

Remarks from Pastor Steve

Hi everyone. What wonderful Christmas services we have been enjoying. If we haven't seen you, we hope to see you this Sunday as the children are ringing the bells and we light the fourth candle of advent, the candle of love.

As we prepare to wrap up this year, my hope and planning goes to 2016. Did you know that 30 to as much as 40% of Coles County is single? That's right, the potential for a church to reach this demographic group is within our reach. We have established an awesome leadership team. We are approaching our new Singles @ First Ministry with great anticipation and prayer. Our goal is to provide a singles ministry for all age groups; for men and women who have never been married, widowed or divorced. This group will focus on making new friends, having fun and Christian fellowship with others. Our singles group is not a dating service.

The Singles @ First Schedule for January and February looks like this...

Friday, January 8th from 6-8 pm a Game Night

Play Dominos and Board Games in Campbell Hall, fellowship and fun. Bring a 2-liter of pop and popcorn will be provided.

Sunday, January 31st from 11:45-1 pm a Fast Food Sunday

Meet at Freddy's, buy your own lunch and meet some new friends.

Friday, February 5th from 6-8:00 pm a Movie Night

Watch a good 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."

Sunday, February 28th 11:45-1:00 pm a Fast Food Sunday

Meet at Wendy's, buy your own lunch and meet some new friends.

The question I would like to ask you today is, would you like to see baptisms and see FCC grow? If so, please support the Singles @ First ministry. Here's how:

- a. If you are single attend and meet some new friends.
- b. Tell your co-workers about our new Singles Group and invite them.
- c. If you live in a high traffic area please get a yard sign (in January) and place it in your yard.
- d. Give an extra \$2 per week for a special gift for the Singles Ministry.
- e. Pray for the success of our new Singles @ First Ministry.

If we can make this a success, I will put in a Divorce Recovery ministry for adults and children in the near future. This will become a feeder for our newest ministry. As it grows it will naturally divide into mature, middle and young adults. The potential with your support is huge. Will you join or support us?

May God Enlarge His Territory,
Pastor Steve



We will collect a Christmas Special Offering on Sunday,

December 20th. Please use the Christmas envelope from your offering box or clearly mark on your check "Christmas Offering." The money will be used to help people from our church with needs that arise.

Wassail

Everyone is invited to the Wassail on Sunday, December 20th at 9:30 am in Campbell Hall. Christmas refreshments will be served.



We hope you and your family will attend the Christmas Eve Service at 7 pm on December 24th.

Church Cookbooks

The Church Cookbooks are available for sale at \$15 each and they would make great Christmas gifts. You may purchase one in the narthex on Sunday mornings or in the office during the week.

Christmas Decorations

The Worship Committee will be taking down the Christmas Decorations on Monday, December 28th at 5 pm. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Please sign-up in the narthex if you can help.



News from Paul

Hey FCC,

I sure am enjoying the warmer temperatures we are experiencing. In case you are wondering, I DO NOT have the windows on the house open (Miss Evelyn is home). Hey, I know where my bread is buttered! The weather around here is like the fuel prices, it will turn the other direction at some point. It is Sunday afternoon and while I suck down coffee and type this article, Miss Evelyn is laying down feeling a little under the weather today. The dogs are resting in the other room and will be wanting fed in a little while (imagine that!). It is nice to have the dogs here when I come home from work. They always greet me with excitement and it is just comforting to be able to come home to three joyful K-9 pals. It may seem trivial, but I often thank God for entrusting their care to Evelyn and myself.

Our Sunday school class sure had a great time singing Christmas Carols to a few people Saturday afternoon. I cannot carry a tune but had a great time spreading some joy around. The folks we visited enjoyed having us come and even sang along with us. When we finished we went back to the church and enjoyed some pizza along with some laughter. It sure is great getting together with each other. We are made for community and fellowship. Luke records this beautifully in Acts 2, "And they devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" (42), "And all who believed were together and had all things in common" (44), "And day by day... breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people..." (46-47, ESV). When the body gathers together in the presence of God, we bond with one another which pleases and glorifies God in so many ways. I have stressed the importance of this many times in Sunday School and it has proved to be beneficial for everyone. We have so much in common simply because we have the common bond of believing in and trusting Christ Jesus. I cannot tell you how many times the class members have commented on how much they enjoy this time together. If you want to experience the fullness of what He has to offer in the community of believers, get involved in a class and also serve in some way at FCC. You might be surprised by what you have been missing.

Until next time my friends, take it easy on the cookies, candy, and other holiday goodies. Eat something good for you, like Spam.

In His Service,
Paul Weber



Everyone is invited to come and pray with the elders every Sunday at 8:00 am in the sanctuary.

Baby Girl

Congratulations to Nick and Carolina Maninfor on the birth of their baby girl, Aaralynn Nikol, born December 15th at 1:03 pm. Congratulations to grandparents Jeff and Amy, great-grandparents Bob and Janice Morgan and the many aunts, uncles and cousins.



Scholarship



The Permian Basin Area Foundation in Midland, Texas, invites members of First Christian Church in Mattoon to apply for the **Laura Catherine Van Gundy Young Memorial Scholarship**. 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 the 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 in Mattoon, who attend **University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign**, or **Eastern Illinois University 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, visit <https://pbaf.org/scholarships/scholarship-application-process/> and click on **Laura Catherine Van Gundy Young Memorial**. The online application will be available beginning **January 11, 2016** and scholarship information including an application are available from 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, 2016. For more information, contact Vicki Rice, Scholarship Administrator, at 432-617-3213.

Philippine Mission

Help Support Our Philippine Mission Team. Pastor Steve and the Crew are cooking up 360 slabs of 3 pound meaty baby back ribs for \$18 and with pick up or delivery on January 12th and 14th. Tickets are available from the office, from Tom Dickerson in 1st service or Paul Weber in 2nd service. These would make great gifts for Stocking Stuffers or freeze for a Super Bowl Party.



Church Life

Sunday, December 20

8 am Prayer with Elders in the Sanctuary
8:30 am Traditional Worship Service
9:30 am Wassail Reception
10:30 am Contemporary Worship Service
5-8 pm FROG and ROCK Christmas Party

Monday, December 21

10 am Staff Meeting

Tuesday, December 22

7 am Prayer Time in the UIC room

Wednesday, December 23

No "Crafts Are Us" Group
5 pm Christmas Eve Rehearsal

Thursday, December 24 (office closed)

7 pm Christmas Eve Service

Friday, December 25 (office closed)

Happy Birthday Jesus!

Sunday, December 27

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
2 pm Pre-Pack at the Food Center
No FROG and ROCK Meetings

Monday, December 28

10 am Staff Meeting
5 pm De-Decorate Christmas
5 pm Philippine Mission Team Meeting

Tuesday, December 29

7 am Prayer Time in the UIC room

Wednesday, December 30

No "Crafts Are Us" Group
No Bell Choir Practice
No Chancel Choir Practice
No Mid-Week Outlet Program



Thank You Notes



☞ Thanks to so many church members for your support of the cookie walk. The deaconesses are proud to contribute to the church in many ways and this is the fundraiser that allows us to do so.

God bless, FCC Deaconesses

☞ A big thank you to the HIS Class and our church family for the many cards. We appreciated the wonderful Christmas Caroling on Saturday and receiving communion on Sunday.

Jim and Thelma Whetsell

Board Splinters

The December Board Meeting was held on the 14th. **Elders:** met Dec. 5th and elected officers: Steve Huckaba (chairman), Mike Brand (vice) and Michelle Mathews (secretary) and they will meet again on Feb. 6th at 8:15 am. **Deaconesses:** the Thanksgiving Dinner went well, cookbooks and pecans are for sale, they purchased 2 round tables, and made around \$3,000 from the Cookie Walk. **Minister:** Bible 101 is going well, will be cooking ribs the second week of January as a fundraiser for the Philippine Mission Team and the Singles Ministry is starting off great. **Elementary Minister:** kids will be playing bells at church on the 20th, will have a Baby Dedication on the 20th and keeping the social media outlets up to date. **Worship:** the Christmas Eve program is done, a new computer was installed in the sanctuary, need more communion servers at the 2nd service and will de-decorate on the 28th.

Outreach: have given several families money for Christmas gifts, given medicine assistance, and will have a Blood Drive on February 21st from 1-4 pm in Campbell Hall.

Evangelism: purchased Christmas ads in the newspaper and purchased a Singles @ First banner.

Christian Ed: forming a new Kindergarten class, discussed behavioral issues and 10 people are going on the Haiti trip.

Stewardship: we are financially in good shape.

Personnel: presented the 2016 holiday office closings.

Trustees: purchased 4 tires for the older church van, Terminix will handle the snow removal in the parking lot, going to reduce the size of the baptismal in the spring.

World Missions: will meet on December 27th to discuss the Rib Sale and other fundraising, Ham & Bean fundraiser with Eagle's Wings on February 20th and Travis and Gina Sheets (missionaries) will be here on January 3rd.

New Business: Teresa Stuttle and Randy Pierce were approved as Elders for a 1 year term and approved Pastor Steve's 2016 Housing Allowance.

- 1 Louise Wiley
- 4 Elisabeth Inman
- 5 Ronald Kerans
- 9 Wilma Newlin
- 10 Charlie Adams, Lincoln Scott
- 11 Steve Hayes
- 13 Conlan Armer
- 16 Nick Maninfior
- 18 Dan Cunningham
- 19 Raelyne Lane
- 21 Nathan Morgan
- 23 Tony Orndorff
- 26 Maxine Arthur
- 27 Bill Landrus, Lane Wofford
- 29 Mark Tomasello
- 30 Carol Englund, David Whitley, John Armstrong



January Anniversaries

- 23 Dennis and Gail Moore
- 30 Roger and Stephany Rives

Mid-Week Outlet



The Mid-Week Outlet program for K-5 and JHH Students will resume on Wednesday, January 6th, 2016.

FROG/ROCK News

The FROG (6-8 graders) and ROCK (9-12 graders) will have a Christmas Party on Sunday, December 20th from 5-8 pm. All students need to bring a 2-liter of soda.



The Building Fund has a balance of: \$222,125.30

2016 Deaconess Sign-Up

Deaconesses who have not already signed-up for the 2016 Communion Preparation there is a list in the narthex for you to sign-up for your 2 Sundays. If you don't sign up dates will be assigned to you by the Deaconess Chairwoman.

Serving Communion

Sunday, December 20

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

Sunday, December 27

8:30 am — John Armstrong, Steve Ballinger, John Greathouse, Jim Long, Steve Lane, Jack Little, Randy Pierce, Gene Swearingen

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

Sunday, January 3

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

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

Church Attendance

Dec. 6th: Traditional: 106, Contemporary: 53 = 159

Dec. 13th: Traditional: 112, Contemporary: 73 = 185



Return Service Requested

Senior Pastor: Pastor Steven Hayes
Administrative Assistant: Robin Myers
Elementary Pastor: Stephanie Freeman

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