

**The Ridge Church**  
**7350 Old Hwy 13**  
**Carbondale, IL 62901**

**Phone:** 618.457.0479

**Email:** RidgeChurch@OnTheRidge.org

**Web:** [www.OnTheRidge.org](http://www.OnTheRidge.org)

### Join us Sunday

Small Groups/SS	9:00 AM
Morning Worship	10:15 AM
Evening Worship	6:00 PM
Children's Choir	6:00 PM

### Wednesday Night is Family Night

Supper (by Reservation)	5:30 PM
Bible Study & Prayer	6:30 PM
Mission Friends	
Children in Action	
Youth Bible Study	

### Follow us on Facebook:

[facebook.com/OnTheRidgeChurch](https://www.facebook.com/OnTheRidgeChurch)

### Follow us on Twitter:

[twitter.com/TheRidgeChurch1](https://twitter.com/TheRidgeChurch1)

### Our Mission:

*The Mission of The Ridge Church is to lead non-believers into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ*

**Identity: My Life of Faith**  
**My Life in the Community**

**The Point:** Loving Jesus means personally helping those in need.

Join us Sunday at 9 AM as we study Matthew 25:34-40 and discuss these **5 questions**

1. What do you like best about your community?
2. What modern circumstances come to mind when you read these verses?
3. What keeps us from reaching out to those who need our help?
4. With so many needs in our community and beyond, how do we decide whom to help?
5. What is something we will do as a group to serve Jesus by serving 'the least of these'?

\*\*\*

**Sunday Night**  
**Summer Spectacular**  
**Begins June 25**  
**Church-Wide Picnic**



# The Witness



Wes Henson, Pastor

May 21, 2017

Vol. 41, No. 20

## Church Membership Update



In just the nick of time, the weather is starting to follow the calendar. Whether this continues or not is anyone's guess. After all, this IS Southern Illinois!

I would like to update you on a task taken on by the Church Council

**Membership Update:** One of the goals of the Church Council this year is to update the membership list. Currently **WSBC/The Ridge** has more than 720 members including 350 resident members. Obviously, this is not an accurate picture.

Since January, the council has been updating the membership list (NO small undertaking). They will present their results in June. Two lists will be presented: 1) Members of Walnut Street Baptist Church and 2) Members of the Ridge Church.

Members of The Ridge Church are those members who attend the Ridge Church, support The Ridge church, and/or connected to The Ridge Church.

The WSBC members will be those who have not connected with The Ridge Church.

The plan is to present the two lists to the congregation in the middle of June for review. Questions will be referred to the Church office. Then a scheduled date will be set for church approval sometime later in June. .

Finally, we will have a current list of The Ridge Church members.

We Labor Together With God *Wes*

**Deacon of the Week:**

Alan Dover

**Trustee of the Month**

Lisa Hottensen

\*\*\*\*\*

**In Bible Study and Worship**

Small Groups/ SS: 151  
Worship: 124

**God's Tithe and Our Offerings**

General Fund: \$4,499.00  
Debt Retirement: 427.59  
David Baggett Memorial: 30.00  
Youth Fuge 120.00

**Remembrance Sunday  
May 28**

Please call the office with names and date of death of those who died in 2016



**Home Connection**

Ray Charles  
2940 W. Westridge  
PL. Carbondale IL,  
62901

Please remember Ray with a card or a phone call.

Home Connections!  
Make one This Week

**May Events on The Ridge**

May 21 - National Day  
Of Prayer for VBS  
May 28 - Remembrance Sunday  
\*\*\*\*\*

**SummerTime  
on The Ridge**

June 4 - Birthday Potluck  
June 11- VBS Prayer walk

**June 12-16  
Vacation Bible School**

June 16 VBS Celebration Night  
June 25 Church-Wide Picnic

July 2 Patriotic Celebration  
July 9 Birthday Potluck  
July 16 Miners Baseball  
July 23 Homemade Ice Cream  
July 30 Bacon Sandwich Nite

August 6 Birthday Potluck  
August 13 Show 'n'Tell and  
Watermelon Feast  
August 20 Sunday Night Movie  
August 21 Solar Eclipse Picnic  
August 27 Step Up Sunday  
\*\*\*\*\*



**Register Now**

Vacation Bible School  
June 12-16; 9 - Noon  
4 yrs - completed 6th grade

Scan QR code  
To register  
children now



\*\*\*

**YOUTH VBS**

June 12-15;  
12:30- 3 PM



Scan QR code  
To register  
YOUTH now

\*\*\*



Get The VBS  
APP from iTunes  
or Google Play

**Hospitality May 21**

Casserole: Rosie Hertter  
Bakery: Angie James  
Fruit: Debbie Speith

If you would volunteer to bring food, please sign up in the hospitality area.

\*\*\*

**Wednesday Adult  
Bible Study 6:30 PM**

**"The Relationship Restored"**

Mark 15:22-16:7  
*Jesus gave His life  
to be my Savior.*

\*\*\*

**Sunday Night**

5:00 PM Deacons Meeting  
6:00 PM - Children Choir  
6:00 PM - 12 disciples

Our study concludes with John son of Zebedee:-  
James the son of Alphaeus

We plan to stream with Facebook Live.



**This Week on The Ridge**

**Sunday, May 21**

8:30 AM-Coffee and...  
9:00 AM-Small Groups/ SS  
10:15 AM - Morning Worship

**Wednesday, May 24**

7:00 AM - Men's Bible Study  
9:30 AM - River to River Bible Study  
5:45 PM - Dinner by reservation

**Menu:** spaghetti, salad,  
garlic bread, dessert

6:30 PM - Adult Bible Study and  
Prayer Time, Children's  
Mission Activity,  
And Youth Bible Study.

**Friday, May 26**

10: 00 AM - Century  
Assisted Bible Study  
\*\*\*



Celebrating  
the  
Ordinance  
of Baptism  
June 25  
10:15 AM



## HAPPY FLAMINGO-ING

Surprise! You may be FLAMINGO'D by one of your "friends," as a fundraiser for the Ridge Youth! These flamingos will nest in your yard for just a few days. Below are the details on how you can have our feathered friends removed.

### Flamingo Removal and Relocation

- \$15 donation- a trained technician will remove the flock
- \$20 donation- a trained technician will remove and relocate the flock to a friend of your choice
- \$30 donation– Flamingo flocking insurance will protect your home from future flocks of flamingos

If you are unable to donate at this time, please contact our team of flocking experts to remove the birds at no cost.

To arrange a flocking, a flocking removal, or for flamingo flocking insurance,

**Contact Courtney**

**Call or text: (618) 559-7139;**

**Email: [cnhenson4@gmail.com](mailto:cnhenson4@gmail.com)**

Thank you for supporting the Ridge Youth as they raise funds for Centrifuge!



## "Giving God's Tithe and Our Offerings"

[www.tinyurl.com/TRC-tithes](http://www.tinyurl.com/TRC-tithes)

**Is there a difference between tithes and offerings?** Yep! And as the giver of tithes and offerings, you should know how to tell them apart.

**The tithe** is the first 10 percent of your GROSS income that God calls you to give to your local church. **An offering** is any money you choose to give above the tithe.

### The Firstfruits of All Your Increase.

**Proverbs 3:9** calls us to honor God with the first and the best of our earnings—the firstfruits. God calls us to bring Him the first of our earnings. Specifically, the first tenth.

So the **tithe**, which means "**tenth**," is a baseline for giving—the bare minimum. It's a tenth of your monthly income, and it goes specifically to your local church (Malachi 3:10). It's the first thing you do when you budget your money—before you pay down debt, make a mortgage payment, or fill your car with gas.

**Tithing is really a form of worship**, because it shows God we trust Him (not money) to provide for us.

\*\*\*

### Giving Freely and Cheerfully

Offerings are different. They're given above and beyond the tithe. The Bible doesn't command us to give offerings, but it does encourage us to give generously,

Here's the thing about offerings: Unlike tithes, which come out of your budget before anything else, offerings should be given as you have the financial ability to do so. You tithe first and then take care of your own household: your bills, your debt payments, your housing costs, groceries, transportation, and clothing.

God wants us to give with open hands and hearts, to be as generous as we can within our circumstances. **We should grow in the giving of our offerings to the Lord.** **The Bottom Line:** Tithes and offerings are different, but they do have one big thing in common: They both work to build your trust in God as your ultimate Provider and decrease your dependence on money.



# Sunday School and Small Group Study May 21, 2017

Preschool (birth-5)	The Church Chose Leaders	Acts 6:1-7
Children (gr 1-6)	The Church Chose Leaders	Acts 6:1-7
Students (gr 7-12)	My Life in the Community	Matthew 25:31-40
Adults	My Life in the Community	Matthew 25:31-40

## ONE CONVERSATION™

Use these discussion starters to help foster a spiritual conversation with your family.

**CONNECTION POINT:** Church leaders serve everyone.

**THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE:** Serving people who can benefit us is not difficult. "Scratch my back, and I'll scratch yours" is a reality in the business world and even in many relationships. Serving, then, becomes about me, and not about the other person. That mindset is absent in Scripture and is to be absent in the church; in fact, believers are called to serve even those who have no means to repay a kindness.

**BIBLE  
STUDIES  
FOR LIFE**

**MATTHEW 25:31-40**

*Life in the Community*

### PRESCHOOL



#### ACTS 6:1-7

**LIVE IT OUT:** Talk with your child about the people who help and serve at your church. Think about more than just the ministers. Explain to your child how each of these people's jobs helps others learn more about God and Jesus.

More and more people were becoming part of the church in Jerusalem. The people in the church knew they should help one another. Some of the people did not have enough food to eat. Many of those people were widows, ladies whose husbands had died.

The disciples were busy teaching about Jesus. They decided to choose seven men to be special helpers to help the widows and other people who needed help.

They chose Stephen, Philip, and five other men. These men were wise and loved God. The disciples prayed for the seven men.

The special helpers helped the widows and other people who needed food. The disciples were able to tell more and more people about Jesus. Many people became part of the church.

### KIDS



#### ACTS 6:1-7

**LIVE IT OUT:** Discuss what jobs each person on your church's staff performs. Expand your discussion beyond the pastor and other ministers. Help your child learn how each person's job furthers the kingdom of God and helps people know about Jesus.

More and more people were becoming part of the church every day. Some people noticed that there was a problem. There were widows who were being left out and not getting enough food.

The disciples gathered together the other people from the church to talk about this problem. The disciples said that they were busy teaching others about Jesus. They needed some other people to help take care of those in need. The disciples told the people to choose seven men who were wise and full of the Holy Spirit to be helpers. The whole group was pleased with this decision. They chose Stephen, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus to be the helpers.

The men met with the disciples and they prayed together. The Word of God continued to spread. The number of people who learned about Jesus in Jerusalem grew quickly.

### STUDENTS

**THE POINT:** Living for Christ means serving the needs of others.

- What do you like best about your community?
- How could looking to the end affect the way we see people?
- What keeps us from reaching out to those who need our help?
- With so many needs, how do we decide whom to help?

Discuss the following quote: "Those who belong to Christ are sheep in this respect, that they love to get together. Sheep go in flocks, and so do God's people."— Charles Spurgeon

1. "Sheep Go in Flocks, and So Do God's People," First Love Publications, 11 February 2016, accessed 11 September 2013. Available from the Internet: <http://www.firstlovepublications.org/quotes/sheep-go-in-flocks-and-so-do-gods-people>.

**LIVE IT OUT:** Your student has been encouraged to take practical steps to take his or her faith and Live It Out in the Personal Study Guide.

Here are some ways you can encourage your students to live out their faith with Christ personally, in community, and in their culture:

- **CHRIST:** Pray for the opportunities to serve alongside your student this week.
- **COMMUNITY:** Determine areas in your community that you and your student can minister and serve needy people together.
- **CULTURE:** Make a commitment with your student to serve the needy and seek those many would deem the least of these.

**We have a small group and a class for everyone.  
Join us Sunday at 9 AM**