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Just the Facts

Wednesday, September 18, 2013
 Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication
 P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942 www.justthefacts.net

Church of God to mark centennial with fun, food, music

Y'all come.

That's the basic message Pastor Micah Mobley wants to get out about Hoopeston First Church of God's centennial celebration Sunday - all are welcomed to an afternoon of events offering fun for all ages.

A children's bicycle, tricycle and wagon parade/decorating contest kicks off the celebration. Youngsters will be divided into age groups 2-5, 6-8 and 9-11, with prizes for each group. Entrants will line up at 2:45 p.m., followed by the parade at 3 p.m. Two "huge" bounce houses will also be on site for youngsters, Mobley said.

There will also be contests, such as a bean bag toss, hula hooping, tug-of-war, jump rope and three-legged and relay races. A dunk tank will also be available.

Expending all that energy will lead to hungry people, so free food will be available, including hot dogs, burgers, cotton candy, nachos and cheese, popcorn and cake and ice cream.

Three bands are also slated to entertain throughout the afternoon, including ones featuring Bill Featherstone and Dan First, both FCOG associate pastors involved in the church's music ministry.

Community Bank warns of scam

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First Church of God is celebrating its centennial Sunday with activities at the church, 1004 E. Orange.

Mobley warns not to expect a bunch of dirges, though. Speaking of Featherstone's band, "it's hard to tell what you'll hear from them," he said. Their repertoire includes upbeat Christian music, as well as covers of songs by Nirvana and other groups.

At least two previous pastors are expected to attend the festivities. Long-time pastor Lewis Mershon, and See CHURCH on other side

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Church continued from other side

Jeremy Morton, who immediately preceded Mobley, will attend, as will the Illinois Church of God Pastor, Mobley said.

First Church of God started as a brush arbor meeting on a farm near Wellington. The congregation moved to a building at 223 W. Main, which most recently housed Zarate's Market. In the mid-1920s, a two story church was built on West Penn, where they remained until moving in 1968 to their current location, 1004 E. Orange. Since then, the church has had two expansions, one in the 1980s, and the most recent in 2011 because of large growth in the number of people attending services.

While the day is set to mark 100 years of the church in Hoopeston, "we want people to know there is a God and He loves them," Mobley said.

To that end, the church has several ministries for the community, including a Shoes for School program, clothing ministry and many others.

While noting the milestone, Mobley is looking to the future and is excited about it. "I don't know what God has in store," he said. "We believe the best is yet to come. One hundred years is great but we don't want to be a museum."

That "best" may come amid dark times. "The enemy is having a heyday, stealing people's lives through hurt, through addiction," he said. "When people give God a place in their lives, it gets better."

The "God is good" message is something Mobley hopes people will pick up on at the celebration. "Come and have some food, listen to some music," he said. "Don't be scared off because it's a church."

Obituaries

BUSHONG - Ruth Alma (Clouse) Bushong, 97, of Hoopeston, died at 12:50 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 15, 2013, at Heritage Manor, Hoopeston. Visitation will be 4-7 p.m. Thursday at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Funeral will be at 11 a.m. Friday at First Presbyterian Church, Hoopeston. Memorials are suggested to donor's choice.

Weather



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