

Russellville Church of Christ

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Reflections - FEBRUARY 2024



Catching Fish

My brother Jason loves to fish. He studies it, prepares for it, and when the times comes usually catches the fish. To be good at fishing, it cannot be a simple hobby, it must rather be a passion. The same can be said for sharing our faith..if we treat it like a hobby, then we will do little real soul winning. But if we make it out passion then God will use us as a real tool to help people find a relationship with His Son. The question is do you fish? Do people want to know Jesus because of me? Take time to prepare, study and seek lost people in your life!

Jesus Calls His First Disciples

MATTHEW 4:18 As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." ²⁰ At once they left their nets and followed him.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)

Jesus never said the Christian life would be all potlucks and mountaintop experiences. As a matter of fact, you will often find yourself in the middle of a tough situation—say, stretching the budget late in the month to pay for both a week’s groceries and required materials for the kids’ science co-op that meets tomorrow.

As you step up to the plate in this instance, you’re feeling the pressure to perform. It’s already been a long week. You’re exhausted, and the bat feels leaden in your hands. In that moment, you’re just praying that God will send someone to pinch-hit for you. And that’s when life throws you a nasty curveball in the form of an emergency car repair bill.

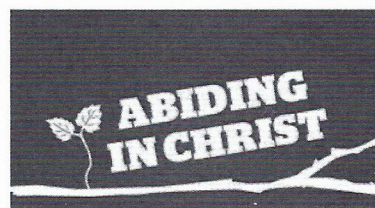
Meanwhile, the enemy of your soul is heckling you from the opposing dugout, yelling, “Hey, batter, you don’t stand a chance! Life is just too long and too hard. And homeschooling? Are you kidding me? There’s no way one person can do it all, but you’re the worst! Those kids are being ruined by your pathetic attempts to teach them at home. You may as well drop the bat and hit the showers!”

Now, when you’re rested and fresh from a great time of fellowship or morning devotions, it’s easy to spot the lies in the devil’s taunts. But what about late in the winter afternoon of a particularly challenging day when you’re tired and testy and running on fumes?

That’s where the power of abiding in Christ comes into play. In John 15, we read that Jesus is the True Vine, and we are His branches. Here we learn the importance of staying connected to the Vine and drawing life and strength from His infinite resources.

What does “abiding” in Christ look like? Praying about everything, feeding on His Word daily, and obediently following His lead throughout the week. It’s listening to and singing worship music that helps you to focus your whole being on praising and believing and trusting Him.

Okay, maybe you’re not feeling all that spiritual right now. But abiding is not really a position you ever fully attain; it’s more about striving to remain. Indeed, desiring to abide in Christ is half the battle. — D. Carmen



1. Noah: Leaders do what's right even if they are alone

In Genesis 6, God is despairing over the wickedness that has overtaken humanity. Reluctantly, he decides to wipe out the human race and start from scratch. Noah, however, is the only one who has not been corrupted. You know the story. God tells him to build an ark that will save him, his family, and a whole host of animal life. As he is boarding the ark, God says to him, "for you alone I have seen to be righteous before Me in this time." Literally the whole world was doing what was wrong. But did that deter Noah from doing what was right? Not a chance!

2. Abraham: Leaders embrace the unknown

God approaches Abraham in Genesis 12 and tells him to "Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father's house, to the land which I will show you." In other words, Abraham is instructed to leave his comfort zone and march onward into uncertainty. As business leaders, that's a hot topic: managing risk and uncertainty. Great leaders embrace that uncertainty, because they know the truth: the promised land awaits them on the other side.

3. Joseph: Leaders endure in spite of circumstances

The story of Joseph beginning in Genesis 37 is powerful. The guy had a pretty tough life. He was sold into slavery by his jealous brothers. His father was told that he was killed by a wild animal. He was framed by his boss's wife because he refused to sleep with her and was thrown into prison. He interpreted the dream of a prisoner who was released and restored to his position, but the guy forgot about him. In the end, though, Joseph became the leader of all Egypt—second only to the Pharaoh himself. When there is a famine, he is then able to save his family from starvation. He tells his brothers when he sees them again that, though they meant harm, God orchestrated the events to put Joseph in a position to save them. Leaders have a vision that sustains them through difficult times.

4. Moses: Leaders stick up for their people

Yes, it's true. God has to be very convincing in order to get Moses to take action in Exodus 3. He at first gives excuse after excuse as to why he isn't the right guy for the job. When he finally does answer his calling, though, Charlton Heston—err, I mean Moses, approaches Pharaoh and boldly passes on the iconic message: "Let my people go." The Israelites, Moses' native people, had been enslaved by Egypt and Moses was the one enlisted to lead them to freedom. When the time came, Moses was willing to step up and lead.

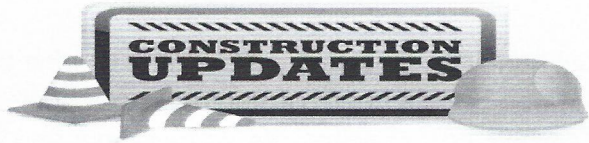
5. Joshua: Leaders rule by example rather than command

In Joshua 24, after leading his people into a new land, Joshua offers the Israelites the option to either A) serve the God who they had always served, the one who had brought them into the land or B) serve the gods of the surrounding lands. "But as for me and my house," he says, "we will service the Lord." The people answer in unison that they will pledge their allegiance to God. Because they believe in Joshua's leadership, they follow Joshua's example. He doesn't have to threaten them; he merely inspires them by his example.

6. David: Leaders are not afraid of giants

Everybody knows this story. In 1 Samuel 17, the Israelites are being defeated by the Philistines and their 9-foot tall giant—Goliath. Goliath taunts the Israelites and challenges them to send him one man and, if that man should defeat him, the Philistines would become their servants. David, a small shepherd boy who will not even fit into the armor he is provided, volunteers. When Goliath mocks him, David says, "You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, whom you have taunted." With that, he takes a stone, slings it at Goliath's forehead, and knocks the giant to the ground—dead. In other words, you can face any challenge as long as you have conviction and strength of resolve on your side.

**BIBLICAL LEADER
TRAITS**



Recently several aspects of repair have been completed:

The foyer ceiling was repaired

The stage ceiling was repaired

2 new stage "spotlights" were added

The old kitchen was renovated for storage

A roof leak was repaired

STARTING in EARLY FEBRUARY:

The middle room floor will be replaced. This will involve the removal of the old carpet, and will also include a new floor in the old kitchen.

This replacement will be a dramatic improvement!

MEDIA UPDATE – In an effort to enhance our in person, and online worship experience the following have been completed:

*Two new 75 inch media screens for the sanctuary

*Upgraded download/upload speed for online service



February Golden Girls

On Wednesday, February 21st we will be heading to The Old Y for our monthly Golden Girls Brunch.

Make Sure to JOIN US!



Join us for Wednesday Night

FAMILY

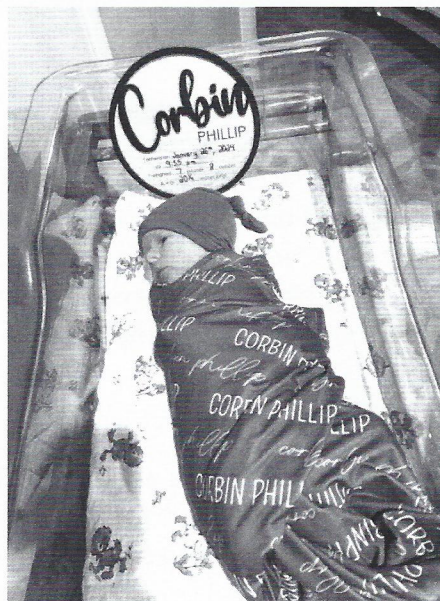
Food, friends, study



CONGRATULATIONS

WESTON BLAIR

WHITEOAK HOMECOMING KING



Congratulations to Brady & Makenna Klein on the birth of their son

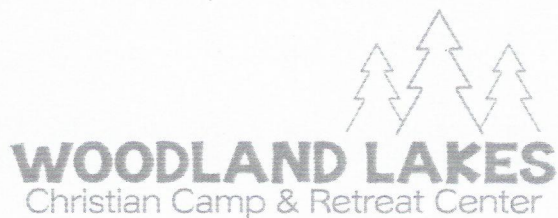
Corbin Phillip on 1/26/24

RCC SAFETY TEAM

UPDATE

The safety team, headed by Tim Broadwell has had two training classes at RCC over the past few weeks. This will help us be prepared for any type of emergency which may arise during a church function.

If you would like to be a part of safety team please see Tim!



RCC MISSION UPDATE

Sally Miller from RCC is on staff @ Woodland Lakes!

From our founding in 1945, Woodland Lakes has operated with a firm commitment to serve. Today, WLCC serves the region as a four-season regional resource that is financially supported by individuals, private organizations, and Christian churches.

Our story began in the early 1940's when the young people in the churches of Clermont County decided to create a place for social and spiritual benefit during the summer. The group originally met at Camp Allyn, near Amelia, OH, where only one week of camp was offered the first year, but the time was received so well that plans were made to establish the camp as a permanent organization.

The Clermont Christian Assembly operated the camp under the name of Lakeside Christian Service Camp, and the summer program was called the Pioneer Christian Service Camp. Eventually, a number of churches from the Cincinnati area began renting the campgrounds for a few weeks each summer. The camp operated in this manner for many years and a local minister was usually appointed as a volunteer manager to make sure the facilities were prepared, supplies were ordered, and publicity distributed.

In 1968, the two separate camps made the decision to merge, and the present Clermont Christian Assembly, Inc. was established to do business as Woodland Lakes Christian Camp and Retreat Facilities.

Today, over 30 congregations in the tri-state area support Woodland Lakes. A wide variety of camping and retreat programs are provided each year: the months of June, July, and August are reserved for 10-12 weeks of summer camp programming, while camps from one day to a full week are offered to children ranging from four years old through twelfth grade. Aside from the regular camp schedule, Woodland Lakes hosts retreats and events such as a Golf Scramble, Summer Camp Kickoff, 5K Trail Run/Walk, and Senior's Days to round out the camp offerings.

The churches also use the grounds for their own retreats, picnics, swimming parties, youth activities, banquets/dinners, wagon rides, and bonfires. In a typical year, about 1500 young people will participate in our summer activities. Many thousands of others will be involved in weekend activities in the fall, winter, and spring. We believe the best part of our camp story is how many young people through the years have dedicated their lives to the Lord at the camp.



BIRTHDAYS

- Feb 4 – Tamala Mulkey
- Feb 4 – Maci Rau
- Feb 7 – Chad Grooms
- Feb 7 – Kobe Wells
- Feb 8 – Juanita Grooms
- Feb 8 – Jeannette Berry
- Feb 10 – The Raus (ann)
- Feb 12 – Hayley Lane
- Feb 14 – Don Thomas
- Feb 21 – Betty Purdin
- Feb 22 – Paul & Zola (ann)
- Feb 26 – Drew Edmisten

**Drugs will be on
Vacation 2/12-
2/18**

Pedro
2024

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
			1 Gods Closet	2	3 Mens Breakfast	4
5 Gods Closet SERVICE	6	7 FAMILY 6:00pm	8 Gods Closet	9	10	11
12 Gods Closet SERVICE	13	14 FAMILY 6:00pm	15 Leadership Meeting	16	17	18
19 Gods Closet SERVICE	20	21 FAMILY 6:00pm	22 Gods Closet	23	24	25
26 Gods Closet SERVICE	27	28 FAMILY 6:00pm	29			