



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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Issue 6

From the Pulpit

A Humble Thank You

Several times throughout the years I have felt slighted. For instance, I have been a loyal member of a credit card for decades and they offer their great interest rates to the new guy. Where is the reward for my years? I have been a part of a workout program for over 15 years and they offer the new member first opportunities to use the new equipment. My dues paid for that new equipment. I have worked program after program for the club that I have been a member at for over 30 years and what do they do for me vs the new member who gets all the attention.

My first intention and still an important intention of this writing is to say thank you to many of you for your loyalty and sacrifice to the FCC family. You have made sacrifices that God sees, and my heart aches that many times we, the family of FCC, do not see. I want to say thank you for your ongoing and unnoticed efforts. Again, I would say that God sees! Many of you have moved furniture and set up varied sites without any appreciation for your efforts. Others of you have worked dozens of hours to make a program successful. Also, I want to mention the giving that supplies our bank balance so that we can continue doing what we do. Again, I would say that God sees!

When 9-1-1 happened, a nation noticed the sacrifice of first responders. The ache is that we noticed with tragedy. We at times are guilty of the same thing – we notice with tragedy the sacrifice of so many. I want to echo again how much you mean to us at FCC. Thank you for your ongoing efforts. Then, as is with so many things, my intentions were to say thank you to so many for your sacrifice. But, while I wrote the first paragraph, I felt convicted that the paragraph reeked of near-sightedness. It smelled of selfishness. Much like the Pharisee in Luke 18, my comments centered around me. It was then that I realized the humble nature of Jesus in Mark 10:45, “For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

So, I would finish with saying thank you, thank you, thank you for your unnoticed efforts and sacrifice. We at FCC do appreciate you. But, then I must finish with humility and recognition that it is so simple to abuse the servanthood that Jesus modeled and the servanthood that He calls us to live - a service un-noticed even to the point of sacrifice of our life.

C U Sunday,
Bill



WHAT DO YOU THINK OF WHEN YOU SEE A... CROSS ... PICTURE OF JESUS ... BIBLE...? You will be asked similar questions in the song, *I'M AMAZED*, the title of one of the songs from “THE CROSS, where God’s grace meets our need,” scheduled for April 21st. The FCC Chancel Choir and Drama Team invite you to experience this dramatic Easter musical at the service at 10:30 am in the sanctuary of the main building. The choir and drama team has been working diligently to prepare this special message of Good News through Jesus. Please make plans for your whole family to join us for the entire morning of special activities.

I pray that you will express your thanks to all of the choir, drama and technical teams for all of their dedicated preparations.

CHOIR AND DRAMA TEAM: please come prepared for the final practices, Sunday evenings at 5:00 pm. Your participation is critical. We will then enjoy a break until fall.

Our faith in Christ must have not only our mind, but also feet, hands, mouth, or whatever involved and active. Please contact one of the church leaders in regard to your abilities so that we can include you in the mission of Christ.

FEED YOUR SOUL WITH GOD’S WORD, in personal time and with other believers through the week. If you would like to host a study in your home or somewhere else, please contact us. Several groups are established and you are welcome to attend and participate.

(continued on next page.....)

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

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

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.

Celebrating the Living Christ,
David Rorabaugh

Who we are

“The more you tell someone who they are, the less you need to tell them what to do.” Our identity is very closely tied to how we act, what we say, and the things we think. So the way that we see ourselves and the things we identify ourselves by will ultimately become the way we act and interact with the world around us. This is a concept that, if we honestly looked at our lives and the lives of those around us, isn’t really hard to believe, and it is also a concept that is extremely present in the Scriptures.

If you were to look through the Bible at every major commandment, or every set of “rules”, they are either immediately preceded or followed by an identity statement. God doesn’t command His people without telling them who they are. For instance, when God gave the Ten Commandments, He opened up by saying, “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.” And we find evidences of this throughout the Old Testament, the Gospel accounts, and even the Epistles. But one specific example that I would like to look at is found in Ephesians 2:8-10.

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” (ESV). In these few verses we see a reminder of grace and where we have come from, we see an identity statement (His workmanship), and we see a command. God’s chosen method for calling His people to action has always been to remind them who they are and who He is before He commands anything. So my challenge to you is that you would take some serious time to remember who you are, who you belong to, and who you worship. The actions, the lifestyle, and the behaviors will follow suit, but first you must have your identity in line.

Until He returns,
Gage Addington



VBS Bake Sale - Sunday, April 14 in the Church Parlor and in the Fellowship Hall. If you can provide homemade 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!***

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.



Van
Ministry



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.

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.**



Van
Ministry



Time for Spring Cleaning!! 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.**

Our church’s Membership Ministry offers a meal for the family of a deceased member of our church. We are in the process of updating the list of those who are willing to provide a cake or salad for these luncheons. **If you have never been called and would like to help with this ministry,** please call the church office (667-3540) or sign one of the lists in the Welcome Centers.



Funeral Meals

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



Pantry Needs



Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019

7:00 am Sunrise Service - South Lawn

8:00 am Breakfast - Fellowship Hall

9:00 am Workshops - In Defense of the Christian Faith

Jesus' Crucifixion - Gage Addington, Sanctuary

Cold Case Christianity: Jesus' Resurrection - Greg Barneburg, FH

10:30 am Easter Musical - Sanctuary

The Cross: Where God's Grace Meets Our Need

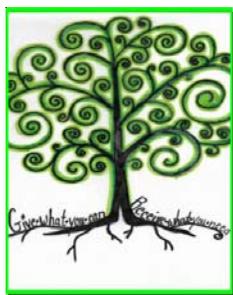
APRIL 14TH - FUSE!

from 5:30 to 7:30pm HERE, at First Christian Church. Youth from several area Christian Churches join together for an awesome night of worship and praise!!

Children's Church and Junior Church *still need teachers!!* If you would like to volunteer, please contact Sharon Webb or Dave Serna or sign up on one of the lists in the Welcome Centers.



If you wish to purchase an Easter lily in memory/honor of someone special, we ask that they be delivered to the church no later than Friday, April 19. Lilies may be wrapped in purple with a white ribbon, if possible, but we accept any donated. Please put your name on the lily and to whom it is dedicated so we may print the names in a later bulletin. You may take your lily home after Easter services.



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.

You may sign up to volunteer or get help with a project by going to www.BigServeVCMO.com or calling 417-448-4495.



Community Good Friday

Worship Service

Friday, April 19, 2019

7:00 pm

Calvary Baptist Church

113 West Arch Street, Nevada

Love offering for Ministerial Alliance