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Mattoon First Christian Church

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Remarks from Pastor Steve

How Do I Know It's God?

Psalm 139:23 and Jeremiah 17:9-10

How can you know for sure it's God you're hearing and not just your own thoughts? Here are some safeguards for recognizing the voice of God.

1. Study Scripture. We need to do some independent thinking about God's Word that enables us to grow spiritually. When our thoughts are in balance against God's Word we can be assured of the Lord's direction.

2. Digest the Word. We take in spiritual food by reading and listening to God's truth. With spiritual food, however, many of us get biblical indigestion. We hear the Bible week after week and read it from time to time on our own, but we don't seem to gain anything from it in the long run. Digestion enables the body to do something with the food.

3. Listen to what it says. James 1:19-27 tells us to prepare our hearts for God's Word in two ways. First, have an attentive ear so you are ready to hear God, not yourself. Second, put aside anything that would hinder a receptive spirit.

4. Practice the Word. When we hear God's Word, we can respond three ways: by thinking that we have heard this before and it doesn't apply to us, by being emotionally moved by the words that we substitute strong feelings for strong action, or by acting by what we've heard. Doing something about the Word shows that it is being digested and used in life.

5. Meditate on the Word. Thinking about the things of God allows his words to fill our minds. Then we meditate on them, taking those thoughts and words in and chewing on them until they become thoughts that nourish us and help us grow. We also turn thoughts in actions.

6. Recognize the voice. Sometimes thoughts from the Lord come right at the time of our study; other times the Lord speaks to us days or even months later about something we have meditated on. But we can be assured if we study and mediate, God will speak to us. His voice in our thinking will always be in accordance with the written Word. It will never be at odds with the Scripture. (1st Corinthians 2:10-16)

Pastor Steve

Sweetheart Dinner

The annual Sweetheart Dinner will be on Saturday, February 21st. Pre-paid 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.



Men's Breakfast



All men are invited to the Men's Breakfast on Saturday, February 7th at

7 am. The meal and Bible Study are held in Campbell Hall. This is a great time of fellowship and study.

Easter Music

Barb Wisner, our Chancel Choir Director, is looking for a few extra voices to join them with Easter music. This commitment would

only consist of 4 Wednesday night practices at 6:15 pm starting on March 11th. They will sing on Palm Sunday, March 29 and Easter Sunday, April 5th during the 8:30 am service. Please contact Barb if you have any questions at 234-2640.



Pecans

The Deaconesses still have bags of pecans (halves and pieces) left. Each 1 pound bag cost \$10. On Sundays see Barb Wisner or stop by the office during the week if you want to purchase a bag or two.

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Kathlene Shank on the passing of her mother-in-law, Leona Shank, (97) on January 26th; to Fred and Kayla Grissom and Mike and Donica Brand

and family on the passing of Fred's father, Fred Grissom, (87) on January 29th; to the family of John Walker (86) who passed away on January 30th and to the family of Audrie Kersey (92) who passed away on February 3rd.



Scholarship Opportunity

The Laura Catherine Van Gundy Young Memorial Scholarship is 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 or Business.

To complete an application online, visit <https://pbaf.org/scholarships/scholarship-application-process/> and click on **Laura Catherine Van Gundy Young Memorial**. 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.

Thank You Notes

✝ Thanks so much for all of the prayers, cards, visits and words of encouragement when I was in the hospital and while I recuperate at the IOOF Home. I want to especially thank the ministers for their faithful calls and visits that have meant so much to me and my family. I look forward to going home soon and being able to return to church and the HIS class.

Olive Easton



Serving Communion

Sunday, February 8

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

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

Sunday, February 15

8:30 am — John Armstrong, Steve Ballinger, John Greathouse, Denny Booker, Jack Browning, Tim Buford, Steve Lane, Randy Pierce

10:30 am — Donica Brand (captain), Kyle Carter, Dennis Goings, John Holmes, Amy Maninfior, Nick Maninfior

Church Life

Saturday, February 7

7 am Men's Breakfast and Bible Study

6:36 pm Young Adult Bible Study

Sunday, February 8

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, February 9

10 am Staff Meeting

6 pm Trustees' Meeting

7 pm Church Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 10

Noon Community Bible Study

6:30 pm Worship Team Practice

Wednesday, February 11

9 am "Crafts Are Us" Group

No Bell Choir Rehearsal

6-7:30 pm Mid-Week Outlet Program

6:15 pm Chancel Choir in the Sanctuary

Thursday, February 12

Noon Seniors' Luncheon

Saturday, February 14

6:36 pm Young Adult Bible Study

Sunday, February 15

8:30 am Traditional Worship

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Contemporary Worship

5 pm FROG/6 pm Mixer/7 pm ROCK Meetings

Monday, February 16

Office Closed—President's Day

7 pm Christian Education Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 17

Noon Community Bible Study

6:30 pm Worship Team Practice

Wednesday, February 18

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, February 21

Sweetheart Dinner sponsored by the FROG and ROCK Groups



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

Church Attendance

Jan. 25th: Traditional: 115, Contemporary: n/a

Feb. 1st: Traditional: 82, Contemporary: 97 = 179

Return Service Requested

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

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