



BEACON

Ogema Baptist Church

A circle of believers with Christ at the center.

[JUNE 2017]

Thanks to God; Thanks to You

At the annual church business meeting on May 21st, we had an interesting bit of news in among all of the normal annual meeting agenda items. For the first time in the remembered history of Ogema Baptist Church, our general fund giving exceeded our general fund budget. The budget for the last fiscal year was \$222,235 and the general fund giving was \$231,965.30 for a surplus of \$9,730.30. In addition to that, our financially responsible ministry leaders spent less than the budget allowed, as is usually the case. As a church, we spent \$18,695.91 **less** than the budget.

The good news about last year doesn't end there. Giving to the deacon fund, which is separate from the general fund, was very strong last year. The deacon fund is used to help people with financial crisis type of situations. Most of the money goes to people in the church but a portion is used for helping people in the community who are not part of our congregation. Last year, \$11,470.25 was given to the fund and \$11,395 was disbursed by the deacons on your behalf. In addition, over \$12,000 came to the church as non-budget receipts. Most of that was given for special missions projects and new church furniture.

But wait. There's more! In our determination to be good stewards of the financial blessings God gives us, we budget for bigger ticket items that we know we will need to replace in the future and put money into savings for those items. Right now we have a copier fund and a lawn mower fund. Both of those funds grew by the budgeted amount. We also put \$1,100 a month into our building fund. Even with the continuing expenses of upgrading and "finishing" our facility, mostly in the audio, visual and technology areas, we were still able to come out ahead in the building fund by over \$3000.

All of this happened in a year when several wage earners in our congregation either retired or cut back on their income generating work. Several others were affected by a major factory in Prentice being sold to a company that now has fewer employees in Prentice than the previous company. Others in the church who were working are unable to work at the present for health reasons. In all of this we just had the best financial year as a church that anyone can remember?!?

Wow, wow, wow!!!

My response to all of this is to thank God for his overflow blessing. How could anyone deny the activity of God in all of this? He has been gracious to us in abundance! My next response is to thank you who gave and who prayed and who served in the church. All of that is vitally important.

I firmly believe that we are being given an opportunity by God to do some things as a church that maybe we haven't been able to do up to this point. I believe God is blessing the faithfulness of his people here who give consistently and generously. He is trusting us with these overflow resources and we want to use them in accordance with His will.

To that end, the congregation voted at the annual meeting to establish a Deacon's Special Event fund. We are just at the beginning stages of praying, thinking and gathering information to determine how we might use these funds. If you have ideas, please talk with me or a Deacon Board member. We want ideas for types of events as well as ideas of people that we might bring in for an event. Please be thinking and praying along the lines of the steps of our discipleship process. How can we connect with people in the community? How can we encourage them to trust Christ, grow in Christ and serve Christ? With these resources, we have additional ministry possibilities.

I am thoroughly excited to see what will happen. I think that if we will stay focused on our calling and united in our efforts, we are on the verge of a season of very fruitful ministry together.

In His Joy, for His Kingdom,
Pastor Rodney

JUNE SERMON SCHEDULE

- 4 "Truths about God"
- 11 "Truths about You"
- 18 "Truths about Marriage"
- 25 "Truths about Family"



YOUTH MINISTRY



So I was thinking...

Is summer going to be busier than the school year? And does time really have to go faster the older I get? I remember in elementary school, summer vacation felt like it lasted forever. Now that I'm older, it's as quick as a blink. It also doesn't help that my first weekend since April with nothing scheduled is July 29th. Summer will be over before I'm ready and another adventure in youth ministry, one I'm really excited about, will begin. So many things to do before then, weekly lessons to come up with, retreats and fun nights to plan. I'd be a liar if I didn't admit that it's a little overwhelming. How do you plan year after year? How do you keep it fresh? How do you keep it growing? While I do not have any answers to all those questions yet, I do know one thing for certain: God is in control. This is His show and I GET to be part of it! But before September gets here, I am looking forward to days in the sun, beach time, hanging with my boys on a plain old Tuesday, LiFest, camping, running (I know, I can't believe I said that either!), campfires, and sleeping in. Even though I have a summer packed with weddings, bringing children to camps, a few youth group devotional nights and a mission trip, I am ready for a time of rest. A time to renew my energy and spirit, a time for rejuvenation. Sure there's lots of research, planning and other leg work to do this summer, but the time away from it somehow makes the time spent doing the work more productive and meaningful.

One thing I learned this year about myself is that I can't wait to be sick or worn out to find rest. I need to schedule it. There were times this year when the "fog" set in. I'm not sure what your signal is, but for me the "fog" comes when I ignore my need for rest or when God is helping me work through something. During these times, reading my Bible is difficult. Praying seems useless and God feels a million miles away. I stop talking to those who care about me and listen to Satan's lie that I'm alone. This is not my first experience with the "fog" and I know it won't be my last, but I do believe I'm getting better at letting God lead me out of it. I recently messaged someone this exact note, "I know right now you have prayed and

asked for a lot of different things...none of which are happening or helping. I need you to trust me on something...keep praying, keep asking, keep looking. This is the fog I often talk about. The feeling of being alone and nothing making sense. Of feeling like God is absent. He's right there. I promise you that, and you're learning something. Something you need for the future but you won't be able to see it for a while." Within a few days, I realized I needed to take my own advice. I needed to keep praying, keep asking and keep looking. I needed to trust that whatever was going on in my life, at that moment, was in God's plan and that I was learning something. I needed to take a moment, a moment of rest, and trust God. I needed to live my faith. So if you are anything like me and find yourself in a "fog", God has not abandoned you. You are learning something. Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28) Take him up on it and push back at the "fog". Wake up every morning and discover where and how God is showing Himself to you. If you don't know where to start, well, you just woke up! Start there.

until next time.

Rebecca Anderson

FAITH is the radar that sees through the fog.

—Corrie Ten Boom

Pray for the 14 students and 5 adults going on the

Ground Zero Mission Trip

to Duluth, MN

June 12-18

- Handing out fliers to announce a dinner and VBS invite program
- Organizing 3 days of VBS with 20-40 kids expected
- Painting and re-surfacing a driveway
- Leading 40 minutes of the church service, including all the worship music

Ogema Baptist Church
Vacation Bible School



**Monday, June 5-
 Thursday, June 8
 12:30-3:30**



**For all kids ages 4-entering 6th grade
 Bible stories, fun songs, snacks, crafts, games!!**

**God gives us good gifts...
 Comfort, Patience, Peace, Love, Joy!**

CHARO



Call Kafi 715.428.2282 or
 Brenda 715.767.5646
 for more information



*"Becoming a
 Woman of Grace"*

By Cynthia Heald

Study meets at OBC
 every other Monday evening
 from 6:30-8:30

June 12 & 26, July 17 & 31, August 7 & 21

*"Therefore the LORD longs to be gracious
 to you, and therefore He waits on high to
 have compassion on you." Isaiah 30:18a*

**All skill levels welcome—
 junior high age to adult—
 to join us for**

**Ultimate
 Frisbee**



**At the Ogema
 Elementary School
 ballfield**

**Friday evenings
 throughout the summer
 6:30-8:30**

**Life's Healing Choices
 Women's Group**

An 8-week Christian recovery program
 geared toward enjoying spiritual
 freedom from hurts, hang-ups,
 dysfunctional behaviors and habits

Meetings begin **June 25 at 6:30**
 at First Baptist Church,
 757 Cherry Street, Prentice

For more information please call
 715-428-2570 or email
 clbrtrevry@yahoo.com

June Birthdays

- 1 Joseph Pearson, Jill Smith, Deb Wherritt
- 2 Adam Blomberg
- 3 Dan Blomberg, Heidi Michaelis, Tonya VanCamp, Ezekiel Stolhammer, Renee Zook
- 4 Jerry Blomberg
- 5 Jessica Andreae, Tammie Blomberg
- 6 Tina Hensley
- 7 Jordan Nelson, Ameris Grapa, Danielle Blomberg
- 8 Jeremy VanCamp
- 9 Laura Lord, Malcolm Monroe, Lucas Cook
- 11 June Larson, Tirah Meier
- 12 Bo Jones
- 13 Emilie Blomberg, Pam Wildberg, Kendrick Wear
- 15 Myrtle A. Blomberg, Nate Erickson, Diane Bulgrin
- 16 Melba Swan
- 17 Kyle Belan, Macy Wildberg
- 18 Nick Erickson, Gene Haskins, Nancy Espinoza
- 19 Doug Erickson, Tom Schubring
- 20 Josh Jones, Preston Nelson, James Gustafson
- 21 Cody Gasser, Sarah Leick, Kailee Mann
- 22 Joel Esterholm
- 23 Garrett Blomberg, Marcia Carlson, Steve Swan
- 24 Andy Swan
- 25 Janet Blomberg, Rebecca Anderson, Ciara Scheithauer
- 26 Brandon Hallstrand, June Johnson
- 27 Vivian Rhody, Brooke Nelson
- 28 Anna Dielschneider
- 29 Kay Sue Belan, Nathan Karlik, Carol Heikkinen, Renita Ulrich, Manny Espinoza Jr.
- 30 Heidi Esterholm, Donna Nelson, Julie Ploof, Ron Mattson

Ladies of all ages, you are invited!

TITUS 2

SUMMER EVENING GET-TOGETHERS

at Janet Blomberg's home—W2990 King School Road, Ogema

MONDAY, JUNE 5TH, 6:30

*Worship music and Julie Jast sharing Four Truths she has learned
 through her experience in life and as a mother*

MONDAY, JUNE 19TH, 6:30

We hope you will join us!



We hope to have all our families participate!

2017 PHOTO CHURCH DIRECTORY

Sign up for a photography session:

Friday, June 9, from 2:00—9:00

Saturday, June 10, from 9:00—4:00

Monday, June 19, from 2:00—9:00

There is no cost to OBC and no sitting fee for photography sessions. Each participating family will receive a free 8x10. Call the church office with questions or for more information.

SUNDAY SCHOOL— 9:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP—10:15 AM

WEDNESDAY PRAYER MEETING—7:00 PM

Missionary Spotlight

Paul & Ana Hill

Santiago del Estero, Argentina



In our particular context, strong authoritarian leadership has always been the functional model of leadership where control, personality and marching orders seem to be the only way to get things done. Creating ownership and empowering people into ministry has always been a struggle. As we started a new year we are excited by what is happening in the lives of key people in Cabildo. Enthusiasm, participation, and good organization have activated ministries such as Sunday School for all ages, worship music, men's service ministry, and a Saturday soup kitchen.

Please pray:

- We continue to struggle with our vehicle insurance. Pray the Lord would move the company to pay for repairs.
- There is an air of excitement and enthusiasm in Cabildo Church. Pray for unity as friction and misunderstandings are where the devil seeks to shove and push.
- Pray for wisdom as we seek to break into home groups and for the key people to step into needed leadership.
- Pray that we can raise the finances to buy the Cabildo Church property that would allow us to free up resources to call a pastor. A retired pastor is wanting to come to Santiago and would give us the pastoral leadership the church needs at this time.

We are thankful for each and every one of you and we are here because of your prayers, faithfulness and your enabling generosity. We are committed to doing what God has called us to do in proclaiming the message of Jesus Christ. Thank you for standing with us and for your generous heart. God bless you and keep you. May His face shine upon each one of you and your ministries.