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Mattoon First Christian Church

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From the Pastor's Heart

As a believer it is our heart's desire to see people we love, people we know and the community in which live have Jesus in their hearts.

We attend far too many funerals, where there is a hush when matters of faith are mentioned. It is a sad thing when the songs we sing and the message that is given may not have applied to the deceased.

What can we do?

I believe and agree with Bill Hybles, that it can be as simple as a walk across the room. First we must develop a relationship with the lost and un and under churchd. We must make the extra effort to "walk across the room."

Second, we must pray for their salvation. Claiming in prayer *2nd Timothy 1:3, This is good and pleases God our Savior (Jesus Christ) who wants all men to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth.*

Third, in a relationship with one another and others we must share the powerful promises of God.

Please memorize these simple promises...

He has promised to always be with us.

He has promised to hear every prayer.

He has promised to take away every sin.

He has promised to someday wipe away every tear.

Eventually as the seed of relationship grows and the promises are shared, the pilgrim will want to know how to enter this relationship with Christ.

Invest in people, invite them to his body, the church, and we will help guide them to a knowledge of the truth and to the fellowship of believers.

We Are the First Christian Church,
Pastor Steve

"Noah" Presentation

All are invited to a presentation of "Noah" that was performed in Branson. The "movie" presentation will be shown on Tuesday, January 24th at 1:00 and 6:00 pm. This is a 2 hour showing and there will be a 15 minute intermission. The presentation will be held in Campbell Hall.



Brunch on the 29th

On Sunday, January 29th we will have one service at 9:30 am. Following the service there will be a brunch fundraiser at 10:30 am. There will be biscuits and gravy, cinnamon rolls, coffee, juice and fellowship. This will all be a free will donation for the Wishard Kidney Fund. They will also draw the raffle ticket for the Smart TV at this time.



Congratulations to Caley Elzy and Colin VanDeventer on their baptisms on January 8th. Welcome to the family of God!

Night in Italy

The youth group will be hosting their annual *Night in Italy* on Saturday, February 18th from 5-6:30 pm in Campbell Hall. Pagliacci's will be catering the dinner for us with choices of lasagna, spaghetti or fettuccine for the main entrée and they will also bring salad, garlic bread and drinks. We will also have delicious desserts provided by our youth leaders. Our own Mabelle Morgan will provide some live entertainment! Tickets will cost \$8 with all the proceeds going to the Wishard Kidney Fund to help support Scott and Dolo Wishard. Tickets will be available to purchase starting January 29th in the narthex.



Wishard Kidney Fund

A sub-committee from Local Outreach is holding a fundraiser to help with the costs that Scott and Dolo Wishard incurred on a journey to California to look into a possible kidney transplant for Scott. They are selling raffle tickets for \$5 each to win a 32" smart TV. The drawing will be held January 29th during the Brunch in Campbell Hall. Tickets are available in the narthex.

Hospice Volunteers

One thing we offer at First Christian that is far beyond the majority of churches in our community is elder and pastoral care. Between the elders, Pastor Richard and myself we miss few, whether shut in the home, nursing home or hospital.

With visits and communion we are doing great work. With a pure, traditional worship service at 8:30 am, a singles and seniors ministry we have a great opportunity to invite the un and under church to visit our church.

I have taken on an additional ministry for one week every two months at Sarah Bush Hospital as the hospital chaplain. I will be visiting and praying for any hospital protestant patient who is not identified with a specific church. This will add to our pastoral care program.

I would like to offer a new volunteer ministry opportunity for you.

Carle Hospital Hospice program is looking for Hospice volunteers to provide a wide variety of important and rewarding services to patients and their families who depend on hospice care.

Volunteers have special talents and abilities they can bring to the volunteer program. Anyone can be a friend or caring neighbor or connection to the community that hospice patients and their families need.

Could you give an hour or two each week or twice a month planting flowers, playing cards, writing letters, reading a book, or just talking about life?

Training is provided, which will include three hours at Carle on Lerna Road. You will also receive ten hours of hands on training with the first family visit mentored by Letisha Owens (383-8721).

If you are interested and want more information call Stephanie Freeman at 234-2928. Stephanie, is our first volunteer.

Let's walk across the room.



Building Fund balance:
\$254,229.54

Board Splinters

The Church Board met on January 9th to report December news.

Informational Reports

Deaconesses: they served one dinner in December.

Senior Pastor: the home study group is going well.

Associate Pastor: held a Christmas party on December 18th, went to the SkyZone in Springfield for a New Year's Eve party and took 17 youth, starting a 2 week lesson on alcohol and marijuana, going to a EIU game/FCA event in February and will hold a Young Adults study at Common Grounds on Thursdays at 6:30 pm.

Elementary Pastor: Outlet on Sundays will now start when the sermon begins at the 10:30 am service.

Stewardship: we ended the year with a surplus of \$59,000 with income over expenses.

Trustees: looking into new energy program and fixing windows.

Seniors Pastor: no outings in December, did many hospital and nursing home calls, and will do a movie day on January 24th showing "Noah" a presentation from Branson.

New Business: World Outreach Committee—add Dawn Albin and Tom Dickerson, and Roger Rives and Ruth Rankin resigned from this committee; and add Steve Huckaba to the Stewardship Committee.

- 1 Nick Martin, Roger Rives
- 3 Linda Fleming
- 5 Linda Andres
- 7 Jack Browning, Noah Scott, Terry Stretch
- 9 Kenny Logan
- 10 Jeff Maninfior
- 11 Thelma Whetsell
- 18 Mason Bergstrom
- 21 Alexis Rosine
- 22 Carol Armstrong
- 25 Jan Kepley
- 27 Alice Edersheim, Betty Miller
- 28 Bonnie Moore



-
- 14 Russell and Joyce Camfield
 - 19 Bill and Katie Landrus
 - 27 Mike and Sue Craig



Riches from Richard

We are so fortunate to have folks visit with us at First Christian Church. Visitors come in many types:

There Are The Wounded: They have been hit with a crisis of some kind and so they have turned to the Lord for help. They view us as “the Lord’s People” and feel that we represent Him. They need tons of affirmation and acceptance.

There Are Some Secret Agents: They act like they are on a secret mission and do not want to be seen. They come in the least used doors and leave a little early so they won’t be detected. Secretly they want people to reach out to them, but they are afraid to make the first move. We need to be aware of these unassuming people and approach them with love and kindness.

There Are The Drop Ins: They have driven by our building a number of times and said to themselves, “That looks like a friendly place. If I ever go to church, I think I will try here.” So, the Sunday comes and they attend. We may have only one chance to make contact with them.

There Are The Sore Arms: These folks have had an arm twisted by their Christian neighbor, co-worker or family member who has been urging them to come. So, finally they have decided to get their zealous friend off their case by attending one time. If we can make that one time pleasant, they might be drawn back by what they see and hear.

There Are The Curious: They have heard about our church and wonder what kind of people we are and have decided to just take a look. If they like what they see, they might come back. Otherwise, their curiosity has been satisfied and they may never come back.

They Are The Inquirers: They have been searching for “something” they have not been able to find. They have a good idea of what church ought to be and wonder if we are that church. We may or may not be, but one thing is certain, it takes more than one visit to find out. Your friendship may bring them back for additional visits.

There Are Church Shoppers: Some have left dead churches and are starved for Bible based sermons and lessons. Others have been burned out by negativism and need to hear positive, uplifting sermons and lessons, and still others are tired of conflict where they are and want to find a house of peace. Others are looking for a place where they will be accepted. If you will reach out, they may decide this is the place.

We have opportunities to “entertain strangers”. Who knows, one of them might be an angel. Just a thought.

Scholarship

The Permian Basin Area Foundation invites members of First Christian Church 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. This scholarship honors her legacy of care and concern for others. Mrs. Young was an active member of FCC for many years.



Scholarships are awarded to members of FCC who attend **U of I, Urbana-Champaign; EIU, 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 apply for the **Laura Catherine Van Gundy Young Memorial**, go to www.pbaf.org and click on **Apply for Scholarships** in the upper right-hand corner. This will direct you to **Scholarships—General Information**. Applicants are encouraged to review *Scholarship Application Process, Application Process Guidelines, and Frequently Asked Questions* prior to beginning the application process. Next, click on **Apply Here** at the bottom of the General Information page. You will be instructed to create a user account for AcademicWorks, the Foundation’s online scholarship management system.

To ensure consideration for the **Laura Catherine Van Gundy Young Memorial Scholarship**, be sure to identify **qualifying academic institutions and areas of study listed above which are applicable to you** and select **I am a member of FCC, Mattoon, Illinois** under the heading **Qualifying Criteria for Certain Foundation Scholarships**. Required transcripts are mailed to 200 N. Loraine, Suite 500, Midland, Texas 79701; emailed to scholarships@pbaf.org; or faxed to 432.617.0151. **Deadline for application and supporting documents to be received by the Foundation is March 31, 2017.** For more information, contact the scholarship office at the Foundation, 432.617.3213 or scholarships@pbaf.org.

Qualifying students currently receiving the **Laura Catherine Van Gundy Young Memorial Scholarship** are not required to complete a new General Scholarship Application. They will receive an invitation to apply for renewal in January and are required to complete the Renewal Application.

Church Life

Sunday, January 22

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
 5-7 pm FROG/ROCK Group Meetings

Monday, January 23

10-11:30 am Staff Meeting
 6 pm Evangelism Meeting

Tuesday, January 24

7 am Prayer Time
 1 and 6 pm Noah Presentation Movie

Wednesday, January 25

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

Sunday, January 29

9:30 am One Worship Service
 10:30 am Brunch and Wishard Kidney Fundraiser
 5-7 pm FROG/ROCK Group Meetings

Monday, January 30

10-11:30 am Staff Meeting

Tuesday, January 31

7 am Prayer Time

Wednesday, February 1

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



Church Attendance

January 8: Traditional: 102, Contemporary: 58 = 160
 January 15: Traditional: 73, Contemporary: 56 = 129

Thank You Notes

A big thank you to the best congregation around who came out to the Wassail even when the weather wasn't the best! I was glad to hear you all enjoyed the new savory menu and we will have cookies for the kids next year too. I also want to thank Peggy Bolin, Randy and Sandy Pierce and Ron Hatfield for all your help. Thanks and I hope you will look forward to the next Wassail.



Mona Lee Healy

Thank you First Christian Church and Deaconesses for hosting my dad's, Aaron Hardin, funeral dinner for my family and I. The meal was so comforting and delicious on a difficult day. I will always remember the kind souls who took time from their days to assist. So proud to be a member here!

Tammy Rentschler

Serving Communion

Sunday, January 22

8:30 am — John Armstrong, Steve Ballinger, John Greathouse, Jim Long, Don Inman, Denny Booker, Jack Little, Gene Swearingen

10:30 am — Dennis Goings, Marlin LoPiccolo, Jeff and Amy Maninfor

Sunday, January 29

9:30 am — John Armstrong, Steve Ballinger, John Greathouse, Jim Long, Don Inman, Jack Browning, Tim Buford

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Return Service Requested

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