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## From the Pastor's Heart

Someone recently asked me, what makes First Christian Church any different than other churches in Coles County? My answer was immediate: We are a church that loves our community and one another. I went on to explain, we aren't a big church, but we are making an impact on many lives in our community through a traditional and contemporary worship offering that equips our folks to be the Church. Thank you my friends for being the Church.

In Florida, I had the opportunity to help lead the pastors in bringing "life chain" to the community. We started off with a handful of folks and ended up with many blocks of Christian folks, being the church quietly lining up for one hour to silently pray for the unborn, and for our nation. It was powerful.

Father John Titus, my prayer partner, and pastor of the Immaculate Conception church has asked FCC to join hands with the community churches on Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:45 pm in front of St. John's Lutheran Church to stand or sit in a lawn chair on Charleston Ave and pray for deliverance and healing from the national sin of abortion. Materials will be provided. Bring an umbrella, it is a rain or shine event. This is loving, peaceful demonstration of the church being the church. I will be in attendance and leading the all church prayer at 1:45.

***2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 7:14 If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.***

May God Enlarge His Territory,  
Pastor Steve

## 1825 Class

All 18-25 year olds are invited to a new class. This class will begin on Saturday, September 17th at 6pm after the Saturday Night Church Service. Anthony Miah will lead the class and all are encouraged to attend. If you have any questions contact Dolo Wishard at 259-8504 or Dawn Albin at 254-0031 We hope to see all there, invite friends!

## Music News



It's always a good time to join the choir, call or email Julia at [fccchoirdirector@gmail.com](mailto:fccchoirdirector@gmail.com) or 273-4793.

Mike Craig will be providing the special music on September 25th at both services.

## Heartland News

The Heartland Christian Village Auxiliary is having their annual Bakeless Sale. The money collected will be used to purchase items that will improve the care of the patients. If you would like to make a donation, make checks payable to Heartland Christian Village Auxiliary and place it in the offering plate.

**HELP NEEDED!**-Heartland Christian Village is needing help with brunch on the 3rd Thursday of each month. There is a group of ladies from FCC who help and are needing a few extra volunteers. What a great way to serve a wonderful Christian-based facility! If interested call Joy Eident at 234-4316.

## Children/Youth News



The Mid-Week Children's Program for K-5th graders and JHH students is in full swing on Wednesday evenings. The program is from 6-7:30 pm with supper being provided.

The FROG and ROCK (middle and high school students) began their regular meetings and meet each Sunday evening from 5-7 pm.



## Thank You Notes

I want to thank First Christian Church for all your prayers for Kira Hartley, my granddaughter. Last Tuesday I went to visit her in the hospital and Praise the Lord after 8 weeks of critical care she finally realized who I was. She nodded her head "yes and no" when I talked to her. God is Good...All the Time!



**Thank You!**


*Mary Roberts*

Thank you so much to my FCC family for the cards, prayers and concerns after my surgery. A special thank you to Pastor Richard for staying with my family during the surgery.

*Candy Tate*

Dear Church Family,  
Your kindness and prayers was deeply appreciated at the passing of Nancy's mom, Betty Baird.

Thanks, the *Huckabas*



Congratulations to Matt Anderson and Stephanie Freeman on their marriage on September 10th. We wish them many years and happiness!

## Coats 4 Kids

The Coats 4 Kids Committee needs coats for infant to high school age youth all sizes and especially sizes 8-20. We are requesting that all the coats be new, no used or gently worn coats please. They will give the coats away on Saturday, October 29th from 11 am—3 pm. If you would like to help with this ministry please mark your calendars and set-up will begin at 7:30 am that morning. Please store the coats at your home until we are ready.





Building Fund balance:  
\$228,288.98

## Baby Back Rib Sale

Pastor Steve will be cooking Baby Back Ribs October 10th thru the 13th to benefit the Mattoon Area YMCA. Each rack of ribs will cost \$18 and can be picked up from 4-6 pm on the above listed days. If you would like to purchase a ticket please stop by the church office. Pastor Steve will also need volunteers to help with this process. If you are willing to help any of the days please call the office to sign-up.

## Sympathy



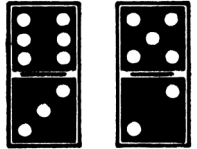
We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Betty Baird who passed away on September 4th. Betty is the mother of Nancy Huckaba.

## Peace Meals

FCC people need to deliver Peace Meals on September 19th -23rd. Please call Deb McNeely at 259-1842 if you are interested in helping.

## Singles @ First

The Singles Group will meet on Friday, October 7th at the church to play Dominos from 6-8 pm, bring a drink to share and popcorn will be provided.



## Shoe Drive

My friend, Steve Kull, who I work with at Sarah Bush Lincoln showed me a project that his family is working on. They are so excited to begin the adoption journey again and I am inviting First Christian Church to come alongside of them. How can you do this? Simply by donating your gently worn or used shoes...cleats, skates, combat boots, literally any type of shoes.

By donating your shoes, you are helping be a part of bringing Simon home, as well as keeping shoes from landfills and creating micro businesses in developing countries like Haiti, Ghana and many more.

Bring the shoes to the church and place them in a box and I will see that they get to the Kull family. My family came up with 18 pairs of shoes that we are donating. Check your closets and let's help them reach their goal of 7,500 pairs of shoes by November 22nd.

*Richard Eident*

## Deaconess

All Deaconesses are encouraged to attend the next meeting which will be on Tuesday, October 18th at 6 pm.

## Cookie Walk

The annual Cookie Walk will be on Saturday, December 3rd. Please mark your calendars and plan on donating some goodies and/or crafts.



## Church Life

### **Saturday, September 17**

5 pm Saturday Night Church

### **Sunday, September 18**

8:30 am Traditional Worship Service

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Contemporary Worship Service

5-7 pm FROG/ROCK Meeting

### **Monday, September 19**

10-11:30 am Staff Meeting

7 pm Christian Ed. Meeting

### **Tuesday, September 20**

7 am Prayer Time

### **Wednesday, September 21**

9 am "Crafts Are Us" Group

5:15 pm Bell Choir Practice

6 pm Chancel Choir Practice

6 pm Mid-Week Program

7 pm Praise Team Practice

### **Saturday, September 24**

5 pm Saturday Night Church

### **Sunday, September 25**

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 Meeting

### **Monday, September 26**

10-11:30 am Staff Meeting

6 pm Evangelism Meeting

### **Tuesday, September 27**

7 am Prayer Time

### **Wednesday, September 28**

9 am "Crafts Are Us" Group

5:15 pm Bell Choir Practice

6 pm Chancel Choir Practice

6 pm Mid-Week Program

7 pm Praise Team Practice

### **Saturday, October 1**

7 am Men's Breakfast

5 pm Saturday Night Church



## News from Paul

Hey FCC,

How about this cooler weather we are experiencing? Fall is my favorite time of the year and it is around the corner. What I do not care for is what follows. For now I will try to enjoy the nice crisp mornings and starry nights. I hope you are able to find some enjoyment in all of this as well.

Miss Evelyn has experienced a horrific event in the last couple of weeks out here at Paradise Café. You see, out here in God's country we have what she refers to as jumping spiders. As I heard Jerry Clower say one time, "If I'm lying I'm dying!" She was cleaning the front storm door one day and out came a spider making its way into the midst of her cleaning rag. She let out a war cry and you would have thought the whole brigade was upon her. She claimed it jumped (yeah we have paratrooper spiders) but I think she just knocked it loose from where it was. The poor thing was minding its own business (probably sleeping) when she decides to disturb it. Never a dull moment out here. If it isn't the dogs, it is either Evelyn or I going nuts about something. I wonder sometimes what the dogs think of us. They keep sponging off us, so I suppose they like it here despite the craziness.

It sure was nice to have the A/C at FCC back on this past Saturday for Matt and Stephanie's wedding. Jason Triplett gave a wonderful message with the ceremony and it was great to see everyone who was able to make it. The decorations at the church and reception was great too. Kudos for whoever had the idea for the popcorn bar at the reception! I can make a meal out of what was available but wanted to save room for the meal, which was catered by Pauly's BBQ. What a great name to associate with great food!

It looks like the Frog/Rock youth group as well as the Mid-Week children's outreach is back and in full swing. There are a lot of activities coming up in the next month for FCC for you to get involved with. Look through the newsletter to see where you might be able to serve FCC and/or the community. There is something for everyone to a part of and we cannot do what we do without YOU!

Well friends, it is time to sign off for now, warm up my cup of Joe, and get some reading and studying done for my classes. Remember, no matter what Evelyn tells you, we do not have tarantulas out here, just plain'ole every day spiders. I am thinking of putting up some bat houses. They devour bugs and mosquitoes like nobody's business! Won't Evelyn enjoy that!

In His service,  
Pauly

## Board Splinters

The official Board meeting was held on September 12th.  
Deaconess: served 2 funeral dinners and their next meeting will be October 18th at 6 pm.

Senior Pastor: starting a new series "Something More".

Elementary Minister: Mid-Week Outlet will start September 14th.

Worship: Finalized September Specials, planning for the Ministry Fair, planning December services and approved the loan of the choir risers to St. John's School for their Christmas program.

Outreach: everything is going well with the Back Pack Program.

Evangelism: working on the Ministry Fair for October 30th, have invited outside groups to join along with programs at the church, approved \$100 for the chicken for the Sr. Luncheon.

Christian Education: discussed Outlet and Frog/Rock.

Stewardship: at the moment things are well due to an unknown donor.

Trustees: air conditioning is repaired, looking into the need for security at the church, looking at the cause of water getting into the gym, AA has requested to meet here an additional night.

Seniors Pastor: SALT is having a Birthday Party luncheon on September 13th and the Branson money is due.

New Business: it was approved to hire Steve Morgan as the new Associate Minister.

### Church Attendance

Sept. 3rd: Saturday Church: 16  
Sept. 4th: Traditional: 117, Contemporary: 56 = 173  
Sept. 11th: Traditional: 117, Contemporary: 53 = 170

## Book Club

All ladies are invited to this event...

### Ladies Literary Event

Sponsored by the United Methodist Women  
Mattoon First United Methodist Church  
October 6th from 5:30-7:30 pm

They have selected 3 exceptional books for this year's event: *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, *Fields of Grace* by Hannah Luce and *God's Greatest Gift, His Word, His Name, His Blood* by Joyce Meyer. If you are interested buy the books, start reading and sign up on the sheet located on the bulletin board across from the church office to participate. Come on the 6th to enjoy a light supper (\$7) and join in our Literary Event.

Just a reminder to please notify the church office of any address changes (permanent or just for the winter) BEFORE you change your address at the Post Office. This will ensure you will still receive the newsletter. When you change your address at the Post Office they will NOT automatically forward the newsletter to your new address.

## Serving Communion

### Sunday, September 18

**8:30 am** — John Armstrong, Steve Ballinger, John Greathouse, Jim Long, Don Inman, Denny Booker, Bud Miller, Gene Swearingen

**10:30 am** — Jeff Maninfior, Amy Maninfior, Nick Maninfior, Bob Morgan

### Sunday, September 25

**8:30 am** — John Armstrong, Steve Ballinger, John Greathouse, Jim Long, Don Inman, Tim Buford, Tim Cyr, Mike Craig

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

Website: [www.mattoonfmc.com](http://www.mattoonfmc.com)

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Phone: 234-2928

Senior Pastor: Pastor Steven Hayes  
Administrative Assistant: Robin Myers  
Elementary Pastor: Stephanie Anderson

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