

Remarks from Pastor Steve

Salt and Light

They may be common commodities, but they change whatever they penetrate.

You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world. (Mt. 5:13-16)

Salt and light are two of the common of all household commodities. Mary, the mother of Jesus, would have often rubbed salt into meat or fish, or she would have left them to soak in salty water, in order that they might be preserved. Jesus would have seen his mother light the lamps when the sun went down. Salt and light were images Jesus chose in order to illustrate the influence, both evangelistic and social, that he meant his followers to exert in the world. What did he mean? By the salt and light metaphors, Jesus was teaching at least three important truths:

- 1. Christians are fundamentally different from non-Christians.** There is the world that, with all its tragedy and its evil, is a very dark place. We are to bring light to the darkness. The world is like rotting meat, we are to be the salt of this world.
- 2. Christians must penetrate the non-Christian community.** Although they are spiritually and morally distinct—light and darkness, salt and decay—they are not to be socially segregated. Let our light shine into the darkness. Don't light your lamp and put it under a bucket or under the bed. Put you lamp on a stand and let it give light to everybody in the house. We must penetrate the secular culture in our area of influence for Christ.
- 3. Christians must return to their Christian distinctness.** Salt has to retain its saltiness; otherwise it's useless; it isn't good for anything. It's only if we are prepared to go the way of Jesus, without compromising his values or standards that our salt will retain its saltiness and our light will shine clear and bright.

Scholarship Opportunity



The Laura Catherine Van Gundy Young Memorial Scholarship is available to Church Members of First Christian Church. Established in 2012 in loving memory of Mrs. Young by her grandson and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Randal Decker, **the Laura Catherine Van Gundy Young Memorial Scholarship** is administered by Permian Basin Area Foundation and honors her legacy of care and concern for others. Mrs. Young was an active member of First Christian Church in Mattoon for many years.

Scholarships are awarded to members of First Christian Church, Mattoon, who attend **University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, or Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, or Lincoln Christian University, 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
- Business

To complete an application online, visit <https://pba.org/scholarships/scholarship-application-process/> and click on **Laura Catherine Van Gundy Young Memorial**. Application packets are also available in the church office. Students currently receiving the Young scholarship do not have to submit a new application; they will be contacted directly by the Foundation in February.

The application and supporting documents are due in the offices of Permian Basin Area Foundation, 200 N. Loraine, Suite 500, Midland, Texas 79701 by March 31, 2015. For more information, contact Vicki Rice, Scholarship Administrator, at 432-617-3213.



Happy
90th
Birthday

Everyone is invited to a Cake and Punch Open House for Maxine Arthur's 90th Birthday Saturday,

January 24th at the First Baptist Church from 2-4 pm. Cards would be appreciated but no gifts please.

Prayer Meeting

There will be a Prayer Meeting on Saturday, January 24th at 5:30 pm in the sanctuary. Everyone is invited to this one hour prayer time with God.

Sweetheart Dinner

The annual Sweetheart Dinner will be on Saturday, February 21st. Pre-pay tickets will be sold in the narthex before and after service on Sunday. Cost will be \$7.00 per adult and \$2.00 for children. The menu will consist of choice of lasagna or tetrazzini, garlic bread, salad, drink and homemade dessert. Kids will be offered chicken nuggets, chips, drink and homemade dessert. Proceeds will benefit the youth mission trip this summer.



Pre-Pack Food

Sunday, January 25th at 2 pm is FCC's Sunday to pre-pack food at the Mattoon Food Center. If you can help please contact Candy Tate.

Super Bowl Party

The FROG and ROCK Groups will hold a Super Bowl Party at Dolo's house on Sunday, February 1st at 5:15 pm. Guys should bring a 2 liter of pop and girls should bring a snack.



February Birthdays

- 1 Roger Rives
- 3 Linda Fleming
- 5 Sarah Prescott, Linda Andres
- 7 Jack Browning, Noah Scott,
Terry Stretch
- 9 Kenny Logan
- 10 Jeff Maninfor
- 11 Thelma Whetsell
- 18 Mason Bergstrom
- 22 Carol Armstrong
- 27 Alice Edersheim, Betty Miller
- 28 Olive Easton, Bonnie Moore, Gail Moore, David Ames



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

Thank You Notes

✝ For My Church Family,

Thank you for the prayers, cards and calls. A special thank you to Pastor Richard for the visit and prayer while I was in the hospital.

Christine Weaver

✝ Thank you to our church family for the prayers, cards and concern for Cydney during and after her surgery. A special thank you to Pastor Steve, Dolo Wishard, Angela Freeman, Stephanie Freeman, MJ Brand, Genna Brand and Mabelle Morgan for making the trip to St. Louis for a visit. We appreciate you all, thank you!

John, Robin and Cydney Myers



The Building Fund has a balance of: \$212,747.94

Church Attendance

Dec. 14th:	Traditional: 130, Contemporary: 76 = 206
Dec. 21st:	Traditional: 120, Contemporary: 114 = 234
Dec. 28th:	Traditional: 103, Contemporary: 85 = 188
Jan. 4th:	Traditional: n/a, Contemporary: 85
Jan. 11th:	Traditional: 104, Contemporary: n/a
Jan. 18th:	Traditional: 109, Contemporary: 109 = 218

Church Life

Saturday, January 24

- 9-10 am Smart Choice Distribution
- 5:30 pm All Church Prayer Meeting
- 6:36 pm Young Adult Bible Study

Sunday, January 25

- 8:30 am Traditional Worship Service
- 9:30 am Sunday School
- 10:30 am Contemporary Worship Service
- 5 pm FROG/6 pm Mixer/7 pm ROCK Meetings

Monday, January 26

- 10 am Staff Meeting
- 6 pm Evangelism Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 27

- Noon Community Bible Study
- 6:30 pm Worship Team Practice

Wednesday, January 28

- 9 am "Crafts Are Us" Group
- 5:15 pm Bell Choir in the Sanctuary
- 6-7:30 pm Mid-Week Outlet Program
- 6:15 pm Chancel Choir in the Sanctuary

Saturday, January 31

- 6:36 pm Young Adult Bible Study

Sunday, February 1

- 8:30 am Traditional Worship
- 9:30 am Sunday School
- 10:30 am Contemporary Worship
- 5:15 pm FROG and ROCK Super Bowl Party at Dolo's home

Monday, February 2

- 10 am Staff Meeting
- 5 pm Worship Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 3

- Noon Community Bible Study
- 6:30 pm Worship Team Practice
- 7 pm Elders' Meeting

Wednesday, February 4

- 9 am "Crafts Are Us" Group
- 5:15 pm Bell Choir in the Sanctuary
- 6-7:30 pm Mid-Week Outlet Program
- 6:15 pm Chancel Choir in the Sanctuary



Serving Communion

Sunday, January 25

- 8:30 am** — John Armstrong, Steve Ballinger, John Greathouse, Tom Dickerson, Don Inman, Steve Lane, Randy Pierce
- 10:30 am** — Dave Whitley (captain), Amy Maninfor, Nick Maninfor, Bob Morgan, Jeff Maninfor

Sunday, February 1

- 8:30 am** — John Armstrong, Steve Ballinger, John Greathouse, Denny Booker, Jack Browning, Tim Buford, Mike Craig, Tim Cyr, Keith Summers
- 10:30 am** — Donica Brand (captain), Randy Albin, Kyle Carter, Dennis Goings, John Holmes, Amy Maninfor

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Phone: 234-2928

Elementary Pastor: Stephanie Freeman

Administrative Assistant: Robin Myers

Senior Pastor: Pastor Steven Hayes

Return Service Requested

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