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From the Pastor's Heart

Getting Guidance

Psalm 119:105

"If you are not guided by God, you will be guided by someone or something else." (Eric Liddell)

The majority get their sense of direction, as well as their general sense of right and wrong, from their peers. I would say that this applies to most believers, even many leaders. We let the group do our thinking for us: what we should want, what we should like, what we should do, and where we should go. This is why sins such as racism, gossip, and greed are overlooked in some circles, while "sins" such as homosexuality or adultery are considered cardinal.

A sin is a sin. It's a willful transgression of God's law and must be cleaned up to experience the power of the Holy Spirit in one's daily life. ***If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1st John 1:8-9.***

Getting guidance from God means that you'll often stand alone, but it also means that you'll see more clearly than the rest. As David said, "***Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.***" (Psalm 119:105)

Our challenge is to look to God, not culture (not even the evangelical Christian subculture) for guidance. Let God's Word establish your steps and dictate your values.

It gave Noah the courage to build a boat. And Moses the courage to cross the Red Sea. And Joshua the courage to say, "***As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.***" It caused David to pick up five smooth stones. And Elijah to stand up to the prophets of Baal. And Jesus to speak up for the woman caught in adultery. And Peter to confront the Sanhedrin. Letting God chart your course may separate you from the in-crowd, but it will also bring purpose and power into your life.

Pastor Steve



All Ladies are invited to Café Murder on May 29th for an evening of fun, food and a mystery. Dinner will be catered and served at 5:45 pm. We hope you plan to attend!

Deacons/Deaconesses

All Deacons and Deaconesses are encouraged to get group pictures taken on June 3rd for the new directory. The Deaconesses' picture will be taken first at 9:40 am with the Deacons to follow.



Happy Mother's Day to all moms! On Mother's Day, May 13th, we will have a special gift for each mother.

Baby Bottle Blessings

The Local Outreach Committee is inviting you to join them in the Baby Bottle Blessing Fundraiser for the Choices Pregnancy Center. Please pick up a baby bottle in the narthex on May 13th, fill it with your donation and return by Sunday, June 17th. Please make checks payable to Choices, not the church, thank you.

We will be getting a new Church Picture Directory and photos will be taken June 4th-9th. Sign-up in the narthex for an appointment time.



8:30 am Communion

Just a reminder that for the 8:30 am service, communion will be served from a table on the floor level, not the chancel/stage area.



All deacons and elders will meet in the Prayer Room before church which is located next to the transept area to line-up, not in Campbell Hall. They will then sit together in the first pew as usual until communion is served. With so many stairs at the church, we are just trying to alleviate people going up and down the stairs so many times.

Thank you, *Worship Committee*

Benefit Golf Outing



Little Galilee Christian Camp is holding a Benefit Golf Outing on Tuesday, June 19th at the Moweaqua Golf Course with an 8 am tee time.

This will be a 4 person scramble, \$60 per person with sent in registration and includes: green fee, cart, lunch and awards. If you are interested in joining Pastor Steve, please pick up a registration form in the narthex and let the church office know you are going.

Branson Trip

All seniors are invited on a Branson Trip November 26-29. The trip will include shows: Dutton's Christmas Show, Brett Family Christmas, Dixie Stampede Christmas Show, and Samson at the Sight and Sound Theatre. The cost of the trip is \$350 which will include the hotel, shows, transportation and all meals except three. If you are interested please pick up a itinerary and cost sheet in the narthex and return with your \$50 deposit.



Dinner for Eight

We now have Hostesses for our Dinner for Eight Program. If you want to attend a dinner please sign-up in the narthex. Don't miss out on good food and fellowship!

Dinners for Eight



Church Life

Sunday, May 13—Happy Mother's Day

8:30 am Traditional Worship
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Contemporary Worship

Monday, May 14

10 am Staff Meeting
6 pm Trustees Meeting
7 pm Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 15

7 am Prayer Time

Wednesday, May 16

9 am Crafts Are Us Group
5:15 pm Bell Choir Practice
6 pm Choir Practice

Sunday, May 20—Youth Sunday

8:30 am Traditional Worship
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Contemporary Worship
Noon F/R Outing to Albin's Pond

Monday, May 21

10 am Staff Meeting
7 pm Christian Education Meeting

Tuesday, May 22

7 am Prayer Time

Wednesday, May 23

9 am "Crafts Are Us" Group
5:15 pm Bell Practice—last practice
6 pm Choir Practice—last practice



Serving Communion

Sunday, May 13

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

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

Sunday, May 20—Youth Sunday

Graduates

Please let the church office know of any student from FCC graduating from college or high school. We would like to recognize the college graduates in the newsletter and high school graduates on Youth Sunday, May 20th.

Baptisms

We are so pleased to announce the baptisms of Debbie Myer and Gary Olson on Sunday, May 6th. Congratulations!



Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Helen Ashenbramer (102) who passed away on May 3rd at her home in Springfield.

Church Camp

Any youth from FCC who wants to attend Little Galilee Church Camp please sign up at: www.littlegalilee.com and the church will pay 1/2 of the cost of the camp. On the website are listed the dates of camps that are available per grade.



Building Fund balance:
\$262,656.68

IRA Distributions

Avoid Taxes on IRA Distributions...

If you are 70 1/2 or older and don't need all of your required distribution from your IRA; Money that you have to take and pay income tax on. You can gift all or a portion of your Minimum Required Distribution TAX -FREE to First Christian Church. Subject to overall limitations.



Church Attendance

April 29th — Traditional: 111, Contemporary: 97 = 208
May 6th — Traditional: 109, Contemporary: 59 = 168

Return Service Requested

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