

Tunnel Hill Christian Church holds 19th Annual Chicken, Fix'ns & Fun festival

Written by Administrator

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Tunnel Hill Christian Church held their 19th Annual Chicken, Fix'ns & Fun festival Sunday at the church, which is between Georgetown and Edwardsville.

People who attended could enjoy barbecue chicken, fresh vegetables, and plenty of homemade desserts. The church held an outdoor service in the morning, and gospel singers performed on the hour throughout the festival.

A Horseshoe Tournament and a Corn Hole Tournament were also held, double elimination. The winner of each tournament won a trophy and a cash prize, with trophies going to the 2nd and 3rd place winners. The Horseshoe Tournament top three were: 1st-Ralph Webb; 2nd-Gordon Lamb; 3rd-John Riley. In the Corn Hole Tournament, the top three were: 1st-Don Love; 2nd-Darla Herthel; 3rd-John Riley.

This was the eighth year for the Horseshoe Tournament and the second year for the Corn Hole Tournament.

There were games for children inside, and also a white elephant sale inside the congregation's activity center, which is inside a modern steel building. It contains plenty of floor space, and has a well equipped kitchen, restrooms, and storage rooms. Upstairs in a second level, above the kitchen and restrooms, there are three classrooms and a conference room.

The activity building, which is approximately four years old, was largely possible due to the annual Chicken, Fix'ns & Fun festival having been started in the first place. The church needed larger space for fellowship, and they started the festival with the aim to be able to save enough money to build an activity building at some point in the future.

As long time member Becky Riley said, "We started this whole thing to build this (building)."

The building still has no central air conditioning, and is a must in the humid Ohio Valley summers of Southern Indiana. This and an elevator are planned in the next wave of improvements in the still new activity building.

The new building makes certain ongoing outreach ministries possible, and they all are geared towards the community as a whole.

An ongoing feature on the 3rd Friday in even numbered months (such as August and October) at Tunnel Hill is a Special Needs Dance, for people with any mental or physical handicaps. Several group homes from the counties of Crawford, Harrison, Floyd, and Clark come as a whole, and participate in the fun. The dance scheduled for August 21 will have a 50's rock and roll theme. The music entertainment is yet to be decided. The dance will be from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Brenda Simmons, Missions Outreach for Tunnel Hill, has been coordinating the dances. She said, "We have great support from Tunnel Hill Christian Church. Boy Scout Troop 25 helps with the Special Needs Dances, and a DJ from the church, Terry Kehrler, plays at the dances."

Another new feature of the church is their before and after school care, called The LINK. LINK stands for Loving Individuals Nurturing Kids. This opens August 13th, and for now will take students in grades K-5. They will provide free, with the fee for the LINK program, homework help, educational activities, crafts, and will be available from 6 a.m. until the start of school, and from the end of school until 6 p.m. The service is available to anyone with the capability of providing transportation to and from the church, and is open to all denominations.

Tunnel Hill Christian Church Pastor Becky Gibbons had an opportunity to become the pastor of other larger church congregations, but chose Tunnel Hill because she was amazed at the passion of the church as a whole.

"The sizes of this church, to have this kind of facility-these people are dreamers," she said Sunday. "They have a passion; they have a ministry."

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She added that the still new activity building wasn't to grow their church, but was to "make our community a better place."

For more information about anything, call the church at (812) 923-5344. Join St. Mary of the Knobs to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in style! Their 4th Annual Reverse Raffle is set for Friday, March 13 at 7:30 p.m. Only 100 tickets sold in increments of \$100, \$50, and \$25. Total cash prizes of \$5,500 – even losers have a second chance to win!