



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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THE BEACON

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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

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Issue 21

From the Pulpit.....

Faith brings a transformation to so many things. If you have faith in a vision, it may become a reality. If you have faith in the performance of your team, it may become a win. If you have faith in the system, hopefully you will see justice.

Science tells us that the caterpillar faithfully becomes a cocoon by which it transforms into a butterfly. A tadpole faithfully becomes a frog. A tree will faithfully restore its leaves come spring.

It is even so with matters of spirituality. Jesus rings the bell called faith several times throughout scripture. "If you have faith you can move mountains." "Your faith has made you well." "It shall be done to you according to your faith." It isn't unusual for Jesus to reprimand someone for "your little faith."

Faith is mentioned over 200 times in the Bible. It is very clear that faith has tremendous bearing upon our spiritual walk. Many of you are aware that faith in God plus water becomes a spiritual grave and resurrection that we call baptism. Faith highlights the communion experience of a cracker and grape juice whereby we are part of the crucifixion scene of Jesus. Faith with the giving of charity lends to God's response in empowering us with more.

Did you know that an ungrateful heart can lean towards reducing faith? Listen to **Romans 1:21** "For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened."

Then follow this thought with **Hebrews 11:6** "And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him."

So therefore, a grateful heart would contribute to your faith. In **Luke 17:11-19** is the story of ten lepers asking Jesus for a healing. Jesus promptly healed them and urged them to go show themselves to the high priest so that they could return to a normal life. One man (gentile-not Jewish) returned to Jesus to say, "Thank you." Jesus noticed the absence of the other nine and then responded to the one, "Stand up and go; your faith has made you well."

I would urge you this season to seek a grateful heart, whereby your faith will grow further.

Happy Thanksgiving. C U Sunday.
Bill



WHEN WE CLAIM THE RIGHT OF BEING A CHRISTIAN, "ones of Christ," we must do our best to meet the standard which Jesus established for being His disciple. "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35) His standard is living a life of sacrifice to all those around us. We can only achieve this through the help of God's Spirit, surrendering our desires to His will, laying down and burying our selfish habits, lusts, desires and reactions in the tomb of our Lord. Then, we must take the Word of God into our mind and heart, retraining our thinking

and desires to be those pleasing to God. God's word reveals that we are at war with spiritual powers of sin, Satan, demons and principalities (Ephesians 6:10-18). Just as our military goes through boot camp and extended training for battle, we who claim the Lord as Master must properly spend time, effort and focus to represent Him. So, what are you doing to engage the enemy? Are you in conflict with the right enemy?

BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULES: for our spiritual battle against sin and evil, growing in Jesus and honoring God. Two groups meet (Mon. & Tues.) in review and application of the Sunday sermons. **Wednesday Night Bible Class for adults** meets in the Parlor from 6:30 to 7:30 pm in a verse by verse walk through the Bible (presently in the 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). Other groups also meet, so check their schedules.

CAN YOU HELP? THANKSGIVING FOOD BASKET ASSEMBLY is on the 22nd & 23rd. **CHRISTMAS DECORATING** is the 24th. **COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE** is on the 25th at First Baptist Church (offering appreciated for the Ministerial Alliance Emergency Fund).

(continued on next page.....)

ADVENT READERS 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.

CHOIR MEMBERS, we are in final preparations. Remember practices Sundays at 5:00 pm in the sanctuary as we prepare *NOEL & ALLELUIA! JESUS IS BORN* (cantata) for performance on December 22nd. Let us joyfully and skillfully celebrate the Christ.

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving!
David Rorabaugh



85 Christmas boxes!!! Great job!!

Thank you to all who wrapped boxes, donated supplies, donated boxes full and ready to go, and donated money for postage! A big thank you goes to Charlotte Buerge for organizing the project!



"Before Operation Christmas Child came, we had never heard of Jesus or knew who God was. If we had difficulties, we sought the witchdoctor for help. Now, we have abandoned witchdoctors and seek God alone in prayer and worship." — The Himba pastor in Owupo, Namibia

You are invited to the **Community Thanksgiving Service**. It will be **Monday, November 25 at 6:30pm** at the **First Baptist Church**, located at 301 E. Highland St. in Nevada. It is sponsored and organized by the **Vernon County Ministerial Alliance** and an offering will be received for their Emergency Fund.



First Christian Church is distributing Thanksgiving Baskets this year on Saturday, November 23. If you would like to help with assembly, and/or distribution please join us Friday and/or Saturday. **Friday we meet at 5:00 pm** for prep set-up that takes about 1 hour. **Saturday**

morning we begin at 8:00 am with assembly of baskets followed by breakfast, and then distribution from 10:00 am until noon.



Soul Sisters is starting a new study called "Beauty Secrets: Living Out the Beauty of the Gospel Together." It is recommended that everyone read the book of Titus

before they come. **All women, young and old, are invited to the next meeting which is Thursday, November 21, at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.**



Come to the Christmas Decorating Party on Sunday, November 24 at Noon! Eat pizza with us and help us decorate our church! We're still looking for new decorating ideas. **Have some ideas?? Have some decorations**

from home you wish to donate? Contact Tina Jones at 417-321-0500. **Please sign up for lunch on the list provided at the Welcome Center and plan to bring \$5.00 to share in the cost of pizza.**

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.



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 an ornament, purchase the listed item and place the unwrapped gift under the tree. That's it! Gifts will be collected after January 1st.



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 November products:** Mac & Cheese, canned veggies, pork & beans, canned fruit, sugar, pancake mix and pancake syrup.



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.**



PLEASE SAVE THIS PAGE FOR REFERENCE DURING THE MONTH



HELPING HANDS - December 2019



If you cannot serve on the date assigned, please trade with someone on the list. Thanks!

COMMUNION Martha Waltrip
PREPARATION:

Hospitality Ministry



When you see a visitor say "Howdy" and be sure to give them a FCC Coffee Mug filled with goodies!

To help support our local Community Outreach Food Pantry, we collect non-perishable food and dry goods. A box is located in our parlor for collection.



Suggested December products: Canned tuna/Chicken, canned veggies, peanut butter, soup, oatmeal, jelly, Jello.

Children's CHURCH



Leaders: Tammy Clark

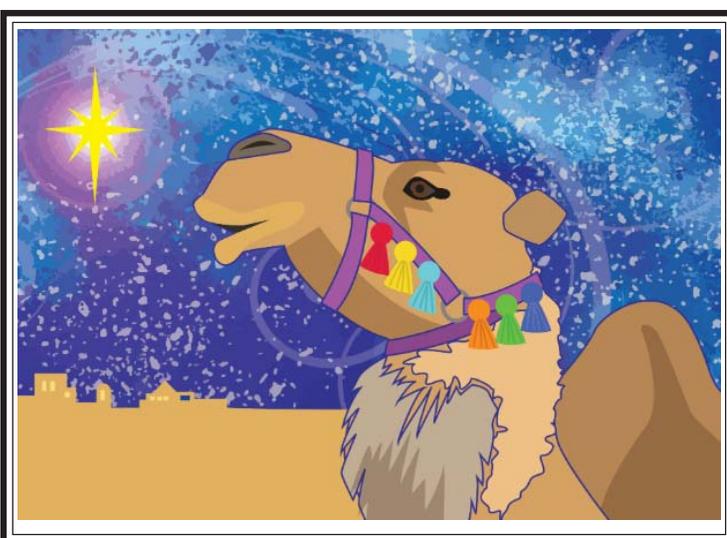
Junior CHURCH

Leaders: David Serna and Melissa Austin.

CHURCH Stats

Attendance: Year-to-date Average per Week

SG	8:00	10:30	10:32	Total 3 Services
151	40	60	56	155



VAN DRIVERS

Adults and Children

Dec 01 - Randy & Tracy Ellifrits
Dec 08 - Eddie D. & Jerry A.
Dec 15 - Terrie Ridenour
Dec 22- Daniel Turowski
Dec 29 - Terry Jones



Van Ministry

Join Us For Adult Bible Studies and Small Groups

Monday - Young Adult @ 6:00 pm, Church Parlor
Monday - Jones/Platt SG - see bulletin for location
Tuesday - Butterfield/Clark SG - Church Parlor
Wednesday - Bible Study @ 6:30 pm, Church Parlor
1st and 3rd Thursday each month - CORD Brothers (Men's Bible study) @ 6:30pm, Youth Center.
1st and 3rd Thursday each month - Soul Sisters (Women's Bible study) @ 6:30pm, Fellowship Hall.

Ministers rotate serving at Moore-Few Care Center on Second Sundays at 2:30pm.



December BIRTHDAYS

12/01 Stafford Agee	12/16 Bobby Dade
Betty Sewell	12/17 Marlee Carlin
12/02 Mark Arneson	Jeanetta Finley
Linda Nunley	Landon Wilson
12/03 Aaron Rorabaugh	12/18 Janet Del Rosario
12/04 Terrie Robinson-Cryfyndaw	Kevin McKinley
12/05 Steve Austin	12/19 J.L. Post II
12/06 Ann Adkins	12/20 Lynessa Baker
12/07 Elizabeth Bagg	12/21 Garry Dade
Tehya Cauthon	12/22 Chelsey Jeans
Ron Kitsmiller	12/23 Jessica Norwood
Mike Lane	Marita Pippin
12/08 Briannah Lanham	12/24 Anita Scott
12/10 Carl Davis	12/25 Bradley Blystone
12/11 Ellie Rorabaugh	12/28 Sonny Butler
12/13 Jerry Arnold	Ella Serna
12/14 Kenny Davis	12/30 Willie Blystone
12/15 Terrie Ridenour	12/31 LaDonna Sykes