



The Good Tidings

Arena Congregational Church

June 2017

CELEBRATING OUR PAST-EMBRACING OUR FUTURE

Affiliated with the Wisconsin Congregational Association

Wisconsin Congregational Association Leadership Summit & Annual Meeting

April 28-29, 2017 at North Shore Congregational Church, Fox Point, WI

Since we had registered on line we were able to enjoy some social time on Friday night with representatives from other Wisconsin Congregational churches before we proceeded to the sanctuary for the program.

After we sang several hymns Pastor Tim Roberts was introduced to us. He is the pastor of Stewart Congregational Church in Stewart, Florida and was the keynote speaker for both days of the meeting. His presentations were divided into three sections, one on Friday night and two more on Saturday. They were very dynamic. He focused on using scriptures as guidance for church life. He suggested the book S.H.A.P.E. "Finding and Fulfilling Your Unique Purpose for Life" by Eric Reese.

Less than 18 % of Christians belong to a church today and by 2050 the number of Muslims will be equal to the number of Christians in the US.

He posed questions like: "What do you think of Jesus" and "How do you perceive the church?" He also told us that parents follow children and not the other way around.

He suggested that in a church everything has to be put on the table and that failure is part of life. One suggestion that stood out was to find alternatives for Bible school which he described as a baby sitting time. Some outdoor activities he mentioned as examples were a surfing or fishing camp.

The Delegate Meeting went very smoothly. Seventeen Wisconsin churches were present which formed a quorum. After a few announcements by the moderator Stu Merkel the minutes of the various committees, the proposed budget and nominations for the officers for 2017/18 were voted on and approved.

A buffet lunch was prepared for us by the women of the church.

After lunch some suggestions for mission programs were presented by various Wisconsin Congregational Churches "The Gathering" a lunch program, Hosanna Mission Trip (house construction), Bags of Love (grocery distribution), Serve Day (community service), Snack Packs for children, etc.

The meeting ended with a Worship Service with communion. The money collected during the service was designated for the Wakefield Fund which is used to help youth pay for camp.

Les and I left before the Service since the meeting was running late and we needed to drive home.

Next year the meeting will be April 27-28 at First Congregational Church Wauwatosa.

Respectfully submitted

Helga Shultz, delegate

Thoughts from here and there...

"Cereal Milk"¹

Brad Miller writes: One day I was having breakfast with my daughter, who was about 8 years old at the time. I had done what any good dad would do, I fixed her a bowl of cereal. I even poured the milk into the bowl myself. We were having some great conversation during our mealtime, when my daughter got up from the table with her bowl. When I asked her what she was doing, she told me that she was going to throw her "cereal milk" away.

Now having been well educated on how cereals are sprayed with vitamins and also how that vitamin spray often gets "washed off" of the cereal, I cautioned her about her pending blunder. I said, "Kati, I can't believe that you're going to throw your cereal milk away. That's my favorite part." She had a pondering look on her face for a moment,

then proceeded to drink most of the milk. 'Mission accomplished,' I thought to myself. 'I really am an amazing dad!'

Fast forward a few weeks to Father's Day morning. As we sat down to eat breakfast as a family, I could tell something was up. Everyone was obviously in on this grand Father's Day surprise but me. I didn't mind because I knew that whatever surprise was awaiting me, it would be amazing. After about 10 minutes of giggles and some secret language that everyone understood except me, a pint-sized plastic bottle was placed on the table in front of me. I stopped eating a very delicious breakfast to see if I could solve this little mystery that had everyone so giddy.

As I picked up the container, I spun it around to see if there was a label or a note... nothing. So finally I asked, "What is it?". Kati said, "Dad, it's your favorite!"

Hmm, I thought to myself. What is my "favorite"?

Finally stumped, I asked her, "Kati, what is my favorite?"

She said, "Dad, you told me that cereal milk was your favorite so I've been saving mine for you all week and mom helped me put it in this bottle!"

In disbelief, I looked at my wife. She grinned and nodded in confirmation.

Not quite sure how to handle this situation, I paused to consider my options - then did what I knew I must do. I picked it up, unscrewed the lid and took a good long drink.

Of course I told Kati that this was the BEST cereal milk I had ever enjoyed and a Father's Day I would not soon forget. Then she made me promise to enjoy ALL of it later.

And, of course, I did.

Now that she's 14 years old, we have laughed about that day many, many times!

Here is a poem for Father's Day that asks for a bit of reflection.

Walk a Little Plainer Daddy

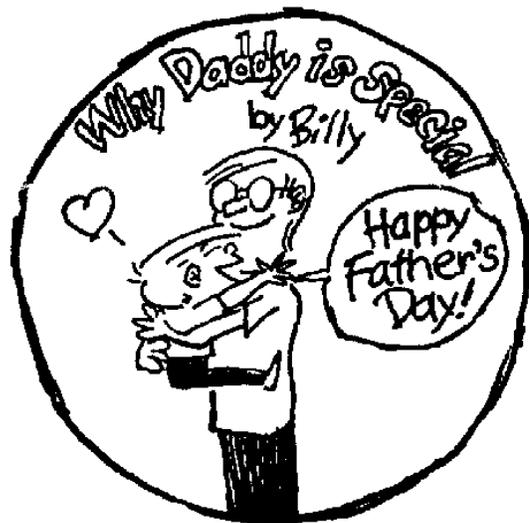
Walk a little plainer daddy
Said a little boy so frail,
I'm following your footsteps and
I don't want to fail.
Sometimes your steps are plain
Sometimes they are hard to see,
So walk a little plainer Daddy.
For you are leading me."

I know that once you walked
This way many years ago,
What you did along the way
I'd really like to know
For sometimes when I'm tempted
I don't know what to do
So walk a little plainer, Daddy,
For I must follow you.

Someday when I'm grown up.
You are like I want to be,
Then I will have a little boy
Who will want to follow me
And I want to lead him right.
And help him to be true
So walk a little plainer, Daddy
For we must follow you.

Author Unknown

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"He's MY Dad!"

from *The Joyful Noiseletter*
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THE GOOD TIDINGS is a monthly publication of the Arena Congregational Church, 383 Oak St., PO Box 125, Arena, WI 53503-0125.

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SERMON



Sermons for June

June 4, Pentecost: Lesson: 1
Corinthians 12:3b-13, Sermon Title:
One Body, One Spirit

SCHEDULE

What a day! Unusual and confusing to many who were present. The good news was proclaimed and people were converted to this new way of life. Perhaps we could use a new Pentecost?

June 11, Trinity Sunday: Lesson: Genesis 1.1-5;
Matthew 3.13-15, Sermon Title: Three

One God, Three Persons. Three Persons, one God. It is not difficult to understand how God has related to us as his children. We live and learn.

June 18, Father's Day: Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 2.1-12, Sermon Title: Faking It

Some fathers are pretenders. Some father are authentic. It is not hard to tell the difference. How do you become a true authentic dad?

June 25: Lesson: Matthew 10:24-39, Sermon Title: Find or Lose

This sermon title sounds paradoxical. Paradox is a statement or proposition that, despite sound (or apparently sound) reasoning from acceptable premises, leads to a conclusion that seems senseless, logically unacceptable, or self-contradictory. Jesus is not stating a paradox, but a truthful reality.



Special Days in the Secular and Church Calendar

June 4 - (S), Pentecost June 4-September 3, No Sunday School

June 7 - September 6, No Wednesday Evening Adult Bible Study

June 11, (S), Trinity Sunday, National Children's Day

June 14, Flag Day

June 18, (S), Father's Day

June 19-26, Vacation Bible School at the Arena Bible Church and the Arena Congregational Church

June 21, First Day of Summer

June 25, (S), Summer Salad Lunch

July 2, (S), Independence Sunday, Communion Sunday

A Father's Promise and A Prayer

Promise

"...fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord," (Ephesians 6:4, NRSV). "Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray," (Proverbs 22:6, NRSV).



Thoughts

If you desire the best for your child seriously consider the implications of these two wonderful and compatible passages from the Bible. Bring children up in the discipline and instruction of Jesus Christ. It takes time and effort. It actually requires participation in the community of Jesus Christ, the church. There is no guarantee, but if you do this the promise of Proverbs kicks in. It is worth the effort. *(Continued on [page 4](#))*

Recipe Of the Month

Very Easy Black Forest Tart (no baking)

From the Recipe Files of Helga Shultz

One 9-inch chocolate or regular graham cracker crust

6 ounces (6 squares) semi sweet chocolate

2 tabs butter

1\4 cup powdered sugar

8 ounces cream cheese, room temperature

21 ounces can cherry pie filling

Topping

1 cup whipping cream, whipped

1 ounce grated semi sweet chocolate

Melt 6 ounces of chocolate and butter over low heat, stirring constantly, remove from heat.

In a separate bowl beat powdered sugar and cream cheese together. Stir in melted chocolate,

Beat until smooth. Add one cup of the cherry pie filling, blend gently. Spread mixture into crust.

Combine topping ingredients and spread evenly over filling. Spoon remaining cherry pie filling around the outer edge of the tart. Refrigerate until serving time.



Prayer

Father God, there are so many decisions to make and I don't seem to know what is the best for now or for the future. You said if we lack wisdom, all we need to do is ask you. Help me to be sensitive to my children's needs that I may learn to be a help for them. Thank you!

Spotlight on the family

For Parents Only¹

Combating Fear



Kids of all ages experience fear—it's a natural part of development. Most fears are rational and come and go as a child matures. For young children, fears are often associated with separation, noises, animals or insects, monsters, or bedtime. As kids enter school, fears tend to move toward new situations, falling, social rejection, bedtime, or burglars. Help your children through fear with these tips.

- Reassure and comfort. Show love and compassion as kids learn to overcome fears. Share how God is always with us and helps us face fear. Give kids Scriptures that help them through fearful situations, and let them know you're praying for them when they're afraid.
- Show respect. Don't disregard or belittle your children's fears. Talk about why they're afraid and what triggers their fears.
- Don't overprotect. Don't avoid situations that cause fear, and in the same manner don't go overboard and force kids to do something they're afraid of. Walk beside your kids and face their fears with them. Talk about ways they can overcome their fears and take steps toward conquering them.

KidQuote:

5-year-old Jessica mixed up words to "You Are My All in All" and sang, "You are my Tylenol." When her mom corrected her Jessica said, "But Mommy, it's true! He's like Tylenol because he makes me feel better, too."

Joanna Wagoner, Hesston, Kansas

Officers for 2017 - 2018

Governing Board



President: Jim Favreau, 753.2334

Vice-president: Joanne Brown, 753-2316

Treasurer: Steven Wilkinson, 753.2131

Clerk: Joe Hodgson, 753-2520

Financial Secretary: Ray Johnson, 753-2845

Church Secretary: Steve Wilkinson, 753.2131

Officers

Sunday School Superintendent, Karen Wilkinson, 753-2131

Choir Director, Leslie Shultz, 574-0707

Head Usher Jim Favreau, 753.2334 and Ray Johnson, 753.2845



Meetings

Governing Board: Second Monday 6:30 p. M.

Men's Breakfast: Third Saturday, 7:30 a.m., at Grandma Mary's. Our next breakfast will be in either September or October. Enjoy your Saturday breakfast either the one provided for you, or the one you provide for yourself.

Greeters



June 4 – Judi Salava

June 11 – Steve and Karen Wilkinson

June 18 – Judith Rouse

June 25 – Jeff and Joanne Brown Family

July 2 - Pastor and Helga Shultz



Adult Study Group

Our Adult Study groups are taking a hiatus for the summer. We will resume our meetings in September.

Worship On Compact Disks



The Worship Services are recorded each week on a CD so that you may share in the fellowship and enjoyment of worship. If you would like to listen to a service to share the music, pray the prayers and learn from the sermon call either Steve Wilkinson, 753-2131 or Pastor Shultz, 574-0707 and a CD will be delivered to you. Let us know if you need a CD player.

Missions



We are supporting the Congregational Mission of Jardin America with a gift of \$40 a month through the missions program of the National Association of Congregational Christians. We also contribute \$50.00 a month to the Arena Food Pantry, and \$25.00 a month to the Food Pantry at the Spring Green Community Church. Thank you for your support of our local and foreign mission projects.



¹ Children's Ministry Magazine, September-October, 2008 © copyright 2009 group; all rights reserved. Used with permission.



Something to Think About

The most basic of all human needs is the need to understand and be understood. The best way to understand people is to listen to them.

~Ralph Nichols



Humor

Our children's Sunday School classes were presenting their end of the year program for the congregation - telling about the life of Jesus.

When it came to the part about Jesus' miracles, one little boy said, "Yes, Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead!"

The teacher urged him to tell us more.

He said, "Well, Jesus told them to open the tomb, and then He said, 'Lazarus, come out!' And it's a good thing he didn't just say 'Come out!' because there would have been a stampede of dead guys."

Needless to say our congregation enjoyed the presentation very much.

- from Da Mouse Tracks pkaine@roadrunner.com



Taking advantage of a balmy day in New York, a priest and three other men of the cloth swapped their clerical garb for polos and khakis and time out on the golf course.

After several really horrible shots, their caddy asked, "You guys wouldn't be clergy by any chance?"



One Love is the theme for the Wisconsin Congregational Youth Camp 2017

WCA Camp 2017 is the week of Sunday, July 9 through Saturday, July 15

Mini Kamp is for students completing grades 3-5 in the spring of 2017. **Junior High** is for students completing grades 6-8 in the spring of 2017. **Senior High** is for students completing grades 9-12 in the spring of 2017.

WCA Camp is about strengthening connections of friendship, fellowship and faith - with yourself, with others, with scripture and, most of all, with God. If you're interested in strengthening these connections while having lots of fun and meeting new friends, you'll have an awesome time!

"Actually, yes, we are," one man replied. "How did you know?"

"Easy," said the caddy, "I've never seen such bad golf and such clean language!"

pkaine@roadrunner.com



TOP 10 WRONG WAYS TO INITIATE YOUR SON INTO MANHOOD

10. Teach him the secret male ritual of leaving the toilet seat up and the toilet paper roll empty.

9. Have a ceremony where you give him his own remote control.

8. Lead him through an afternoon of rigorous physical training in the back yard while you sit in a lawn chair with a half-gallon of ice cream.

7. Eat until you're about to burst and then ride the Screamin' Hurler roller coaster.

6. Put cream on his face and let the cat shave him with its tongue.

5. Walk behind him through his school halls yelling, "You da man!"

4. Send him to the local discount store to buy mom's "personal things."

3. Give him Grandma's lime green Corolla with personalized license plates that say, "TUFFGUY."

2. Send the ladies shopping, then get out your secret Old Yeller video and have a good cry together.

1. Shot put catching.

Mikey's Funnies <funnies-owner@lists.MikeysFunnies.com>

Let Us Remember Flag Day, June 14

I am Old Glory! For more than ten score years I have been the banner of hope and freedom for generations of Americans. Born amid the first flames of America's fight for freedom, I am the symbol of a country grown from 13 colonies to a nation of 50 sovereign states. Planted firmly on the high pinnacle of American faith, my gently fluttering folds have proved an inspiration to untold millions. So long as men love liberty more than life itself; so long as they treasure the priceless privileges bought with the blood of this nation's forefathers; so long as the principles of truth, justice and charity for all remain deeply rooted in human hearts, I shall continue to be the enduring banner of the United States of America!





After Worship

June 25

On a warm day of Summer we will enjoy a cool salad.

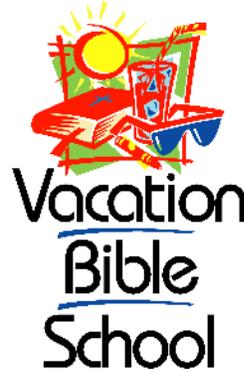
Bring a salad (your choice), your own

table service, and a beverage.



June 18 is Father's Day

Do something memorable for your Dad.



June 19-23

Combined VBS

at the

Arena Bible Church

For further information see the Church Bulletin.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED