



# THE CALLER

## Kyle's Korner

The New Year is a time when many folks take stock of their lives and think about things they want to change in order to be happier and healthier. As a helpful thought, let me remind you of something I have said before, but I will say again -- maybe in a new way.

Maintaining balance in one's life requires focus. Yet, most of us don't focus on the elements that need our attention. Most of us are pretty good at going to work and doing well enough to keep our jobs. Most of us are pretty good at having family relationships that bring us joy and satisfaction. Most of us live from Sunday afternoon to Saturday night without much regard for what it means to live a Christ-like manner. That's not meant to be a judgmental statement – it's meant to be descriptive of the world around us as our peers, colleagues, and bosses/employees aren't spending time thinking about their relationship with Jesus while they're doing their job – they're earning a living and making money.

For a time, I was a bi-vocational pastor and spent 40 hours or more each week in an environment that was not interested in my relationship with Jesus. I worked in a public school, where it is illegal for me to talk to students about my faith/religion. Because I worked in a counseling role, most of the adults I worked with knew my faith background and that I served as a minister on Sundays and other weekday evenings. Yet, the students and their parents did not have a clue about what went on in my life away from the school building.

Maintaining balance between living in a secular world and being a person of faith requires focus and attention to who I am and whose I am. I don't have a clear prescription that works for everyone, but I do have a suggestion to finding balance in your life: Live by the "Worship, 1 and 1" axiom.

As a person who believes in God, it is essential to worship God every week. If you're in town on Sunday morning, we're here at First Christian at 10:00 a.m. for worship. If you're out of town, I encourage you to find a place to worship in that town. I know that's not always possible or desirable, but giving thanks to God for each of our blessings helps us maintain a healthy relationship with God and buoyed in God's desire for us. Remember, Sunday morning worship is about God, not people.



## December Budget Corner

General Budget received in December	\$13,973.00
Building Accounts received in December	\$ 0

Take the biblical examples of Mary and Martha, the sisters that hosted Jesus in their home. Mary sat at Jesus' feet and soaked up everything that Jesus taught. She spent time with her rabbi, her teacher. Martha, on the other hand, never sat down. She flitted to and fro making sure to be the quintessential host by making sure everyone else's needs were met. Martha ended up exhausted and bitter that she was working while her co-host and sister did nothing to serve their guest.

Both Mary and Martha are wonderful examples of how to live a Christian life – learning and serving. Yet, if we are too absorbed on one, we neglect the other and we are out of balance. Faith without works is a fine ideal, but how does that help anyone but you? Works without faith offers a wonderful ethic to help those in need, but what meaning is made from any action?

We can go about enriching our faith by attending classes to engage our faith in learning. These occasions allow us to embrace Mary's positive attributes. Volunteering to teach a class, work with children, or donate time to hand out food to hungry people -- something that you are passionate about for the world are a few examples of service. Each of these things helps us to embrace the positive attributes of Martha.

To embrace the "Worship, 1 and 1" axiom helps to find and maintain balance between being self-absorbed and self-sacrificial. It helps us to sit at Jesus' feet to soak in everything about our faith and to make a difference in the lives of those in our community. I don't know what impact it will make in Shelbyville/Bedford County if each of us tried to employ such a plan. But I think it would be fun to explore and it just might bring joy to a world that desperately needs joy.

I'll see you Sunday.

Kyle

## **GOOD SAMARITAN**

### **Food Needs for January**

Thank you again to everyone for your generosity in December. Winter is a busy time of year at Good Sam for donations during the winter season. We will continue to ask for any of the following: canned meats, soup, canned vegetables and fruit, cereal, crackers and peanut butter. Your continued support is very much appreciated!





Thank you to each and every one of you for having such a big heart this Christmas by helping the Center of Family Development Angel Tree this year. You donated 33 blankets and 29 bundles of diapers in all sizes! This was very much appreciated. What a wonderful expression of love!

## POTLUCK LUNCHEON

Due to the inclement weather, our Congregational Epiphany Potluck Luncheon originally scheduled for January 8, 2017 was cancelled. It has been rescheduled for January 15, following Worship. Meat & drinks will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. And as always, feel free to bring a friend! We look forward to starting off the New Year together with our church family!



## CIRCLE III HAS A NEW MEETING TIME!!!

Circle III has changed its meeting time to 4:30 pm for the convenience of those who work and are not able to come back to the church at 6 pm. The new time will begin this month on Tuesday, January 15 at **4:30 pm**. We would love to see some new faces this year!



One of the gifts God has given each of us as staff members is being able to serve at First Christian Church. We appreciate your prayers, kindness, support and the opportunity to serve with you.

THANK YOU FROM EACH OF US FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFT !

Serving God together,  
Kyle, Brandon, Anne, and Barbara

## 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.

January 1	Worship and Wonder
January 15	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, January 22, at 8:00 am.

## BOARD MEETS

The Board meets Sunday, January 22, at 11:30 following Worship

## MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group will NOT host the Congregational Breakfast in January, but will resume on February 12 at 8 am.

**CWF** will meet January 10, 2017 beginning with Helping Hands at 9:30 am, followed by a sack lunch at 11:30 am. There will not be a program this month.

## CIRCLE I

Circle I will meet, January 17, 2:00 pm in the Parlor

## CIRCLE III HAS A NEW TIME FOR MEETING!

Circle III will meet Tuesday, January 17 at **4:30 pm** in

## In Nursing Homes, Hospitals or Assisted Living

*Carriage House Inn*

Rose Marie Clark  
Mary Lynn Prince  
Mattie Ray Wiser

*Lynchburg Nursing Home*

Albert Smithson

*Brookdale Senior Living*

Cornelia Riddle

## At Home

Lisa Adams  
Ernie Brewbaker  
Terry & Sandy Craig  
Wallace & Brenda Hancock  
Monk Haynes  
Virginia Ann Haynes  
Kevin Johnson  
Miles McCullough  
Harriet Melson  
Annette Palmer  
Ted York



## Reading Through the Bible Schedule

### January 2017

1	OFF	
2	Ezekiel 1-4	Isaiah 26
3	Ezekiel 5-7	Isaiah 27
4	Ezekiel 8-11	Isaiah 28
5	Ezekiel 12-15	Isaiah 29
6	Ezekiel 16-19	Isaiah 30
7	Ezekiel 20-23	Isaiah 31
8	OFF	
9	Ezekiel 24-26	Isaiah 32
10	Ezekiel 27-30	Isaiah 33
11	Ezekiel 31-34	Isaiah 34
12	Ezekiel 35-38	Isaiah 35
13	Ezekiel 39-42	Isaiah 36
14	Ezekiel 43-45	Isaiah 37
15	OFF	
16	Ezekiel 46-48	Isaiah 38
17	1 John 1-3	Isaiah 39
18	1 John 4-6	Isaiah 40
19	2 John & 3 John	Isaiah 41
20	Lamentations 1-3	Isaiah 42
21	Lamentations 4-6	Isaiah 43
22	OFF	
23	1 Peter 1-3	Isaiah 44
24	1 Peter 4-6	Isaiah 45
25	Nahum	Isaiah 46
26	Habakkuk	Isaiah 47
27	1 Thessalonians 1-2	Isaiah 48
28	1 Thessalonians 3-5	Isaiah 49
29	OFF	
30	Joel	Isaiah 50
31	Micah 1-3	Isaiah 51

