



The Optimist Club of Treynor, Treynor, IA
Iowa District, Zone 2 Club Number 40-109
Iowa District Governor: Marge Hopkins
Lt Governor: Don Dilts

NEWSLETTER

Treynor Optimist Club President:
Dale Willenborg



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Christina Bateman, Faith's Friends



Christina Bateman, a native of Atlantic who returned home after receiving her BS and Masters' Degree from Bellevue University, is in the real estate business and active in the community in Atlantic. She is married to Joe and together they have six kids plus four from his previous marriage.

In 2010 Christina was expecting their first child and at 17 weeks, there was an abnormality found in a blood test and confirmed then by ultrasounds and genetic testing. At 20 weeks there was fluid pressing on the heart and lungs of the baby. Air sacks weren't able to form. Faith was born on July 12 and lived 1.5 hrs. and one eye opened the first half hour and died in Christina's arms.



A company called 'Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep' took pictures.

Genetic testing determined that the parents were not carriers of the abnormality. In October

2017 they lost twin daughters during the pregnancy. Christina stated, "No matter the age, there is no easy time in losing a child. Loss is based on the love of a child no matter the age."

Christina knew that in some way she wanted to help others. In 2015 after seeing a temporary marker at a baby's grave that had been there since 2009, she knew God was calling her to help others to relieve financial burdens for families who have lost a child for funeral, burial, and headstone costs.

Faith's Friends, a 501©3 was formed in March, 2017. The non-profit began with their own donation of \$5000. The first year they helped families in Cass Co. In 2018 they spread to counties around them. In 2019 they started helping families in all of Nebraska and Iowa.

Christina stated that most funeral homes donate their time. Faith's Friends helps with the costs for children in the womb up to age 18 – a total of \$4000 is possible.

Since 2017 Faith's Friends has donated \$171,000 for 80 children. Most that have been helped live within 60 miles of Atlantic. In the beginning, Christina would search for people with losses, but now people reach out to her. Faith's Friends mainly raises funds with an annual celerity waiter fundraiser. It is a fun thing and local people dress up with a theme and wait on guests who have been invited for dinner. Funds are raised by giving tips to the waiter for serving them and doing unusual fun things when asked by the guests! This year they raised \$42,000.

Remembrance lights are sponsored by various people and sit on the tables at the event. The parents can pick the shape, design, and color of the light that has the child's name on it. Families are invited to come to this event and the dinner is paid for by Faith's Friends. Multiple families have come.

Faith's Friends has been a double blessing for Christina. She is able to help others who have experienced this pain, and it makes her daughters' lives continue to matter.

Christina and her husband together have two boys, 11 and 9, and a daughter, 5. She said from the beginning she has taken the children to funerals/visitations. They make trips to the cemetery and talk about their sisters in Heaven. Christina expressed her strong faith, stating Romans 8:28 ("For all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.") and believes her girls were supposed to go to Heaven when they did, God fulfilled their purpose and has brought good out of their lives.

Contact info: Faith's Friends, PO Box 263, Atlantic, IA 50022. 712.249.5228, faithsfriends@outlook.com, www.meetfaithsfriends.org

Next week's Speaker:

Susan Enewold, Council Bluffs C.A.R.E.S., a facility to help persons with a disability, mental or physical.

FAMOUS QUOTE

"Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony."

Mahatma Gandhi

Meeting Minutes

Bill Vorthmann, called the meeting to order. Bill stated that on this date in 1994, a lawmaker from the United Kingdom, created the statement "May the Fourth Go With You." In 1966 Willie Mays broke the National League record for home runs.

Sixteen members plus eight guests were present. Our guests were Mike Holton and the group below:



L-R: Shelly & Tessa Gutttau, Danie Floeschinger, Raya, Lexi, & Lenna, and Christina Bateman. They became friends as a result of each family having lost a baby.

The group recited the pledge and Kirk Vorthmann gave the prayer.

Jokes: Bill Vorthmann, Steve Chambers, Steve Irvin, Richard Fox. Bill paid \$1 to account for his joke last week!

50/50: Kirk Vorthmann

Attendance: Gary Gutttau, but he was not present.

Birthdays/Anniversaries: None

Bragging Rights: (Dollars are contributed to benefit local youth programs.)

- Steve Irvin bragged on his 7th grade granddaughter doing well in track. She had a learning experience in the 1500 when she got mixed up with the laps and sprinted past the girl ahead of her and then learned she had one more lap to go. He stated she found it fun to be on a team with kids from her own school.
- Dick Fox's rain gauge report was 1" in May and over 4" in April. And he has just one gauge.
- We all are very proud of the Treynor arts department and dollars were contributed by Linda Danker, Bill Vorthmann, GlenRose Meier, Judy Gutttau, Dick Fox and John Klein.

Business:

- Steve Chambers shared his observations about the amazing youth represented and honored at the Treynor Optimist Youth Appreciation event last Sunday. He shared about his motivational speech as well as how the students were honored. It was estimated 100 were in attendance at this event at Zion Congregational Church. Thanks to all who helped. Check the Treynor Optimist Facebook page to see the picture of the honored students.
- Can Kennel sorting took place last Sunday afternoon with a large group of members and adults from the Silver Keg Feeders 4-H club.
- The Music Boosters have the can kennel this month.
- Bill Vorthmann shared that his grandson helped deliver the cans to Droppett in Glenwood and observed that there were two big back doors that cans can be put into once the first sack is put through the smaller hole by a person. It was an ah-ha moment for Gpa Bill!
- It was stated that fellow Optimist Keith Denton had knee surgery.
- Tuesday, May 14 is the Arbor Day/Mulch Madness event at the park, and school. Drivers of the pickup with mulch do not need

background checks and Bill and Kirk offered to help if possible.

- Linda Danker was presented a district Optimist award for recruiting a new member.

Community:

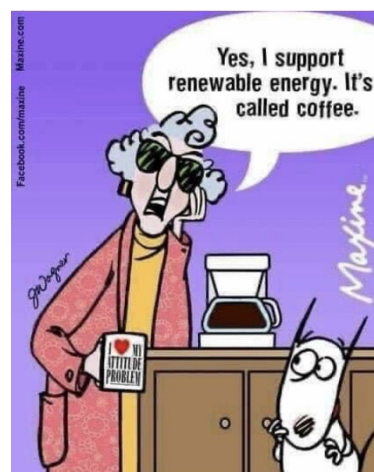
City Administrator Mike Holton stated that today (Saturday) is a training meeting of Treynor's Tomorrow volunteer hosts (17 in number) to learn how to lead strategic planning for this Marketing Hometown America program, led by extension personnel from Univ of Neb and Iowa State Univ. The hosts will involve 200-300 local citizens in future small discussion groups to assess needs of our community, including everything from housing, child care, fraternal groups, etc. and what will resources be put into.

Regarding last week's tornado, Mike Holton stated that resource information is being distributed in many ways to victims. Mike stated he also has information at the Treynor City Office.

- Tues., May 7 – Kindergarten Concert 6:30 PM
- Tues., May 7 – First Grade Concert 7:30 PM
- Thurs., May 9- District Track Meet - Treynor
- Mon., May 13 – Senior Awards Night
- Tues., May 14 – Mulch Madness 12:30 PM
- Wed., May 22 (new date) – Fundraiser spaghetti supper and silent auction 5-7 PM at Treynor High School Commons for Ava Steeve, age 5, diagnosed with severe aplastic anemia. Daughter of Derek & Amberly Steeve. He is a Treynor teacher.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Humor



CALENDAR

Events:

May 14 Arbor Day/Mulch Madness 12:30 PM

Birthdays

May 11 Keith Denton
May 21 Steve Irvin
May 22 Kirk Vorthmann

Anniversaries

None

Programs:

May Linda Danker (1st/2nd Sat)
Phil Waggoner (3rd/4th Sat)
June Steve Irvin (1st/2nd Sat)
Joel Beyenhof (3rd Sat)
Judy Gutttau (4th/5th Sat)
July **First three Sat. OPEN**
Joel Beyenhof (4th Sat)
Aug Chad Gutttau
Sept Jim Clausen (1st/2nd Sat)
Bill Vorthmann (3rd/4th Sat)
Oct Gary Gutttau
Nov Jordan Campbell (1st/2nd Sat)
Jerry Hempel (3rd/4th Sat)
Dec Mick and Judy Gutttau

Speakers

May 11 Susan Enewold, Council Bluffs C.A.R.E.S.,
May 18 Scott Rucker, Boys Basketball Coach
May 25 Joe Chapman, Girls Basketball Coach
June 1 Matt Hansmann, Science Teacher
June 7 Jacob Beresh, Social Science Teacher
June 15 Carrie Currin, Elementary Counselor

