



**Pastor:** Rev. Andrew Hopp | [try2hopp@msn.com](mailto:try2hopp@msn.com) | 309-883-1422  
**Secretary:** Judy Schaer | [jude187@msn.com](mailto:jude187@msn.com) | 309-822-8770  
**Editor:** Amy Potter | [alp82673@yahoo.com](mailto:alp82673@yahoo.com)

# ***August 2017***

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A Note from your Pastor:

My daughter is now driving my dad's truck. The title is in my name, so it makes me wonder: "Who's truck is it?" In a culture which prizes yes/no answers, the answer is difficult to state, because the truck belongs to all three of us. This answer is sufficient, until the time comes when Abby wants to change something about the truck. I was ok with her getting a back cushion and a new radio, but what would happen if she wanted new hubcaps or to paint it a different color? Painting the truck a different color would definitely remove the visual association I have of my dad driving his truck. It made me wonder if the truck will ever be mine or Abby's? Will it forever be my dad's truck?

The same goes for the church. Generations have lived and worshipped here at RiversEdge. Over a decade ago, the church built a new sanctuary. I imagine it was difficult to worship in the new part of the building when the old sanctuary had so many memories.

This difficulty of making changes is not unique to our church. Throughout much of the Christian world, we have been taught to conserve, meaning, we have been taught to keep things the same because Christ is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. However, this year we are celebrating 500 years of the official Protestant Reformation. We remember October 31, 1517 when Martin Luther nailed his document detailing 95 challenges to the Christian (Catholic) practice at the time. Who knows what kind of Christianity we would be practicing today if he hadn't stepped up and demanded change. Perhaps we wouldn't have been Christian at all, since our forefathers would not have found a faithful place in which to live and worship.

It really is odd how we follow One who proclaimed changes to the status quo by trying to keep everything the same. Reformation should be in our DNA, because it was in Christ's DNA. The pastoral press for doctrines and practices which are life giving should be the goal for all of us who call Christ "Lord."

How are we doing in this regard at RiversEdge? How easy is it for us to change in order for others to come to know Christ? Change is rarely easy, especially when we like things just the way they are. But change we must for the sake of the gospel. The hard truth is this is Christ's church, not just our church. At the end of the day, He holds the title, and he wants more people to ride with us. How do we get ready for them?

Blessings,  
Pastor Andy

# Summer Music Specials

Dennis Hill and Jeanne Brennan will be working with ensembles (small groups) for music specials. There is room on the signup sheet for other specials (solos, duets, reading, etc.). Music is a very important part of our worship experience. If you are interested in any of these possibilities, please contact Judy at 822-8770 or 645-6625 (or Judy may be giving you a call!!!!)."



Monthly **Food Pantry** Day is **August 11**. We will have our **King's Closet** upstairs at the Annex. We have clothes, other small items or produce for local people to take and use, if they need it. Bring items all month. It comes in free and goes out free, no charge. Anything left over will be taken to Good Will or South Side Missions.



We are having our next American Red Cross Blood Drive on Wednesday, **August 16** from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Joe Helms will have a sheet available next Sunday to SIGN UP. We would really like to have a lot of donations. The RED CROSS has a very serious shortage of blood and plasma products. They are looking for help as a blood shortage continues. While thousands of people have answered the call for blood & platelet donations, there is still a critical shortage of blood this summer.

The Red Cross has experienced a 30 percent increase in donors through mid-July. But it still needs help. It had 61,000 fewer donations than were needed during May and June.

As always thank you for your past donations.

**Submitted by: Joe Helms**

## A BIG thank you

*Hero Central 2017 VBS* was a success. Thank you to Vicky Harms, Rachel Arnold and Nancy Utsinger for making the capes for the children. They loved them. Also thank you to everyone who helped and donated food! **Joanne Helms**

we made over \$2300 at the rummage age sale. Thanks to all! **The Missions Committee**



- ◆ Brenda Story-Philips' Cousin Mabel is doing much better; thanks for the prayers.
- ◆ Jay Frederick and Tiffany will make Brenda Story-Philips a great grandma on January 16.
- ◆ Sharon McClellan is thankful that her thyroid cancer surgery went well and that they got all of it. She asks for prayers that she will not have to have any more surgery for a long, long time.
- ◆ Val Huser's right hand carpal tunnel surgery went well (left hand surgery coming up).



Due to potential damage to our church equipment, our kitchen equipment needs to stay in our kitchen. The white tables can't leave the church property and the white chairs can't leave the church building. We have metal chairs available. If you want to borrow them, please contact the church office.



Be sure to check our website at [riversedgeumc.org](http://riversedgeumc.org) where you will find the newsletters, calendars and announcements regularly. If you see pictures that you are in and would like them removed, please let Pastor Andy or Judy Schaer know. The committee wanted pictures to depict the life of our church.

Check out our new QR code (Quick Response Code) at the end of the newsletter. You can use your smart phone to scan the code and check out our website. **Submitted by: Communications Committee**



John Schaer is still collecting **ALUMINUM CANS** to recycle. Aluminum CANS only, no aluminum disposable pans or other items. If you have any, you may leave them in the entry area of the river side of the church. You may call John at 822-8770 if you would like him to pick them up. Once he gets a truck load, he will take them to the recycle center. Not only will this help the earth, but the money will go to the Church account.



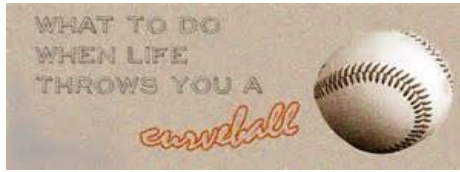
If you would like your name added to the birthday list, have had an email address change or would like your email address added to any of the church email groups (1-receive announcements & newsletter, 2-receive prayer requests). See Judy Schaer, email at [Jude187@msn.com](mailto:Jude187@msn.com) or call at 822-8770. Also, check with other family members.

**Submitted by: Judy Schaer, Worship Committee Chair**

# Adult Bible Studies

Adult group **DIGGING DEEPER** is on **Sunday mornings** at 9:15a.m. We will be digging deeper into the Bible passage we hear that morning, deeper into what it means to follow Jesus, deeper into how God is at work in our own lives and the world. Please come with questions and a learning spirit. Bring your favorite Bible, or use the ones we have. Let's learn together!

**KEEPING THE FLAME ALIVE** will meet on the third Monday of the month (**August 21**) at 8:30 a.m. at **Bob Evans**. Participants will need to bring their daily devotionals and their bibles. If you have questions please contact Pastor Andy via e-mail (try2hopp@msn.com) or cell (309-883-1422).



**CURVE BALLS:** Learn to hit curve balls, life rarely pitches straight. God can teach you how to swing. Open for anyone who would like to join. We meet on **August 14** and **28** at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in joining us or want more information, please contact Pastor Andy Hopp via e-mail (try2hopp@msn.com) or cell (309-883-1422).

encourage

Pastor Andy will be starting a group to help us meet our self-improvement goals for 2017. It will be called "**Our Better Selves**". Its goal is to support and encourage - not to chastise. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Andy with some suggestions for meeting dates and times.



10:30 a.m. **WORSHIP SERVICE HELPERS** are still needed. If you are interested in ushering, reading scripture, greeting or being an acolyte, please sign up on the Schedule Sheet in the back of the sanctuary.

We still need one **SUNDAY SCHOOL** teacher. We are working towards having two teachers per class. Please talk with Pastor Andy, Gale Allen or April Nauman if you'd like to help. Please help us raise the next generation of Christians.

The **PRAISE AND WORSHIP TEAM** is looking for singers and musicians. If you have any interest learning more, please contact Jarrod Doty at church, by email at jdoty69@gmail.com or by phone at 309.657.8904.

If you, or anyone you know, want to fill in on the **ORGAN** or **PIANO** occasionally, please text or call Carla Doty at 657-8903 or email at dougdoty@aol.com.

Another **NEW** opportunity! Would someone like to take care of the pencils (sharpening and arranging) in the pews??? This would help Judy out.

**Submitted by: Judy Schaer, Worship Committee Chair**

## USED JEANS

If you have any old jeans, any size or color, please bring them to church for Tracy Arnold. Her mother's church turns them into rugs to raise money for missions.



The Publicity Committee is in the process of getting signs for the inside of the church. These will be coming soon. You may have already noticed the new signs on the front and back doors as well as in the restroom stalls. These signs will be changed monthly to inform you of current events happening at the church. **Submitted by: Communications Committee**



**Urgent Need!** Last month the Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC) sent almost 4,000 Cleaning Buckets to Missouri and Illinois flood victims. We are running low on all Cleaning Bucket supplies, especially Bug Spray. Any donations would be greatly appreciated. Monetary donations or supplies bought through **DollarDays** would be the best way to donate as they are shipped directly to MMDC at the Center's bulk prices.

Midwest Mission Distribution Center  
P.O. Box 56, 1022 New City Road, Chatham, IL 62629  
<http://www.midwestdistributiondc.org>  
[office@midwestdistributiondc.org](mailto:office@midwestdistributiondc.org)

### Financial Giving Survey

Your financial contributions enable our church to do all of the things that you value – music, worship, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Missions, and more!

We realize that the world has changed and your preferences for giving may have changed also. Please complete the survey below and return it to the church to let us know the giving method you prefer. **Your Finance Committee**

Please mark your current & preferred giving method below	Using Now	Prefer to Use
<b>Envelope System</b> (currently available) - cash or check		
<b>Bill Pay</b> (currently available) – donation automatically deducted periodically from your checking or savings account - cost to church is \$0.00 – your bank <u>may</u> charge you		
<b>ACH</b> (future) – donation automatically deducted periodically from your checking or savings account - cost to church is 0.5% to 1.25%		
<b>Credit or debit card</b> (future) – Available on website; one-time or repeating donations – cost to church is 2.2% to 3.0%		

# August 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 7:00 p.m. Trustees	8 7:00 p.m. Ad Council	9	10	11 9:00-11:00 a.m. Food Pantry/ King's closet	12
13 5:30 p.m. O.U.R—@ The Naumans	14 7:00 p.m. Curve Balls	15 4:30 p.m. Communi- cations	16 2:00 p.m.— 6:00 p.m. Blood Drive	17	18	19
20	21 8:30 a.m. Keeping the Flame Alive (@ Bob Evans)	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 7:00 p.m. Curve Balls	29	30	31		





**OUR MOTTO:** "The Church That Cares"

**OUR MISSION** (our purpose): "Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ through our welcome, worship, and witness."

**OUR VISION** (what we hope to be): "We are a community of caring people striving to meet the spiritual and physical needs of our neighbors."

**WORSHIP SERVICES:**

Sunday 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

**NURSERY:**

Sunday 8-11:45 a.m. (infant-kindergarten)

**SUNDAY SCHOOL GROUPS :** 9:15-10:15 a.m.

D.O.C.K. (Preschool – 5th grade)

Youth (grades 6 – 12)

Digging Deeper (Adults)

**CHOIR PRACTICE:** (7th grade-Adult)

September through May

7 p.m. Wednesday evenings, as announced

**O.U.R.: Outwardly Upwardly Righteously**

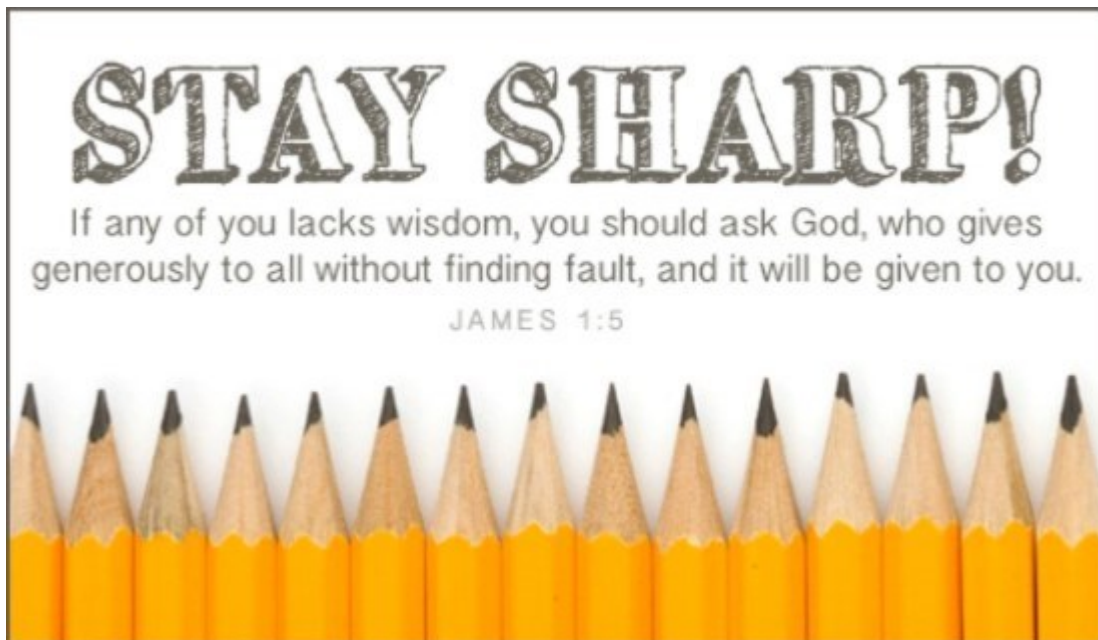
(first Sunday of month)

**CURVE BALLS SUPPORT GROUP:**

7 p.m. 2nd & 4th Mondays

**KEEPING THE FLAME ALIVE:**

8:30 a.m. 3rd Monday



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[www.facebook.com/riversedgeumc.org](https://www.facebook.com/riversedgeumc.org)

