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Mattoon First Christian Church

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Remarks from Pastor Steve

The Value of One Church Member

Ten members were bickering and didn't see the sign; one quit coming and then there were nine. Nine members were working very late; one got tired and then there were eight. Eight members spoke negatively about Evan; he left, and now there are seven. Seven members got into a fix; one lost the argument and then there were six. Six members found it hard to survive, one threw in the towel and then there were five. Five members working, complaining for more; one got frustrated and then there were four. Four members tried to be happy as can be; one got discouraged, then there were three. Three members wondering what they could do; one quit meeting and there were two. Two members sad, not having any fun; one joined a club and then there were one. One member sat there, feeling rather blue; invited his friend there were two. Two members praying, each invited more; doubling their number, then there were four. Four members seeing God open the gate; each brought a friend, now there are eight. Eight members united, a nice little corps; in six more verses they had 1,024.

75% of visitors that come to church do so because they were invited by a friend. Church buildings, pastors, programs, events and ministries do not grow the church, church members do. If you want the church to grow, find a friend, invite them and bring them. Church growth won't happen without you.

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Invest and Invite your Friends!

May God Enlarge His Territory,
Pastor Steve

Coats 4 Kids

We will hold our annual Coats 4 Kids Give-A-Way on Saturday, October 24th from noon-5 pm. You can bring your donated items starting Sunday and put them in the Jesus Helping Hands Classroom which is the room in the basement across from the soda machine.



Pastor Appreciation



October is Pastor Appreciation Month (I Thess. 5:12-13). Find a way to say thanks to our pastors and their spouses; and kids and youth leaders for their service. Possible ideas could be: kind words, encouraging notes and cards,

restaurant gift cards, gas gift cards, gift basket or even cash to pick out something special for themselves.

Philippine Mission Meeting

For anyone 16 years of age and older, there will be an informational meeting and potluck for the Philippine 2016 Mission Trip on October 10th at 5 pm in Campbell Hall. Drinks and table service will be provided. Just bring something to share. If you are interested but cannot make the meeting or if you have any questions please call Paul Weber at 273-6565.

Baby Boy

Congratulations to Cassie Jones and Blake Maninfior on the birth of their baby boy, Logan James, born September 24th. Also congratulations to grandparents Jeff and Amy Maninfior, great-grandparents Bob and Janice Morgan and all the aunts, uncles and cousins.



Deaconess Meeting

All Deaconesses are encouraged to attend a meeting on Tuesday, October 20th at 6 pm in Campbell Hall. The Thanksgiving Dinner and Cookie Walk will be discussed.

Singles at First

The group has planned the following social functions: October 11th Lunch at the Airport and meet at the church at 11:30 am,



November 6th Bowling at Charleston Lanes and meet at the church 6:30 pm, December 4th play cards and bake cookies for the cookie walk at Charlotte Castles' home.

Any singles interested in joining may contact any of the following people for additional information: Charlotte Castle 258-6054, Peggy Bolin 259-2886, Beth Leach 460-1768, Billie Connelly 848-7469, Steve Morgan 273-9784 or Janet Dobbs 313-3838.

Youth Mission Auction

The Youth Haiti Mission Team will hold a Silent Auction



on Sunday, October 18th from 8 am—Noon in Campbell Hall. The Silent Auction will be to "auction off students" to help with chores, etc. All proceeds will go to the Youth Haiti Mission Trip Fund.

Peace Meals

Peace Meals need to be delivered on October 19th-23rd. If you can help out please call Deb McNeely at 259-1842.

Serving Communion

Sunday, October 11

8:30 am — John Armstrong, Steve Ballinger, John Greathouse, Jim Long, Tim Buford, Mike Craig, Tim Cyr, Dan Cunningham

10:30 am — Donica Brand (captain), Randy Albin, Chanon Fine, Dennis Goings, John Holmes, Neil Wofford

Sunday, October 18

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

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

Church Life

Saturday, October 10

5 pm Mission Team Informational Potluck/Meeting

Sunday, October 11

8:30 am Traditional Worship Service

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Contemporary Worship Service

11:30 am Singles @ First Lunch at the Airport, meet at FCC

4 pm Haiti Parent Informational Meeting

5 pm Discipleship 201 in the UIC Room

5-7 FROG and 6-8 ROCK Meetings

Monday, October 12

Office Closed—Columbus Day

7 am Group Leaves for Branson, MO

6 pm Trustees' Meeting

7 pm Church Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 13

7 am Prayer Time in the UIC room

Noon Community Bible Study

6:30 pm Worship Team Practice

7 pm Elders' Meeting

Wednesday, October 14

9 am "Crafts Are Us" Group

No Bell Choir Practice

No Chancel Choir Practice

6 pm Mid-Week Outlet Program

Thursday, October 15

6:30 pm Ladies Softball at the Roundhouse Complex

Sunday, October 18

8-Noon Student Silent Auction in Campbell Hall

8:30 am Traditional Worship Service

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Contemporary Worship Service

5 pm Discipleship 201

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

Monday, October 19

10 am Staff Meeting

7 pm Christian Education Committee Meeting

Tuesday, October 20

7 am Prayer Time in the UIC room

Noon Community Bible Study

6 pm Deaconess' Meeting

6:30 pm Praise Team Practice

Wednesday, October 21

9 am "Crafts Are Us" Group

5:15 pm Bell Choir Practice

6-7:30 pm Mid-Week Outlet Program

6 pm Chancel Choir Practice



News from Paul

Hey FCC,

Wow! What a fast-paced week it has been! It sure was great to have Ben and Pat Merold with us on Sunday! If you missed them Sunday, well you missed out to say the least. Hey, have you ever felt like you could not get caught up no matter how hard you try? I had one of those weeks. There were several times when I thought I might be gaining ground and wham-o! I was suddenly reminded of something I forgot about. I do not remember seeing all of this when I signed on with this thing called the ministry or was it? I can probably find a passage about this somewhere but I will have to put that on my to-do list. In the last couple of newsletters I have talked about the fall weather, the leaves, wiener roasts and so forth. Wait, the LEAVES!! I know there are people in our congregation who might need help with clearing their gutters, picking up sticks, etc. If this is you, please call me so I can arrange someone to come help you. We have a few guys who are able to take care of small cleanup jobs like this and it would be our pleasure to serve you. I have a challenge for everyone. Take a look around where you live, work and shop. Everywhere we go, there are people of various backgrounds, ethnicity, ages and so forth. Think about this for a moment. If we were all the same, what a boring place it would be. Would you want a world full of Paul Weber's out there? Now everyone in the Discovery Class can keep your comments to yourself. Now where was I going with this? Oh yeah, if we are Christians who are commanded to, "Go therefore... (see Matt 28:19-20), we have a wide variety of people to reach. Biblical times were no different, but the Apostle Paul had some great words of wisdom. In order to reach others we sometimes have to think outside the box. If you want to catch a thief, you have to think like a thief. In other words, if you want to introduce people to Christ, you have to think like they think. How do you reach them? Where do you go? What do you say? How about this, just be what the people need...you! They need you to be you, but also to resonate with them. Paul said, "To the weak, I become weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some" (1 Cor. 9:22, ESV). For various reasons, this particular passage really spoke to me this past week. We have a whole world out there waiting to hear from us. What can you do to think outside of the box for the Kingdom?

I will bid farewell with a borrowed phrase from Red Green, "Keep your stick on the ice."

In His Service, *Paul Weber*

Church Attendance

Sept. 27th: Traditional: 109, Contemporary: 87 = 196

Oct. 4th: Traditional: 132, Contemporary: 78 = 210



The Building Fund has a balance of: \$221,595.30