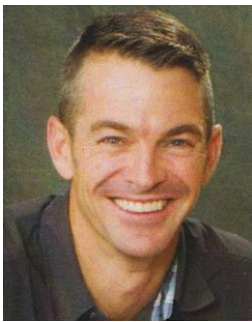




August 2017



Gospel Engagement

“... your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as
it is in heaven.”

Matthew 6:10

At the turn of the 20th century, Baptist pastor and theologian Walter Rauschenbusch wrote a book entitled, *Christianity and the Social Crisis*. His monograph became an instant best seller. From 1907 through 1910 *Christianity and the Social Crisis* was the most popular religious work in the country. It was even heralded by one theologian as the book that “ushered in a new era in Christian thought and action.”

Rauschenbusch's writings reflected his experience as a young pastor in Hell's Kitchen, New York, where he had come face to face with the reality of social suffering: poverty, crime, and inequality. In his book Rauschenbusch argued that the Gospel could not be separated from life's social struggles. Further, “whoever uncouples the religious and the social life has not understood Jesus. Whoever sets any bounds for the reconstructive power of the religious life over the social relations and institutions of men, to that extent denies the faith of

the Master.”¹ While many in the church were choosing to separate themselves from the sin so prevalent in society, Rauschenbusch urged Christians to action. His call to arms quickly led to the formation of what we know today as the Social Gospel movement.

Sadly, as with many such movements, the Gospel's biblically stated goal of bringing men and women into right relationship with God through Jesus Christ was substituted for improving humanities quality of life. Rather than standing upon the objective truth of God's Word, Social Gospellers argued for the autonomy of human reason. Today we would consider much of Rauschenbusch's theology to be dangerously misleading; however, I believe that his desire to see the Church holistically engage culture with the Gospel was spot on.

Immanuel, we are called Christians because our lives ought to reflect Jesus. The Scriptures make clear that Christ lived in society, engaging the hurting, helping the homeless and feeding the hungry. Jesus wasn't a social activist, but He was active in society. He didn't come to improve man's living conditions, but He lived and died that man's condition might be improved!

¹ Walter Rauschenbusch, *Christianity and the Social Crisis* (Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1991), 42.

As we prepare for the Fall, and all of the activities that accompany it, may we intentionally engage our community and culture with the Gospel. Let us make every effort to be tools in the hands of Jesus that His Kingdom may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Rejoice!

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We exalt God above all by evangelizing, equipping and embracing all nations.



Coffee Fellowship

We have coffee in the Fellowship Hall before Sunday School **every** Sunday morning. Come join us for fellowship.

You are invited to join us for breakfast the first Sunday of every month at 9:15 in the Fellowship Hall. Our next social will be on August 6, hosted by the Berean class. Come – enjoy the breakfast and fellowship with other Sunday School members.



GREETERS  **SCHEDULE**

AUGUST

- | | |
|-----------|----------------------------|
| Josh Webb | Heather van Brackel (west) |
| Jeff Lang | Judy Myers (east) |
| | Rory van Brackel (south) |

NOTE: Feel free to change doors assigned. This way you may meet new or old friends!!!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER

Dinner will not be served in August, but will resume on September 6.

BROTHERHOOD

Brotherhood will not meet in August.

***** WMU NEWS *****

WMU will take a summer break til further notice.

**UNITED IN PRAYER
MD/DE STATE MISSION OFFERING**

Seeking Christ's spirit, "they all were continually united in prayer . . ." (Acts 1:14)

Every year in September our convention unites to pray and financially support ministries that reach people in unique ways. One hundred per cent of funds collected support local evangelism projects; such as collegiate outreach, disaster relief, church planting, and disabled outreach, to name a few.

Watch for further information how we too can unite with State Missions as we begin our new church year in September.

LIAISONS

We are in need of liaisons for both our partnership with East Salisbury and a new connection that we are trying to establish with the Christian Shelter. These liaisons would keep us aware of how our church can help with the needs of these ministries and their events. If interested, call the office.

MALI PEOPLE

Continue to keep the Mali people group in your prayers. Seeds are being sown but need to grow. Some growth is seen but needs to be watered.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 16, 10:00 – 11:30

All ladies are invited to enjoy a few hours of fellowship, food and a great speaker. Invite a friend. Hosted by the WMU.

10 – 10:30 Breakfast finger foods, coffee, tea
10:30 – 11:30 Speaker telling of mission trips to China, Australia, and her journey with God to her present ministry in Salisbury. Know who it is yet?

**SAVE THE DATE INVITE A FRIEND
DON'T MISS THIS!**



The Wednesday evening prayer and Bible study sessions will continue through August. Beginning August 9, locations are the homes of Heather and Rory van Brackel, 32795 Dagsboro Rd., Parsonsburg and Kathrine (Kat) Reeves and Elizabeth (Liz) Rosenberg, 1002 N. Division St., Salisbury. The dates are August 9, 16, 23 and 30; starting at 6:30 p.m. each week. Please sign up on the sheets provided in the back of the sanctuary.



The Girls in Action group will meet Wednesday evenings beginning September 6 from 6:15 – 7:15 p.m.

Through Bible studies, crafts, games, and other activities, we will learn about missionaries serving around the world. We invite girls in 1st – 6th grade to join us.



I am so thankful for all of you who prayed faithfully for our week of Vacation Bible School. We truly had an amazing week!

There were about 65 kids that participated this year and many of them joined us for our worship celebration on Sunday. Our 37 volunteers worked tirelessly all week and one teacher told me her favorite part was getting to know other church family members so much better. We experienced God's love, strength and unity as we served together for His Glory.

As I took pictures all week and watched the video that Cotter put together for Sunday, I was blown away by the diversity of both the workers and

participants. We had all ages, cultures, colors, and backgrounds represented during VBS. What a beautiful picture of God's family!

It was my privilege and joy to be a part of such an awesome team.

Rejoice!
Melinda



August 21

Blessed is the person who is too busy to worry during the day and too sleepy to worry at night.



Look Who's Having a Birthday!

AUGUST

- 2 Beverly Bohrer
- 5 Mike Cox
- 6 Rev. Kim
- 7 Charles (Corky) Simpson
- 12 Wanda Ferrier
- 14 Nancy J. Price
- 18 Joyce Simpson
Lucy Webster
Kristin Schockley
- 23 Jacob Baranowski
- 24 Ed Wood
- 26 Jimmy Cathell
Eden Schofield
- 27 Connie Jones
Donald Terry
- 28 Betsy Jarrett
- 29 Laurel Morgan
- 31 Dawn Moyer

NOTE: The Lord's Supper will be observed on Sunday, August 13.



COTTER'S COMMENTS

Immanuel,
Throughout the past year as Emily and I have gotten to know the church family of Immanuel, one of the things that has always stood out to us is the heart of the church to serve. It is a defining aspect of the members of our church and it never ceases to impress me how many members are willing to serve the body of Christ for any opportunity that presents itself.

VBS was the epitome of this attitude of service. Before this year, I had not had the opportunity to experience a Vacation Bible School since I was very young, probably about five years old, so I was not sure what to expect as VBS week approached this summer. The entire week I was impressed, more and more each day, with the attitude and work ethic of the members of our church.

The amount of preparation and work that went into the planning and execution of VBS is astounding. There were so many volunteers from our church body who put in countless hours to make sure that those five days would be a perfect opportunity for the children that came to hear the gospel. Each teacher and volunteer put their life on hold that week so that they could come and teach little ones about God and how big He is.

As someone who did not know what to expect, I couldn't have come away more impressed. Immanuel, your selfless attitude of service is a window into the life-changing effect that the gospel has had on your lives and I believe that VBS was a great opportunity for our community to see that. Every parent and child who walked through our

doors that week was exposed to your love for Christ as a result of your words and actions. It is no small feat to pull off a Vacation Bible School and it is one that we could not have done without the many selfless volunteers from our church who gave up their time to be here spreading the gospel to these children.

Your attitude of service is inspiring and encouraging to me and I feel very blessed to be a part of this church family!



discipleship class

Two new discipleship courses are set to begin on Wednesday, September 6. The two six-week studies are "Jesus and the Journey into Joy," taught by John Piper; and "I am N" by The Voice of the Martyrs.

The Piper course explores the theme of joy found in the book of Philippians. Participants will use their Bibles as the text for this study.

For the other course, the "I am N" title is drawn from the name applied to Christians by radical Islamist extremists such as ISIS. These groups call Christians "followers of the Nazarene."

After the first six-week schedule is completed, the courses will be offered again so that participants will be able to switch courses and benefit from both.

Starting time will be 6:15 p.m., following the Wednesday evening dinner.

