

RushChurch Family . . . where do I begin? Perhaps at the end. You were probably taught, as was I, that you never start at the end of a story. My teachers often chided, "If you start at the end of the story, you'll ruin it." Unfortunately, I don't know where else to begin as I think about the story you, God, and I have co-written together these last 5+ years.

As I finish my final days with you, I am overwhelmed with emotions. If you could crawl up in to this mind of mine (I hardly recommend it), you would find ample supplies of joy, sadness, grief, excitement, and a host of other emotions. You would also discover a heart that is full. Our years at RushChurch have been marked by God's grace, tender hearts, warm embraces, and the lives of many. Thank you for letting me into your times of joy and times of sorrow. Thank you for letting me listen and advise. Thank you for letting me laugh with you, cry with you, and pray with you. Thank you.

May your hearts continue to lean hard into Jesus. May you continue to seek Him with all your heart. May you trust in the Lord with all of your heart and choose not to lean on your own understanding. May you acknowledge Him in all your ways, knowing that He will make your paths straight.

I have complete trust in the elders of RushChurch to prayerfully search for and find the next man to preach, love, lead, and serve you. RushChurch is blessed to be led by men who earnestly seek God first in their lives. May you embrace the next preacher the way you embraced me.

The way you embraced me . . . that thought brings me back to the beginning. The end of our story is much like the beginning. RushChurch has been an absolute joy since the very start. From our initial stay with Rick and Bonnie Kennedy through our Legacy Initiatives, Big Feeds, Serve the Villages, and multiple stories of transformation, you have been a sincere joy.

I will continue to pray for you. I will miss you, but I can't wait to see what God does in you and through you next!!!!!!

All Because of Jesus,
Craig

Our New Address
Craig & Audrey Howie
2128 Cherry Park
Lebanon, IN 46052

2016, An Exciting Year

Next year promises to be an exciting time in our church life. We will select a new senior minister. There is no timetable but the process is underway. The Elders will seek and interview the prospective candidate or candidates. The candidate selected will be introduced to the congregation and opportunities will be scheduled for the church to meet the person before making a decision about him. The Elders need and appreciate your prayer support during this important process.

Our leadership is committed to "full speed ahead." No one suggests or thinks we should call a "time out" while selecting a new senior minister. "Full speed" means two things in the life of our church - growing and maturing as disciples of Jesus and helping others to become fully devoted followers of Jesus. Effective programs and activities will be enhanced and improved. We will continue the search for new ministries to better serve our Lord in this community.

Our new deacons, unanimously affirmed, set a great example for everyone to step up our commitment to Jesus a half a notch or so. Staff will require more assistance to keep up the pace. Opportunities abound today for you to find your niche and place of service for Jesus in our congregational life.

I look forward to serving as the point person and interim minister, during this transition period. I am available to assist in any way I can be of help. Feel free to call me at home or the office or to email me any questions or concerns. You can help me and the church by keeping me informed of events and needs. Though I have a good deal of experience I have never developed the ability to "read minds" or intuit personal needs.

Last but not least, we extend our thanks to Craig for his caring leadership and ministry with us. We pray his new ministry will continue to encourage people to faithful service as together we work to multiply the number of disciples for Jesus in our world.
Lynn

January Serving Schedule

Primary Deacons

Brendan Bayliss, Troy Gibson and Theron France

Communion Prep

Kathy Bellomy

Communion Meditation and Home Communion

January 03 Randy Varner

January 10 Luke Skidmore

January 17 Joe Ramsey

January 24 Jim Hoffman

January 31 Lynn Cleaveland

Mill Street Grill

9:00 - 9:30 - Gary Downey

10:30 - 11:00 - Kelly Johnson

Connection Team - Welcome Center & Greeters

Gary & Joyce Downey

Kids Back Yard Check-In Desk

9:15 - 10:45 - Rick and Gloria Herring

10:45 - 12:15 - Jodi Varner

Kids Back Yard Games

10:30 - 11:00 - Emma Lusby



2016 Spring Session 6:00PM - 7:30PM

January 06, 13, 20, 27

February 03, 10, 17, 24

March 02, 09, 16, 23

For Kids age 4 - 6th Grade



RushChurch
Rushsylvania Church Of Christ

January 2016

RushChurch
student ministries



Parents,

First of all, I want to let you know that Jocelyn and I love serving your families and working with your kids. We love coming to ball games and pig shows, taking your kids to retreats and camps, and watching them as the truth of God's Word becomes real for them. We also value the importance of being asked to visit when tough times come and when your kids are broken and hurting. We also greatly appreciate the love that you all pour out upon us on a regular basis, whether it is a dozen eggs from your household chickens, a gift card to a restaurant, a hug in the hallway or help when we have problems with our cars or our home. (or just need a babysitter for our 2 little crazy girls...) And because all of this, I just have one question for you...

HOW CAN WE HELP?

Our job as parents is overwhelming on the good days and can feel impossible on the bad days. The goal of the ministries of RushChurch for both students and kids is to help you navigate the maze of raising kids that know and love Jesus. This is one of the main reasons that we offer all the programs like Sunday mornings in The Backyard or at RushsylMania, our Wednesday night kids program, and Collide, our Sunday morning and evening program for teens. It is also why we offer a monthly newsletter which is separate from the main newsletter and is just for parents, and is packed full of great articles by well-known professionals that give practical advice about how to raise kids that follow Jesus. It is why we take kids to events like those featured below where they will be challenged in their walk with Jesus and encouraged to grow.

But one of the only ways for us to be able to support and equip you to be the parents God designed you to be is for you to tell us how we can help you. Tell us about those events that are important to your kids. Tell us when your family is going through a tough time and could just use some help. Give us feedback about our programs and how they might be tweaked to better support your family. Please understand that we might not be able to be at everything or make changes every time someone gives us feedback, but those are things that we take into consideration every time we evaluate our programs and ministries.

One of the easiest ways for you to let us know how we can support you is by going to the student page of www.rushchurch.com and filling out the FAMILY NEEDS ASSESSMENT at the bottom of the page. It is a simple 10 question survey that we can use as we mold programs and ministries for your family. Or you can call, text, email, FB message, Tweet, or Instagram message me at anytime. We love you. We love your kids. We want to see you succeed as parents and see your kids succeed and grow into the men and women of God that we know they can be.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

In this time of transition, we know that there may be some questions about what is going to happen to the programs at the church and will we have to cancel things, etc...no. Our ministries and programs are run by faithful volunteers, and this is not a time to slow down your participation. Instead, find a place for your (and your kids...) to volunteer; and watch your faith grow as you serve alongside faithful disciples of Jesus.

God has blessed us with the Howies for 5 years and we look forward to working with the man that God brings to take over the role of Senior Pastor here at RushChurch. Enjoy Christmas with your families and let your kids know you love them.

Ben

