

**DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES REPORT to the
CONSISTORY of RICHVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

October 4th, 2021

My monthly report typically begins with me attending our CE meeting. This started off on Sept 8th at 6:30pm at the church. As part of our October agenda discussion, I have been active in planning the return of Trunk or Treat & our Second Annual Best Dressed Pet contest. More details will follow on next month's report. I attended our all-staff meeting on Sept 15th at 7:15 pm at the church. I've continued to be active in correspondence with both CE and Staff as we move into this last quarter of the ministry year. Good interaction & discussion with all other leaders/colleagues in ministry!

My presence is always solid at our Kid's Service Sunday's/noisy offering worship time (Sept 19th). If my job duties crossover on this Sunday like it did, I have the faithfulness of our dedicated CE members to help facilitate the service while I'm behind the camera. I continue searching in advance for our young people to serve in the typical capacities as prompters of worship. Even when kid inventory is low in trying to fill the open spots in worship, it still offers good connections with our youth & families. I try to be creative in a complex world in which we live, using this ministry as a sincere heart-felt outreach to our people and community. What typically is not recorded on my timecard is the prayers for all the people who once was active or have fallen away from our safe sanctuary offered to them and their families. Only God can change hearts! I try to be a messenger of comfort to them as many say, "Thanks for always thinking about us!" With that said, opportunities arise when one new family shows up out-of-the-blue that has children; one with special needs. I thank CE and others for helping minister to the needs of this family! My Sunday School teacher search campaign has been somewhat fruitful thus far, but this new family has immediately brought a nursery concern and its coverage. It has accelerated my efforts! I'm praying that our on-line presence to that target audience is making an impact! I'm grateful, once again, to be able to facilitate the live streaming and this method of ministry to provide others the truth each week!

Our beloved RISE are still a faithful group, but with teenage schedules! After preparation for our 6 pm Sunday evening gathering on the fun-filled day of Sept 19th, many were unable to attend due to scheduling. We canceled and tried for Sept 26th, and still couldn't meet in person. We decided to correspond by text or even may consider trying Zoom if necessary, before our next Oct 17th meeting.

**Respected submitted,
Gary Bickel
Director of Youth & Family Ministries**