

July 2018

Growing Together in Christ



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Save the Date

- Sunday, August 12-
All church End of Summer
Bash 3:00-6:00 pm

July

Opportunities abound, so take some time this month to fellowship, study and serve.

Prayer

The Prayer Team invites you to join them Sunday, July 1, Sunday, July 15 and Sunday, July 29 from 9-9:45 am in the prayer room where they pray for our church needs.

The first Wednesday of every month is set aside for Fasting and Prayer for all those who feel led. This month Fasting and Prayer is on Wednesday, July 4. It may not be possible to fast but please remember to pray for our church and our nation.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday July 7 at 7:30 am at the Golden Corral in Grand Chute. Join us for great food and fellowship.

Men's Bible Study

Wednesdays at 6 am. We meet at church for study and fellowship. All men are invited.

Women's Bible Study

Our Bible Study year begins in September with the study *30 Days In The Land With Jesus*. This year we will study 2 Corinthians, Ephesians and *Fight Back With Joy* by Margaret Feinberg. We meet Monday evenings and/or Tuesday mornings.

Contact Mary at 920-735-9971 for details.

Join as you can, we learn so much from one another.

Updates and Opportunities



Discipleship Notes-Growing Together in Christ

In the May and June newsletters, two values of ACEFC were highlighted, fellowship and evangelism. In this issue I will look at the subject of conflict which often enters into a relationship of those growing together in Christ.

Conflict is very broad and can occur in different types of situations with different levels of intensity. For the purposes of this article I wish to concentrate only a conflict between two believers. Remember we are striving to become more Christ like.

Ken Sande, a Christian author and founder of the Peacemakers Ministry has developed different peacemaking strategies for bringing about reconciliation. It is one of those strategies, based on the word of God I wish to share with you in this article. Keep in mind God uses conflict for us to glorify Him, serve others, and to grow more Christ like. The Four G principles with supporting scripture verses, responding to conflict are:

1. Glorify God (Mark 11:25; I Cor. 10:31; 1 Peter 2:12).
2. Get the Log out of Your Eye (Matt. 7:3-5).
3. Gently Restore (Matt. 18:15-20).
4. Go and be reconciled (Matt. 5:23-24).

Discipleship is the maturing of oneself and the helping of others to become more Christ like in each and every aspect of life. If you find yourself in a conflict consider these four g's. However, if you're needing help in working through this seek out the leadership of ACEFC or myself. We are here to help you.

Tom Deason Discipleship Ministries

Mission of the Month: Our mission of the month is school supplies for the Lac Courte Oreilles Indian reservation.

We will be taking them to The Shack, a ministry we have been serving with for many years. Please pick up a few things as you shop during the month of July. We will collect through the first weekend of August, as this is the tax free weekend for school supplies. We also are in need of backpacks! Don't like to shop? If you want to make a donation we will shop for you! Make the check to the church and put school supplies on the memo line. Paper, pencils, crayons, rulers, glue, let's fill a car full and show Christ's love to those in need!

Thank you for your generosity!



**Sunday, August 12 from 3-6
pm**

Send off summer
with carnival games and fun!

Plan to join us!

We Got Messy



Youth and Children's Ministry

What's happening in Growing God's Way Ministry...

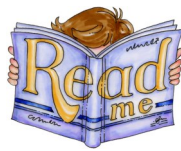
Last Friday we finished a three day Learning and Growing mini Camp. There was lots of fun, laughter, and learning. Thank you to Donna Dykstra and Jennifer Zachek for helping with the camp

Lil' Sprouts will be celebrating that God made **Colors** .

Sprouts will learn more about God's love and hear about some of Paul's journeys.

Evergreens will continue with the Gospel project learning more about Paul.

Y.A.M's will have a lock in at the church on July 18.



Looking for a good devotion for your child or youth? Check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals



END OF SUMMER EVENT: Community Carnival, Aug. 12, 3-6pm

There will be a planning meeting for this event Sunday, July 1 after church. If you are unable to make the meeting but would like to help plan the event please contact Ischodorf0419@gmail.com



It might be summer, but Awana leaders are already planning for another great year of club! We have some exciting and new things planned for next Awana year. Be sure to take advantage of our summer early bird discount and save \$5 per clubber! You can pick up an Awana registration form at our Children's ministry cart or on our website. We hope to see you all soon!

Looking to make a difference in the life of our children for Christ? Become an Awana leader! We are always looking for more leaders who love Jesus and love serving our children. We have a lot of fun! Contact Pam MacDonald at appletonawana@gmail.com or 920-460-9571.

Elders Report

Finishing Well

“For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing. “

2 Timothy 4:6-8



The Apostle Paul wrote these words to Timothy from a Roman prison, anticipating his imminent execution. Paul was confident that in his last days he had endured to the end and finished well. I love the story of Paul and all he went through in his life as a great example of God’s grace, endurance, and an anticipation of the crown of righteousness that awaited him as a faithful servant here on earth.

Two other great examples in my life of persevering and faithful Christ followers were my grandparents, Bob and Carol Dietsche. Just less than 1 year apart (my grandpa two weeks ago), both went home to be with their Savior. As I have reflected on their godly examples, legacy and impact on me, it has encouraged me to finish the race well. It was such a blessing to be able to watch both my grandparents finish their individual races well.

Just one recent example from my grandfather was in personally watching his consistent bold witness to the nurses’ aides and radiation technicians in his hospice unit. He leveraged most conversations in his last weeks of life to share the good news of Jesus Christ with all he came in contact with. He had full confidence in where he would be going and wanted others to join him.

With these great examples in mind- I have been asking myself how I personally can finish my race well. One main area I have been considering is certainly the gift of our congregation. Within the involvement of worship and active engagement in membership (small groups/Sunday School/ Children’s programs etc.), is the blessing of encouragement, learning, relationships and spiritual refinement. In the lives of my grandparents- church was an integral and prioritized focus that created an anchor for them in the midst of all the storms and challenges of life. Please pray for our church and consider how active and prioritized involvement could spur you on to finish your race well! If there are things we can do as a group of Elders to help your race please let us know.

Sam Nash



The Treasure of Truth

In my article this month, I simply want to highlight the blessings we gain when we take time to allow God’s Word to saturate our thinking. For instance, Psalm 119 is considered to be one chapter in the Bible, but it actually is a literary masterpiece (22 sections) that repeatedly reminds us that God’s Word is like the headlights of our car, helping us see the path we’re taking, like a refreshing drink of water on a warm summer day, or a guard to protect us from evil intruders. Another example that emphasizes why the Bible is valuable is found in Paul’s second letter to Timothy where he says: “Clearly communicate the message on a continual basis, being ready to explain it whether its convenient or not. Make an effort to reprove, rebuke, or exhort with patience and instruction. Realize that there will come a time when people won’t tolerate sound teaching, but instead they will follow their own personal desires and will only want to have their ears tickled with things they want to hear instead of what they need to hear. They will turn away from any desire to hear the truth and will focus their attention on myths and fables.”

Earlier in my life, I often turned to this passage from Paul and wondered if—or when we might reach the point where this could/would actually happen. An accurate look at history shows how the Church in Europe shifted away from biblical teaching and now research shows that the culture in our country is predominantly turning toward ideas and ideals that question the authenticity and authority of the Bible. For the remainder of this article, I’d like to insert Bible verses that encourage and edify us by emphasizing the benefits of knowing God’s Word. In addition to this, please notice the “fun exercise” in the box on the right that includes a Bible Quiz. Enjoy God’s Word!

2 Timothy 3:16—17 All Scripture is inspired (breathed out) by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness so that the person dedicated to God might be capable and well equipped for every good work.

Psalm 119:11 In my heart I store up Your words
So I won’t sin against You

2 Timothy 2:15 Make every effort to present yourself before God as a proven and diligent worker who does not need to be ashamed, teaching the message of truth accurately.

Proverbs 30:5—6 Every word from God is pure and tested to be true; He is like a shield for those who take refuge in Him. Don’t add to His words, or He will correct you and prove you to be a liar.

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Hebrews 4:12-13 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

As always, with praise for His grace and prayer for His glory,

Pastor Greg

1. Who wrote the Acts of the Apostles?
2. When Jesus fed the 5000, how many loaves and fishes did He have when He started?
3. On the Sea of Galilee when Jesus rebuked the wind and waves to calm the storm, what was He doing when the disciples asked for His help?
4. Who was Samuel’s mother?
5. Who was David’s oldest brother?
6. Who was Joseph’s father-in-law?
7. Where was the ship going when Jonah ran from God’s instructions to go to Nineveh?
8. Which tribe of Israel was in charge of maintaining the worship activities?
9. Who took the southern Jewish kingdom (Judah) into captivity?
10. Who wrote the first 5 books of the Bible?
11. Paul was shipwrecked on what island?
12. What was Paul’s name before he followed Christ?
13. Who was Abraham’s nephew?
14. Where did Zacchaeus live?
15. What was John the Baptist’s father’s name?
16. What was Ruth’s original home?
17. Who was scolded by a donkey’s words?
18. What was Matthew’s other name and what was his occupation?
19. Where was Paul going when he “saw the Light?”
20. Who was the high priest during Jesus’ trial?

Missionary of the Month-Howard and Marilynn Plucar



Currently living in Plymouth, MN Howard & Marilynn Plucar serve as ReachGlobal pastor-to-missionaries (PTM) couple; a ministry that they have had since January 1, 2010. From January 1, 2010 until October 1, 2013, Howard & Marilynn served in a part-time capacity as pastor-to-missionaries couple while at the same time serving an international church in Tokyo and also managing the ReachGlobal-Japan guest apartment. On October 1, 2013, they became full-time PTM couple serving ReachGlobal staff in 12 countries – 3 in Asia, and 9 in Western Europe – giving pastoral care to a far-flung “congregation” of about 220 adults and children.

We speak of our ministry as PTM (“Pastor-to-Missionaries”) couple for ReachGlobal as a “ministry of presence” to our colleagues for their total

health, well-being, and effectiveness in life and work. We could also add the word, “encouraging” onto “ministry of presence” as we work with our staff to build them up in their life with Jesus Christ, walk with them through “deep waters” at times, promote healthy team relationships, and help them with self-knowledge and understanding as beloved children of God.

Prior to 2010, they served for 13 years as area leaders for ReachGlobal in East Asia/Pacific Asia with responsibility for ReachGlobal staff health and effectiveness, investigation and development of new work, and collaboration with national/international partners. Prior to that assignment, they served for 8 years as District Missions Consultants for ReachGlobal in the Forest Lakes District (Wisconsin and Upper Michigan). They also served as short term workers in Japan in the mid 1980s as well as serving EFCA Churches in Wisconsin, including 10 years as Pastor of Faith EFC of Manitowoc, Wisconsin from 1974-1984. Howard & Marilynn have been in EFCA Ministry for 46 years, 34 of those years with ReachGlobal. They have been married for 47 years, and have two children (Kris and Bryan) and two grandchildren (Owen & Ana).

PRAYER & PRAISE

- 1. Praise God with us for the privilege of being part of the ReachGlobal Member Care Team for the past 8 ½ years. This is a delightful group of people to work with under the caring, wise leadership of our retiring leader.***
- 2. From July 1, we become the interim directors of member care for ReachGlobal. Ask the Father for wisdom to know how to walk with the team through a time of transition and preparation for the future.***
- 3. Our financial support is back at the “critical” level as we have lost some financial support over the past 6 months due to circumstances beyond our control. Please pray that God will supply the \$1,700/month that we are lacking in financial support, especially as we begin our expanded responsibilities.***
- 4. Please pray for two major ReachGlobal events that we are participating in during July: Pre-Field Training at the University of Northwestern in St. Paul...and following that...Debrief for workers on home assignment. We have a record number of staff participating in debrief, so we would ask you to pray for the Lord’s energy and wisdom.***

Thanks so much for praying!!

Howard & Marilynn

Our Mission here at Appleton Community EFC is to lead all people in a growing relationship with Christ.

Growing together in Christ we value:

Biblical Truth

We depend on the Bible as our source of authority in what we believe, what we teach, and how we live. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Worship

We believe that we are created by God to worship Him. Therefore, we live in worshipful response to God's character and activity. (Psalm 86:11)

Prayer

We believe that daily prayer is essential in the life of a believer and as such we pray with expectancy knowing that God is actively involved in our world. (Colossians 4:2)

Evangelism

We believe in sharing the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ with honesty and humility. (Matthew 28:19-20)

Fellowship

We believe that accountability, caring and a sense of belonging are essential for each believer to grow in their relationship with Christ. (Philippians 2:1-4)

Encouragement

We believe we are responsible for caring for and encouraging one another. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)



Church Office Hours

Closed Mondays

OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED WEDNESDAY JULY 4

Tuesday 10:00 am-4:00 pm

Wednesday 11:00 am-5:00 pm

Thursday and Friday 10:00 am-4:00 pm

We're on the Web!
applefreechurch.org

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