



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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THE BEACON

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From the Pulpit The Basics

If you had never learned the basic alphabet and revisited that every now and then, your ability to read would be hindered. If you had never learned basic math and failed to revisit it every now and then, your ability to count change would be hindered. Our walk with God will begin with a steady dose of the basics. Then as the years pass, we will find many are the times that we will return to the basics to strengthen our walk with God.

The basics of faith amount to the strength and validity of the Bible; the existence of God; the trinity that unfolds into the Father, Son & Holy Spirit; the enslavement of sin among created mankind; the wondrous plan of God to redeem man from sin through Jesus Christ and the cross; the grave of Jesus that is no longer occupied; and your choice that will determine your acceptance of God's wonderful plan. The basic list could vary a little, but the priorities are here. These basics become the beacon that guides us throughout this life.

The challenge becomes: when to teach these basics. On March 30th (Saturday and three Saturdays after), we will revisit the basics in Pastor's Class (again for 2019). The few things that I ask of those who attend is that they can read, find their way to class (parents – I need you involved), and they do the work (there is some memory work, and in class studies). A few of those attending will bring treats for our class attendees.

The next question becomes: who can attend? The class is aimed at early school age children, but through the years I have been blessed with older siblings, and older ones asking questions (this has included some adults). So, my response is: if you want to know – come.

Our studies will consist of memory work, writing definitions and filling in the blanks in our workbook. Our class will be at 10:00 am in the church parlor and we will be done approximately at 11:15 am. If you have attended before, it is a repeat, but the greatest tool for learning is repetition, so come again.

The goal is to give you the basics of faith that will encourage you throughout this life. Plan your calendars now.

Pray for those in attendance and remember the basics,
Bill



PART OF THE LAUNCH TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS concerned about Small Group Development will meet March 14th to discuss concerns and form a plan of action to present to the whole Launch Team on March 20th. Your participation and help is welcome and appreciated, get those dates on your calendar. Let's expand our encouragement and discipleship of the church family.

THE CHOIR had a good session this past Sunday working on various vocal parts. We still have room and time for additional singers, however the weeks are flying by fast. We only have seven more practices remaining. Join us Sunday evenings in the sanctuary at 5:00 pm for an hour long practice. We are preparing the dramatic Easter musical, "THE CROSS, where God's grace meets our need." We are scheduled to present it for Easter, April 21st. Your participation in numerous practices is important. Practice aids are provided and help is available.

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.

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

Because of Jesus,
David Rorabaugh

Conquering Gargantor

Let me paint a picture for you. You are in a room, surrounded by 2,000+ grade schoolers screaming at the top of their lungs, you have spent the night sleeping on a concrete floor, and you do not have immediate access to coffee. If that doesn't sound like Heaven on Earth, I don't know what does. All joking aside, this past weekend was CIY SuperStart, a weekend event for students in the 3rd to 5th grades, and we experienced all of this fun and excitement in Tulsa, OK.

The theme for SuperStart this year was Conquering Gargantor, which seemed, to me at least, like it would be some kind of take on the story of David and Goliath and how we need to have Jesus help us fight our giants. But the real theme was something a bit unexpected, but very inspiring. Conquering Gargantor was all about the idea of overcoming the obstacles in our lives so that we can tell the story of what God has done for us. The theme verse was Psalm 105:1, which says "Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!" The speaker encouraged the students, and many of the adults as well, to write their stories in a clear and concise manner using these story cards they gave us, and then to share their stories with their friends and with their churches.

Many of the students we took were very excited to share their stories with our group, and many of them were also excited to share their stories with their friends and with our church family. We will be having them share with the other students at Little Tree, as an encouragement and as an example of sharing the good things God has done for us. So my encouragement to you, as well as to myself, is to share your story. It doesn't need to be pretty, it doesn't need to be exceptional, it just needs to point toward God and what He has done in your life.

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.



For Operation Christmas Child we are collecting items each month throughout the year. The suggestion for March includes personal hygiene items such as stick deodorant,

bar soap and container, tooth brushes, and hair brush and/or combs. Collection boxes are in the parlor and in the fellowship hall where you can place the items.

"I absolutely loved the washcloth. As an orphan I had to share a towel with about 20 kids. So when I got the washcloth I actually thought it was my own personal towel." –Vladimir, Russia

"The toothbrush meant a lot because before I had to share my toothbrush with 25 other girls." –Yuri, Honduras

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.**



Sunday School for Children gets revamped.

When children ages preschool to 5th grade go to Sunday School on March 3, they will discover a new program. The teachers decided

to change curriculum and format. The children will be studying the Life of Elijah all together as a large group, then breaking into smaller groups as needed. The children will meet in the Children's Church area.



"The Dozen" met Wednesday night (Feb 20) with about 18 additional people for a very productive meeting. They have decided to call themselves the "Launch Team" and plan to

countinue to meet the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm in the Parlor after Wednesday Night Bible study. The next meeting is March 20. Out of this larger group, two smaller groups have formed. One group is focusing on **Small Group Development. They plan to meet the second Thursday of each month at 5:30 pm in the Parlor. The next meeting is March 14.** The other group is focusing on **FCC's Vision/Mission statement. They plan to meet the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm in the Parlor. their next meeting will be March 27. You are invited and encouraged to be a part of any and all of these teams.**

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.

