

May Newsletter

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May, 2017

Vol. 24-No. 5

Bill Gabriel Shorter Biography

I was born into a very tumultuous and painful childhood. Before 7th grade, I moved over a dozen times, missed most of 3rd and 4th grade and experienced several remarriages and divorces of parents and stepparents. Yet through this constant turmoil, God was gracious in slowing life down at providential moments.

One of those moments was in Kindergarten, when I attended an Awana club and heard a clear gospel message one evening. I remember thinking that what I heard was true that I believe Jesus is my Lord and my Savior. God gave the gift of a childlike faith, and I have no doubt that the Holy Spirit sustained me through childhood.

Life slowed down once again starting in 7th grade as I was able to attend the same school system and church through high school. Megan and I met in high school and began dating our Senior year. God used a very strong youth group to mature my faith through my teenage years. When I graduated, I was baptized before going to college.

Megan and I continued dating through college and married after we graduated. I started work at a financial company in Chicago as a programmer, then changed jobs to Fox River Financial Resources a year later. I have worked for that same company since, though it has been bought most recently by FIS. While that job has been the same, our family has gone through several other changes since then.

Not long after starting the new job, Whitney was born to us, and she is our oldest at 11 years old. We began attending Christ the King church when she was an infant, and that church was a blessing to our whole family. Megan and I have been a part of the music ministry for nearly the entire time we attended.

While dating, Megan and I developed a heart to adopt, and it was a blessing to have the privilege to do that. In 2007, we began the process of adoption, and in 2009, two year old Simeon joined our family from Taiwan (he's 10 now). It has been a bigger blessing to love and raise this boy and see so many gospel parallels to God's adoption of us as his children in Christ. The theology of adoption encouraged us to adopt children, but adopting children has given us a deeper understanding and appreciation of what God has done for us in His Son.

Since then, Elie (7 years old on May 3) was born to us, and we adopted Ruby (5 years old) at birth in 2011 from Tennessee, and finally adopted Judah shortly after birth in 2015 from South Carolina. Judah is two years old now, and both of our boys have Christmas birthdays. Our children are a great joy and we cherish them dearly.

(continued)



LIVING HOPE CHURCH

. . . invites YOU to worship with us each week and to accompany your children as they participate in our Church School program. We are a family and singles church and have activities for all ages.

Adult Bible	9:00 a.m.
Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Ministers	All of the people in the Congregation
Pastors	Mark Alvis Ken Carr Jeff Holwerda
Pastor of Family Life	Matt Gruel
Elders	Bill Gabriel, David Kroger, Mike Mudry, Keith Ritchel and Mike Williams
Organist	Ida Dunham
Audio/Video Technician	Bill Wheaton
Office Administrator	Vicky Ritchel

Our Vision Statement . . .

Living Hope Church exists:
To personally know the living Christ
of the Bible
and by the power of the Holy Spirit
to extend and enjoy His Kingdom —
in our homes,
in our community
and in the world —
to the glory of God alone.

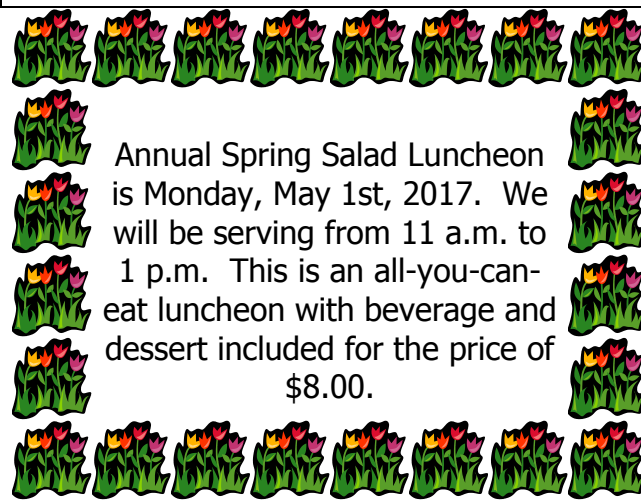
**A Bible centered Ministry and Member of
the Conservative Congregational
Christian Conference
and National Association of Evangelicals**

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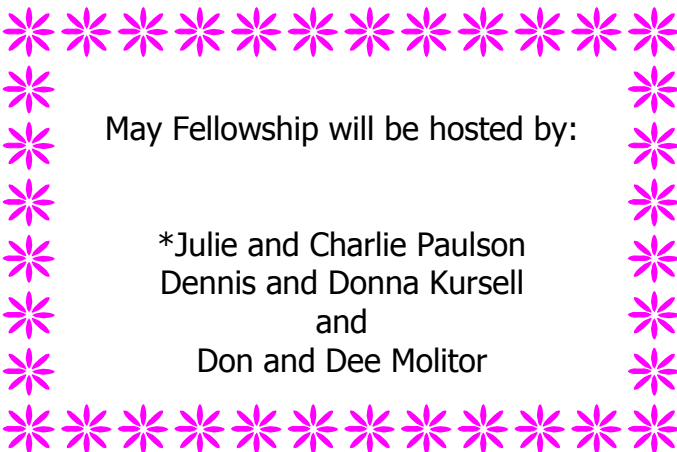
In my time at CtK, God has placed a desire and calling to shepherd the flock on my heart (1 Pet 5:12). In an evening reminiscent of how God changed my heart at Awana so many years ago, I sensed a new change to serve the church in the ministry of the Word and prayer (Jer 20:9). Within a few months of that evening, the church affirmed that calling and I've served as elder for six years.

As we merge, it has struck me that there are some who have been a part of this congregation longer that I've been alive. But I am very excited that with any and all differences, we share one Lord, one faith, and can worship and grow in the gospel together. I'm looking forward to the road ahead with you.

Bill Gabriel



Annual Spring Salad Luncheon
is Monday, May 1st, 2017. We
will be serving from 11 a.m. to
1 p.m. This is an all-you-can-
eat luncheon with beverage and
dessert included for the price of
\$8.00.



May Fellowship will be hosted by:

*Julie and Charlie Paulson
Dennis and Donna Kursell
and
Don and Dee Molitor



MISSION MUSINGS

Dear Living Hope Church,

We as a Mission Board are looking forward to some new members in May—with fresh ideas perhaps—or just getting to know some more folks.

We had a wonder-filled visit with Susan Perlman on April 2nd and then learned even more of her ministry when the board and Pastor Mark and Cindy took her out to lunch. Do continue to pray for the Jews for Jesus ministry.

Pray also for the Griffiths as there is some question as to their going back to the Czech-Republic.

The Thompsons will be home briefly this summer to meet their new grandchild. We trust all is well as the baby is due on May 11th. They need money for part of their second ticket, so if anyone feels so inclined.

The Midwest Indian Mission folks continue to thank the Lord for Samuel's improvement. He does have a long way to go (from the FedEx truck running over him).

They will be wanting to plant their huge garden soon, so we should ask the Lord for good soil conditions.

Also, Teleka had surgery last fall and is well enough now to teach piano lessons again.

Praise the Lord! The Jensens' son is home from the service—so he and his wife and little ones can be a family again.

We continue to reach out to the community to help where it is needed, so please let us know of any needs.

Also—don't forget we have quite a bit of medical equipment for folks to borrow—so let us know if you need something.

In Christ,
Rosemary Bennett

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The time of year is approaching when the Sanctuary will be changed from heating to air conditioning. As you may know, this manual procedure requires changing some valve positions and installing the condensate drains on each sanctuary ventilator.

When the weather is moderate, such as on Easter Morning, the sanctuary windows can be opened and the exhaust fan used to pull outside air through. That exhaust fan could also be used to ventilate any room in the building with outside air.

Some may have noticed that the chapel has been very hot lately. Replacing the defective valve in that heating circuit will require draining the south annex water system and then recharging it. This will be done when the heating season is over.

The sanctuary roof patch near the piano has held through several rain storms.

We have scheduled a "spring cleanup" for May 20th. The plan is to work on both the inside and outside of the church. If you have something specific that you would like to see done, please let one of the trustees know. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Please come and help if you can. Work will begin about 9 a.m. Many hands make short work.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Schmitt

DIACONATE DISCUSSION

Our discussion in April concerned the devotionals purchased by the board. Currently, we are receiving 100 copies of both Focus on the Family and Church Around the World. The cost of each is \$42.00 per quarter. It was decided to continue keeping this amount to insert in the bulletins. Twenty-five copies of *Our Daily Bread* (without charge) are received each quarter. We voted to make a donation of \$25.00 to Daily Bread Ministries.

Our next discussion concerned Palm Sunday and the Easter services. Gloria volunteered to purchase the palms. It was decided to make crosses out of any remaining palms. They will be used for next year's Palm Sunday instead of fresh palms.

Next on the agenda was the planning of the Easter Mini-Brunch service before the service. As in the past, the time will be from 9:45 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. Menus and duties were discussed and divided among our members.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Wilke

Saturday
May 20th



There will be a spring clean-up day on Saturday, May 20th. The start time will be about 9:00 a.m. The exact work to be done will be posted on a sign-up sheet in the narthex after the April board meeting. This will be both an inside and outside clean-up. If you have any suggestions, please let the office know so that it can be included on the task list.

Things to Know

Our new name is now **LIVING HOPE CHURCH**. I think a new name for our monthly newsletter would be appropriate. Have any ideas? Hopefully I will have a name picked out for June's edition. Email the church with any suggestions that you might have.

If you would like to get the newsletter electronically and you are not signed up, please let the office know so that you may be included on the mailer list. There will still be a limited number of copies available for those who prefer a hard copy.

Also, the newsletter has always included a list of birthdays and anniversaries and we want everyone to be included. If you would like your birthday and/or anniversary to be included in this monthly list, email the office with your name and birthday or you and your spouse with your anniversary date. Thanks!

The youth group is planning on a week-long missions trip in Aurora to focus on local missions/ministries. The "camp" will be June 12-16. We will be staying at a church in Aurora and ministering throughout the week. The basic cost will be \$300, which includes all food, supplies, programming, etc. Please pray for this endeavor.

SPORTS CAMP 2017

Once again we are gearing up for this tremendous outreach to the area youth. The date this year is June 26th thru June 30th. Other than a minimal price increase, the only change is that there will not be volleyball offered this year. Instead "Ultimate Frisbee" will take its place. All the information is on our website, www.unioncong.com. You can get info, sign up and even pay online. There will be more information on this in the bulletin in coming weeks.



There will be a pizza luncheon after the worship service on Sunday, May 21st. Pizza will be provided. Please bring salads and desserts to share!!



Lila Carr.....	5/1	Joshua Paul Johnson.....	5/16
Elie Gabriel.....	5/3	Dorothy Leach.....	5/18
Jane Mitchell.....	5/3	Harley Woodhouse.....	5/18
Lorrie Johnson.....	5/5	Harvey Sterkel.....	5/19
Don Bower.....	5/6	Miriam Caldwell.....	5/21
Holly O'Brien.....	5/6	Valerie Petkus.....	5/21
Ruth Williamson.....	5/6	Aidan Underhile.....	5/26
Marisa Julene Denovellis.....	5/10	Gloria Sterkel.....	5/27
Mary Martz.....	5/11	Don Molitor.....	5/28
Kevin Thomas Denovellis.....	5/12	Ray Lidecka.....	5/29
Mary Kroger.....	5/12		



Charles & Julie Paulson	5/5	Lynn & Janet Cate	5/24
Bob & Sue Fields.....	5/8	Nate & Rachael Petschke.....	5/27
Steve & Robin Sterkel	5/12	Mark & Joni Smith.....	5/29
Ken & Priscilla Carr.....	5/23		

Living Hope Library News May 2017

Two recommended titles on worldview by Pastor Mark; *What's Your Worldview?* by James H. Anderson and *Story of Reality* by Gregory Kouki. Other new titles on Christian Worldview are *Christian Worldview-A Student Guide* and *What is the Christian Worldview?* Both of these are authored by Phillip Graham Ryken.

New title from Kim Vogel Sawyer; *Guide Me Home*—working as a guide in Mammoth Cave might allow Rebekah the chance to bring joy to her family. But will the cave claim more than it gives? Other titles by her are *What Once Was Lost* and *Through The Deep Waters*.

If I can be of assistance in finding titles or using the library resources please call 630-879-3508

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Carlson