

Immanuel General Fund  
 Every Child's Hope "ECH" OPERATING FUND  
 Emmaus Homes-OPERATING FUND  
 Emmaus Homes-RESIDENT TRUST FUND  
 Emmaus Homes-ENDOWMENT FUND  
 Emmaus Homes-AUXILIARY "Friends of Emmaus"  
 Marthasville  
 Emmaus Homes-PASTORAL CARE ENDOWMENT FUND  
 Immanuel Building and Capital Improvement Fund  
 Immanuel Endowment Fund  
 Immanuel Good Samaritan Fund  
 Immanuel Brothers' In Christ Scholarship Fund  
 Glenn Fox Memorial Scholarship Fund  
 Brauch Scholarship Fund  
 Mary Thompson Scholarship Fund  
 Music Enhancement Fund  
 Eden Theological Seminary  
 United Church Neighborhood Houses "UCNH"  
 Parish Nurse Fund  
 Bell Choir Fund                    \*CK # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Organ Fund  
 Heritage Fund                        \*AMT \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Accessibility Fund  
 Habitat for Humanity               \*ENV # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Discretionary Assistance Fund  
 Audio Ministry Fund  
 Other



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Volume LXXIV

July 2017

NU



Staff:

*Dr. Jimmy Watson*  
 Senior Pastor

*Linda Stoeck*  
 Faith Community

*Paul Westcott*

*Rev. Courtney*

Dr. Watson's Pre-Scripture

*Who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." (Isaiah 40:31)*

Not of the high school I attended (and yes, did graduate) an eagle. Because of that little fact of my life I have appreciated the above verse from the book of Isaiah. I feel kinship to it. Especially as I get older, the possibility of my strength, running without weariness and walking without being faint has more meaning than it did when I was a school student full of vigor and vitality.

The reason this passage speaks to me is because ever since I became a pastor "renewal" has been a recurring theme in my profession. I have been to more church renewal or vitality conferences and read more books about it than I can possibly remember. I wish I could say that I have found the magic formula for congregational renewal and vitality, but I haven't. Like St. Ignace de Leon's search for the Fountain of Youth, me and other pastors usually come up empty.

That shouldn't keep us from trying. I was glad I and a number of members from Immanuel were able to attend this Missouri Mid-South Conference Annual Gathering in Colorado Springs, Missouri. We were fortunate to hear from several voices of hope and vitality in the business of helping the United Church of Christ

**Greetings:**

Your donation is helping those families whose jobs do not meet all of their needs. We are seeing more people saying thank you for what they really need and appreciate the aid which we render to them.

Please continue to lift us up whenever you talk with our Heavenly Father, that we remain effective and efficient in his service. In God's grace,  
Johnniest B. Henry

**Dear Friends:**

Your generous donation to the Church World Service program tells people in crisis, "you're not alone, someone cares."

We are deeply grateful for your support. Because of your compassion families who have lost their homes to disaster are getting help with blankets, emergency food and shelter. We are rebuilding their lives and livelihoods.

On behalf of all the people who feel more hopeful and secure because of our generosity, we thank you.  
Sincerely,

Rev. John L. McCullough  
President & CEO Church World Service

## **Immanuel Family,**

to take the opportunity to thank especially Pastor Jim-  
Linda and our whole Immanuel Family for all the lov-  
concerns, prayers and support that you have given  
Mom and I since we found that I had cancer back in  
ary of this year. Without my church family to lean on  
t this scary journey, I'm not certain that I would have  
us far, and I still have a ways to go. A special thanks  
to Carolyn Rock for picking up my volunteer job at  
that I wouldn't get so far behind. Thanks all for walk-  
rney with me.

In Love,  
Bollinger

## **nds:**

to thank our Immanuel friends and family for all the  
one calls and prayers during these last months as we  
dealing with several medical issues. We know our  
ouldn't be happening without your help. Thank you to

In Love.

Our Pentecost Moment, Rev. Dr. Deborah Krause from  
Seminary, and Rev. Sonya Vann, a member in discernment  
recent Eden graduate.

There were three big news items that came out of the  
our gathering. First, Dale Parson announced his retirement  
more than two decades serving as our ACM. Second,  
nounced that our Conference will form a task force to p  
possibility of going through the Open and Affirming pro  
noted that our Conference has always had an inclusive  
and it is time to open our doors even further. Third, Gir  
nounced that the Missouri Mid-South Conference and  
sas-Oklahoma Conference are engaged in talks about  
joining together under one larger umbrella. This has ha  
in other places around the country in recent years, ma  
diminishing resources and advanced communication te  
that requires less traveling.

I can't possibly share everything I heard or learned at t  
Annual Gathering. I do hope, however, that in the com  
it will become evident that my strength has been renev  
ways that I can't even imagine at the present moment,  
Immanuel United Church of Christ will experience this  
sense of strength and renewal because five people fro  
congregation mounted our wings and flew to Columbia  
for a three day gathering in the summer of 2017.

experience mild to moderate muscle spasms due to exercise or as a side effect of chronic health conditions, physical therapies for relief.

**Tea.** Chamomile contains 36 flavonoids, which are rich with anti-inflammatory properties. Chamomile tea can relax muscles.

Regular muscle pain or spasms could be caused by a vitamin D deficiency. Vitamin D-rich foods include Portobello mushrooms, soy milk, and soy yogurt. Exposure to sunlight produces vitamin D but has health risks. Check with your health care provider for a good way to ensure you are getting the proper amount of vitamin D.

Although magnesium deficiency is rare, certain magnesium-rich foods, including bananas, almonds, lentils, and brown rice, can help ease muscle tightness.

The best and most natural way to relax your muscles is to take time to stretch out your legs and arms in a relaxing position. Remember to breathe.

Remember, but not least keep hydrated. I cannot express enough the importance of keeping your muscles hydrated by drinking enough water throughout the day. If you are exercising, increase your water intake. Remember the work load you are putting your muscles through.

A number of stretching low impact exercises will also help reduce the risk of muscle spasms and cramping.

Here are a few ideas to try to help you relieve muscle

## ST. LOUIS REGION SHAREFEST

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2017, 9 A.M. - 2 P.M.**

### IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

#### About Festival of Sharing

The Festival of Sharing is an interfaith celebration and a gathering of resources, is a cooperative response to hunger, poverty, and injustice and seeks to raise awareness of its causes and to address solutions. The Festival of Sharing promotes and supports projects and programs, providing funding and resource goods. When people of different faiths come together, our Sharing makes a positive and powerful difference in the lives of people in need. We invite you to experience the joy of Sharing!

#### Youth Overnighter

Youth grades 6 – 12 have an opportunity to spend the night on Friday, October 13, 2017, at Immanuel United Church of Christ, Ferguson, learning about ways they can “Share the Love” in their communities as well as setting up for the Sharefest.

Need More Information? Want to Receive Information Updates?

Contact Krescene Beck - St. Louis Region Sharefest

...d that they use when they shop at  
. Basically, all members have to do is when they  
they hand the card to the cashier, the cashier scans it  
centage of their purchases goes to Immanuel's Sun-  
bl. Last year Immanuel's Sunday School received  
from the Schnucks Escrip Program!

...already have this card, thank you! Please continue to  
...u are helping Immanuel's Sunday School every time  
...the card to a Schnucks cashier.

...t have a card and you shop at Schnucks, please con-  
...da Schuster at 314-838-7236. She can help you get a  
...oesn't cost anything.

...anks to the 13 new people who signed up for an  
...d after church in June. Those cards have been regis-  
...are ready to use.

...chuster

...E OF ADDRESS

...K

...ow Creek



...in the end only kindness matters.....

This is and always will be my morning mantra, the word  
choose to live by, as I so desperately try one day at a time  
make this world, my CHURCH, my life a better place.

Just recently I discovered that this is not the case with  
the people I come in contact with. I've been taught that  
ter what, we must always do the right thing and do it with  
ness. This definitely aligns with my southern belle men  
But as I get older and maybe a little more wiser I see th  
people are so busy promoting themselves and caring ab  
their own personal gains that they forget that magical wo  
called KINDNESS!

We often think of kindness as a small thing like smiling  
someone, or holding the door for that sweet little lady w  
walker. Kindness doesn't just come in these helpful ges  
also comes when you have the courage to lovingly shar  
truth with an individual. Kindness comes when we are o  
to new ways of doing things. Kindness is being neighb  
smallest and most abandoned. Kindness starts when we  
kind to ourselves, we all struggle with this conception b  
where we need to start. Just start to be kind to yourself  
watch the magic happen.

Start today and everyday with the word kindness on you  
and on your brain and always in your heart. Live a life o  
pose and meaning, live a life that's true to yourself. Eph  
4:32 says to us, be kind to one another, tenderhearted,  
ing one another, as God in Christ forgave you. That ver  
true and applicable even in our lives today.

Always with kindness,  
Annie

*Gracious God. thank you for your kindness. your love a*

believe we're already into July. This summer is going by so fast!  
Thank you to Sarah Klasing for all her help organizing VBS and to everyone who helped make it a big success. You are all amazing to the children of our community.

So all children, youth, and their families are invited to a Splash Fun Bash! Following the 10:30 worship, grab your swimsuits and then head over to the North County Recreation Complex Aquatic Center. It is located at 2577 Redman Road, St. Louis, Mo 63136. We will gather at noon. You can stay as long as you want. The water park features include a tot lot, a large interactive play structure, a family otter slide, a basketball court, a volleyball area, three lap lanes, a 1-meter diving board, a 6-foot drop slide and a water slide. The price of admission is \$3 for ages 4-12, \$5 ages 13-64, \$4 for 65+, and 3 and over are free. If you are interested in attending or have questions, please see Pastor Courtney.

We pray you continue to hold our campers and Camp MoVal in your prayers. May God bless you as you enjoy this summer!

,

Courtney

**Lay Readers**

**Outside Welcomers**

**Sanctuary**

am	Keith Wogtech	Kathi Remmert	Carol Shinn & J
am n	Belinda Lanfer Glenn Cordes	Merry Geisler Barb Thompson & Nick Thompson	Krescene Schuster Larry & Sandy
am am	Marty Schuster Joyce Holland	Teddy Branom Carolyn Rock	Marty Schuster Darryl & Cindy
am m	Bev Griffin Juli Duncan	Phil Frohne Phyllis & Walter Martinez	Sue Schuster Alex, Donna &
am am	Paula Hildebrand Bruce Davis	Bonnie & Bud Heenan Cathy & Charlie Miller	Merry Geisler Norma Thies &

**Wednesday, July 12, 2017 - 6:00 p.m.**

**Granite City Food & Brewery**

**West Oaks Shopping Center**

**11 Olive Blvd., Creve Coeur, 314-432-3535**

**Please RSVP to Bill Wooten at 314-608-9668**

(text) or Email: [dbwoot10@att.net](mailto:dbwoot10@att.net) by **Wed., July 5**

*Everyone is invited to join the Bon Appetit group for fellowship, friends and food. We normally meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month at a local restaurant.*

## **Appetit "Meet in the Homes" Group**

### **Schedule for 2017:**

**meeting**

Karen & Terry Fox at their farm

- Louise Pennell's

Shirley & Al Joellenbeck's

**meeting**

debrand's Christmas Party (date to be set later)

RSVP to: *Shirley Joellenbeck. 314-741-2676 if you*

The meeting was called to order by Matt at 7:00 pm with devotion by Tim Payer. A reading titled "Power by Purp

The Secretary's report was reviewed. No changes noted to approve made by Tim, seconded by Ryan, vote approved. Julie was not able to attend so no Treasurer's report to Julie will have available for the August meeting (BCE do meet in July).

Church School News: May average attendance was 19 and 7 adults for a total of 26. First week of Summer R went well. All weeks are covered for teacher support E the last week so if anyone would like to help, please call Courtney for more details. Adult Education Classes are looked at again - if anyone would be interested please church office. The Youth Pitch Pots that were made a display in our newly renovated library, come take a look beautiful artwork.

Events: Vacation Bible School will be held June 26 - 30. Group had a great time at Six Flags with 6 kids and 2 adults attending. The July event has been moved to August and of other events to follow. The 4th of July Parade theme is "National Landmarks". The Blessing Bags that were have received good responses so far.

Overall Church News: Keyless entry to the Educational is still in discussion stages. Pastor Jimmy and Annie a small group BBQ's at their home over the summer in preparation for annual church picnic this year. Melinda Schuster is to present for Mission to re-introduce and update us on the program and will be available for new sign ups

s officially upon us, and I hope everyone is enjoying  
er temperatures and the opportunity to get away to  
ite vacation spot, and, of course, Camp Mo-Val. (I  
re - what a great organization!)

be you have been enjoying the special music on Sun-  
ngs, with some of our regulars - Phil Lum, Carol  
and Joyce Holland. We are certainly blessed with such  
nmanuel. In July, you can look forward to Joyce again,  
with the Dixie Rhythm Kings, as well as Bev Griffin  
and Nancy Remmert's daughter, Leslie. They will pro-  
e variety of music to accentuate our worship services.

was fortunate enough to spend a few hours at Camp  
th a group of Discovery campers. (Did I say I love it  
also attended the Conference Annual Gathering in Co-  
is always a jam-packed weekend of events, which in-  
s; worship, workshops, music, fellowship, food and fun;  
ear, the Christ the King UCC Choir filled the worship  
beautiful voices. They were certainly a highlight for me.  
highlight was Rev. Cameron Trimble, one of the Key-  
kers. She had some ideas on "Transformational Wor-  
gave Jimmy and me a lot to think about concerning  
ere at Immanuel. Overall, a wonderful weekend. On a  
we said goodbye to Rev. Dale Parsons, our Associate  
Minister, and a good friend who has decided to

Exp.	0.00	0.00	9,000.00
Every Child's Hope "ECH" Exp.	0.00	0.00	10,000.00
Emmaus Homes-Operations	0.00	0.00	2,500.00
St. John Community Services	0.00	0.00	650.00
Eden Seminary Support	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
Room at the Inn Exp.	0.00	0.00	200.00
Habitat for Humanity Exp.	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Care & Counseling	0.00	0.00	600.00
Lydia's House	0.00	0.00	4,000.00
TBD Local Charity	0.00	0.00	5,000.00
<b>Total Benevolences</b>	<b>\$7,125.00</b>	<b>\$15,624.99</b>	<b>\$63,450.00</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$38,907.10</b>	<b>\$203,043.00</b>	<b>\$543,653.00</b>
	<b><u>\$38,907.10</u></b>	<b><u>\$203,043.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$543,653.00</u></b>

### GENERAL FUNDS RECEIPTS FOR MAY 2017

	Beginning Fund Balance	Current Activity (52,747.62)
Contributions-Envelope		27,587.50
Loose Offering		131.00
Initial Offering		0.00
Special Donation		325.00
Use of Property		0.00
Interest Income		0.00
Misc Income		11.00
<b>Total General Operating Income</b>		<b>28,054.50</b>
Gen. Fd. Unrealized Gain (Loss)		97.20
<b>Total Gain (Loss) Investments</b>		<b>97.20</b>
Interest Inc-General		63.01
Interest Inc-Viehmman		0.00



	200.73	386.33	900.00	43
	84.13	402.70	1,300.00	31
	313.72	1,667.27	4,000.00	42
	0.00	6,124.00	21,000.00	29
enance	3,484.69	15,738.46	35,000.00	45
ies	67.79	741.10	1,800.00	41
s	(99.88)	1,554.45	5,000.00	31
	496.89	1,395.96	3,500.00	40
	0.00	960.34	2,500.00	38
ursement	0.00	311.91	2,700.00	12
	0.00	599.00	1,000.00	60
ian Education	0.00	4,433.34	13,300.00	33
	111.05	902.79	3,000.00	30
Communication	391.80	434.66	1,800.00	24
Ed & Conference	730.84	1,655.62	4,000.00	41
	0.00	0.00	500.00	0
ch	0.00	33.31	2,500.00	1
	0.00	41.36	1,250.00	3
	0.00	472.48	2,500.00	19
ittee Expenses	0.00	0.00	400.00	0
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$7,501.54</b>	<b>\$53,843.09</b>	<b>\$143,950.00</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>and Insurance Costs</b>	<b>\$24,280.56</b>	<b>\$133,574.92</b>	<b>\$336,253.00</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>ating Expenses</b>	<b>\$31,782.10</b>	<b>\$187,418.01</b>	<b>\$480,203.00</b>	<b>39</b>

Library downtown to tour the newly renovated space. We will meet at 9:45 AM in the Edu. Bldg. parking lot and leave promptly at 10:00 AM. Our tour is at 11:00 AM, then to the Old Spaghetti Factory for lunch. Please make your reservations by **July 6th** with Maryellen Dominic (314-341-3411). There will be walking involved with this tour.

**Aug. 15** We will return to the horse races at Fairmount Park. We will meet at 9:45 AM in the Edu. Bldg. parking lot and leave promptly at 10:00 AM. Lunch will be served in the Stallion Room starting at 11:00 AM. Lunch will cost \$16.00. Please pre-pay for your lunch when you make your reservations. **Sign-up deadline is July 20<sup>th</sup>**. Make your reservations with Linda Stoecklin (314-521-7333). Minimal walking unless you bet several times.

**September 14** - Wings of Hope at Spirit of St. Louis Airport, Chesterfield. Larry Priem, planner.

**October 17** - Winston Churchill Museum, Fulton, MO. Linda Stoecklin, planner.

**November** - No adventure planned.

**December - TBA** Christmas party at David Hoffmann's home. Linda Stoecklin, planner.

*Come and experience some or all of our adventures. We have fun and enjoy the fellowship of gathering.*

Charlie Miller, Bev Griffin, Paula Hildebrand, Darrell Thies, Fran Panagos, Sheila Wedemeyer, Julie Guethler

Donor Hoeffle to speak on having a table in the church to highlight different groups and activities that are held at The Sunday that the group has a table, they will also have a table for Mission that day.

Motion to accept minutes- Charlie Miller, Fran Panagos passed unanimously.

**Reports:**

Average attendance for the Sunday services in May was 100 people. Income for May was \$28,218.00. This put the income relative to the budget at -37%. At this time last year we were at -37%.

The budget has been spent at the end of May. To be on budget, 41.5% of the budget would have been spent. Fuel has slightly over \$2 million in assets. This is in large part due to the stock market.

Charlie Miller, Marty Schuster passed unanimously.

**Pastor Report-** Dr. Jimmy Watson attended boundary training during the past month. He will be taking vacation on June 15 so he can see his daughter in Texas. He will also be taking vacation time in July (20-22).

	Beg. Balance (52,747.62)	Receipts	Disb.	Transfers/E's (178.50)
Volunteers Fund	1,846.50	28214.71	31782.1	
Benevolences Fund	0.00	100	7125	5,178.50
Memorial Fund	7,571.86	175	175	0.00
Man Fund	12,329.39	0	0	0.00
Ship Fund-Prince	100,035.00	45.61	0	0.00
Ship Fund-Interest	27,992.88	0	0	0.00
Lee Kiefer Fund	349,067.21	556.23	0	0.00
Improvement Fund	1,980.22	3168.2	0	0.00
Education Fund	1,680.00	0	0	0.00
End	10,882.00	0	0	0.00
Management Fund	3,195.61	50	0	0.00
	10,092.95	0	0	0.00
Fund	10,253.13	44.82	0	0.00
Principal	91,838.13	923.07	0	0.00
Interest	30,168.38	184.96	0	0.00
End	20,357.67	10	0	0.00
Assistance Fund	906.45	0	0	0.00
Fund	30.35	0	0	0.00
Fund	2,030.28	0	0	0.00
Estate Fund	1,105,065.99	9926.34	0	(15,000.00)

tan Fund	12,375.00
ership Fund-Princ	100,035.00
ership Fund-Interest	28,549.11
nce Kiefer Fund	352,235.41
l Improvemnt Fund	1,980.22
vation Fund	1,680.00
und	10,882.00
ement Fund	3,245.61
	10,092.95
n Fund	10,297.95
Principal	92,761.20
-Interest	30,353.34
und	20,367.67
Assistance Fund	906.45
Fund	30.35
y Fund	2,030.28
son Estate Fund	1,099,992.33
on Scholarship Fund	22,540.37
und-Principal	167,460.08
und-Interest	51,234.63
unt Fund	32,693.80
<b>Total Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$2,002,822.10</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balance</b>	<b><u>\$2,002,747.82</u></b>

Property and Grounds- Charlie Miller  
The floor in the church basement is complete. The basement needs to be finished. Debbie is looking for bids for the door frames going into the kitchen cannot be painted how it was finished. The painting company reimbursed \$100 for not painting these doorframes.

The stack and toilet have been replaced in the parsonage. A representative from Hackett Security met Charlie Miller at the feasibility of putting a keypad on the door leading to the Christian Education Building by the elevators and gym. This company will be able to work with the existing system and doors. The company is recommending a keyless system. The rough estimate is \$9000-\$12,000. Paul moved the motion to purchase the keyless entry system (up to \$10,000 from the Maxine Anderson Fund) from Hackett Security. Charlie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Board of C.E.- Marty Schuster  
Average Attendance for May: Children: 19; Teachers: 7  
There was a discussion to have an adult confirmation class. Jimmy announced this in church on June 11. There was a motion to insert in the bulletin to gauge interest. There was a concern raised about the barricade being removed from the parking lot entrance at Alameda.

Stewardship- Fran Panagos: No report  
Mission Outreach- Julie Guethler  
The meeting was held June 4. Lydia's House was held on June 7. Backpacks for St. John's will be held in July. August activities include Lydia's House the 16th and the Inn on the 31st. Fans were donated to Kare's homeless shelter for women and children.

ed, such as a Saturday evening. The committee felt  
manuel barely had enough members to hold the two  
we currently have. It was believed that a survey may  
be given to see how the congregation feels about this

Personnel- Joyce Holland: No report  
Committee- Karen Caguin and Bev Griffin: No report

Finance- Paula Hildebrand  
eds to be scheduled.

- Keith Wogtech  
onstrated the new amplification system. The new system

sist of 6 lanyards and hearing devices, a charging rack,  
ennae. The bid is roughly \$2000. They will be charged

astor's office and given out by the ushers. Darrell made  
n to purchase the system, to exceed no more than

The money would come from the audio ministry fund.  
seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

e Guethler: No report  
Charlie Wolfersberger: No report

s  
ty Churches United for Racial Harmony- After Rance  
spoke, most people had good feedback about the con-

this organization. A few people stated that Rev. Thom-  
difficult to hear. Charlie M. made a motion to join this

ulie seconded the motion. The motion passed  
ously.

e Pews- It's about getting out the message to the com-  
friends, and family.

ss  
ge sale cleared about \$700. The profit from the rum-

Given by: Ed & Jan Vickman

### In Memory of **Gloria Cate**

To Immanuel General Fund

Given by: Forrest & Karen  
Kolene Thies

Thomas & Mary  
Geraldine Becke

Charlene Tracht  
Sandra Hussey

Martin & Shirley  
Virginia & Russ V

Carolyn Rock

To: Music Enhancement Fund

Given by: Kermine Thies

To: Parish Nurse Fund

Given by: Ed & Norene Gr

### In Memory of **Gary Lum**

To Immanuel General Fund

Given by: Jill Chong  
Norma Sam

Carl & Carolyn F  
John Lum

Grant & Celvia M

To: Music Enhancement Fund

Given by: Kermine Thies

Justin Fletcher	7/22	Justin Pupillo
Steph Bauer	7/22	Jesse Wolfersberger
Janice Brauch	7/22	Joey Bogdajewicz
Corielle Miller	7/24	Joyce Holland
Arrett Miller	7/26	Jim Smith
Charlotte Smith	7/26	Denise Doggett
Ry Klasing	7/27	Larry Behle
My Wright III	7/29	Joan Newman
En Kempf	7/29	Melissa Stieg
En Chen Xin	7/29	Christina Pupillo
nee' Benage	7/29	Jeff Fletcher
Ki Fettig	7/30	Martin Payer
f Seeley	7/31	George Hildebrand II
nette Monnig	7/31	Jay Fletcher
Charles Heenan	7/31	Dwain Bollinger
ug Daniels	7/31	Stephanie Joachims



group that Dr. Rance Thomas started 19 years ago. It has over 22 covenant churches and is growing. Dr. Thomas was a guest speaker at a recent Sunday service and spoke to this group.

The groups guiding principles are:

- God's love is universal – there are no exceptions
- God loves each person unconditionally and calls us to love the same
- God calls us to embrace people of all colors, races and ethnic backgrounds
- Racism is harmful to individuals and destructive to communities, and is in opposition to God's will
- We manifest our faith by living and working in harmony with our community

The group does many wonderful things in the community through many programs that help youth and the needy. There is no one set requirement for participation in the group that is required for someone attend a bi-monthly board meeting. We have a large number of people covered with several people wanting to be involved. I encourage everyone to visit their website for more information. The website is **NCCUSTL.org**

We will have Dr. Thomas back on a Sunday for a cover service and signing in the very near future. If you have any questions, please reach out to anyone on the council or Pastor Jimmy.

The ancestry family tree which has lined the back wall of the basement in the sanctuary is temporarily disabled. It has been falling apart for years now. It is being looked at to the extent of needed repair. This could take quite some time. We just want you to know, that hanging for over thirty years now has taken its toll.

