

SEPTEMBER
2018



CONNECTING POINTS



Pastor Mike's Paper Pulpit

HOW READY ARE YOU?

The Scriptures are filled with stories of those who were prepared for events that unfolded before them. Joseph in Egypt helped an entire nation make ready for seven years of famine. Noah spent 100 years preparing the ark for the great flood and Nehemiah prepared guards to defend the wall builders.

As prepared as some have been, some have found themselves at the opposite end of the scale. Jesus told a parable of ten virgins some of whom were ill prepared for the coming of the bridegroom and they suffered loss.

It seems to me that we all agree that preparation is a needful thing. It is the extent of that preparation that often eludes us. Where is the line of good sense and faith?

Let me say that while I make plans and preparations, my hope

and trust remains firmly in God. I do not place my trust in the plans I have made. While I may use a vaccination to prevent a disease, I trust my God to care for me in the midst of this and any other crisis I face.

In the story of the ark we read, "But God remembered Noah..." In the midst of all that we face we cannot lose sight of the truth that

God is still on His throne and we as his people balance our preparations with our trust in him.

One last thought on this for us as we move into September of the church year. We as a church are poised to be those who stand tall and help

others. Who better than the church to minister? We can be at the front of the line in our community to aid those in need, provide comfort for those who are hurting and demonstrate our love to the world which needs to know our Savior so desperately.

See You Sunday!

First Christian
Church of
Madera Exists
to Create
Disciples of Jesus!

First Christian Church Elder & Contact Information

Elders

- Mack Jones—267-3090
- Brett LeTourneau—706-2192
- Michael Piersol—559-363-5050
- Scott Stutsman—559-479-1946

Secretary

Amanda Stutsman—559-674-5203

Children & Youth

Katie Barsotti—559-903-5883

Pastor

Michael G. Stipe—559-259-6879

Connecting People To God - To Each Other & To The World

THE BACK PAGE . . .

When I was a young girl I always saw how hard working my grandfather was. You either got it all or nothing at all. The interesting thing to this was that he wasn't just DOING it- he worked hard, but he put his whole heart into what he was doing, from taking the trash out that my nana asked, to building new inventions at work- he never did anything half way- it was with his whole heart, never once complaining. One day I asked him "Papa, why can't you just take the easy way when it comes to your work?" He smiled and said, "I've been given a job to do, and if I like it or not, I have to complete this job the way the Lord would like it to be done."

This was why he is, and will always be, an example for me when it comes to Colossians 3:23, "Work at everything you do with all your heart. Work as if you were working for the Lord." This isn't always easy and no one said it would be. But if we keep working (regardless of what your 'work' may be) and do it with all of our hearts, everyone will take notice!

This month, the kids will also take a deep dive into seeing the hard work Nehemiah did- not only rebuilding a wall- but everything had to do with his heart during that hard working time!

-xoxo Katie

PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONARIES

Greg & Vicki Syverson
CMF International – Mexico

Vince & Gretta Payne
Panama Mission Foundation

Dr. & Mrs. Yoon Kwon Chae
Korea Gospel Mission

Champions For Tomorrow
Clovis, CA

American Indian Christian Missions
Doors of Hope

Madera Community Food Bank

Madera Rescue Mission

Madera Love INC

Discover more information on the missions we support on our website: www.maderafcc.org

Doggie Drama



"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." – Philippians 4:6-7

A few months ago, shortly before midnight, I was roused out of the beginning stages of sleep by the sounds of snarling and growling. My first thought was that Jude and Maisey were in another fight over something stupid like who was cuter or who got to sit on a certain doggie bed. Since both are part Jack Russell, it really doesn't take much to get them going. I did NOT want to make a trip to the doggie ER in the middle of the night, so I immediately went out to the living room to break it up.

I was quite relieved to find that this was a single-dog incident. Jude Barsotti was standing in middle of the room, with all of her back hairs standing straight up in a mohawk, tail straight out, barking and preparing to attack an intruder who did not dare to move an inch. As I flipped the light on, a wave of realization washed over her demeanor. The perpetrator was a wicker ottoman that I had moved against the wall in order to vacuum underneath it. It was in the wrong place and really threw her for a loop.

Do we obsess and get stressed out over thwarted plans, things people say, or stuff that gets moved? How about all of the petty happenings and snarky commentaries that flood the news? In the midst of life, we can cling to who we are in Christ, both in minor situations and in major crises. As we stay close to Him and petition Him in prayer, we can trust that He will turn on the lights and reveal the ottomans that don't deserve our attention and energy.

~Melissa

September 2018



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|--|
| <p>Anniversaries 3 Bud & Betty Smith 20 Percy & Willivee Wright</p>  | | <p>Birthdays 16 Mike Stipe 17 Wes Ballard 18 Ed LeTourneau</p> | <p>19 Aspen Milam 28 Marie Graham</p>  | | | <p>1 Women's Breakfast 8am @Robin Walton's home Elder's Meeting—9am Board Meeting—10am</p> |
| <p>2 Bible Classes 9:30 Worship 10:45 Youth Group 6:30-7:30</p> | <p>3 Office Closed</p>  | <p>4 Intercessory Prayer 6:30pm-7:30pm</p> | <p>5</p> | <p>6 Worship Team Rehearsal 6:00pm</p> | <p>7</p> | <p>8</p> |
| <p>9 Bible Classes 9:30 Worship 10:45 Youth Group 6:30-7:30 Operation Christmas child begins!</p>  | <p>10 Life Group 6:30-7:30pm @ Mike and Vonda's home: 524 Barsotti</p> | <p>11 Intercessory Prayer 6:30pm-7:30pm</p>  | <p>12 FCC Food Bank 10:00am- Noon</p> | <p>13 Worship Team Rehearsal 6:00pm</p> | <p>14</p> | <p>15</p> |
| <p>16 Bible Classes 9:30 Worship 10:45 Youth Group 6:30-7:30</p>  | <p>17 Life Group 6:30-7:30pm @ Mike and Vonda's home: 524 Barsotti</p> | <p>18 Intercessory Prayer 6:30pm-7:30pm</p> | <p>19</p> | <p>20 Worship Team Rehearsal 6:00pm</p> | <p>21 </p> | <p>22 </p> |
| <p>23 Bible Classes 9:30 Worship 10:45 Youth Group 6:30-7:30</p> | <p>24 Life Group 6:30-7:30pm @ Mike and Vonda's home: 524 Barsotti</p> | <p>25 Intercessory Prayer 6:30pm-7:30pm</p> | <p>26 FCC Food Bank 10:00am- Noon</p> | <p>27 Worship Team Rehearsal 6:00pm</p> | <p>28 MEN'S DINNER with Big James Henderson 6:00pm</p>  | <p>29</p> |
| <p>30 Bible Classes 9:30 Worship 10:45 Youth Group 6:30-7:30</p> | | | | | | |

Calendar Connecting Points

CWF Breakfast—Saturday,
September 1st—8am @ the home of
Robin Walton
2805 Willow Drive

ON THE ROAD WITH JESUS

September 2nd—That Crazy Driver

September 9th — The Cost of the Road

September 16th — Living Like A Road Master

September 23rd —Picked Up Along The Road

September 30th—On The Road Again



Christmas Is Coming!

Operation Christmas Child runs from September 9th—30th. Pick up a shoebox and fill it with appropriate gifts for a boy or girl. Be sure to see the new approved list. Return it to the church and you can help touch a life half a world away!

Fill a child's life with joy this Christmas

Are You On A TEAM?

See the Sign-ups in the foyer each Sunday and find a way to "be" the church.



Team Daniel

There are FOUR emphases in prayer that Team Daniel offers to you as a part of our church family.

The **FCC Prayer Team** meets each Sunday morning in Pastor Mike's office at 8:45 to seek God and prayer walk the church facility.

Prayer Hosts are our volunteer prayer folks who are available during the service to pray specifically with you and for you.

Our **Prayer Wall** is found in the office hallway. Leave a request and it will be prayed over.

The **Intercessors** meet Tuesdays from 6:30–7:30 PM to lift up our church family.

We just need YOU!

"Have you any days of fasting and prayer? Storm the throne of grace and persevere therein, and mercy will come down."
-John Wesley



**FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 28**

6-8 PM

**MEN'S DINNER
with**

BIG JAMES HENDERSON

Come together with other men to enjoy a great meal along with a time of worship and a special challenge from our guest speaker, Big James Henderson. There is no charge for this event but we will be accepting donations to help defray the costs of the evening.

JOIN US!

