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## Riches from Richard

I have been in the ministry for nearly 50 years. I have heard this comment made by Christians, "No one ever calls on me." They may be referring to the preacher or staff or various members of the whole congregation. They often continue, "Several people visited me before I came into the fellowship of the church, but now that I am a member, they have stopped. It looks as if all they wanted was to get my name on the church roll..."

According to the Book of Acts, members of the early church did not sit at home waiting for someone to come visit them. They, themselves, realized that God expected them to take the Gospel to others and that responsibility is ours today. Someone else brought the message to you, now it is up to you to pass it on.

You receive no calls? Do you need them? The people who first called on you now have a right to expect you to join with them in making calls on others outside of Christ. How can you and I sit at home waiting when so many are lost all around us?

Calling is a two-way street. You say this one who called twice before you became a member hasn't called since? Tell me, how many calls have you made in his home? Fellowship is enjoyable and important, but church membership also involves evangelism and Christian service.

Christian friend, please be reminded that there is much more to membership in Christ's body than constant attention by others. It is to us that the Savior says, "Go!" It is to a lost world that we are bound.

Don't spend your time pleading for visits from others. Get out and visit others, use your phone to call others, send a card to others—for Christ! This is the work of the church!

*Richard Eident*



Thank you to Pastor Steve for the Eulogy for Barry, your words were a great comfort to us. Thank you to those who sent cards, food, called us and prayed for us. It was greatly appreciated. Thank you to the Deaconesses for a wonderful meal. Your thoughtfulness and hard work was appreciated. Please keep us in your prayers as we continue to mourn the loss of our son.

*Donald and Kathleen Inman*

Thank you for the lovely special Valentine you sent me recently. I loved and appreciated it very much. Thank you for your many kindnesses you have extended to me since I joined in 1948. I love our church, the staff and members. You mean so much to me.

Sincerely with love,  
*Cora Ruth Turner*

To my friends at the First Christian Church and especially the H.I.S. Class...I want to thank you for remembering me. I feel so blessed and I thank all you elders for bringing me the communion. God bless all of you and thank you again.

*Veronika Burks*

Thank you to the following people for delivering Peace Meals: Joy Eident, Raelyne Lane, John and Linda Janes, Rose Ervin, Cheri Crow, Carol Armstrong and Tony Aghaei.

*Deb McNeely*

## Musical "Ruth"

All are invited to attend the showing of the DVD from Sight and Sound Plays in Branson captivating musical, Ruth. This treasured Biblical story, follows the improbable journey of Ruth and Naomi, two destitute widows whose faith in God and in each other ignites a chain of events that changes the course of history. The movie will be shown on Tuesday, March 21st at 1 pm and 6 pm. It is approximately 130 minutes in length and there will be an intermission at the end of Act I.

## Book Fair

Looking for that perfect Easter gift for your kids or grandkids? Stop by our Book Fair and shop award-winning Bibles, books, and videos for kids. Save up to 50% plus free shipping on all titles.



Stop by the narthex Sunday before and after first service and after second service to get faith-filled books and videos for your kids. Our church will earn 20% of the proceeds to go towards the Wishard Kidney Fund!

Our Book Fair, sponsored by Sparkhouse Family, is designed to help parents instill an open-hearted, transformational, lifelong Christian faith in their children at every age and stage.



The church invites members to apply for the *Laura Catherine Van Gundy Young Memorial Scholarship* who attend U of I, Urbana-Champaign; EIU, or Lincoln Christian

University, (Christian ministry majors only). Recipients must be enrolled in a course of study that culminates in a bachelor's or advanced degree in one of the following fields: Engineering or sciences, Medical sciences or services, Christian ministry or Business. For more information and how to apply please visit the church website at [www.mattoonfcc.com](http://www.mattoonfcc.com). Deadline to apply for this scholarship is March 31st.

## Volunteer Luncheon

There will be a Volunteer Luncheon for all who have volunteered at Heartland Christian Village this past year on Friday, April 7th. If you are interested in attending, please call the church office by March 30th.

Saturday, April 1

Men's Breakfast at 7 am

Sunday, April 2

30 Pieces of Silver Fundraiser Begins

Sunday, April 9

Camp New Hope Easter Offering Begins  
Mini-Cantata *Mercy Tree* at both services

Friday, April 14

Good Friday Service at noon

Sunday, April 16

Sonrise Service 7 am  
Easter Youth Fundraiser Breakfast 8-9 am  
Easter Service at 9:30 am

## Church Life

### Sunday, March 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, March 20

10-11:30 am Staff Meeting  
 7 pm Christian Education Meeting

### Tuesday, March 21

7 am Prayer Time  
 1 and 6 pm Movie "Ruth" in Campbell Hall

### Wednesday, March 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

### Thursday, March 23

6 pm Praise Team Practice

### Sunday, March 26

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, March 27

10-11:30 am Staff Meeting  
 6 pm Evangelism Committee Meeting

### Tuesday, March 28

7 am Prayer Time

### Wednesday, March 29

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

### Thursday, March 30

6 pm Praise Team Practice



## Baby Boy

Congratulations to Troy and Joy Lane on the birth of their baby boy, Jude Hayes Lane born on March 4th. Also a big congratulations to grandparents Steve and Raelyne!



## 3/13 Board Splinters

**Elders:** the Elders will meet with Paul Weber on April 1st for an interview and the Ordination will be May 7th.

**Deaconesses:** reported they served 1 funeral dinner.

**Minister:** it was reported that the current sermon series is challenging many and redefining our expectations of worship. There is a strong spirit of unity in our church and all of our programs are doing well.

**Associate Minister:** reported that the Night in Italy was a huge success with 75 people attending and raised \$1,000 for the Wishard Kidney Fund, supplied breakfast to the MMS FCA on February 23rd, the Small Group meetings are still well attended and the last meeting will be at Stadium Grill, youth will go to Little Galilee on May 5th-6th and they will attend a Conference in Tennessee July 23-27.

**Elementary Minister:** reported that are averaging 25 kids in Mid-Week, had a therapy dog visit last week, VBS will be June 2nd and 3rd and will have a "Meet Me" for activities each Wednesday in the summer for 9 weeks.

**Worship:** reported that they have revisited the 2 cup communion and for now are leaving as is.

**Outreach:** reported that they will collect the Easter Offering on April 9th and 16th for Camp New Hope.

**Evangelism:** reported they discussed upcoming Single Events and Relay for Life in August and will advertise the Good Friday service in the newspaper.

**Christian Ed:** youth will hold the 30 Pieces of Silver fundraiser starting April 2nd and Steve M. and Stephanie met with the Seed Addiction Counselor, which helps kids from alcoholic families.

**Trustees:** reported they discussed some elevator issues and a CIPS consultant.

**Seniors Minister:** reported they went to Yoder's in Arthur on February 21st, will show the movie "Ruth" on March 21st at 1 and 6 pm for all church family and April 27th Gary Kepley will cook a noon lunch for the SALT Group and Shelly's Bells will be the program.

**New Business:** Carol Wilson and Caley Elzy were added to fill unfilled Deaconess terms and Dolo reviewed some information for a Book Fair for the Wishard Kidney Fund.



Building Fund balance:  
\$256,624.54

## Serving Communion

### Sunday, March 19

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

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

### Sunday, March 26

**8:30 am** — John Armstrong, Steve Ballinger, John Greathouse, Jim Long, Don Inman, Tom Dickerson, Steve Lane, Jack Little

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

### Church Attendance

March 5: Traditional: 100, Contemporary: 83 = 183

March 12: Traditional: 100, Contemporary: 65 = 165

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Associate Pastor: Steve Morgan

Senior Pastor: Steve Hayes

Return Service Requested

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