. He or she has devoted their energy to caring for the needs, concerns and/or the rights of others rather than for self. Mother Teresa, missionaries, Peace Corp and Habitat for Humanity volunteers are some who fall into this category. These have given of their lives, time, energy and money to help those in need of food, healing and salvation.

The greatest example, of course, is Jesus “who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be held onto, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bondservant, being made in the likeness of men. And being found in the appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross”. Phil. 2:6-8. Why did He leave heaven for earth? Why did he come here to die? He came for the benefit of others. We, as Christians, are both followers and learners of His and the practice (art) of selflessness. Let’s take a look at some of Jesus’ teaching on selflessness.

The Golden Rule: **“So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets”.** Matt. 7:12.

Treat others as if they were you. Most mistakenly think that fulfilling our wants and needs will satisfy us. But look around. It doesn’t. Helping others does! And doing so actually helps us, too. “Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.” Phil. 2:4. There are many who need us. Remember, Jesus looked out for us!

Humility and Servanthood: Jesus said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. It is not so among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” Matt. 20:25-28. Selflessness is essentially servanthood. We’ve been conditioned to believe that leaders are the great ones, but Jesus tells us it’s the servants who have true greatness in God’s eyes. And with that the God of the universe, the Creator of all things “rose from supper, laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, girded Himself about. Then He poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with a towel”. John 13:4,5. He concludes this by telling them to do as He had done. Our natural desire is for others to serve, honor and respect us, but the Spirit of Christ transforms our hearts to serve others with love, mercy and compassion. “With humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself”. Phil. 2:3. How are we doing?

Matthew tells of the Judgment scene in which the ‘sheep’ and the ‘goats’ are separated by whether they served others. “For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me’. And the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison?’ And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even to the least of them, you did it to Me.’ 25:35-40. There is no question that God views as our task the welfare of others. I stand convicted. When have I done these things for others?

I hope and pray that when someone is referred to as selfless, they can be talking of us.