



Community Cornerstone

Fall Newsletter

2025

OVERFLOW WITH GRACE PRESENT JESUS MAKE NEW DISCIPLES

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Sunday Worship 10:30am Facebook: Community Methodist Church Riverside Website: communitymcriderside.com

ALL IN?

When you picture a group of people who are “all in,” what do you see? I see kids, coaches, parents, and relatives at a youth sports game. Everyone’s focused on the game. The kids on the field, those on the benches, the coaches, and the audience are all fully engaged. They are ALL IN.

When I picture Community ALL IN, I see so many ministry teams and individuals – I see you! One who is ALL IN is Bill Barrett. He is heartfully involved in group and one-on-one Bible studies. He is not only becoming more Biblically knowledgeable, but overcoming old hurts, habits, and hang ups and learning to faithfully live. Through all of this, he’s developing a deep love of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Bill loves team sports, and approaches youth ministry like a coach. With our Lord leading and his “assistant coaches” empowering, Bill is creating a family of young people with the heart, skills, and unity to serve challenged people together.

Many of you are ALL IN with Bill. You assist, chaperone, and serve as Prayer Angels for these young people. With your actions and words, you greatly encourage the kids, adult team, and Bill. *You are like those parents and grandparents at a game. You sit in those folding chairs and cheer them on. You are ALL IN.*

Are you ALL IN with your Community? *How do you know when you are all in?* The answer is when the Lord Jesus Christ and your Abba Father are your first priority, you are steadfast with Him, and you don’t hold anything back. Simply put, you are ALL IN with your Community when you are ALL IN with your Lord Jesus. He is the head and We, the church, are His body. May all of our words, actions, hearts, and pledges for 2026 proclaim, “Jesus is Lord!”

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Romans 12:1 NLT

All In: Beyond Your Corner

This Stewardship Season, we’re inviting our church family to go “All In” — not just with our giving, but with our hearts, our presence, and our willingness to step outside of what’s familiar.

One of the ways we’re doing this is by challenging everyone to go “**Beyond Your Corner.**” What does that mean? It means if you usually serve or



attend one ministry, we encourage you to intentionally visit at least **two other ministries** in our church.

Why? Because God never called us to stay in one corner of the Kingdom. The Church is a body with many parts, and each ministry reveals another way God is at work. When you step into another space, you not only see God moving in fresh ways — you might even discover a new passion, gift, or relationship

that deepens your walk with Christ.

Maybe you’ll sit in on a youth gathering, join a Bible study, attend a mission outreach, or worship with another group. However you choose to step out, remember: **going beyond your corner helps us grow together as one body, fully All In for Jesus.**

Are you ready? Let’s take this journey together and see what God will do when we move beyond the familiar and embrace the fullness of His church!

Blessings,
Shelley



The "ALL IN!" STEWARDSHIP SEASON 2025

He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Romans 8:32 NIV

God's ALL IN. This is the season of stewardship and celebration. As we celebrate what God has done in 2025, we look forward to a faithful 2026 as God's good stewards. **We're ALL IN!**

9/7. "Are You ALL IN?" What's God Looking For In You?

An introduction to the Stewardship Season and the Sundays in the season ahead.

- Introduction to the "Beyond Your Corner" Challenge.
- A Stewardship Launch Lunch (Sally and Family), with an interactive "Get To Know" during lunch.

9/14. "GET REAL With God."

Your personal, close relationship with God is your foundation.

- Communion
- 2nd Sunday Offering: Celebrate Recovery.
- Lunch : Combined Service Units of the Girl Scouts serving as a thank you to your Community.

9/21. "EVERYONE Absolutely NEEDS Jesus!"

Come into Jesus' passion for the harvest!

- **Stewardship Lunch: an all congregation SOUP carry in.**

"Just GOSPEL" Bible Study begins Wednesday 6:30 p.m., September 24 (9 weeks).

9/28. "What's Your Vision?"

See the God sized picture, set a clear direction, and invite others to come along others to follow.

- **"Beyond Your Corner" Challenge begins!**
- September birthdays celebrated afterward.

***SPARK** begins Thursday, October 2 at Spinning Hills Middle School.*

*10/4 all church **WORK DAY***

10/5. "Searching For The Lost."

Share the Gospel in ways that are understandable and meaningful to all kinds of people.

- Stewardship Lunch (Sally and Family) with an Interactive "Get To Know" during lunch.

***UNPLUGGED** (Middle/High School) begins Tuesday, October 7*

***Grace Course** begins Thursday, October 9 at 10 a.m. Six Thursday sessions.*

The "ALL IN!" STEWARDSHIP SEASON 2025

10/12. "Pour Into Those Who Are Streaming Out."

- Communion.
- 2nd Sunday Offering: Sidewalk Soldiers.

***WHIZ KIDS** begins Tuesday, October 14.*

***ILI History Makers Training** 10/17-18 in West Chester, OH.*

10/19. "Worship God. Honor Family."

- **Introduction of your 2026 Pledge Card.**
- **Stewardship Lunch: an all congregation your "FAMILY RECIPES" potluck.**

10/26. Integrity

Integrity glorifies God, protects you from stumbling, and encourages your growth.

- October Birthdays Celebrated afterward.

11/2. Faithful Stewardship.

God looks for men and women who are faithful stewards of finances, time, and spiritual gifts in their personal lives and leadership with the result that people are reached with the Gospel.

- Lunch (Sally and Family) with an Interactive "Get To Know" during lunch.

*The season ends with the **Freedom In Christ Discipleship weekends** here at Community:*

- November 7 (7-9 p.m.) – 8 (9-12 p.m.); and November 14 (7-9 p.m.) -15 (9-5 p.m.)

11/9. CELEBRATION (CONSECRATION) SUNDAY.

- Believe 2026! Bless Pledges
- Communion
- All Saints Remembrance & Veterans' Recognition.
- "Beyond Your Corner" Prayer & Blessing.
- 2nd Sunday Offering: A Thanksgiving Offering. "Bless Forward!"
- **Stewardship Lunch: an all congregation meal**
--The church provides the main course of meats. We will have a cake to honor veterans.
--The congregation brings **SIDES**.
With an interactive "Get To Know" during lunch.

11/16. FOREVER THANKSGIVING!

Special Guest. Jeff Sorrell!

*The **SIMPLY JESUS** series will continue in January 2026 with "Your Choice,"*

Matthew 16:13-28.



September

9/05 Elizabeth Bellitt
 9/05 Troy Kehl
 9/09 Billy Hibbs
 9/09 Cindy Miller
 9/10 Kenneth Huffman
 9/14 Olivia Kehl
 9/16 David Rose
 9/16 Charlotte Boyle
 9/17 Destiny McPherson
 9/22 Cathy Hughes
 9/25 Marsha Hiatt
 9/26 Lloyd Lynch
 9/26 Theresa Smith
 9/27 Linda Ebright
 9/27 Sherry McPherson
 9/30 Stephanie Hodge
 9/30 Nita Renfro

October

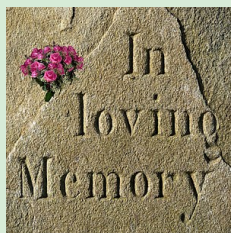
10/07 Fritz Merkes
 10/08 Jaye Jones
 10/12 Cheryl French
 10/12 Matt Spencer
 10/12 Tom Harris
 10/15 Brenda Smith
 10/26 Phyllis Burgess
 10/27 Karen Yaworski
 10/27 Ed Miller

November

11/03 Belva Rockwell
 11/04 Abby Holt
 11/05 Nicholas
 McPherson
 11/05 Judith Mosoka
 11/06 Mark Ebright
 11/06 Sally Borba



9/01 Bob & Norma Jean Luneke
9/04 David & Ebby Hale
9/14 Bruce & Anna Boggs
9/27 Nick & Ellie Gusman
10/06 Ken & Linda Ebright
10/08 Greg Robinson & Lana Ping
11/08 Jim & Brenda Smith
11/18 Bill & Leila Hibbs



Dees Thompson

**March 20, 1930 —
 July 25, 2025**



UNPLUGGED

Unplugged Growth: A Challenge & A Blessing

Hello Community,

The school year has started and it's almost time for another exciting adventure with the Unplugged kids! We will start on October 7th at 3:45.

This school year we will be growing as a group as we will have two new kids coming in that are in 5th grade. We are very excited to add them to the group!

This will also be our first year of having some high schoolers in the youth group. Although this is very exciting, it can also bring challenges to the logistics and to the flow of the ministry as we have to navigate through pickup for three different schools. We will have all grades together for most of the activities but our Lesson time will mean separating the kids into two groups with grades 5, 6 & 7 together and the older ones (grades 8 & 9) in a separate group.

Please pray for us that God will provide us the right and faithful ways to handle challenging situations that may pop up in those circumstances.

Our Friday night events will be September 5, October 3rd, November 14th, and December 12th. This is a fun night of games, fellowship and food. The Friday night events start at 5:30 and end at 8:00pm. If you have a child in the grades of 5-10 that may want to check us out, Friday night event is a perfect way to do so!

Also, if any adults that have experience in working with children and have a strong faith in Christ and would like to volunteer either for our weekly Unplugged adventure or Friday night event or just check it out, please just reach out to me. I would love to add to the group! You will need to have a background check and one-hour online training before serving.

Thank you Community for all the prayers and support as we head towards our next adventure in unplugged with Christ leading the way.

Blessings,
 Bill

WHERE ARE WE AT FINANCIALLY?

—Pastor Fritz

First and foremost, I want to thank the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ because He will meet our needs! I observe His Spirit operating in you.

- Even with financial challenges, many of you are catching up with your pledges. Thank you!
- Realizing the need, a few of you have given extra to help. Thank you!
- Those of you to utilize the facility are turning off unnecessary lights and turning up the thermostat on the air conditioning. Thank you!



With such faithful diligence, let us believe that our Lord will meet our financial need.

The actual financial report covering through August will come out in mid September. When it comes out, we will let you know along with some highlights from it.

FAITH IN GOD'S FUTURE IN 2026

As a church, we fully learned in 2020 the following: *GOD IS FAITHFUL. HAVE FAITH. BE FAITHFUL!*

Our Church Budget. The annual budget of your Community is based upon your pledges. No one comes up with something and asks you to give. Rather, together we pledge and ask our Lord to lead us to faithfully budget and use our offerings.

Your Pledge. When you pledge for 2026, you solemnly promise to take your Lord Jesus as He is -- #1. Seriously, His priority is the church (see Ephesians 5: 25-27).

Therefore, pray. Faithfully consider your projected income for 2026.

- What is 10% of what the Lord will give to you?
- Pray, believe, and pledge.
- Faithfully fill out the Pledge Card you will receive in mid October.

A Legacy. What will be the lasting impact of your Christian life? Your Legacy Gift will change the future! Only due to such gifts were we able to complete major roof and emergency plumbing repairs.

Go to our Lord Jesus and prayerfully consider including your Community in your arrangements.

Also, if you are especially blessed financially and thankful, go to our Lord and make a special Legacy Gift to your Community!

You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully. "And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. 2 Corinthians 9: 7-8 NLT



TROTWOOD OUTREACH

A well established 3rd Saturday morning food-related outreach to people who need the help and mostly want prayer.

- Come and discover how to be Jesus' witness and make disciples through food and prayer.
- Join Pat and Charlotte Boyle and others on one of these 3rd Saturdays:
- 9/20, 10/18, 11/15
- 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Contact Charlotte directly or e-mail or call the office.

From Charlotte: "This is an amazing opportunity to love like Jesus did. The volunteers are welcoming and model what community looks like. You can stay behind the scene and pack groceries or get out there and pray with others."

Try it, you will like it!

Sharing Food & Fellowship

Do you ever wonder how God is moving in others' lives? Come join us on Sunday mornings for pre-service coffee with pastries/donuts and kick off the morning with fellowship. Stay after service for a snack or maybe even a meal and fellowship more. **Would you like to share one of your favorite snacks with others?** Sign up for a Sunday so we can enjoy it with you. It may become our favorite as well.

As Stewardship season is upon us, there will be **opportunities** for you to bless your brothers and sisters with your cooking skills during post-service fellowship:

9/21 Soup Pot Luck-Bring in your favorite soup for all to try

9/28 Birthday Celebrations-Available for snack
10/12 Available for snack

10/19-Family Recipe Pot Luck-Make a family recipe to share

10/26-Birthday Celebration-Available for snack

11/09-Stewardship Lunch-Church provides main course; Congregation Brings Sides

If you have any questions or are interested in providing a snack, please sign up (list on kitchen door) or call/text me at (937) 203-6446 or email me at rhmillier68@gmail.com.

Blessings
Rhonda



Whiz Kids is 10 Years Old This Year!

We have seen a lot in these past 10 years. I've not counted (something Rhonda and I need to work on this year), but it's

probably 100 kids that have been touched by Jesus through the faithful ministry of many, many extraordinary volunteers, without whom this ministry would be impossible.

Though the origin of the story is unclear, there is a statue of Jesus that was damaged and the hands were broken off. Rather than replace the hands, a plaque was placed on it saying, "I have no hands but yours."

Indeed, Jesus works through the mentors, the Whiz Kids crew leaders and station leaders; through the Prayer Angels and their coordinator; through the kitchen help, and through the school district that provides the snack. It's all a cooperative effort made possible by the Holy Spirit overflowing in us.

Would you like to allow Jesus to work through you this year in Whiz Kids? There is something for you to do! You can be a mentor/tutor from 5-6 p.m. You can help out with the kids during the afterschool portion from 2:30 to 5. You can help clean up at 6. You can be a Prayer Angel. And there are other areas as well!

Sign up at daytonwhizkids.org, or call the office.

In Jesus,
Claire



Tell Someone About Celebrate Recovery!

Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered recovery program that helps people with their hurts, habits, and hang-ups. Hurts, habits, and hang-ups include addictions to drugs and/or alcohol, pornography, and co-dependency (just to name a few). They also include victims of sex abuse (as children & adults), human trafficking, co-dependency, and online scammers.

In the past, we have been negatively labeled as "those people", meaning we're a bunch of drug addicts and alcoholics. In the past nine years, we have successfully changed that stereotype to "a recovery group that helps people overcome their hurts, habits, and hang-ups by bringing them closer to Jesus Christ."

September is Recovery Month. The second Sunday offering will go to Celebrate Recovery of Riverside. CR of Riverside is a non-profit group that relies solely on offerings/gifts from weekly meeting attendees and the congregation at Community Church. We use these offerings/gifts for purchasing CR Bibles, celebration chips/coins, weekly meals & drinks, sponsoring Emmaus attendees, T-shirts for testimony givers, and training.

We all know someone who could benefit from coming to Celebrate Recovery and developing (or increasing) their relationship with Jesus Christ. **Below is a calendar of our upcoming meetings:**

- 9/11/25** – Lesson entitled Grace & 9 year anniversary celebration
- 9/18/25** – Amy presenting her testimony
- 9/25/25** – Relapse Prevention Workshop
- 10/2/25** – Special music presented by Jimmie Smith & Communion presented by Pastor Fritz
- 10/9/25** – Lesson entitled Crossroads
- 10/16/25** – Lesson entitled Daily Inventory
- 10/23/25** – Steve H. presenting his testimony
- 10/30/25** – Lesson entitled Relapse

CR Principle #1 – Realize I'm not God. I admit that I am powerless to control my tendency to do the wrong thing and that my life is unmanageable.

—Amy



**Communion
the First
Thursday of
Every**



Weekend to Remember®

by FamilyLife.

A MARRIAGE BOOSTER

Claire and I have participated in this about five times, and it's always been a

great benefit. You receive a clear picture of a Jesus centered marriage, and the tools to get into that picture together. Please talk with one of us if you're considering attending – Pastor Fritz

Encouragement, hope, and you-can-do-this tools to build and grow your marriage.

Whether you're sending up an SOS for marital rescue or looking to foster an already flourishing connection, Weekend to Remember is your best next step toward being, and staying, one.

As a couple, you learn as a large group from a speaker. Then, you apply what you learn privately, one-on-one with your spouse or fiancée. 50% discount until September 15.

- Sandusky, October 3-5
- Louisville, October 24-26.
- Cincinnati, February 27-March 3.
- Columbus, March 13-15
- Indianapolis, March 27-29

Much more at weekendtoremember.com. Also, at this site, use Group Name OhioWTR and register at discount.

Hope Restored

Learn how to deal with those things that rob us of our joy and hope

Led by Charlotte @ Community Methodist Church 339 Meyer Ave. Riverside
"Hope deferred makes the heart sick but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life."
 Proverbs 13:12

Sharing God's Hope Every Other Sunday Evening

Every other Sunday evening, we "create space" to fellowship and meet new people.

As different churches gather together, it is a great opportunity to invite visitors, and to hear about what God is doing in each local congregation. A "hope filled" topic or message is presented.

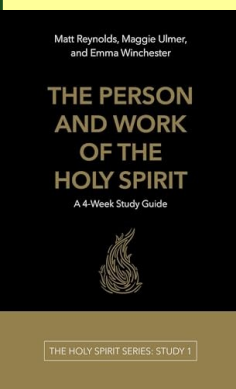
Hope Restored is a "safe" place to exercise your God-given gifts and talents. Some sing or play an instrument, some share what the Lord is laying on their heart, others bring food, or share their individual talents with the group.

It is a great place to "be" together. Hope you will visit us soon. **The next meetings are: 9/14, 9/28, 10/12, 10/26, 11/09 at 6:30pm.**

THURSDAY MORNING BOOK STUDY

Come One! Come All!

This is group of believers that are focused on learning more about how to love and serve the LORD.



The next 4 weeks we will be studying about the Holy Spirit. This study guide starts with the basic question, "Who is God and what is He like?" In this study we want to examine some scriptures that teach about the Holy Spirit and introduce you to his character and work. We also want to help lead you into some simple action steps so that you can grow in your personal relationship with the

Spirit, not just know facts about Him.

- **Thursday mornings 10:00 at Community Methodist Church Riverside**
- **Starts Thursday September 4th**
- **Drop-in visitors, are always welcome. Come join us!**

Then, we will spend 6 weeks on the Grace Course.

THE GRACE COURSE

Grace is not behavior modification, it's learning to rest in His promised love.

Discover how grace frees you from:

- joyless religion
- a low-grade fever of guilt
- being defined by your past
- feeling unable to say no
- thinking you're not enough

In this powerful six-week series, you will encounter God's grace like never before.

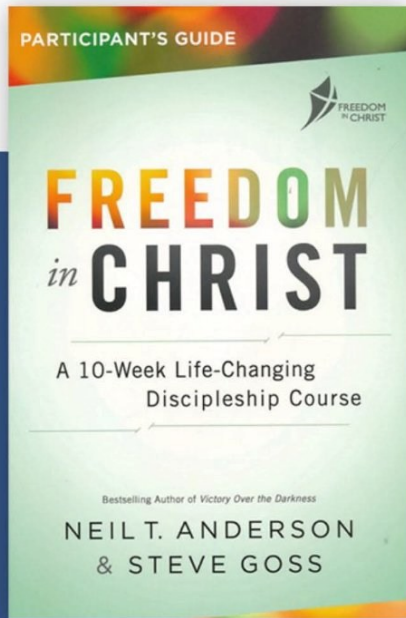
The Grace Course

- 6 Thursdays 10:00 am, beginning October 9.
- Library, Community Methodist Church Riverside (339 Meyer, Dayton, OH)
- Facilitated by Charlotte Boyle.

Finally, we will have a "Celebratory" Thanksgiving carry-in lunch November 20.



I M P O R T A N T



"Learn to live out your identity in Christ and become a fruitful disciple."

This course helps you address pride, unforgiveness, deception, and rebellion—equipping you to live free and embrace your full potential in Him."

Fee for the class is \$20..that covers the materials, snack, and meal

Course Schedule: 11/7 7p-9p, 11/8 9a-12p,
11/14 7p-9p 11/15 9a-5p



[Link to Course registration](#)

BUILDING MAINTENANCE (INSIDE & OUT)KEEPING TRUSTEES & VOLUNTEERS BUSY

DOORS, DOORS, DOORS!

The main doors to the building got stuck shut recently, requiring a call to a locksmith to fix them. Many thanks to Steve Boyle for replacing the door stops. This fall, the main goal of the Trustees is to replace the doors on the playground side of the building. They are difficult to open and are getting worse over time. We are looking into different materials and door styles. We have started the bidding process and look forward to completing this project soon.

LIGHTS, CAMERAS, ETC

Shedding a whole new light on the ladies' restroom, Library and offices, Active Electric installed new lighting recently. They also installed a camera that allows us to keep a closer watch on our back doors and playground.

FOR BABIES' SAKE

Our Nursery has gotten some great new safety features as well as a way for parents to watch the service on the new TV. Just in time!

AND ON THE OUTSIDE

Whew! Even in the hot weather, our volunteers have been sprucing up the outside with flowers, weeding, fence line clean up, garden leveling, watering our newly seeded front lawn and so much more! Thank you Dave & Sue Collins, Bill Hiatt, Tim Miller, Todd Miller and Pat Boyle.



"Getting It Together"

Working together to spruce up the building and yard

Saturday October 4 Two Shifts:

10:00am-12:00 pm

12:30pm-2:30pm

LUNCH TOGETHER AT NOON

As we enter Stewardship season, if it's on your heart, **bring your time and talents on October 4 from 10 AM to 2:30 PM for our Cleanup Day.** There will be morning and afternoon shifts with lunch provided in between. Please join us in keeping our church clean and organized for all.

BOARD NEWS!

Steve Hoke has stepped in as the interim Board Lead after Bruce Boggs' interim term ended at the end of July. Steve will serve as Board Lead until the Charge Conference November 17, 2025. The Board is discussing a Vice Board Lead position for possible Board Lead vacancies in the future.



Second Sunday Offering: Support Sidewalk Soldiers

Our Second Sunday Offering in October will go to support **Sidewalk Soldiers**, a ministry walking alongside men and women as they rebuild their lives.

Through your generosity, we are able to provide hope, resources, and encouragement to those taking brave steps toward healing and wholeness.

But giving financially is just the beginning. Many of the people Sidewalk Soldiers serve are eager to learn life skills we often take for granted — things like **sorting laundry, creating a budget, cooking a simple meal, or learning how to be faithful stewards of what God has entrusted to them.**

That's where mentors make all the difference. When you step into someone's life as a mentor, you're not just teaching practical skills — you're sharing the love of Christ in action. You're reminding someone that they are not alone, that their life has value, and that God has more for them than their past.

We invite you to **give generously** through the Second Sunday Offering, and also prayerfully consider whether God may be nudging you to **be a mentor**. Together, we can offer more than help — we can offer hope, help, and healing.

Blessings
Shelley



Going Down to the River! Yes! What could be better than going to the river to be baptized? Pastor Fritz baptized Todd Miller and Robert Watkins on a Sunday after church. Charlotte's son Tommy baptized Charlotte and Pat Boyle on a Wednesday evening as part of their Friday "fish fry" group.

Just GOSPEL

Discover The Of The Gospel! A Bible Study For You!

The GOSPEL is the key to salvation, the doorway to a living relationship with God, and the message we're called to share.

- But what exactly is it? Where does it come from?
- How deeply is it rooted in Scripture?

Join Us!

- COME to a safe, Jesus-centered space to explore the Gospel's Truth
- BELONG to a loving community uncovering the Gospel woven throughout the Bible
- GO FORTH rooted in faith, equipped to share the Gospel with confidence

Whether you're new to the Bible or seasoned in faith, if you're eager to learn humbly from Jesus and others, you're welcome here.

- 9 Wednesdays from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- Starts September 24
- Community Methodist Church Riverside 339 Meyer Ave. 45431
- Facilitator: Pastor Fritz

Just GOSPEL In Living Color

- | | |
|---|--|
| 9/24: BLACK Sin: Our Human Problem | 11/5: WHITE Faith: What It Is Not |
| 10/1: BLACK Sin: The Consequences | 11/12: WHITE Faith: What It Is |
| 10/8: YELLOW God's Justice | 11/19: GREEN How to Grow! |
| 10/15: YELLOW God's Love | BLUE : Watered To Grow! |
| 10/21: RED Jesus: Who He Is | |
| 10/28: RED Jesus: What He Did | |