

RIVERSIDE

COMMUNITY CHURCH

JUNE 2018

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At Riverside Community Church, we believe that when God brings a person into a relationship with Himself, He also brings him/her into a family relationship in the local church. There is more than just believing. There is also belonging. This Newsletter is intended to help those of us who are part of this church family grow in our relationship with God and each other. We want to stay in touch with one another. We want to share what God is doing in our midst.

Be Fruitful: Love

By Pastor Paul Sommerfeld

What is the defining characteristic of Christianity – the trait that should distinguish Christians from all other people? It's love. Jesus said, "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." The Apostle Paul wrote, "Do everything in love."

It should be no surprise then, that when some men asked Jesus, "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Matthew 22:36-40)

Yet, love is probably the most misunderstood of all the spiritual fruit. Our culture has conditioned us to believe that love is primarily a feeling or an emotion. The dictionary even says that love is "an intense feeling of deep affection." But that's so misleading because biblical love is not a feeling at all. What is it then? It's an action. And here's the tricky part: It's an action that is often contrary to a feeling. In other words, biblical love will require you to do things that you don't feel like doing.

Let me illustrate this point a little further. The Bible says, "This is how we know what love is. Christ laid down His life for us." (1 John 3:16) Christ's sacrifice for us on the cross was the greatest demonstration of love that the world has ever known. But guess what? He didn't feel like doing it. He said, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." In other words, "I don't feel like doing this. I don't feel like taking the punishment for the sins of the whole world, but if you want me to, I will do it anyway." Why did He do it if He didn't feel like doing it? Because He acted in love and obedience to the Father.

As long as we believe that love is a feeling, then we will miss most opportunities to love others as Christ loved us. We will fall short of His command to "live a life of love." So we need to ask God for His help, by His Spirit, to do what love calls us to do, which is to put the needs of others before our own, even when we don't feel like doing it. We need to ask Him to help us be fruitful in love.

In faith and love, Paul

Digging In...

May saw the Riverside family digging in to complete projects at home and in the community.

AT HOME

On Saturday the 12th, a crew of 13 pitched in for Spring Cleaning Service Day at the church. Jerry Lietza, who helped organize the clean-up, reports, "We had a good turnout considering the weather looked so threatening. All dug in and worked hard. We started at about 8:15 am and were finished around 12:45 pm."

It was a productive morning. In those 4.5 hours, the baker's dozen completed several projects to prep the property for the season.

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FAMILY PROFILE

Meet the Vislisel Family

Tom & Rachel
John, Caleb, Micah, Sarah, Anna



Favorite Hangout

Tom and Rachel: Benedict's Eggs and More
Sarah: Barnes & Noble; Anna: Van's Frozen Custard

Favorite Movie

Tom: *It's a Wonderful Life*
Sarah: *Cinderella* (2015)

Favorite Book

Tom: *Fearless: The Undaunted Courage and Ultimate Sacrifice of Navy SEAL Team SIX Operator Adam Brown*
Rachel: *Understood Betsy* by Dorothy Canfield
Sarah: *The Book Thief*; Anna: *Dangerous Journey*

Favorite Game

Tom: Disc Golf
Sarah: Capture the Flag

Favorite Quote

"Trust in the Lord with all of your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight."

Three words that best describe your family

Tall, bookworms, foodies

Where are you on a typical Saturday night?

At home relaxing - except for Sarah. You'll find her working at the Anvil Club.

How did you hear about RCC? How long have you been attending?

Barb Wilson's Bible study. Since March 2017.

In your opinion, what is the best thing about RCC?

The community.
Anna: Fusion

Kids:

Anna (13)
Sarah (16)
Micah (18)
Caleb (20)
John (22)

DIGGING IN...

(continued from page 1)

The committed crew:

- Spread 240 large bags of mulch around the front areas of the church.
- Climbed and trimmed some of the large trees in front.
- Trimmed bushes.
- Cleaned storage areas.
- Replaced light bulbs.
- Repaired a toilet.
- Cleaned the women's bathrooms.



It's clear these laborers were flushed with joy to lend a hand.

IN THE COMMUNITY

On the 5th, six of the Riverside family spent the morning partnering with The Forgotten Initiative to complete repairs at a foster home in Elgin. By the time they left, the volunteers had cleaned gutters, mulched flower beds, removed a bush, prepped railings for painting, repaired patio pavers, and fixed a pool gate and decking lattice.

Most importantly, they continued to build the bridge from RCC to our community.



Friends—Loving God and One Another

LOL LEARN FROM THE SNAIL

by Susan Zimmer

On Wednesday, May 9, eight of the Ladies of Literature (LOL) met at Jen Schultdt's home for our final book discussion of the year. Our selection, *The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating* (as quirky as it sounds) led to an interesting and in-depth sharing about snails, the Bible, health challenges, and eating wild violets!



A final quote from the author -

"Lots to do at whatever pace I can go. I must . . . always remember the snail." - pointed us to God in Psalm 9:1-2
"I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing the praises of your name, O Most High."

We praised God for the wonders of all His creations and His healing, developed a respect for the lowly snail, and one of us (?) even considered obtaining a snail as a pet!

RCC BIKERS HIT THE TRAIL

by Matt Strader

Saturday, May 26th was a great morning for a ride - the sun was bright and temperatures were warm but not hot. The early start time (7 am) kept the rider numbers small, but the foursome who were up for the challenge had a fun time. As planned, they rode for 90 minutes; 45 minutes out on the Great Western trail, then back to the church.

The pace was moderate during the ride out and a little more brisk coming back. Brad Scull and Nathan Sommerfeld rode their road bikes with skinny tires while Tom Vislisel rode his hybrid bike. Matt Strader was on his fat tire bike, which usually only sees the trail when there is snow on the ground.



Ride highlights:

At one point, Brad took off for a high-speed sprint, and Nathan followed. About 15 minutes later they returned - with Nathan slightly behind. It seemed the older guy showed the younger he still has the energy to ride hard.

(RCC Bikers continued)

On the return ride through Leroy Oaks, Matt cut off the trail and rode a wet dirt path. The path turned into a mud bog. There was no option but to ride through it. Fortunately, Matt made it through the four inches of mud, but he accumulated a lot of sludge on his bike and tires. When he joined the other three on the path, Brad experienced a barrage of flying mud that bombarded his face and helmet. Thank God for the hose at the church to remove the extra pounds of dirt the riders brought back from this mud excursion!

Quotes from breakfast:

"It was a humbling experience - my heart rate was racing, and I cramped up after the ride." - Tom

"Mr. Strader's quote of the day should be drain the swamp after riding through mud at the end of the ride." - Nathan

FAMILY GROWTH

Bridal Shower

The women of Riverside gathered on May 6th to shower bride-to-be Anita Flanagan with blessings. The bridal shower took place at Angela Cameron's home in St. Charles, where the ladies enjoyed an afternoon of celebration, encouragement and fellowship.



Upcoming Events

June

- 16 The Forgotten Initiative-Journey Bags & Phil's Friends-Cards for Cancer Patients 9-11am @ church
- 15-16 Family Camping Trip; Richard Bong State Recreation Area, Kansasville, WI
- 24 RCC Family Picnic 12-4 pm, Delnor Woods Park

July

- 7 Men's Breakfast Study 7-9 am @ church
- 8 Second Sunday Sisters 2-4 pm @ Chris Bolliger's home
- 21 Feed My Starving Children 11:30 am-1:30 pm, Aurora
- Sundays - Vacation Bible School for Pre-K - 6th grade

Watch for updates on Sundays for Summer Serving opportunities throughout the summer months.

Summertime Fun!



by Debra Sommerfeld

We have a break from school and the normal schedule. We add in special trips and special events. But where is God in all of this?

Well, for students in Fusion, Wednesday nights still continue, with special teaching and special events added in for the summer. While we have a great time together, we also work with the great questions of life. We do that NOW while young, so that when we're older and even busier, we have a great foundation to work

with and build upon. It's hard to see that the fun times last just a summer, a week, or a day, but our relationship with the Lord is eternal. Will you be eternally blessed in His presence or eternally cast away from His presence? Our Fusion summer video series is a great time to start fresh in Fusion, and it's a great time to bring friends. Your friends need to hear the good news that you've heard too!



So, come join us Wednesday nights, gather with the whole church family on Sunday mornings, and listen online to Pastor Paul's messages while you're traveling. Read your Bible and talk to your awesome Creator and Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Confess the things that are wrong, and seriously ask for power to change. Worship Him because of who He is and thank Him for all He provides, including a change in schedule and summertime fun!

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