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Remarks from Pastor Steve

“Different Times Different Methods to Grow the Church”

Hi everybody, if you missed church last Sunday you missed a good one. The Spirit of Lord was present in both services. The Spirit was testifying with our Spirit. The message was about hope. We have resurrection hope. God loves us as His sons and daughters. God sent his son as a sacrifice for our sins.

Paul said it so beautifully for those who are in Christ. **Romans 8:38,39.we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Our education week kick-off was very successful! We had four couples in Marriage 101 and fourteen people in Discipleship 201, both classes are now closed. The Discovery class had thirty-three people in a five week follow-up study of the “War Room.” There is room in this class even if you have not seen the movie, you will find benefit and some donuts, if you come early.

I can't tell you how excited I am about our new Singles @ First ministry. It will start small, but with the leaders we have I believe it will become a very successful outreach for our church.

I am so proud of our staff; all are working very hard to grow this church. To grow the church, build relationships, invest in people, invite and bring them to one of our services.

“I'll Be There” Sunday is coming on October 4th to both our first and second service. Ben Merold, my professor and mentor is coming to preach on the church. In my lifetime, I have heard many great preachers and Ben is my favorite. If you are not in the hospital or out of town and you call FCC your church, be there.


I will be looking for you.

May God Enlarge His Territory,
Pastor Steve


Baby Dedication

We are wanting to schedule a Baby Dedication Service this fall. Anyone interested in having their child dedicated please call Stephanie in the church office.

Thank You Notes

 Thank you for all the cards and calls while I am recuperating from knee surgery. A special thanks to the HIS Sunday School Class and Richard Eident for his visit.

Russ Camfield

 The students and staff at Lerna Bridges would like to thank the members of First Christian Church for purchasing much needed computers and school supplies. There are no words that can express how everyone feels about the church's generosity.

Marilyn Purcell and
Lerna Staff



The new Singles Ministry will have their first organizational meeting on Sunday, September 27th at 3:30 pm in Campbell Hall. Anyone interested in joining the group, please come and bring your ideas.



A new Sunday School Class will begin October 4th for any young adult who has graduated from high school. The class will study the 10 week series entitled "Crazy Love." If you have any questions please contact Dolo Wishard and the class will meet on the 3rd floor in the classroom next to the restroom.

News from Paul

Hey FCC,

I hope you are all enjoying the fall weather. The leaves are changing (and falling) and I can smell the air! Weiner roasts, hot chocolate and 239 bean chili. All-in-all, this is my favorite time of the year! Miss Evelyn and I have started quite a large pile of sticks, branches and such and can hardly wait to light it up and enjoy burnt hot dogs or marshmallows (everything tastes better when it is cooked out, even the burnt food)!

What a great Sunday at FCC when Ed Thomas from World Mission Builders visited with us. If you were not able to join us you missed a great sermon and a very informative session in Campbell Hall during the Sunday school hour. The number of baptisms throughout the entire time WMB has been around is astonishing. What Ed did not cover however, was all the work and service WMB does in the States. Yep, that's right. The organization builds churches and prison chapels and has been doing this all a long. For anyone who would like more information or ways you can help this worthwhile organization, please let me know.

For anyone 16 years of age and older interested in serving next year on a short-term mission trip to the Philippines, there is an informational meeting slotted for October 10th at 5 pm in Campbell Hall. We already have approximately seven people including myself interested in going! Bring your questions and I will do my best to answer them. The meeting will be also be a potluck supper, so bring something along. Drinks and table service will be provided. I am looking forward to this trip. For those that journey abroad with me, you will come back with a different perspective about what the mission field is all about.

Guys, the Men's Breakfast is coming up on October 3rd. If you would like to help cook be there around 5:30 am or so. Otherwise, be there just before 7 am ready to eat! We will continue with the *Better Together* study series by Rick Warren. We had over twenty at the September breakfast, so let's see what we can do to make it thirty! A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex this Sunday.

Have a great rest of the week and hope to see you Sunday!

In His Service,

Paul Weber

Class at the YMCA

The YMCA is offering a new class...Y-Change and it is an 8-week program lead by a certified personal trainer that will help provide the tools to lead a healthy lifestyle. The format is in a small-group setting which meets three times a week and will include a different health and exercise topic each week as well as two workouts a week. Participants will set individual goals, keep a food and activity journal and learn how to use the equipment in the Wellness Center. If you are new to the Y, this is a great way to learn about what the Y has to offer as well as make new friends! This program is available to YMCA members at a cost of \$75 (for a total of 24 sessions) and begins Monday, September 28th. There are two different sessions to choose from, either noon or 6 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Space is limited to 10 participants per class. Stop by the Y to register or register online at www.mattoonymca.org. For more information contact Emily Hayden 234-9494.

FROG and ROCK



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

Sunday, September 27 — FROG 5-7, ROCK 6-8 pm
 Sunday, October 4 — FROG 5-7, ROCK 6-8 pm
 Sunday, October 11 — FROG 5-7, ROCK 6-8 pm

Missions Update Info.



We have an easy way for you to donate to church Mission Trips that actually costs you nothing. We have enrolled in the Smile Program through Amazon. When you order items from Amazon just log on to the website listed below and .5% of your eligible Amazon Smile Purchases will be directed to First Christian Church Missions. Just type in www.smile.amazon.com and select your charity which ours is: *First Christian Church Marilyn Purcell* and order the items you were already going to purchase anyways. If you have any questions please call the church office. Once you have signed up with the Smile Program your computer will automatically save the information.

Church Life

Sunday, September 27

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
3:30 pm Singles' Meeting in Campbell Hall
5 pm Discipleship 201 in the UIC Room
5-7 FROG and 6-8 ROCK Meetings

Monday, September 28

10 am Staff Meeting
6 pm Evangelism Meeting

Tuesday, September 29

7 am Prayer Time in the UIC room
Noon Community Bible Study
6:30 pm Worship Team Practice

Wednesday, September 30

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

Thursday, October 1

6 pm Personnel Committee Meeting
6:30 pm Ladies Softball at the Roundhouse Complex

Friday, October 2

7 pm Women of Faith Conference at First Baptist Church

Saturday, October 3

7 am Men's Breakfast and Study
9 am Women of Faith Conference at First Baptist Church

Sunday, October 4

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 5

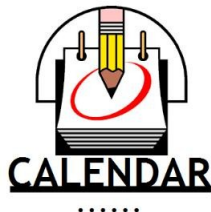
7 am World Outreach Meeting
10 am Staff Meeting
5 pm Worship Committee Meeting

Tuesday, October 6

7 am Prayer Time in the UIC room
Noon Community Bible Study
6:30 pm Praise Team Practice

Wednesday, October 7

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



Coats 4 Kids

We will hold our annual Coats 4 Kids give-a-way on Saturday, October 24th from noon-5 pm. Please start collecting new coats, hats, gloves and blankets for kids. Please store the items at home and we will let you know when we can start collecting them.



Board Splinters

The September Board Meeting was held on the 14th.

Elders: they met in August and discussed possible candidates for new elders, serving schedule and shut-in communion list. Next meeting will be October 13th at 7 pm with prayer at 6 pm.

Deaconesses: next meeting is October 20th at 6 pm and they will discuss the Thanksgiving Dinner and Cookie Walk.

Minister: decision was made to have no more combined worship services this calendar year, War Room movie was a success with a study to follow and a Singles Ministry starting soon.

Elementary Minister: Mid-Week is averaging 20 kids with new ones each week, Bible memorization is going well and kids enjoyed singing at church on August 30th.

Worship: they approved to purchase dark shades for the sanctuary and to move the light switches to the sound booth (this project is on hold) and they will discuss whether to start up the Saturday Night Service again.

Outreach: our commitment to Bridges School has been met, need people to shop for coats and have donated money for this, needs volunteers to set-up for coat give away which is October 24th with set up on the 23rd.

Evangelism: Relay for Life was very successful, they fed around 120 people at the dinner on August 30th and sold 216 tickets for the War Room movie.

Christian Ed: discussed the Mid-Week and FROG and ROCK Kick-off events, had 43 at the F/R kick-off and 25 at the first regular meeting and starting to organize fundraising for the upcoming youth mission trip.

Stewardship: reported that we are behind \$3,000 with YTD expenses compared to income and looking into an automatic withdraw system so people can contribute on-line.

Personnel: they meet with the staff for yearly evaluations and will have a committee meeting on October 1st.

Trustees: met with Wells Fargo Advisors and went over the church's investments, the projector has been hard-wired to the computer and a projector and screen added to the back of the sanctuary, training will take place on the sanctuary computer, the mortar will be replaced on the south side of the church and a donation will pay for this expense.



The Building Fund has a balance of: \$219,230.30

Baby Girl

Congratulations to Jared and Kelly Armer on the birth of their baby girl, Kaylyn Grace, born on September 8th. A big congratulations also to grandparents Phil and Marilyn Purcell.



- 1 Steve Ballinger, Aubrey Storm, Angela Freeman
- 2 Helen Dowling
- 3 Terri Goings
- 7 Brittany Wishard
- 8 Dennis Goings, Carl Pacetti
- 12 Russell Wiley, Dennis Moore
- 14 Delbert Dunn
- 17 Marvin Moore, Dick Vosburgh
- 21 Bonnie James
- 22 Jeanne Cunningham
- 23 Ethan and Ean Freeman
- 24 Beth Leach



October Anniversaries

- 1 Tom and Sally Dickerson
- 12 Steve and Marianna Hayes
- 15 Gerry and Carol Englund
- 27 Roger and Angela Freeman
- 29 Jim and Nancy Long



Church Attendance

Sept. 13th: Traditional: 106, Contemporary: 72 = 178
Sept. 20th: Traditional: 112, Contemporary: 79 = 191

Mid-Week Outlet

Mid-Week Outlet Program is for all Kindergarteners through 5th graders and JHH students. The program meets each Wednesday from 6-7:30 pm with dinner being provided.



Heartland Christian

Heartland Christian Village is having their Shopping Cart drive now through October 15. Please think about donating needed items of: small bags of snacks, snack cakes, cracker sandwich packs, mini microwave popcorn, ink pens, small packs of tissues, ink pens, solar flowers and sugar free candy. A tote will be in the narthex till October 15th for the requested items.



Serving Communion

Sunday, September 27

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

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

Sunday, October 4

8:30 am — John Armstrong, Steve Ballinger, John Greathouse, Jim Long, Denny Booker, Jack Browning, Bud Miller, Randy Pierce

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

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Return Service Requested

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Elementary Pastor: Stephanie Freeman

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