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WELCOME TO FAITH!

From Pastor Tom's Desk...

I know you're probably sick of politics by now, having just been through the national conventions of both major political parties. However, because the issues at stake in this election are so significant, I felt I needed to address the political arena once again.

The first suggestion I would like to make is this: don't vote solely on the basis of personality. No two candidates running for President have ever had such low likeability ratings. Likewise, I don't remember a time when character issues in both candidates were more questionable either. Yes, character is important, but the current situation makes it critically important that we consider the *issues* in this election. We have just heard each party spend 4 days personally tearing down the opponents' candidate. We need to get beyond this, and consider the issues themselves.

The issues are defined by the party platforms, and a careful reading of both platforms will reveal significant differences between the two parties. I doubt that many of you have read the platforms. (I have committed to read both platforms before the election. I encourage you to do the same.) But I'm realistic enough to know that many of you won't read the 50 plus pages in each platform, so I have enclosed with this newsletter the table of contents for both platforms.

You can get an idea of each party's priorities simply by reading the topics they address. The issues addressed are similar, but the wording in many cases distinguishes the positions. My hope is that this table of contents will whet your appetite a bit, and you might actually read

portions of either platform. (At the end of each page, I have given you the web site where I found the documents.)

The question to ask yourself as you read this: which of these documents better represents the values and purpose of the Kingdom of God? I admit, I'm not sure where God stands on the economy or on states' rights, but I'm pretty sure God has strong views on issues like the sanctity of life, and the holiness of marriage, and the injustice of racism.

I know there are those who say that "religion and politics don't mix." I say, they *have to mix!* As Christians, the Lordship of Christ is the central reality of our lives. We cannot put God's will and purpose on the shelf while we consider our political preferences. We must allow our faith to guide us as we evaluate the issues.

I believe this election will determine many aspects of the long-term well-being of our nation. In all likelihood, the next president will nominate several Supreme Court justices. That means the legacy of our next president will extend far beyond 4 or 8 years that he or she will be in the White House. Please don't sit this election out! The consequences are too great. Consider the issues; pray about your vote; go to the polls in November.

For the immediate, please join me in praying regularly for our nation to recognize once again that we are "one nation under God," submissive to the sovereignty of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Tom

Update on Our Pastoral Search...

We have just completed the face-to-face conversations with three candidates for our Associate Pastor of Discipleship and Worship position. Please be praying for the search committee as we discern which candidate God wants on our ministry team.

Volunteers Needed!

School is just around the corner, and that means overtime on Friday nights will be starting back up again. Pastor James is in much need of volunteers to help out after Friday night home football and basketball games at the youth center. Overtime runs from 9:30 pm - 12:00 am during the football and basketball season, and only when a home game falls on a Friday night. Pastor James' goal would be to have enough volunteers that you would only have to help just one Friday night per season! If you are interested in helping, please contact Pastor James at 937.638.5932 or email him at james@faith-alliance.org. THANK YOU!

Current Prayer Concerns...

- Praise: Heidi Siebenaler has been accepted at Winebrenner Seminary, where she will study Christian counseling
- Praise: Michelle Gruber has received her work visa

Pray for:

- Search for our Associate Pastor of Discipleship and Worship
- Gabon Team, now in Africa: Pastor Dave, Mark, Caleb, Vicki, Julie, Jeff, Cierra; returning August 4
- Mandy and Nate Niekamp, death of Mandy's mother
- Jay Berkey, now under Hospice care
- Joann Boyer, recovering from hip replacement
- Family of Jade Riggs, 10-year-old drowned; friend of Oakley's
- Brent Paulus, on-going health concerns
- Children's Fair Ministry this week
- Alan Dock, upcoming surgery on August 5
- Barney Gruebmeier, upcoming surgery on August 8

Women's Bible Studies...

Over the next several months, there will be 3 women's bible study classes:

- The Armor of God (by Priscilla Shirer) begins August 18th
- Living Beyond Yourself (by Beth Moore) begins October 13th
- Seamless (by Angie Smith) begins October 18th

There is further information on these bible studies on the Women's Ministry table in the foyer. Please pick one up and join us! All women are welcome.



Women's Ministry...

HOPE Ministry focuses on meeting the needs of persons in the church, community, and surrounding area. HOPE Ministry will be meeting on August 1 in Room 1 of the Education Building. All are welcome.

All women are invited to join us for a lunch outing at Casa Lupita on August 7 after the second service. Please join us.

The book group is reading Streams of Mercy by Teresa Slack. Discussion will take place in the Fellowship Hall on August 21 at 9:10 during the first service. Everyone is welcome. If you have questions, contact Andrea Ball at 419-305-1812.

ACT Prep...

Shelly Finke will be offering ACT Prep sessions on August 3, 4, 10, and 11 from 4:00-5:00 p.m. An overview of test tips will be followed with some practice on the reading and writing sections with emphasis on the English section of the test. Please e-mail Shelly at shelly@nktelco.net if you have questions or plan to come. Sessions will be held at the church in the Educational Building.

August is Family Worship Month...

There will be no Kids' Church during the month of August in order that families may worship together and our Kids' Church staff may have a break. Children in grades K-5 are invited to join us in the main sanctuary for worship.

Update on Nebobongo...

The epidemic in Nebobongo is still lingering six months after the onset, but now is well under control. We received a detailed financial report and patient log detailing exactly who received financial assistance for their care. Through your generous donations to date, the hospital has been able to provide lifesaving care for 737 children whose families would not have been able to afford treatment otherwise. The amount to cover just these hospital bills cost \$12,749.75. Doctors Without Borders has recently set up a treatment center in a nearby government facility which has greatly reduced the strain on Nebobongo Hospital. We are so thankful for your support that has allowed Nebobongo Hospital to stand firm in their community's time of need. We have also seen the hospital move a small number of patients directly into the malnutrition program, discussed above, upon successful treatment for the disease outbreak.

County Fair Gospel Tent...

While You are at the Auglaize County Fair, plan to visit the gospel tent each evening at 7:30 p.m. The following artist will be performing:

Sunday, July 31—Legacy Five

Monday, Aug. 1—The Jim Brady Band

Tuesday, Aug. 2—Triumphant Quartet

Wednesday, Aug. 3—The Isaacs

Thursday, Aug. 4—The Browns

Friday, Aug. 5—Soul'd Out Quartet

Saturday, Aug. 6—Guy Penrod (5:00 p.m.)

Financial Report

Offering July 24, 2016

General Fund: \$6,910

Local Mission: \$175

Great Commission: \$605

Adult Mission Trips: \$100

Building Fund: \$50

Local Mission Fund: \$228

Hope House: \$73

Tea House: \$10

Deacon Fund: \$5

Attendance

Week of July 24, 2016

9:00 Worship—90

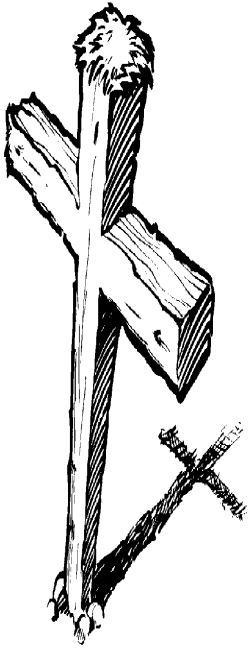
10:30 Worship—106

Kids—45; Adult Workers—6

Total Worship—254

International Class—12

RENEW



MINISTRIES



Sunday, July 31, 2016

Today

9:00... Early Service

10:30... Late Service

This Week

Wednesday... Summer Youth Group

2:00-4:00 pm

COMING EVENTS

Aug 3rd...Last Day of Summer

Youth Group

Sep 4th... Back to School Kick-Off @
Kings Island! (Depart after church)

Sep 7th...Youth Group Kick-Off Party

Sep 14th...Youth Group officially be-
gins

I am with you
ALWAYS
even to the end of the age.
Matthew 28:20