

THE WITNESS

Circleville First Church

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CFC Kids changes

Recently, **Children's Ministry Director Kiera Yaniga** of almost 10 years has stepped down (Thank you, Kiera!) as **Tanya Patrick** (Thank you, Tanya!) stepped into that position, this you know. But did you know that the program has 2 teachers that has been called to teach our children? **Erin Dixon** and **Crystal Evans** are teaching our children which began on August 25. **Penny Hixenbaugh** will continue to assist each week (Thank you, Penny!).



Erin Dixon, who has been married to **Wayne** for 16 years is one of our new Circleville First Church Kids' teachers. She is a stay-at-home wife. She and Wayne have no children but she is the mother of several fur babies and feather babies. The couple have been attending CFC for at least 10 years.

In her own words:

I was attending another church and we were using CFC's baptistry. As I sat there, I said that I would love to make this my church because it felt like home to me. I have been here ever since. I was saved when I was 15 years old at Kingston United Methodist Church at youth group when we had a 30-hour famine.

When I went to New Life Church, we had a ministry called 360 and ministered to a lot of children in the south end of town. I help with the kids on Wednesday nights here at our church. I also went on a mission trip to Arizona to the Indian Field. That was an amazing experience.

My favorite colors are baby blue and light pink and place to eat is
(continued on page 2)

Crystal Evans who has been married to **Phillip** for 19 years. They are the parents of **Alex-33**, **Nicholas-32**, **Cody-30**, **Nathaniel-23**, **Gabriel-23** and **Isaac-21**. We will soon have 17 grandchildren.



"I am the Resource Lead at Health Care Logistics and I work in the Purchasing Department," said Crystal.

She recalled, "We started attending Circleville First Church in 2019 at Second Chance. My husband attended Second Chance as part of his AA program and invited me to come with him. From there, we started attending church on Sunday at the 'big church'."
(continued on page 2)



Penny Hixenbaugh has been married to her husband, **Bill** for 51 years. They are the parents of **Billy, Jr.** and **Johnny** and the grandparents of **Molly** who is 25 and **Bella** is 13. Penny is retired from Brooks-Yates School where she worked as a bus aide for 24 years. She also worked as a secretary for her husband at Pickaway Transmission.



"I attended Circleville First Church as a child and when my sons were young but started faithfully in 1990," said Penny. She was
(continued on page 3)



CFC Kids (con't from page 1)

Erin Dixon...

Captain D's. My verse is John 3:16. Why I love the book of Esther is because she is so humble, kind and obedient. She was also a faithful woman of God.

Pastor Jay Neff asked me if I would like to teach and I said, "yes," because I love children. It's a blessing from God because I cannot have children of my own so I can love on the kids being a teacher and am able to teach them about the love of Christ.

When I was growing up, I had a hard life. I was adopted at 2 years old and when I was a little older my grandma and aunt would take me to church. I loved it. I remember going to Sunday school and Vacation Bible School. Then I wanted to go to church all of the time but my mom and dad left the church so the only time I went was with my grandma and aunt.

When I was 15 years old, I left my parents' house because of some issues and moved in with my grandma and aunt. I had a lot of anger and hate in my life then I was introduced to the youth group and I loved it because I felt like I was accepted. It made me want to learn more about God. At the 30-hour famine, we worshiped and stayed up all night, we went 30 hours without eating to see what it would feel like not to have food as in many countries. We listened to worship music and when the moment for altar call came, I felt weird. I asked my youth leader why I felt like that and he explained to me that was God and He wanted me to open up my heart to Him and I asked what I had to do. So, as I knelt at the altar, I began to sob and of course, he (my youth leader) asked me if I wanted to give my whole heart to the Lord. I did and from that day I have been blessed. If it wasn't for God, I would not be here today because I wanted to end my life because I didn't think any one loved me besides my grandma and aunt. Why I felt like that because my real parents didn't want me or my adopted parents didn't care that's why it was so hard for me; I felt like I wasn't good enough for anyone but that wasn't the case...God loved me and wanted my heart. That is such an amazing thing ever because I felt so lost and felt so unloved. I thank God everyday for being in my life and for saving me. I have such a loving Father and I call him JESUS!

So, if there is anyone that thinks they just want to end it all—DON'T! Because you have a loving Father that wants to know you and love on you. No matter what, you have to stay strong in your faith; put on that full armor of God and fight until He takes us home one day to a wonderful place in paradise. Being a Christian ain't easy and we are not perfect but in His eyes we are. So, stay strong and fight the battles like I have because I know deep down in my heart you can.

Love y'all!! --Erin Dixon



CFC Kids (con't from page 1)

Crystal Evans...

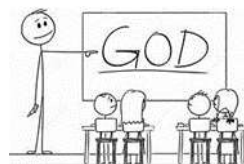
Crystal was saved in August 2019; it has been 5 years (Happy Belated Spiritual Birthday!). She stated, "My husband had disappeared on a drinking binge and I didn't know where he was or if he was ok. We were due to leave for our son's wedding the following morning and I didn't even know where he was. The drinking had been a problem in our marriage from the beginning, but I loved him and I stuck it out. This night was different, we had a lot of stressful things going on in our lives and I was finally at my breaking point. I dropped to my knees and gave it to God. I told Him that I couldn't do it alone any longer and I needed Him. I couldn't live with the drinking any longer and I needed Him to make it stop. I repented and brought Him into my heart and found a peace that cannot be described by words. The following week, my husband was arrested for his second DUI and that brought us to Second Chance (CFC). God answers, just sometimes it is not in the way we might think it should be."



Crystal said that she and Phillip attended New Life Church for a while and helped with Blessings in a Backpack and added, "I love the Shoe Box Ministry."

Her favorite color is green and said, "my favorite food is my husband's cooking; he's a really good cook!" But she does enjoy eating at Olive Garden and Longhorn Steak House. Crystal's favorite Bible verse is Corinthians 13:13 which says, "So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love." The woman at the well tops her favorite biblical character list because, "it doesn't matter what you have done; bring it to God with a pure heart and ask for forgiveness. He will never turn away from you."

When asked about her hobbies and interests, she answered, "My grandchildren! Fishing and spending time with my family."



Crystal has stepped up to teach our children because "this world is a scary place for children to be growing up in. I want to help arm them with every possible story/scripture and word from God that I can to help them fight and win. I want to help teach them values to live by and how God wants us to live."

She testified, "God is the reason for so many changes in me and my life. Each day is a new gift from Him. Looking back, I wish I had known Him sooner so I could love Him longer. I don't know where I would be without Him. If you only need one word to live by: FAITH."



CFC Kids (con't from page 1)

Penny Hixenbaugh...

saved in January 1990 and recalled, "My mom was dealing with cancer and I went to talk to **Rev. Donald Spurgeon**, that is when I was saved."



Penny started as an assistant teacher for the second grade Sunday school class, working with **Loretta Gibson**. A few years ago, when the first, second and third grade classes merged and when Loretta left, Penny took over as teaching the class. "I also help with CFC Kids, where I take attendance, serve snacks, clean up and keep track the treasure room (the kids earn prizes by bringing their Bibles, attendance and their birthday; sometimes just for good behavior). I take care of Christmas card files and have been involved in Vacation Bible School as well as serving as a Cub Scout leader for 6 years,"



Blue is Penny's favorite color and likes homemade noodles and popcorn. She enjoys eating at Texas Roadhouse. "I love camping and car shows," she said. John 3:16 is her favorite verse and Moses and his life story is her favorite biblical character. "I love working with children," she added.

"When I was first saved, my mom had cancer and I went to talk to Rev. Spurgeon, we talked and I gave my heart to Jesus right there. When I did, I felt a weight had been lifted from me. There have also been other times I know I'm not dealing with these problems alone," Penny testified.



Penny March—September 1

ABIDE

Thank you for your service!



Sean Baldwin, Bob Byerly, Sgt. Travis Cotton, Addison Coy, Ryan Dean, Elijah Garrison, Zachary Haddox, Trent Holbrook, Brittany Mazingo, Jake Richards, Andrew Williams and Tanner Wilson are serving our

country. Please pray for them and their families.

Shoebox Ministry

Items of the month

TOYS for boys & girls



submitted by **Darline Gose-Withers**

Men's Prayer Meeting - Saturdays at 8 am

Men's Prayer Breakfast

September 21

8 am

FC Hall

speaker: Greg Gardner



to all of the volunteers who take care of the lawn and flower beds! You are appreciated!!

Verse of the month



"I say this about the Lord, my shelter and my stronghold, my god in whom I trust."

Psalm 91:2 NET

submitted by **John Adams**

Thank you, Security Team!!

JOHN 15:5



Kitchen delights

School has started and most of the county fairs are now over. In case you didn't get to go to the fair and missed some of your favorite food, here are 2 favorites that people like to eat.

Funnel Cake Recipe

1 egg	1 1/4 cup flour
2/3 cup milk	1/4 tsp. salt
2 Tbsp. sugar	1 tsp. baking powder

In a deep skillet, heat about 2 cups of oil over medium-high heat until hot. Test the temperature by dropping a pinch of flour into the hot oil. If it sizzles right away without smoking, it's perfect.



Beat egg and milk. Mix all other ingredients in a separate bowl and slowly add to the egg mixture, beating until smooth.

Using a funnel, drop batter into hot oil working from center outwards in a web pattern. (You can use a gallon sized freezer bag instead of a funnel by pouring the batter into the bag, snipping off a small corner of it, and squeezing the batter into the oil.)

Cook for about 2-3 minutes, remove from the oil when golden brown and crispy. Sprinkle with powdered sugar and serve.

Just for Pastor Jay: Deep-Fried Oreos

2 quarts vegetable oil for frying
1 cup milk
1 large egg
2 tsp. vegetable oil
1 cup pancake mix
1 (18 oz.) package cream-filled chocolate sandwich cookies (like Oreos)



Heat oil in a deep fryer or large saucepan to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C).

Whisk milk, egg, and 2 tsp. of vegetable oil in a large bowl until smooth. Stir in the pancake mix until no dry lumps remain.

Dip cookies into batter, one at a time, and carefully place into hot oil. Fry in batches, 4 or 5 at a time, until cookies are golden brown, about 2 minutes. Drain on a paper towel-lined plate

before serving.

Enjoy!

submitted by **Nancy Johnson**



Two of our Circleville First Church kids recently participated in the Ross County Fair. **Baileigh Leeth** and **Cynlee Leeth**, daughters of **Tyler and Kelsey**, granddaughters to **Kim Buchanan** and great-granddaughters of **Betty Sater**, showed two horses and two market rabbits this year.

With her miniature horse, Joey, Baileigh showed in 6 classes placing 2nd four times and two 3rd places. With her standard size horse, Mae, she showed in 4 classes placing 1st twice and 2nd place twice. Now her Market Rabbits, she placed 2nd. Baileigh also submitted a pie for the Apple Pie Contest.

Cynlee completed in the stick horse race and received a blue ribbon.

Congratulations girls!!!



Come as you are to Bible study is held at **1 pm on Wednesdays in the Ferguson/Clark Hall**. So, come as you are...to Wednesday Bible Study!

Revival

September 20 7 pm
September 21 7 pm
September 22 10:45 am & 6 pm

Speaker: Ohio Christian University President Ron Smith
Music by: Worship Team from Ohio Christian University

Growth group goings on...

I need substitute teachers for Sunday School classes. Please pray about how you can help in this ministry.

submitted by **Kim Buchanan, Sunday School Superintendent**

Calling All Riders!

THE BIG BIKE PARADE & CARRY-IN

SEPTEMBER 29
5 pm

Bicycles, Tricycles, Big Wheels
(no motors)

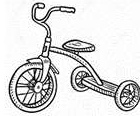
Kids of all ages—including the BIG (adult) kids

Decorate your bike & be ready to show it off
for the judges

Ribbons, prizes, lots of fun



Carry-in to follow



The Big Bike Parade will be held on September 29 at 5 pm. Decorate your bicycle, tricycle or big wheel (no bikes with motors, please). Be ready to show it off to the judges for ribbons, prizes and lots of fun! This is open to ALL ages, even the adult kids!

A carry-in will follow the bike parade in the Ferguson/Clark Hall! Please bring a covered dish to share. If your last name begins A – M, please bring a main dish: meat dish, casserole. If your last name begins N – Z, please bring a side dish & dessert. Drinks and table service will be provided.

A sign-up sheet will be located at the Information Desk. Questions? Contact Tanya Patrick 614-353-4690.

Thank you for giving!! Recently, **Andrew Byerly** was presented with a medallion by **Pastor Jay Neff** for 20 years of ministry. Congratulations, Andrew!!



Children need MODELS rather than CRITICS

submitted by **Nancy Johnson**

Jokes of the month

You heard the rumor going around about butter?
Never mind, I shouldn't spread it.



So much "news" about the Oscars.
The only Oscar I know is Oscar Mayer.



I just ate my third Happy Meal in a row and it's not working.

How fast is milk?
It's pasteurized before you know it.

What was I thinking as I passed a pie, some ice cream and a cake on the road?
Those streets are deserted.

How do cats make a birthday cake?
They make it from scratch.



submitted by **Bobby Dollison**

Update: Ferguson/Clark Hall--We are now only renting to members & organizations that have been consistent renters. Prices etc. will remain the same.

Try a Growth Group, stay where you fit in and feel comfortable



JOY (just older youth)

We will be touring the Anthony Thomas Candy Factory in Columbus on September 17. We will meet at the Ferguson/Clark Hall at 8:45 am. The tour begins at 10 am. We will be taking the church van and extra drivers if needed. Following the tour we will be eating lunch at York Steak House.

The tour will take about an hour. We will be experiencing candy making from start to finish in the 154,000 square foot state-of-the-art candy factory. We will walk along the comfortable glass enclosed suspended "cat-walk and observe nine lines producing 30,000 pounds of chocolates per shift. An experienced tour guide will explain each process step-by-step from the kitchens to the final packaging. Viewing sights include huge copper kettles where the centers of some of the candies are created and the silver wrapped pipes that carry liquid chocolate throughout the factory. The tour will finish in the retail shoppe. Everyone will leave with a free sample!! The cost is \$4 per person.

A sign-up is located at the Information Desk, please sign up by September 8. Reservations must be made at both places. Each person will pay before the tour. Lunch prices depend on what your order and you will pay at that time. See Venita for questions.

Love and prayers,
Venita



Missions corner

On July 28, the members of our Belize and youth Dominican Republic Mission teams shared their experiences. Each member shared on a different aspect of their mission trip. Both teams left and returned on the same days: July 13 – 19.

Belize

Joellen Byerly: "Belize, where is it? Believe it or not, I had no idea when I signed up for the mission trip. I went looking. It is in Central America, just south of Mexico, east of Guatemala and bordered by the Caribbean Sea. It is a land full of wonderful people. We were blessed to go to the mountains in the east, just a mile shy of Guatemala, to work with a small Nazarene church in the village of Succotz, Belize.



Look what I found on

*the internet, that is me talking to the congregation on our last day. **Sam (Davidson)** is in the red shirt behind me, then **Christian (Steck)** and **Cathy (Marck)**. I have no idea who took this picture, we are all on the stage. It must have been our guides.*

Oh well, back to our trip. We met up with a group from Austin, Texas. Seven students and four adults, they were a fantastic group to work with. We helped with Vacation Bible School directed by the Austin group, visited many homes inviting them to VBS and the Music night, divided up over \$500.00 of bulk groceries to help feed 15 families and so much more. We were busy from sun up to sun down, well actually later than that. We delivered the food packages and spent time with each person who received them, they were so appreciative. They went to those in need from 97 years of age to young moms. What a blessing it was to spend time with the people in the village, they were so loving and Christlike. Someone made the comment that they were so poor (materialistically) but so rich in Christ, while we here in the U.S. are rich and yet so poor – spiritually. They wanted to be in church, they want to hear the Word, they wanted to grow and build relationships and God continued to bless. Almost everyone in the village knew Pastor Reyez and he had relationships with most all of them. He has even been to Circleville and preached at the Nazarene church, perhaps we will run into him again sometime soon. The only wildlife I saw was a swarm of killer mosquitoes, they left a lasting impression I will not soon forget and wish to never see again. If you have never been on a mission trip do yourself a favor and consider it. This was not my first and I hope not my last. Would I go back again? Yes, it was 'UnBelievable'."

Sam Davidson: "Thank you for your prayers and support. The same God that is at Circleville First Church is the same God that was in Belize. We didn't know what we would be doing when we arrived, but would be doing a Vacation Bible School. We rode a bus for two hours to get to VBS. Our church provided finances to purchase food for families. With those finances, three of us (including myself) went grocery shopping for 15 families."

Cathy Marck: "Thank you for sending us as well as meeting us at the airport. The VBS highlight for me was crafts that I helped with. We went out and invited kids to VBS. The first night we had 88 kids; 90 the next night and over 60 on the third night. While on our mission trip, we met our youth group, a youth group from Topeka and one from Austin."

Christian Steck: "This was my first mission trip. My thoughts leading up to this trip was willingness to go and then to do whatever was needed. The groceries and cleaning supplies was purchased, then we had the opportunity to deliver them to the
(continued on page 7)



Missions corner (con't from page 6)

families. I also helped out with the crafts at VBS. I am ready to go on another mission trip. I did not expect to get anything for myself but saw many blessings.”

Youth to Dominican Republic

Lisa Burroughs: “I was asked to lead this team, but I did not lead this team, God did. Thank you for the fundraisers, thank you to the prayer partners, thank you if you prayed for us, to each of the team members, they represented not only Christ, but also you and this church. I could not have asked for a better group of people. Special thank you to **Dorcus Morrow, Sue Knece, Pastor Jay & Tonya Neff, Blake & Nancy Neff, Ron & Sharon Harper.**

Terra Neff: “The road to the farm was bumpy as we rode the bus. It was dry for it had not rained in 4 months and water was brought in by truck for us to shower etc. It did rain while we were there. We slept in a shelter house in hammocks with mosquito nets, it wasn’t as bad as I thought it would be. Jack (George) found a tarantula, we saw a black widow spider. The showers were like 5 minutes, we turned on the water to get wet; turned off the water; soaped up then turned on the water to rinse.”

Liv and Lex Dyke: “There is a tradition there that the last person wearing a hat has to pray. Each day as we prayed asking for strength and power over each situation, thanking God for blessings throughout the day. Reflection each night as we compared daily lives here vs. in USA. They use motor bikes, horses were on basketball courts, cows roamed in town and how joyful people are there even though they have so little. We built a house in 4 days was a highlight as well as the waterfalls, excitement of each day and the energy of our tour guide.”

Brenna Dyke: “Thank you for the opportunity. It was a struggle at times, it was hot, we did not have power tools but we did it. The faces on the family were the highlight of the week, when the family received the keys, tears of joy flooded their faces.”

Jeff Burroughs: “Grateful to **Pastor Jay (Neff)** and the church for the opportunity. My wife, Lisa made it perfect. Every board was cut and drilled by hand, hundreds of boards. It was non-stop work, we worked then had to load the truck to take it to the job site then repack it to take it with us and unload it after we got back and put it in the barn then do the same process again the next day...You should have seen these kids work...”

Jack George: “This was my first mission trip—could not have gone better. The ocean, how clear the water was at the beach you could see the fish at your feet, it was really cool. Hung out

with kids my age and interacted with them playing baseball and soccer. I will definitely do it again someday.”

Seth George: “We worked hard; we played hard...Thank you for your prayers, we felt them throughout the week. Sleeping in hammocks, using outhouse, we were living like those we were serving...Church service—Dominican Republicans—they know how to pray! We didn’t understand a word they are saying, but it didn’t matter, the Spirit was there. The same Holy Spirit that is in CFC. We sang, they loved it even though they didn’t know what we were singing. We ate—well...This youth group was focused, hard-working, great attitudes.”

Madison Blackford: “We painted a pole. We chose ...”It is finished”. Why? We finished the house and the last thing Jesus said when He was on the cross.”

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- 9 – 1 **Penny March**
Evening Service--dismissed
 - 9 – 2 **Labor Day—Church Office-closed**
 - 9 – 8 **Grandparents’ Day**
 - 9 – 10 **Ladies’ Lunch** 11 am
 - 9 – 11 **Patriot Day**
 - 9 – 20 **Revival** 7 pm with OCU President Ron Smith & OCU Worship Team
 - 9 – 21 **Men’s Prayer Breakfast** 8 am FC Hall
Revival 7 pm with OCU President Ron Smith & OCU Worship Team
 - 9 – 22 **Revival** 10:45 am with OCU President Ron Smith & OCU Worship Team
Revival 6 pm with OCU President Ron Smith & OCU Worship Team
Welcome FALL!
 - 9 – 26 **Ladies Night** 6:30 pm FC Hall-- Bring a snack to share, a friend if you can and your paint brushes for some fall painting
 - 9 – 29 **Communion** 10:45 am
Bicycle Parade & Carry-In 5 pm



*Congratulations on your engagement
Terra Neff and Mason Spencer!*





CFC Ladies

What have the church ladies been up to lately? On August 13, the ladies met for our Lunch Bunch at Zanzi's. They have more than just pizza and they had plenty of room for us to

gather. Come join us in September we are planning on doing this monthly to continue building relationships. Friends are always welcome too.

On August 22, we met at the fellowship hall and had a great time eating, sharing and playing Family Feud that **Sue Stonerock** created. She has over 30 church and Bible topics to quiz us on, it was a lot of fun. Please join us each month, this is really a wonderful way to meet your sisters in Christ.

Upcoming Events---Mark your calendars!

Tuesday, September 10 - Ladies Lunch at 11 am - meeting at Arby's.

Thursday, September 26 - Ladies Night at 6:30 pm in the FC Hall. Bring a snack to share and a friend if you can. Bring your paint brushes for some fall painting.

Tuesday, October 8 - Ladies Lunch at 11 am - meeting at Pizza Cottage (a room has been reserved)

Thursday, October 24 - Ladies Night at 6:30 pm in the FC Hall

Tuesday, November 12 - Ladies Lunch at 11 am - meeting at ...To Be Determined

Thursday, November 21 - Ladies Night at 6:30 pm in the FC Hall

Tuesday, December 3 - Ladies Lunch at 11 am - meeting at ...To Be Determined

Thursday, December 12 - Ladies Night at 6:30 pm in the FC Hall. We will be having our White Elephant sale. Everyone who came last year really enjoyed this, make sure you join us this year for the fun.

submitted by **Joellen Byerly**

In need of a gift? Then, check out this option...**Candy Bouquets Ministry**. The bouquets are located in the back of the church seating and are \$10 apiece; the money benefits missions. Envelopes are provided for your payment and can be placed in the collection



boxes. There are also floral sticks and cards/stickers you can add to your bouquet as a gift card or greeting card.

Thanks to all who have donated toward this ministry.

submitted by **Cathy Marck**



Coming soon...Shoe boxes

The Shoe Box Ministry is coming up soon. You can build your own boxes if you would like and we will have boxes available for use mid-September in the library. If you enjoy dropping off items monthly, we still have a box in the back of the sanctuary for those items. It is never too early or too late to help support this ministry.

We will be **sorting** the items already donated on November 5 from 11 am - 6 pm. We will be **packing** boxes on November 7 at 7 pm. Several Growth Groups will be helping out and we need your help too. Many hands are needed for this task. Watch for the announcements in the bulletin for more details. Any questions, check with **Darlene Gose-Withers**.

submitted by **Joellen Byerly**

Can I get a testimony?

We are **John and Sarah Adams**. John and I have been coming to this church since we were young. John was brought here by his grandmother while he was still in kindergarten. I started here during one of the Vacation Bible School programs when I was 6 and **David Cyrus** was the pastor.

I received the Lord while in one of the junior church programs that **Ellen Holbrook** had in the old section before the fire. John received the Lord at one of the youth retreats.

We were married in this church by **Edwin Gardner**. We have been married 41 years and have one son, **Jon Adams**.

We know that God has been with us and watching over our lives. So many changes in the world have come and gone in just our lives. We praise Jesus because He has been with us every step of this journey. God has blessed us with so many things. We are very happy to be a part of a Bible-preaching church with wonderful people.

John and I know that we can get through anything, when the Creator of all of the universe is by our side. Praise God!

