



## The Red Brick Church in Stillman Valley

(Evangelical, Independent)

207 W. Roosevelt Road, PO Box 370  
Stillman Valley, Illinois 61084-0370

Rev. Dr. Chris Brauns

Associate Pastor David Bogner

**JANUARY 2024  
NEWSLETTER**

**CHURCH PHONE  
645-2526**

**CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESS  
cccoffice1@comcast.net**

*If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small. Proverbs 24:10*

Each year I begin a new folder on my computer for a new year of newsletter articles. I began full time as pastor at the Red Brick Church in January of 2005. So, I just opened my 20<sup>th</sup> folder for a new year of articles. My hair is grayer, but the system is the same.

When writing newsletter articles, I consider the question, “What does our flock need to be thinking about this month?” For example, In June of 2009, I wrote about the Romans series I was preaching on at that time.

Writing the articles for some months I need to stop and think for a bit to consider what to write about. But this year it is clear. My bride’s surgery is scheduled for January 10.

There’s no way around the challenge of our situation except to say that this will be a major and life altering surgery. The need to remove cancer from both Jamie’s pancreas and liver leaves no alternative. Pancreatic surgery is especially challenging. Our surgeon has explained to us more than once that sewing a pancreas up is like sewing up tissue paper. Leakage usually follows. One doctor explained to me, “the pancreas is an angry organ. It does not like to be messed with.” In contrast, the liver is more resilient.

All of us are most concerned about Jamie. But Jamie’s surgery will also require sacrifices by our church. Now entering my 20<sup>th</sup> year at our church, it’s amazing to look back and see that God has given us wonderful health for all those years.

But here we are. I will miss a number of Sundays. I’m not sure if I will be present for the annual meeting. Thankfully, we are well organized administratively. And we have lined up excellent preaching. But it’s still bound to be hard.

So how do we motivate ourselves to be at our best? I guess it depends somewhat on how a person is wired – and I challenged our church with this during the pandemic – but the thing that ought to fire us up is the thought that we are going to be at our best when times are the hardest. I mean it really is the case that if you crumble like a vanilla wafer under pressure then you prove you never had that much character in the first place.

The point of Proverbs 24:10 is that if we falter in times of trouble, we prove we never had that much character in the first place.

Thanks, by the way, so much for all the food and attention. Jamie and I deeply appreciate it.

But food is the part that is relatively easy. The more difficult and even impossible thing to do is to serve and be unselfish. That is the hard thing and so many of you serve.

I say it’s impossible – and sinners such as we are – it’s difficult. But what makes serving in the day of adversity far easier is knowing that we have Christ for an example. He never faltered or failed. And he is our King. We are his people. We will not falter in our time of trouble.

**CHAIRMAN OF BOARDS/COMMITTEES**

- Deacon Board – Clayton Midtsem...262-4254
- Deaconess Board – Deb Bonne .....979-0885
- Trustee Board – Brad Baker.....670-0039
- CE Committee – Cara Roberts 217-621-2460
- Mission Com. – Clayton Midtsem ....262-4254
- Music – Lance Mennen .....985-2484

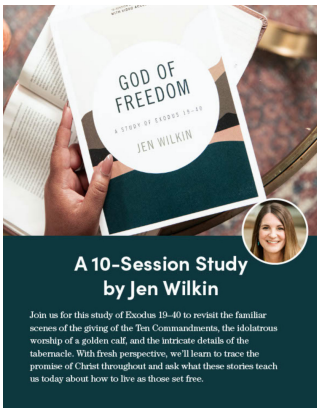
**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**Through December 31, 2023**

- Budget Giving through Dec. 31 ..... \$559,800
- Actual Giving through Dec. 31 ..... \$673,241
- Budget Giving vs. Actual Giving ..... \$113,441
- Actual Expenses through 12/31/23 .... \$541,518
- Actual Giving less Actual Expenses ... \$131,723

*Ladies Bible Studies*

Our Ladies Bible Studies (both Women of the Word and Mom’s and More) will be starting a Winter / Spring Bible study very soon!



*Ladies Bible Studies starts very soon!!!*

**Tuesday Evening Study**  
 Starts Tuesday, January 16th  
 6:30 to 8:00 pm  
 Brick Center

**Friday Morning Study**  
 Starts Friday, January 19th  
 9:00 to 10:30 am  
 Brick Center - Childcare provided.

*Register today!*

*Registration link on Red Brick Ladies FB page.*

**2023 ANNUAL REPORT**

COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS ARE DUE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE BY JANUARY 12, 2024

Reports from all boards and committees are needed in the church office no later than Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup>. Chairmen of all boards and committees should check with each respective secretary to be sure if the chairman or secretary is to write the report this year. Again, please be sure that all reports are in the church office by the morning of the 12<sup>th</sup>.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!**

- Jan. 4 - Wren Hickey
- Jan. 5 - Michael Cox
- Jan. 6 - Elizabeth Anderson
- Jan. 7 - Zeke Janoski
- Jan. 9 - Jackie Schumacher
- Jan. 12 - Grady McCoy
- Jan. 14 - Gary Rhodes
- Jan. 18 - Eric Long, Bristol Glendenning
- Jan. 19 - Leo Cardenas
- Jan. 20 - Anneliese Haak, Keaton Griffin
- Jan. 21 - Rhett Brass
- Jan. 22 - Patsy Hoernecke
- Jan. 25 - Judy Foster
- Jan. 27 - Gwen Baker, Hope Wallin
- Jan. 28 - Tina Garnhart
- Jan. 30 - Landon Haak
- Jan. 31 - Elaine Dodds
- Feb. 1 - Shannon and Grace Hickey
- Feb. 5 - Renley Svartoiem

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

- Jan. 24 - Grady and Millie McCoy
- Feb. 1 - Brad and Tessa Baker

**Awana® THEME NIGHTS**

**Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>**  
 M & M Night; bring your banks to club.

**Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>**  
 Dress like your Parent Night.

**Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>**  
 Wear stripes to club on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>**  
 Get out your favorite warm stocking cap and wear it to club tonight,

**Please note:** We will be meeting in the sanctuary on January 9<sup>th</sup> for the Prayer Meeting for Jamie.

PLEASE JOIN US

PRAYER MEETING FOR JAMIE

Tuesday, January 9th @ 6:30 pm

\* In the Church Sanctuary \*

PRAYER MEETING





Our annual meeting this year will be on **SUNDAY, JANUARY 28<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm** in the church sanctuary. Reports for the annual meeting will be available in the back of the church on Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup> for all active members and non-members. Please bring your report with you back to the meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Extra copies will not be available at the meeting.

Please be sure and review each report prepared by all committees and boards prior to the annual meeting. We will not be going through each report individually, but will open up the meeting by addressing any questions and concerns from the congregation in regard to these reports. After all questions have been answered we will vote to approve the reports as a package.

As members of a congregational church, we have both a responsibility and privilege to come and have a voice and vote in deciding issues our church faces for the upcoming year.

Following the Annual Meeting, everyone is invited over to the Brick Center for a Soup Supper.

## MONTHLY MEN'S MINISTRY



Last Thursday of the Month Men's Gathering begins on January 25<sup>th</sup> in the Brick Center. Plan on joining us the last Thursday night of each month from 6:30 to 8:00 pm through May. Dates are: 1/25, 2/29, 3/28, 4/25 and 5/30.

**YOUTH GROUP ROLLER SKATING PARTY**  
~ THE RINK ~  
(by White Pines State Park)  
This Saturday, January 13th  
12:30 - 3:30 pm  
COST: \$10 plus any spending money for snacks  
Please RSVP so we can plan for transportation!

Please rsvp to: <https://rsvp.church/r/8h2T10NO>. We will leave the church at 12:30 pm and return at 3:30 pm for those needing transportation.



## YOUTH GROUP WINTER CAMP

Registration is opening soon!!!  
**WINTER RETREAT**  
*Youth Camp*  
February 16-18  
Expeditions Unlimited

Cost is \$100 with scholarships available.  
**REGISTRATION WILL BE OPEN SOON!!**

*Soup Supper*  
Sunday, January 28th, 2024  
5:00 pm in the Brick Center  
(Immediately following the Annual Meeting)

# FROM PASTOR DAVID . . .

*So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. Romans 10:17*

Christians, we are a people saved by faith. The Bible clearly tells us God's means for forming repentance and faith in us. He does it by the work of his Holy Spirit and Word.

Last year at this time, I shared with you that I was shaking up my reading plan. Often, I don't do the same through-the-Bible plan in the exact same way year after year. In 2023, I followed the Robert Murray M'Cheyne Bible Reading Plan, reading through the ESV. In the past, I've read through the Bible using other plans or English versions.

The M'Cheyne plan concluded the year with 2 Chronicles, Malachi, the Gospel of John, and Revelation. Laid side-by-side, day after day, readings from each of these books complement and contrast the experience of God's people over centuries. The reading plan lends itself to seeing the big story of the Bible many of the days during the year.

If not a reading plan, might you consider committing to listening to the Bible each day? Crossway has several daily podcasts by men and women who love God's Word reading the daily passages following different plans. A link to an article on the Crossway website is at the bottom of the document shared below.

Find Bible reading plans, descriptions, and links to them all in one document.

**[bit.ly/brick-reading-plans](https://bit.ly/brick-reading-plans)** or use the **QR code** to the right.



---

**THE RED BRICK CHURCH**

**PO Box 370**

**Stillman Valley, IL 61084**

**\*\* RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED \*\***



# HEBREWS 10:23-25

<sup>23</sup>LET US HOLD FAST THE PROFESSION OF OUR FAITH WITHOUT WAVERING; FOR HE IS FAITHFUL THAT PROMISED; <sup>24</sup>AND LET US CONSIDER ONE ANOTHER TO PROVOKE UNTO LOVE AND TO GOOD WORKS:

<sup>25</sup>NOT FORSAKING THE ASSEMBLING OF OURSELVES TOGETHER, AS THE MANNER OF SOME IS; BUT EXHORTING ONE ANOTHER: AND SO MUCH THE MORE, AS YE SEE THE DAY APPROACHING.<sup>KJV</sup>