

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

January 2nd, 2023

My report begins by attending the CE meeting on December 6th at 6:30pm at the church. This month basically consisted of making sure Elizabeth Whitaker was of sound mind as she tackled both the Sunday School responsibilities and the Kid's annual Christmas program. I stuck close with CE by email this month and reported any updates or "breaking news" as it happened.

I assisted in the placement of our December readers for our Kid's Service, which landed on December 18th, along with the Christmas Program.

I made the arrangements for our kiddos to present their nativity program with singing carols at The Inn at University Village at 2pm that same Sunday afternoon. We also distributed the Christmas ornaments that were chosen for our Christmas Eve service to the residents at the Inn. We had enough to supply the crowd at the Inn, plus for each family unit at our service on December 24th. I made sure the ornaments were available that evening for our kid's to pass out to our worshipping guests! Thanks to our own CE Jennifer Schumacher for her faithfulness in getting these ordered in a timely manner!

As always, I've attempted to reach out to RISE ad nauseum for their service at the various Holiday outreach events, etc. Their participation has dwindled in recent months perhaps to "ageing out" of the senior high scene? I've continued to be available and in communication. As stated in other places I've reported and in correspondence, I include our junior higher's and give them opportunity to serve as well! I contacted Pastor -w- if we were offering a confirmation lock-in and/or service project in January during MLK junior weekend. The response was affirmative, so I quickly corresponded with him on possible service project ideas, and I've been working on this project post-haste! I've reached out to Hammer & Nails on two occasions and have heard no response. I also tried Perry Helping Perry Food Pantry but realized that their food distribution timing didn't fit our calendar schedule. So, I remembered an email conversation from Jackie Schlemmer from November of 2019 of a suggestion of our confirmands building a "Blessing Box" for our church. I presented this reminder to Pastor -w- and he agreed to pursue this service project, since Hammer & Nails hasn't responded. Therefore, I've reached out to Dick Lutz to be our "Project Manager" to help lead & guide our confirmation boys in building this "blessing box"! At the time of this authorship, it appears Dick will setup and assume this position! I have Donny Jones as a "possible backup" just in case? Details to follow in January's report!

Respected submitted,

Gary Bickel

Director of Youth & Family Ministries