

The Evangel

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

GALATIANS 5:1



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Glistening cobalt blue above and tawny below, Barn Swallows dart gracefully over fields, barnyards, and open water in search of flying insect prey. Look for the long, deeply forked tail that streams out behind this agile flyer and sets it apart from all other North American swallows. Barn Swallows often cruise low, flying just a few inches above the ground or water. True to their name, they build their cup-shaped mud nests almost exclusively on human-made structures.

Had I known this information before, I probably would have done things a little differently this past week. I've had a pair of these birds aggressively building a nest above my porch light which is protected from the elements very well. Just as aggressively, I have been removing it.

I'm not sure why these birds are building a nest in July, but they are. I assume they lost their nest in some of the construction around the church property. Had I known how adamant they were at building "almost exclusively on human-made structures," I might not have gone on a hunt for "just the right" bird house – in JULY.

These birds and I have had several conversations back and forth. Insistently, almost as if speaking to a pet, I have pointed them in the direction of their place to go. I have scraped the beginnings of their nests off from above my head and moved the remnants to the new bird house. I have even made sure they can see me, and they are following me while I do this.

Their answer is always to stand about 10 feet away and reprimand me for doing so. Although their chirping is very lovely, it's almost as if when I am saying, "What are you doing?!" they are saying to me, "What are YOU doing?!"

I've thought about this for a few days now, and I keep coming back to the passage where our Lord tells us how our Heavenly Father takes care of the birds, and how much more He will take care of us.

Perhaps it's time I let these little birds do their thing, and I will focus more time on the things I need to do. Who knows, this might even become a learning experience for my children. At least now they are building on the side of the entry way instead of above my light bulbs.

So instead of battling these little birds (and I might say - losing the battle), I will focus on another battle of sorts. At Annual Conference, we were given a new initiative; "Change a Child's Story." We were provided with several statistics which I have shared with many of you.

Basically, the deal is this: There are 80,000 children in the state of Iowa who are at or below poverty. These kids don't always have the same opportunities to learn as other kids not in this position. One of the ways we can make a difference in their ability to learn is to provide books free of charge, and to read with them.

There are several ways we can do this, and I am learning more and more each week. They don't necessarily have to be new books. If they are in good shape, they read just the same as any other book. They also don't have to fit any particular theme. Books geared to young readers will help young readers gain the confidence they need for reading later in life, and can make a significant difference

**LECTIONERY
READINGS**

July 5, 2015

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10
Psalm 48
2 Corinthians 12:2-10
Mark 6:1-13

July 12, 2015

2 Samuel 6:1-5,
12b-19
Psalm 24
Ephesians 1:3-14
Mark 6:14-29

July 19, 2015

2 Samuel 7:1-14a
Psalm 89:20-37
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 26, 2015

2 Samuel 11:1-15
Psalm 14
Ephesians 3:14-21
John 6:1-21

In Our Community

Our Sympathies —

Our sympathies go out Bret LeKander on the passing of his wife, DeAnna, and to her family and friends. DeAnna's parents are Ray and Evelyn Blanchard or Carson. DeAnna and her family also live in Carson. She passed away on June 12 at the age of 40 after a long illness.

Prayer Concerns —

Remember in your prayers: Rod Bentley, Norris, and Norma Buckingham, Ray and Betty Carr, Cari Farver, the family of DeAnna LeKander, Clea and Delbert Palmer, Isaac Smith, all those who don't have adequate food and shelter, all those involved in conflicts armed and unarmed throughout the world. Those of us who are in hospitals or care centers, all who give to protect our country, all who are unemployed, and our government.



Henderson UMW:

Our next UMW meeting will be right after church on August 9.

Wheeler Grove Women's Fellowship:

Wheeler Grove Women's Fellowship will meet again on August 8. Our July meeting has been canceled due to conflicts.

Macedonia UMW:

We had eight members at our June meeting. Our monthly giving will be given to our church's scholarship fund. The coming ice cream social was discussed. It will be on June 20. It was decided to do some extra cleaning of the church basement that day at 5:00 pm. The SW District T.E.A.M. meetings will be held on Monday, June 15. Our field trip in July was discussed but a destination was not decided on. Ida Mae gave a very interest program and Pauline Husz had a wonderful lunch! At this writing, it was decided to cancel the July field trip and therefore not have a meeting. Our next meeting will be on August 12 at 1:30 pm. Pauline Husz has devotions, Donna Cole the program, and Jacque Smith will be our hostess.

(Continued from page 1)
in other areas of learning.

If you have access to the Internet, I have made an easy link so you can find some news about this. Just type this in the address bar, and you can read about it on the Des Moines Register website. <http://tinyurl.com/qbgxmz4>. If you are on Facebook, search for "Change a Child's Story." You can read up on the next steps.

For those who don't have access to these means, it is still easy to be informed. The goal is for one million books to be given and one million hours

Henderson News —

Christian Family Fun Day—July 19! Mark your calendars!! We have designated Sunday, July 19, for a Christian Family Fun Day in Henderson. We will not have the normal Sunday morning worship service. Instead, we will have a special prayer and praise service at the church at 1:00 P.M. The afternoon will have fun and games, fellowship, and movies with drinks and snacks. For supper, the men are fixing pulled pork and smoked turkey. We will also have coleslaw, baked beans, and desserts. At 6:30 pm, we will have a gospel music concert by the "Reconciled" quartet from Red Oak lead by Rev. Mike Harvey. There will be a freewill offering. All these activities will take place on the lawn west of the church. Bring your own blankets, lawn chairs, umbrellas, etc. We would love to have everyone join us!!

UMW: The next UMW meeting will be on August 9 following worship.

Sprucing up continues! Our landscaping continues as we have received foliage plants, more bushes, beauty bark, and dirt. All plants and work have been donated by people of our congregation. You know who you are and we want to give you a great big thank you! Our next beautification project will be to paint the outside of the church. We are looking for contractors to give us quotes.

New Baby! Leo and Donna Reiken have a new granddaughter. Terry and Betty Byers have a new great grandson. Congratulations to all!!

Bible Study: Our Bible study on Revelations is continuing on Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm.

Wheeler Grove —

Annual Business Meeting: Our Annual meeting will be held on August 9 following our church service. (Changed from July 12.)

Macedonia News —

Ice Cream! Again, our ice cream social was a success and a wonderful time of fellowship! A big thank you to everyone who came and helped freeze ice cream, gathered supplies, made food, and helped in the kitchen! It all tasted wonderful!

Improving the church! The new lights in Fellowship Hall and the kitchen have been installed! It's a wonderful improvement! The drainage tiling is being installed in July and the new basement window in the parsonage has also been installed.

Administrative Council Meeting: The next Administrative Council meeting will be on September 16 at 7:00 pm.

(Continued from page 2)

of reading to be volunteered during the next 2 years. That might sound like a big number, but nothing is too big when we have help from the Lord.

It can be seen simply as each person donating 10 books and 10 hours of reading over the span of the next 2 years. I think that sounds very possible.

I also think the possibilities of making this happen are attainable too. We can donate books to hospitals (either for children's hospitals or board books for newborns), we can work with local Dr's offices, we can partner with our libraries and schools, and we can begin or enhance reading programs within our churches.

Prayerfully consider being a part of this initiative. If you can volunteer time but you can't donate books, we need you. If you can donate books or funds to purchase books but can't volunteer the time, we need you. If you can lift up the children of Iowa in prayer as we reach out with this initiative, we need you. Do you get the picture? We can all get involved. We can all be a part of changing a child's story.

And if we do this as the body of Christ, I can guarantee the love of Christ will be visible in our actions, in our prayers and in our response. Please contact me to get going, or to offer more ideas on how we can get involved.

In Christ

Pastor Bruce

Stained Glass & Sassafras!

Dedication of the Children's hand bells!



A few root beer floats!



CHRISTIAN FAMILY
Galatians 3:26-28 Come Join Us

FUN BYO
Blankets
Lawn Chairs
Umbrellas
Favorite Game:

DAY In Case of Inclement Weather Will Be Held In Methodist Church
Henderson, IA.
Methodist Church
Lawn

July 19th Ephesians 2:19-22

RECONCILED Quartet

1:00
Special Prayer + Praise Service
Methodist Church
Please Join us!!

2:00 - 4:30
Fun + Games
Fellowship
Movies
Drinks + Snacks

4:30 - 6:00
BBQ Free Will Supper:
Pulled Pork
Smoked Turkey
Cole Slaw
Baked Beans
Desserts

6:30
Gospel Music Concert Featuring:

Making a little ice cream!

Starting to crank!



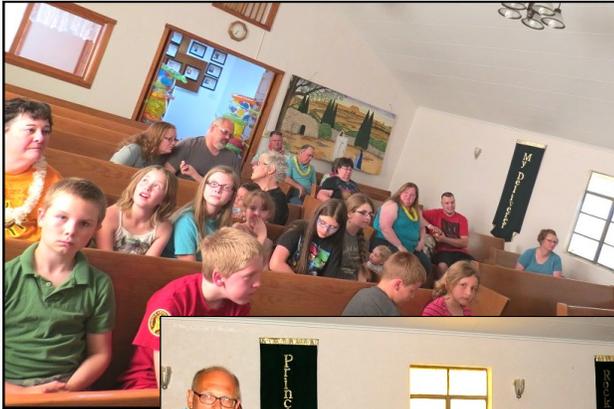
Pastor Bruce doesn't get left out!!



Macedonia UMC
2015 Graduate Scholarships —
Michael Antunez &
Sydney Raney
with Gary Forristall



**Bible School at the Lighthouse!
WHERE KIDS SHINE GOD'S LIGHT!
Highlights!**



**LECTIONERY
READINGS**

August 2, 2015

2 Samuel 11:26 -
12:13a
Psalm 51:1-12
Ephesians 4:1-16
John 6:24-35

August 9, 2015

2 Samuel 18:5-9,
15, 31-33
Psalm 130
Ephesians 4:25-5:2
John 6:35, 41-51

August 16, 2015

1 Kings 2:10-12;
3:3-14
Psalm 111
Ephesians 5:15-20
John 6:51-58

August 23, 2015

1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11),
22-30, 41-43
Psalm 84
Ephesians 6:10-20
John 6:56-69

August 30, 2015

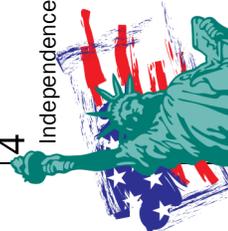
Song of Solomon
2:8-13
Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9
James 1:17-27
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15,
21-23

September 6, 2015

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9,
22-23
Psalm 125
James 2:1-10,
(11-13), 14-17
Mark 7:24-37



July 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Independence Day 
5 6th Sunday of Pentecost (Green)	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 7th Sunday of Pentecost (Green) Wheeler Grove Annual Meeting following church service	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 8th Sunday of Pentecost (Green) Henderson Christian Family Fun Day—starts at 1:00 pm—no regular church service	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 9th Sunday of Pentecost (Green)	27	28	29	30	31	1 August



August 2015



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 4 th 10 th Sunday of Pentecost (Green)	3	4	5	6	7	1 8 Women's Fellowship (WG)
9 1 st Sunday of Pentecost (Green)	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 12 th Sunday of Pentecost (Green)	17	18	19	20	21	22 Donia Day!
23 13 th Sunday of Pentecost (Green)	24	25 Riverside School begins	26	27	28	29
30 14 th Sunday of Pentecost (Green)	31	1 September	2	3	4	5

September 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Macedonia/Henderson/Wheeler Grove
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MACEDONIA UNITED METHODISTCHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Henderson: 8:30 am
Wheeler Grove: 9:45 am
Macedonia: 11:00 am

CHURCH SCHOOL

Macedonia: Adults—Sunday 9:30 am
Children—10:30 am



TO CONTACT PASTOR SMITH

If you would like to visit with Pastor Smith,
set up a meeting, etc., he can be reached at:
Church: 712-486-2266 or **Cell Phone:** 712-308-2457
Email: pastorbrucesmith@gmail.com

Or contact Nancy Raney at:
712-486-2588 or Cell phone: 402-250-1421
Email: nraney@aol.com

Catch us on the Web at —
[facebook.com/macedoniayoke](https://www.facebook.com/macedoniayoke)
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