

THOUGHTS FOR THE JOURNEY -- July 2016

I Am Your Flag

I found this article recently and I felt it was significant to share as we prepare to celebrate our nation's 240th birthday. Beloved may we celebrate the blessings and the providential care God has graciously shown to the United States of America this July 4th. Here are some facts and thoughtful interpretations about our nation's flag.

Speaking in the first person voice is the flag. I was born on June 14, 1777. I am more than just a cloth shaped into a design. I am the refuge of the world's oppressed people. I am the silent sentinel of freedom. I am the inspiration for which American patriots gave their lives and fortunes. I have led your sons and daughters into battle from Valley Forge to the bloody ridges of Afghanistan. I walk in the silence with each of your honored dead, to their final resting place beneath the silent white crosses, row upon row. I have flown through peace and war, strife and prosperity, and amidst it all I have been respected. My red stripes symbolize the blood spilled in defense of this glorious nation. My white stripes signify the burning tears shed by Americans who lost their sons or daughters. My blue field is indicative of God's heaven under which I fly. My stars clustered together, unify 50 states as one, for God and country. "Old Glory" is my nickname, and proudly I wave on high.

Honor me, respect me, and defend me with your lives and your fortunes. Never let my enemies tear me down from my lofty position, lest I never return. Keep alight the first of patriotism; strive earnestly for the spirit of democracy.

Worship the eternal God and keep his commandments. And I shall remain the symbol of peace and freedom for all humankind.

Blessings for Journey,
Rev. Chuck



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DATE— JULY 2016

Minister: Rev. Charles Butcher

Christian Ed. & Youth Director: Polly Tallos

Secretary: Londa Blaine

Music Director: Miki Saito

The VOICE

"Working together to make the difference that matters."

TO WIN TO COMMIT TO GROW TO UNITE

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JULY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIV.

- 1 Jeff Ickes, Trina Karban
- 2 Julia Insley
- 3 Sandy Hales
Tyler Bokman, Rob Marks
- 9 Sandy Nowak
- 11 Blake Kyle
Carol & Chuck Butcher
- 12 Mike & Sandy Gross
- 17 Dede Prunty
Hope Humphrey
- 18 Robin Bricker
Fred & Renee Carpenter
- 20 Barb Mott, Wil Morrison
Don & Pat Ables
- 21 Nancy & Gene Yost
Shari & Brian Insley
22. Jennifer Hicks
Mark & Stacy Slack
- 23 Maureen Cromling
Audrey Lyons
- 24 CJ Mott, Amy Stafford
Stu Hicks IV
- 27 Paul Durbin
- 28 Samantha Galvin
- 29 John Vilevac, Carol Butcher
Amy & Bob Stafford
- 30 Larry Weber
Shari Insley
Fred Carpenter



Serving At the Lord's Table JULY 2016

8:00 Ed & Angie Carter
Randy & Laura Kuhn

9:30 Carol Bokman, Jerry Mullins
Dave Carpenter, Carol Butcher
Bonnie Hicks, Mike Mott
Holly Chapman

ELDERS—Jeff Hensley, Bob Hammond

Community Vacation Bible School

North Eaton Christian Church once again participated in the Columbia Community VBS along with Hosanna Lutheran, Columbia United Methodist, Columbia Baptist, Clear View, New Life Wesleyan, and St Elizabeth Ann Seton. Average attendance was 55 children ranging in ages from 3 to 6th grade but that was just the children. There were about the same number of Jr/Sr high and adult volunteers.

Each day the children learned a lesson about one thing that Jesus gives us – **Courage, Wisdom, Faith and Love** to share. There were crafts, snacks, recreation, songs and, of course, Bible Time!

A special thank you to our **NECC adults** who helped through out the week : **Melissa Folk** (float helper), **Madonna Bowen** (nurse), **Carol Busche** (photographer), and **Pastor Chuck** (at large helper). I personally had the opportunity to work with some of the Jr/Sr high youth to create a float for the Columbia Homecoming Parade on Thursday, June 23.

My Week at Camp: Polly Tallos

It was my honor to be the Director of Chi Rho Camp Week 1 this year.

First, I must tell you that my experience lasted much longer than a week. I began recruiting Counselors and Asst. Directors in January. I had many email and facebook discussions, chats and prayers with all my recruits. I helped the counselors become familiar with the curriculum for the week, as well as giving them insights into Jr. High youth, camp life and what to pack. It was very important to gather a talented, faith filled, patient group of people around me as I “directed” for the first time.

We were blessed to have 89 youth attending Week 1, which meant that I needed to do some last minute recruiting of counselors. But God placed the right people in my path. We had a wonderful week together leading those 89 youth. A few homesick kids, a few emotional moments as kids were tired and hot, but for every one of those not so perfect moments, there were a 1000 more near perfect moments; whether it was in a large group, one on one conversations or quiet moments of reflection. I truly had a wonderful week leading Chi Rho Youth at Camp Christian.

Camp was restructured three years ago. Going from 4 camps each for Jr High (Chi Rho) and Sr High (CYF) to just 3 camps each. So we removed all the names from the camps and simply numbered them. This was the year to rename the Jr. High camps. So we had first pick of the suggested names. We chose to call ourselves Camp Emmaus. We chose it because the Bible story tells us that two of Jesus followers were walking on the road to Emmaus when they were joined by a stranger; as they walked, they talked about all the things that had happened around what we now call Easter. When the group arrived in Emmaus they sat down to eat. As the stranger broke the bread he was revealed to be Jesus. At camp we walk a “road” of discovery talking about Jesus, God and the Holy Spirit so that all may be revealed to us in our studies, prayers and life at Camp.

Thoughts from Camp Christian....

ERIK TALLOS....I didn't want to leave. It was fun. I experienced God through my connections with the other campers. I knew some people from previous years, so it was easy to get started. I also made new friendships. I played a lot of basketball during free time. On Friday we have a banquet and a special consecration service. As part of the service we have time to write a letter to ourselves that will be returned to us about Jan of the next year. The letters are suppose to remind us of what we learned, the friends we met, and the feelings we shared. This year the consecration committee set up tables outside of the rec. hall for us to do our writing. It was a very cool atmosphere.

Karl Tallos....As a 3rd year Chi Rho Camper, I was given the privilege of carrying a torch as part of the Friday night consecration service. I helped to light the path from the Vesper area back to main campus. I thought it was pretty cool.

