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From the Pastor's Heart

"Nobody to Forgive"

John Stott, in his book *the Contemporary Christian* told a story about Marghanita Laski, a popular novelist and outspoken humanist. In a moment of candor, she said in a television interview: *"What I envy most about you Christians is your forgiveness. I have nobody to forgive me."*

Christians can say it differently. We know what it means to be forgiven. We are forgiven first by the Father, through the death of His Son, Jesus Christ. We can know what it means to be forgiven by one another, because in Christ we know what forgiveness really means. As He has forgiven us we are able to forgive others. We can also learn how to forgive ourselves. I think that is many times the hardest thing to do. God's unconditional acceptance enables us to finally release our regrets and begin taking steps on the road to make things right. Mrs. Laski understood the fundamentals about this human dilemma: We need someone to forgive us. In Christ we have that someone. Through Christ, we also are that someone. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as Christ forgave you.

God Bless Your Day,
Pastor Steve

SALT NEWS

We had 21 come and enjoy a meal that was provided by Mattoon Health Care and Rehabilitation. They shared with us about what their facility offers. The September event is the trip to Branson, Missouri. Money is all in and plans have been made and the group of 24 can't wait for September 11-14 to experience another trip. October 12th at noon we will have a carry in lunch. We will also have a hobby and craft day when we can share our interest with each other.



The FROG and ROCK students will kick off their year on Sunday, September 10th.

This event will be at the Morgan's property, 812 Co Rd 500 E, Toledo,

10 miles south of Mattoon, on Rte 121. If you need a ride, vans will leave the church at 430. This event includes a mud pit with muddy games! Wear clothes you don't mind getting muddy. Pizza and ice cream will served. Will return to church at approximately 730. **GO BZRK!**

Men's Softball News

The 2017 Men's Church Softball Season is over and we have finished 7th out of 14th. I would like to thank all those who played on the First Christian team. I would like to ask that everyone turn in their uniform shirts to the church office so that we will have them available for the next season. We had to purchase 12 shirts this season in order to have everyone dressed alike. We want to prevent having to buy more next year so please turn in your shirt.

Thank you
Richard C. Eident



Our Mid-Week Children's program for k-5th grades and JHH will begin on Wednesday, September 13th. This program will be from 6-7:30 every Wednesday night with supper provided.

Mid-Week Volunteers: We will have a information party on September 6th at 6pm in Campbell Hall. This will be a time of fellowship, food and information for the upcoming year.



We will hold a Baby Dedication on Sunday, August 20th for anyone wanting to dedicate their baby. If you would like to participate please call the church office.

Office Closed on Fridays

The church office will be closed on Fridays until Robin returns from medical leave.

We will be starting a 10 week small group study entitled Marriage on the Rock, based on the DVD series by Pastor Jimmy Evans.



Video and study book

accompany this series. Yes there is some homework, but well worth it. Each couple will need a study book, cost \$10. This is open to all couples; married, engaged, etc. We will be meeting in Campbell Hall at the church on Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:00pm, starting September 14th and ending November 16th.

Church Life

Sunday, August 20

8:30 am Traditional Worship Service

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Contemporary Service

Monday, August 21

10-11:30 am Staff Meeting

7:00 pm Christian Ed

Tuesday, August 22

7 am Prayer Time

Wednesday, August 23

9 am "Crafts Are Us" Group

Thursday, August 24

6 pm Praise Team Practice

Sunday, August 27

8:30 am Traditional Worship

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Contemporary Worship

Monday, August 28

10-11:30 am Staff Meeting

6:00 pm Evangelism Meeting

Tuesday, August 29

7 am Prayer Time

Wednesday, August 30

9 am "Crafts Are Us" Group

Thursday, August 31

6 pm Praise Team Practice

Ladies Church Softball

If you are interested in playing on our Ladies Church League Softball Team you can sign up in the Narthex. This league is for any girl in 6th grade and older. See Dolo Wishard if you have any questions.



Building Fund balance:
\$257,216.68

Serving Communion

Sunday, August 20

8:30 am — John Armstrong, John Greathouse, Jim Long, Don Inman, Tom Dickerson, Dan Cunningham, Tim Cyr, Mike Craig

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

Sunday, August 27

8:30 am — John Armstrong, John Greathouse, Jim Long, Don Inman, Carroll Gibbons, Steve Lane, Jack Little, Bud Miller

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

Thank You Note

Thank you for the incredible blessing of \$6,029 for Habitat! We are so grateful and honored to have your support

Melissa McDaniel– Habitat for Humanity

Board Splinters 8/14

Elders- No Report

Deacons– No Report

Deaconesses- One Funeral dinner, and served refreshments at the Mental Health presentation .

Senior Minister– Dinner 4 Eight is off to a great start and the rib sale was a huge success raising over \$6,000. I will be launching a home group in October to birth new home groups.

Associate Minister-Youth served over 25 meals for the homeless at PADS in July. Also took 9 high school students to CIY in Tennessee. One student gave his life to Jesus and was baptized August 12th.

Elementary Minister– The Wednesday kids activities have come to an end. This was a very successful program that ran all summer long. Mid-Week will be starting September 13th and the volunteer information meeting will be September 6th.

Worship--Received new communion set and two extra bottles. Had discussion to put together a wedding policies guidelines packet for media.

Outreach– No Report

Evangelism– No Report

Christian Ed.– No Report

Stewardship– No Report

Personnel– Accepted resignation of Julia Degler Whitmore

Seniors Minister– Our softball team finished the year 7th out of 14 teams, and on July 12th took 22 to Arcola for lunch and play. On August 10th had 21 and enjoyed a lunch provided by Mattoon Health Care.

Church Attendance

August 6th : Traditional: 133, Contemporary: 63 = 196

August 13th : Traditional: 117 Contemporary:72 = 189



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Return Service Requested

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