



First Christian Church
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The Christian Echoes
Of
First Christian Church
“A Place to Come Home”

2012 FEBRUARY 2012

Reminder: Church Potluck Feb. 26th at 12:30 AM

Phil's Points:

"It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ... I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Matthew 9:12-13

Healthy churches are like hospitals. They are filled with needy, broken people whose lives are desperate. Failing health, failing budgets, failing marriages, failing relationships, and failings in personal character are present in a healthy church. These are often, though not always, marks of a more basic failing—failing by the lack of a spiritual walk with God which comes via a new-birth experience with Jesus Christ. It's not that everyone in the church is identically desperate. A good hospital has to have a few healthy nurses, LPN's, CNA's, dieticians, anesthetists, receptionists, bookkeepers, custodians, and doctors to keep the doors open. But the doctors aren't there for the doctors; the nurses aren't for the nurses, etc. It is the patients who make the hospital viable and worth taking up real estate in the community. So it is with healthy churches. One mark of a healthy church is the dysfunctional people inside it. Helping is what Jesus is good at. Jesus is the Good Doctor and the rest of us are either patients or caregivers—or both.

Dysfunctional churches have few or no desperate people. All the people are already saved, already mature in Christ, have good families and marriages, good jobs or adequate retirement programs. Or at least they think they do. It's an apparent paradox that healthy churches have dysfunctional people, and dysfunctional churches have [apparently] healthy people. People with problems "fit" at a healthy church. They sense they've come to the right place. They're loved and accepted. They belong; whereas, a dysfunctional church is most comfortable with "good people." The desperate know they've come to the wrong place in a dysfunctional church.

When I read the Gospels I'm always impressed with how comfortable publicans and sinners are

in the presence of Jesus. I wonder: am I like Jesus in this regard? Am I building bridges or walls when I'm around the "desperate?" Am I healthy or dysfunctional? I once read that the only thing worse than being a Daniel in a den of lions—is being a lion in a den of Daniels. I wonder: do the desperate ever feel like a lion surrounded by Daniels when they attend First Christian? I hope not.

I've learned in my own life that I must cultivate a continuing sense of spiritual desperation. I'm desperate for Jesus. I need him. I cannot survive without him. HE is the antidote to any sense of foolish pride that Satan attempts to plant in my heart. I am most comfortable around desperate people when I am desperate myself. When our church is filled with desperate elders, desperate deacons, desperate teachers, desperate preachers, and desperate members, the rest of the desperate will know they've come to a spiritual hospital where the healing grace of the Great Physician is dispensed for the healing of desperate people.

"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come; buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good and your soul will delight in the richest of fare. Give ear and come to me; hear me that your soul may live." [Isaiah 55:1-3a]

In Jesus,
Phil



SERVANT LEADERS FOR JANUARY

COMMUNION SET-UP

Jan Toms

GREETERS

Darlene Ohmart & Donna Allen

ATTENDANCE FOR JANUARY

	<u>AM</u>	<u>PM</u>
January 1	56	holiday
January 8	69	12
January 15	62	9
January 22	77	6

New Members

As of 1/8/12
Jane Williams (Kathy Warren’s sister)
116 Rose Ave.
Berryville, AR 72616
870-423-3989

As of 1/22/12
Kathy Lantz
189 CR 2071
Eureka Springs, AR 72632
479-253-1209
Cell 405-226-0824

New Address/Phone

Bren Marshall
5021 White Spruce Drive
McKinney, TX 75071

CHURCH NOTE FOR NEW SUNDAY CLASS

Sunday, **January 29th**, begins a new adventure for the Fellowship Hall Sunday school class. A Priority scripture is **I Corinthians 10:11** (A.S.V.)

“Now these things happened unto them by way of example; and they were written for

our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages are come.”

There will be parallel tracks. One will be the experiences of God’s chosen family on their way to achieving God’s will for their lives. The other will be our similar experiences working out God’s will in our lives.

Discussion moderator will be Lyman Squires.

Ya’ll come!

MEALS ON WHEELS

There is a great need for substitute workers. Please consider helping with the Meals on Wheels program. They deliver hot meals to those in need. FCC is responsible for one week a month. Our next dates are **March 5th** – **9th**. Thanks to all of you who have so unselfishly given of your time and energy. Call Patsy Hudson at 479-253-7071 to volunteer.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

Ladies, this is an invitation to join us each Wednesday at 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM in the lower level of the church in room 103. Please feel free to bring friends.

We are now studying in I Samuel chapter 10. Nola Fenix is our teacher. Fellowship is very important to us, so come and have a cup of coffee and a portion of God’s Word.

Ginny Bleich

Feb. 26th Potluck

There is a Potluck planned for Feb. 26th at 12:20 after the morning service as “AN APPRECIATION LUNCHEON IN HONOR OF BREN MARSHELL”. This is going to be a wonderful time to show how much we have been blessed by Bren.

WOMEN FOR CHRIST

WFC Meeting, January 21, 2012

The WFC started the New Year with new officers. They are Kathy Dunlap, president; Alice Spears, vice president; Jan Casady, secretary; Linda Bulman, treasurer; and program chairman, Roxanne Breaux.

After prayer, we discussed the Shoe & Sock ministry, Echo participation and the downtown Parking Lot fundraiser. In missions, we are considering adding one more to support. In consideration are 'Teach My Kenyan Children', The Humane Society, and Jim and Tony Kay's work with the orphans of Peru. We will make a decision by vote at February's meeting. Sign-up sheets were passed around for communion service, refreshments and Sunday a.m. cookies. Volunteers were called on for ministries within the church. The Women's Conference of the Ozarks will be held April 27-28. All women are encouraged to attend.

After Roxie's meditation on New Year's resolutions we were introduced to our guest speaker, Carolyn Gentry, RN. Carolyn has experience as an ER nurse and is currently at the Island Health and Fitness center. She talked to us about self-discipline for better health and gave us guidelines to motivate each of us in achieving positive lifestyle habits.

We closed the meeting in prayer. The executive committee met briefly afterwards.

Jan Casady

*"Without the bread of life
You're toast"*

TREASURES OF THE HEART

Treasures are those little things that make a smile appear; make eyes light up when looking into trying times, a silent whisper, a memory of present or past events, maybe a joke or a song that makes one feel good inside.

Treasures are things that are formed in the heart, as well as in the mind. Well, I guess you could call the church a "HEART" because within it, are many treasures making it out as one great big treasure chest. Within the church are little known treasures and like most treasures that are hidden from plain sight and must be found or dug up.

Three men of F.C.C. came together on January 4th in agreement that they want to seek out those treasures. So on January 11th, they went to visit Dave and Laura Lovett, who shared many new stories of their lives together; then we went to visit Lou Adkins and listened to the stories of his past.

Following this pattern we set out on January 16th to visit three more Treasures; we sat with Bud and Dorothy Schulz who shared with us their many journeys with pictures and all. Then we visited Tom Beck who enthralled us all with his knowledge and understanding, finally we ended up at the home of Ed and Sharon Jacobson, who also had a great story to tell and smiles to bring.

Each month, if possible, we plan to share one picture out of all our visits. Through the monthly newsletter, the three men who made these visits were Jack Bleich, Harlan Breaux, and Larry Pinkerton. If anyone would be interested in participating in this ministry of visitation, please feel free to contact us or meet us on Wednesday 1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Who knows, you may be our next Treasure.

Larry Pinkerton

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, EUREKA SPRINGS, AR. FEBRUARY 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Ladies Bible Study 10:30 AM	2	3	4
5 SUNDAY SERVICES: 9:30AM Sunday School Worship: 10:30AM 6:00 PM	6	7	8 Ladies Bible Study 10:30 AM	9	10	11 Men's Breakfast 8:00 AM
12 SUNDAY SERVICES: 9:30AM Sunday School Worship: 10:30AM 6:00 PM	13	14 	15 Ladies Bible Study 10:30 AM	16	17	18 Women For Christ 9:00 AM
19 SUNDAY SERVICES: 9:30AM Sunday School Worship: 10:30AM 6:00 PM	20	21	22 Ladies Bible Study 10:30 AM	23	24	25
26 SUNDAY SERVICES: 9:30AM Sunday School Worship: 10:30AM Potluck appreciation lunch for Bren @12:30 6:00 PM	27	28	29 Ladies Bible Study 10:30 AM			

BIRTHDAYS: L.B. Wilson 15th, James Holland 22nd, Steve Vitale and Sherry Wilson 27th, and Margaret Taylor 28th.

