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Remarks from Pastor Steve

Old Ways Still Work In Growing the Church

On October 4th, Ben Merold brought a very encouraging message and my lunch with Ben and Pat was even more encouraging.

Ben and Pat said that we have the best traditional worship service they had attended in years. What a testimony in staying the course with traditional worship, the growth of this service agrees.

I discussed with Ben our missions, outreach and education program. He felt that all three must be present for a church to grow. During his sermon he congratulated us for having a Sunday School program that is so well attended. Many churches have given up education for worship. As a result, U.S. churches are producing casual attendee's (*the average church member in the U.S. is attending church 1.4 times per month*) and not disciples, not at First Christian Church in Mattoon!

We not only offer classes for all ages from kindergarten to senior citizens, we offer discipleship training called Bible 101 and Discipleship 201. These classes are taught by your pastor. The 201 course was designed by your pastor to teach, inspire and send disciples into the community in which we are to serve. From the soon to graduate disciples of our first 201 course they will tell you... 201 is inspired and every member of FCC should take this course.

Bible 101 (the basics) is no longer a pre-requisite for 201 and new classes are forming. Sign-up sheets are posted on the Welcome Center in the narthex and these classes will be advertised to the public.

Bible 101 begins at 9:30am on Sunday, November 29th (limited to 12) in the Bible 101 classroom which is on the 2nd Floor of the Education Building.

Discipleship 201 begins at 5:00 pm on Sunday, November 29th (limited to 40 people) and meets in the U.I.C. classroom in the basement of the Education Building.

If you have questions about either course, please call me at 294-1700.

May God Enlarge His Territory,
Pastor Steve

Thanksgiving Dinner



Mark your calendars for the All Church Thanksgiving Dinner on Tuesday, November 17th at 6 pm. The turkey, noodles, mashed potatoes, rolls, drinks and table service will be provided. Please bring a dish or two to share. We will have Valet parking available and youth helpers available to help carry in dishes. The program will be Kenny Jones the

Ventriloquist.

90th Birthday Party

Everyone is invited to come and celebrate Abe Milburn's 90th Birthday on Saturday, November 7th from 2-4 pm in Campbell Hall, no gifts please.



Sr. Luncheon

We will have a Senior Luncheon on Thursday, November 12th at noon. The drinks and table service will be provided. Please bring a meat dish, a salad, vegetable or dessert to share and sign-up in the narthex if you plan to attend.

Cookie Walk

The FCC 2015 Cookie Walk will be held Saturday, December 5th from 8 am to Noon.



All church members, especially deaconesses, are encouraged to share their culinary talents in the form of cookies, candy and/or crafts to be sold. The sales will benefit the deaconess' contributions to the church. The Mission Team will also be selling hand crafted items made from recycled wood by Dolo Wishard and her helpers. It is time to gear up by contemplating those wonderful cookies and candy. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Goodies can be delivered to Campbell Hall from 9 am to 4 pm on Friday, December 4th or from 6 to 8 am on Saturday, December 5th. Thanks FCC for your continued support.

News from Paul

Hey FCC,

I hope this finds you and yours doing well. I have been receiving positive feedback from the "articles" I submit in the newsletter so I assume unless these people are being paid off I am doing okay. If not, tell me. It does not mean I will change but you can tell me anyway. Ask Miss Evelyn about this because she has experience in this department. For many things, it is hard to change twenty years' worth of what Uncle Sam has ingrained into my head. As Pastor Steve would say, "Amen!" With that thought process in mind, Veteran's Day is fast approaching so as always, let's not forget what the day means. For me, I come from a long line of Veterans and I think about them more than myself on this day. This because most of my family who have served our country have passed on. I have many great memories of serving in the U.S. Army and Illinois National Guard. Guess what else? I can still get my Class A jacket on (and buttoned I might add)! It is a "little snug" but hey, I have to go with what works! Pastor Steve has witnessed this and I think he almost fell over and asked me if it was tailor made. Uh...no.

Anyone interested in singing Christmas carols? A group of us are going to meet at the church on December 12th at 12:30 pm and try and go to several of our shut-ins and return to the church for a potluck. Keep watching for more details.

The months are going to become colder as time moves on, so let's keep our eyes and ears open to those who might be struggling with keeping warm. If there is something you can do, why not spread God's love to others. From what I have seen, FCC has been a very giving church in this area and I am certainly proud to say I belong to a great church family! Until next time boys and girls, be kind to one another, eat your vegetables, brush your teeth and say your prayers!

In His Service,

Paul Weber

Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast is this Saturday the 7th at 7 am in Campbell Hall. If you would like to help cook please be there at 5:30 am. They will eat at 7 am followed by a video lesson led by Pastor Steve titled *Better Together* by Rick Warren and it should be over by 8:15 am. Invite someone!! If you have any questions, call Paul at 273-6565.



Operation Christmas Child

It's time to start packing Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes! A generous donor has purchased 100 plastic shoeboxes for us to fill with small gifts for children around the world. To be a blessing to a needy child who may not know Jesus, fill a box or two with simple gifts and bring them back to church no later than November 22nd. The Good News of Jesus Christ is shared with the children as they receive shoeboxes, giving them an opportunity to accept Christ as their savior. More information will be available at the Operation Christmas Child table in the narthex. Please help us fill all these boxes with love and prayers!! If you have any questions, please contact Terri Goings at 276-3032.



Mid-Week Outlet



The Mid-Week Outlet program meets each Wednesday from 6-7:30 pm for K-5 and JHH Students with supper being provided. They will not meet on Wednesday, November 11th and 25th due to no school being held on those days.

FROG/ROCK News

The FROG (6-8 graders) and ROCK (9-12 graders) are meeting each week for meetings and/or activities.



Sunday, November 8 — FROG 5-7, ROCK 6-8 pm
Sunday, November 15 — FROG 5-7, ROCK 6-8 pm

Church Life

Saturday, November 7

7 am Men's Breakfast and Study
8:30 am Elders' Meeting
2-4 pm Abe Milburn's 90th Birthday Open House
5 pm Philippine Mission Meeting

Sunday, November 8

8:30 am Traditional Worship Service
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Contemporary Worship Service
5 pm Discipleship 201 in the UIC Room
5-7 pm FROG and 6-8 pm ROCK Meetings

Monday, November 9

No Staff Meeting
6 pm Trustees' Meeting
7 pm Church Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 10

7 am Prayer Time in the UIC room
Noon Community Bible Study

Wednesday, November 11

Office Closed in Observance of Veteran's Day
No "Crafts Are Us" Group
5:15 pm Bell Choir Practice
6 pm Chancel Choir Practice
NO Mid-Week Outlet Program

Thursday, November 12

Noon Senior Luncheon
6 pm Worship Team Practice

Saturday, November 14

1 pm Making Noodles in the church kitchen

Sunday, November 15

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

Monday, November 16

10 am Staff Meeting
7 pm Christian Ed. Committee Meeting

Tuesday, November 17

7 am Prayer Time in the UIC room
Noon Community Bible Study
6 pm All Church Thanksgiving Dinner

Wednesday, November 18

9 am "Crafts Are Us" Group
5:15 pm Bell Choir Practice
6 pm Chancel Choir Practice
6 pm Mid-Week Outlet Program

Thursday, November 19

6 pm Worship Team Practice



Singles at First

The group has planned the following social functions: November 6th Bowling at Charleston Lanes and meet at the church 6:30 pm and December 4th play cards and bake cookies for the Cookie Walk at Charlotte Castles' home.



Baby Back Ribs



Pastor Steve and his crew will be cooking Baby Back Ribs as a fundraiser for the Philippine Mission. Each rack will be \$18 and will be for sale on Tuesday, January 12th and Thursday, January 14th. Tickets are available to purchase from any Philippine Mission Team member or by calling Paul Weber at 273-6565. The ribs would make a great Christmas gift and/or stocking stuffer. When purchasing a ticket you will need to decide which day you will pick-up your order.

Thank You Note



📧 Thank you to the following people who helped deliver Peace Meals: Richard and Joy Eident, Candy Tate, Linda Fleming, Jan and Denny Booker, Rose Erwin, Cheri Craw, Tony Aghaei, Raylene Lane, Carol Armstrong and Verna Jones.

Deb McNeely

📧 The Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone who made the Coats 4 Kids Drive a success. Because of your generosity we gave away nearly 200 coats plus hats, gloves and blankets. Whether you donated an article of winter clothing, made a monetary donation or volunteered at the drive we appreciate your willingness to help. Left over coats were distributed to the: Mattoon Township, Salvation Army, Head Start and HOPE (Domestic Violence).

📧 We couldn't do it without you! The First Christian Church team raised more than \$2,894 through the Relay for Life Event. Thank you for your donation and participation.

Relay for Life Leadership

2016 Deaconess Sign-Up

Deaconesses who have not already signed-up for the 2016 Communion Preparation List please call Robin in the church office to sign-up for your Sundays or dates will be assigned to you by the Deaconess Chairwoman.

Sympathy



We extend our sympathy to Cinda Moran on the passing of her mother, Eileen Heath (96), on October 31st.

Coles County Council On Aging

Many services are offered at the Coles County Council on Aging. The Telecare Program offers individuals age 60 and older with a wide variety of assistance, information and referral services such as: Benefits Access Application (formerly Circuit Breaker), Medicare Part D Prescription Plans, Senior Citizen Tax Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption, Living Wills/Power of Attorney for Property and/or Healthcare, Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, Notary Services by Appointment, Long Term Support Services Options Counseling and Senior Health Insurance Program. If you have any questions about their services, please contact the center at 639-5166.



The Building Fund has a balance of: \$221,695.30

Nominating Committee

If you know of someone who would like to serve as a Trustee, Deacon or Deaconess for a 3 year term please contact one of the following nominating committee members:



Paul Weber, Teresa Stuttle, Glenda Wright, Jeannie Cunningham, Amy Maninfor, Ed Dowling or Greta Grafton.

The Congregational Meeting to elect the elders, trustees, deacons and deaconesses will be Sunday, November 22nd at 9:30 am in the sanctuary.

Serving Communion

Sunday, November 8

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

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

Sunday, November 15

8:30 am — John Armstrong, Steve Ballinger, John Greathouse, Jim Long, Don Inman, Steve Lane, Bud Miller, Randy Pierce

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

Church Attendance

Oct. 25th: Traditional: 110, Contemporary: 64 = 174

Nov. 1st: Traditional: 126, Contemporary: 78 = 204

Website: www.mattoonfcc.com

Email address: fcchurch@consolidated.net

Phone: 234-2928

Elementary Pastor: Stephanie Freeman

Administrative Assistant: Robin Myers

Senior Pastor: Pastor Steven Hayes

Return Service Requested

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