

Annual Giving Statements

2017 Annual Giving Statements will be *available to be picked up in the Hall of Light, beginning Thursday, January 18, and Sunday, January 21 and also during the week in the church office.* Thank you for your continued support of Speedway Christian Church.

Thank You Dorothy Dotlich!

After many years of very loyal service, Dorothy will no longer be calling our folks to order flowers for Sunday morning services. Like all well done jobs, it is time for both Dorothy and the church to move ahead with a new protocol concerning sanctuary flowers. Dorothy has been a true blessing in this ministry and the church warmly thanks her for her service.



Renovation Fund Update

Thank you for making Speedway Christian Church (and the building we worship in) a priority in your life. Our principal loan balance now stands just under \$340,000.

If you haven't made a pledge for 2018 or given yet, please consider supporting our efforts to pay down our renovation debt in the form of a special gift or as part of your stewardship offering.

Our goals for 2018 are to 1) Have enough money to make payments; 2) Maintain enough in reserve to pay the next few month's payments; and 3) Pay more than the minimum payment so we can retire the debt early. We are off to a good start. We will make a lump sum payment in January to chip away at our debt a little further. Thank you again for your care and support. It is wonderful what we can accomplish when everyone is working together! ~ Michi Yochum

Chancel Flowers

Sunday Morning Worship Changes

Beginning this month, January 2018, we will be offering our entire church family the opportunity to purchase live flowers for Sunday morning worship throughout the year. For the first time, there will be a **"Flower Chart" posted on the bulletin board outside the church office,** inviting people to select a Sunday (or more) and sign up to provide flowers on that date. You can choose where to purchase the flowers. We will also list on the flower chart a few suggested florists in the immediate area of the church. *All arrangements going forward will be made by the people donating the flowers directly with the florists.* This is of course, a totally optional program. If you have questions, feel free to contact me for more explanation.

~ Marge Graham

Sincere thanks.....

To all the adults, young people and parents for their help with the kid's choir musical "The King and Me" that our kids presented on December 10. All did a wonderful job and certainly entertained us with their interpretation of the story. Special thanks to Fiona Ridenour who accompanied the musical and expertly led at times when we needed to lean on her. Sabrina Straub, Michi Yochum and Amy Trullinger were truly the eyes and ears of all that went on, both in practices and the performance. From potty breaks to bloody noses, they were there..... Bobbi Jones made and organized all the costumes for the production and they were wonderful. Joe Edmiston and Kaden Jackson-Dietzer had the important job of making sure all could be heard, and they could! And our kids were just wonderful!!



~ Marge Graham

Christmas Families Help Thanks!!

Huge thanks go to all who so generously helped with our 2018 Christmas families! This year we helped 3 families with 14 children in local schools. It is good to be in a church where we certainly celebrate well within our own walls and with our own church family, yet we also reach beyond to see that others can have a better Christmas celebration as well.



~ Randy Kuss

Souper Bowl of Caring—February 4

Whatever the outcome of the Super Bowl game, YOU can be a Most Valuable Player in the **Souper Bowl of Caring** when it happens right here **Sunday, February 4.** Youth will be at the doors following each worship service with soup pots. They invite you to drop a dollar or more into the pot as you leave worship. Proceeds go to feed the hungry locally and around the world.



~ Randy Kuss

Please keep in Prayer

Hilda Ruth Hippensteele
Charlene Hoyt
Jim Hollis
Rex McKinney
Fredrick Kendrick
Denise Mitchell (Donna Pingleton's sister)
Tom Chance (Marilyn Shank's brother)



Sympathy is extended to Margaret Layne and family upon the death of Margaret's sister Pauline Graham, who passed away on Wednesday, December 27, 2017.



Congratulations to Paul & Hannah McDonald and family upon the birth of Oliver Paul McDonald, born on Tuesday, December 12, 2017. Proud family members are big sisters Mae and Lilly, and grandmother, Kelly Ward.



The ladies of Christian Women's Fellowship (CWF) thanks you for your support with the December bake sale. We made \$157.00. CWF added \$200.00 to it and gave a total of \$357.00 toward the Fellowship Hall painting project. Thank you! ~ CWF



In the Event of Church Closings

In the event of inclement weather on Thursday night and/or Sunday morning, you can check for possible church closings at WTHR, WRTV, WISH, WIBC-Radio, and our own church social media (Website and Facebook).

Thinking Out Loud...

Have you ever noticed the sign in our churchyard at the corner of 14th and Winton? "All Are Welcome" it proclaims. We aren't the only church that has this on their sign. There are few churches that would deny that they mean this. Maybe **no** church would say that they don't mean it. But the words are just as radical now as they were in the first century when Jesus lived these words. It was one of the things that got him in hot water with the political and religious authorities. After all, you've got to have some who are insiders and some who are outsiders. There's nothing quite like excluding some people that can bring insiders together.

As I indicated in this past Thursday and Sunday sermons, at the time of Jesus and before then, there were some Jews who felt that only they were the chosen people and Gentiles were second class citizens in God's eyes. They sometimes misused the Bible to give justification to their belief. I emphasize that this was **some** who argued that only they were the chosen ones. Not all Jews felt this way. Jesus demonstrated and preached that he felt **all** were God's chosen. Not only did this upset the Jews who felt this way, but it upset the political authorities because they considered some people to be of lower social class. To rule with an iron fist, they needed those beneath them.

(It's very important for me to note that there have been some Christians who have and still do believe that Christians are God's chosen ones and Jews and persons of various ethnicities and religions are not part of the God's chosen ones. This has resulted in such horrendous things as the Holocaust, and in the United States the internment of Japanese citizens during World War II.)

As I have indicated to the staff and to the Board at our most recent meeting, I want 2018 and beyond to be a time when we ask if our church is a welcoming community of faith. We can ask ourselves some questions that will help us answer this. We can ask such things as: Are **all** truly welcome? How do we welcome others? Can we improve in our welcoming?

This is not to say that we don't ever demonstrate a welcoming spirit. I believe that we do in many ways. But every church, including ours, has room for improvement. To be more welcoming is one of the ways that we can become more like Jesus in the way that we are living our journey of faith together.

In **every** aspect of our congregational life, let's ask: Are we being inclusive?—in worship, on committees, on the Board, in the youth group, at church meals. These are just some of the areas that I have in mind.

A good place for us to begin is for each of us to ask ourselves if we are being welcoming. This will begin to help us be known as the church on the corner of 14th and Winton that is open to all people because we believe that all people are God's chosen ones and all people are God's children.

Blessings on the journey,
Scott

Pasta for Second Helpings

During the month of January, CWF will be collecting pasta for Second Helpings. Volunteers rescue prepared and perishable food from wholesalers, retailers and restaurants to create more than 3,500 nutritious meals every day. These meals are distributed to 75 social service agencies that feed people in need. This time of year, they ask for pasta donations, so CWF is asking your help with this drive. A bin for donations will be located outside of the sanctuary. We appreciate any help you can give to this deserving group. Thank you for your help.

~ Teresa Gorrell, CWF President

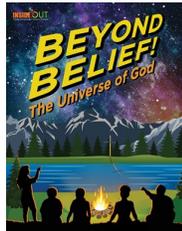
Lenten Pancake Breakfast February 18

You are invited to the annual Pancake Breakfast sponsored by our youth groups, Sunday, February 18, the first Sunday of Lent. Serving will take place 8:00–11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. A free will offering will be taken. Drop by for pancakes and sausage as you also support our youth groups. Proceeds help fund youth trips, summer camps and more.



2018 Church Camps Schedule

Mark your calendars now for the 2018 camp season. There are camps for Kindergarten through 12th grade (plus grandparents and other adults can attend You & Me Camp). The schedule is also posted on bulletin boards by the office and Fellowship Hall as well as in the youth rooms. Registration info available soon.



Geneva Center — Rochester, Indiana

- June 11–16** – Explorer Camp (Grades 4–5)
– CROSS* (Grades 6–12)
- June 18–20** – You & Me #1 (Grades K-3 with adult)
- June 18–23** – MAD** (Grades 6–12)
- June 25–27** – You & Me #2 (Grades K-3 with adult)
– New Beginnings Camp (Grades 1–3)
- July 9–14** – High School Camp (Grades 9–12)
– Middle School Camp (Grades 6–8)

Bedford Christian Camp — Bedford, Indiana

- June 25–27** – New Beginnings Camp (Grades 1–3)
- June 28–30** – You & Me (Grades K-3 with adult)
- July 2–7** – High School Camp (Grades 9–12)
- July 9–14** – Explorer Camp (Grades 4–5)
- July 16–21** – Middle School Camp (Grades 6–8)

*Christian Recreation & Outdoor Sports Skills (CROSS)

**Music Art & Drama (MAD)

Great start to the New Year last Sunday with 40 youth at our first gathering of 2018. We began our Winter/Spring focus on *The Life of Jesus* with a look at the journey of the magi, the paranoid response by Herod, and the refugee journey of the Holy Family fleeing to Egypt. Thanks to the Thompson and Bryant families for feeding us. **Ski Trip** this weekend, January 12–14, with 27 youth and adults headed to Kalamazoo Friday evening. We return Sunday.



Looking Ahead:

- **January 21 & 28** – Chi Rho & CYF @5:45
Life of Jesus
- **February 4** – Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday
- **February 18** – Pancake Breakfast
- **March 2-4** – Spring Youth Assembly



2018 Church Calendar

Please make sure the church office is notified of the dates and times for your event, meeting, etc. This will ensure that the office has an updated church calendar for the year. We need to hear from all groups (first timers and existing) confirming dates and times.

Please contact Jennifer at jcurran@speedwaychristian.org or Wilma at wheller@speedwaychristian.org or call the church office at 317-244-7656.

*Please help those in need by
bringing in food
items to support
St. John's Food Pantry*



Stewardship/Finance

	Offering	Attendance
December 10, 2017	\$ 11,408.50	229
December 17, 2017	\$ 7,584.10	239
December 24, 2017	\$ 12,554.50	137
December 31, 2017	\$ 5,674.60	
January 7, 2018	\$ 11,587.00	174

Official Board Meeting
Tuesday, January 16, 2018
6:30 p.m.

**All 2017 Board Members -
Officers, Trustees, Elders, Deacons,
Department Chairs—are asked to attend.**

Kid's Choir Rehearsal Begins

Kid's Choirs resume for the Spring on **Sunday, January 21**. Practices again will be at 4:30 p.m. The kids will sing once for worship in February and once in March. The musical will be presented in worship on April 29 during regular morning services.



The Youth Band played for 10:15 a.m. worship on December 3 and again for the Chili Cook-off on December 10. They did a great job. What a wonderful new edition to our music program! Hopefully, we will hear from them again soon.
~ Marge Graham

Spirit Newsletter Publication Schedule

Publication Dates: February 6, 2018
March 6, 2018
April 3, 2018
May 1, 2018
June 5, 2018

All articles are to be submitted by Thursday (prior to publication date). Informational updates and announcements will be sent out as needed between publications.

Lunch and Learn

Please join Scott on Mondays at noon for Lunch and Learn. Each Monday, Scott leads a discussion of the scripture readings for the upcoming Thursday and Sunday worship services. The sessions are being held in the Bethany room. Bring a sack lunch and an open mind and heart as together we will seek to know what God has to say to us through scripture.



In observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. day, there will be no Lunch & Learn on Monday, January 15.

Lunch & Learn **will resume on Monday, January 22.**

Church - Emergency on Call Contact

Friday, January 13 - Sunday, January 14
Scott Cox 502-316-3085

Friday, January 19 — Sunday, January 21
Marge Graham 317-313-5337

Friday, January 26 — Sunday, January 28
Randy Kuss 317-201-7095

Friday, February 2— Sunday, February 4
Scott Cox 502-316-3085

Spirit @ SCC
(USPS 510-220)

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