



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

December 1, 2019

Issue 22

From the Pulpit.....

It was a dramatic moment when the doctor told us that Linda was dying. It was a dramatic moment when Susie and Kathy put their dad in the Barone Alzheimer Unit. It was a dramatic moment when Susie and I were married before all of you, our FCC family. It was a dramatic moment when Missouri Christian Convention asked me to be president. It was a dramatic moment when Susie and I faced by-pass surgery. It was a dramatic moment when we celebrated our offering of over \$21,000 plus at the beginning of this year. These are but a few of the dramatic moments that the FCC family and I have shared.

It is also a dramatic moment for me to think of the changes that will come with stepping away from being the FCC senior minister. After almost sixteen years of ministry here, it is hard for many of you, too. The powerful thing that happened in each of these dramatic moments was the presence of each other. For many of these dramatic events, you, the FCC family, were there for me. Mutually, I was there for you. The wonderful beauty of it is, God was, and is, there for all of us.

It was a moment filled with drama and fear. After all Moses had led the children of Israel for over forty years. Israel had experienced a whole new beginning with Moses. They had received the law. They had established themselves as a nation. They had overcome many chaotic moments and Moses had always been the presence they would remember. Patterns form over time. The dramatic event of Moses stepping away was going to unsettle those patterns.

It seems to me that a rather common occurrence with the presence of God, is that He tends to be overlooked. It was God that divided the sea. It was God that gave the Israelites the Law. It was God who laid out the infrastructure by which Israel would live. It was God who led them by cloud during the day and by fire during the night. It was God that provided the manna (daily). It was God that called Moses to the job of leader. Just as it was God that lined up the next leader, Joshua.

Right now, where we are in our present setting is uncertain and filled with drama. I want you to know and remember this: God is present. God was present when I came to FCC and God will be present as Dave continues to lead. Trust God and His presence. Next, I urge you to pray. Pray that we and God are on the same page. This is an opportunity filled with so many wonderful possibilities, but only if God is in it.

We are unfolding a prayer plan. Every night we will pray for the year 2020 at 20:20 (8:20) pm. Dave and I urge you to pray for our church family. Set the alarms in your phones for this time to remind you to pray. The leadership team covets your prayers and support during this time. We want God's presence in this, and we want to be on His page.

C U Sunday,
Bill



THANKSGIVING IS HERE, based upon the calendar as I write this article. It will be gone by the time you read this, but I hope that a spirit of thanks reigns in your heart every day, as scripture directs: *“Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit.....”* (I Thessalonians 5:16-19) God’s hand is at work all around and in us. The old gospel song, *Count Your Blessings*, still applies, even in our world filled with sin. Remember, Paul’s world was also filled with sin. We are the force God is using to help our troubled world. Let’s do well in giving thanks to God.

BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULES will be a little different the next few weeks, so be sure to check your Sunday Bulletins for the latest updates of times and cancellations. Take time in your home in preparing for spiritual warfare against sin and evil as you honor our Lord Jesus.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED with providing for and helping with both the Thanksgiving Food Baskets and decorating for Christmas.

ADVENT READERS ARE STILL BEING SOUGHT: your help to read the various readings is appreciated. Tina Jones and I will be asking some of you to help. Please say yes.

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NOEL & ALLELUIA! JESUS IS BORN (cantata) will be presented during the 10:30 am service in the church sanctuary on December 22nd by the FCC Chancel Choir (no 10:32 Service). Choir members, we have three weeks for final preparations.

MAINTAIN A 2020 VISION as you seek after God for His will to reign in our hearts every day. Develop a godly vision as you continue in Bible Study. Pray for the body of Christ to grow in His will. Pray for our church leaders and decisions being made. Pray for the many on our prayer lists. Pray for our nation and its leaders. Set a regular time to pray, possibly at 8:20 pm which is 20:20 (military). Don't fret about the time, but get it on your regular schedule. **PRAY.**

Celebrating Jesus,
David Rorabaugh



We distributed 143 Thanksgiving Baskets!! Awesome!

Thank you to all who helped set up supplies, packed the "baskets" (really sturdy egg carton boxes) welcomed recipients and finally,

loaded baskets into their cars. Thank you to Becky Butterfield for organizing this project!!

Thank you so much for giving us a Thanksgiving Basket! We just loved it! So much food - a complete meal for all my family! — Joe Unruh



In appreciation of our church family, Bill, Susie, Dave and Sally would like to invite you to a Come-and-Go reception on Saturday, December 14, from 2 to 4 pm, in the Fellowship Hall. We look forward to visiting with each of you!

The KUM DUBLE Sunday School Class Christmas Lunch & White Elephant gift exchange party will be on Saturday, December 7 at 11:30 am to 2:30 pm at Buzz's BBQ Restaurant.

Please sign up in class or RSVP to Sally (417-549-6016) by December 1.



First Christian Church will hold congregational meetings on Sunday, December 1st, for the purpose of approving the Proposed Budget for 2020. The meetings will begin immediately following each worship service. A 2/3 majority of members, present and voting, is required for approval. Complete copies of the proposed budget are on the bulletin boards for your review. They are also available by visiting the church office or calling the office at 667-3540.



2020 Radio Broadcast Sponsorship - Sign up now to sponsor a weekly worship service broadcast. **A sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall** for you to choose a date that is important to you. You may also call the office at 667-3540 and we'll help you. The cost is \$55.00 per broadcast.



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 December products:

Canned tuna/Chicken, canned veggies, peanut butter, soup, oatmeal, jelly, Jello.



Will you help fill baby baskets? The Tree of Life, sponsored by LifeChoices, is a fun and easy way to celebrate the birth of Jesus by blessing a family and their new baby. These baskets are given to new moms and dads throughout the year. Simply choose a gift tag, purchase the listed item and place the unwrapped gift under the tree. That's it! Gifts will be collected after January 1st.



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.**

