



Greater Cincinnati Chapter Newsletter

Assisting churches and individuals with child evangelism and discipleship and connecting these children's families with Bible-believing churches

Two New Good News Clubs Launch This Spring

YMCA After-school Care Program at George H. Gerke Elementary School in Franklin



The Gerke Elementary Good News Club team from Berachah Church in Middletown

When Laura Nell Ferrell joined the Donovan Elementary School's Good News Club team to fill in for a team member heading south for the winter, she immediately saw how the Lord uses CEF to proclaim the Gospel, expand His kingdom and disciple children. After talking with

her daughter-in-law, Marianne, and son, Lamar Ferrell who is the Lead Pastor at Berachah Church in Middletown, Laura Nell recruited a team from church to start a club. The initial plan was to go into a Middletown School District elementary school this spring and expand into other district elementary schools in the fall but we have been getting pushback from the superintendent (please pray about that). The alternative was to hold club at the Butler County YMCA's after-school care program at George H Gerke Elementary School in Franklin.



Laura Nell Ferrell applying principles from the Bible lesson during WonderTime™

The first club was April 18th with 17 children. This is a dynamic team who is excited about evangelism and realizes the importance of reaching children. The second club was a blessing when over ten children raised their hands to talk to someone about what it means to believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior. Linda Lassetter took a group out into the hallway to talk about Jesus and two children made professions of faith. More recently, another four professed Christ. God is so good.



Angela Bohl and the missionary story

CHILD EVANGELISM
FELLOWSHIP® OF
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Ruth Boyatt,
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Sandy Silvashy,
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Betsy O'Kresik,
Joe Boyatt and
Mari Lou Banks
Committee Members

Treasurer
Jim Silvashy

Serving Butler,
Clermont,
Hamilton and
Warren Counties

Spring 2023

Berry Intermediate School in Lebanon



Rocky teaching the Bible lesson on Nicodemus

The Lebanon City School District has three elementary schools and CEF now has Good News Clubs in all three. Donovan Elementary (grades 3 and 4) has had a club for ten years, Bowman Primary (K through 2nd grades) started its club in the fall and now Berry Intermediate School (5th and 6th grades) started a club right after spring break. The Berry club is conducted by three Lebanon residents, Carolyn Horton, Rocky Smith and Hannah Meilstrup, a new volunteer.

The group as a whole is very interested in learning about the Lord. While some attend church many do not and we are thankful that two children received Christ as Lord and Savior after talking with Rocky.



Hannah teaching the Memory Verse



Pie Auction Raises Over \$9,400

And a fun time was had by all.

On April 15th over 80 guests attended the first pie auction in over eight years. It was held at Grace Bible Presbyterian Church in Sharonville where a number of CEF volunteers attend.

The evening began with a delicious meal prepared by Patty Haggard and her family. They donated their time and talents to support the ministry as they often do. Then Rocky Smith, Local Director, showed the inspiring Strunk Family Testimonial video where guests could see what the Lord has done through a Good News Club in Fairfield. Next, he explained upcoming ministry goals for our chapter that include ministries we haven't conducted since well-before Covid such as county and community fair booths that share the Gospel using the Wordless Book and summer Christian Youth in Action training for summer 5-Day Clubs. Committee Chairperson, Carolyn Horton, reviewed the different ways people can support the ministry through prayer, promotion and finances.



Rocky Smith presents upcoming 2023 ministries



After the presentation we were "entertained" by Jim and Sandy Silvasy. Jim is our chapter's treasurer and Sandy serves on the committee. We can practically guarantee you have never heard "The Blue Danube" by Johann Strauss played on the... newspaper.

Then auction fun began as guests bid on 30 homemade pies made by fellow guests and friends of the ministry. Not knowing how the bidding would go and using results from the pie auction years ago, the committee set the pie sales goal at \$1,000. Well, before the auction began a guest of Ruth and Joe Boyatt's had to cancel for the evening but said they wanted to buy the pecan pie Joe made for \$1,000! So.... we made our goal before the auction even began. Then committee member Mari Lou Banks, who we discovered is an experienced auctioneer, went to work and sold pies for up to \$350 each. A friend of CEF, Ruth Estep, volunteered to make a special pie (The Big Kahuna) that would go to the highest bidder and we think that helped us get high bids. The pie sales total was \$5,495. We also received nearly \$4,000 in donations!



The \$1,000 pecan pie



Mari Lou Banks and pie bid recording clerk Kristin Poeppelman

Many thanks to volunteers Patty Haggard and family, Michelle and Elijah Moreland and Jan Southerland, in the kitchen and Brett, Jen and Jackson Becker who were greeters, pie runners and auction ringers, and the Boyatt's daughter and son-in-law, Kristin and James Poeppelman, who took care of anything to do with bids and money. A special thanks to the committee, especially Ruth and Joe Boyatt, the primary organizers.



Above: Joe Boyatt
Below: Ruth Boyatt



Above: Mari Lou Banks working the auction crowd and entertaining at the same time



Above: guests waiting for their table to be called for dinner



Who Said It?
“Each day of our lives we make deposits in the memory banks of children.”
Answer on bottom of page 4

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon May 24th

Every year in the spring the Cincinnati chapter committee shows their appreciation for the volunteers who served throughout the year. This year’s lunch was held at Grace Bible Presbyterian Church with about 40 of the over 100 current volunteers. Rocky Smith reviewed the 2022-2023 school year in terms of children reached and professions of faith made and explained what’s coming up next, Christian Youth in Action and the Butler County Fair ministry. He also announced organized prayer zoom calls for next school year. Next, volunteers from clubs spoke about the blessings of this year which encouraged all of us. Most impactful were the stories of kids’ and their families’ changed lives.



Rocky discussing the prayer ministry starting in the fall.



Listening to thought-provoking and inspiring testimonials



Michelle Berry from Bowman Primary in Lebanon

Gearing Up for Christian Youth in Action (CYIA) This Summer

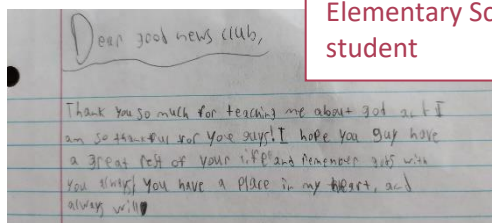


The 2022 CYIA training class

Our chapter has not conducted summer clubs in a number of years and therefore has not sent teens and young adults to training at CYIA so that they can teach. That's about to change as Rocky Smith is putting a 5-Day Clubs and single party clubs during the summer in our four counties. CYIA training will be held June 11th through 17th at Mount Vernon Nazarene University and Rocky will be the Director of the Junior Program as well as the Dean of Men.

CYIA prepares young people to become active members in the body of Christ and its impact goes beyond teaching 5-Day Clubs. Specifically, teens learn how to teach God's Word and how to guide children for salvation using a question-and-answer dialogue format and grow in personal leadership, communication, responsibility, endurance, team work and confidence. They also gain experience for service in their local churches. If you know anyone who would be interested in learning more about CYIA please contact Rocky. Also, please pray for CYIA.

CHILDREN OFTEN EXPRESS THEIR THANKFULNESS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS AND SOMETIMES THEY PUT IT IN WRITING. "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO PREACH THE GOOD NEWS." ROMANS 10:15B



From a Sharonville Elementary School student

A Word from Rocky Smith, Local Director



Rocky sitting next to Maelyn and Weston who received Jesus as Lord and Savior after one-on-one talks with Rocky.

April 15th of 2022 was Good Friday as well as my first day with Child Evangelism Fellowship of Greater Cincinnati. As I have served a year in this ministry, I marvel and praise God for all that He has done. I am asked regularly by both acquaintances and those I am very close with, "Hey Rocky, how's everything going with CEF?" I then describe my experience with candor and humor as "drinking through a firehose." When I consider all the learning, training, meetings and tasks that I am responsible for, I take great encouragement with the results that have so little to do with my efforts. Namely, when children respond to Jesus as their Savior! Over the past school year, I have seen Jesus drawing children to Him at the Good News Clubs in Lebanon. In the past four weeks, I have sat and witnessed two fifth graders pray to ask

Jesus to forgive them of their sins, and receive Him as their Savior. Praise the Lord! It is my great delight to report that one of these children named Weston, was baptized this month at Urbancrest Baptist Church in Lebanon. I want to express my most sincere thanks for those of you who regularly pray, serve, and give to our ministry. All three are needed.

Answer: Chuck Swindoll