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Mattoon First Christian Church

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From the Pastor's Heart

Wait For It...

Habakkuk 2:4

One late afternoon in 1879, a pastor named Washington Gladden found himself completely discouraged with the futility of his ministry efforts. He had been serving God for years, but had never seen the results he had hoped to see. And now he was at the point of despair.

Later, in the years to come, his life would be much different. He would write books and publish a magazine; his voice would be influential in matters that shaped our cultural values in the early 20th century. He would also pastor a thriving church in Columbus, Ohio.

But on this day in 1879 Washington Gladden couldn't see what was to come. He could see only his discouragement. That afternoon he climbed up to the top of the church bell tower to be alone and think for a while. The thought even crossed his mind that he could jump and make his troubles go away.

Instead, he poured his heart out to God, putting into words what would become a powerful hymn.

*O master let me walk with thee
In lowly paths of service free
Tell me Thy secret; help me bear
The strain of toil, the fret of care.*

Maybe today your life doesn't look the way you want it to. Maybe the results you hoped for have yet to be realized. Don't forget God's words to the prophet Habakkuk, that the revelation would come at the appointed time, with the gentle exhortation, "Though it linger, wait for it." (Habakkuk 2:4)

Today isn't all there is. Don't give up on God's promise. Though it linger, wait for it.

You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. (Hebrews 10:36)

May God Enlarge His Territory,
Pastor Steve

Update on Scott

Scott has been approved for a kidney transplant! The doctors at Mayo will meet this week and contact us soon. We don't know the exact date as Scott's sister (the donor) still has some testing to complete. Thank you for your prayers, support and concern.

The Wishard Family

The Laura Catherine Van Gundy Memorial Scholarship will undergo changes for the 2018-19 school year. At the request of the donor the scholarships will be awarded to members of FCC who are pursuing higher education in *Christian Ministry only*. If you would like to apply for this scholarship, please contact Robin in the church office by March 31st.



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

Singles@First



The Singles @ First Group will have a Chili Supper on Saturday, February 3rd at 5 pm. The chili and dessert will be provided, please bring a drink to share.

Night in Italy Dinner



The FROG and ROCK Youth Group will be hosting a *Night in Italy* on Saturday, February 10th from 5-6:30 pm in Campbell Hall. Pagliacci's will be catering the dinner with choices of lasagna or fettuccine for the main entrée with salad, garlic bread and drinks. Our youth and leaders will provide delicious desserts and if you would like to bring a dessert to share that would be great. Tickets will be \$8 each and can be purchased in the narthex.

Training Deadline Feb. 11

Help us develop vision for our church. You are invited to attend the Church Leadership Conference at Lincoln Christian University on Saturday, February 17th from 9-3:30 pm.



There will be great worship and great speakers. If you are an elder, deacon, deaconess, or a new member of our church wishing to enter our leadership and help us grow—this is for you. This training will be free which will include lunch and transportation. Please sign-up in the narthex if you want to attend and the van will leave at 7:00 am and return around 6 pm. Deadline to sign-up is February 11th.

Thank You Notes

☞ Thank you to Pastor Steve, Richard Eident and Rev. Clark for the beautiful funeral service. Thank you to the Deaconesses for the nice dinner and to all those who were involved with the service.

Russ Camfield and family

☞ Thank you to everyone who helped with the preparation, set-up and clean-up for the Chili Cook-Off. The Chili Champion was Jan Kepley and Jerrod Myer came away with Second Place. The Chili Champion won a crock pot, chili champion apron, gift card from El Vaquera and the traveling Chili Champion Belt! Jerrod won a set of wooden TV trays. Thanks to all who attended, good fellowship and fun!

Church Life

Saturday, February 3

7 am Men's Breakfast
11 am Youth to FCA at EIU
5 pm Singles Chili Supper

Sunday, February 4

8:30 am Traditional Worship
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Contemporary Worship
5-8 pm F/R Super Bowl Party at the Wishards

Monday, February 5

10 am Staff Meeting
5:30 pm Worship Meeting

Tuesday, February 6

7 am Prayer Time

Wednesday, February 7

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

Thursday, February 8

6 pm Praise Team Practice
6:30 pm Study on James

Saturday, February 10

5-6:30 pm A Night in Italy Youth Fundraiser

Sunday, February 11

8:30 am Traditional Worship
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Contemporary Worship
5-7 pm F/R Youth Group Meeting

Monday, February 12

6 pm Trustees' Meeting
7 pm Church Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 13

7 am Prayer Time

Wednesday, February 14 ♥

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

Thursday, February 15

6 pm Praise Team Practice



Serving Communion

Sunday, February 4

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

10:30 am— Jeff Maninfior, Nick Maninfior, Bob Morgan, Josh Recker

Sunday, February 11

8:30 am — John Armstrong, Steve Ballinger, John Greathouse, Don Inman, Tim Buford, Dan Cunningham, Tom Dickerson, Steve Lane

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



We extend our deepest sympathy to Russ Camfield and family on the passing of Joyce (79) on January 19th.

Baptism

Jerrold Myer was baptized on January 28th. Welcome Jerrod to the family of God!

Obedience

Last week, during Discovery Group, I borrowed a simple analogy from Dr. Charles Stanley. He described a young boy whose parents asked him to take out the trash, now. He responded that he would do it later. I believe we can agree that his response is that of disobedience. God, our Father, calls us to be obedient. In fact, He expects us to be obedient. God calls upon us to do many things in our lives. Hopefully, we most often respond faithfully with obedience. However, sometimes we are not listening or paying attention. Other times we may hear Him, but choose to ignore his instruction.

Over the last several weeks God has put it upon my heart to be baptized my immersion. I was baptized in the Catholic Church as an infant and made my confirmation of faith at the age of 13. At age 20, I transferred my church membership to First Christian Church, and I was probably about 22 when I made a commitment to serve God in the church. Since that time, I have been trying to follow through on that commitment.

Along the journey, the issue of immersion has come up several times. I have never felt nor believed that my salvation was in jeopardy because I was not immersed. However, I have been prideful and put it off and told God that it is something I would do later. God has been patient with me, but has told me no less than six times in the last two weeks that now is the time.

For goodness sake, Jesus was baptized, and He is without sin! John the Baptist asked Jesus "...Why have you come to me?" Jesus answered, 'For now this is how it should be, because we must do all that God wants us to do.' Then John agreed. So Jesus was baptized..." (Matthew 3:14-16 CEV) In obedience to God, I was baptized by immersion last Monday at the elders meeting.

In Christ,
Mike Brand



Building Fund balance:
\$259,906.68

Church Attendance

January 21st — Traditional: 122, Contemporary: 70 = 192
January 28th — Traditional: 103, Contemporary: 76 = 179

Return Service Requested

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