

## From the Pastor's Pencil



I hope you all enjoyed a happy and blessed Christmas, and I pray that we will all grow in our Christian faith and deepen our Christian practices in the New Year.

The next Christian holiday (or *holy day*) is the *Epiphany*, which is celebrated on January 6 every year. Epiphany commemorates three events in the life of Jesus: the visit of the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12), his baptism (Mark 1:9), and the changing of water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana (John 2:1-11).

What ties the three events together is that each one shows that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God. A suggestion for you: on January 6, read those three passages in your Bible and think about how each event reveals that Jesus is God's Son.

For example, one way the Magi's visit reveals that Jesus is the Son of God is that even very wise men from a distant land knew that the birth of Jesus was a world-changing event and that he deserved their gifts and their worship.

The time between Christmas Day and the Epiphany used to be observed in the Church as the season of *Christmastide* or the *Twelve Days of Christmas*. I'm sure you know the song about the gifts "my true love gave to me" on the twelve days of Christmas.

Another thing you might do to celebrate Epiphany (or on January 1 if you make New Year's resolutions) is to make a list of 12 gifts you hope God will give you and 12 gifts you plan to give to God in the New Year.

For example, one of the gifts I hope God will give me in the New Year is the ability to help FCC grow in attendance and membership, stewardship, faith, service, and love. One of the gifts I plan to give God in the New Year is spending more time in prayer (although that is really another gift I hope God will give to me).

If you take time as we begin our New Year to read the three passages of Scripture I mentioned and to make your lists of 12 gifts, I hope you will stop by church or give me a call and let me know what ideas you came up with. I'm always very interested to hear what God is doing in your life and how your spiritual practices are helping you to come ever closer to Him.

A Happy and Blessed New Year to All!

Glad to be your pastor, FCC— **Rev. Tom** 931-224-3658 (cell)



### December Budget Corner

General Budget needed per month	\$23,860.25
General Budget received in December	\$22,503.00
Building Accounts received in December	\$2,140.00

## NURSERY VOLUNTEERS



Nursery is provided during the Worship Service for our infants through four year olds. Barbara Thompson is our wonderful and dedicated Nursery staff person!

January 4	Theresa Williams
January 11	Ashton Crick
January 18	Jane Bartlette
January 25	Lucy Mitchell

## WORSHIP *in* MOTION

Beginning January 14, Worship in Motion will continue to meet on Wednesday nights at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Call Shana Pitts or Amy Philpott for more information. We welcome new members! No dance skills required.

Nursery will be provided.

## MEALS ON WHEELS

Drivers Urgently Needed!

Are you able to spare an hour of your time each week and a gallon of gas to bring food to those who are not able to prepare their own?

Meals on Wheels needs people to deliver meals every other Monday and Wednesday. Meals are picked up at the Senior Center at 11:00 am. Most deliveries can be made within a half an hour.

Please contact Wilma Beam at 684-2527 for more information.



## CHILDREN'S TIME

Exploring God's Word Together will be held January 14 and 21 at 6:00 pm. 4 year olds through 5th grade will meet in room 3 for a time of exploring the Bible, games, sharing and more with Miss Mary Jane.



One of the gifts God has given each of us as staff members is serving at First Christian Church. We appreciate your prayers, kindness, support and the opportunity to serve with you.

THANK YOU FROM EACH OF US FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFT!

Serving God together,

Tom, Brandon, Mary Jane, Anne, and Barbara

Heartfelt Thanks also go out to:

The Worship Committee and their helpers for beautifully decorating the Sanctuary and the Gathering area.

To everyone who generously gave to the Angel Tree project.

To all who assisted with preparing for our Christmas Eve services.

To our Nursery volunteers.

To all the Youth and Adults who have assisted in Parent's Night Out.

## Disciples Women (CWF)

The Women's Group next meeting will be January 13 under the leadership of our new president, Rhoda Gunter.

Beginning at 9:30 am with Helping Hands

11:00 am Fellowship

11:30 am Light lunch - provided

12:00 pm Program: Benita Caldwell from the Center of Family Development

## Men's Group (CMF)

The Men's Group will meet January 11, at 7:30 am, for breakfast and a program. David Gibson of Deer Run Ranch will be the guest speaker. All men are invited to join us!

## Board Meets

The Board will meet in January - date & time TBA

## Elders Meet

The Elders will meet Sunday, January 18, at 8:00 am.

## Circles Meet

Circle I - Tuesday, January 20, at 2:00 pm in the Parlor

Circle III - Tuesday, January 20, at 6:00 pm in the Gathering Area.

*Thank  
you*

Circle III would like to extend a sincere Thank You to Laurie Bierovic for hosting our Christmas potluck dinner at her home for all of us and our guests. As always, a wonderful time was enjoyed by all!

## Prayer Concerns of the Church



### In Nursing Homes or Assisted Living

*Carriage House Inn*

Rose Marie Clark

Melba Henry

Mary Lynn Prince

*Christian Care Center*

Mildred Bobo

Alpha Philpott

*Glenn Oaks*

Albert Smithson

### At Home

Leland Arnold

Charlie Coffey

Mai Coffey

Sandy Craig

Terry Craig

Brenda Hancock

Buddy & Virginia Ann

Haynes

Miles McCullough

Curtis Morton

Annette Palmer

Larry Price

Susan Price

Ted York

## MEMORIALS

### In Memory of Bo Melson

Jane Bartlette

Buddy & Ellen Taylor

Mattie Ray Wisner

### In Memory of Earlene Stallings

Ben C. Barrett

Technology Liaison Committee of Bedford County  
Schools



# January 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Epiphany	7 6 pm Bible Study with Rev. Tom 7:15 pm Choir	8 9:30 am CBS	9	10
11 7:30 am Men's Breakfast and program	12	13 9:30 am Helping Hands 11:30 am CWF	14 6 pm Bible Study with Rev. Tom Worship in Motion and Children's Time 7:15 pm Choir	15 9:30 am CBS	16	17
18 8 am Elders meet	19	20 2 pm Circle I 6 pm Circle III	21 6 pm Bible Study with Rev. Tom Worship in Motion and Children's Time 7:15 pm Choir	22 9:30 am CBS	23	24
25	26	27	28 6 pm Bible Study with Rev. Tom Worship in Motion and Children's Time 7:15 pm Choir	29 9:30 am CBS	30	31



### January Birthdays

- 3 Harriet Melson
- Larry Morton
- 12 Bob Bellar
- 15 Isaac Caperton
- 17 JoAnn Smith
- 20 Morris Haynes
- 25 Ann Marie Morton
- 28 Bobby Newell
- 29 Shana Pitts

### January Elders

- Frank Douglas
- Rhonda Reed

### January Deacons

- Kyle Dennis
- Buddy Taylor
- Ellen Taylor