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Mattoon First Christian Church

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From the Pastor's Heart

SELECTIVE RECALL PHILIPPIANS 3:14

Sometimes I wish I had a better memory. I have a tendency to forget things like where I put my keys, an important phone number, the exact content of certain conversations, or even then name of someone I know. It can be really annoying, both for me and for the victims of my forgetfulness.

I recently read about a woman who has the opposite problem. Her name is Jill Price, and her memory has been the subject of scientific tests for many years, because she never forgets anything. She is able to remember every detail of every day since 1980: What time she got up, what she did, who she met, and what she ate. You can name a date and within seconds she can tell you what day of the week it was and what took place on that day.

Neuroscientists are intrigued by her "condition", but she considers it a curse. She says, "Some memories are good and give me a warm safe feeling. But I also recall every bad decision, insult, and excruciating embarrassment. Over the years it has eaten me up." She blames her memory for many years of depression.

I had a friend years with a photographic memory, though not to such an extreme extent. He told me once that he had to learn "selective recall." Otherwise, when people asked about his day, he would tell them everything: about choosing his socks and tying his shoes and every song he heard on the radio and every street sign he passed and on and on. He had to learn to make the choice to not remember every little thing about every single day. If Ms. Price could do the same thing, I'm sure she would. We need to learn to do the same. We need to learn to forget -- to intentionally not remember -- certain details of our lives.

Which details? The details of those events which do not empower us to live a Godly life in Christ Jesus. Reliving the shame of a sin you committed yesterday or 30 years ago will not help you live in Christ today. Remembering the humiliation of a past defeat or the pain of a past rejection will not empower you to move toward the prize today.

That's why Paul said, *"Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 3:13-14)

It's a choice you make. It's not always easy, because memories (especially the worst ones) can be tenacious. Every pastor, every leader, every parent, every spouse, every believer needs to learn selective recall.

You don't have to dwell on the past. In fact, we are commanded to put it behind us and to start looking ahead. You have God's permission to forget everything from yesterday that doesn't strengthen you today.

God Bless Your Day,
Pastor Steve

Men's Breakfast



All men are invited to the monthly Men's Breakfast on Saturday, August 5th at 7 am.

Singles' Events

The Singles @ First Group is invited to a cook-out at Pastor Steve and Marianna's home, 1200 Stinson, on Saturday, August 12th from 5-7 pm. Hamburgers and chicken will be provided and everyone is asked to bring a covered dish. Please call the church office at 234-2928 if you plan to attend.

The Singles Group will also be going to the Rodeo in Palestine on Saturday, September 2nd. They will leave from the church no later than 1:30 pm and tickets can be purchased at the gate. Please call the office if you plan to attend.



FCC has started their Relay for Life Campaign.

You can help out by: donating to the cause towards the team goal of \$2,000; purchase a luminary bag for \$10 in memory or honor of a cancer survivor or victim; create a gift basket for a silent auction drawing; provide snacks for the campsite or show up to support the cause which does not mean you have to walk. You can do all this by signing-up in the narthex. Relay for Life will be held at Peterson Park on August 19th from noon to midnight. FCC's campsite will be the same spot as last year.

SALT Luncheon

The SALT Group will have a luncheon on Thursday, August 10th at noon. The meal will be provided by Mattoon Health Care. Please sign-up in the narthex if you plan to attend.



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.

Sympathy

We extend our deepest sympathy to Angie Davis on the passing of her mother, Barbara Ramsey (52) on July 26th.

Church Life

Saturday, August 5

7 am Men's Breakfast

8 am—2 pm Habitat Frame Building at 612 Wabash Ave

Sunday, August 6

8:30 am Traditional Worship Service

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Contemporary Service

Monday, August 7

10-11:30 am Staff Meeting

5:30 pm Worship Committee Meeting

Tuesday, August 8

7 am Prayer Time

Wednesday, August 9

9 am "Crafts Are Us" Group

2-3 pm Kids Summer Activity at Lytle Park

Thursday, August 10

Noon SALT Luncheon

6 pm Praise Team Practice

Saturday, August 12

5-7 pm Singles @ First Cook-Out at the Hayes' home

Sunday, August 13

8:30 am Traditional Worship

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Contemporary Worship

Monday, August 14

10-11:30 am Staff Meeting

6 pm Trustees' Meeting

7 pm Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 15

7 am Prayer Time

Wednesday, August 16

9 am "Crafts Are Us" Group

6-7 pm Line Dancing at the Eagles

Thursday, August 17

6 pm Praise Team Practice

Serving Communion

Sunday, August 6

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

10:30 am — Jeff and Amy Maninfor, Nick Maninfor, Bob Morgan

Sunday, August 13

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

10:30 am—Herb Ault, Max Betty, Donica Brand, Josh Recker



Building Fund balance:
\$257,216.68

Thank You Notes

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Bagel Fest Parade. You all represented FCC well.

Evangelism Committee

I would like to thank all who have volunteered for Peace Meals over the last several years. You have been loyal and helpful whenever I needed your assistance.

Deb McNeely

Thanks to everybody for the beautiful cards and for coming to my 90th Birthday Party, to love to you all.

Barbara Bridges

Thank you for the honor of coming to share at the pastors meeting about Choices! Your partnership is greatly appreciated!

Shannon Barnett : Choices Pregnancy of Health

Office Closed on Fridays

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

We will be helping Habitat with the building of the house at 612 Wabash Ave. The first part we will be involved with is



framing which will take place on Saturday, August 5th from 8 am—2 pm with lunch and drinks provided. All the tools will be furnished but you can bring your own if you wish. Experience is not necessary because each team will be led by an experienced leader. If you have any questions please contact Tom Dickerson at 254-5699 for more details and any questions.

Church Attendance

July 23: Traditional: 112, Contemporary: 55 = 167

July 30: One Service = 152



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Return Service Requested

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