



THE BEACON

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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Sr. Min. Bill Platt; **Assoc. Min.** David Rorabaugh; **Youth Min.**

Elder Emeritus: Ron Greenway, John McKinley and Glen Noble

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

Volume 40

October 6, 2019

Issue 18

From the Pulpit.....

It is an encounter that takes up only eleven verses (14:22-33) in the book of Matthew. But it is an encounter that would shape lives from there on. All of us identify with one of the personalities involved. We have Jesus who has just finished a time of prayer and seeks to reconnect with the disciples in a boat in the middle of the lake while a storm blows. Jesus decides to walk to them, on the water no less.

We have a boat load of disciples who are exhausted, fearful, and I imagine praying. They have been in this boat for several hours. Between the wind and waves, the hour is early in the morning and they are still trying to make it to shore. It is like being caught in a Midwest blizzard with ice and snow with a long way to go. Of course, they are praying. Then they see Jesus.

When they see His presence, their first impressions are – don't know. To explain it they cast about and fearfully decide it is a ghost on the water. Then, Jesus calls out to them, "Take heart, it is I. Do not be afraid."

Then our other personality reveals himself, Peter. Whether testimony or confirmation, Peter calls out, "Lord, if it is You command me to come to You on the water."

Jesus responds, "Come."

We all know the story. Many times, throughout history all of us have identified with Peter or the others within the boat. We want to believe that we would have the faith of Peter to try. Then we have moments where we find ourselves staying in the boat with the others. The thing to remember in these moments, that it is all about Jesus.

Some of us have the bravado of Peter and say, "Call me to come" and I will. Others of us say all kinds of things like, "He's stupid." Another might say, "I hope he makes it." Another is cheering, "Go, Peter, Go." Trust me, there is also one who is saying, "I want to try." The neat thing about the story is that all of them together make the story.

I don't know where you are in your walk of faith. What I do know is that you are part of the story. I don't know if you are in the boat questioning Peter's decision or cheering. Maybe you are like Peter and you are already stepping over the gunwales of the boat. Here's what I do know, you are part of the story and the only other thing that is important is Jesus. Keep your eyes on Jesus.

FCC has some big things coming. Some of us will question. Others of us will hope. Others of us will ask, "When is it my turn?" All of us will draw upon the last vestiges of our strength and know for sure that Jesus is in control. Keep your eyes on Jesus. He calms the storms and encourages us to take it to the next level, "Do you want to get out of the boat?"

CU on the 13th,
Bill



THANK YOU for those of you who came out for the *GRACE HARMONY CONCERT* and for those who helped with the refreshments following the program. Mike and Sue Filisky blessed us with some beautiful and inspiring music, most of it original. If you have a chance to go to one of their performances in the future, I would recommend that you not miss out.

MORE SINGERS ARE WELCOME AND NEEDED IN CHOIR. We practice Sundays at 5:00 pm in the sanctuary, and are preparing *NOEL & ALLELUIA! JESUS IS BORN* (cantata) for performance on December 22nd. You who are new to choral singing will be placed with the group that best meets your vocal ability (we'll help you with this). Celebrate

our Savior with us.

If You Missed Out on this round of classes of *FINANCIAL PEACE* with DAVE RAMSEY, but are still interested in going through the program, please let me know so that we can begin plans for another class. There are nine lessons in the course. Registration is \$109.00 per adult single or married couple and will involve homework.

(continued on next page.....)

I have the materials for those of you who are interested. Previous FPU students may attend for free to refresh your memories of the plan.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP SCHEDULES: that we may know the will of God and Christ in our lives. Two groups meet (Mon. & Tues.) in review and application of the Sunday sermons. Join other adults at **Wednesday Night Bible Class** in the Parlor from 6:30 to 7:30 pm in a verse by verse walk through the Bible (book of Matthew), led by brother 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 call the office if you need child care.

WHEN WILL YOU BEGIN sharing God’s word with a group in your own home? You may be surprised at what a blessing it is and how much those around you will appreciate it.

Because of Jesus, David Rorabaugh



First Christian Church will be distributing Thanksgiving Baskets this year on Saturday, November 23. If you know of someone who needs a basket, please contact Becky Butterfield at 684-7403 or the church office at 667-3540 by Friday, November 1. Please include the recipient’s name, phone number, address and number of people in their household.



Dear Christian Family,

We thank you for your kind invitation that allows us to share our testimony in song. The love that Jesus has for all of us is so overwhelming that we just have to sing about Him! We appreciate your kindness, attentiveness and your loving support for our ministry for Christ. May God’s love keep you strong in the faith.

In His Service,
Mike and Sue Filisky
“Grace Harmony”

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for your support of The Big Serve! Together, about 200 volunteers completed 32 projects, helping numerous people throughout the Nevada community with projects they could not accomplish on their own. Big Thanks go to Bobby and Garry Dade and Sharon Knapp for preparing a delicious breakfast, Martha Waltrip for preparing a great lunch and Becky Butterfield for baking tasty cookies. You provided volunteers with the energy they needed to work hard. Big Thanks as well to Mindy and Greg Barneburg for helping Glen and Jeanne Noble paint their porch.

In Christ’s love,
Lynda Jones, Coordinator

The **EVENT** is for High School aged teens. It is at Ozark Christian College the **weekend of November 1-2, 2019.** **Early Bird cost is \$35; guarantees a t-shirt and is due Sunday October 13.** Regular cost is \$45 and does not guarantee a t-shirt.



October is Pastor Appreciation Month! Thank you Pastor Bill and Pastor Dave for everything you do! We Appreciate You!!!

FCC Trunk or Treat – Little princesses, spider men & storm troopers will be here soon. If you would like to participate in this year’s Trunk or Treat at FCC, all you need is lots of treats and a theme. We would love to fill our parking lot with Bible/Christian themed booths as we share God’s love with lots of children on Thursday, October 31 from 5:00 to 6:30 pm!



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 October products:** Hamburger/Tuna Helper, canned veggies, soup, peanut butter, cereal, jelly, applesauce.



Samaritan’s Purse Operation Christmas Child

We are collecting items for Operation Christmas Child. Each month we collect different items. For October, the suggestions include small bags or backpacks and a toothbrush and cover.



“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.**

