

**February
 2017**

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The Café Service Challenge

Perhaps you recall the challenge that our church is facing. I put it before you in November. The challenge is that our Café service has grown to the point that the Nehemiah Center is full. “Full” is actually 80% of maximum capacity (Perhaps it should be termed “comfortably full.”) Research has shown that when a church’s seating reaches the 80% mark it will cease to grow. New people won’t stay, or regulars will drift away. This is because people don’t like to be scrunched together, they don’t like to step over people to get to an open seat, and families want to be able to sit together. Thus, when churches reach 80% of maximum seating, they need to create more seating or they will not grow.

Our Elders have met with the leaders of the Café service, surveyed the people of the Café service, sought suggestions from the congregation at large, and talked through possible solutions. The Café leadership has expressed its desire to be better integrated into the church rather than separated out. Since neither the first or second services are near “full” it is difficult to justify the cost of building at this time. Any building program would take a considerable amount of time anyway, and the need is immediate, so a short-term solution is needed. We don’t want to hinder our growth, most of which is coming through the Café. I ran some numbers this week just to recheck the numbers we were working with. The average weekly attendance in the Café has now exceeded the average weekly attendance of the first, and of the second, services for this fiscal year (beginning July 1, 2016).

In terms of time, cost, and least disruption, the most logical solution put forth is to move the Café service into the sanctuary during the 10:30 hour and live stream it back into the Nehemiah Center for overflow and future growth. The Elders asked the Café leadership to determine what changes would be necessary in the sanctuary to make it suitable for the Café service, and what would be the rough costs of the different changes. The Café leadership has tried to come up with suggestions that would give the sanctuary some of the same feel the Café has in the Nehemiah Center now, and at the same time not sacrifice what is important to those who like the sanctuary environment as it currently is.

The Café leadership has spent a fair amount of time analyzing what it is about that service that has made it more attractive to so many. While the ability to enjoy a cup of coffee is appealing to some, it is clear that it is the environment and style of worship that is the draw. People feel drawn into worship and drawn together in the Café. As one newer attendee noted, there is a greater sense of community in the Café. Parents who want to keep their children with them in church also find the Café’s casual environment more conducive to having their children in the service with them.

Perhaps by the time you read this, decisions will have been made, and changes will have been communicated. The important thing to remember in all of this is the Lord’s purpose for the church. If we don’t stop and think about it, it’s easy to let our preferences become more important than the Lord’s purposes! Sadly, people in churches get upset and angry, and say and do things that cause hard feelings and are divisive, over their preferences. To the one who protests, “Why do they have to get their way?” the answer could be given, “Why do you have to have yours?”

Our ultimate purpose is to glorify God (Romans 11:36; Ephesians 3:21; 1 Peter 4:11). Our mission is to make disciples (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8). Love (John 13:34), and encouragement and building up one another (Ephesians 4:29; 1 Thessalonians 5:11) are to govern our conduct with each other. As we all give up some of our preferences for the greater good of reaching more people for Christ in ways that honor God, I’m sure we’ll see good things here. Let’s remember, “So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another (Romans 14:19, NASB).

Pursuing Peace and Edification,

Pastor Dan



February ~ 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Men's Study - Noon, LL #106 Awana Trek & Journey ~ 5:30 pm, NC Clubbers 3 1/2 yrs. old -6th grade ~ 6:15 pm Ladies Study - 6:15 pm LL #103	2 Choir ~ 6:30 pm, S NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102 Worship Team ~ 7:45 pm, S	3 Fusion Winter Retreat - Baraboo WI	4 "Next Steps" Step 1 (1st Session) 8 am Breakfast, LL #106 Men's Breakfast ~ 8 am, NC/K "No Regrets" Men's Conference - Janesville, WI(6:45 Am from MBC)
5 Worship Services: 9 & 10:30 am, Café Service: 10:30 am, NC Sunday School & ABF's - 9 am Next Steps—Step 3 (1 Session) ~ 6:30 pm, LL Ignite ~ 4-6 pm, LL #106 No Fusion Youth Return from Retreat	6 Care Net Chili Supper Fundraiser - Hope Church, 4:30-8 pm Prayer Mtg.~ 6:30 pm, LL #102	7 No Primetimers Missions Mtg. ~ 6:30 pm, LL #106	8 Men's Study - Noon, LL #106 Awana Trek & Journey ~ 5:30 pm, NC Clubbers 3 1/2 yrs. old -6th grade ~ 6:15 pm Ladies Study - 6:15 pm LL #103	9 Choir ~ 6:30 pm, S NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102 Worship Team ~ 7:45 pm, S	10 MBC Fun Night "Abraham's Legacy" ~ 6 pm Potluck & Games—All are welcome!	11 Fiber Fellowship - 9:30 am, NC
12 Worship Services: 9 & 10:30 am, Café Service: 10:30 am, NC Sunday School & ABF's - 9 am Guatemala Missions Team Mtg. ~ 1 pm, LL #106 Ignite ~ 4-6 pm, LL #106 Fight Night Webinar (Marriage Ministry) ~ 6 pm—8:30 pm, NC Fusion ~ 7-9 pm, LL #106	13 Prayer Mtg.~ 6:30 pm, LL #102 Elder Bd. Mtg. ~ 6:30 pm, LL #106	14	15 MARCH NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE! Men's Study—Noon, LL #106 Awana: Trek & Journey ~ 5:30 pm, NC Clubbers 3 1/2 yrs. old -6th grade ~ 6:15 pm Ladies Study - 6:15 pm LL #103	16 Choir ~ 6:30 pm, S NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102 Worship Team ~ 7:45 pm, S	17 Primetimers Pizza Hut Lunch - 11:15 am	18 Ice Fishing ~ 8 am & Broomball - 10 am @ Elgin's Pond (N4838 Thunder Rd., Monroe) Hot dogs, s'mores & drinks provided
19 Worship Services: 9 & 10:30 am, Café Service: 10:30 am, NC Sunday School & ABF's - 9 am Ignite ~ 4-6 pm, LL #106 Fusion - 7-9 pm, LL #106	20 Prayer Mtg.~ 6:30 pm, LL #102	21	22 Men's Study—Noon, LL #106 Awana: Trek & Journey ~ 5:30 pm, NC Clubbers 3 1/2 yrs. old -6th grade ~ 6:15 pm Ladies Study - 6:15 pm LL #103	23 Worship Team ~ 7:45 pm, S NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102	24	25
26 LORD'S TABLE Worship Services: 9 & 10:30 am, Café Service: 10:30 am, NC Sunday School & ABF's - 9 am Ignite ~ 4-6 pm, LL #106 Fusion - 7-9 pm, LL #106	27 Guatemala Missions Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser @ MBC; 5- 8 pm, NC Prayer Mtg.~ 6:30 pm, LL #102	28 Pleasant View Service ~ 9:30 am Board of Deacons - 6 pm, LL #106				

2 Aaron Holverson
4 Milt Sherman
6 Justin Brunner
Julie Paske
7 Nate Bloom
Tasha Erdmann
Angela Miller
8 Justin Rhoe
10 Liam Erdmann
Mark Setterstrom
11 Al Ostenson
12 Anita Peach
13 Debra Hurlbert
14 Josiah Hauri
15 Gabe Kuenzi
Jaclyn Miller
Brendan Swindle
16 Felicity Eddy
Liz Garchie
17 Elsie Coppes
Marie Wunschel



18 Matt Miller
19 Brigham Holverson
Lynne Rhoe
Connor Swindle
20 Randy Whyte
21 Darlene Bartelt
Emmalynn Brunner
Becky Coppes
James Hurlbert
Sarah Olmstead
Lillie Rische
22 Lauren Baer
23 Gene Dobbins
Scott Larson
24 Micah Coppes
25 Ruth Kelley
26 Betty Anderson
27 Beth Figi
Gloria Huffman
Harold Pieper
28 Kathy Markham

Happy Anniversary!



1 Peter & Katelin Rishe
6 Walter & Ruth Krahenbuhl
12 Dale & Lynn Klitzke
13 Roger & Kathy Krauss



Ladies Knit/Crochet/Craft

Saturday, February 11th

9:30 am –11:30 am,

Nehemiah Center

Next Steps:

Step 1 “Our Mission & Vision” is one session and will be offered **Saturday, February 4th** at 8 am in the Lower Level Room 106. Breakfast is provided, so please sign-up at the Welcome Center and let us know that you will be attending. You will learn what our Vision is and how you can become a part of it.

NEXT STEPS

Step 3 “Our Commitments” is one session and will be offered on **Sunday, February 5th** at 6:30 pm in the Nehemiah Center. Sign-up at the Welcome Center. We require that you attend **Step 2 “Our Core Beliefs”** first.

Pick up a brochure at the Welcome Center.
Don't forget to sign-up at the Welcome Center!



Primetimers will meet for their monthly gathering at the Monroe Pizza Hut on Feb. 17th. There will be a nice salad and pizza buffet which we start about 11:30 am. If you are an empty nester please join us for a time of fellowship and good food. No reservations necessary. We hope to restart the Lunch and Games day in March, weather permitting. Watch for an announcement.

Thursday Morning Ladies Study

The Ladies Bible Study of Thursday mornings will resume their study of the Book of Romans on **March 9th**. They will meet in the Nehemiah Center at 9:30 am for the remaining eight lessons, ending April 27th.

There is a sign up sheet at the Welcome Center for anyone new who might want to join this study. Current attendees need not sign up. The cost of \$7.00 for the book will be payable on March 9th.

Call Carol Hasselmann at 815-505-3324 if you have any questions.

Wednesday Evening Ladies Study

This study will be Wednesday evenings during Awana (6:15—7:45 pm), from February 1st through April 26th. We will be using the book “An Undivided Heart: Experiencing the Intimacy of Jesus’ Touch”, by Rita J. Platt.

For more information or to sign up, contact Robin Nafzger at 325-4710 or 558-2922.

(Space is limited!)

The Power of Prayer!

Why pray? The Lord commands us to pray, He encourages us to pray, and He tells us how to pray.

I heard a couple of songs recently that refer to prayer. The song "Leave It There" says to take our burden to the Lord and leave it with Him. "I Can Pray" by the Booth Brothers explains the privilege of prayer. I don't base my theology on songs, but these are based on Scripture. Do you think that you have no ministry for the Lord? Prayer can be your ministry.

There is great power in prayer, especially corporate prayer. We need to pray for our church, our pastor, our government leaders, our family, our children and grandchildren, and our fellow believers.

Pray with us Monday evenings, 6:30 pm, Lower Level Room #102.
Dan Keen, Prayer Ministry Leader

Save the date:

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER BREAKFAST

Thursday, May 4, 2017



Choir Schedule

Thursdays @ 6:30 pm,
February: 2, 9, 16, &
off Feb. 23.

March: 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30.

April: 6, 13, off 20, then
practice again on the 27th.

Save the date!

The annual **Brewers Baseball** outing will be Monday, July 3rd vs the Baltimore Orioles. Everyone is invited this year: families, men, women, and children. The game is at 1 pm and we plan to leave church at 9 am.

Tickets are only \$10.

We will tailgate before the game.



Any questions, contact
Bernie Roidt at 558-3293.

Saturday, February 4 @ 8 am



Ice Fishing & Broomball

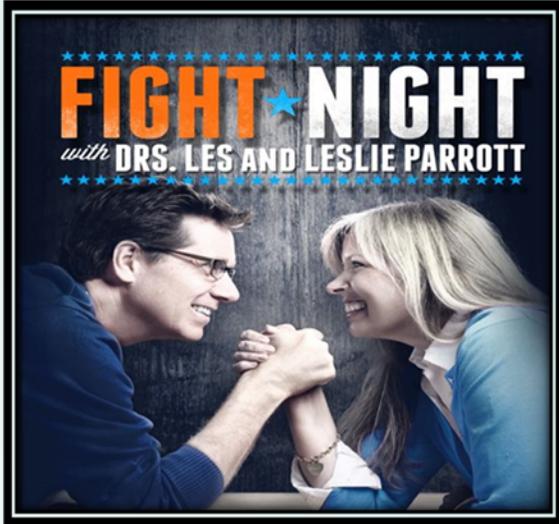
Saturday, February 18th
at Jason & Andrea Elgin's pond,
N4838 Thunder Rd., Monroe.



Ice fishing starts at 8 am, and then broomball at 10 am.

Hot dogs, s'mores and drinks will be provided.

Any questions, contact Bernie Roidt at 325-2199, or Jason Elgin at 328-1978.



FIGHT NIGHT

MONROE BIBLE CHURCH
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

6 — 8:30 pm

Nehemiah Center

**Let's face it, all couples fight.
Learn how to fight a *Good Fight!***

Join us for a fun event filled with humor, fresh insight, and new strategies for your relationship. Fight Night; How to Fight Fair is for everyone – newlyweds, “oldyweds,” seriously dating, engaged couples – anyone wanting to make a good relationship great.

Bridging the Gender Gap in our Fights, Avoiding the Four Red Flags of Conflict, Discover the Surprisingly Effective Conflict Card, Learn the Secret to Keeping a Cool Head and a Warm Heart, How 10 Minutes out of Your Week Will Diminish Conflict

Join Us for a Live Simulcast in our Nehemiah Center

6 – 8:30 pm ~ All Couples Welcome

**Childcare Provided ~ Sign up at
the Welcome Center**

**Contact: Jeff & Marie Wunschel
608-558-2900**

**Monroe Bible Church
2613 8th Avenue, Monroe**



MBC Fun Night!

“Abraham’s Legacy”

Friday, February 10th

6:00 pm potluck in the Nehemiah Center

With large group activities to follow

Everyone is invited!

Questions? Contact Deb Hurlbert at 325-3430

**SUPER
FUN
NIGHT**

Missions Ministry

Missions is working on 3 fundraising initiatives in 2017: check Missions Ministry's web page for details.

1. July Guatemala Mission Trip

Spaghetti Dinner: Monday, February 27 at MBC (5-8 pm)

Garage Sale in June...start saving your items now!



2. Kids Around The World (KATW) Playground Project

March 27– Culvers Night

May 24 – Papa Murphy's Night

July or August – Car Wash

3. Kids Around The World (KATW) One-Meal Program

This year MBC and Crossroads Church are partnering together with KATW.

Our One-Meal Food Packing Event will be **Saturday, April 29**, 10:00 am at the Monroe Middle School new gym. Anyone can help pack, so *SAVE THE DATE!*



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Starting in January of 2017 Monroe Bible Church is supporting missionaries Oscar and Karla Chiquito, with Commission to Every Nation (CTEN) in Guatemala.

Oscar was born into a very poor family in Sumpango Guatemala and accepted Jesus into his heart at the age of twelve. Despite beginning with literally nothing, God blessed Oscar with a BA in Business & Finance and a Fulbright Scholarship to pursue a Masters degree in International Economics & Development. Oscar is passionate about economic development, community development, strategic planning, leadership development, and discipleship. Besides Guatemala, he has also served in Belize, Nicaragua, Mexico, and Panama.



In January 2005, Oscar married a godly woman named Karla, who is a home-economics teacher. They have two children, Emily and Emmanuel. At the end of 2009, after years of working for well-known international institutions, God called Oscar and Karla to become full-time missionaries in their own country, Guatemala.

Guatemala has a high percentage of Evangelical Christians, about 40% of its 14 million people; however, the country is immersed in social problems such as corruption, crime, violence, drug trafficking, gang activities, etc. These problems have created so much instability that the Fund For Peace has identified Guatemala as a country on the border of becoming a failing state. The Chiquitós have always questioned why, if 40% of the population of Guatemala are Christ followers, they are not having a more positive impact in the nation? Sadly, only about 25% of the total Evangelical population are true Christians (Roger W. Grossmann), which raises concerns about the quality of many of the Evangelical churches. This reality has led the Chiquitós to start an interdenominational movement of healthy Evangelical churches with a vision of using the Gospel of Jesus Christ to transform lives, and in turn, Guatemala.

The Chiquitós believe that each Evangelical church, wherever it is located, must impact its village, town, city or community, as did the Early Church in the New Testament. If each Evangelical church can positively impact its community, all churches together can transform the whole country. For this reason, the Chiquitó ministry is focused on empowering churches in three areas:

1. Church strategic planning – to help the local church discover/define Gods purpose for the church
2. Leadership Development – to develop current and future leaders who will guide the church to impact the community
3. Partnerships – to promote partnerships and networks among national and international churches in order to build the body of Christ and expand God's Kingdom

In their hometown, the Chiquitós also helped redefine the vision of their church, Misión Cristiana Evangélica Los Olivos, to be a Bible-based, contemporary church that impacts the City of Sumpango with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

God has blessed the vision of this ministry. The Chiquitós are currently working with sixteen Evangelical churches throughout Guatemala, and have strategic partnerships with U.S. churches in the Forest Lakes District of the Evangelical Free Church of America (EFCA), and Monroe Bible Church.

Newsflash!!

Pastor Dan will be helping launch Pathways training in Guatemala March 13-18 with the Pathways Latin American Director, Mike Gunderson. Pastor Dan has encouraged our missionary, Oscar Chiquitó, to utilize the Pathways training in the churches he works with. When Oscar began working with a particular denomination they revealed that good and accurate preaching was a need for their churches. When Oscar suggested Pathways, they were excited to begin. Mike Gunderson asked Pastor Dan to coordinate the training with the pastors that have been trained at MBC. Thus, we will see some of the fruit of our investment in training U.S. pastors over the next three years in Guatemala!