

Sterling Wood Connection

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | STERLING WOOD CHURCH
JULY 2018 – VOLUME 22



MISSION TRIP: GUATEMALA

Mary Clough was one of nine Sterling Wood members who traveled to Guatemala last month. Even with an active volcano threatening the country, Mary writes about all that God accomplished on this trip.

When Fuego Volcano erupted on June 3rd, no one knew exactly how it would affect our trip to Guatemala. We soon found out that the Cross Plains portion of our group chose to stay home due to safety concerns. This left us with nine: Pat and Norma Hoock, Adrian and Laurie Newman, César and Cheri Palacio, Kathy Shelly, Ann Baker and me – the smallest group since our very first trip.

Our team looked puny compared to everything we'd planned, but God worked it all out. Between Norma's wonderful family and the relationships we have cultivated over the years with the Guatemalans, we were able to do almost everything after all.

The medical clinic saw 150 people, while the pharmacy



dispensed countless medications. Four to five hundred kids at two schools enjoyed Vacation Bible School. Seven homes received new stoves. Thirty-one 7th, 8th and 9th graders received much-needed tutoring in math. We hosted a Thank You banquet for around 50 people on Sunday night and a Father's Day program on Tuesday evening.

We all worked hard; but, honestly, none of it would have been possible without God being right there in the middle of it and with the help of our Guatemalan co-workers in Christ.

Church Events

July 1

Katy McKey and Taylor Marin's
Wedding Shower 3-5PM

July 4

Independence Day
No Youth or WOW activities

July 7-11

Preteen Camp

July 15

VBS Crew Leader Meeting
12:30-2PM

July 21

VBS Prep Day
9AM-1PM

July 22-25

Vacation Bible School



Marriage Retreat

LOOKING TO CONNECT MORE WITH YOUR SPOUSE?

Join us September 7-8 for a romantic getaway at South Shore Harbor Resort. Spots are limited and filling up quickly.

Click [HERE](#) to claim your spot and pay your deposit online.



CPR/AED Training

CPR and AED training is being held August 6 from 6-10PM. Cost is \$22 and open to the first eight people who sign up.

SWC is purchasing an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) for approx. \$1500. If you would like to donate to the cost, please click [HERE](#).



Vacation Bible School

July 22-25, 6:15-8:50PM

**REGISTRATION
HAPPENING NOW!**

For all kids ages 4yrs (potty-trained) to completed 6th grade.

Click [HERE](#) to register online.



YOUTH MYSTERY WEDNESDAYS

Youth Mystery Wednesdays

Every Wednesday through August

You won't know where we are going until you show up.

Connect on REMIND to get clues:

<https://www.remind.com/join/fddfea>

Pastor's Pen

Dr. Robert Steele, Interim Pastor

An inside joke among Russian Communist party members in the 1930s produced a word that is much in vogue today. "Comrade, your statement is factually incorrect. However, it is politically correct." For Stalin, political correctness meant that truth was secondary to whether an idea or agenda advanced the ideology of Communism. Unless it was politically correct, according to party doctrine, it was not correct or true. Reality and truth were what the party said it was.

Political correctness is cultural Marxism/Communism. It is a Godless totalitarian ideology that translated economic Marxism into cultural terms. William Lind wrote that Marxist theorists "said that Western culture and the Christian religion had 'so blinded' the working class...that Communism was impossible in the West until traditional culture and Christianity were destroyed." The advocates of political correctness are committed to destroying Christianity in America. And for the most part, the courts have rendered verdicts based on political correctness rather than truth and the Constitution of the United States.

Dr. Edward Younkens calls such ideology "Cultural Relativism." Dr. Younkens wrote, "Cultural relativism is

the mistaken idea that there are no objective standards by which our society can be judged because each culture is entitled to its own beliefs and accepted practices." The result of such philosophy is that there is no objective moral truth for all people and therefore we should not impose our traditional cultural (Judeo-Christian) values on any person or country. Relativism states that truth is different for each individual and only the individual can decide for himself what is right or wrong. Therefore, the Bible is an old Book written for another time and people and is not relevant for modern man. The same is true of the U.S. Constitution. It must be rewritten or least interpreted to reflect political correctness. Activist judges have based their decisions on their ideology and not the Constitution.

Truth is not relative. Truth is absolute. Truth is truth at all times and in all places. Jesus emphatically declared, *I am the way, the truth, the life*. Jesus is Truth; He is the originator of truth and He alone communicates His truth in His Word. The Bible is the depository of God's truth. It is the textbook of truth. And God's truth is eternal.

Political correctness is based on a lie from the father of lies, Satan. Our nation is in deep trouble because we have removed truth from our culture. Even though we repeat it in our pledge of allegiance, "one nation under God," it is a false statement. We are not a nation under God, but rather a nation that has fallen for cultural communism, i.e. "political correctness."

On this 242nd anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, let us be reminded that we were founded as a Christian nation and our Constitution and basic legal structure is based on Biblical precepts.

God help us return to your Truth, the Word of God.

Camp Zephyr

Rise Youth Ministry took 19 students and 4 leaders to Camp Zephyr. Our students took a week-long look into the worthiness of God and were challenged with the question: "Is God worth of our time, our attention, and our lives?" Our students spent time learning to understand that they are children of God, regardless of their actions and circumstances, once they submit and turn their lives over to Him. His worthiness ultimately covers our inadequacies.



The students also spent time in recreation and fellowship. Between the concert of Christian Rap artist KB, a performance by 321 Improv, and worship led by Urban Rescue, the students had awesome examples of people willing to stop and give back to show how God has proven himself to be worthy. We look to continue to show our students, our church and our community that God is truly worthy of our time, our attention and our lives.

