

Spring Is In...Our Hearts!

A woman in New York had a beautiful black cat named Felix. She would put him outside during the day and let him come in at night. One cool October evening, he disappeared. She searched the neighborhood but no Felix. The following spring, however, Felix reappeared looking clean and healthy. She guessed that he had been sowing his wild oats. Everything was back to normal until the next autumn. Felix disappeared again. The next spring, he returned. Perplexed, she began asking neighbors for clues. Finally, she rang the doorbell of an older couple. "A black cat?" the woman said. "Oh, yes. My husband and I hated to see him out in the cold, so we bought a cat carrier. We take him to Florida every winter."

Some of our members leave for the winter and we are always so glad to see them return. I understand why they leave. Winters in Illinois aren't easy. Snow is beautiful but sometimes the world seems like a colorless, lifeless landscape. But there is more going on than meets the eye.

As I write this, beautiful Tulips are growing outside my office window. They were planted in December. Spring was hiding there in the ground even in the cold weather. Even under a coat of ice and snow. A lot of life happens in the winter at the Church. I have lost track of the number of days I have seen a crew here working on Sunday School class rooms. They are here today (April 20) but they were here on some of those cold days. And even in the winter, we saw work coming along with our landscaping.

I'm not much for business meetings but I have seen so many great ideas and a lot of work happen even in business meetings held throughout the winter. A lot of the "business" is going to bring new life. New life is growing. And more is on the way. Our Administrative, Nurture and Outreach Ministries have been busy dreaming, planning, and working.

Some of those cold winter days, people drove by the Church and saw ice and snow. But more was going on in the ground, in the building and in our hearts. It started with ideas but dreams led to action. Isaiah 55 says, "God's thoughts are higher than your thoughts and God's ways are higher than your ways." But then God says, "As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire."

God says His word produces life and growth in us. We are seeing that now. It's spring time. The beauty you are seeing outside and inside the Church started in the mind of God. Ideas and inspiration were given to our members even in the winter. Spring was in their hearts even when it was cold. May God give all of us dreams that come alive.

Rick Williams, Interim Pastor



MOTHER-DAUGHTER BANQUET

Our mother-daughter banquet this year will be a Hat Party on Sunday, June 5th at noon. Start digging in your closets for the perfect hat!

The meal will be catered and the cost is \$7 per adult—children 12 years and younger are free. Forms are available at the church or on our website www.vinestreetcc.com. We'll need your RSVP by **Sunday, May 15th**.

ELDERS MEETING AFTER WORSHIP SUNDAY, MAY 15TH

LADIES OF VSCC...

We are quickly approaching the time to revise the CWF booklets. We know there have been schedule conflicts due to work, vacation, etc. If it would be more convenient for you to switch from the month in which you are currently scheduled to a different month, please call Sandy Dolan (543-2468) or Shirley Edwards (543-5154) by May 16th. If you are unable to help with a funeral dinner on your month, a donation would be appreciated.

These are just a few of the events the CWF women help with during the year:

Ice Cream Social, Christmas Bazaar, Graduation Breakfast, funeral dinners, refreshments & decorations at CWF meetings, preparing communion for worship, church services & bingo at the Arthur Home, kitchen & nursery laundry, cleaning the kitchen, camp fees for youth. All monies raised are used for church projects.

DAY-LONG MARRIAGE WORKSHOP

Join Jim and Carol Yoder at their house in the woods **Saturday, May 21st from 10 am to 7 pm** for a fun-filled day of hiking, exploring, praying, talking and growing in your marriage relationship. The workshop is based on several different relationship books including *His Needs/Her Needs* by Willard F. Farley.

The sign-up sheet is on the L-Table at the back of the sanctuary. For more information contact Jim & Carol (543-2968) or go to our website at www.vinestreetcc.com. This event has to be limited to 10 couples, so sign up soon!

NEWEST MEMBERS OF VINE STREET!

Courtney Gutierrez, Mary Huffman, Emily Kauffman, and Noah Yantis were baptized during worship on April 17th and *Neda Great-house* came forward to transfer her membership the following Sunday. We welcome them and the gifts they bring to our family of faith, and we look forward to sharing life with them as we journey in faith together.



GRAD'S BREAKFAST SUNDAY, MAY 22nd

Our annual Graduate's Breakfast for the graduates connected with our church and their families will be at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 23. Later that day, at 5:00 p.m., the **Community Baccalaureate Service** will be held at Arthur H.S. in the old gym.

If you know of any graduates connected with our church besides those listed below, please call the church office **543-2292**.

Eighth Grade: **Braydon Alexander and Emily Kauffman**

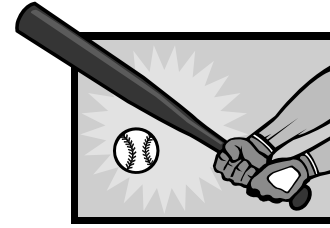
College: **Katey Custer (EIU), Heather Jones (EIU), Juliana Jones (U of I), and Kyle Yoder (SIU-Carbondale).**

SECRETARY'S SUMMER HOURS

Starting in mid-May, Shana Condill's office hours will be changing for the summer. Her hours will most often be 4—6:30 pm, Mon–Fri until mid-August.

DIVINE DINING SIGN-UP

If you aren't already signed up for Divine Dining this year, let us know you're interested by signing up on the Fellowship Pad on Sunday morning or call the church office at 543-2292. People are randomly assigned to dinner groups of 6 to 8 people hosted by those who volunteer –and lists are reshuffled for every meal (every two months). A great and fun way to get to know people better!



ALL-CHURCH SOFTBALL GAME MAY 22ND

We had such a blast last year, we had to do it again! The first outing of the season is set for **Sunday, May 22nd after worship** at the 2-Mile Schoolhouse at the Condill Farm. We'll be grilling hotdogs, playing softball and just having fun! The best part? **You don't have to bring anything but your softball mitt and lawn chairs**—we're providing the rest! Please RSVP on the pew pad or by calling the church office (543-2292) by **Sunday, May 15th** so we know how much food to prepare. Bring your A-game!

CHURCH CAMP REGISTRATIONS DUE SOON

The dates of church camp this summer are listed on the bulletin boards and sheets on the L-Table that you are free to take. Also on the sheet are:

- 1) Early bird deadlines: you can register at the discounted rate by registering **5 weeks** before the deadline.
- 2) Final deadlines - Registrations **must** be in by **2 weeks** before the start of the camp.

Go to www.cciwdisciples.org and click on "Camps" near the bottom of the left side **to access registration forms** and other camp related items.

MAX'S MAGNETS

Max Duzan, 5-year-old son of **Darrell and Tosha Duzan** and brother to **Ty**, is cancer-free (!!) after having been diagnosed with AML Leukemia just a year ago. He is still involved with St. Jude's Children's Hospital in Memphis, TN, where he received his treatment and continues to go for bone marrow tests.

While he was there, he stayed nearby at the Target House—housing available for patients. Residents aren't allowed to decorate their rooms, so many families decorate their metal doors with papers hung with clip magnets—which was a great way for families to get to know their neighbors. Max goes back **May 23rd** for his next bone marrow test and would love to take enough of these clips for each of the 96 families there. There is a donation box in the church's foyer—drop some in!

“MOVIES UNDER THE STARS!”

Save these Friday nights for our popular movie nights: **June 24th, July 29th, August 26th, and September 16th**. Join us for popcorn, drinks, and a movie! Movies start at dusk—and the rain date is always the following Saturday night.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL!

We are recruiting helpers for the Summer Quarter—we all combine classes and work together to move through stations for music, story, crafts and games—based on this year's VBS theme. It's *very* flexible with your summer schedule. If you can help at all this summer, let a member of our education team know (Randa, Ginny, Carol H., Jeanene, Sandy or Shana).



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL WILL BE JUNE 6-10

The theme this year is surfing, beach towels and flip flops! Vacation Bible School will be from **9:00-11:30 am each morning, Monday through Friday, June 6-10 at the Arthur Mennonite Church**. Our church, Arthur Methodist, and the First Baptist Church are the other three sponsors. Last year we had 140 kids attend and we're planning on another record turn-out!

We have been so blessed this year with fantastic volunteers, and soon we'll need a little more help with donations. Look for a donation tree later in May for crafts and snacks.

And if you're interested in representing our church as a VBS director, let Carol Huffman or Shana Condill know—they can give you more info and bring you to a meeting or two to get your feet wet. Consider adding your unique perspective to this fantastic, growing event—it's fun and truly rewarding!

CONGRATULATIONS !!

... to **Kit, Emily, Kai and Norah Condill** on the birth of the newest member of their family, **Phoebe Rose**. Born on April 25th, she was 9 lbs, 1 oz, and 22" long. Grandparents are **Mary Beth Turner and Bruce & Mary Beth Condill**.

... to **Ashley Helm, Jesse Garza**, big sister **Elena** and big brother **Adrian** on the birth of **Fernando Michael**, who was born on April 20th. He was 7 lbs, 5 oz. and 20" long. **Ted & Laura Hall** are proud grandparents and **Shirley Edwards** is a proud great-grandma!

... to **Kyla Carson and Zowie Kauffman** and the team at Prairieland Tumbling & Trampoline who tied for first in the state tournament, and will be competing at Nationals in June. Zowie placed first in state in the double-mini event!

... to **Emily Kauffman, Megan Fifer, and Maddie Myers** for their performances in track so far this season. All have placed in their events in recent meets, and Emily has placed first *and* gotten personal bests in both shot and discus (multiple times!).

... to **Bryce Yantis** on his acceptance to SIU-Edwardsville School of Nursing.

THANK-YOU'S

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's **Mystery Dinner Theatre** a success—a lot of work went into rehearsals, set construction, Audio-Visual, and of course, the fantastic food! Thank you also to everyone who came to the show—the production raised \$1,441 for our church's audio-visual program! And a big thanks to director **Sandy Dolan**.

Dear VSCC,

Thank you for your thoughts and cards upon my baptism. Thank you for your support and being my church family.

Sincerely,

Mary Huffman

I just wanted to say thank you to the Church Family. I truly appreciate everything from meals, cards, to visits after my surgery.

I also wanted to say thank you for not only the past few weeks, but for the past few months. Mom, Dad and I appreciate everything the church family has done for us.

I also want to say a special thanks to Rick. He has been there for me, Mom, & Dad while we were in the hospital and has spent countless hours in hospital waiting rooms.

*Thanks so much,
Janet Ray*

MAY 2011 BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 - Brayden Alexander
James Greathouse
Adam Jones
Kevin & Kristen Conlin (A) | 19 - Faeryn Shade Davison
Elise Singer |
| 2 - Benjamin Charles Condill
Nancy Navel | 20 - Danielle Schultz |
| 4 - Mary Elizabeth Huffman | 21 - Larry Maxedon
Margaret Sanders |
| 5 - Michael Taylor
Ted & Laura Hall (A) | 22 - Mac & Ginny Condill (A) |
| 6 - Rev. Mark Woldruff | 23 - Jewell Dorjahn
Clint Goodman
Marilyn Watkins |
| 7 - Stacey Goodman
Jennifer McCollum
Leonard Ohnesorge | 24 - Jamie Hutchcraft
Jimmy Hutchcraft
Bradley Taylor
Lorene (Renie) Willoughby
Kit & Emily Condill (A) |
| 8 - Kenneth Mentzer | 25 - Shirley Hilligoss
Justin Woodard
Dave & Sharon Binion (A) |
| 10 - McKayla Michelle Custer | 26 - Tia Hall
Paul Vail
Mike & Stacey Goodman (A) |
| 11 - Peter Kondrup | 28 - Kyle & Talia Helm (A) |
| 12 - Tony Earnst
Howard & Linda Keiss (A) | 29 - Allen & Nancy Navel (A) |
| 15 - Jack Barnes
Janice Daugherty
Joshua Kauffman | 31 - Juliana Jones
Patti Peterson
Jon & Teri Malin (A) |
| 16 - Jillian Danielle Alexander | |
| 17 - R.J. Buckler
Tosha Duzan
Shirley Edwards
Jaden Lewis Yoder | |

MAY 2011

<u>EVERY SUNDAY</u>	8:25 am	Singing Group Practice
	9:00 am	SUNDAY SCHOOL
	10:00 am	WORSHIP
<u>EVERY MONDAY</u>	8:30 am	Crafts Group (till Noon)
<u>EVERY TUESDAY</u>	7:00 pm	Crafts Group

SUNDAY, MAY 1 *Food Pantry Sunday*

Tuesday, May 3 11:00 am Prayer Group

Wednesday, May 4 **1:30 pm CWF Meeting**
7:00 pm Admin Team Mtg

SUNDAY, MAY 8 *Mother's Day*
Home Communion
Sunday *Basement reserved after worship*

Tuesday, May 10 4:30 pm VBS Directors Mtg

Wednesday, May 11 10:00 am Women's Bible Study
7:00 pm General Board Meeting

Saturday, May 14 8:30 am Women's Birthday Breakfast at Yoder's

SUNDAY, MAY 15 **11:30 am Elder's Meeting immediately following worship**

Tuesday, May 17 11:00 am Prayer Group
7:00 pm Education Meeting

Saturday, May 21 **10-7 pm Marriage Workshop**

SUNDAY, MAY 22 **8:30 am Graduate's Breakfast**
Noon All-church Softball Game at the Condill Farm
5:00 pm Baccalaureate at Arthur HS

Monday, May 23 **Noon Deadline for Visitor articles**

Tuesday, May 24 4:30 pm VBS Directors Mtg

Wednesday, May 25 9-11 am Toenail Clinic
10:00 am Women's Bible Study

SUNDAY, MAY 29 *Memorial Sunday*

Tuesday, May 31 4:30 pm VBS Directors Mtg