

Catch-Up Sunday (sample newsletter)

ENCOURAGEMENT comes from an often quoted and favorite scripture of many. "Yet, those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary". Isaiah 40:31

Again a message to wait on the Lord is found in Acts 1:4-8. The wait is always worth it! The power of the Holy Spirit in Acts 1:8 resulted in bold witnesses. In verse 11 of Acts 1 the men of Galilee are asked, "Why do you stand looking into the sky?" The time of waiting is over; there is work to be done. He is ahead of us, looking for us to be faithful. II Chronicles 16:9 says, "The eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His". In other words, we need to ***Catch Up!*** *He is waiting.*

The phrase, ***Catch-Up***, can be very positive. It means there is something great ahead and I don't want to miss it! In the context of our church, a ***Catch-Up Sunday*** is an opportunity to catch up on our plans for ministry, our vision and our special needs.

Due to a harsh winter with plenty of snow and sickness, our church fell behind in our planned ministries and regular budget giving. ***Catch-Up Sunday*** will provide a special opportunity for us as a congregation to catch up in our giving to meet the plans and ministries that are already in place and to "catch up" on these additional ministry projects. (list goal 2 and describe; list goal 3 and describe)

Will you PRAY for the Lord's leadership? Will you pray for His leadership with regard to your individual sacrificial gifts toward the ***Catch-Up Sunday*** offering? SACRIFICE means a decision to forego something, however worthwhile, in order to participate generously in support of these ***Catch-Up Sunday*** goals.

Remember that when you have prayed about your gift, discovered the Lord's leadership, and made the gift a reality, you will have a deep satisfaction within. Tremendous joy accompanies sacrificial giving and we can be partakers of that joy.

My prayer is that each family will make a genuine sacrifice with the same spirit as the Macedonian Christians – "not equal gifts, but equal sacrifice". The result will be a new unity and a fresh dedication of the membership of "Anywhere Baptist Church" toward the Lord's work.

Grace and Peace,
Your Pastor

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Catch-Up Sunday Goals

"Not that I have already obtained it, or have already become perfect, but I press on in order that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus... I press on toward the goal..." Philipians 3:12, 14.

Financial Goals:

In a church's life, as well as an individual's, we have goals and dreams. *Anywhere Baptist Church* has ongoing ministry goals and dreams. We can exist from week to week or we can "press on" toward our ministry plans. We have before us an opportunity to not only continue our ministry plans that are already in place, but to move forward (in this matter, toward this project...). **Catch-Up Sunday** will help us achieve our goals.

Goal 1: Catch-Up \$ _____
This will help us catch up on our budget giving

Goal 2: Double-Up \$ _____
This will catch us up or help us get ahead

Goal 3: Special Project \$ _____

- ***Goals can be named based on their need and purpose***
- ***A special project goal will enable us to do _____ or to establish a fund to do _____. (Example: van fund, land purchase, landscaping, church sign, steeple, baptistry, etc.)***

Attendance Goals:

Catch-Up Sunday high attendance in Sunday School
Sunday School goal: _____

Catch-Up Sunday high attendance in Worship
Worship goal: _____



Pray for our church as we strive to Catch up in our giving toward budget needs, special ministries and worship and Sunday School attendance. Pray daily for **Catch-Up Sunday**, (date).