



# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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## THE BEACON

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**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*

The view changes depending upon where you are. Recently, my son Andy & his wife Annie adopted a little boy who has partial vision. His name is Luke. While on a trip to settle several of the final adoption issues they were able to spend time with just Luke (they now have three boys). One of the photos showed Luke feeling the leg of an elephant statue. Annie's comment refers to a story where the blind men were describing the elephant, "The blind man touched the elephant – and, predictably said it was a tree."

When we look at FCC, the view changes depending upon where you are. Many would declare First Christian the building of steeple and stained glass. Others would declare First Christian to be the site of their heritage because their family attended there. Still others would see a place of generosity because of the Emmanuel baskets they received. Much like the blind man and the elephant, these are only partial views. What is your view?

The view that counts most is the view coming from heaven. Several times in the second & third chapter of Revelation Jesus declares, "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." God definitely has a view of the efforts of His church. God's view is a complete view of who we are. After we consider His view, then you can begin to seek and listen to those within the church.

A view that has bearing upon the church is the leadership of the church. It becomes the priority of church leadership to seek God's view and build a harmonious view that leads the church through time. 1 Chronicles 12:32 briefly mentions the "...men of Issachar, who understood the times and knew what Israel should do...."

The view that I have formed of FCC throughout the almost fifteen years that I have served here is, we are a church body seeking to build relationships with God. Whether you are new to the faith or have served God for a lifetime my prayer is that you can find the tools you need to draw closer to God at FCC. My next prayer is that you are building relationships with each other while drawing near to God. Finally, my prayer is that we help others to draw closer to God.

I say all of this to point out a date that will soon be upon us. December 30th is the last Sunday of this year. Our church has a mission that has been, and will be vibrant until Jesus comes — to build relationships with God. We have so many views of who we are and what we are doing that I hope to share a few with you over the next two months. We as leaders call you to consider giving to an offering of miracles on December 30th, the last Sunday of this year. It will be an offering that is the testimony of mission, to build eternal relationships with God. I would urge you to begin praying and nurturing the thought of a gift that will test your faith. God says in Malachi 3:10, "Test me in this and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."

The power of this offering of miracles is your view. May your view be a testimony that FCC is seeking God's view.

C U Sunday,  
Bill



**Thank you for the cards and gifts** in expressing your appreciation for Sally and me. We love each of you and pray God's abundant blessings may fill your lives.

**Will Jesus say "Well done, good and faithful servant..." to you?** I pray that He will, but we must do our part to increase our knowledge and understanding of His will. That comes through Bible Study on our own and with others. Jesus commands us to learn His ways to encourage, instruct, correct, strengthen and help each other, and more. Sunday School is one of those tools we use for that purpose. We need to stand together in God's word and instruction. We are in a spiritual battle for our life and the lives of those around us.

Please come at 9:30 AM Sunday mornings to learn more about the Bible, how to apply it to your daily challenges, and to share your experiences, helping others grow in their faith and obedience. We have a choice of adult classes to try out, plus classes for all of your children. And/or join one of the mid-week studies.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASS FOR ADULTS**, at 6:30 pm in a verse by verse walk through the Old Testament Minor Prophets (the book of Micah). We finish at 7:30 pm.

*Soul Sisters* and *Cord Brothers* meet at 6:30 pm on the first and third Thursdays of the month. The ladies gather in the Fellowship Hall and the men are in the Youth center. Please call the office if you need child care.

*College Age Small Group* meets most Monday evenings. Check the bulletins or with Gage on the schedule.

**CHOIR MEMBERS** continue to meet Sunday evenings from 5:00 to 6:00 pm in the sanctuary. There is still room for you, but time is quickly flying by before we perform, so please join us now. Resources and help are provided for those who are new to reading parts. Come try it out. *"Heaven On Earth"* is scheduled to be presented December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Singers and instrumentalists are welcome.** Please share your talents with me if you would like to assist with any of the services. We owe our thanks to all of the musicians who give of their time and talent to help us all in our times of worship.

In the service of Jesus,  
David Rorabaugh

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## A Tale of Two Cities

In John chapters 3 and 4, we see two different people interacting with Jesus. In both of these situations, these people miss Jesus at first, but the final reactions will be very interesting. In John 3, we see a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish teacher and leader in the Sanhedrin (the Jewish governing body). Nicodemus came to Jesus at night in Jerusalem to discuss God's purpose in sending Him (though Nicodemus didn't know Jesus was the Son of God, he most likely thought Jesus was a prophet). After a very long conversation, where Jesus explains how new life is found, it appears that Nicodemus leaves more confused than when he had come, and he missed Jesus.

In John chapter 4, we find a Samaritan woman, and we aren't given a name for her. Now, one thing that makes this so interesting is that Jesus intentionally travels through Samaria, which is a place most Jews would avoid like the plague. So Jesus is at the well with this woman at about noon, and they are talking and Jesus brings up that He has access to living water, referring to the gift of the Holy Spirit and the life found in Jesus. Immediately, the woman asks for this water so that she won't have to draw from the well anymore. Again, we see someone missing Jesus, but her reaction a few moments later is far different than Nicodemus'. The woman, after coming to an understanding of who Jesus was and what He meant, immediately went into her town and told people about Jesus being the Christ, and many of them came to believe. What I find interesting is that the person we would expect to understand what Jesus was saying and to know who He was didn't, but the woman who the Jews would have looked down on knew exactly who He was. Jesus, throughout the Gospels and even still today, reveals Himself to those the world would not expect, and I believe this is where we see the heart of God reaching out to the whole world.

Until He Returns,  
Gage Addington



*Everyone is invited* to the **Wrapping Party** scheduled for **Sunday, November 11** in the Fellowship Hall following church services. A **pizza lunch** will be provided. After lunch we will be wrapping Operation Christmas

Child shoe boxes. Shoe boxes will be provided or you can bring your own. Info about how to fill your shoe box is provided in brochures at the Welcome Centers. Please, no toothpaste. **Please bring \$9.00 for shipping costs. Please contact Charlotte Buerge or the church office if you are coming or have questions.**

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**Vernon County Ministerial Alliance** invites everyone in our community to their **Community Thanksgiving Service**, scheduled for Monday, November 22 at 7:00 pm at the Nevada Church of the Nazarene located at 1733 N. Ash in Nevada. An offering will be received for the VCMA Emergency Fund.



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



We welcome **Jeannetta Finley, Richard Lynch and John Copple** as new members of First Christian Church. Jeanetta and Richard are transferring from East Commres Church of Lewisburg, Tennessee.



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**Thanksgiving Baskets**  
**First Christian Church is distributing Thanksgiving Baskets this year on Saturday, November 17.** If you would like to help with assembly, and/or distribution please join us Friday and/or Saturday. **Friday we meet at 5:00 pm** for prep set-up that takes about 1 hour. **Saturday morning we begin at 8:00 am** with assembly followed by breakfast and then distribution from 10:00 am until noon.

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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 November products:** Mac & cheese, canned veggies, canned fruit, pork & beans, sugar, pancake mix, and pancake syrup.

