



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: Greg Barneburg, Don Cabbage, Doug Gammon, Wayne Jeans and Rick Jones

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From the Pulpit.....

The Next Step

It is hard to sit in a dentist chair while he drills into your teeth. It is hard to wait in line for the ice cream treat. It is hard to bend over and tie your shoe. It is hard to keep focus while the driver's license instructor rides with us. It is hard to visit family in the hospital or the nursing home. It is hard to process and respond in a job interview. For me it gets harder and harder to sit in a meeting even if it is headed for a great outcome. Did you notice that all these hardships have the hope of something good to come?

Life is full of hardship. Easy is ever illusive for the things that count. We have been taught that most everything that is worth anything requires hard work. So, why would faith be any different? Jesus comments throughout the gospels about faith. He spurs us on to growing our faith further. And just like the many hardships in the first portion of this blog, there is hope of good to come.

I invite you to a special gathering that Susie and I will host Sunday, July 7th. It will be this one Sunday during the Sunday School hour. Whether you are a new face in our church family and trying to determine your next step, or a Christian of decades looking for the next step – you are invited to come. Maybe you are interested in church membership and seeking to plug in further or you desire to join a prayer team – you are invited to come. Or you are seeking to grow your faith and are uncertain of what to do – you are welcome to come. It is my intent to help you with your next step.

The walk of faith is full and wonderful, but it requires effort. At times it may even be hard. Our desire is to create a special time to help people in their walk by helping with the "Next Step." It may be plugging you into a small group or sharing some material that will help. It may be helping you with counseling for some of life's hardship. It may be walking you into a new relationship with Jesus, please come. Susie and I hope to help with the next step. You will find us across from the nursery in the conference room during the Sunday School hour (9:30 to 10:15) on July 7th.

God Bless — C U Sunday,
Bill



VBS PLANNING MEETING: July 17th, 7:40 pm, for all teachers and workers. One final planning session, then we are underway with **ROAR: Life is Wild; God is Good**. Keep this youth outreach in your prayers and offer your help with decorating, collecting supplies, etc. All hands are appreciated. Please check with Gage, Becky Butterfield or me to see where you can fit in with your abilities.

PRE-REGISTER YOUR YOUTH FOR VBS: Registration forms are out. Get your and the neighbor's children registered now and turn the forms into the office or to me. And be sure to invite families with children to our **ROARING GOOD TIME** kickoff to VBS on July 20 (Saturday), 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. There are many opportunities to help with this event.

KNOW THE TRUTH: God's Word is our guide, so join a study group to learn more about God's desire for you. Three new groups meet each week to review the Sunday sermons and make supportive application. A **Young Adult Small Group** meets Mondays at 6:00 pm with Gage. **Wednesday Night Bible Class** (Adults) meets in the Parlor 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, with the ladies in the Fellowship Hall and the men in the Youth center. Please contact us if you would like to start a group of your own. Please call the office if you need child care.

CHOIR MEMBERS: Please check your home for past music books and recordings, and turn them in for safe storage. Practice sessions will restart this fall for ALL who are considering joining. Please honor God with those talents He has blessed you with, for His glory.

ROARING the Love of Jesus,
David Rorabaugh

Forgiveness

Forgiving people is hard. Like, I can remember some things people have said or done to me years ago, and they still hurt. Am I supposed to completely forget what they said or did? Am I supposed to just act like nothing happened? How do I forgive? Why should I forgive? I can't really answer all of these questions, but I'd like to try to answer that last question: Why should we forgive others? Jesus tells a parable in Matthew 18:21-35, and it's a little long to put in here, so please take a moment to read it.

So, this first servant owes 10 thousand talents (roughly 200,000 years of wages) to his king. That sounds like a lot of money, but at the same time we don't really use that measurement anymore, so if we were to use Missouri minimum wage and a 40 hour work week, this would be roughly 3.5 billion dollars. In today's world, less than 1 percent of all of humanity could even think about paying that kind of debt off, let alone someone working minimum wage. Our sin is much the same. It is nearly insane for us to believe we can work our own sin off or pay off the debt for our sins on our own. But the king (God) forgives that debt.

The second servant owes the first 100 denarii. This would roughly translate (using the same formula) to 6,880 dollars. Still not a small amount, but a mere fraction of what the first servant owed and was forgiven for. We, when we refuse to forgive others, are in the exact same position as this first servant. How can we, who have been forgiven a great debt, not forgive others for the wrongs they have committed, even against us?

This is why we forgive. We don't forgive because it makes us look better. We don't forgive because it is the right thing to do (even though it is). We don't forgive because God thinks more highly of us if we do. We forgive because we were first forgiven. And if we truly want to look like Christ, that is what we will do. Because He knew we would reject Him. He knew we would spit in His face. He knew we would, time and time again, turn against Him. And yet He bore that sin for us, and because of Him we are now free.

Until He Returns,
Gage Addington



First Christian Church Vacation Bible School 2019

Ages 4 years to 8th grade

July 28 - August 2,
5:30 to 8:30 PM

“Roaring Good Time” Needs:
50 dozen cookies! Yes, that’s correct. 50 dozen! If you would like to help, sign up sheets will be available at the Welcome Centers.



VBS Supply Needs: Kathy Butler needs some fine-tipped permanent markers - colors, even metallic would be great.



Bill and Susie need to borrow: *a small plastic wading pool, * an old brown sheet, and * white/clear rope lights. They need donated: about 75 small stones to give away.



We are collecting items for Operation Christmas Child. Each month we collect different items. In July, the suggestions are: sun hat, sunglasses, shoes, and flip flops. 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.**



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 July products: Mac & Cheese, canned veggies, Jello, soup, oatmeal, peanut butter, jelly.

