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Mattoon First Christian Church

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From the Pastor's Heart

Tired of diets and miracle weight loss programs that don't work? Do you feel as if you have no energy or even depressed?

If so, you might want to join me for a new 12 week class G.F.L. (Growth-Fitness-Life) starting on January 7th at 9:30 am in the Bible 101 room.

This group will learn how to grow in mind, body and spirit because I believe all three must be fully engaged for total health and fitness. I will teach how to grow in understanding the Bible, enjoy daily devotions and how to fast and pray to stay connected to God. For those who want to lose weight, private weigh-ins will be conducted each week and individual exercise plans will be developed.

Stretching and mental relaxation will be a part of the program. We will discuss the book "The Power of Full Engagement" by Jim Loehr and Tony Schwartz that focuses on managing energy and personal renewal.

The cost of the program is by donation and open to everyone. Pre-registration is required and limited to 16 people. If you want to join this class please call me at 294-1700.

Pastor Steve



All men are invited to the Men's Breakfast on Saturday, December 2nd at 7 am in the UIC Sunday School Room.

Poinsettias

The church would be happy to have a poinsettia in the sanctuary on Christmas Eve in memory of your loved ones. Call the church office by noon on Tuesday the 19th with the information as you want it to appear in the bulletin. Please have your plant to the church by noon on Friday the 22nd. Plants can be taken home after the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.



New Members

We welcome Ernie and Marlene Webb who joined the church by letter of transfer on November 19th.



The Annual Cookie Walk will be held on Saturday from 8:30 am—noon. There will be lots of homemade cookies, candy and treats for sale. This year's event will feature a quilt exhibit. Beautiful homemade quilts will be on display for viewing. Purchase your Christmas goodies while enjoying the beautiful quilts.

Thank You Notes

I would like to thank my great family, my church family, friends, and especially Steve Morgan for the visit while I was in the hospital. Also, thanks for the phone calls and flowers. God bless you all!

Carol Wilson

You raised \$1,600 (64 baskets) from the Thanksgiving Baskets' Offering!

Local Outreach

Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the church for Christmas. It was a great turn out and looks awesome.

Worship Committee



Cookie Walk and Quilt Show

Saturday, December 2nd from 8:30—noon

FCC will provide the "Live Nativity" at Peterson Park

Friday, December 15th from 6-8 pm

Wassail Christmas Reception

Sunday, December 17th at 9:30 am in Campbell Hall

Christmas Eve Service Times, December 24th

Combined Christmas Celebration at 9:30 am

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service at 7 pm

New Year's Eve, December 31st

Combined Service at 9:30 am

New Board Members

The following people were elected at the Congregational Meeting on November 19th to serve new 3 year terms:

Elders: Debi Buford, Angela Freeman, Roger Freeman, Kathlene Shank

Deacons: Steve Ballinger, Carroll Gibbons, Steve Lane, Bob Morgan, Chanon Fine, Colin VanDeventer

Deaconesses: Carol Armstrong, Amy Hall, Angie Johnson, Jan Kepley, Annetta Kerans, Raelyne Lane, Betty Miller, Kelly Morgan, Jill Shasteen, Patricia Sweich, Doris Webb, Barb Wisner, and Joan Young.

Church Life

Friday, December 1

8:30 am—4:30 pm Drop of Cookies/Candy for the Cookie Walk

Saturday, December 2

7 am Men's Breakfast in UIC Room

8:30—Noon Cookie Walk

Sunday, December 3

8:30 am Traditional Worship

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Contemporary Worship

5-7 pm F/R Meeting

Monday, December 4

10-11:30 am Staff Meeting

5:30 pm Worship Committee Meeting

Tuesday, December 5

7 am Prayer Time

Wednesday, December 6

9 am "Crafts Are Us" Group

5:15 pm Bell Choir Practice

6 pm Mid-Week Program

6 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, December 7

Noon SALT Luncheon

6 pm Praise Team Practice

Sunday, December 10

8:30 am Traditional Worship

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Contemporary Worship

5-7 pm F/R Meeting

Monday, December 11

10-11:30 am Staff Meeting

6 pm Trustees' Meeting

7 pm Church Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 12

7 am Prayer Time

Wednesday, December 13

9 am "Crafts Are Us" Group

5:15 pm Bell Practice

6-7:30 pm Mid-Week Program

6 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, December 14

6 pm Praise Team Practice



Church Attendance

Nov. 12th — Traditional: 120, Contemporary: 80 = 200

Nov. 19th — Traditional: 110, Contemporary: 93 = 203

Nov. 26th — Traditional: 92, Contemporary: 83 = 175



Building Fund balance:
\$259,781.68

Board Splinters 11/13

Elders: they discussed Elder terms and 7 openings that need filled.

Deaconesses: will provide candy on Sunday mornings until Easter. Donations of candy can be made to Dolo and cash donations for candy to Sally. 2018 Officers: Nancy Huckaba (president), Dolo Wishard (vice), Doris Webb (secretary) and Sally Dickerson (treasurer).

Minister: it's great to be back in the pulpit, the staff is working well as a team, our program is solid and he feels as if we are advancing the kingdom and we will also be offering the Dinner 4 Eight program in February or March.

Associate Minister: preached one sermon in October, Marriage on the Rock averaged 6-7 couples, attended an intensive week of class at LCU, started a new series with the youth entitled, "The GOSPEL in 6 Words" and one of the students has been teaching Sunday School.

Worship: worked on and accepted the 2018 budget, elected officers: Jan Kepley (chair); Marcia Roetker (co-chair) and Cheryl Ballinger (secretary), looking at a new bulletin design, started planning December services and specials and will do the live nativity at Peterson Park on December 15th.

Outreach: raised \$1,430 so far for Thanksgiving Baskets.

Christian Ed: held a budget meeting.

Stewardship: October was a good month with \$42,052 in contributions given and the expenses were \$28,795. YTD we are behind \$30,580 with income and expenses and we are hoping for a great November and December.

Personnel: will meet concerning the Elementary Position.

Seniors Minister: preached at both service twice and took 45 Operation Christian Child shoeboxes to FBC.

New Business: Accepted Stephanie Anderson's resignation as the Elementary Minister. Accepted the resignations of Jim Long as trustee and deacon, Kathy Randolph as deaconesses and Steve Morgan as Elder. The program and salary sections of the 2018 Budget was approved. The salary portion is to be review in January for possible salary increases after we see how we ended the year out financially.

Serving Communion

Sunday, December 3

8:30 am — John Armstrong, Steve Ballinger, John Greathouse, Don Inman, Denny Booker, Jack Browning, Tim Buford, Dan Cunningham

10:30 am— Herb Ault, Max Betty, Donica Brand, Dennis Goings

Sunday, December 10

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

10:30 am — Jeff and Amy Maninfor, Bob Morgan, Nick Maninfor

Return Service Requested

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