

From the Pastor's Pen

On September 11, the Chicago Half Marathon is taking place in downtown Chicago. Last year over 20,500 people participated in this 13.1 mile event. The course follows the beautiful Lake Shore Drive



and provides an opportunity for people to test their ability and perseverance. Participants must keep up a pace of 13 minutes per mile to finish in the allotted timeframe. Most people can't just show up on the day of the race and finish the thirteen miles without some type of prior training. Discipline, consistent training and a bit of insanity are required to make it to the finish line. For those who finish, there is the joy of accomplishment and a t-shirt.

Thinking back over his life and ministry, the Apostle Paul said, *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."* (2 Timothy 4:7) It's as if his life of faith was a great race and he was able to cross the finish line, having accomplished all that God gave him to do. God used Paul to plant new churches all over Asia Minor, pen thirteen New Testament Epistles, and train a new generation of leaders who would perpetuate the gospel. I admire those who are able to go the distance in ministry because of their faith, sacrifice and perseverance.

As many of you know, Pastor Dwight recently announced his retirement after a long and fruitful ministry, having served as a pastor in the area as well as a missionary to Japan. I am grateful for the privilege of serving alongside of Pastor Dwight during my tenure at the church. My fondest memory is of the first time I met Dwight when I was interviewing at the church in December 2000.

Dwight asked me if my father-in-law had been the best man in his wedding. I of course had no idea if this had been the case. But, later when I asked my father-in-law if he had been Dwight's best man, he

said yes. It turns out that Dwight had recognized his name from a letter I had sent to the church explaining where I could be reached when I was staying in the Rockford area. Bill and Dwight had not seen in other in over 50 years and had lost touch with one another. Suzy and I were thrilled to get the two couples together at a restaurant in downtown Lena after all those years.

A life well-lived and faithful in ministry over the long haul needs to be celebrated! We want to celebrate Pastor Dwight's ministry on Sunday, September 18 at 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall. I encourage you to come and encourage Dwight in his retirement. I hope that you will have an opportunity between now and then to think about ways in which your life has been impacted by his ministry and his model of faithfulness in service to the Lord. One way you may be able to encourage Dwight is by writing down some of those treasured memories that you have of him and giving it to him to read at a later date.



I also want to encourage you in your race of faith – hang in there; don't give up; persevere until you reach the finish line; long for Christ's appearing (2 Timothy 4:8)! Until then, keep pressing on!

Because He Lives,

Pastor Jim

Student Ministries

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:16-17

Last night we revealed to our students the new name of our youth ministry: Overflow. The idea behind the name stems from Colossians 3:16-17. There we see that when the Word of Christ dwells in us richly, our relationship with Christ will overflow into the lives of others. For when we encounter Jesus through His Word, it is then that we will experience **real Christian community** (teaching and admonishing one other), **genuine worship** (singing Psalms, hymns, spiritual songs) and **a lifestyle of worship** (do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus). Inflow leads to overflow.

Parents, it is of the utmost importance that you fill your life the Word of Christ! The gospel must not be peripheral, but absolutely central to your life and home. For when God's Word is flowing into your life, it is very likely your passion for Jesus will spill over into the lives of your children. William Farley, the author of Gospel-Powered Parenting has witnessed this very thing in his years as a pastor. In regard to the spiritual life of fathers, he writes, "There seems to be a strong correlation between the faith, commitment, and sincerity of the family's head and the spiritual vitality of his adult children." Pastor Jon Nielson, writing for the Gospel Coalition agrees. Though he has seen kids from gospel-centered homes leave the church, he too has seen a correlation between the faith of parents and that of their kids. He writes, "In general, children who are led in their faith during their growing-up years by parents who love Jesus vibrantly, serve their church actively, and saturate their home with the gospel completely, grow up to love Jesus and the church."

Parents, one of the greatest gifts you can give to your children is your own vibrant relationship with Christ. So immerse yourself in the Word of God. Study it, share it, and live it before your children. Let the gospel fill your heart and overflow onto your children.



OVERFLOW
be filled & pour out

Announcements

Sr. High Guy's and Girl's Bible study is back! Senior High students are invited to join us every Monday night at 7 pm at Pastor Scott's house for Bible study. Amal Tawfik will be leading the girls and Pastor Scott will be leading the boys.

Flag football and Bears/Packers Party: Sunday, September 25 @ 2 pm. Jr./Sr. High students and parents are invited to join us for a game of flag football, followed by the Bears-Packers game. Bring a snack to share and invite your friends!



Missions Morsels

Dear friends,

It's been said that you cannot out give God, and most believe that this is so until we are challenged to actually give more than we think we can afford. So I want to throw out this challenge. We as a missions team have decided to add \$1000 to our budget. This sounds like a lot in this economy, but consider this. If 20 families would pledge \$5 a month more than the previous year, that would be an increase of \$1200 in 12 months. Can we not give up a fast food meal, cappuccino, or pop in order to bring the gospel to people who need Jesus? Maybe you have never given to missions before. Why not start with a \$5 a month pledge. I hope you will prayerfully consider taking this challenge. Blessings to all.

Linda Lindstrom



Missions Awareness Month

There has been a change in the schedule for the Oct. lineup. The Chinese Scholars will not be able to be with us until Oct. 22 & 23 and Christina Hunter's visit depends on her school schedule. So here is the new line up:

Oct. 1 & 2 – Ernie Manges

Oct 16 – Sammy Murimi

Oct. 22 & 23 – Rich Sicard and the Chinese Scholar



Ernie Manges

God has opened up a new avenue of ministry for Ernie: training short term missionaries. He developed a training course for those who are going for less than 2 years but more than six months. The first group to be trained in the new course is of 6 young adults who will be going to a nation in the Middle East for a year. Their goal is to reach out to as many Muslim university students as possible in the nation and share the good news of Jesus with them. This team is being sent out by their church (a Free church). Ernie asks for prayer for another group of six who are half-way through their online training for long-term service. Ernie will be with us Oct. 2.



Ross and Mary Hunter

In June, the Hunter's joined the EFCA ReachGlobal's Latin America "Church Based Training" (CBT) as EFCCM missionaries. They are excited to connect with others who share a vision to see Bible and leadership training at the local church level. They hope to recruit a CBT team for Ecuador through the EFCCM and ReachGlobal for the equipping of "national

leaders" in their Bible Training Center and then coaching them as they apply what they learned in their churches and ministries. The Hunters were all together the end of May/June for a few days. Mary and Jennifer continue to care for Ross' mom in Ohio while Ross teaches in Ecuador. Their daughter Christina received all her needed support for her MBI internship with Inner City Impact in Chicago. She is thankful for those who prayed for her and supported her summer internship. The Hunters praise the Lord for the opportunity to pursue the purchase of an ideal location for the Esperanza Viva Training Center but Ross still needs to find a home by Sept. 1. The Hunters are averaging a short fall each month of \$1662. They ask us to pray for continued special gifts to help off set the short fall and for a long term solution.



Ben and Jeanne Beckner

Ben was able to accompany a young couple to Tunisia in late April/May. They wanted to explore various places of potential ministry and humanitarian help. Ben found there to be interest in what FSF could offer in terms of teaching French in the university sector. Pray that they would find French believers who would be willing to serve on a short time basis. Pray that the Lord would lead them as they consider this possibility. Ben and Jeanne have recently returned from two weeks in Albania. They, along with four others, spent a week in Korca doing a French language outreach under the auspices of the local Alliance Francaise and the local evangelical church. They spent a full day outing with a Christian youth group in the city and most of the class (actually orthodox or nominally muslim) attended the youth meeting at the church on the final afternoon class. Some took gospels of Luke and Bibles in French. Pray for Nicolas, Landa, Christina and Spiro who showed interest in the Gospel. Pray also for Hermes who became a Christian last year and has grown in his faith..



IDOP

The International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP) on Nov. 13 is a global day of intercession for persecuted Christians world wide. Its primary focus is to encourage intercessory prayer on behalf of persecuted communities of the Christian faith.

Hebrews 13:3 (NLT) *Don't forget about those in prison. Suffer with them as though you were there yourself. Share the sorrow of those being mistreated as though you feel their pain in your own bodies.*

September Activi-

Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed on Monday, September 5th in honor of Labor Day.

Park Services

The Saturday night Park Services at Lake Le-Aqua-Na have begun. They begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Hickory Hill Campground. Join campers and others in praising God surrounded by God's beautiful creation!



September 5

Debbie Leininger

Lena Fall Festival—Time to Serve

During the Fall Festival weekend Sept 9-11, there are many chances to serve. There is the Face Painting/Bracelet Making Gospel Tent. There is a sign up sheet on the welcome center or see Amal.

Do you like to be part of the parade? Awana has a float in the parade and we could use your help to hand out candy and invitations to Awana and Youth Group. Talk with Steve or Sue Myers.

Awana Begins

Registration for Awana will be on Wednesday, September 14 at 5:30 PM.

Awana takes place every Wednesday from 5:30—7:00 PM. Questions Call Sue Myers (815) 563-4599

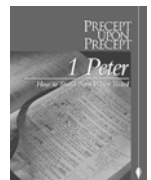
Celebration of the Ministry of Pastor Dwight Bennett



After 14 years of ministry with our church, Pastor Dwight has recently tendered his resignation as our Pastor to Seniors and is retiring. We would like to honor and remember what God has done during the lifetime of ministry of both Dwight and Kay. Join us on **Sunday, September 18 at 6:00 pm** for a celebration of worship and remembrances, followed by a cake reception in fellowship hall.

Precept Begins New Class

A study of 1 Peter will begin on Thursday, September 22 at 9 a.m. Are you prepared for suffering? Will trials and persecutions reveal your faith and bring glory to God? Listen to what Peter says to believers enduring tribulations. If you're interested, please sign up at the Welcome Center so enough books are ordered.



W.O.W. Women's Study

Ladies, join Suzy Erb on Saturday, **September 24 at 8 a.m.** at the Lena Family Restaurant. They will discuss "Lies Women Believe" over breakfast. All ladies are welcome!

Church Library

Take a guess. How many library materials were taken out weekly during August? A. 15 B.25 C.32. Did you guess 32? It is encouraging to know that books & DVD's are in use. Keep using the library. It is there for you!

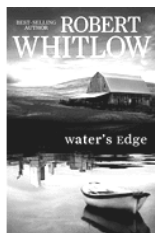
They Looked for a City, by Lydia Burksbazen (92 Bur), is the account of Lydia's mom and dad, Yente and Benjamin Sitenhof. They were Jews living in Poland in the late 1800's. Benjamin was a carpenter working in his dad's factory when a customer gave him the New Testament. As Benjamin read, the scripture introduced him to Jesus, whom he grew to love. As a result of Benjamin's conversion, he was disowned by his Jewish father. Yente, his wife scorned him also. Benjamin left Poland and had



plans to establish himself in America. Along the way, he prayed that the Lord would open up the way for him and make His will plain. In Germany, Benjamin's prayer was answered. Benjamin asked a passerby to direct him to a Rabbi's house. Instead he was directed to an evangelist's home. Never had he been in a Gentile home.

Benjamin's travel plans were postponed as he learned God's Word from his new found pastor friend. Benjamin begged his wife, Yente to join him in Germany. Yente implored her husband to return to his family and Jewish faith in Poland. At last Yente relented, took their 3 children and joined Benjamin. Little did Yente know she would never see Poland again, but would inherit eternal life through Jesus. The Sitenhof family experienced separation, prejudice, death, and 2 World Wars. Just to survive was often the norm on a daily basis for the Sitenhof family, but never did they give up their faith and love for their Lord and Savior. This story is a living inspirational account of God's direction for those who love him.

Tom, a lawyer discovers the goodness of God while he closes up his deceased dad's law office. When Tom discovers a large amount of money in his dad's trust account, Tom diligently searches for the owner of the stash. Here the mystery begins. Tom suspects embezzlement, but by trying to find the offender, he is arrested. Tom becomes deeply depressed and questions his purpose in life. The story climaxes when Tom discovers his dad was murdered and crucial secrets are revealed. Robert Whitlow fans will surely want to read the contemporary Whitlow novel, **Water's Edge**.



I have just acquired an inspirational book by John Piper that is not new, but its wisdom is oh so needed in today's society. **What's the Difference** (248.4 Pip) contains the Biblical teaching of manhood and womanhood. Piper expresses his parents as hard workers with different roles, rooted in God. Piper says, "The tendency today is to stress the equality of men and women by minimizing the unique significance of our maleness or femaleness." Piper explains how to enjoy the uniqueness and sameness of being male or female. **What's the Difference** is a welcome addition to our shelves.



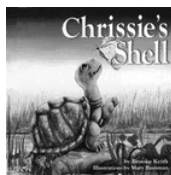
The Lightkeeper's Ball by Colleen Coble is a historical novel with a bit of romance and mystery intermingled.



Olivia goes incognito to find her sister, Eleanor's murder. Along the way, Olivia falls in love with her dead sister's fiancée, Harrison Bennett. Olivia tries to ignore the warning that Harrison may be Eleanor's killer. Things heat up when someone attempts to harm Olivia. Just when I thought I had the mystery solved,

the story took a different turn and hidden secrets become all encompassing.

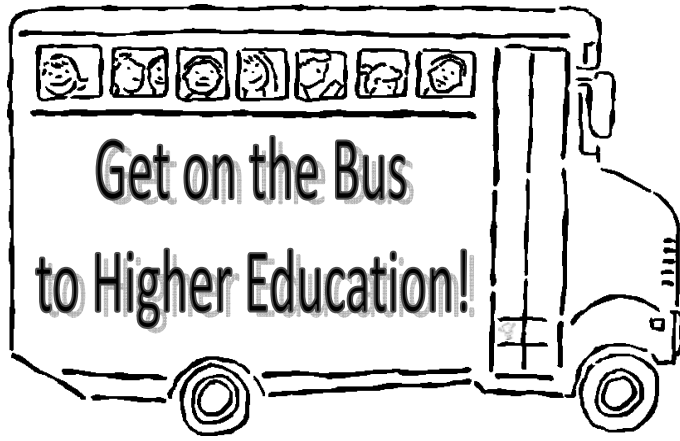
Do you ever feel God made a mistake when he made you? When you look at others, do you desire to be like them, instead of who you are? If so, it's time you read the artfully illustrated and encouragingly simply written children's book, **Chrissie's Shell**, by Brooke Keith. Chrissie is a turtle that can teach the reader about being fearfully and wonderfully made. As an adult, I enjoy some of our children's books and learn God's wisdom from them. You will too.



Take time out and watch the new DVD **Soul Surfer**. It is the true story of Bethany Hamilton, a champion surfer who was a victim of a shark attack. Please do not watch the movie and miss Bethany's special feature or you will miss the point of Bethany's life. Go to special feature on the DVD. Then scroll down to **heart of a soul surfer**. This young girl is an amazing ambassador for Jesus. The **Heart of a Soul Surfer** feature is better than the movie.



Submitted by Carol Corp



Join a Small Group!

Mondays at 7 p.m. with the Baker Group: **369-5393**
(every other Monday)

"Living the Cross Centered Life"

Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. with the Tawfik Group: **369-5102**
(1st & 3rd Tuesday)

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. with the Erb Group: **369-9733**
Meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday and is doing a Sermon Study.

Thursdays at 9 a.m. with Precept Bible Study: **369-5102**
"1 Peter" begins September 22. Sign up at the Welcome Center!

Thursdays with the Dawson Group: **248-4518**
(meet at members' homes, scheduling as they go)
"The Forgotten God" by Francis Chan

Thursdays with the Hansen Group:
947-2108
They are taking the summer off. Watch for start up date!

Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. with the Hubner Group: **821-3804**
"When Sinners Say I Do"

Fridays at 7 p.m. with the Don Visel Group: **369-9036**
Starting up again on Friday, Sept. 9 at 7 p.m. Meeting every other week.

Saturdays with the Walter Group: **369-4072**
They are taking the summer off. Watch for start up date!

4th Saturday with Women of Wonder: **369-9733**
(meets at 8 a.m. at Lena Family Restaurant -led by Suzy Erb)
"Lies Women Believe" Chapter 7



To my dear church family~

Hey! By the time you read this, I will likely already be back in Honduras. Still, I want you to know what a joy it has been to spend the summer back home with y'all. It has been so neat to see God at work in Lena through you. I have loved the unity of the intergenerational Sunday School class, combined worship service, and sermon series through James. It was also a delight to see you rise up to serve at VBS. Praise God! What a privilege for me to be a part of the Body of Christ in Lena!

Now as I'm returning to ministry in Honduras, I thank you for your continued prayers and support. In His mysterious and wonderful way, God is using your prayers and financial gifts to touch lives in Honduras for His glory. Yay God, and thank you all!

Keep pressing on, living, striving every day for God's glory!

In God's love,
Miranda Walters

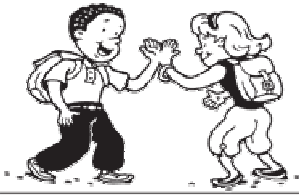
Dear Church Family,
Thank you for the prayers and lovely plant at the passing of my mom, Phyllis Munzor.
Don and Lana Hoge

To our church family,
Than you for the flowers, balloon and teddy bear. Also, thank you for the prayers and phone calls. When we read Alexa the card she said, "Aww...I love my church family!"

Thanks again!
Ben, Amber, Dominick, and Alexa Albright

Help Wanted

Homework Assistance will be starting soon and we are in need of helpers. We meet at the Lena Elementary School Library on Monday & Thursday afternoon from 3 - 4 pm. If you are willing to spend one or two hours a week helping a child, please contact Cathy Rich @ 815-369-4743 or email me at cathyshop@yahoo.com



September Schedules

Nursery - 8:00 a.m. service

September 4	Bill/Dawn Crichton
September 11	Melody/Sam Welch
September 18	Ray/Elizabeth Gable
September 25	Tom/Jean Paisley

Nursery - ABF hour 9:30 a.m.

September 4	Christine Woolcock
September 11	Rhonda/Tracy Schoeny
September 18	Kay Russell
September 25	Donna Hornung

Nursery - 10:45 a.m. service

September 4	Bill/Barb Duncan
September 11	Ben/Amber Albright
September 18	Diane Oxley
September 25	Ben/Tammy Duncan

Children's Church 10:45 a.m.

September 4	Nancy Plager
September 11	Donna Hornung/Kendra B.
September 18	Carol Corp
September 25	Amal Tawfik/Whitney B.

Greeters - 8:00 a.m. service

September 4	John & Karen Reed
September 11	Bill & Sue Briggs
September 18	Larry & Jen Alt
September 25	Todd & Melody Welch

Greeters - 10:45 a.m. service

September 4	Rob & Cathy Graham
September 11	Ron & Vicki Watson
September 18	Ben & Amber Albright
September 25	Ray & Elizabeth Gabel

Ushers for September (* head usher)

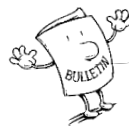
8:00 a.m.	10:45 a.m.
Byron Baker*	Ron Watson*
Steve Bressler	Boyd Boyer
John Reed	Lee Gobeli
Roger Russell	Joel Kaufman
Doug Visel	Jeff Julius



Sept. 3	Becky Anderson Alex Heinrich Josiah Visel
Sept. 5	Sage Huneke Shokry Tawfik
Sept. 9	Vee Miller Vicki Watson
Sept. 11	Terry Andrews Jeanette Murray
Sept. 12	Wayne Gift
Sept. 17	Carol Corp
Sept. 21	Joshua Visel
Sept. 23	Nancy Plager
Sept. 29	Cole Zimmerman



Sept. 3	Don & Carol Corp
Sept. 6	Gary & Sally Schroeder
Sept. 9	Chris & Laura Holverson
Sept. 10	Dennis & Jacqie Langguth
Sept. 14	Tim & Rhonda Schoeny
Sept. 16	Dave & Pam Becker
Sept. 22	Dale & Christa Gabel
Sept. 24	Dan & Abigail Bower Karl & Hazel Byerley
Sept. 25	John & Verla Folgate
Sept. 30	James & Lorraine Lowe



Hi! I know you all remember me, Mr. Bulletin. I'm playing hide and seek. If you can find me somewhere in this newsletter, and be one of the first three people to call the church office (815-369-5591), you will win a prize! All ages can play along with me!

SEPTEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:30p Hubner Small Group	2	3
4 Communion	5 Office Closed Labor Day 7p High School Bible Study @ Wilson's	6 6:30 PrayDay 6:30p Tawfik Small Group	7 7p Jr./Sr. High Youth Group 7:30 College Group	8 6:30p Hubner Small Group	9 Fall Festival Face Painting 7p Visel Small Group	10 Parade and Bracelet Tent
11	12 7p Baker Small Group 7p High School Bible Study @ Wilson's	13 6:30 PrayDay 11:30a Ministerial Lunch at Park Hills 7p Elders Meeting	14 5:30p Awana Registration 7p Jr./Sr. High Youth Group 7:30 College Group	15 6:30p Hubner Small Group	16	17
18 6p Celebration of Dwight & Kay Bennett's Ministry	19 7p High School Bible Study @ Wilson's	20 6:30 PrayDay 6:30p Tawfik Small Group Pastor Jim at	21 5:30-7p Awana 7p Jr./Sr. High Youth Group 7:30 College Group Leader. Training	22 9a Precept Study 6:30p Hubner Small Group	23 7p Visel Small Group	24 8a WOW Womens Study At Lena Family Restaurant
25 7p Town Hall Mtg & Dessert	26 7p Baker Small Group 7p High School Bible Study @ Wilson's	27 6:30 PrayDay	28 5:30-7p Awana 7p Jr./Sr. High Youth Group 7:30 College Group	29 9a Precept Study 6:30p Hubner Small Group	30	

EFC of Lena

720 North Freedom Street
Lena, IL 61048
(815) 369-5591
FAX: 369-4886
office@lenafreechurch.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

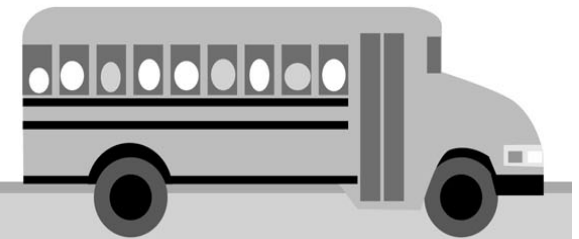
NON-PROFIT ORG.

U. S. POSTAGE PAID

LENA, IL 61048

PERMIT NO. 25

CAR-RT-SORT



He has given us ... an
inheritance
that can never

perish,
spoil
or
fade

— kept in heaven ...

1 PETER 1:3-4, NIV

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF LENA

Summer Worship Service

10:00 a.m. Sunday

Student Ministries

Jr. High Youth Group
Sr. High Youth Group
Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m.

Church Staff

Senior Pastor
Assoc. Pastor of Youth
Church Secretaries

Sunday School and

Adult Bible Fellowship

8:45-9:45 a.m.

Awana Clubs Age 3 - Grade 8

Wednesdays, 5:30 - 7 p.m.

September - April

Jim Erb (815) 369-9733

Scott Wilson (309) 371-4645

Cathy Graham

Jean Paisley

Contact us at: office@lenafreechurch.org