

First Baptist Church of Aledo



December Newsletter

Pastor's Corner

*"Now these Jews
were more noble
than those in
Thessalonica;
they received the
Word with all ea-
gerness, examin-
ing the Scrip-
tures daily to see
if these things
were so."*

~ Acts 17:11

Bible study and Biblical preaching are the cornerstone of our church. Everything we do and believe as Christians is directly related to what the Word of God says. It is what we teach our children, youth and adults in all of our programs every week no matter what stage of life, or how mature a person might be. The Word of God holds the answers to all of life's problems, and contains the mysteries of the very nature of God and eternity. The point of studying God's Word is two fold. On the one hand, and perhaps most importantly, we desire to be rightly related to God. Without a proper understanding of His Word, we will not know Him as He really is, but rather we will mix truth with error and come away with a concept of God that is inaccurate. God revealed Himself in His Word, and so we study His Word so that we can know Him. Not only that but a relationship with God is built on conditions. We know His love for us is unconditional, but His forgiveness is not. His forgiveness

is given on the condition of repentance of sin and acceptance of His Son Jesus. Secondly, His Word gives us foundational truth on which we can build a life. How to be rightly related to the world and all the other relationships we experience is found in the pages of the Bible. I can't overemphasize how important it is to study, listen and believe the Word of God. So, in order to help our church to have more quality time in Bible study we have decided to move our 10am worship back 15 minutes. This should be the least disruptive change imaginable to allow our Sunday school hour sufficient time for Bible study. Currently we have 8am worship, 9am Sunday school, and 10am Worship, which means our Sunday school really only gets about 30 to 35 minutes by the time we get settled, and then dismiss in time for people to get into the sanctuary. Mov-

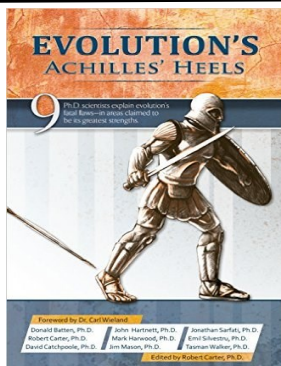
ing the worship to 10:15am should give the Sunday school a solid 45-50 minutes of teaching time, while still allowing our worship to conclude well before noon. The new worship time will begin in the new year on January 3rd. If you have any concerns about the change, I would love to encourage you to simply join a Sunday school class. That way, you won't have to worry about being late for worship! We have classes for all ages, including 7 different options for adults. I know it's only December, but December is the best time to think about the changes you might want to make in January. Have a Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!

In Christ,
Pastor Luke

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Evolution's—Achilles' Heels



Pastor Luke will be teaching a new class, Evolution's Achilles' Heels, on Sunday evenings at 6pm beginning January 3rd. We will be discussing such themes as natural selection, the fossil record, and radio metric dating. The study will expose the fatal flaws of evolutionary thinking. Sign up on Sunday's Connection Card. The study is free.



Collide is now on Fall Break— Jr. High and High school students will resume meeting Jan. 6th from Wednesday Night Live from 6:30-8pm.

I heard a message recently that said 75% of students stop playing sports by the time they get to high school. The reason being, it's just not fun anymore. Sports have also pushed their way onto Sunday mornings, where now the family is forced to choose where they will spend their Sundays. Torn between the two the family isn't sure what to do, but unfortunately, the majority of the time, the sport wins out and church attendance drops.

This is one of the reasons I've invited Tim Schneckloth, the local Quad Cities FCA director to lead us in a discussion on Wednesday, Dec. 2nd starting at 6:30pm in the youth room called, "Engaging the Youth Sports Culture." Because one of the youth ministries desires is to see families growing up spiritual champions in the Lord, I think talking about this issue can only benefit the health of the family. Ignoring it will only get us caught up with the culture. I'd invite anyone with children ages 0-18 to come and join us.

Collide has wrapped up for this year, but we've still got some fun events coming up in December. On Dec, 11th we'll have a girls beauty night at the church from 6-9pm. We'll cook a meal together, so no need to feed them before hand. I'm also planning a day out to do some indoor rock climbing. Check back in on our facebook page or on the church website for the details about when that will be.

Also, its time to get signed up for next years mission trip and we're doing something completely different. We're staying local, really local. We've decided that there is plenty of need right in our own community, so we'll be doing construction work, serving our widows and do some homeless outreach right in our own community and the surrounding area. We'll stay at the church and have a worship experience each night with 4th point and a professional speaker. Students going into 9th grade up to 20 years of age may attend! Registration forms can be found at the connection center.

Blessings, Heather Q.

Engaging the Youth Sports Culture

**Upcoming
Collide
Youth
Events!**



Join us at FBC on Wednesday, December 2nd at 6:30pm in the Youth Room. All families are invited to join in a great discussion with Tim Schneckloth, Director of Fellow of Christian Athletes in the Quad City Area, on how we, as church and family, can best engage the Youth Sports Culture as Christians.

2015 WEEKLY INFORMATION CENTER

Date	Nursery	Kids Club Worship	Greeters
12/6/15	Betty Williams, Crystal Clark, Grace Buttgen	Brooke Loving, Haley Johnson, Joe Caleb Loving, Jason Connell	Paul & Kay Hedrick, John & Sherry Huffstutler
12/13/15	Betty Williams, Ronda Moffitt, Veronica Moffitt	Nadine Coulter, Alison Lafever, Brian Rind & Maddie Dunn	Anita & Halie Parkinson Rodrigo Quiroz
12/20/15	Betty Williams, Connie Moffitt, & Diane Hessman	Denise Bowker, Tina McCaw & Shannon Sedam	Paul & Cara Svoboda Charlie Douglas
12/27/15	Betty Williams, Sharon Moffitt, & Bryce Moffitt	Denise Kelly & Kelly Higgins, Jen Miller & Jack Kelly	Dave & Susan Potthast Bill & Arlene Bewley

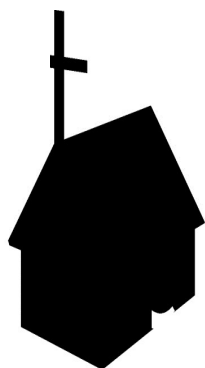
If you are unable to serve the day you are scheduled in the Nursery, please make arrangements in advance to switch with another person on the schedule. Please contact **Ronda Moffitt, Nursery Coordinator, for all concerns on her Cell:(309) 371-3021**. Thank you! **Kids Club Worship**—PLEASE come to the Fellowship Hall by **9:45am** so you can help & prep. *Please continue to let me know if you are switching with somebody. I have it set up so there are two adults plus myself helping at a time. Please do not switch with a couple if you are an individual. Thank you so much for your service! ~Mollie. If you need to contact Mollie about Kids Club Worship call -309-371-6962.

Finance Board Member of the Month for December — Monte Bottens
Trustee Member of the Month for December — JP Kelly

Weekly Attendance & Offering



DATE	11/1/15	11/8/15	11/15/15	11/22/15
8 AM	60	68	58	41
10 AM	245	220	236	269
TOTAL	305	288	294	310



Date	11/1/15	11/8/15	11/15/15	11/22/15
Current Expense	\$10,095.50	\$4,968.75	\$9,229.79	\$7,956.74
Building Fund/Mem.	\$1,775.00	\$585.00	\$100.00	\$450.00
Benevolence	\$1,435.00	\$1,144.00	\$5,261.00	\$297.00
Total	\$13,305.50	\$6,697.75	\$14,590.79	\$8,703.74

December News—Kids Club Ministry



Root of the Matter Series: Is Church Optional?

There's a quote hanging in my office that says, "If we don't teach our children to follow Christ, the world will teach them not to." For the last few months I've been addressing issues that parents face in our current secular culture. The more I study the trends of the next generation of children and youth being brought up in church, the more alarmed I am at the bleak statistics. I'm alarmed because we are living in an environment where we need to be taking every opportunity to be firmly planting the seed of faith in our children consistently, yet I'm watching families who are only giving a half-hearted attempt. Personal prayer, Bible reading, and being an active, thriving part of the body of Christ has become optional. In this approach, we're losing kids once they reach 15 and 16 years old who are fully embracing our secular culture and the world view that comes with it. Hear me when I say this parents, I'm not judging you. This is the battle call for ALL of us to wake up and see that the battle we face is with our spiritual enemy. There probably isn't anything more delightful to our enemy than to see Christian parents fail at shining God's truth, light, and Word into our children's lives. And mostly, it's our own battle with ourselves. What we teach and show our children, is a product of where our own hearts are with the Lord.

Obviously we need to be teaching and training our kids at home. Just dropping them off at Kids Club and leaving the "training" in the church's hands isn't enough. Parents, not the spunky little children's minister, have the greatest impact to influence their children in their faith formation. Statistics prove this. So, what happens at home is HUGE important. How about church life, though? Is it really that important that you go to church EVERY week? That you and your children attend Sunday School and/or our mid-week studies & activities? Well, let me throw that back at you. When you sign your kids up for a team or a group, like football or Girl scouts, what is the expectation? Most of us wouldn't dream of letting our kids attend those meetings, practices, and games minimally. It wouldn't be tolerated and they would be letting their team down. Not to mention that they wouldn't be learning the fundamentals of responsibility, teamwork, work ethic, and perseverance. Once we surrender our lives to God, aren't we on God's team (the Body of believers)? Yet we treat our "games" (worship & small groups) and "practices" (personal Bible study, devotions, and prayer) like they're optional.

I encourage you to read the whole chapter of Ephesians 4 but I want to emphasize verse 16. "From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." If God is the king of your life, why wouldn't you be on God's team (AKA: The Body of Christ in the form of the local church)? The Church serves a HUGE purpose in sharpening, teaching, discerning, unifying, and encouraging believers. Time and time again I've seen individuals, couples, and whole families leave the church and it starts with missing "games" and "practices" when life gets busy or hard. Yes, your kids will have to make their own decisions to follow Jesus one day BUT right now it is your BIGGEST job to get them to the "games!" To take time with them each day to talk to the Lord and learn his instructions. My deepest prayer for you is that you understand God's love and purpose for your life and the lives of your kids. See you at the game! Merry Christmas! With much love and appreciation for my church family, Mollie



Upcoming Events

Kids Sunday School Parties & Christmas Program (Dec. 13th)- All Pre-6th grade Sunday School classes are celebrating Christmas on Dec. 13th. Kids are encouraged to thank their teachers with a card or small gift on this Sunday. During the 10am worship service kids in the Pre-K-4th grade classes will be singing so please have kids wear their Christmas clothes.

Family Skate Date at Monmouth Skating Rink (January 3rd from 2:30-4:30pm)- The whole church is invited to have some fun together at this free event. Friends are welcome. No RSVP required. Refreshments will be provided.





Women's Ministry

Women's Ministry Think Tank—**NO Think Tank in December.

Women's Mentorship 2016 Program - We will be starting the 2016 Mentorship Program in January. There were not enough women to warrant holding a bi-weekly meeting so we are focusing on the informal mentorships again this year. We have 8 pairings of women (and probably a few that we are unaware of) who meet on a regular basis for mentoring. If you are interested in having a mentor from January through next August, there is still time to join us. Just complete the profile form, which you can find on the Women's Ministry table in the church foyer and return it to Sheri Olson or Cindy Maynard. You may suggest a woman that you wish to have as a mentor or we can help match you to someone. God continues to show us the benefits to life lived authentically and in community with other believers. He is using our mentors to help mold and strengthen the women of FBC for His glory.



Christmas Poinsettia

We will once again place Poinsettias in the church "In Memory Of" or "In Honor Of" loved ones. Please sign up on Sunday's Connection Card or contact the office at 582-7812 by Dec. 9th with the name of the person being remembered as well as your name. The cost for a Poinsettia is \$12.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Invite your family and friends to join us at First Baptist for our Christmas Eve Candlelight service Thursday, Dec. 24th at 7pm.



Dear 1st Baptist Church, Thank you to the women who prepared and helped serve the luncheon for our mother's funeral. We appreciated your allowing the CAPC ladies to assist. Sincerely, The Family of Nancy Bonyng



This thank you is written with heartfelt gratitude for all prayers, phone calls, food and cards sent since Janet's surgery on 11/6/15. Also, thank you so much for all prayers said earlier in September for another problem. We deeply appreciate the kind words and support given by the church congregation. We serve an AMAZING God! Sincerely, Darren & Janet Rind

Thank you so much for opening your hearts and giving us your love and support! Your thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated! Love, the Rose Eggen Family

What's Coming Up!

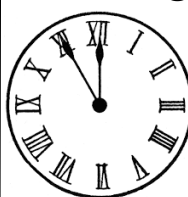
Deacon meeting— Tuesday, Dec. 3rd at 7pm.



Christmas office hours:

On Thursday, Dec. 24th the office will be open from 9am-noon and the office will be closed on Christmas day Friday, Dec. 25th. Merry Christmas!

Coming in January!—Beginning



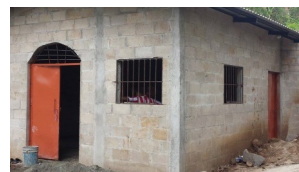
Sunday, Jan. 3rd we will have a **new time for our 10am service**. In an effort to provide more time for Sunday School, the 10am service will be moved to **10:15am**. The 8am service will remain the same and Sunday School will remain the same at 9am.

January Annual FBC Business Meeting

The First Baptist Church Annual Meeting will be Sunday, **Jan. 17th** following the 10am service. **Please have your committee and quarterly reports to the church office by Sunday, January 3rd as the Church Council meets on Tuesday, Jan. 12th at 7pm.

El Salvador Mission Trip January 2016

15 members of FBC will be ministering to several churches in January. We



will be sharing the gospel message and the story of Jonah to over 350 children. We try to give each child a ziplock bag of items. We're collecting items now and appreciate any donations you would like to make.

If you'd rather we do the shopping, you can give a financial donation by making your checks out to FBC Aledo and writing "El Salvador Mission TRIP" in the memo line and place it in the offering plate on Sunday. Otherwise, you can drop off your items the bin in the foyer marked "El Salvador Children."

Here's what we'll need:

LIST HAS CHANGED! - Here's what we'll need: Toothbrushes, Stickers, Rulers, Erasers, Pencil Sharpeners & Balloons.

Church Calendar will be on this page

Happy Birthday

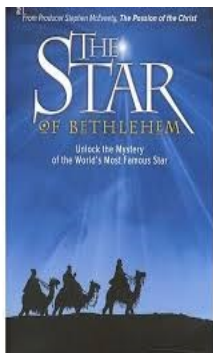
Evelyn McCaw	December 1
Vicki Reid	
Amber Shook	December 2
Brandon Hedrick	
Alexandra Ricke	December 4
Jason Andress	December 5
Dale Franks	December 6
Holly Brown	
Gracie Milburn	
Carl Dennison	
Mick Louck	December 7
Tristen Finch	
Star Melvin	December 8
Elden Cirks	December 9
Charlie Douglas	
Sarah Brown	
Wayne Schweninger	December 10
Payton Sedam	December 11
Sandy Zunkel	December 12
Robbie Kernan	December 15
Amber Adams	
Merle Bodeen	December 17
Bill Anderson	
Rosalee Sproston	December 19
Cara Svoboda	
Sherry Huffstutler	December 21
Benjamin Dowd	December 22
Karole Franks	December 24
	December 26
	December 29
Peggy Johnson	December 30
Crystal Clark	
Ed Schrock	
Charlie Schultz	
Danika Higgins	December 31

Happy Anniversary

Dean & Sharon McCormick



Steve & Adell Struble



Join Us for—The Star of Bethlehem Movie

The church body is invited on Sunday, Dec. 6th at 1pm to watch "The Star of Bethlehem" Movie. The movie will be shown here at the church. No need to RSVP, just show up and join us. There is no cost to attend.

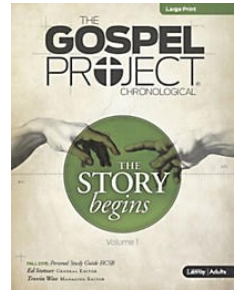
Dear Members of FBC, I greatly appreciate the scholarship I received for college. The money was used for books this year. I am grateful for such a supportive church family.

First Baptist Church of Aledo will always be home because it shaped me into the person I am today. Thank you for the money and all the prayers. Blessings, Kate Baugher

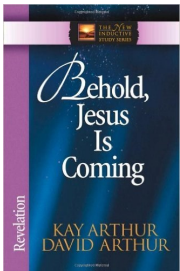


New Wednesday Night Live Classes Begin Jan. 6th, 2016—Each Wednesday from 6:30-8pm—All Studies are FREE!

The Gospel Project for adults takes men and women on a chronological, Christ-centered journey through the storyline of Scripture. Each week, participants will encounter God's plan of redemption in Scripture through study of Bible narrative, the essential doctrines of the faith, and the call to join in God's mission locally and around the world. Sign up and we will assign you to a small group of 10-14 people in a church family's home. Study begins Jan. 6th and runs each Wednesday from 6:30-8pm till March 16th, 2016. Sign up on today's Connection Card.



Revelation—Women's Study—Wednesday evenings ***Beginning, Jan. 20th, 2016 from 6:30-8pm—Facilitators Renee Diesch & Sheri Olson-



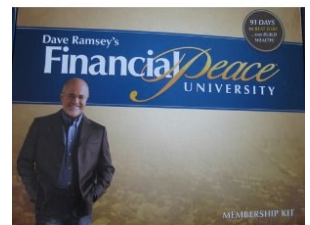
We will be using Kay Arthur's book and inductive study method, as well as other reference materials, to work our way through the book of Revelation. We intend to move very slowly in order to do a thorough study of this very important book of the Bible. As a result, we have no end date in mind for this study, and we expect that it will take many months to complete.

This class will require home study time in addition to our class time. We want to understand God's word as best we can in the light of the rest of scripture and the world we live in. A good understanding of Old Testament prophecies will be helpful in this study. Although Revelation can be difficult to understand, we believe that understanding God's word comes through God's

Holy Spirit and therefore new and old believer alike have the capacity to learn and understand what God has written in this last book of the Bible.

Financial Peace University

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University is beginning a new session January 6th at FBC! During the class you will find out how to: Make a budget that you will understand and actually use, Get out of debt and stay that way. Communicate with your spouse about finances, Invest with confidence, and change your financial future. It is all presented in a fun and entertaining way. If you have questions please see class leaders, Seth & Denise Bowker or call the church at 582-7812. You may register for the class by signing up on today's Connection Card. This class can be life changing! The cost of the kit is FREE! Study begins Jan. 6th and runs each Wednesday from 6:30-8pm till March 16th, 2016.



Studies For the Children & Youth!

Kids Club for all kids ages 3 years old through 5th Grade- We offer a high-energy, fun-filled, Christ-centered program where kids worship, serve, learn, and play together. Kid's Club kicks off for the Winter/Spring session on January 6th. We meet from 6:30-8pm each Wednesday night. All kids ages 3 years old-5th grade are invited. Nursery is provided for infants-2 years olds for parents who attend a Wednesday Night Bible Study. If you haven't already registered, please pick up a form at Kids Club corner in the lobby.

For the Youth—Collide for Kids grades 6th—12th - Collide kicks off for the Winter/Spring session on January 6th. We meet from 6:30-8pm each Wednesday night. Through the power of the Holy Spirit we seek to love teenagers and point them to Jesus Christ. We're not so much of a youth group as we are a youth family. We love to see teenagers lives change through the life changing message of the gospel. We can't wait for your teen to become a part of our community! What to expect at Collide? - Expect to have fun! Have lots of great snacks, plays some fun games and most importantly learn about what it means to know God personally through Jesus Christ. We highly value outreach and love seeing students come from all walks of life, even if you don't have a church home you are welcome at Collide.

A Note from Pastor Seth

Advent

The word advent means arrival. We typically celebrate advent by building up Sunday upon Sunday for four weeks before Christmas. We will try to stir up within our hearts visions and ideas about the greatest gift that has ever been given to man, **Jesus Christ**. I hope you understand this awesome gift and I pray that you have received this great gift. If you ever doubt or ever wonder, then take a look at Luke 2:14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."



God's good-will is sending the world the Messiah and on that wonderful night God introduced peace in this lower world. The birth of Jesus Christ is our advent and the death of Jesus Christ is our advent of His Spirit. Jesus Christ broke the enmity that sin had built between God and man, and resettled a peaceable correspondence. God through Jesus Christ is at peace with us, all peace results from Jesus Christ: peace of conscience, peace from wrath on sin, peace between Jew and Gentile. Peace is here put for all good, all that good which flows to us from the incarnation of Christ. All the good we have, or hope, is owing to God's good-will; and, if we have the comfort of it, he must have the glory of it.

It is on earth peace, to men of good-will (so some copies read it): to men who have a good-will to God, and are willing to be reconciled; or to men whom God has a good-will to, though vessels of his mercy.

Know Jesus, Know Peace – No Jesus, No Peace

We know that Peace is only found in Jesus Christ. Beware of a false Peace that will sweep the Land because we know that the advent of peace has already come and is available to the world today. ~ Seth

Romans 5:1, Ephesians 2:14, Colossians 1:20,



Nursing Home Christmas Gift Giving Mission

It is now time to begin bringing gifts for the residents of Genesis Senior Living & Aledo Health and Rehab Care Center. Your unwrapped gift may be placed in the box marked NURSING HOME GIFTS in the church lobby from now until Dec. 10th. Both nursing homes were so appreciative of all the gifts given last year! The residents especially loved the small fleece blankets, dressy scarves and costume jewelry. Other suggestions include: lotion, shampoo, shower gel, deodorant, aftershave, stamps, stationary, diabetic socks, slipper socks with grips, chocolate candy, cube box kleenex, Christmas wrapping paper, tape and tags. Please DO NOT give powder or open back slippers. Krista Bear is coordinating this effort and would love to have anyone interested in helping sort and pack the gifts come to the church lobby on Thursday, Dec. 10th at 10am. Any questions, call Krista at 582-3143 or the church office at 582-7812. Thank you for your help with this project.

Women's Ministry Christmas Project—Deadline Extended for Angel's Cove

Our women's ministry Christmas project this year will bless the Angel's Cove in Mount Vernon, IL. We are collecting items in the tub in the coat room until Dec. 20th. For Angel's Cove we will collect paper products (paper towel, Kleenex, napkins, paper plates, paper cups, plastic eating utensils), Pasta (macaroni of all shapes, sizes, varieties), Ramen noodles, Mac & Cheese, Pasta Salad mixes, Lasagna noodles, Spaghetti noodles, egg noodles, Hamburger Helper box meals, Sauces (alfredo, spaghetti, BBQ, Hot Sauce, Buffalo Wing sauce, Cheese sauce), & Girl's Personal Care Items (nail polish & remover, nail clippers and files, wide and narrow headbands, hair brushes, eye liner and mascara (black), lip gloss (clear or lightly tinted), small eye shadow sets with assorted colors), eye glasses cleaning and repair kits, ear buds for phones), Gift Cards for the following places (AMC Theater, Wal-mart, Aldi, McDonalds or Visa) in \$10-\$20 amounts.

First Baptist Church of Aledo

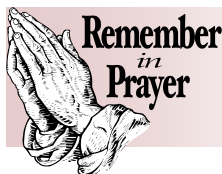
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www.firstbaptistaledo.com

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PLEASE CALL:

PASTOR LUKE @ 309-371-6964 or Cindy Maynard @ 582-2098



HEALTH & WELL BEING

Family of Christine Anderson, Connie Freeman, Alec Bowen, Family of Dave Duncan, Family of Rose Eggen, Vern Fuller, Claudia Greer, Family of Lorena Johnson, Kale Stirn, Jo Kernan, Rick Lantau, Lisa Hammill & family, Kim Goddell, Janet Rind, Adam Maynard, Kayshia Rowe & baby Gracelynn, Bob Kopp, Melody & Jerry, Juan & Ani Quiroz, Paul Wonders, Darcy (Vance) Knoblich & Baby Edmond, Doris Dewey, Ed Nesbitt, Carol Schaefer, Ellen Hedger, Jack Ruska, Emily Blaser, Chris LeClere & Baby Merrick, Vickie Korn, Roger & Janet Mueller, Joyce Mizner, Jail Ministry, Amber Smock, Ethel Welch, Jim Earl, Jennifer Franks, Krista Bear, Shelly Upson, Carolyn Hanson, & Roger Andress

NURSING HOME

Aldus Gridley & Ron Rhine

MISSIONARIES & MILITARY

Alex & Jess Etheridge, Jim Earl, Danika Higgins, & Rigoberto Cruz
Austin Weir, Tyler Mattson, Matt VanderHeyden, Caleb VanderHeyden, Kyle Mandle, Charles Schultz, Christopher Schultz & Terry Schaefer

OTHER CONCERNS

The church & all decisions