



## From the Pastor's Pencil

On January 2, our church family lost its oldest member, Alpha Philpott, five days after she celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. With the family's permission, I'd like to share with you the homily I offered at the Service of Celebration and Remembrance for Miss Alpha. I hope it brings some memories to your mind and perhaps a smile to your lips.

Here it is --

As Christians, we know that God is good, that God is love, that God loves each and every one of us.

If God loves everyone—even people you and I would find it hard to love—imagine how much God loves Alpha Philpott—a person everybody found irresistible to love. Alpha is in heaven now: rejuvenated, loved, blessed, and fulfilled beyond anything we can even imagine.

Our tears aren't for Alpha; they're for us. We already miss her, and we won't forget her. She was one of a kind.

Alpha was funny. She told me that one time when she was working in the department store, a young man stumbled in to buy a jacket. Alpha was pretty sure he was drunk—the word she used was *inebriated*. She helped the young man find a jacket to try on, and she led him to those mirrors they have in department stores where there are three mirrors so you can see how you look from both sides and from the front when you're trying on new clothes. The guy looked at himself in the mirrors, saw three images of himself, and became very agitated. He tore the jacket off, dropped it on the floor, and said, "I've been drunk enough lots of times that I saw double, but I've never been so drunk before that I saw myself in triple!" Good story from a 99-year-old woman.

Alpha was smart. She considered and chose her words carefully when she spoke. She told me that speaking thoughtfully and correctly was a sign of self-respect and a sign of respect for the person you're speaking to—and then she corrected herself: "a sign of respect for the person to whom you're speaking."

Alpha told me that when Rose Marie Clark was a little girl, Rose Marie would come and sit on her lap while Alpha was typing, and that Rose Marie by "improperly manipulating the typewriter keys would inadvertently but invariably entangle her typewriter ribbon." After our visit, when I got to my car, I wrote that down word-for-word so that I could share it with you some day. "Rose Marie by improperly manipulating the typewriter keys would inadvertently but invariably entangle my typewriter ribbon." That's a well-composed sentence, and that's how Alpha talked. Not bad for 99 years old.

Alpha was realistic and precise. On her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday she told me, "I'm proud of



### January Budget Corner

General Budget needed per month	\$22,522.67
General Budget received in January	\$23,822.00
Building Accounts received in January	\$1,120.00

“I’m proud of my assets but disappointed in my liabilities.” I said, “Spoken like a true bookkeeper.” Alpha gently corrected me: “Well, I wasn’t a *bookkeeper*, I was an *accountant*.”

Alpha was wise. Almost every time we were together she would pass along some good advice she remembered from Shakespeare. Her favorite quotation was from the play *Hamlet*, when Polonius says to his son Laertes, “To thine own self be true, and it must follow, as the night the day, Thou canst not then be false to any man.” That’s good advice, and I wish I could hear Alpha say it just one more time.

Alpha was a grateful person. Ruth Cartwright told me after church yesterday that in Ruth’s recent visit with Alpha, Alpha told her, “The first thing I’m going to do when I get to heaven is tell everyone how great the people at First Christian Church are.”

Alpha was humble. I visited her on her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, early Monday morning. I said, “Do you know what very special day this is?” In her humility, Alpha said, “I don’t know if it’s a special day for anybody else, but it’s a special day for me because it’s my 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.” She didn’t want to presume that her birthday would be the main event of anybody else’s day. Alpha was wrong about that; it was a great day for everyone who knew her because it was her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. That was the main event of the day for all of us.

Alpha was deeply spiritual and strong in her faith. After we shared Holy Communion together on her birthday, Alpha and I held hands while we said the *Lord’s Prayer* together. When we came to the end of the prayer, she lifted our hands and squeezed them four times—on the words *Kingdom, Power, Glory, and forever*. We were silent then for about 30 seconds while I put away the Communion things, and then out of that silence, came Alpha’s confident and joyful voice, repeating the words, *Kingdom, Power, and Glory forever*.”

The last thing she said to me as I was leaving her room last Monday morning was, “Tell everyone at church how much I love them.”

I did tell the congregation that yesterday morning in worship—“Alpha said she loves you all very much”—but I’m pretty sure everybody knew that already.

Glad to be your pastor, FCC –  
Rev. Tom

Cell (931) 224-3658



## CHILDREN’S TIME

Worship and Wonder takes place on the second and fourth Sunday of each month. Our Worship and Worship and Wonder will be focusing on Jesus’ ministry here on earth.

February 1	Guide My Feet
February 8	The Followers of Jesus
February 15	Ash Wednesday and Lenten Puzzle
February 22	Parables: Jesus’ Gift of Storytelling

## 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!

February 1	Mitzi Crick
February 8	Amy Philpott
February 15	Cathy Haithcote
February 22	Ellen Taylor

## WORSHIP in MOTION

Beginning February 4, 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 Sunday School Time:** February and March will be focusing on Jesus' life and teachings here on earth. See your children on Sunday in Room 3 for a lively and special time together as we learn together.

**Wednesday Ministries: Children's Time with God's Word** 6:00-7:00 pm

Children will:

- Explore the stories of Jesus life on earth and some of the culture of Bible times
- Learn about the church season's Lenten practices
- Learn through Bible study, painting and other art expressions and prayer

February 4 Lent: A Time to Prepare and Pax Cake Service-as a part of this service, children will be eating pancakes that we make as part of this evening.

February 11 Lent: A Time We Study: Luke 2:41-52

February 18 Ash Wednesday Service-no separate children's offering

February 25 Lent: A Time We Pray and Fast

### PARENTS' NIGHT OUT: February 21 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Saturday, February 21 1:00-4:00 pm

Afternoon out for parents while children are involved with the Journey through Lent. AGES: Kindergarten through 5th graders and their friends

HAPPENINGS: Lenten crafts and activities, games, free time, snack and devotion.

RSVP by Wednesday, February 18

We would love for adults and youth to assist with this ministry. The children love your gift of presence and time with them. Please contact a Christian Education committee member: Donnye & Bonnye Fields, Cathy Haithcote, Sarah Caperton or Mary Jane.

### CHRISTIAN ED MEETING

Monday February 23, 6:30 pm

One of the main items for our next meeting is summer programming. You are invited to attend and share not only your input but also how you are willing to make it happen! Please continue to be in prayer for God's guidance in all of our Christian Ed decisions and endeavors.

### EASTER LILIES

The Worship Committee is planning on having Easter Lilies to decorate for Easter. If you would like to give a lily in memory of or in honor of a friend or loved one, they will be available at a cost of \$12.00 each. A table will be set up in the Gathering Area before and after Worship on March 8 and 15 to take orders for lilies. An Ash Wednesday service is being planned for February 18 at 6:00 pm.

## Disciples Women (CWF)

The Women's Group will meet February 11.

Beginning at 9:30 am with Helping Hands

11:00 am Fellowship

11:30 am Light lunch - provided

12:00 pm Program

## Men's Group (CMF)

The Men's Group will be sponsoring a Congregational Breakfast Sunday, February 9, at 8:00 am.

## Elders Meet

The Elders will meet Sunday, February 16, at 8:00 am.

## Circles Meet

Circle I - Tuesday, February 17, at 2:00 pm in the Parlor

Circle III - Tuesday, February 17 at 6:00 pm in the Gathering Area.

Dear Church Family,

*Thank You*

The Philpott family wants to express its appreciation for the caring it has received from their church family over the past weeks. Beginning with the anticipation of Alpha Philpott's 100th birthday, only to be disappointed by her fall and subsequent surgery. Then the joy of "Miracle Monday" when she had recovered enough to have a party thrown for her.

Though she could barely see or hear, she was overwhelmed by the presence of her Church Family. Then 4 days later, you helped us cry at her death while at the same time celebrating a wonderfully lived life. Now it is Stephen's turn, as he suffered a mild heart attack and subsequent surgery.

Stephen is home progressing normally and can attest that he has never in his life felt so wrapped in warmth, caring, prayer and concern.

The memory of the prayers and concerns of the FCC family will always be remembered and treasured.

## 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

*Glenn Oaks*

Albert Smithson

### At Home

Charlie Coffey

Mai Coffey

Sandy Craig

Terry Craig

Brenda Hancock

Buddy & Virginia Ann

Haynes

Miles McCullough

Curtis Morton

Annette Palmer

Stephen Philpott

Larry Price

Susan Price

Iris Schumann

Kay Simmons

Ted York

## WE MOURN THE LOSS OF GUS HARWELL, ALPHA PHIPPOTT AND SYBIL MORGAN (mother of Sally Bellar)

### MEMORIALS

#### In Memory of Gus Harwell

Joyce Boggs

George & Kay Dennis

Anne McMahan

Stephen & Elaine Philpott

Ted & Lita York

#### In Memory of Sybil Morgan

Jane Bartlette

Joyce Boggs

George & Kay Dennis

Anne McMahan

Stephen & Elaine Philpott

Ted & Lita York

#### In Memory of Alpha Philpott

Jane Bartlette

Bob & Sally Bellar

Joyce Boggs

Mr. & Mrs Donald Cathey

Dennis & Lynne Farrar

Robert & Shelley Hennen

**MEMORIALS cont'd**

**In Memory of Alpha Philpott**

First Christian Church Adult Sunday School Class  
Marvin & Cheryl McBee  
Charles & Karen Sue McDonald  
Anne McMahan  
Ray & JoAnn Smith  
Linda Yockey  
Mattie Ray Wiser

**In Memory of Robert Steagall**

Joyce Boggs

**SCRIPTURES AND SERMON TITLES  
FOR FEBRUARY**

Feb. 1 Isaiah 55:1-9 *The Wounded Healer*  
Feb. 8 Isaiah 65:17-25 *The Best Is Yet To Come*  
Feb. 15 Guest Preacher  
Feb. 22 Luke 18:9-14 *The World We See*

# February 2015



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Youth Trip to Murfreesboro	2	3	4 6 pm Bible Study with Rev. Tom Worship in Motion Children's Time 7:15 pm Choir	5 9:30 am CBS	6	7
8 8 am Congregational Breakfast 11:30 am Youth Trip	9	10 9:30 am Helping Hands 11:30 am CWF	11 6 pm Bible Study Worship in Motion Children's Time 6 pm Bible Study with Rev. Tom	12 9:30 am CBS	13	14 <b>Happy Valentine's Day!</b>
15 8 am Elders meet	16	17 2 pm Circle I 6 pm Circle III	18 <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> 6 pm Ash Wednesday Service 7:15 pm Choir	19 9:30 am CBS	20	21 1-4 pm Parents Night Out
22	23 6:30 pm Christian Ed meeting	24	25 6 pm Bible Study with Rev. Tom Worship in Motion Children's Time 7:15 pm Choir	26 9:30 am CBS	27	28



## February Birthdays

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Bethany Morton	27 <sup>th</sup>	Evelyn Coffey
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Carol Price		Sandy Craig
5 <sup>th</sup>	Cade Caldwell		Susan Price
	Leighton Reed		
8 <sup>th</sup>	Henry Hulan		
12 <sup>th</sup>	Cheryl McBee		
16 <sup>th</sup>	Tim Harwell		
20 <sup>th</sup>	Bob Burke		
	Rita Ann Huffman		
21 <sup>st</sup>	Joyce Bell		
	Daniel Farrar		
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Amy Mitchell		

## February Elders

Johnny Reed  
Linda Yockey

## February Deacons

Sarah Caperton  
Hilda Smith  
Becky Thompson  
Kay Young