



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, Greg Barneburg, Scott Buerge, Don Cubbage, Doug Gammon, Wayne Jeans and Rick Jones

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From the Pulpit: Aging Gracefully

Most of us are uneasy about growing older. My theme for aging is hammering its way into being, “To grow old gracefully.” In other words, I will show people aging well by being full of grace and the image of Jesus. I blew it the other day. With this ongoing battle of gall stones and impatiently waiting for the medical scene to get its act together, I blew my stack. My pain is that I blew it at innocent people who only worked within the system. Instead of being the grace filled old man, I became what many declare as the grumpy old man. My daddy described his grandpa as, “a mean old man.” The truth is we are all getting older and the question becomes — what are you doing about aging gracefully?

We are building a Sunday, September 16th when we will have David Duncan of Co:Mission Foundation with us to share a few things about aging. It is called Estate Planning. No one wants to think about it, but not doing it sets you up to drop the ball as to your wishes and God’s will. David will share about “The Ultimate Family Plan” over lunch (after worship) at Buzz’s. You will be able to order what you want but the cost will be yours. (If you are unable to pay and yet want to attend, talk to me. We want you there. We will take care of it.) Also, because this is a family plan, we will provide child care and lunch here at the building.

That evening, David will share with those who want to know about “Turning Taxes into Treasure.” It will be in our parlor or, potentially, our fellowship hall, depending on numbers. It will be at 6:00 in the evening. The cost for David’s presence is covered by Good News Productions. It will cost you a couple of hours, but it will inform you for eternity.

There will be a sign up list in each of the services over the next several Sundays. Sign up, plan your calendars, pray about where God will lead you. Take my admonitions and grow old gracefully with me. Afterall, who really wants to be “a mean old person.”

C U Sunday,
Bill



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL HAS BEGUN! We had 69 children our first night and anticipate more to come. We thank all of you who have helped in various ways, each doing their part in the family of God. Thank you for praying, donating, encouraging, helping and more!

I trust you don’t believe you have all of life’s answers on your own. Sunday School is for each of you to learn more about the Bible, how to apply it to daily living, AND, for you to help others grow in their faith and obedience. Please join your brothers and sisters of faith, along with others just learning the basics of God’s Word at 9:30 AM Sunday mornings.

There are classes for every person in your family every week.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASS FOR ADULTS, at 6:30 pm in a verse by verse walk through the Old Testament (finishing the book of Hosea; prepare for Joel). **Soul Sisters** meet the third Thursday, whereas, **Cord Brothers** are taking a break for the rest of the summer and will resume in September on the first and third Thursdays of the month.

Church In The Park (Marmaduke) is September 23 where we will have one united service. October 13th, we host the **Armouraires Gospel Quartet** for a return engagement with them singing at the United Way Oktoberfest near noon. Then we host them for a full concert at 6:00 pm, followed by a fellowship meal. Our generous love offering is critical to their livelihood, so please plan accordingly. Let your friends and neighbors know about the concert. Continue to pray, plan and seek for God’s blessing in great inspiration, encouragement, fellowship and transformation in Christ.

Singers and instrumentalists are welcome. Please share your talents with Jefferson Smith for the 10:32 Service, or with me if you would like to assist at 8:00 or 10:30 am.

GLEANNING TEAM GATHERED @ 3600 POUNDS OF PRODUCE LAST WEEK. The produce is gathered for Community Outreach and is for anyone in need of good, fresh produce. I am so thankful for our team of nine who helped last week. Our next day is August 28th and you are welcome to help. Meet at the south end of the Fellowship Hall to leave at 7:30 am. We are normally finished by 10:30 am, depending on the amount of produce and the labor involved in gathering, then delivering it.

Walking with Jesus, David Rorabaugh

A Little Piece of Heaven

I think some of the most impactful moments of my life have involved communal worship. I remember when I first realized I needed Jesus, I was sitting in a pew listening to a sermon on the dangers of sin, and we had some Worship afterward and I remember just thinking that I really needed to get on board with this Jesus guy. I remember a time when I was sitting in the chapel at Ozark, and I had been going through a rough patch that semester, and I just stopped singing and looked at everyone around me. There were hundreds of us lifting praises to God, and the sounds of all of these voices at once sent chills down my spine. Looking back, I honestly believe that some of the best moments of worship I have had have been when I was struggling. And I believe part of that is because God really meets us where we are at, but I believe a part of that is because I have really stopped caring about what I think of the style of music, the sound quality, and the talent of those leading worship. Because when I let go of my musical preferences, I begin to actually worship.

I strongly believe that when we are worshiping, we are seeing a small piece of Heaven, and the main reason I believe this is because of what it says in Revelation chapter 7. “After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’” Revelation tells us that every language will praise God in Heaven, and I believe that we get to experience that, to a small degree, when we gather for communal worship. Yes, I know that it is nice to have music that suits your taste, and I have argued for and about that with so many different people. But I think we miss the point when it comes down to an argument of personal taste, because worship is not about us, it is about who we are worshiping. So with that in mind, I would just like to invite you to enjoy and get lost in this little piece of Heaven that we are able to share.

Until He returns, Gage Addington

THE ULTIMATE FAMILY PLAN

Sunday, September 16, Noon(ish), Buzz’s BBQ
Every adult needs this “Family Plan” and this workshop will provide practical and actionable information. If you do not have a Will or Trust – you’ll learn how to create these critical documents. If you do have a plan – you’ll learn how a review can assure it still fits your family’s current needs. **There is no cost except the cost of lunch. Child care will be provided.**



Dear First Christian Church Family,
Thank you for the Scholarship you have given me. It will go to good use for my education.

Sincerely,
Dalton Jones



Dear Friends,

Thank you for participation in LifeChoices’ Change for Life baby bottle campaign.

As of July 26th, your Change for Life 2018 total is **\$990.75!** This will help continue the vital services provided through our three clinics and school programs. Last year LifeChoices served over 13,000 individuals! Because LifeChoices does not receive state or federal funding, it would be impossible to serve that many people without your help. **Thanks again — your gift through Change for Life really changes lives!**

Sincerely,
Karolyn Schrage RN, BSN, Executive Director

TURNING TAXES INTO TREASURE

Sunday, September 16, 6:00pm, Parlor

The *Turning Taxes Into Treasure* workshop is your opportunity to learn how to make the most common taxes paid by Christian stewards optional. Please join us as we host David Duncan, the Executive Director of CDF Capital Foundation.

There is no cost and no obligation – but you will be offered a helpful service that can show you how many taxes are optional – you can choose to pay them, postpone them, reduce or avoid them.

To enable us to properly prepare for you, please RSVP by September 1st. Sign up sheets for both seminars are provided at the Welcome Centers or you may call the church office at 417-667-3540.

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.



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 August products:** Chicken Helper, canned veggies, peanut butter, canned fruit, jelly, pancake mix, and pancake syrup.

