



THE CALLER

Kyle's Korner

I am getting tired of reading. The more I read, the more I find out what it is that I need to fear and how to avoid it. But, if I stop reading, I will turn on the television and discover the more evils of the world and why I should just stay home and never leave. From chemicals in manufactured products to our healthcare system to jobs not available for people who want them to what our kids are learning in school. It seems like everyone has to tell the masses who has wronged them and how to protect yourself from those evil people and/or things.

It also seems that every message that I receive is that I'm not good enough and that if I buy this product, do something "this way" then I will be absolutely outstanding in every way – until I listen to the next commercial. Pick a racial/ethnic group, an age demographic, income level, and a gender. There is something wrong with you.

On one hand, we're created that way – not perfect. And that's okay. On the other hand, forgetting that we are created beings of God and are beautiful and wonderful isn't okay. We all fall short of who God created us to be, but that does not give anyone else license to exploit our weaknesses and exponentially increase them.

I miss conversations about grace – grace that reminds us that no, we're not perfect, but we have the confidence in ourselves as God's beloved children to move on in a process that builds healing and wholeness. I miss hearing that message that in confidence of God's love we can work to become the people God intended us to be – because God is building in us, not that others are tearing us down.

Our culture tells us that if you have a problem, there is a pill to take or some other magic fix – if you only do "this." Our faith tells us that as one of God's beloved children, created in the image of God, that there is something else to do – gather around the Table of Grace on Sunday mornings, receive symbols of God's grace (yes, the pellet of bread and the thimble of wine require us to use our imaginations to envision the Boundless Feast we embrace), and let their meaning guide us on our journey toward healing and wholeness.

(continued on page 2)



2017 Budget Corner

General Budget received through June 2017 \$82,568.39

General Budget expenses through June 2017 \$ 94,303.07

By no means is this a quick fix – which is one reason we take Communion every time we gather to worship God. These emblems remind us that healing and wholeness are a process. Living in God's grace doesn't relieve us of wrongdoing, mistakes, or flaws to our character or body. It does give us a foundation on which to build and move us along that path with confidence.

Living in God's grace reduces the fear of the unknown, the other, and the self-defeating thinking that plagues us all. Living in God's grace helps us to see the "other" as a child of God too – not an enemy to be feared and/or eliminated.

I suppose I do not need to stop reading or watching television or listening to the radio. I need to refocus my attention to the Good News that God proclaims to each of us – that in Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. That, friends, is all the confidence I need to continue on a path toward healing and wholeness.

I'll see you Sunday.
Kyle



Tuesday, August 1, members of First Christian Church will be volunteering their services to the Community Soup Kitchen at the First Methodist Church on the Square. We are responsible for all facets of the meal — preparing, hosting, plating, serving, and cleaning up. Serving begins at 5:00 pm so volunteers should be there early enough to prepare and have the meal ready to be served by 5:00 pm. Contact Kyle or Lynn Hulan to serve. (Editor's Note: Since it's Au-

gust 2, you all rocked a wonderful meal. Great service. Wonderful fellowship. Keep up the good work!)

First Christian will serve again at the Community Soup Kitchen on Tuesday, August 22. This time, we will prepare and plate the meal. Volunteers should be at First United Methodist by 3:00 pm. Contact Kyle or Lynn Hulan to serve.

GOOD SAMARITAN

Food Needs

Thank you again to everyone for your generosity in supporting Good Samaritan. No matter what time of year it is, Good Sam is always in need of food. We will continue to ask for any of the following: canned meats, soup, canned vegetables and fruit, cereal, crackers and peanut butter. You may also bring other kinds of food that is not mentioned above. If you would rather not shop, please feel free to leave a donation in the box on the Good Sam shelf in the Gathering Area. Your continued support is very much appreciated!



CHILDREN'S WORSHIP TIME

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

August 6 Worship and Wonder
August 20 Worship and Wonder

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We will continue to have Sunday School for adults. The Adult SS Class, led by Ruth Cartwright, meets in the Parlor. The Caring & Sharing Class, led by Wayne Schumann, meets in room 11. The Cross & Chalice Class, led by Frank Douglas meets in room 15. Classes begins at 9:00 am.

ELDERS MEETS

The Elders will meet Sunday, August 20, at 8:00 am.

MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group will not host a breakfast in August. The next breakfast for everyone will be Sunday, September 10 at 8:00 a.m.

CWF will not meet in August for a General meeting. The next CWF General meeting will be Tuesday, September 12.

CIRCLE I

Circle I will meet, Tuesday, August 15, 2:00 pm in the Parlor

CIRCLE III

Circle III will meet not meet in August.

In Nursing Homes, Hospitals or Assisted Living

Carriage House Inn

Rose Marie Clark
Mary Lynn Prince
Carolyn Ray

The Heart Remembers

Mattie Ray Wiser

Brookdale Senior Living

Cornelia Riddle

Celebration Way

Wallace Hancock
Harriet Melson

At Home

Lisa Adams
Virginia Ann Haynes
Annette Palmer



SAVE THE DATE

The Annual All-Church Picnic will be held on Sunday, October 8 at the Charles and Karen Sue McDonald's farm. More details to come!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

John and Kelly Spencer joined First Christian Church on June 11. John has a long history with Stone-Campbell churches in Indiana. Kelly has participated in a number of different churches and denominations. We welcome John and Kelly and their children Mitchell, Marie, and Grace.

Reading Through the Bible Schedule

August

1 Job 13-15	Psalm 142
2 Job 16-18	Psalm 143
3 Job 19-21	Psalm 144
4 Job 22-24	Psalm 145
5 Job 25-27	Psalm 146
6 OFF	
7 Job 28-30	Psalm 147
8 Job 31-33	Psalm 148
9 Job 34-36	Psalm 149
10 Job 37-39	Psalm 150
11 Job 40-42	
12 Titus	
13 YOU DID IT!	

With this month's readings, we will have completed reading the whole Bible in one year. If you want to do it again on your own, you may find the reading schedule on the church website or contact Kyle at revkylet@gmail.com for the whole schedule. Way to go First Christian!

CHURCH LIFE UPDATES (from Kyle)

Since the last publication of "The Caller" many things in the life of our congregation have changed. For one, "The Caller" hasn't been published because on May 17 our beloved Anne McMahon suddenly passed away. Her death has left a void in our hearts as well as the operations of the church. Over the last few months, along with the leadership of the church, I have attempted to get some things picked up, cleaned up, and carried forward into a new day of how we conduct business as First Christian Church. So, let me update you, the congregation, on a few questions you have.

First, what's going on with the finances of the church? At the May 21 Board meeting, the Board voted to out-source the paying of the bills and organization of money collections with Bookkeeping Plus, a local accounting firm. This business is owned by Carla Ralston, a former member of our church and a trusted community business. To this point, Carla and her staff have done an excellent job in making sure all of our bills are paid, the money collected is accurately accounted, and confidentiality is maintained. Bookkeeping Plus operates the business under the direction of Charles McDonald, Treasurer, and weekly financial activities maintained and are consistently reported.

(continued on page 5 see "UPDATES")

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY BEGINS

Community Bible Study, the independent and non-denominational Bible study program that meets at First Christian, will begin its new year on Thursday, August 10. CBS meets on Thursdays, following the Bedford County Schools schedule, from 9:30 am to 11:30 am and will study Romans this fall.



For more information or to sign up, contact Joyce Adams at 931-580-3135 or djca2012@yahoo.com.



FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN COOKOUT

Following worship on Sunday, August 20 at 11:30 am families with young children are invited to the home of Johnny and Kathy Reed (2302 Midland Road) for a cookout. Johnny will grill hamburgers and hot dogs. Parents will discuss plans for the children's and youth education ministry programs. Children will be supervised by Tripp Reed and Victoria Sons in playing in a kiddie pool, sprinkler and other water games. Children should bring a bathing suit and towel.

UPDATES (continued)

Second, how is the office managed? As you may know, Anne maintained office hours from 8:30- 4:30 Monday through Thursday. I am in the office two days a week for a portion of that time, especially since my duties as Pastor take me out of the building for a time when I am in town. While phone messages are received and returned, it's not the same as having a live, friendly voice answer the church phone and some of those important things take a day or two to get done.

Two things are in the works: 1) along with the Board Officers (who serves as the Personnel Committee), I am drafting a new job description for the position of "Office Manager" to be filled in the coming months. With the finances outsourced, the skills and expectations of the traditional "Church Secretary" are different. So, we will be looking for someone who has a different set of skills than what we expected of Anne and previous church secretaries.

2) In the meantime, several folks have offered to volunteer their time to help get some of the administrative task completed. **On Thursday, August 10 at 11:30 am (immediately following the CBS program) there will be an "Office Volunteers Orientation."** In this session, I will give an overview of the office functions, a list of tasks to be performed, and answer any questions volunteers might have for the office. No experience is required -- just a desire to help. It's no secret that the office needs a little organizational TLC. We will put our heads together and develop a plan to reorganize the office and set new procedures for maintaining the office. *(continued in "Final Update")*

August 2017



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 5:00 pm Serve meal at Community Soup Kitchen	2 8 am CBS Leadership Training	3 8 am CBS Leadership Training	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 9:30 am CBS	11	12
13	14	15 2 pm Circle I	16	17 9:30 am CBS	18	19
20 8 am Elders	21	22 5:00 pm Serve meal at Community Soup Kitchen	23	24 9:30 am CBS	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 NO CBS		

happy birthday
wishing you
love
happiness
peace

August Birthdays

- 3 Don Price
- 4 Kobe Simmons
- 20 Elaine Philpott
- 21 Janelle Douglas
- 22 Carlena Potts
- Mattie Ray Wisner
- 23 Karley Simmons
- 24 Brenda Hancock
- 25 Freida Newell
- Clara Philpott
- 28 Nichole Yockey

August Elders

- Rhonda Reed
- Ruth Cartwright

August Deacons

Final Update

On July 1 a new group of folks started their term as leaders in the life of the church. Larry Price is our new Board Chair. Iris Schumann is our Vice Chair. Kay Dennis and Charles McDonald continue as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. Wayne Schumann is our Church Historian. New Elders, Deacons, and Committee members were elected and have begun their service. There is a lot of work to be done and good folks in place to do it. They need your support to get it done. Please hold them in your prayers as