



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

Volume 39

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Issue 21

From the Pulpit

Several years ago when Susie and I first married, her daughters came to visit. We all loaded into my Chevy pick up and went to get a bite to eat. I didn't buckle my seatbelt. Erica noticed and after hearing my ramblings about why I didn't, she simply said, "It's the law." It requires sacrifice to wear a seatbelt.

I rode my bike to the office many years ago and didn't wear a helmet. Ellen Balk was the secretary then and told me of several settings where the bike rider suffered for not wearing a helmet. She finally bartered a deal with me that I would wear a helmet while riding my bike and she would wear her seatbelt while in a car. Every now and then when I see her, I will ask her if she is still wearing her seatbelt. She is, so I still wear my helmet. It requires sacrifice to wear a bike helmet.

What hinders you from doing a sacrifice? The testimonies I shared — the biggest hindrance was my nature. You can call it what you will – pride, hardheadedness (goes well with the lack of a bike helmet), selfishness, or even sin. Sacrifice according to David in 2 Samuel 24:24 "...I will not offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God which cost me nothing."

I heard a speaker one time say of Romans 12:1 (...to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.), "the trouble with a living sacrifice is that it keeps crawling off the altar." So, what hinders you?

Paul writes in Philippians 1:27-28 "I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel 28 without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you." We are asking you to prayerfully consider above and beyond your normal giving a sacrifice. There is no question that things will hinder your sacrifice, but our "...striving together as one for the faith of the gospel..." will become a testimony of what God is doing.

C U Sunday, Bill

**** Mission highlights: We had toward 300 children (not counting parents, siblings and grandparents) pass through our Halloween Trunk or Treat. We sent 97 boxes to Operation Christmas Child. We gave out all of 200 tickets for our Friday showing of "I Can Only Imagine," over 60 came to see it. We shared with several shut-in veterans a visit and a gift of cookies. We are planning to give out over 140 Thanksgiving baskets to our local community this Saturday.



DO YOU SEE THE LIGHT? HAVE YOU HEARD THE GREATEST NEWS TO EVER BE TOLD? God is real. He took up residence on this earth to reunite us with Him. The Creator intentionally restricted Himself to put on human flesh to dwell among us. He came just like the old prophets foretold, to the right town, from the right family, in order to do God's will. He is the long-promised Messiah, Redeemer and Savior of mankind. Pay attention to the testimony of the shepherds, His parents, the wise men and the angels of God. Experience the unfolding mystery of God through His Son, Jesus Christ of Nazareth. *Come and See* is the first song of the Choir Cantata, "*Heaven On Earth*." Join the choir in giving

praise to God for His great love for us. The promised King of Isaiah 9:6-7 has come as "*King Forever*," (title of the second song). Don't miss this time of reflecting on the wonder of Christmas: God's love walking into the lives of humanity.

CHOIR: meet Sunday evenings from 5:00 to 6:00 pm in the sanctuary as we finalize the cantata, which is scheduled for performance on December 23rd during the 10:30 am worship service. There will be no practice November 25th. Enjoy your time with family and friends, but please be sure to take time for personal practice.

Singers and instrumentalists are welcome. Please let me know which music talents God has blessed you with and if you would like to assist with any of the services. And I would encourage all of you to express your thanks to all of the musicians who give of their time and talent to help us all in our times of worship.

When we really like or love something or someone, we find ourselves gladly giving our time, talent or treasure to it or them. We who say we love God and Jesus must be sure to willingly show that love by our words, actions and deeds. Jesus clearly states that we who love Him will obey His commands. We learn those commands through Bible Study on our own and with others in group studies. Join us in at least one of our groups to learn His ways, to encourage, instruct, correct, strengthen and help each other, and more. Sunday School helps us in our life spiritual battles 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 meet in the Youth center. Please call the office if you need child care.

College Age Small Group meets Monday evenings. Check with Gage for more info.

In the service of Jesus, David Rorabaugh

The Problem with Christmas

Now I know that title might seem a bit off-putting, but I really do believe there is a problem with Christmas. I don't mean there is a problem with the Christmas story, the virgin birth, or God coming to earth in the form of an infant. No, I think there is a problem in the way that we look at Christmas. In Seeker Gen we are doing a series with that very title, and we are looking at Christmas through, hopefully, some new lenses so that we can really experience the beauty, the grace, and the gravity of the Christmas story.

Last night we discussed the unexpected nature of the Christmas story. You see, when we view the Christmas story as just any other story in Scripture, and we don't really pay attention to the greater context, it seems amazing, but there is a little bit of beauty that is missed. In order to understand the greater context and gravity of the birth of Christ, you need to understand what the story so far is. Much of what Jesus said and did is lost on us unless we have a better knowledge of the Old Testament. The significance of breaking the Sabbath, the reason there were people like Pharisees, and even the words He says on the cross are so much harder to understand outside of their context.

However, on that same token, the birth of Jesus was a surprise. The Israelites knew they would have a Messiah, but they had no idea he would be born in a stable. The Israelites knew they were going to have a Savior invite them to a new kingdom, but they had no idea that it was an eternal kingdom that doesn't look the same as the ones they were used to. The Israelites knew that they would experience rescue, but they didn't expect any other rescue than from Rome (which God did rescue them from, along with much more and much greater threats). You see, in terms of story, the birth of Jesus is kind of a plot twist, and it changes everything about what we know. So this Christmas, and I know it is still a ways off, let's celebrate God's unexpected gift of grace through the birth of Jesus.

Until He returns, Gage Addington



First Christian Church will hold a congregational meeting on December 2 for the purpose of approving the Proposed Budget for 2019. The meeting will begin immediately following each worship service. A 2/3 majority of members present and voting is required for approval. Complete copies of the proposed budget are on the bulletin boards for your review. They are also available from the church office by calling 667-3540.

VBS Bake Sale - Our first 2019 Vacation Bible School Fundraiser will be in the Church Parlor and the Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, December 2.**



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.**



To My Church Family,

Thank you so much for the cards, kind thoughts, and especially for your prayers during my surgery and subsequent treatments. They were appreciated.

Bobby Dade

2019 Radio Broadcast Sponsorship - Sign up now to sponsor a weekly worship service broadcast. A **sign-up sheet is in the parlor** for you to choose a date that is important to you. You may also call the office at 667-3540. **The cost for 2019 has increased to \$55.00 per broadcast.**

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.



PLEASE SAVE THIS PAGE FOR REFERENCE DURING THE MONTH



HELPING HANDS - December 2018



If you cannot serve on the date assigned, please trade with someone on the list. Thanks!

COMMUNION PREPARATION: Martha Waltrip

Hospitality Ministry



When you see a visitor say "Howdy" and be sure to give them a FCC Coffee Mug filled with goodies!

To help support our local Community Outreach Food Pantry, we collect non-perishable food and dry goods. A box is located in our parlor for collection.



YOU CAN HELP

Suggested December products: Canned Tuna and Chicken, canned veggies, soup, peanut butter, jelly, oatmeal, and jello.

Children's CHURCH



DECEMBER

Leaders: Eric & Staci Andersen

Junior CHURCH

Leaders: David Serna & Melissa Austin

CHURCH Stats

Attendance: Year-to-date Average per Week

SG	8:00	10:30	10:32	Total 3 Services
121	47	61	81	189

Offering needed during the month of October in order to meet budget was \$24,811.52.
Offering collected in October was \$26,751.74.

	Offering received:	Total
Oct 07, 18	\$ 6,398.68	\$ 6,398.68
Oct 14, 18	\$ 4,476.58	\$ 10,875.26
Oct 21, 18	\$ 5,754.55	\$ 16,629.81
Oct 28, 18	\$ 3,295.01	\$ 19,924.82

Offering needed each week to meet budget in 2018 is \$6,202.88

VAN DRIVERS

Adults and Children

- Dec 02 - Randy & Tracy Ellifrits
- Dec 09 - Erik Andersen
- Dec 16 - Tracy Serna
- Dec 23 - Daniel Turowski
- Dec 30 - Terry Jones



Van Ministry

Join Us For Adult Bible Studies

Wednesday - Bible Study @ 6:30pm, Church Parlor
1st and 3rd Thursday each month - **CORD Brothers** (Men's Bible study) @ 6:30pm, Youth Center.
1st and 3rd Thursday each month - **Soul Sisters** (Women's Bible study) @ 6:30pm, Fellowship Hall.

Ministers rotate serving at Moore-Few Care Center on Second Sundays at 2:30pm.

The next issue of **THE BEACON** will be available on Sunday, December 2, 2018. The deadline for articles for that issue will be the prior Tuesday. Articles and schedule updates need to be brought to the church office or sent to lyndaj@fcnevada.org no later than Tuesday, November 27, 2018.



December BIRTHDAYS

12/01 Stafford Agee	12/16 Bobby Dade
Betty Sewell	12/17 Marlee Carlin
12/02 Mark Arneson	Jeanetta Finley
Linda Nunley	Landon Wilson
12/03 Aaron Rorabaugh	12/18 Janet Del Rosario
12/04 Terrie Robinson-Cryfyndaw	Kevin McKinley
12/05 Steve Austin	12/19 J.L. Post II
12/06 Ann Adkins	12/20 Lynessa Baker
12/07 Tehya Cauthon	12/21 Garry Dade
Ron Kitsmiller	12/22 Chelsey Jeans
Mike Lane	12/23 Jessica Norwood
12/08 Briannah Lanham	Marita Pippin
12/10 Staci Andersen	12/24 Anita Scott
Carl Davis	12/25 Bradley Blystone
12/11 Ellie Rorabaugh	12/28 Sonny Butler
12/13 Jerry Arnold	Ella Serna
12/14 Kenny Davis	12/30 Willie Blystone
12/15 Terrie Ridenour	12/31 LaDonna Sykes