



# CrossWords

news of Geist Christian Church

July-August 2018

## Contents

- GeistFest 2018
- Blessing Bag
- Randy Reflects
- Beach Reads: Ruth
- CONNECT Adult Ministries
- CONNECT Children's Ministries
- Creation Care Tip
- CONNECT Youth Ministries
- Outreach
- News Around GCC
- Special Events

## #GEISTFEST Returns Saturday, September 8

Looking for a great excuse to celebrate the final days of summer? Geist Christian Church kicks off the fall with an event focused on fun, family, fellowship, and worship. On Saturday, September 8, plan to worship at 5:30 pm, and follow it with a concert by the Flying Toasters at the Promise Road Campus. There will be activities for the kids and food trucks to enjoy. Come and meet church friends who don't attend your service or sit in your section on Saturday night or Sunday morning. Let's be the church that plays well together. Let's be the church that worships well together.



## Be a Blessing | Sharing God's Love in a Bag

Leading up to the GeistFest worship and concert, Geist Christian Church will once again be collecting donations for Blessings Bags. A Blessings Bag is a little care package filled with everyday items and food that is gifted to those who are in need in our community. On Saturday, September 8, as part of GeistFest, families are encouraged to meet at the Promise Road Campus at 4:30 pm to help put these bags together. Last year, we provided over 300 bags to local organizations in Fishers and Indianapolis. Let's put God's love into action as we bless those in our community. Items will be collected during the five weekends leading up to Geistfest.

Items needed:

- August 4/5 – gallon bags, cheese crackers, granola bars
- August 11/12 – applesauce, fruit cups, band aids
- August 18/19 – lip balm, bar of soaps, travel tissues
- August 25/26 – single-packaged toothbrushes, toothpaste, travel size mouthwash
- September 1/2 – bottled water, deodorant, tube socks



Facebook: Geist Christian Church  
Twitter@GeistChristian  
Instagram: geistchristianchurch

317.842.3594

office@geistchristian.org www.geistchristian.org

8550 Mud Creek Road | Indianapolis, Indiana 46256 12756 Promise Road | Fishers, Indiana 46038

## Randy Reflects



Randy Spleth

Anticipating a crowd is something every pastor does. There is a crowd. Anticipating long lines of cars goes with the territory. You have to manage traffic. A plan has to be put in place; it was. All of the ingredients are here. There are long lines of cars, managed traffic, a crowd of people. It is nearly daily experience at our Mud Creek campus. Unfortunately, few make it into the parking lot or church because it is the summer detour.

The summer detour is on. DOT rerouted eastbound traffic on 82nd street to 86th street. To manage traffic, they installed temporary lights at our corner. Creatures of habit have turned the corner into a magnet for accidents. At least three have run the red light because it used to be a stop sign.

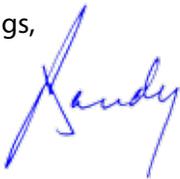
Evening rush hour is the worse. Cars line up from Fall Creek, up Mud Creek and wrap around the corner of our church. They crawl by our sanctuary and an invitation to join us in worship. Exiting the parking lot is an adventure. You are at the mercy of crowd and the crowd is frustrated. Compassion and generosity are in short supply.

This isn't the only summer detour. The summer detour of faith is on. It is an annual experience of every congregation when crowds of people bypass church to go somewhere else. Sometimes it is the call to the lake. Other times, the destination is a family reunion or vacations. You may be on that detour. If so, don't be surprised if you find yourself at the mercy of the crowd and inevitably, frustrated. Compassion and generosity may be in short supply.

There is an opportunity for renewal, to rediscover both. It is at the place you are passing by. Compassion and generosity are abundantly offered. It is called grace. God is always in the business of offering it, whether you are on a detour or the main road. Why? Because God is our faithful guide.

May your summer journey, wherever you detour, be filled with rest and renewal and your compassion and generosity be abundant.

Blessings,



## Beach Reads Begins

After a year in sabbatical, Bible beach reads return! The senior minister's annual Beach Reads begins July 28 & 29. The series looks at stories in the Bible which rival the books we read on the beach or lake vacation. This year, the story is something of a prequel to the two-summer saga of David, preached in 2014 and 2015 and published last fall by Warner Press under the title *When Giants Fall*. (Copies are \$10 and available for purchased at the welcome center or coffee shop.)



The prequel is a study of the book of Ruth. "The story of Ruth is perfect for a Beach reads series," says Randy Spleth. "With its earthy setting, wonderful characters, its pathos and tenderness, we discover the assurance of God's faithfulness flowing through the lives and love of ordinary human beings."

[Return to Contents](#)

CrossWords July-August 2018



# CONNECT Adult Ministries

## **Sarah's Sisters – A Study Group for Women -**

Andrew Lewis will lead the group in a study of Psalms beginning Wednesday, September 5 at 1:00 pm in the library at the Mud Creek Campus. For more information contact Pat Crampton (pjscrampton@hotmail.com) or Ruth Donovan (coolgrandmaruth@gmail.com).

**Page Turners** - Page Turners, the book club of Geist Christian Church will meet to discuss the following books:

- September 26 - *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate
- November 28 - *The Noel Diary* by Richard Paul Evans
- January 23, 2019 - *The Great Alone* by Kristan Hannah

The club meets at the Mud Creek Campus on the 4th Wednesday (every other month) at 6:30 pm. If there are any questions, please contact Elena Derbique at 317.823.0173 or elena.derbique@gmail.com.

**Young Adults** - Geist Christian Church Young Adults are meeting at Bonge's Tavern, 9830 W 280 N, Perkinsville, IN on Saturday, August 18 at 6:00 pm. RSVP on the Geist Christian Church Young Adults Facebook page or to Kathryn Heman, katelizabeth15@gmail.com. Each month, the Geist Christian Young Adults gather somewhere fun for food and fellowship. Check out the Facebook page "Geist Christian Church Young Adults" to find out the latest goings-on and gatherings! All young adults are welcome to join the camaraderie and meaningful connections at any time.

**Mom2Mom** - Mom2Mom is a ministry of moms that provide support to expecting moms in our church community. Events held throughout the year connect and provide support to the Geist Christian Church moms. We hope that through these events and our Facebook page, each mom has an opportunity to connect with and develop friendships with other moms in our church family. All upcoming events are posted on the GCC Mom2Mom Facebook page. Contact Sarah Dietrich at sarah.dietrich@geistchristian.org to be added.

**Soul Sisters** - Soul Sisters Fitness is a small group for women to support each other in both physical and spiritual growth. Come as you are, in any shape, any week, to sweat, be silly, and share prayer. Anyone is welcome! Free childcare is provided. Thursdays at 7:15pm at the Promise Road Campus in room 122.

**The Bridge** - The Bridge is a men's small group designed to create conversation and build community around questions of faith. The Bridge meets every Wednesday at 6:30pm, at the Promise Road Campus. This vibrant group is dedicated to talking about real questions of spiritual direction within the context of scripture. For more information, reach out to Mike Peck at mike@outsidesource.com.

**Company Coffee: Telling Tales from the Bunker and Beyond** - Veterans from WWII to present-day G.I.s are invited to Higher Grounds Coffee Shop located at Promise Road and 126th for a free cup o' joe and safe space in which to share with those who "get it." Come and go 10:00 am-2:00 pm each Tuesday.



**Mental Health Support Group** - Looking for a mental health support group? Such a group affiliated with the National Alliance on Mental Illness meets at the Promise Road Campus on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm.



**Exploration Bible Study** - Looking for a Bible study? Now is the perfect time to join Exploration Bible Study led by Senior Associate Minister Ryan Hazen. The group will reconvene on Friday, September 14, 6:30 pm at the Mud Creek Campus and meets every other Friday. To be added to the email reminder list contact Ryan at ryan.hazen@geistchristian.org.

# CONNECT Children's Ministries

**Vacation Bible School Recap** - Geist Christian Church has been the focus of a busy, fun-filled summer for children with new and old traditions! In June, 118 children and many wonderful volunteers participated in an extreme action-filled VBS week at the Promise Road Campus. As a part of the VBS outreach, almost \$1,000 was collected that will be used to purchase school supplies for The Sharing Place in Lawrence Township and the Good Samaritan Network in Hamilton County.

**Family Night- July 30 - 6:00 - 8:00 pm Mud Creek Campus** - As a continuation of the VBS theme, this summer we instituted a new tradition of community time together to share a meal, play games and finally, to finish our outreach project by filling the backpacks with school supplies. We have had a great time at our first two nights earlier this summer. Come join in the fun for the last one. If you would like to help with food for the dinner, we are in need of burgers, hot dogs, buns, fruit, chips and desserts. If you would still donate gently used or new backpacks, you may bring them to either campus. We are so thankful to all who have helped those in need in our community!

**Christian Education** - In August, we are learning how to follow in Jesus' example. The Bible memory verse for is: "I have given you an example: just as I have done, you also must do." (John 13:15). Please remember to attend the class for the grade you will be in for fall 2018!

**G56** - This is a dynamic group of 5th & 6th graders who meet weekly at each campus during the 10:00 am & 10:30 am Sunday services.

**G56 Summer Pool Party! Sunday, August 19, 12-2:30 pm** - The Burtners will be opening their home to us again this summer for a family pool party for our 5th and 6th graders. Please bring a side dish to share. Questions? Contact Michelle Latty or Holly Blunk, children@geistchristian.org

**G56 Service Days** - Twenty one students worked in the community at the end of June for the annual G56 service days. They helped clean up Flat Fork Creek Park, sorted and passed out pet food at The Good Samaritan Network, helped with some in house projects at church and prepared sandwiches for Find & Feed. We capped off the event when some of the families attended the Find & Feed service on Sunday morning in downtown Indianapolis to distribute the food we had prepared. Thank you to all that attended!

## Creation Care Tip

People of faith who care about God's creation face wonder: How we do we tend our homes without hurting the planet, and our families, with the non-biodegradable, toxic substances found in so many cleaning products? Fortunately, it is getting easier than ever to care for our homes with cleaning solutions that aren't hard on human health or the environment. The added bonus of homemade and "green" cleaning products? You'll save money while exposing your family to fewer harmful chemicals.

Instead of this:	Use this:
Glass cleaner & paper towels	White vinegar & lint-free cloths
Powder bleach	Borax (great for baths & showers)
Carpet cleaner	Cornstarch or baking soda
All-purpose cleaner	Liquid castile soap & baking soda or borax. Dilute for floors, walls and counters
Drain opener	Try plunging before using any chemicals. If plunging doesn't work, pour one cup of baking soda down the drain, followed by one cup of vinegar. On minute later, add one pint of hot water. (Stand back because the liquid can come back up toward you!)

[Return to Contents](#)

CrossWords July-August 2018



# CONNECT Youth Ministries

**Youth Group Fall Theme Announced**- The Youth Group at Geist Christian Church is about being in community, connecting with others, and encouraging one another in faith. It's all about exploring our faith stories by having intentional relationships with God and one another. This fall the youth will be focusing on God's love and the most amazing thing about that love is that it's not just a bunch of rules or stuff with which we have to agree. God's love is different. It changes things. It brings hope where before there was only despair. It revives faith that feels lifeless. It makes a way forward where there seems to be only a dead end. It's active. It works. It risks. God's love...does. Be a part of it – THIS FALL.

**Junior High Lock-In** - Romans and Christians + Food + Movie + Games + No Sleep = Best Night Ever. On Friday, August 17 beginning at 7:30 pm we will enjoy all of these things and more at the Junior High Lock-In. Save the date and invite your friends for an unbelievable night of fun and fellowship as we kick off another year of youth group in style. The cost will be \$15 and it will be held at the Mud Creek Campus. Parents are encouraged to pick up their children at 7:30 am Saturday, August 18.

**Parent / Senior High Youth Kickball** - Round 3! This year the adults will have an opportunity to finally win the coveted Trophy of Winners at the annual Parent / Senior High Youth Kickball Game. After back to back defeating losses, let's see if the adults can finally bring home a win. The game will begin at 5:00pm on Sunday, August 19 at the Mud Creek Campus. We will conclude our time together with a meal and Tylenol.

**Parent Meeting** - Parents play an active roll in the youth ministry. Parents are invited to a Youth Parent Meeting on August 26 at 5:00 pm at the Mud Creek Campus. With possible mission trips for the Senior High to Guatemala and Detroit and a TBD trip for the Jr. High in 2019, it is extremely important for us to gather as a group and talk about fundraising, programing, and your expectations for youth group this 2018-2019 school year. The meeting begins with a pitch-in, with the church providing the chicken. Please bring a side, salad, or dessert to share.

**Capture the Flag** - On Sunday, August 26, we will be playing capture the flag. Now, this isn't your ordinary, elementary school gym class capture the flag. No, while the parents have their parent meeting, we'll be taking our skills to the rugged terrain of the Mud Creek Campus for the ultimate test of strategy, speed, cooperation, and focus. Join us in the command room at 5:00 pm for a pitch-in dinner and instruction, and then we'll head out to the battlefield for the showdown.



The youth of Geist Christian Church went on mission trips to Lexington, KY (middle school youth) and Hazard, KY. (high school youth)

# Outreach

**Hamilton Co. Outreach Opportunity: Family Promise** - Did you know there are approximately 45 families experiencing homelessness in Hamilton County? The number of families experiencing homelessness rises in the summer, yet Indianapolis shelters turn away ten families per day. Hamilton County has nothing to support these are families with children who go to school with our kids and yet have no stable place to lay their heads. Family Promise of Hamilton County is seeking to rectify that issue by providing temporary transitional care in local congregations one week at a time, four times a year. Family Promise is a national organization with 210 affiliates that seeks to establish a cooperative among congregations to give families a safe place to eat a meal and sleep. People of faith are called to care for those among us experiencing homelessness. If you are interested in learning more about this ministry and how you can help, connect with Pastor Sarah Renfro at [sarah.renfro@geistchristian.org](mailto:sarah.renfro@geistchristian.org).

**Guatemala – February 16-23, 2019** - Early next year, Geist Christian Church is returning to Guatemala, and inviting up to 14 adults (ages 14 and up) to join this 7-day mission trip. During this international mission trip, the group will be working in the village of Panajachel, a small town on the edge of Lake Atitlan. Despite the beauty of the area, the Mayan inhabitants live in extreme poverty, many living on just a few dollars a day. Most live in make-shift shacks with dirt floors with no running water. To combat this extreme poverty, Geist Christian Church will be partnering with Porch de Salomon ([porchdesalomon.org](http://porchdesalomon.org)) as we build homes for families in need. The cost for this trip will be \$1,750 (including flight, hotel accommodations, most meals, and building materials) and the early registration deadline is October 23, 2018. If you have any questions, please contact Kyle Brown at [kyle.brown@geistchristian.org](mailto:kyle.brown@geistchristian.org).

**Mac and Cheese** - We feed people. That's what members of Geist Christian Church do twice a month (2nd and 4th Monday) for those living at the Dayspring Center. The Dayspring Center is a community center for homeless families seeking temporary respite until more permanent living arrangements can be made. This summer and fall, Pastor Kyle is looking for members of Geist Christian Church to donate Family Size Stouffer Mac and Cheese as a complement for the meal. If you are interested in making a donation, please contact Kyle at [kyle.brown@geistchristian.org](mailto:kyle.brown@geistchristian.org).

**Bread for the World Offering of Letters UPDATE** - Thank you to all who participated in the recent offering of letters for Bread for the World. Organizers report a great impact and meaningful discussion with the staffs of the Representatives and Senators as relationships with these offices was strengthened.

This year, Geist Christian Church was one of 35 organizations participating, as compared to 29 in 2017. A total of 3,112 total letters were written - a 30% increase over last year! Over 30 people participated in delivering the letters. In the picture, Geist Christian Church member Les Galbraith, third from left, is shown helping deliver letters to Senator Donnelly's office.



[Return to Contents](#)

**CrossWords July-August 2018**



# News Around Geist Christian Church

## In Sympathy

**Ruth Houglan\***

**Evelyn Robinson\***

Joe Robinson, wife Evelyn

Jeff Groom, mother Evelyn Robinson

Bruce Russell, cousin Jacalyn Russell

Erin Espinosa, uncle Tom Sheets

Alyssa Pearson, father Jim Hurst

Joan Allen

Scott Timmons, aunt Dorothy

Susan Fritz Kent, mother Anita Fritz

Sara Sukers, brother-in-law Peter CaJacob

Nick McDonald, uncle Steve Wilson

\*denotes GCC member

## Memorial Gifts

**In Memory of Tom Derbique**

Kathy Stanley

**In Memory of Vicki Burhenn**

Toby & Linda Machler

## New Members

Michael Hastings, Megan Phillipe & Eliza

Jose & India Bobadilla, Gianni & Stefano

Joe Robinson

## Births

Justin & Emily Garrett, son Patrick William, 6/14

Jeff & Megan Baumgartner, son Beau Thomas, 6/21

Brian & Leah Madara, son Carter Edward, 7/1

### May/June/July 2018 Attendance

Service	May 26/27	June 2/3	June 9/10	June 16/17	June 23/24	June 30/ July 1	July 7/8	July 14/15	July 21/22
<b>5:30 pm PR</b>	92	92	71	68	77	88	75	62	88
<b>9:00 am MC</b>	114	153	121	145	127	152	120	127	134
<b>10:00 am PR</b>	109	200	162	158	150	117	185	168	171
<b>10:30 am MC</b>	133	204	171	181	211	203	176	183	192
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>585</b>



[Return to Contents](#)

CrossWords July-August 2018

## Special Events

**Handbell Workshop – August 4 at 9:00-11:00 am** - Ever wondered how you play handbells? Are you interested in playing? Why not give it a try? Director of Music, Schuyler Brinson, will hold a Handbell Workshop on Saturday, August 4 from 9:00-11:00 am in the Music Suite at the Mud Creek Campus. Participants will learn some basic ringing techniques and music reading skills and play a short song at the end. Current ringers will be present to assist new ringers. This is a great opportunity to come and see what handbells are all about and get some hands on experience. If interested, contact Schuyler at [schuyler.brinson@geistchristian.org](mailto:schuyler.brinson@geistchristian.org) or 317-842-3594, ext. 485.

---

[Return to Contents](#)