



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

204 S Washington
Nevada, MO 64772

THE BEACON

Telephone: (417) 667-3540
E-mail: lyndaj@fccnevada.org
www.fccnevada.org



Sr. Min. Bill Platt; **Assoc. Min.** David Rorabaugh; **Youth Min.** Gage Addington

Elder Emeritus: Ron Greenway, John McKinley and Glen Noble

Elders: Don Andersen, Scott Buerge, Doug Gammon and Wayne Jeans

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Issue 6

From the Pulpit

Several years ago, there was a board that hung in the parlor showing the number of those attending Sunday School. It was taken down a few years ago. Part of the reason it was removed was that it didn't reflect the full number of those attending our small groups including our Sunday School.

A sheet is passed around very week among our leaders called Report to the Minister. It is a brief statement of the previous weekend's numbers such as offerings, as well as visitor's names, upcoming events and other communication things. Again, among the numbers is Sunday School attendance. While at the leadership retreat we talked of several things to come. One was to update the Sunday School attendance to show Small Group attendance.

The Small Group figure is more inclusive of all the varied aspects of education. Many of you may be unaware that on Wednesday night our Little Tree Ministry has between 40 to 50 first through fifth graders attending (this doesn't count the kitchen help & sponsors present). Meanwhile just across the driveway is our Wednesday Bible Study with approximately 10 to 15 in attendance. These are two settings not found in the Sunday School Attendance. When you start counting, you realize that we have several small group settings that are happening every week at FCC. The common priority among all these groups is Christian Education and fellowship.

The first century church repeatedly showed in the book of Acts the approximate number of those in attendance. It was a tool whereby the church and leadership could determine further direction. Pray for leadership as more things from our retreat begin to show up in our church family. We are driven to be the beacon of Jesus' light to a new generation.

C U Sunday,
Bill

P.S. - Thank you to so many for making our Easter celebrations spectacular. Our FCC volunteers make the difference in what we do.

THE CHOIR WILL PRESENT "CRIMSON LOVE" this Resurrection Sunday, April 1st. This cantata presents five medleys of familiar songs centered on the great redemption that Jesus Christ has provided for all people, including you and me. We hope that you will find yourself engulfed in reflection, repentance, thankfulness, celebration, and more through our Savior as you think, hum, or sing along with us. The Choir will be going on break after Sunday until further notice (late summer).



Singers and instrumentalists are encouraged to speak with the worship leader of the service you would like to help with (Jefferson Smith or myself, Dave R.).

Continue to invite your Friends and Neighbors to join you in learning God's truths in scripture and of salvation in Jesus. **BRING A FRIEND SUNDAY** was a great success and good start.

DO WE REALLY NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE OLD TESTAMENT OF THE BIBLE? ARE THE MIRACLES TRUE? WHAT DO THE PROPHECIES MEAN? Answers to these and a multitude of other questions can be found in our study groups that meet Sunday morning at 9:30 AM and at various times during the week. We believe you will find good reason to trust, examine, discuss and share God's Word. Hope, purpose, direction and help for our every day challenges are shared.

MID-WEEK CLASSES FOR ADULTS: Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm in a verse by verse walk through the Old Testament (Ezekiel at the present); **Soul Sisters** and **Cord Brothers** meet the First and Third Thursdays of the month. These two groups each are doing a topical series of interesting lessons.

SEEKERGEN (Middle School and High School) gather most Sunday evenings at 5:30 pm (whenever school is in session). **LITTLE TREE MINISTRIES** (Preschool through 5th grade) meet Wednesdays in the Fellowship Hall.

"Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God." Col. 3:1-3 NAS

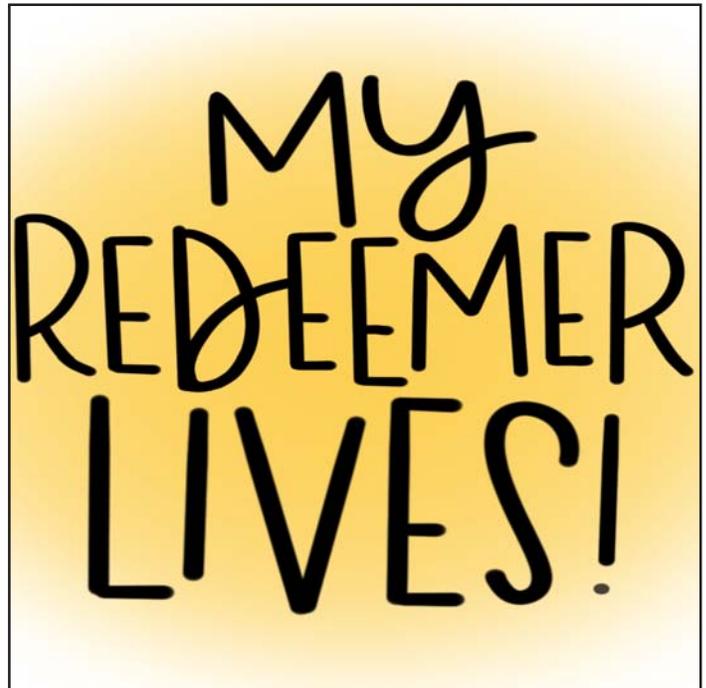
Thank you for all of your prayers, words of encouragement and support through the past year, then these past few weeks with the death of my brother-in-law, Jim Oswald. We appreciate the time we were allowed to be with family and to help my sister as she adjusts to her new routine. We are so thankful for God's promises of eternity through Christ for all of the saints.

Pressing upward through Christ,
David Rorabaugh



Time for Spring Cleaning!! Clean out your clutter. Simplify. Make room for what you really want. Donate your 'stuff' to the Youth Fundraiser Yard Sale. It is

the weekend of Friday and Saturday, May 4 & 5, at Becky and Kenny Butterfield's house. Bring your 'stuff' to Becky and Kenny's blue house at 201 North Webster at the corner of West Walnut and North Webster. Please do NOT bring clothes.



FUSE! APRIL 15 - Jr. Hi and Sr. Hi youth from all around Vernon County meet at Walker Christian Church for an awesome night of worship and praise!! Students will meet in the FCC parking lot at 5:00pm.



Birthright is looking for volunteers willing to work one shift per month; Monday, Wednesday or Friday from 11am-2pm. Birthright serves the needs of women in Vernon County and surrounding areas who find themselves in an unplanned pregnancy. For more info, call Colleen at 417-549-6166.



To help support our local **Community Outreach Food Pantry** we are collecting non-perishable food and dry goods. A box is in the parlor for collection. **Suggested April products are:** Tuna Helper, canned veggies, applesauce, cereal, ketchup, peanut butter, jelly.



The Big Serve

April 21 - 22, 2018
A weekend of service in
Vernon County

www.BigServeVCMO.com

Would you like to help someone with yard work or minor home repairs? Would you like to help sew quilts for the Children's Center or Highway Patrol? If so, please sign up for **The Big Serve** by signing up on one of the forms provided at the welcome centers or going to www.BigServeVCMO.com. If you know someone who needs some yard work or minor home repairs, please sign them up now for **The Big Serve**.

A Post Abortion Recovery (PAR) group will start Saturday, April 7 at 6:00 pm in the Main Floor Meeting Room (formerly the Loyal Builders Classroom). The support group is a Bible study based on Linda Cochran's "*Forgiven and Set Free*." For additional information or to sign up, please call or text Pauline J. at 417-448-9408. **Deadline to sign up is Thursday, April 5. The class is strictly confidential.**



Anyone needing a ride to Sunday School/Church in our vans, please let us know by calling the church office at 667-3540 by noon on Friday.



Van
Ministry