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Mattoon First Christian Church

Web: mattoonfcc.com

From the Associate

Benjamin Franklin was quoted, "When you are finished changing, you are finished." I guess I'm not finished yet! Let's just say that change has definitely occurred in my life in the last year. I went from a single dad, to a married man, now living with three beautiful girls: Shawnc, Mabelle and Saylor. Estrogen outweighs the testosterone in my household by a landslide! I spent the last 31 years working for the largest pet food company in the world, Mars Petcare, inside a loud, massive manufacturing facility. I now have worked 2 weeks in a quiet, small church office, wonderfully decorated by my wife. Change has arrived and it is good.

The apostle Paul experienced change also. In Philippians 3:13-14 Paul states, "One thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Paul was a zealous persecutor of these new followers of Jesus. He was a Pharisee, more focused on the law of God, than the love of God. He was present at the stoning of the martyr Stephen, overseeing and giving his approval. But Christ changed Paul's heart. Imagine the guilt and remorse Paul must have felt after his conversion for what he had done in his past. He chose to forget the bad in his past and chose to press on in Christ, eyes and heart fixed on Jesus. And what was the result of this change of heart? God used Paul to take the gospel of Christ outside of Israel, to the rest of the world.

It is easy to get down on yourself for mistakes you have made in your life. Maybe you have put someone down with harsh, hurtful words. Maybe you have not treated your spouse with the love and respect they deserve. Maybe your actions have been more world-like than Christ-like. The good news is that God forgives sin. Don't underestimate the strength and love of the blood of Christ. If you feel broken take hope. God uses broken people!

I am thankful for the opportunity to serve at this church, where as a child I listened to the preaching of men like Massey and Clark. I pray for revival and growth for our church.

To know Christ and to make Him known,
Steve Morgan

Cookie Walk/Craft Bazaar

The Annual Cookie and Craft Bazaar will be on Saturday, December 3rd from 8:30 am — noon. Lots of cookies, candy, crafts, jewelry, homemade cookie and soup mixes, and more will be available to purchase. Cookies will be \$3.00 per lb. and candies \$5.00 per lb. Please drop off your goodies on Friday, December 2nd anytime from 8:30-4 pm.



The Craft Group is having a raffle for quilts with Illini and the Chicago Bears decor. They will be selling tickets in the narthex on Sunday and on December 3rd. You may purchase 1 ticket for \$1 or 6 tickets for \$5.

The Cookie Monster will be there for pictures and the cookie walk. The door prize and quilt raffles will be given away at noon, need not be present to win!

Go Tell It! Musical

The Chancel Choir will perform the Mini-Musical *Go Tell It!* On Sunday, December 4th at the 8:30 and 10:30 am services. Please invite your friends to this performance. Postcards are available on the Welcome Center so you can easily invite friends and family.



Christmas Offering



Christmas Offering

We will collect the Christmas Offering on December 4th and 11th. Donations will be used to help church families if and when needs arise. Please use your Christmas Offering Envelope for this donation.

Back Pack Program

The committee is always in need of: individual packets of cheese and crackers, individual packets of peanut butter crackers, individual packets of raisin boxes, individual applesauce cups, individual pudding cups, pop-tarts and packets of instant oatmeal. Any donation would be appreciated.



Church Basement Play

If you signed up to go see the "Church Basement Ladies" Play, tickets have been purchased so please bring your money (\$37) for your ticket to the church office or pay Nancy Huckaba.

New Board Members

The following people were elected at the Congregational Meeting on November 20th to serve new 3 year terms starting January 1, 2017:

ELDERS

Mark Scott
Teresa Stuttle

TRUSTEES

Ron Hatfield

DEACONS

John Armstrong
Tim Buford
Marlin LoPiccolo
Jeff Maninfior
Herb Ault

DEACONESSES

Beverly Beeler
Jeanne Cunningham
Linda Dilley
Angela Freeman
Mona Lee Healy
Nancy Huckaba
Amy Maninfior
Kathy Newlin
Judy Smith
Brenda Wofford



Randy Pierce

Bud Miller

John Greathouse
Tom Dickerson
Josh Recker
Nick Maninfior

Jan Booker
Sally Dickerson
Joy Eident
Kayla Grissom
Sandy Herren
Jan Little
Janice Morgan
Shelly Scott
Teresa Stuttle
Glenda Wright

Men's Breakfast



All men are invited to the Men's Breakfast on Saturday, December 3rd at 7 am.



CHRISTMAS SEASON

December 3 Cookie Walk/Craft Bazaar 8 am—Noon
December 18 Wassail Reception, 9:30 am
December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7 pm
December 25 Christmas Day One Service, 9:30 am

Sympathy



DEEPEST SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Riley Klasing (87) who passed away on November 14th.



It's always a good time to join the choir, call Julia at 273-4793 or email her at fccchoirdirector@gmail.com

Upcoming Special Music

November 27 Chancel Choir, *Oh' Happy Day*
December 4 "Go Tell It!" Mini-Musical
December 11 Kings IV Group
December 16 Lightworks-Nativity at Peterson Park 6-8 pm, contact Julia if you want to participate
December 18 Bell Choir

Congratulations to Blake and Cassie Maninfior on their marriage on November 12th. We wish them many years of happiness!



Church Life

Sunday, November 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
No FROG/ROCK Meetings

Monday, November 28

No Staff Meeting
6 pm Evangelism Meeting

Tuesday, November 29

7 am Prayer Time

Wednesday, November 30

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

Saturday, December 3

7 am Men's Breakfast
8 am -Noon Cookie and Craft Bazaar
8:30 am Elders' Meeting

Sunday, December 4

8:30 am Traditional Worship Service
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Contemporary Worship Service
5-7 pm FROG/ROCK Meeting

Monday, December 5

10-11:30 am Staff Meeting
5:30 pm Worship Committee Meeting

Tuesday, December 6

7 am Prayer Time

Wednesday, December 7

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

Thursday, December 8

11 am leave for Church Basement Ladies Play



Board Splinters

The November Board Meeting was held on the 14th with Steve Huckaba presiding over the meeting. Richard Eident opened the meeting with prayer at 7 pm.

Elders: Steve Huckaba reported that they met on October 2nd and discussed possible new Elders, shut-in communion and the 5th Sunday Worship Service. They will meet again on December 3rd at 8:30 am.

Deaconesses: Nancy Huckaba reported that the group met in October, donated \$100 to Heartland Christian Village, reduced the cookbook price to \$10 each, selling pecans for \$10 per bag or 3 for \$25, from April through October we will use only 1 cup for the juice for communion with the bread in the center of the trays, Thanksgiving Dinner is on the 15th and the youth will help with clean-up and carrying food, and Tom Dickerson will provide a Valet Service for the dinner.

Associate Minister: Steve Morgan thanked everyone for allowing him to serve God through FCC, had 25 kids at youth group on the 13th, will have a Christmas Party on December 18th and attending a Winter Jam Concert on January 28th.

Elementary Minister: Stephanie Anderson reported that they are at the 10th week of Mid-Week this school year and things are going well with a steady numbers of kids, after Thanksgiving they will start a Christmas series and if anyone wants items posted on the church's Facebook page to please let her know.

Worship: Mike Brand reported that they are working on the Christmas Eve Service which will be at 7 pm and we will have one service on Christmas Day at 9:30 am. It was also mentioned how much people enjoyed the 5th Sunday Worship Service.

Outreach: Candy Tate reported that the committee gave \$200 to the Shop with a Cop Program, \$100 to the MMS for their Community Supper and will collect the Christmas Offering on December 4th and 11th.

Evangelism: Jack Browning reported that they presented their budget to the Stewardship Committee.

Christian Ed: Angela Freeman reported that they presented their budget to the Stewardship Committee.

Stewardship: Dan Cunningham reported that we have a \$1,800 shortfall in October and is hopefully that November and December offerings will be great.

Personnel: Jack Browning reported that they are holding staff evaluations.

Trustees: Ron Hatfield reported that they discussed an energy savings program, snow removal for the parking lot and an additional security system for the church.

Seniors' Minister: Richard Eident reported that they took 21 people to Branson last week and had a wonderful time and he will preach on November 20th and 27th while Pastor Steve is on vacation.

New Business: the 2017 Proposed Budget was approved.

- 5 Amy Maninfior
- 8 Barbara Browning
- 10 Marilyn Purcell
- 12 Beverly Beeler
- 13 Mary Guill
- 14 Aaralynn Maninfior
- 16 Linda Adams, Brenda Wofford
- 17 Don Wisner
- 20 Max Betty
- 21 Marlee Brand, Gene Himes
- 24 Gene Swearingen
- 27 Donica Brand
- 31 Barb Wisner



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- 1 Brian and Lisa Ingram
 - 7 Gene and Jeanette Swearingen
 - 14 Sid and Mary Guill
 - 21 Tad and Bonnie Moore
 - 27 Jeff and Amy Maninfior
 - 28 Dave and Glenda Wright
 - 29 Jack and Bonnie James
 - 30 Jim and Thelma Whetsell
 - 31 Richard and Madonna Johnson
Scott and Dolo Wishard



Barbershop Chorus

On Sunday, December 4th, the Coles County Barbershop Chorus will present their 42nd Annual Christmas Benefit Concert(s). The 3 pm Concert will be held at Wesley United Methodist Church in Charleston and the 7 pm program will be held at the First Presbyterian Church in Mattoon. The concert lasts one hour and is FREE to the public. A free will offering is taken and annually more than \$5,000 is generated for area Food Pantry and Homeless Shelter programs. The 25 man chorus and quartets will be joined by a group of ladies while closing the program with "God So Loved the World". Both sites have plenty of parking and the facilities are wheel chair accessible.

	Building Fund balance: \$254,034.54
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Serving Communion

Sunday, November 27

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

10:30 am — Jeff Maninfior, Amy Maninfior, Nick Maninfior, Bob Morgan

Sunday, December 4

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

10:30 am — Max Betty, Donica Brand, Chanon Fine, Dennis Goings

Church Attendance

November 13: Traditional: 112, Contemporary: 75 = 187

November 20: Traditional: 101, Contemporary: 61 = 162

