

Follow us at:  www.twitter.com/MattoonFCC  Mattoon First Christian Church Web: mattoonfcc.com

Remarks from Pastor Steve

Hi everyone. We have had a very good start to the New Year. Attendance is up over last year, and all of our new programs and ministries are off to the good start.

The rib sale was very successful, so successful we will repeat it again from March 25th through April 1st. We will cook 500 racks and the proceeds will go to help fund the youth mission trip to Haiti.

One of the main functions of my ministry is bringing a message on Sunday that will encourage you and help direct your life. We have been discussing wisdom, direction, and this week excellence. Next week we will talk about the "rule of reciprocity."

My focus in the first quarter of this year is on successful living. The next series will help us grow, even though the storms of life will come. As those storms come we must look, "Straight Ahead." The storms of life are a fact of life. The rain falls on us all -- the good and the bad, the just and the unjust.

Direction determines destination. This means that where you're headed is where you'll arrive. For this reason, our new series is about defining and developing a solid, clear-cut path that will lead where you want to go.

This series focuses on four key areas: how you see yourself and your situations (the principle of Perspective), your willingness to take ownership of your outcomes (the principle of Responsibility); the way you treat others (the principle of Connection), and your attitude toward your life's work (the principle of Purpose). This series helps you learn to move straight ahead in each area.

One of our new church members was overheard in sharing FCC with some friends. Her friends were not attending church. She said: "You need to come and hear the sermons; they are relevant and will inspire you to a better life."

Why not invest and invite a friend to come and hear some very relevant teaching in a world that doesn't make much sense?

May God Enlarge His Territory,
Pastor Steve

Seniors' Outing

The Seniors' Group will go to the Tuscola Big Red Barn Restaurant on Thursday, January 28th leaving from the church at 11:00 am. Please sign-up in the narthex if you plan to go.



Attention All Ladies



All ladies are invited to come play Bingo in Campbell Hall on Saturday, January 23rd from 1-3 pm. Snacks will be provided and prizes awarded.

"A Night In Italy" Dinner

Mark your calendars for "A Night in Italy" FROG and ROCK Fundraiser Dinner on Saturday, February 13th. More details to come soon.

Ladies Class



The Ladies Sunday School is starting a new study "Bad Girls of the Bible" by Liz Curtis Higgs on January 24th. All ladies are welcome and they meet in the library each Sunday at 9:30 am.

Deaconess Change

Attention Deaconess: due to a scheduling shift we are in need of help with communion for Easter morning, March 27th. We are splitting the communion up into 3 shifts: sunrise, 8:30 and 10:30 service. Please call Nancy if you are able to help at 258-6247.

H&R Block Donation

If you get your taxes prepared at H&R Block and say you were referred by the First Christian Church they will donate \$20 towards the Youth Haiti Mission Trip!

News from Paul

Has anyone noticed the daylight hours are getting a bit longer? It is always nice to see this taking place because this means spring is around the corner. Until then, we endure the cold. However, no matter how cold it is outside the sun always makes things seem better (at least it does for me). I have just completed my first week of classes for the spring semester. Just fifteen more weeks to go! WHOO-HOO! It is actually not a whoo-hoo moment (I added the whoo-hoo for a dramatic effect). It could be defined more as a GEE-WHIZ! moment.

Miss Evelyn is driving a loaner car because ours is in the shop (too complicated to go into detail). The important thing is the good people at KC Summers are taking care of her. She had to take the first loaner back because another service adviser needed it for their customer, which is a good thing because the car manufacturer did not see fit to install heated seats on this particular model. Her own car (in the shop) has them, so she has been driving around having to warm these loaner seats herself. Guess what though? The "new" loaner HAS HEATED SEATS! Now I do not have to hear about it. Never mind that I drive an old pick-up truck with a worn out (unheated) seat. Anyway, she will have her car back before long and all will be back to normal, whatever that is. Whoever the person was which invented car warranties is wonderful! In between my studies and everything else I have going on, I am reading a great book by Dietrich Bonhoeffer titled, *The Cost of Discipleship*. I am roughly half way through it and I have to tell you, WOW (or WHO-HOO)! Bonhoeffer sure knew how to write. One particular thing among many which I have underlined reads, "The call of Jesus makes the disciple community not only salt but also light of the world..." (p. 117). I bring this up because of what I witnessed this past week at FCC. As you are aware, the Philippine mission team had a fundraiser selling baby-back ribs (it was a full-blown sell out!). To make this happen, a lot of logistics beforehand and a lot of HARD WORK during the prep, cooking, selling, and clean-up went into a successful project. I have no idea of who all had a hand in this, so I will not even begin to list the names for fear of leaving someone out. To those who served throughout this process to help fund eight FCC missionaries (including myself) travel abroad, THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart. Your sacrifice of time and efforts have brought glory to God in ways you will never know. Whether you know it or not, this was (is) discipleship.

In His Service,
Paul Weber

Singles @ First

Singles @ First Ministry is open to all singles...never married, widowed or divorced. Below is a list of the activities they have planned:



Fast Food Sunday, January 31st from 11:45-1:00 pm
Meet at Freddy's, buy your own lunch and fellowship.

Movie Night Friday, February 5th from 6-8:00 pm
Watch a movie in Campbell Hall, fellowship and fun.
Bring a 2-liter of pop and popcorn will be provided.

Saturday, February 13th 6:30 pm Valentine's Party
Meet at the American Legion for dinner (rib-eye or shrimp for \$10 or surf and turf for \$15) followed by a dance with the band "Radio Kings."

Fast Food Sunday, February 28th 11:45-1:00 pm
Meet at Wendy's, buy your own lunch and fellowship.

Sympathy

We extend our deepest sympathy to:
Doris Ferguson on the passing of her sister, Martha Barbie, on January 10th;
to Barbara Bridges on the passing of her sister-in-law, Patty Stiff, on January 9th; and Martha Nale on the passing of her son, James, on January 16th.



Members of FCC are invited to apply for the **Laura Catherine Van Gundy Young Memorial Scholarship**.

Scholarships are awarded to members who attend U of I in Urbana-Champaign or EIU in Charleston or Lincoln Christian University in Lincoln (Christian ministry majors only). Recipients must be enrolled in a course of study that culminates in a bachelor's or advanced degree in one of the following fields: Engineering or sciences, Medical sciences or services, Christian ministry or Business.

To complete an application online after January 11th, visit <https://pbaf.org/scholarships/scholarship-application-process/> and click on *Laura Catherine Van Gundy Young Memorial*. Scholarship information including an application are available from the church office also. Students currently receiving the Young scholarship do not have to submit a new application. The application and documents are due in the offices of Permian Basin Area Foundation by March 31st. For more information, contact Vicki Rice at 432-617-3213.



Building Fund balance:
\$222,355.30

Attention Deaconesses: If you need to get a hold of Nancy Huckaba please call her home number 258-6247 or email her at: nhuckaba@consolidated.net

Church Life

Saturday, January 23

1 pm Ladies Bingo and Game Day

Sunday, January 24

8 am Prayer with Elders in the Sanctuary

8:30 am Traditional Worship Service

9:30 am Sunday School

2 pm Pre-Pack at the Food Center

10:30 am Contemporary Worship Service

5-7 FROG and 6-8 pm ROCK Meetings

Monday, January 25

10 am Staff Meeting

6 pm Evangelism Meeting

Tuesday, January 26

7 am Prayer Time in the UIC room

Wednesday, January 27

9 am "Crafts Are Us" Group

5:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

6 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

6 pm Mid-Week Outlet Program

Thursday, January 28

11 am Seniors' Outing to Tuscola

6 pm Praise Team Rehearsal

Sunday, January 31

8 am Prayer with the Elders in the sanctuary

8:30 am Traditional Worship Service

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Contemporary Worship Service

11:45 am Singles @ First at Freddy's Restaurant

5-7 pm FROG and 6-8 pm ROCK Meetings

Monday, February 1

10 am Staff Meeting

5 pm Worship Meeting

Tuesday, February 2

7 am Prayer Time in the UIC room

Wednesday, February 3

9 am "Crafts Are Us" Group

5:15 pm Bell Choir Practice

6 pm Chancel Choir Practice

6 pm Mid-Week Outlet Program

Thursday, February 4

6 pm Praise Team Rehearsal

Friday, February 5

6 pm Singles @ First Movie Night in Campbell Hall

Saturday, February 6

7 am Men's Breakfast and Fellowship

8:30 am Elders' Meeting



Board Splinters

The January Board meeting was held on January 11th. Elders: their next meeting will be February 6th at 8:30 am.

Deaconesses: they raised \$3,400 from the Cookie Walk, the Wassail was well attended, they will have a Ladies Bingo day on January 23rd from 1-3 pm, the Deaconess meetings will be April 14th and October 18th at 6 pm, November 15th will be the Thanksgiving Dinner and the Cookie Walk on December 3rd.

Elementary Minister: the children enjoyed playing the bells for Christmas and the attendance on Sundays is growing. Worship: the Christmas Eve Service went well, had a lot of help taking down the Christmas decorations—thank you, we will have 5th Sunday Events on May 29th and October 30th.

Outreach: they will host a Red Cross Blood Drive on February 21st from 1-5 pm and would appreciate the youth helping to set-up and take down that day.

Stewardship: we ended the year on a very good note and everyone stayed within their budget.

Personnel: they will have a meeting on Thursday, January 14th.

Trustees: an elevator switch was replaced and Nancy Huckaba and Dolo Wishard will look into getting a new oven.

Pecans & Cookbooks

This coming Sunday, January 24th will be the last Sunday the Deaconesses' will be selling pecans and cookbooks in the narthex.

Blood Drive



**American
Red Cross**

The Local Outreach Committee is sponsoring a Red Cross Blood Drive on

Sunday, February 21st. The drive will be held from 1-5 pm in Campbell Hall. Sign-up sheets will be available in the narthex starting February 7th or sign-up online at www.redcrossblood.org

The Red Cross suggests to please eat a good meal and drinks lots of water before coming. No ice-tea, it lowers your iron levels. Thanks.

- 1 Nick Martin, Roger Rives
- 3 Linda Fleming
- 5 Sarah Prescott, Linda Andres
- 7 Jack Browning, Noah Scott, Terry Stretch
- 9 Kenny Logan
- 10 Jeff Maninfior
- 11 Thelma Whetsell
- 18 Mason Bergstrom
- 22 Carol Armstrong
- 25 Jan Kepley
- 27 Alice Edersheim, Betty Miller
- 28 Bonnie Moore, Gail Moore



- 14 Russell and Joyce Camfield
- 19 Bill and Katie Landrus
- 27 Mike and Sue Craig

Serving Communion

Sunday, January 24

8:30 am — John Armstrong, Steve Ballinger, John Greathouse, Jim Long, Denny Booker, Jack Browning, Tim Buford, Tim Cyr

10:30 am — Dave Whitley (captain), Amy Maninfior, Nick Maninfior, Bob Morgan, Dolo Wishard, Neil Wofford

Sunday, January 31

8:30 am — John Armstrong, Steve Ballinger, John Greathouse, Jim Long, Dan Cunningham, Bill Daily, Tom Dickerson, Don Inman

10:30 am — Donica Brand (captain), Max Betty, Chanon Fine, Dennis Goings, John Holmes, Jeff Maninfior

Thank You Note

📖 Thank you for your faithful service to Mattoon Community Food Center. Your congregation continues to be faithful in supporting us on a regular basis. Church donations supply 13.3% of our total expenses. Because our work is accomplished with 100% volunteer service, nearly all of your contribution is used for the purchase of food.

We are feeding up to 600 families per month. A large number of those individuals are children and seniors. Many of our families receive SNAP assistance which is intended to feed a family for 2 ½ weeks. Our monthly offering is designed to feed each family for an additional week.

We are able to purchase food at a rate of 20-25¢ per pound. Your congregation is also vital in terms of volunteer service. We see your faces every time there is work to be done.

Thanks again for serving in the name of Jesus. Together, we are making a difference for thousands of our neighbors.

Board of Directors

Mattoon Community Food Center

📖 Thank you to Lisa Ballinger, Peggy Bolin and Amy Hall for their help with the Wassail and for the ladies who baked the cookies and goodies. I am especially grateful to Kara Brand for serving, this is her 3rd consecutive year. I also thank the congregation for the great turn out and hope to see you again next year.

Mona Lee Healy

📖 A big thank you to the church for letting the Exchange Club use Campbell Hall on January 18th for a fun card party.

Doris Webb and Steve & Nancy Huckaba

Church Attendance

Jan. 10th: Traditional: 93, Contemporary: 73 = 166

Jan. 17th: Traditional: 112, Contemporary: 81 = 193