



Kyle's Korner

As I write this column, the presidential candidates are preparing for their first debate. By the time you read this, it will have concluded. Certainly, much of our time and attention is focused on this election and how it affects us -- collectively and individually. We still have at least a month of the rhetoric and political spin left before anything is decided.

I know that many of you are worried about how to maintain your faith during this political season. I believe many of you are worried about how to maintain your faith within a community that is experiencing turmoil and discord. Our political environment is casting large shadows over many things going on in our daily lives. It puts us all on edge. Our emotions become frazzled and our patience wears thin for everyone we encounter. So, I thought I would give you a glimpse into my thinking around living with faith in a time that "everyone around us" seems to lack faith, especially when it comes to politics.

A little about my perspective: I am firmly Independent. I have my leanings, but, in general, I don't like either major (or any of the minor) political parties. I don't like extremes. Pointing toward the extremes to prove a point or identify a boundary is acceptable. Living there doesn't help any one or any thing except division and discord. So, working to find middle ground where most people benefit is an admirable goal.

I am a bit cynical -- sometimes my cynicism is for humor, but most of the time it's because I don't totally believe what we see on the surface of political banter is transparent or authentic. I believe most of the decisions made by our government are not made on the floor of the Legislature, but in Board Rooms or offices far from the public view. What happens on the Floor is mostly window dressing for what has already occurred. (See, I trust our politicians...)

So, how do you maintain faith in the midst of this chaos? Be clear about who you are as a Child of God and that each individual you encounter is too. Treat one another with the respect that God expects of us. There are too many Internet "trolls" whose only goal is to hurt others. Don't let that type of attitude change you or change the way you see yourself and others. God expects you to treat one another with love and grace and to be at peace with one another. Let that be your guide -- even when it's most difficult.

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September Budget Corner



General Budget needed per month	\$22,522.67
General Budget received in September	\$11,467.00
Building Accounts received in September	\$0

Next, know what God expects of our life together -- what is best for everyone, not just a few of the most powerful in our society. There are countless cases of powerful people losing sight of what's best for the most, getting caught up in selfish desires and ambitions, and completely losing sight of being a servant to one another. At the risk of sounding too much like one party, we are in this together and it takes each of us to do our part.

Finally, know that Christian faith is not consistent with what is widely popular or acceptable. Our faith and the community of the Church are to stand firm in who we are and who we are called to be -- messengers of Good News and hope. Our faith often calls us to be a salmon swimming upstream to accomplish our mission. Unfortunately, "Good News" and "Hope" don't sell newspapers or garner ratings.

Maintaining faith in the midst of turmoil is not easy. Clarity of belief and commitment to high character are required. Whatever happens in the next month and beyond, there are three simple things to remember: Be strong. Be courageous. Know that at Creation, God created order out of chaos.

I'll see you Sunday.

Kyle

CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATION RECAP

On Wednesday, September 21 we held a time for a congregation-wide conversation. About 45 people attended what was the first of several such times for talking about our ministry and its direction. It is no secret that First Christian has been experiencing some turmoil over the last few months. While this turmoil won't go away overnight, we need to be talking about what is happening, why it is happening, and how we move through it to the next phase of ministry. I wanted to give you a couple of the highlights in how we begin to move forward.

First, the congregation needs better communication from the Board about what is being discussed and the decisions being made. In recent history, there have been oral updates to the congregation on the Sunday after the Board meeting. These Board "Seconds" (shorter than the official minutes) could be offered again in a couple of different formats.

Second, there is a desire for more congregational involvement in community activities. We're pretty good at supporting Good Samaritan and T-Ball, but what else can we be doing as a congregation to make Shelbyville/Bedford County a better place to live? How can we be a visible presence for Christ in our community? The Soup Kitchen ministry of the Bedford County Ministerial Association is a great place to start. Each Tuesday this ministry feeds about 80 folks who need a hot meal and fellowship. While First United Methodist Church hosts the event, this is our ministry too. On October 11, a team of folks from First Christian will prepare and serve the meal. Watch and listen for more information about how you can be involved.

Third, while we are smaller in number than we used to be, we don't do as much together. We need to have fellowship more often in formal and informal ways to build relationships. The Men's Breakfast on the second Sunday of the month is now open to everyone in the church. Let the men know you're coming (through the church office) and show up on October 9 at 8:00 a.m. Also, the annual Church Picnic will be October 16 at Charlie and Karen Sue McDonald's farm. Look elsewhere in this issue of *The Caller* for more details. *Small dinner groups and discussion groups in people's homes are also great ways to build relationships with one another.*

Fourth, it seems to many that we have lost our identity as a congregation on what it means to be a Disciples of Christ congregation. Reclaiming those roots and Disciples identity are at the core of our revival as a congregation and the ministry we have provided for 150 years in this community. While there is nothing wrong with other Christian faith traditions, we need to claim the unique witness as Disciples of Christ in our study of scripture, prayer, and gathering at Christ's Table.

I am confident that as we address these four issues the other issues plaguing this congregation will begin to resolve themselves and move us forward. I hope that as we hold more congregation-wide conversations, more people will attend, the issues won't seem as daunting, and the spirit will remain strong.



On Tuesday, October 11 First Christian Church is sponsoring the meal for the Bedford County Ministerial Association Soup Kitchen. The menu will be chili, crackers, cheese, and fresh fruit. We need cooking, serving, and clean up crews for the night. Cooks will need to arrive at 2:00 p.m. to begin and servers need to be there by 5:00 that night. If you want to be a part of this ministry call the church office or email Kyle at revkylet@gmail.com. If you can't work that night, this ministry needs financial support and people to bring fresh fruit (whole apples, bananas, peaches, etc) in advance of that night. The Soup Kitchen is held in the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall on the square from 5:30-7:00p.m. each Tuesday.



GOOD SAMARITAN Food Needs for October

Thank you again to everyone for your generosity in September. Summer and Fall is a slow time of year at Good Sam for donations so we will again ask for any of the following in October: canned meats, soup, canned vegetables and fruit, cereal, crackers and peanut butter. Your continued support is very much appreciated!

IT'S CHURCH PICNIC TIME AGAIN!

Charles & Karen Sue McDonald have graciously offered to host our Congregational picnic again this year at their beautiful farm. The picnic will be Sunday, October 16, at 4:pm. As it was last year, we will again bring side dishes & desserts. The meat & drinks will be provided. An RSVP list will be passed around during Worship or you may call the church office to sign up so we know how much meat to get. There will also be a second list to sign up for what sides you would like to bring. Looking forward to see as many as possible to come & join in the fun and fellowship. This also marks the one year anniversary for Rev. Kyle & his family coming to FCC!!



Reading Through the Bible Schedule

October

- 1 Exodus 18-20, Proverbs 2
- 2 Off
- 3 Exodus 21-24, Proverbs 3
- 4 Exodus 25-27, Proverbs 4
- 5 Exodus 28-31, Proverbs 5
- 6 Exodus 32-34, Proverbs 6
- 7 Exodus 35-37, Proverbs 7
- 8 Exodus 38-40, Proverbs 8
- 9 Off
- 10 Acts 1-3, Proverbs 9
- 11 Acts 4-6, Proverbs 10:1-16
- 12 Acts 7-9, Proverbs 10:17-32
- 13 Acts 10-12, Proverbs 11:1-15
- 14 Acts 13-15, Proverbs 11:16-31
- 15 Acts 16-18, Proverbs 12:1-14
- 16 Off
- 17 Acts 19-21, Proverbs 12:15-28
- 18 Acts 22-25, Proverbs 13:1-12
- 19 Acts 26-28, Proverbs 13:13-25
- 20 Leviticus 1-4, Proverbs 14:1-18
- 21 Leviticus 5-8, Proverbs 14:19-35
- 22 Leviticus 9-11, Proverbs 15:1-17
- 23 Off
- 24 Leviticus 12-14, Proverbs 15:18-33
- 25 Leviticus 15-18, Proverbs 16:1-16
- 26 Leviticus 19-21, Proverbs 16:17-33
- 27 Leviticus 22-24, Proverbs 17:1-14
- 28 Leviticus 25-27, Proverbs 17:15-28
- 29 Hebrews 1-3, Psalm 24
- 30 Off
- 31 Hebrews 4-6, Psalm 25



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 began her 40th year last month at First Christian Church!

Currently, we only have two children in the Nursery and do not need volunteers on a regular basis. Many thanks to all those who signed up to help. Let's pray that your services will be needed again soon!

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 this month for their own special time of worship in the Worship and Wonder room and sometimes in Class Rooms 2 & 3.

October 2	Worship and Wonder
October 16	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 continues to meet in room 15. Classes begins at 9:00 am.

ELDERS MEETS

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

MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group will host our monthly Congregational Breakfast, October 9, at 8:00 am. Come enjoy some great food and fellowship before Worship! All are welcome!

DISCIPLES WOMEN (CWF)

DATE CHANGE IN OCTOBER!!! Due to the Library Fund Raising Luncheon on October 11, the Ladies CWF luncheon & meeting will be moved to Tuesday, October 18. We will begin with Helping Hands sewing at 9:30 am, followed by lunch (provided) at 11:30. Rev. Kyle Harris will give a program. All women are invited to join us!

CIRCLE MEETS

Circle I - Tuesday, October 18, at 2:00 pm in the Parlor.

Circle III - Tuesday, October 18, in the Parlor



In Nursing Homes, Hospitals or Assisted Living

Carriage House Inn
Rose Marie Clark
Mary Lynn Prince

Glenn Oaks
Albert Smithson

Brookdale Senior Living
Cornelia Riddle

At Home

Lisa Adams
Ernie Brewbaker
Terry & Sandy Craig
Brenda Hancock
Virginia Ann Haynes
Kevin Johnson
Miles McCullough
Curtis Morton
Annette Palmer
JoAnn Smith
Ruby Taylor
Mattie Ray Wisner
Ted York



October 2016



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5 7 pm Choir	6 9:30 am CBS	7	8
9 8 am Congrega- tional Breakfast Clergy Apprecia- tion Day	10	11 5-7 pm Soup Kitchen at 1st Methodist	12 7 pm Choir	13 9:30 am CBS	14	15
16 8 am Elders 4 pm Church Pic- nic at McDonald's Farm	17	18 9:30 am Helping Hands 11:30 am CWF 2 pm Circle I 6 pm Circle III	19 7 pm Choir	20 No CBS	21	22
23	24	25	26 7 pm Choir	27 9:30 am CBS	28	29
30	31 Halloween					



October Birthdays

1	Lynn Riddle	25	Virginia Ann Haynes
2	Mark Potts	26	Johnny Reed
3	Randy Simmons	27	Libby Davidson
6	Annette Palmer	29	Owen Womble
12	Benji Philpott		
13	Kathy Reed		
16	Leland Arnold Janie Bartlette		
22	Tripp Reed David Riddle		
24	Doris McNamee		

October Elders

Ruth Cartwright
Bobby Newell

September Deacons

Cort Huffman
Virginia Parish
Amy Philpott