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Mattoon First Christian Church

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Riches from Richard

The Apostle Paul wrote, "and do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:2) Jesus said, "You are not of the world, but I choose you out of the world." (John 15:19) So often we have thought that worldliness consisted of drinking, smoking, movies, dancing, length of hair, etc. But the worldliness that Paul and Jesus speak about is much more comprehensive. It includes motives, goals, attitudes and methods.

Many congregations have adopted the world's system for leadership. The world speaks of people under or over someone else. The structure of big business has often been the pattern for church leadership. God's plan for leadership is far different. Jesus said, "But the greatest among you shall be your servant." (Matthew 23:11)

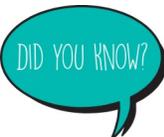
Another example of worldliness in the church is how we measure the effectiveness of church. "Bigness" is for many the ultimate measure of a congregation. There is nothing particularly spiritual about a small congregation, nor is quantity the ultimate measure in God's eyes. Let me challenge you to read the prayer of Jesus in John 17. Please note these things Christ prays would be evident in lives of believers (the church). They are not things we commonly use as a measurement of effective ministry. The message of Jesus Christ to the Seven Churches in Revelation 2 and 3 indicates those things that are important to the Lord. (Love, service, work, correcting false teaching, etc.)

One of the reasons why more people are not responding to the Gospel of Jesus Christ is that the Church doesn't look much different from the world. The world looks at the Church and fails to see the real necessity of following Jesus Christ. We are different, for we are "a chosen race, a Royal Priesthood, a Holy Nation, a people for God's own possession." (1 Peter 2:9)

Congratulations to Tom and Sally Dickerson on the birth of their new great grandson, Zaylon Eizlee Simmons. He was born 12 weeks early, so please keep this little guy in your prayers.



When I was a kid growing up in this church, I knew we had ladies at the church who were called deaconesses, because my mom was one. I thought all they did was prepare the cups for communion and clean up afterwards. Wrong! After being in this job for a few months, I now have a different perspective on their role here at the church.



One of our most faithful members, Bonnie Moore, who attended this church for 86 years, just went to be with the Lord. I witnessed what our deaconesses really do: they serve. They were here early Tuesday morning to prepare food, to set up and decorate tables, and then back in the afternoon to serve the Moore family, and to create an atmosphere where the family could relax, reflect, and remember.

Jesus said "I did not come to be served, but to serve and to give my life as a ransom for many." Deaconesses, thank you for serving, just as Jesus did!

Steve Morgan

SALT (Seniors Group)

The SALT Group will go out for lunch to Yoder's in Arthur on Tuesday, February 21st. All seniors are invited and they will leave from the church at 11 am. Please sign up in the narthex if you plan to attend.

Chancel Choir Musical



"Mercy Tree," a mini-musical will be presented on April 9th. If you were in the production of "Go Tell It!" or witnessed it and were moved to be a part of it next time, please join. The Chancel Choir meets on Wednesdays for rehearsals at 6 pm. This musical is open to everyone, all ages are welcome. If you have any questions, contact Julia, Chancel Choir Director, at 273-4793 or fccchoirdirector@gmail.com for more information.

Sympathy

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Bonnie Moore (91) who passed away on February 10th at Heartland Christian Village.

- 4 Harold Easton, Michael Davis
- 5 Teresa Stuttle, Beau Scott
- 6 Candy Tate
- 7 Doris Webb
- 9 Lois Carlyle, Michael Davis Sr.
- 11 Lisa Ballinger, Amber Eident, Bob Young
- 12 Cheryl Ballinger, Roger Freeman
- 14 Bill Daily, Neil Wofford, Cheyenne Jones
- 15 Kenton Albin
- 16 Andrew Edersheim
- 17 Don Inman, Deb McNeely, Charlotte Castle
- 18 Brad Bergstrom, Kelly Armer
- 19 M.J. Brand
- 21 Brian Ingram
- 26 Joyce Camfield
- 27 Reece Newlin, Glenda Wright
- 29 Carolyn Segó



- 1 Max & Arlene Betty
- 20 Mike & Mona Bays
- 21 Gene & Norma Himes
- Rob & Kathy Newlin
- Steve and Shawnc Morgan
- 26 Scott and Meri Stewart
- 27 Brian & Heather Hinton



Thank You Note

Thank you for all the prayers while Edith Read was in the hospital and surgery, she is doing great.

Edith Read's family



Building Fund balance:
\$254,384.54

Church Life

Saturday, February 18

5-6:30 pm Night In Italy FROG/ROCK Fundraiser

Sunday, February 19

8:30 am Traditional Worship Service

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Contemporary Worship Service

5-7 pm FROG/ROCK Group Meeting

Monday, February 20—Office Closed, Presidents' Day

7 pm Christian Ed. Meeting

Tuesday, February 21

7 am Prayer Time

11 am SALT Group to Yoder's

Wednesday, February 22

9 am "Crafts Are Us" Group

1:30 pm Joy Eident's Ladies Small Group

5:15 pm Bell Choir Practice

6 pm Chancel Choir Practice

6 pm Mid-Week Outlet Program

7 pm Praise Team Practice

Sunday, February 26

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 Meeting

Monday, February 27

10-11:30 am Staff Meeting

6 pm Evangelism Meeting

Tuesday, February 28

7 am Prayer Time

Wednesday, March 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



Serving Communion

Sunday, February 19

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

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

Sunday, February 26

8:30 am — John Armstrong, Steve Ballinger, John Greathouse, Jim Long, Don Inman, Tim Cyr, Dan Cunningham

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

Church Attendance

February 5: Traditional: 101, Contemporary: 64 = 165

February 12: Traditional: 109, Contemporary: 83 = 192

Board Splinters

Elders: Mike Brand reported that the Elders are discussing Paul Weber's Ordination which will be in the spring.

Deaconesses: Dolo Wishard reported 1 funeral dinner in January and a big thank you to the ladies who tidy-up the sanctuary on Thursdays.

Minister: Max Betty has agreed to count the church attendance with Billie Connelly as a back-up, all ministries are doing well and we have a lot to offer at both services and the 5th Sunday services have brought unity and inspiration.

Associate Minister: Steve Morgan reported that they took 15 kids to the Winter Jam Concert in St. Louis on January 28th; held a Super Bowl Party at the Wishard's with 40 people attending; took 15 students to an EIU basketball game on February 11th; started a new curriculum for youth lessons from the organization *Sticky Faith*—lessons deal with tough questions students ask about God, Jesus, and their own faith; and small group meetings going well — topics so far are: fitness, language and fear.

Elementary Minister: Stephanie Anderson reported that in Mid-Week Outlet Mike Brand will teach in February and she will be teaching in March, she completed the hospice training program and helped the Outreach Committee fill backpacks.

Worship: Jan Kepley reported they are planning for Easter: the chancel choir will perform a mini-musical on Palm Sunday at both services; they will have a Good Friday Service at noon on April 14th; and on Easter Sunday we will have a Sunrise Service at 7 am, Breakfast from 8-9 am as a youth fundraiser and one service at 9:30 am.

Outreach: Candy Tate reported that they will collect the Easter Offering on April 9 and 16 for Camp New Hope, a local church will not participate in the Backpack Program next school year and they also need a new director for the program, and with the money from World Outreach they will add \$200 to PADS, Food Center and Catholic Charities accounts with the remaining money going into Authorized.

Evangelism: Debi Buford reported that articles to announce new staff members Steve Morgan and Julia Whitmore have been in the newspaper, new pens have been ordered, ads for the Singles Group will be on the radio and Steve Morgan will submit a "Did you Know?" section for the newsletter.

Stewardship: Dan Cunningham reviewed the Balance Sheet and Income Statements and felt positive about the 2016 finish.

Personnel: Jack Browning reported they had 2 meetings for evaluations with staff and all job descriptions are up to date except Dolo's who answers to the Trustees and working more on Steve Morgan's.

Seniors Minister: Richard Eident reported they had 26 in attendance (16 during the day and 10 in the evening) to watch the "Noah" movie, will schedule another movie time soon and will be going to Yoder's for lunch on February 21st at 11 am.

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Email address: fcchurch@consolidated.net

Phone: 234-2928

Senior Pastor: Steve Hayes

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