

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

November 1st, 2021

I attended our monthly CE meeting on October 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the church. With a discussion of a vast array of subject areas, one item we concentrated on was the soon arrival of Trunk or Treat/Best Dressed Pet and other calendar events. As far as this October 24<sup>th</sup> activity, I oversaw promoting and canvassing the community about this event. I was pleasantly surprised and excited to see the great turnout and reception of our visiting guests! I was tickled when a man (Kevin Smith) and his horse (Electra) signed up and filled out a registration to come and pass out candy, offer pony rides, and let us use his sound system during this event! With the efforts of CE, RISE, and ALL the volunteers, they received the crowd with open arms. I reached-out with some of our visitors to the best of my ability as I tried to hand-off registration forms-which was a challenge during this event. I also followed-up (post-event) and thanked them for joining us, and hoped they had a great time. I left the door open for them to join us at any time!

I've also been working on my SS teacher search campaign in which we now have a total of FIVE teacher/nursery volunteers that can cover this area of ministry! The newest to our addition is Karen Gerber and Pam Bates, who have both been through the Shephard's Watch (background check) protocol.

I attended the Kid's Service Sunday on October 17<sup>th</sup>, but my services were again needed at my streaming/camera position in worship. But, because of the steadfastness and presence of CE, bases were covered.

I met with RISE at 6pm on Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at the church patio room. We had a great time of spiritual formation (content follows the overall weekly theme) plus celebrated my birthday afterwards. When not in person, we all typically stay-in-touch by group texts. One long-term vision we discussed was to consider some type of Summer retreat in 2022. This will be bathed in much prayer based on timing, pandemic restrictions, and RISE schedules!

After our recent CE meeting, I've been researching 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Bibles and their distribution. I've fine-tuned my research, "so far", with CE and have landed three candidates: Katelyn Lenarz, Jonathon Whitaker, and Tanner Mullin. Until this is publicized and a time setup in worship, I'm basically waiting to "pull-the-trigger". The "Director's Chair" is still making its presence on Richville's Facebook page! Our October all-staff meeting was canceled, so I wasn't present this month. It is to be rescheduled.

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