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## The Associate's Corner

Last week was a tumultuous and tragic week for the students and faculty at Mattoon High School. The shooting had a massive rippling effect that not only affected the community of Mattoon, but also into the surrounding cities and even onto the national level. The phrase, "It could have been worse", has been uttered many times over. So thankful for the quick response of Ms. McQueen and the student who alerted her.

James 1:2-3 says, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance." Really? How can anything good or joyful come out of a high school shooting? But it has happened! I have lived in this community the majority of my life; I am a Green Waver; but I never imagined this town would come together as quickly and closely as it did. MattoonStrong t-shirts are being sold to raise funds for security enhancements at the High School. The topic of bullying is being brought to the fore front, to help create an atmosphere of kindness and respect at the school. I would venture to say that the amount of hugs and the words "I love you" have reached an all-time high in Mattoon. God can take a tragedy and bring forth good out of it!

On Monday, the first full day back for students, Dolo Wishard and I took pizzas to the high school and had lunch with students in the cafeteria. It looked and sounded like how a high school cafeteria should be: noisy, lots of laughter, and good appetites! Near the end of second lunch, I saw Corrine Dowling, sister of the shooting victim and the granddaughter of Ed and Helen Dowling walk in. I was blessed to meet her and her twin brother Dennis last week at the hospital. She walked up and gave me a hug and said she was doing pretty good and that Dennis still had his sense of humor! Her smile and bubbly spirit are contagious! Dennis and Corrine possess 3 qualities I believe God would love to see in all of us: an unselfish and positive attitude, a kind spirit, and a sense of humor. These three will take you far in life. God is good. All the time!

*Steve Morgan*

## Church T-Shirts

The church will be selling the "Love God, Love People" orange t-shirts for \$10 per shirt. If you would like one please sign-up in the narthex and then place the money either in the office or in the offering plate with a note for that you are paying for a t-shirt. We have to have a minimum of 15 shirts to place an order and all the money turned in.

## Samaritan's Purse



It is time to prepare Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes for children overseas. This year there can be no food items of any kind including candy or toothpaste in the boxes.

Labels and instructions for packing are available in the narthex. All boxes must be turned in by

Sunday, October 29th.

## All Church Picnic

**CHURCH** Everyone is invited to an All Church Picnic on Sunday, October 1st at the Peterson Park Pavilion from 4-7 pm. The church will provide the chicken, tea and lemon-aid. Everyone is requested to bring side dishes to share, your own table service and an item to auction off with the proceeds going to purchase a new kitchen refrigerator. There will be music, fun and games for all. If you have an orange "Love God, Love People" t-shirt, please wear it.

## Crafts R Us Group/Quilt

Everyone is invited to join the Crafts R Us Group for breakfast at the Airport Steakhouse on Wednesday, October 4th at 9 am.

The Craft Ladies are raffling off a Sports Quilt to benefit Habitat for Humanity. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00 and tickets can be purchased on Sundays and at the Church Picnic with the drawing on October 29th.

The Men's Breakfast will be on Saturday, October 7th at 7 am. All men are invited to join in the breakfast and study.



## SALT News

October 12th at noon all seniors are invited to a carry in lunch (drinks will be provided). They will also have a hobby and craft time when people can bring their interests to share with each other. Please sign-up in the narthex if you plan to attend.

## Deaconess Meeting

All Deaconesses please mark your calendars for the upcoming meeting on Tuesday, October 17th at 6 pm. There will be many items to discuss and sign-ups for the 2018 communion preparation and funeral dinner schedules.

First Christian Church will once again hold the annual Coats 4 Kids Drive. They are in need of coats sizes 6-14 for girls and boys (last yr.



they ran out). Please support this outreach with donations of coats or money. They are accepting new or like new coats and please place the coats in the box in the narthex. The coats will be given away on Saturday, October 21st from 8 am—noon. Volunteers are needed and a sign-up sheet is in the narthex to help with set-up and the give-away on Saturday.

## Church Life

### Sunday, October 1

8:30 am Traditional Worship Service  
 9:30 am Sunday School  
 10:30 am Contemporary Service  
 4:30 pm F/R Meeting  
 4-7 pm All Church Picnic at Peterson Park

### Monday, October 2

10-11:30 am Staff Meeting  
 5:30 pm Worship Committee Meeting

### Tuesday, October 3

7 am Prayer Time  
 6:30 pm Ladies Softball Game

### Wednesday, October 4

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

### Thursday, October 5

6 pm Praise Team Practice  
 6:30 pm "Marriage on the Rock" Small Group

### Saturday, October 7

7 am Men's Breakfast

### Sunday, October 8

8:30 am Traditional Worship  
 9:30 am Sunday School  
 10:30 am Contemporary Worship  
 5-7 pm F/R Meeting

### Monday, October 9

10-11:30 am Staff Meeting  
 6 pm Trustees' Meeting  
 7 pm Church Board Meeting

### Tuesday, October 10

7 am Prayer Time  
 6:30 pm Ladies Softball Game

### Wednesday, October 11

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

### Thursday, October 12

Noon SALT Luncheon  
 6 pm Praise Team Practice  
 6:30 pm "Marriage on the Rock" Small Group



## Thank You Note

Thanks to all for the thoughts and prayers during my recent surgery. I am recovering well.  
*Ernie Webb*



## Trunk or Treat

The Chamber of Commerce is inviting church members across town to participate in a Trunk or Treat on Friday, October 27 from 5-8 pm in Downtown Mattoon. They are targeting 1,000 visitors for the event targeting ages 3-75 with an emphasis on Family attendance. If you are interested in decorating your trunk please call the church office for a registration form.



- 1 Steve Ballinger, Aubrey Storm, Angela Freeman
- 2 Helen Dowling
- 3 Terri Goings
- 7 Brittany Wishard
- 8 Dennis Goings
- 13 Herb Ault
- 14 Delbert Dunn
- 17 Marvin Moore
- 21 Bonnie James
- 22 Jeanne Cunningham, Ethan and Ean Freeman
- 24 Beth Leach, Dick Vosburgh



- 1 Tom and Sally Dickerson
- 12 Steve and Marianna Hayes
- 15 Gerry and Carol Englund
- 27 Roger and Angela Freeman
- 29 Jim and Nancy Long



## Serving Communion

### Sunday, October 1

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

**10:30 am** — Herb Ault, Max Betty, Jeff Maninfor, Josh Recker

### Sunday, October 8

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

**10:30 am** — Donica Brand, Dennis Goings, Amy Maninfor



Building Fund balance:  
 \$257,531.68

### Church Attendance

Sept. 16th — Traditional: 97, Contemporary: 83 = 180  
 Sept. 24th — Traditional: 115, Contemporary: 69 = 184

Phone: 234-2928  
 Email address: fcchurch@consolidated.net  
 Website: www.mattoonfcc.com

Senior Pastor: Steve Hayes  
 Associate Pastor: Steve Morgan

Return Service Requested

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