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Mattoon First Christian Church

Web: mattoonfcc.com

From the Pastor's Heart

I would like to thank all of you for the wonderful work on decorating for Christmas and the beautiful mini cantata that was performed. We are truly worshiping and making this Christmas the best ever.

I would like to talk a bit about church growth. With the business background I have I most likely put way too much emphasis on attendance numbers. Quantity is important but quality changes lives and I believe we are doing the best we can to achieve it. Lives are being changed as a result of your church.

We have a complete wonderful offering for all age groups and a staff that is committed to excellence. We are the leading church in outreach and missions in our community. We offer two genres of worship every Sunday morning. The Word of God is presented in an understandable and timely manner and our music is good and improving.

That being said, the missing ingredient in our church growth could very well be our individual efforts in building relationships, investing in and inviting friends, co-workers, neighbors and people the Lord puts into our path to visit our church.

This takes prayer, some encouragement and mind-set and a desire to be and go as a disciple of Jesus Christ. We are all called to go. Matthew 28:19,20. If we go, the Lord says He will be with us always.

We would like to help you learn personal evangelism with a small home group opportunity. It's from a book written by Bill Hybels and it's entitled "Just Walk Across The Room." The pilot class is for 12 people and there are 7 slots left. The class will be held at the Hayes' home for five weeks meeting on Friday evenings from 6-7:30 pm from January 6th through February 3rd. Study guides will be provided. Call me at 294-1700 if you like to participate.

I have challenged every member of our church to read the Bible every day. Many have been encouraged to do this by taking the 8 week Bible 101 course. Several enjoyed it so much they have asked to repeat it. You may repeat but first timers will be given preference. There are 16 slots available and a sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in Campbell Hall. A Study Bible is required and if you do not have one, one will be provided. The class will meet as a Sunday school offering at 9:30 am in the Bible 101 room across from the water fountain on the second floor of the education building. The Bible 101 course begins Sunday, January the 8th and ends Sunday, February 26th.

Would you help us by worshiping with us regularly and by inviting adults and children to a church that really cares.

May God Enlarge His Territory,
Pastor Steve

Kings IV Group

The Kings IV musical group will sing at the 8:30 am service on December 11th. Come early at 8 am to hear extra Christmas music.



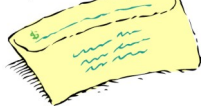
Christmas Offering

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

2017 Offering Envelopes

The 2017 Offering Envelopes are available for pick up in the narthex. You might notice your envelope number has changed. It was time to reorganize the numbers so we didn't waste boxes. If you don't see a box for yourself and you want one, please contact Robin in the office.

Offering Envelopes



CHRISTMAS SEASON

December 18	Wassail Reception, 9:30 am
December 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7 pm
December 25	Christmas Day One Service, 9:30 am
January 1	New Year's Day One Service, 9:30 am

Thank You Notes



A thank you from the heart for the love and support shown to our family on the passing of our loved one. A special thank you to Richard, who was there for us throughout his illness and his death. Riley loved this church and our Sunday School class and often mourned the fact he could no longer attend.

Family of Riley Klasing

Thank you to everyone who volunteered at the Cookie Walk and donated cookies, candy, crafts and jewelry. The winners of the quilts were Joan Young and Norma Himes.

The Deaconesses

Thank you to all who helped pack shoeboxes or prayed for the ministry of Operation Christmas Child! 150 children will be blessed and hear the good news that Jesus loves them! Please pray for the children who will receive shoeboxes, that their hearts will be open to receiving Jesus and their lives will be changed by these simple gifts.

World Missions Team

Poinsettias

The church would be happy to have a poinsettia in the sanctuary on Christmas Day in memory of your loved ones. Call the church office by noon on Tuesday the 20th with the information as you want it to appear in the bulletin. Please have your plant at the church by noon on Friday, December 23rd. Please take your plants home after the service on the 25th.





Building Fund balance:
\$254,014.54

Church Life

Sunday, December 11

8:00 am Kings IV singing Christmas music
8:30 am Traditional Worship Service/Kings IV
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Contemporary Worship Service
5-7 pm FROG/ROCK Meeting

Monday, December 12

10-11:30 am Staff Meeting
6 pm Trustees Meeting
7 pm Church Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 13

7 am Prayer Time

Wednesday, December 14

No "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, December 18

8:30 am Traditional Worship Service
9:30 am Wassail in Campbell Hall
10:30 am Contemporary Worship Service
5-7 pm FROG/ROCK Christmas Party

Monday, December 19

10-11:30 am Staff Meeting
7 pm Christian Ed. Committee Meeting

Tuesday, December 20

7 am Prayer Time

Wednesday, December 21

No "Crafts Are Us" Group
No Bell Choir, Chancel Choir or Praise Team Practices
No Mid-Week Outlet Program

Saturday, December 24

7 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 25

9:30 am Christmas Service

Monday, December 26

Office Closed



Church Attendance

November 27: Traditional: 110, Contemporary: 59 = 169
December 4: Traditional: 133, Contemporary: 64 = 197

Sympathy



We extend our sympathy to Joyce Camfield and family on the passing of her brother, Emmitt Young (69) in Arizona.



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

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

A Christmas Carol

The Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol is set to play at the City Center in Champaign (505 S Chestnut) on December 8th, 10th, 15th & 17th at 7 pm; the 11th at 1:30 and 5:30 pm and the 18th at 2 pm. Jim Whitmore is the assistant director. General admission is \$10 and tickets can be purchased at www.citycenterchampaign.com/calendar/



Pecans/Cookbooks

The Deaconesses have Cookbooks and Pecans for sale in the narthex for \$10 each. Cookbooks will make wonderful Christmas gifts and use the pecans for Christmas goodies.

Serving Communion

Sunday, December 11

8:30 am — John Armstrong, Steve Ballinger, John Greathouse, Jim Long, Don Inman, Tim Buford, Tim Cyr
10:30 am — Jeff Maninfior, Amy Maninfior, Nick Maninfior, Bob Morgan

Sunday, December 18

8:30 am — John Armstrong, Steve Ballinger, John Greathouse, Jim Long, Don Inman, Dan Cunningham, Bill Daily, Tom Dickerson
10:30 am — Max Betty, Donica Brand, Chanon Fine, Dennis Goings

Website: www.mattoonfcc.com

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Senior Pastor: Steve Hayes

Return Service Requested

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