

Robinson FUMC

THE HERALD

September 2026



THE PASTOR'S PEN: I Came To Bat...



Years ago, when our oldest was just a boy playing little league baseball, I volunteered as one of the team's coaches. I figured that this would be an easy task having played baseball my entire life. In fact, I played catcher in four state championship games. I knew a little about the game and thought; "It's time I give something back to the kids." Wait a minute, that would have been my thought if I had gone pro. My thought was I am a dad with some skills and coaching baseball is a rite of passage for fathers. I would love to say that these kids looked and played like the 2016 World Champion Chicago Cubs, when these kids looked and played like the Bad News Bears from the 1970's hit movies. Wait a minute! That would make me, Coach Butterfinger!

Well, we met and we practiced and practiced, then practiced some more waiting for the season to officially start. When that long-anticipated day finally came, the kids showed up with their brilliant white baseball pants that would make any mom jealous. They had their ball caps pulled down tight holding back what I could only



imagine as unwashed masses of hair. In fact, some of these young Babe Ruth's were carrying brand new baseball bats.

I turned in the starting lineup to the scorekeeper and was ready to take first place and go down in the annals of the world's greatest first year coach. Well, the Bad News Bears did as expected - they were getting beat 9 to 1 in the first inning. We battled back to the rousing score of 13 to 5 in the third inning and that is when things began to change. Your thoughts are probably the Bears battled back after some encouraging words from Butterfinger - and you would be wrong. One of my little grub monsters started in with these

words; "Coach I came to bat, when am I going to bat?" Now mind you this kid could not hit the broad side of a barn standing next to it, better yet a baseball being thrown at him. His plan was just that - he came to bat - not play the field but bat! Well God smiled down upon our misfits in the next inning when the opposing team scored 17 more runs and ended the game by the mercy rule. Sometimes I feel that the church needs to be reminded that there are other necessary things to happen besides just being up to bat.

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CONTACT PASTOR TERRY AT ROBINSONFUMCPASTOR@GMAIL.COM

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The Pastor's Pen (Continued)

WORSHIP

Healthy churches grow stronger through worship. We were planned for God's pleasure. It isn't just what we do on Sunday that God considers to be worship. So healthy churches help people worship God through every area of their lives, every day of the week. We do everything for God's glory!

FELLOWSHIP

Healthy churches grow warmer through fellowship. There is a heavy emphasis on relationships in purpose driven churches. A church gathers on the weekend to celebrate and set the stage for guests but then scatters all week long in small groups where biblical community takes place.

DISCIPLESHIP

Healthy churches grow deeper through discipleship. We were created to become like Christ, and the local church is God's instrument of choice to establish a process through which Jesus' followers can grow spiritually. Growing churches are filled with growing believers.

MINISTRY

Healthy churches grow broader through ministry. We are saved to serve each other, so God has given every believer a unique shape – a mixture of spiritual gifts, passions, abilities, personality, and experiences – to serve God by serving others. Every member is a minister in a purpose driven church.

EVANGELISM

Healthy churches grow larger through evangelism. That is, they put their focus on reaching the next unreached person in their community. And they

think beyond their immediate community to the entire world.

Growing churches are churches that join Jesus on mission to seek and to save the lost. We say it a little differently in our church. Several years ago, our church got together to ask that question and answer that question. You answered it this way. The purpose of our Church is to "bring Christ to the community." And we used the Word 'CHRIST' to help us remember.

C – Church purpose is:

H – Help others come to Christ (Evangelism)

R – Rejoice in worship (Worship)

I – Inspire & encourage in fellowship (Fellowship)

S – Serve and equip to minister (Ministry)

T – Teach Christlikeness (Discipleship)

You have a purpose for being here. You are the hands of God. You are the feet of God. You are the voice of God. That is all well and good. But never forget the first and foremost reason you are here is to experience God and worship Him. May it always be so.

When we join our evangelism in with our worship, we are in the batter's box. We wait for the pitch (opportunity) to cross the plate in front of us as we close our eyes and swing with all of our might. Hoping and praying that the attempt sends the ball flying towards the fence as we race off in our lily-white uniforms to round the bases.

The fact is that not every time we swing our evangelism bats are we going to make contact. Sometimes we do approach evangelism with our eyes closed with only one purpose,

hope. Hope that we can share the love that we have experienced through our relationship with Jesus Christ.

Folks, we are blessed to be involved in the greatest transformational time in centuries of the church. The church realized that we can be the church without the perfect buildings. We have spent so many years inwardly focused, sitting in the dugout, waiting to get in the game. Quite often we have spent our seasons letting the starters (the pastor, the lay leaders, the choir directors, and those that are outgoing personalities) to be the team for our individual congregations. Now we all have been called into the game to bat. We can rejoice in our celebrations that individuals are just now learning of the love of Jesus Christ. We can rejoice that the church is reaching beyond the walls; into the neighborhoods, the food pantries, the homes, and lives of so many. I encourage each of us to step up and get into the batter's box prepared for whatever pitch may be coming at us and that we are ready to race for the bases flinging ourselves to the ground hoping to make it there safely. Ready to jump up and run for the next opportunity to inspire others. Then folks, when we are finally rounding third base and headed for home, we are not afraid to dive headfirst in jubilation for all that Christ has done to carry us around the field.

I came to bat and I sure hope you did as well,

Pastor Terry



What's Happening at Robinson FUMC?

STEWARDSHIP

Bible Verse of the Month

The following verses are for September:

Matthew 6:19-21

"19 Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth . . . 20 But store up treasures in Heaven . . . 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." NIV

Spoken by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount, these verses teach that what people value most – whether material wealth or spiritual pursuits – affects where and how they invest their resources of time, treasure, and talent. And their resource investment choices ultimately shape their character, actions, and focus on either worldly (temporary) or eternal matters.

Thank you for all you do!!
Finance Team

SECOND WEDNESDAY DINNER

This month's 2nd Wednesday Dinner will be held on September 9th at 5:30 PM. Jennifer Boatman will be hosting, and is raising funds for our 9th annual Trick or Treat at FUMC. The menu will be chicken, roasted veggies, baked potatoes, salad, and dessert. Over 600 children plus parents pass through our doors on trick or treat night. Here, they will be safe, warm, fed both physically and spiritually, and best of all, they will be loved. Your contributions of gifts and time make it possible! Please join us on September 9th to help support one of our biggest outreach events!

NOW PROGRAM

NOW Bagging is back in full swing! Our main bagging day is Thursday at 4:00 pm. Watch our Facebook page to stay up to date with all things NOW!

TRICK OR TREAT

It's September! School is back in session, and we have traded in our sunny poolsides for pumpkin spice spooky season. Jennifer Boatman's brain has officially switched into Trick or Treat mode! Trick or Treat at FUMC started in 2016 as a small Trunk or Treat in the parking lot. It has grown to a full spooky walk through all four levels of the church, welcoming in over 600 children and their families with the love of Jesus. Here they are safe, warm, fed and loved. This year, Jennifer has some new ideas! Imagine fairies and gnomes, volcanoes, and even the human circulatory system (don't judge until you see it!). As always, she will need all the help she can get! There's a job for everyone! Planning, decorating, cooking, floating, counting, financial support... Want to know how you can help, or want to join the planning team? Call Jennifer at 618 843 0908. Also, be on the lookout for sign-up sheets in the Narthex soon!

TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE!

SUPPORT A GREAT CAUSE!

ROBINSON FUMC BIBLE TRIVIA NIGHT

SUPPORTING OUR "LAUNDRY DAY" MINISTRY!

REGISTER YOUR TEAM BY CALLING OR TEXTING JENNIFER BOATMAN AT 618-843-0908!

\$50 PER TEAM, 6 PEOPLE MAX PER TEAM. REGISTER IN ADVANCE. PAY AT THE DOOR.

MULLIGANS: \$5 EACH, MAX OF 5 RENT-A-PASTOR: \$20, 1 ROUND ONLY

OCTOBER 2ND

CONCESSIONS BEGIN AT 5:00 PM TRIVIA GAME BEGINS AT 6:00 PM

SOMETHING TO ADD NEXT MONTH? EMAIL FIRSTUMCROB.COMMS@GMAIL.COM

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NURTURE NEWS

One of the Nurture Team members, Tricia Anderson, found a real “gem” at our local thrift shop! It happens to be the first cookbook, issued by the Ladies’ Aid Society of The M. E. Church, Robinson, Ill. They made this cookbook with the purpose of raising funds to aid in the building of the first church that sat on this exact lot. And raise money, they did! It was approximately 1907 when they put out 1,000 copies that sold out very quickly. Because of demand, they printed 2,000 more copies and were again very successful. They claim their success was based on their strong bond of sisterhood and great zeal for the Master’s work.

The Nurture team decided to share some of the recipes that were in this book, and recipes from members of our current congregation each month. We will start out this month with a recipe from the original cookbook from a member of the First Ladies Aid Society member, Mrs. Alex Anderson. She just happened to be the grandmother of Mr. Jon Anderson, member of today’s congregation.

QUAIL OR CHICKEN PIE

Boil quail or chicken until tender, season with salt and pepper, remove from bones, line a deep baking dish with paste made like rich biscuit, place a layer of the meat in dish and a layer of cracker crumbs and then a layer of oysters until the dish is full, season with salt, pepper and butter, pour in the liquid of oysters, and enough of the gravy to make interior of pie moist, put on top crust and bake in moderate oven three-quarters of an hour or more.

MRS. ALEX ANDERSON

As far as we know, there hasn’t been another cookbook from our church since then. It would be a great pleasure to see a cookbook made of today’s members’ recipes, along with the old. Could we also form a strong bond of sister/brotherhood and be inspired by the great zeal for God’s work? We hope to say that we can. We will leave you with a verse that was included in the first Methodist Cookbook, of Robinson, Ill.: “She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Give her fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates.”---Prov. XXXI:27-31.

-Nurture Team



C.R.E.W. CORNER

Summer Months with CREW



The summer months with CREW look significantly different than the school year. Summer is made for fun, and a little less about specific lessons and work. Although, the youth have been putting in the work in disguise. Simply getting together with fellow CREW members for water fights and making edible cookie dough is work for the soul. Fellowship and supporting each other is a main trait that CREW is trying to instill into our youth. They all seemed to have a common goal of getting me as wet as they possibly could when we had the water fight. I tried to fight back, but even after I dunked a couple into the water trough, I still seemed to be the wettest person when we were finished. We also had an evening where we simply made edible chocolate chip cookie dough. We had 3 groups going, one group was all middle school girls, another was middle school boys, and the last was K - 3rd. The elementary kids were led by yours truly, and if it were a competition, my group had the best of them all, even with a lot of the sugar and chocolate chips somehow reaching the mouths of the chefs instead of the bowl.... Making memories and developing strong bonds is an essential part of growing up, and our youth are doing activities developed specifically for those purposes. I love that I have the privilege of participating in such activities with our youth. Sometimes I think they teach me more than I teach them. Summer is always very busy for me in many ways, and sometimes I forget to slow down and appreciate the little things. While the youth don't exactly let me slow down, they do make me see the beauty in the small things like laughing, making funny faces, throwing water balloons, and simply pushing the youngest of our youth on the swings.

The summer also marked the amazing NOW Shopping Day, and our CREW youth showed up and stepped up in amazing fashion. We had a night where several high school and middle school girls showed up to sort the socks and underwear that were donated by the church.

Continued on next page...

C.R.E.W. CORNER (Continued)

We ended up staying over an hour past the normal time because they did not want to leave until the work was done. They laughed and giggled as much as they sorted, but they grew together, even when several did not know each other before that evening. On the actual shopping day we had so many of our youth volunteering, ranging from elementary to senior in high school. They came out, they helped, and they loved doing so. I had so many kids coming to me asking how they could help. The youngest youth member that comes to mind that brought NOW kids around, by herself mind you, was a young girl going into 4th grade. And she was so excited and ready to go. I stood with her to make sure she got a younger kid to help, then she took hold and did an absolutely amazing job. One other instance that I remember was a middle school age youth who begged her mom to allow her to stay for at least one more round of shopping with one of the kids. I let her know that I could help sneak her in front of the line so she could walk another peer around the church. She was so excited, just don't tell Kirbie that I helped her jump to the front....

One last, but certainly not least, activity that happened this summer was one of our own CREW youth members making the decision to get baptized. He professed his love of Jesus Christ and vowed to live in HIS image. This is a huge step for anyone, and for a young man to approach the subject completely unprovoked is both amazing and brave. I had the privilege of standing by his side and even helping during his important moment. Even I felt the weight of such an important event in the young man's life. Since then I have had several others speak to me about the desire to get baptised in the fairly near future. I think all of these things are true proof that the ministry is playing an important role in the lives of area youth. I honestly enjoy the time that I get to spend with our youth and look forward to what the future holds.

As always, God Bless, and thank you all for your support!
Brandon



Care News from Stephen Ministry



Decades of Care Through Stephen Ministry

A season for everything.... Change is in the air.....

There's a season for everything and a time for every matter under the heavens:

-Ecclesiastes 3:1 CEB

It's back to school time, and the obligatory first day of school photos have been posted next to previous years' pics. Wow! Little Sally and Sam have grown so much! What happened in a year's time? Last year they were cute and sweet and little, and now they look like young adults. What has happened over the past few years? Weren't Sally and Sam just in kindergarten?

Change is in the air. Change can be a blessing, but it can also bring angst. The beginning of a new school year is a milestone that marks the beginning of something fresh and exciting, but it also may mark the end of an era. Students are attending new schools, moving away from home to attend colleges, or entering the world of full-time employment. Yes, change is everywhere.

Navigating change isn't always easy. We know children grow up, but we mourn the days of Saturday morning soccer and Friday night football. Stephen Ministers are available to help you sort through the challenges of change. You don't have to navigate on your own. Robinson FUMC Stephen Ministers provide confidential and Christian love and caring.

If you would like to learn more about Stephen Ministry, request a Stephen Minister, or want to just have a chat, please contact Marcia Schmidlin, (618 553-2710). Your Stephen Ministers are here for you when you need kind and compassionate care.

Odds & Ends

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/1 Allison Reinoehl
9/2 Valerie Weck
9/3 Alexis Inboden
9/4 Madison Utterback, Karen Villalobos
9/7 Mark DeDoming
9/9 Jack Davis, Pyke Nethery
9/10 Samantha Davis
9/15 Lora Simons, Sarah Kennedy-Poettker
9/17 Jerry Conner,
9/22 Jeff Murrell; Robin Davis
9/26 Ryan Kubiak
9/27 Judith Adams, Gloria Devonshire
9/29 Emily Midgett

PRAYER REQUESTS

Hazel DeDoming; Nancy Holley; Miranda Bedwell; Brenna Aydt; Jon Anderson; Mary Kindt; Dorcas Sills; Sherell Oxford; Jack Frakes; Pat Campbell; Tyler Wortham; David Anderson; Floyd Brinkman; Charlie Ferguson; Kevin Bradbury; The Family of Bill McMillen; Family of Jack Sexton; Steve Nickless & family, Roxann Hermanson, Larry Quick, Lincoln Curry

To add or remove anyone from the Prayer List or Birthday/Anniversary lists, please contact the church office.

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

9/1 Max & Debbie Tedford
9/4 Brent & Joyce Owen
Chris & Laura Dhom
9/7 Ron & Becky Veenstra
9/10 Larry & Phuong Quick
9/11 Diane & Darold Crampton
9/12 Tyler & Kristy Veenstra
9/15 Sarah & Zeth Poettker
9/18 David & Sandy Anderson
9/28 Greg & Kathy Harbison
9/20 Greta & Allen Lowry
9/23 Keith & Kirtina Carter



September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 4:00 pm • NOW Bagging 6:00 pm • Outreach Meeting	3 9:00 am • CHEW	4	5 9:00 am • Laundry Day
	6 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Sunday School	7 OFFICE CLOSED 6:00 pm • Lay Leadership Meeting 	8	9 5:30 pm • Second Wednesday Dinner 6:00 pm • Stephen Ministry	10 4:00 pm • NOW Bagging	11
13 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Sunday School	14 6:00 pm • Finance Meeting	15 5:00 pm • Nurture Meeting	16 11:00 am • Circle of Love 6:00 pm • Trustees Meetings 7:00 pm • Church Council	17 9:00 am • CHEW 4:00 pm • NOW Bagging	18	19
20 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Sunday School	21	22	23 6:00 pm • Stephen Ministry	24 9:00 am • CHEW 4:00 pm • NOW Bagging	25	26
27 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Sunday School	28	29	30			