

By Bill Wenzel

Dear God, please give me patience, AND I NEED IT NOW!

Whenever I think of my many, many faults, I remember something that Lily Livingston often used to say. "God made me and he don't make no junk." I know that God made me as I am and he isn't finished with me yet, so I expect to live forever or until he finishes. I think back on the last earthly days of Jack Anderson, Loren Dorothy and Jim Irwin and others. The outward signs of inner peace exhibited by each gave evidence to the fact that they were nearer heaven than most of us.

I know I'm not alone when I say this but sometimes I feel like God's poster child for one who needs work. Fortunately, we are not alone in this designation. New Testament saints such as Peter and Paul also fall into that category. It gives each of us hope as we read how their lives were transformed by the Lord.

Of all my many faults I find being impatient is one that's difficult to control. As a youth I loved to customize plastic model cars. I don't mean that I simply used parts that came in the kit. I cut plastic and added or removed sections of the body and used body putty or filler to arrive at a significantly different look. I even saw some of my effects on later production models. Probably just coincidence but I didn't hesitate to point those out to family and friends.

I'd spend hours working on a model so you can imagine my frustration when nearing completion something just wouldn't work right. You might think I'd lose my patience or become angry or throw something but did I? It saddens me to say yes, I did. At that time I wasn't so much saddened for losing my temper but for destroying something I'd spent hours working on. I wish I could say I've learned never to become impatient or lose my temper and throw things. I will say I've learned there are consequences to throwing things so I avoid that. I'd also like to say I've overcome my proclivity toward impatience and becoming angry. I'm sure that if I never drove a vehicle in traffic it would be easier to say that. But some drivers really drive poorly and don't seem to know or care where they are going. Perhaps some of you have experienced that.

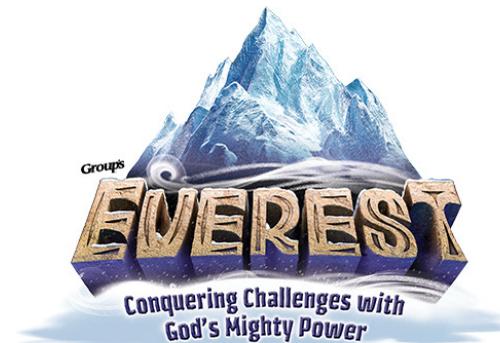
I believe God has improved my patience at least with other people. With others I think I'm far more understanding and willing to apply grace but I still find it difficult to avoid being impatient or angry with myself when I do something stupid because I know I was taught better.

We know the apostle Paul was given a thorn in the flesh to keep him humble as he put it. We can guess at what this thorn in the flesh may have been but we don't really know. He asked God to remove it but that was not granted him. Perhaps impatience is a type of thorn. I know I am humbled by it and in constant awareness of my dependence upon God for strength and His presence to overcome.

Covenant Connections

July 2015

Vacation Bible School preparations are well underway. We are blessed to have all the station leaders we need. Now we are working on getting our supplies and getting the rest of the staff in place. Please take a look at the donation board to see what supplies you can donate to help VBS run smoothly. You can also sign up to help out with nursery, lunch and most of all prayer throughout the week. **VBS Sign up sheets are in the Narthex.** Please pray for the VBS staff and the children that will be attending. Pray that God is glorified in all that we do!



In This Issue

- Calendar & Servers Schedule
- Love Packages
- Intersection Update
- FCC Family News
- FCC Recipe of the Month
- Faces of FCC
- Kyle Gregory
- Elders Corner
- Wendy Wright—editor

First Covenant Church

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July 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Intersection Prayer 6:30	2 Elders mtg 5:30 Wedding Shower 6:30pm Summer Study	3	4 Happy 4th of July!
5 Lord's Supper Worship Service Food collection for South Side	6	7 Worship Prac- tice 7:30	8 Intersection Prayer 6:30	9 Ladies Summer Study 1pm	10 Wynn's Discus- sion Group 7:00pm	11 Heddington Oaks 10am VBS set setup day 9am till done
12 Worship Service JMETs & CC	13	14 Worship Prac- tice 7:30	15 Intersection Prayer 6:30	16 Elders mtg 5:30 Ladies Summer Study 1pm	17 Finale	18
19 Worship Service Kyle Gregory JMETs and Chil- dren's Church	20	21 Worship Prac- tice 7:30 Hilltoppers 6:30	22 Intersection Prayer 6:30	23 Ladies Summer Study 1pm	24	25
26 Worship Service All Church Cook- out	27	28 Worship Prac- tice 7:30	29	30 Ladies Summer Study 1pm	31	

Kyle Gregory's Visit

KYLE GREGORY VISITS FIRST COVENANT CHURCH

On Sunday, June 21, Kyle Gregory visited our church. He played "Be Thou Our Vision." on his trumpet beautifully. Before doing the Minute for Mission, he quoted notes of a melody, "D-G-B-G-B-A-G-E-D, etc. He went on to explain, by way of an analogy, that people might hear or memorize these sequences of notes without ever actually hearing music or being impacted by the beauty and the truth within it. He then played notes on his trumpet and it was "Amazing Grace." He also, gave us an update on his wife, Kim, and their three children: Rebekah, Emily, and Nicholas. He shared about his work with Via Affirmativa, which promotes an appreciation for art and beauty to share the gospel around the world. He talked about opportunities he has had recently of teaching jazz in a few countries overseas.

Then the Missions Committee placed their hands on him, Linda Irwin prayed for Kyle, his ministry, his family, the sale of their apartment in Verona, Italy, and for discernment on Kyle's future of possibly going to Beijing, China to teach jazz.

After the worship service, Kyle had lunch with the Missions Committee: Linda, Nena Gullette, and Michael Uhler. Also joining them for lunch was Sara Uhler and their children and Nena's husband, Chuck. Ross and Jenny Wietharn hosted Kyle in their home on Saturday, June 20th.

Submitted by,
Linda Irwin



Faces of First Covenant Church

Mathew Ljing

Have you ever played broom ball? It is played on the ice using a broom and a small ball. It is similar to hockey. Matthew played broom ball when he was in college at Michigan Tech. in Houghton, Michigan. He graduated from there with a degree in mechanical engineering.

Matthew was born September 28th, 1991 to parents Bryan and Theresa. He lived in New Brighton, Minnesota, a suburb of the twin cities. He has one sister, Julie, who is younger than him.

He spent his whole life in New Brighton where he attended grade school, middle school, and high school, they went on many fishing trips mostly around Minnesota each summer. Also Matthew enjoyed swimming, reading and playing games with friends.

He attended Salem Covenant Church where he was active in the church's youth group. During his junior and senior years of high school, he was also active in the student leadership group. He even had the opportunity to attend CHIC (Covenant High in Christ) a retreat group for high school students held every three years in Tennessee. Another church activity was a middle school event (MOOSE) where the participants spent a long weekend in the twin cities. In college he belonged to the Triangle Fraternity group of engineers, architects and scientists. He lived off campus in an apartment with friends. He was also active in Intersarsity Christian Fellowship.

After looking for a job for ten months, he got a job with Caterpillar through and agency. He moved to Peoria a few months ago and began work at the Peoria Caterpillar Proving Grounds as part of the Hydraulics Team.

His favorite scripture is the book of Titus.

Please welcome Matthew as he comes to our church every Sunday to Worship God with us.

LOVE PACKAGES

On Friday, June 12th, Sara Stewart, Kristi Christian-son, Linda Irwin, Decurione Fletcher, David Wilder, Kate and Dougal MacDougall, Stephen Christianson, and Michael Wietharn went to serve at Love Packages in Butler, IL. Upon arriving they were given a tour of the facility. Steven Schmidt, the founder of Love Packages, shared where all of the Bibles, Christian material, etc. will be shipped to. He explained the various ways we would serve them.

For about five hours, everyone worked very diligently. Some of the group, bound stacks of Christian education material and placed them on flats. Others in the group packaged about 20 boxes of Christian books and devotionals and taped them securely and color coded the boxes. Some sorted out lots of Christian education material.

During their lunch break, the group listened to testimonies from Vern and Jason (full-time employees there) and Steven Schmidt of how these Christian books, Bibles, etc. have changed many lives in Africa, the Philip-pines, India, and other countries. What a neat experience for everyone to learn how one single devotional book or even a single Christian magazine touched the lives of many people in countries overseas!

After working and serving at Love Packages, the youth group was challenged to return some day to assist again at a future date. Thank you to everyone who donated Bibles, Christian education material, and Christian literature as many boxes were brought down from our church and unloaded by our youth group.

Servers

A-V

5	Loni/Steve
12	TBA
19	TBA
26	TBA

Nursery

5	Jane/Randy
12	Linda/Peggy
19	Sherry/Gweneth
26	SaraU/KimW

Hospitality

5	Budzynski
12	Christianson
19	Kampa
28	Laniga

Prayer

5	Linda/Donna
12	Randy/Linda
19	Cliff/Terri
26	Bill/Dawna

Offering Counters

5	Fred/Richard
12	Fred/Bill
19	Fred/Ross
26	Fred/Ken

Children's Church Peggy/Volunteer

INTERSECTION NEWS

By Sara Stewart

July 2015

Church Family, y'all have been amazing with your penny donations, but alas we are only about half way there. (I promise this will be a really cool project... once it's finished.) I hate to be a broken record, and I sincerely appreciate your generosity, but if you have anymore pesky pennies laying around, I would LOVE them!



FCC FAMILY NEWS

The Wynn's are hosting a discussion group in their home at 7pm on 7/10. We encourage everyone who is able to attend!

Happy Birthday to those who were born in July: Sara Uhler, Lizzy Doremus, Donna League, and Linda Thomas!

FCC Recipe of the Month

Fresh Homemade Guacamole

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 3 avocados - peeled, pitted, and mashed | 1 lime, juiced |
| 1 teaspoon salt | 1/2 cup diced onion |
| 3 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro | 2 roma (plum) tomatoes, diced |
| 1 pinch ground cayenne pepper (optional) | 1 teaspoon minced garlic |

Directions

In a medium bowl, mash together the avocados, lime juice, and salt. Mix in onion, cilantro, tomatoes, and garlic. Stir in cayenne pepper. Refrigerate 1 hour for best flavor, or serve immediately with tortilla chips.