



A Note From Our Pastor

During Lent, we have been exploring scriptures on Sunday morning that ask us to reexamine our lives in how we might follow in Jesus' footsteps. We have reflected on how we can choose not to be tempted to live as the rest of the world lives as we make choices consistent with Jesus' practice to reflect the Realm of God on earth, now. We have explored how having the courage to be vulnerable with God opens us to the strength and protection Jesus offers under his care.

The Wednesday night Bible studies have examined what it means to be blessed and how we might live differently if we understood the blessing God offers through the promise of redemption. Throughout scripture we see the interplay between God's offer to be blessed and the faithful promise God's actions reveal to us. Reading scripture through the lens of blessing and promise opens us to a new relationship with God built on our trust in God's faithfulness and God's trust in us move closer and closer.

These weekly studies and reflections have been good as the conversations illuminate parts of scripture that may seem ordinary or bland and bring out a deeper understanding of the texts. In a sense, we are exploring the texts behind the text to see what else comes to light from stories that are familiar to many of us who have been in the church a while and have studied the Bible before.

The other day, I was reading an article by a friend and colleague in ministry. He relayed a quote by Tom Ehrich that made a connection between stopping by the sampler tables at Costco and the life of faith. Ehrich writes:

"It is possible to approach faith as if it were a sampler. An hour of worship, a Lenten study group, a morning's Habitat duty, an evening committee. Each sample has substance; each is offered as an invitation to go cheaper, but in the end, a circuit of sampling stations leaves one unfulfilled.

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February Budget Corner

General Budget needed per month	\$22,522.67
General Budget received in February	\$19,973.00
Building Accounts received in February	\$ 40.00

Seeking more proves to be a vexing quest, not because real food is difficult to find, but because sampling is so tempting—a lark, no cost—and staying longer so disturbing.”

Lent is a season in the church when we dedicate ourselves to prayer and study of scripture. Our worship (personal and communal) is a little different as we prepare for Easter. We give just a little more attention to these spiritual practices. I'm sure some of us will stay in one or more of these practices for much longer as opportunities are offered. But what exactly did Tom Ehrich mean when he suggested that “staying longer” is disturbing? He meant this:

“Serious mission work can render one unfit to resume normal life. Sustained study of scripture can confuse one's religion. Anything that renews faith changes life. A sharing group will illuminate hidden corners. Intense prayer calls everything into question.”

Faith as sampling is very tempting precisely because there is minimal risk involved. Faith as practice might well change us into, well, God's people on a mission in our world. That's risky business. As we walk in the footsteps of Jesus, let us be willing to be changed, challenged, and fulfilled on this journey -- now, and forever.

I'll see you Sunday.

Kyle



GAME NIGHT & SOCIAL

Our Congregational Game & Social Night has been rescheduled for Sunday, March 6, from 5:00 - 7:00 pm. As originally planned, we will have soup, sandwiches and cookies.

Please plan to join us for a night of food, fun and fellowship. You are also more than welcome to bring a friend. Hope to see you there!

GOOD SAMARITAN

Food Needs for March

Thank you again to everyone for your generosity in February. This month Good Sam is need of canned meats. Including Tuna, Salmon, Spam, Vienna Sausages etc. Your support is very much appreciated!



COMMUNITY MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

A local group of Christian men will be using our church on Saturday, March 12, at 8:00 am to sponsor a Fellowship Men's Breakfast., followed by a program. This is open to all men in the community. Donations to cover the cost of the meal are welcomed.





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, who is in her 39th year at First Christian Church!

- March 6 Cathy Haithcote
- March 13 Hilda Smith
- March 20 Blaire Cartwright
- March 27 Evelyn Coffey

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP TIME

Worship and Wonder: Children ages 3 years old through fifth grade are welcome to join Donnye and Bonnye Fields following the praise hymn the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month for their own special time of worship in the Worship and Wonder room and sometimes in Class Rooms 2 & 3.

- March 6 Worship and Wonder
- March 20 Worship and Wonder

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We will continue to have Sunday school for adults, children & youth from ages 4 through 12th grade.

BIBLE STUDY

Rev. Kyle will continue to facilitate a Wednesday evening Advent Bible Study in March, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. More details to follow.

BOARD MEETS

The Board will meet, March 20, at 5:30 pm

ELDERS MEET

The Elders will meet, March 20, at 8:00 am

MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group will meet March 13, at 7:30 am for Breakfast. Speaker to be announced.

DISCIPLES WOMEN (CWF)

The Women's Group will meet on Tuesday, March 8, beginning at 9:30 am with Helping Hands, a light lunch (provided) at 11:30 am and a program at noon.

Our speaker will be author, Tammy Brown from Tullahoma. She has written the book, "A Teacher's Prayer." When her life was turned upside down at the age of four, it set the stage for a life that only the grace of God could right. Faith, love and kindness from fiends, teachers and others paved the way for a new life.

It will be a very good program for teachers: retired and teaching. Spread the word and invite a friend.

CIRCLES MEET

- Circle I - Tuesday, March 15, at 2:00 pm in the Parlor.
- Circle III - Tuesday, March 15 at 6:00 pm in the Parlor.



Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead before going to bed Saturday night, March 12!

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- March 20 Palm Sunday 10:00 am
- March 24 Maundy Thursday Service 6:00 pm
- March 27 Easter Sunday 10:00 am

We hope you are able to attend these services as we move closer to Easter—the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

FLOWER CROSS FOR EASTER

Last Easter Sunday, many of us participated in placing flowers and greenery in the PVC pipe/chicken wire-covered cross. What began as a black, rough and unattractive shape evolved into a powerful symbol of rebirth once it was covered in beautiful, fresh spring flowers and greenery. We smiled and enjoyed its beauty during the Easter service. Our hearts were touched and our understanding of the Resurrection was underscored as the cross was carried down the aisle and out onto the front porch for all who drove by to see.



On this Easter morning, remember to bring flowers, branches from flowering shrubs or green branches to decorate the Flower Cross. If our early spring weather leaves your yard without bulbs and shrubbery blooming on Easter morning, then magnolia leaves, boxwood, clumps of long, green grass tied securely or tree branches with young leaves will serve as perfect additions. We hope that everyone who comes to worship on Easter morning will add something to the Flower Cross. There will be extra items available for those who forget or for our visiting guests.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Friday, March 4th, will be our first meeting. World Day of Prayer will be hosted by ladies of Normandy UMC.

The meeting begins at 1:30 pm, with a program.

A short business meeting with refreshments will be served. Car pooling will be available. If you are interested, please be at our church no later than 1:00 pm.

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 approximately \$12.00 each. A table will be set up in the Gathering Area before and after Worship on March 13 and 20 to take orders for lilies.

In Nursing Homes, Hospitals or Assisted Living

Carriage House Inn
Rose Marie Clark
Melba Henry
Mary Lynn Prince

Glenn Oaks
Albert Smithson

Brookdale Senior Living
Cornelia Riddle

At Home

Lisa Adams
Sandy Craig
Terry Craig
Missy Eakin
Brenda Hancock
Buddy Haynes
Virginia Ann Haynes
Miles McCullough
Curtis Morton
Annette Palmer
Leighton Reed
JoAnn Smith
Ted York



March 2016



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 6 pm Bible Study 7 pm Choir	3 9:30 am CBS	4	5
6	7	8 9:30 am Helping Hands 11:30 am CWF	9	10 9:30 am CBS	11	12 8 am Community Men's Breakfast
13 8 am Men's Breakfast	14	15 2 pm Circle I 6 pm Circle III	16 6 pm Bible Study 7 pm Choir	17 9:30 am CBS	18	19
20 Palm Sunday 8 am Elders Meet 5:30 pm Board Meets	21	22	23 6 pm Bible Study 7 pm Choir	24 9:30 am CBS 6 pm Maundy Thurs Service	25	26
27 Easter Sunday	28	29	30 6 pm Bible Study 7 pm Choir	31		



March Birthdays

- 3 David Caldwell
Stephen Philpott
Lita York
- 5 Phil Womble
- 7 Kathy Harwell
- 8 Rhoda Gunter
- 11 Missy Eakin
- 12 Ellen Taylor
- 12 Brady O'Neal
Bouie Williams
- 15 John Carlton
Landon O'Neal

- 19 Roger Sinquefield
- 22 Mary Jane Sinquefield
- 25 David Williams
- 27 Elisa Harris

March Elders

- Frank Douglas
- Johnny Reed

March Deacons

- Virginia Parrish
- Eric Richardson
- Iris Schumann
- Shirley Smith