

THE MESSENGER



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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People of the Book

The Pastor's

TRAIN



OF THOUGHT

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path (Psalm 119:105).

I once interviewed with a search committee at an independent congregational church. This church had been started by a college professor of mine, and many of the members were faculty or administrators at the college. Over the course of the interview, one of the committee members commented that I might be “too Bible-oriented” for them.

Guilty as charged. (Not surprisingly, I was not called to that church.)

The fact of the matter is that, like our Jewish brothers and sisters, we Christians are “people of the Book”—our understanding of how to live our faith is rooted in Scripture. In the Bible we learn who God is and what it means to be God’s people. There are stories, poems, songs, letters, and yes, commandments in the Bible. If we are going to live as faithful Christians, we need to read and study the Bible.

There’s only one problem. A great many of us don’t know our Bibles anymore. We don’t understand the storyline of the Bible that starts with creation and goes through Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection, to the beginning of the Church, and then steps off the pages and continues to be alive and active today.

So a few years ago, a group of Bible scholars, many of them Lutheran, devised a new lectionary for churches to use. (A lectionary is simply a list of assigned Scriptures for every week of the year. Many Christian churches follow some lectionary; Jewish synagogues have a lectionary of their own, too.) Their goal was to take churches through the narrative arc of the Bible, from creation to Pentecost and beyond. We have one Scripture passage to focus on each week, and each year we take a long look at one of the four Gospels.

As part of our exploration, this year we will also be turning periodically to the subject of stewardship. Churches as a whole have not done a very good job in recent years of teaching or talking about stewardship—which is much more than just how much money we might drop into the offering plate. Since I was raised in a church that did teach stewardship of time, talent, and treasure, I do think it’s a subject that needs to be examined and understood. All we are and have belongs to God and God asks us to take care of it—our earth, our bodies, our minds, our spirits, our relationships, and our possessions. “Stewardship” simply means “taking care of it.” It’s an essential part of living as God’s people.

Kids are back in school; now it’s time for us to go back to school, too—to learn about our Bible and how God wants us to live. We don’t necessarily have to sit in little uncomfortable desks, but we still (at every age) have plenty we can learn about God and the Christian life. I hope you’ll join us as often as you can. (If you must miss a week, we’ll soon have a website where we’ll be posting weekly sermons and other important information. You can now follow the church on Facebook, too.)



September Serving Schedule

<p>September 2 Elder: John Daniel Scripture: Shawn Quick</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Worship Deacons: Judy Daniel, Judy Colburn Greeter: Louise Foster</p>
<p>September 9 Elder: Justin Quick Scripture: Don Malan</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Worship Deacons: Derek Like, Carol Roberts Greeter: Carol Roberts</p>
<p>September 16 Elder: Dolly Studards Scripture: Lucille Munday</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Worship Deacons: Don Malan, Gary Coffman Greeter: Candi Agnew</p>
<p>September 23 Elder: Shawn Quick Scripture: Phyllis McBrayer</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Worship Deacons: Carol Lewis, Chuck Lewis Greeters: Ed & Sue Ann Steele</p>
<p>September 30 Elder: Phyllis McBrayer Scripture: Chuck Lewis</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Worship Deacons: Peggy Fuller, Dorothy Carter Greeters: Chuck & Carol Lewis</p>

Music Director: Carol Ann Winburn — Accompanist: Mary Coffman
 Sound Techs: Dianna Silvers, Justin Quick, Phyllis McBrayer
 Communion Preparers: Carol Hedrick | Nursery Attendants: Jakaila Rolph, Jessika Blaser

Attendance

Date	Sunday School	Worship
July 29	No Sunday School	93
August 5	No Sunday School	55
August 12	2 77 attended concert	49
August 19	Life Group—8 Elementary—6	Officers—2 Total—16

Birthdays

02 Rebecca Heckadon
05 Matthew Silvers
09 Nancy Simpson
13 Frosti Tiona
18 Carol Hedrick
20 Patsy Lodge
21 Michael Wood
25 Greg Barimus
26 Ellen Brinyark
28 Danielle Rolph
29 Eula Ghere
29 McKayla Hines

Anniversaries

01 Larry & Denise Burch
04 Steve & Carol Hedrick
09 Fred & Mary Haworth

Budget

July Income
\$19,488.66

July Expenses
\$10,231.82

Year-to-date Income
\$121,338.57

Year-to-date Expenses
\$107,171.29

You may view a complete financial report in the church office.

Important Dates

9/6—PDO Starts
9/9—Baptism Alanna Lawson
9/12—Youth Group Starts
9/16—Elder Meeting
9/16—Board Meeting
9/22—Clean Up Day

September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:20 Prayer 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	3 Labor Day	4 4:30 p.m. Personnel meeting	5 7 p.m. Choir Practice	6 PDO Starts	7	8
9 9:20 Prayer 9:30 Worship + Baptism 10:45 Sunday School	10	11	12 6-7 p.m. Youth Group 7 p.m. Choir Practice	13	14	15
16 9:20 Prayer 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 5 p.m. Elders Meeting 6 p.m. Board Meeting	17	18 5:30-6:00 p.m. Community Café	19 6-7 p.m. Youth Group 7 p.m. Choir Practice	20	21	22 10:00 a.m. Clean Up Day
23 9:20 Prayer 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	24	25	26 6-7 p.m. Youth Group 7 p.m. Choir Practice	27	28	29
30 9:20 Prayer 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School						



KIDS—YOU ARE INVITED!!!

Youth Group starts September 12th. It will be held on each Wednesday from 6 pm to 7 pm. Kids in grades 3—12 are welcome to come!

Enjoy Bible study, time with friends, great snacks, fun games, and parties. Don't miss out on the all the great times!

Bring your friends!



Arleta Daniel, Aimee Daniel Breiner, Bob Johnson II, Bob Johnson III, Carl Shubert, Deloris Baldwin, Dennis Shannon, Doncella Liggins, Emily Robinson, Galen Robertson, Isabella Thrurlow, Jack Bearce, Jerry Hertzog, Jill Tiona, June Combs, Kay Haile, Kelly Phillips, Katie Boyd, Lona Grosshart, Louise Nichols, Mark Lovelace, Natasha Chamberlin, Paul Miller, Rachel Bittencourt, Rhonda Yarick, Sharon Everett, Sue Ann Steele, Verna Kooker, Virginia Sieleman, Family of Billie Reid

2018 Polar Blast (Where Jesus' Love is Cool) VBS Report & Thank You

We had a total of 35 kids that attended VBS this year with 27 helpers/staff/leaders. For our service project we collected lots of school supplies to donate to WCMCAA to distribute locally as well \$131.20 was collected during offering time to buy additional school supplies.

I want to give a BIG thank you to the FCC congregation for all their support and donations that made the 2018 VBS a big success. A special thank you to Phyllis McBrayer for all the energy and excitement she brings to the music portion of VBS. Thank you to Beth Ann Davis for the advertising and all the never-ending paperwork needed before and during VBS. Thanks also to all the staff/leaders of: Crafts- Kathy Bunch, Jakaila Rolph, Jessika Blaser, and Bethany Vandenburg; , Bible Adventures-Rev. Sharla Hulsey; Kitchen Crew-Judy Taylor and Jennifer Schmehl; Games-Diana Rich and Lyssa Lile; Registration table- Candi Agnew and Carol Hedrick; Nursery- Debbie Cole + Gabby, Hilari, and Bethanie; Soundboard-Dianna Silvers; All Crew Leaders- Everett McBrayer, Dolly Studards, Chelsea McConkay, Carol Lewis, Mike Studards, Dorothy Carter and Krista Treat; and a special guest on Thursday evening was Derek Lile.

Thanks to All and May God Bless You,

Carol Roberts, 2018 VBS Director

Church Clean Up Day

We would like to ask all willing & able people to show up on Saturday, September 22, at 10:00 a.m. to help clean up the Church. A group will be going through the church and taking inventory of items that will be available for you to take home prior to the 22nd. Any items left will be removed from the Church during clean up day.

Board Minutes

August 19, 2018

Board members present: Deacons- Everett McBrayer, Chuck Lewis, Don Malan, Judy Colburn, Carol Lewis, Carol Roberts, and Derek Lile. Elders- Phyllis McBrayer, Shawn Quick, Dolly Studards, and John Daniel. Others present: Rev. Sharla Hulsey and Diana Rich.

Chuck Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM. Rev. Sharla Hulsey opened with prayer.

The minutes of the 07-15-18 regular meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved as presented on motion of Judy Colburn and second by and Shawn Quick.

The minutes of the special board meeting on 07-22-18 were approved on motion of Carol Lewis and second by John Daniel.

Financial Reports: The July financial reports (Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss) were reviewed through July 31, 2018. John Daniel explained the new look of the reports and offered to send a more detailed report to board members and department chairs if they so desire. There was some discussion about several line items. The July financial report was approved by motion of Phyllis McBrayer and second by Dolly Studards. Full reports are available in the church office.

On motion of Shawn Quick and second by Carol Roberts, it was approved to remove the line item of "Fund - Transportation" under the category of Long Term Liabilities-Restricted Funds.

Minister Report: Rev. Hulsey presented her monthly report. A full report is available in the church office.

Old Business

Church Security: This will most likely be scheduled sometime in September.

Enhance current hearing devices: (Hancock Memorial) : Justin Quick was not present to review information tonight. We hope to have an updated report at the September meeting.

Insurance Expense: Nothing to discuss tonight. We hope to have information next month.

Web site for FCC: With the hiring of a new FCC secretary, the responsibility of this function has been transitioned to that position. Devon Copsey prepared a report on "Web Site Options" for review. After review of the cost, pros and cons, and discussion on the options, it was approved to go with WordPress Self Hosted option on motion by Carol Lewis and second by Phyllis McBrayer.

Clean-up Day: The date has been set for Saturday, September 22, 2018 at 10:00. There will be meeting of the committee, chaired by Carol Lewis, on Saturday September 8th at 10:00. The primary purpose of this meeting will be to make a list of larger items that might be removed.

Handicap parking signs: Chuck Lewis reported that signs have been received and placed. He reported one will be moved to a location to better inform the public of this access point.

FCC Facebook page: Devon Copsey has obtained access and now has the current FCC face book page functional. Persons with access to post on this are: Rev. Hulsey, Devon Copsey, & Alan Munday.

Department Planning: Departments planning was started at a meeting held 08-13-18. Everyone was reminded that plans for program activity for the next fiscal year along with proposed budget to the board at the September board meeting and given to the Stewardship committee. (Page 8 of the FCC Bylaws).

Nominating Committee: This committee will have a full report at the September board meeting.

Board Minutes—Continued

Budget for 2019: Shawn Quick reported he has started this process and will continue until all departments have given him their proposed budget for 2019. This is to be presented to the board at the October board meeting. (page 8 of the FCC Bylaws)

Weddings: The Property Committee met, and several changes are being made to the rules and the wording on the contract. This should be available at the September board meeting.

Church Directory: A packet has been received from Life Touch. The committee will review this information in the very near future. Dates have been set for pictures at FCC to be taken October 29th and 30th.

Bequests: The checks from the Theresa Conner estate were deposited to the money market account as the estate wanted to get the account closed as soon as possible. A breakdown of the disposition of all moneys to FCC are available on the July financial reports.

\$6,270.39 was bequeathed to the "Roy's Angels" fund. It has been requested by the coordinator of that fund, that this entire amount be sent to the FCC Endowment fund. This was approved on motion of Shawn Quick and seconded by Phyllis McBrayer.

Shawn Quick, Outreach Chair, requested that the bequest of \$5,000 to that department be distributed as follows: \$2,000 to the Southwest Area Office, \$1,500 to the FCC PDO, \$500 to the Butler Ministerial Alliance, and \$1,000 to Week of Compassion. After discussion, this was approved on motion of Shawn Quick and second by Dolly Studards.

New Business:

Auto Pay: Judy Colburn has set up to have the City of Butler, and the Liberty Gas Company bills auto pay.

Levelized Billing: Judy Colburn obtained details and approximate payment amounts from the City of Butler and the Liberty Gas Co. Amounts would be approximately \$678 for gas usage and approximately \$414 for the city utilities. This would eliminate the very large seasonal monthly bills and make monthly spending more consistent. It was approved for Judy Colburn to set this up with both companies on motion of Shawn Quick and second by Carol Lewis.

Debit Card vs. Credit card: Judy Colburn noted that a debit card is in the office with the retired secretary's name. She inquired if a new one should be issued; but noted that only the names of the persons authorized to sign checks can have a debit card. After much discussion about who could/should have a debit card, it was requested that none be issues at this time and Judy Colburn will check the possibility of getting a credit card for office use.

Committee Reports

Worship: Phyllis McBrayer reported the Community Café is here August 21. She also stated the retirement event for Billie Bopp was very nice, the concert last week was well attended, Old Settler's Day will be August 22.

Christian Ed- VBS: Carol Roberts gave a report on the 2018 VBS. 35 kids registered, 27 helpers, \$131.20 collected and given to West Central along with all the school supplies donated.

There is some discussion about a women's group being started again.

Closing Prayer: Phyllis McBrayer closed the meeting with prayer.

Adjournment: With no further business brought to the board, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Submitted by: Carol Roberts, Secretary

Upcoming Sermons

September 2

Message: "Flashlights"

Scripture: Psalm 119:105-112

Song: "Thy Word"

What I was thinking: Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the entire Bible. It repetitively lifts up the wisdom we gain as we make God's Word our guide. As we prepare to begin a new year of the Narrative Lectionary, let's spend a moment considering the value of our Scriptures.

September 9

Message: "Mud. Mud Everywhere."

Scripture: Genesis 6:5-22; 8:6-12; 9:8-17

What I was thinking: The first year of the Narrative Lectionary begins not with creation but with the stories of Noah and the Flood. Apart from a cute little kid's toy, we don't really know what to do with this story nowadays. We aren't thrilled with the idea of God wiping out the whole world except for one family and few animals who managed to take refuge in a impossibly huge boat. Where is the truth of the story for use today?

September 16

Message: "There's a surprise after the closing credits."

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-9

What I was thinking: The story of Abraham's call to pick up and leave his home and extended family is a story of life and possibility emerging from what looks like a dead end. In a way, it's Gospel. This Sunday we will also begin a yearlong look at the concepts of stewardship and generosity.

September 23

Message: "All Alone and Blue"

Scripture: Genesis 39:1-23

What I was thinking: Today we would call what happened to Joseph an extreme case of sexual harassment. Yet through trouble, lies, injustice, and imprisonment, God remained with Joseph. Does the same happen in our own lives?

September 30

Message: "Hush"

Scripture: Exodus 14:1-31

What I was thinking: Many Cristian Interpretations of this story begin and end with the question of whether the actual Red Sea could actually have been parted to allow Israel to cross on dry land. I'd argue that such interpretations miss the point of the story entirely.

Like The New Look?

The monthly newsletter has received a new look. What do you think? Let us know by emailing Devon at fristccbutler@embarqmail.com or giving her a call at 660-679-3006.

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Return Service Requested

The Messenger

