



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

204 S Washington
Nevada, MO 64772

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 40

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Issue 5

From the Pulpit The Dynamic Thirty

A few weeks, back I wrote of the dozen that were driven to make a difference. This article let me tell you about the dynamic thirty who gathered in February. They are just as driven to make a difference for FCC.

Prayer is the leading dynamic. As our meeting of February finished, we broke into groups to pray for the varied aspects troubling our church family. The dynamic of prayer has shown itself on Sunday mornings as many have gathered to pray at 7:30 and 10:15. The Sunday following the third Wednesday meeting over a dozen gathered in my office to pray for Sunday services at 7:30. Our elders prayed at the beginning of March on Saturday and eight of us were there. We want God in this, we are calling to God, [Maranatha] come Lord Jesus, come!

Another dynamic that showed itself was the continued desire to shape and reshape small groups. A team with purpose and desire was shaped to meet this Thursday (at 5:30) to dialogue and build a plan for developing small groups. Their plan will be shared at the next third Wednesday meeting (20th of March).

Still another dynamic was to shape a mission statement that could be easily given and re-given that would shape minds and hearts at FCC. This small group met last week to shape this statement. What a clever idea it is and yet so simple. It will be shared at the third Wednesday meeting. The fun part of this task group was that it was done in 15 minutes.

Thirty dynamic individuals came to February's third Wednesday gathering. Many others have taken it to the next level by committing to help FCC in these vital times. Commitment is a dynamic that has shaped nations. Commitment will not come easily but it is vital if we are to shape the future of FCC. We would love to see more people come to our third Wednesday gathering, but we would ask that you be committed to the task. What is the task you may ask? We want to overcome FCC's current struggles and be viable for our Jesus in today's world setting and hopefully, on into tomorrow.

What I love about the word "dynamic" is found within its derivatives – the word dynamite. We are aware that dynamite is an explosive force used to move mountains. Jesus says that faith can move mountains (Matthew 21:21). Thirty faithful people came to our last third Wednesday gathering. Their intent through prayer and faith is to move the mountains in our way to serving Jesus more fully.

You are welcome to join us this next meeting,
Bill



WHAT AREAS OF BIBLE STUDY ARE YOU WILLING TO DEVOTE MORE TIME TO? Bring your thoughts or suggestions to the next Small Group Development meeting (April 11) to help form a plan of action. Your participation and help as part of the church family is welcome and appreciated. Let's lift each other up as we learn more about our Lord Jesus.

THE CHOIR has only four more practices remaining, so if you are going to join, NOW is the final call for this presentation. Join us Sunday evenings in the sanctuary at 5:00 pm for an hour long practice as we prepare the dramatic Easter musical, "THE CROSS, where God's grace meets our need," scheduled for April 21st. Your participation in these final practices is critical.

You whom God blessed with talents to sing or play instruments for worship are needed and welcome. Please contact me so that we can include you in assisting with some of the services. I am so thankful for each of our musicians and their offerings for us to benefit from.

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.

Young Adult Small Group: Monday evenings at 6:00pm with Gage.

(continued on next page.....)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASS FOR ADULTS, from 6:30 to 7:30 pm in a verse by verse walk through the Bible (Beginning Matthew).

Because Jesus is alive,
David Rorabaugh

God is with you

One of the greatest fears that I have, and one of my most consistent struggles, is the idea and feeling of isolation. We live in a generation that is more connected than ever before, and yet more people feel isolated than ever before, which is such a strange concept. I have over 1,000 friends on facebook, but I don't feel like I actually know more than 100 of them. More people, especially younger people, struggle with anxiety and depression than in previous generations, and I believe part of that comes down to how alone we all feel. The most connected generation in history is also the most isolated.

Now I could spend a long time trying to unpack different societal and cultural reasons behind why we all feel alone, but I think the bottom line is that we, or many in today's world, have stopped trying to know God and be known by Him. Because with social media, cell phones, streaming services, and the like, it is so easy to bury ourselves in a screen and to become someone else. Now, it is an innate reality that we desire transformation. We were made for transformation. But instead of transforming by means of Christ reforming us, we have taken to transforming into what makes us fit in. This is not a new concept, but with the constant connectedness of most people nowadays, it becomes a constant act, as opposed to a mask that we take off when we come home. This has become so pervasive in our lives that we tend to, subconsciously or not, hide from God.

We are terrified of love, but we are love starved. Because love requires that we are seen at every level at once. Not just the face we put on at work, not just the face we put on with friends, and not just the person we are deep inside when nobody else is watching, but all of those at once. To be loved is to be known and to be known is to be loved. And here is what God has to say about that. "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39). No matter how much we run, no matter what we have done, and no matter how hard we try to hide, God still loves us, and we just need to lean into His love in all times. God loves you, so dearly and so deeply that He would send His only Son to die for you. Lean into His love.

Until He returns,
Gage Addington



Pastor's Class

Pastor's Class for 3rd thru 5th graders will be Saturdays March 30, and April 6, 13, & 20 at 10 am in the Parlor. Pastor Bill is offering a one hour "Basics of Faith" class for children who are in grades 3-5, or, anyone

else, no matter what your age, who would like this information. He will teach about scripture, talk of God (the trinity), salvation and the way to salvation. If you plan to have anyone attend the class, he is asking that you inform the office at 417-667-3540 or sign-up on one of the sheets provided at the Welcome Centers.



We welcome **Gage Addington** as a new member of First Christian Church. He is transferring from Community Christian Church of Ft. Scott, KS.



Dear Church Family,
Thank you all so much for the meat and cheese tray. Your kindness is very appreciated.

The family of Connie Moffatt

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A van driver is needed!! If you would like to be part of our Van Ministry, please let one of the preachers or elders know, or call the office at 417-667-3540.

Dear Church Family,
Thank you for your prayers, thoughts, cards and calls following my shoulder surgery.
God bless you,
Donald Cabbage

Children's Church and Junior Church still need teachers!! If you would like to volunteer, please contact Sharon Webb or Dave Serna.

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 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 March products:** Mac & cheese, canned veggies, mayonnaise, oatmeal, Jello, pork & beans, and rice.





For Operation Christmas Child we are collecting items each month throughout the year. The suggestions for April are small toys, games and small balls (provide a hand air pump if needed.) Collection boxes are in the parlor and in

the fellowship hall where you can place the items.

“The slinky was fascinating to me. We loved to send it down the steps and we played a lot of games with it. It was a simple toy but it was my favorite in the box.”

–Devon, Grenada

“Our economic condition is very poor, so my parents cannot afford to buy toys for me. When I heard that I would get a gift box, I was so excited! Thank you to all of my foreign friends who sent me the toys and other amazing things.”

–Samia, East Asia

Easter Banquet

Sunday, April 7

6:00 pm Doors Open

7:00 pm Auction Begins

FCC Fellowship Hall

Dinner includes pulled pork, cheesy potatoes, green beans, side salad, and dessert.

Love Offering.



The Big Serve

April 27-28, 2019

A weekend of service in

 Vernon County

www.BigServeVCMO.com

The Big Serve is a weekend where people of Vernon County have an opportunity to share their gifts and resources with their neighbors. We work together to complete projects such as brush pickup, yard work, mowing, painting, minor repairs, and sewing.

Individuals may sign up to volunteer by themselves or as a part of a group. You can sign up by going to www.BigServeVCMO.com or calling 417-448-4495. Individuals who need help with a project may sign up by also going to www.BigServeVCMO.com or calling 417-448-4495.

Please consider volunteering to serve. Please check with your neighbors, friends, or family members who may need help and refer them to us.

You can do BOTH - be a volunteer and be helped. We all have needs. We all have gifts and resources to share.

CHURCH YARD SALE

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 3 & 4, 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. Smaller items can be dropped off at church on Sundays. Please do NOT bring clothes.



VBS Bake Sale - Sunday, April 14 in the Church Parlor and in the Fellowship Hall. If you can provide home-made baked goods for our sale, please sign up in your Sunday School classroom, in the parlor or in the Fellowship Hall. *Plan to stock up for Easter!*



You are invited to join members of our community for prayer on Saturday, April 6, at 9:30 am at the Flag Pole on the South lawn of the Vernon County Courthouse. The plan is

to continue this on the 1st Saturday of each month. Prayer will be offered for our nation, our troops and our leaders. It will be nondemoninational and nonpartisan. All are invited. For more information call Jim Lawrence at 417-448-4067.

APRIL 14TH- FUSE!

from 5:30 to 7:30pm HERE, at First Christian Church. Join us for an awesome night of worship and praise!!



PLEASE SAVE THIS PAGE FOR REFERENCE DURING THE MONTH



HELPING HANDS - April 2019



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

COMMUNION Bobby Dade
PREPARATION: Helper - Elders

VAN DRIVERS

Adults and Children

Apr 07 - Randy & Tracy Ellifrits

Apr 14 - ***Need a driver****

Apr 21 - Crystal Bloom

Apr 28 - Daniel Turowski



Van
Ministry



Hospitality
Ministry

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

Join Us For Adult Bible Studies

Monday - Young Adult @ 6:00 pm, Church Parlor

Wednesday - Bible Study @ 6:30 pm, 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.

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



Suggested April products: Tuna Helper, canned
veggies, ketchup, peanut butter, cereal, applesauce,
jelly.

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



Leaders: Tammy Clark



Leaders: Dave Serna and
Melissa Austin

The next issue of **THE BEACON** will be available
on Sunday, April 7, 2019. 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, April 2, 2019.

CHURCH Stats

Attendance: Year-to-date Average per Week

SG	8:00	10:30	10:32	Total 3 Services
159	43	58	62	175

**Offering needed during the month of February.
in order to meet budget was \$23,217.32.
Offering collected in February was \$26,285.80.**

	Offering received:	Total
Feb 03, 2019	\$ 12,025.04	\$ 12,025.04
Feb 10, 2019	\$ 6,017.47	\$ 18,042.52
Feb 17, 2019	\$ 3,761.78	\$ 21,804.30
Feb 24, 2019	\$ 4,481.50	\$ 26,285.80

**Offering needed each week to meet budget
in 2019 is \$5,804.33.**



4/01 John Shumaker	4/22 Pookie DeCocq
4/04 Celie McCord	Jeff Morris
4/05 Jeff Bruns	Megan Smith
4/08 Emily Ring	4/24 Sue Costley
4/10 Kevin Post	Randy Ellifrits
4/12 Bailey Edwards	4/25 Emily Simrell
4/13 Keagan Cauthon	4/26 Daniel Turowski
Phoenix Deckard	4/27 Mike Serna
4/15 Gary DeCocq	4/30 Lucy Zermeño
4/16 Lee Hanes	
4/19 Will Zermeño	
4/21 Brianna Austin	
Opal Davis	

