

First Christian Church

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Rev. John W. Shearer, Senior Minister
Betty Shearer, Organist/ Choir Director
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Sara Caldwell, Moderator of Congregation
Rev. Dr. Nadine Burton, Executive Pastor



First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Jackson, MS



The Christian Caller

June 2017

The Power of Love

The Sunday School class of FCC will begin a 12 week study of 1 Corinthians 13 entitled The Power of Love by Dr. David Jeremiah. The video and study guide book begins on June 4th at 9:30 am in the Sunday School room.

If you have never attended Sunday School this would be the perfect starting place as this chapter we will be studying is called the Love chapter of the Bible.

Teachers are Sara Caldwell, Barbara Price and Hillory Wright.

Out of the Office

Andrea Sabillon will be out of the office during the weeks of June 7 and 14. If you are needing assistance during that time please contact the Pastor on his cell phone 601-608-8971.

June, July & August Fellowship Lunch

For the months of June, July and August we are asking members to bring cold picnic style food to our fellowship lunch. Consider bringing sandwiches, salads, watermelon, ice cream, nothing needing to be warmed. We will not be turning on the kitchen ovens during those months to warm up food. This will help all of our wonderful kitchen ladies stay cool during the summer as they prepare the fellowship meal.

Global Mission Concern for June

Iraq

Since the middle of 2014 Islamic State (IS) jihadists have advanced rapidly across Iraq, expelling Christians from their homes, and seizing their properties and businesses. The group's behavior is brutal. The family of a kidnapped church leader, for example, managed to find money to pay the ransom, but just hours later, he was murdered and his body cut up. Pieces of him were sent in a box to the family. Tens of thousands of Christians in northern Iraq fled their homes with only the clothes on their backs, seeking refuge in the semi-autonomous region of Iraqi Kurdistan, where they continue to live as displaced people. Even in Baghdad, almost 70% of Christian homes have been illegally expropriated, their title deed documents falsified and given to other Iraqi citizens. Many believers have been abducted and killed. The rise of IS is only the latest threat to Christians who have suffered numerous attacks since the Gulf War in 1990. Today there are fewer than 300,000 Christians remaining in the country. In its quest to create an Islamic caliphate in the region, IS militants have turned churches into mosques, stripping them of crosses, and hoisting jihadi flags over their domes. They have taken sledgehammers to Christian graves in Mosul, lifting out the crosses engraved on headstones. In late 2014, IS issued a document standardizing the prices at which they would sell Christian and Yazidi women and children who had been captured. Pray for Iraq's displaced Christian community, struggling to survive poverty and living under a cloud of terror. Pray that the Lord will comfort those who have lost loved ones in attacks, and that He will provide for those who have lost their breadwinner. Ask for the safe release of the women and children who have been made slaves for jihadists. Pray that many IS militants will come to know the Lord and that there will be an end to the group's violence against Christians and all Iraqi people.



Thinking of a song? How about this one?...

“June is bustin’ out all over!”...and how welcome it is! But doesn’t it seem like “time keeps on slippin’, slippin’, slippin’ into the future?”

We say good-bye to May, which brought lovely flowers, some treacherous tornadoes, and beautiful Mother’s Day celebration, though poignant, happy or sad. If you were at First Christian Church, Jackson, you received a rose and read a tribute in the bulletin:

“Mother, the dearest treasure, how can I measure your worth?
Mother, I cannot measure the dearest treasure on earth!”

June will bring surprises of its own but also the wonderful opportunity to honor our Dads. So here’s a two liner!

“O Father, my Father, so noble and true.
Today and forever my heart honors you.”
- BCS

And, of course, we will sing “Faith of Our Fathers”. Although many Dads are a blessing in many notable ways for which we are thankful, we are most deeply grateful for our fathers of faith who were, examples of trusting God. If you did not experience an earthly father’s love and guidance, that is a grief. Your Heavenly Father beckons with comfort and peace...and joy.

Blessings,
Betty

Congregation Corner

God’s Wisdom

One of the greatest and most precious gifts that God offers us is His wisdom. Wisdom is given freely to those who place their full trust in Him and ask for His wisdom. Knowing and studying God’s word in scripture is fundamental, but it is in those situations in which we need guidance, comfort and encouragement that the Holy Spirit provides the guidance to finding and understanding God’s wisdom through those scriptures so that we can live the teachings of Christ.

Several scriptures refer directly to God’s wisdom.

Proverbs 9:10 tells us “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.”

Ecclesiastes 8:1 says “Wisdom makes one’s face shine.”

Wherever you are in life a turning point is just ahead. Whether you approach it on impulse or with wisdom is up to you. Remember, growing in God’s wisdom means growing in love, patience, grace and acceptance and in living out all the gifts of the spirit in your life. And it is especially important that a wise person passes on that wisdom – not only in words, but in deeds.

I pray for you the same blessing that Paul sent the Colossians in Colossians 3:16, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” But never forget Paul’s warning to the Corinthians in Chapter 13. Regardless of how much wisdom you acquire, without love, you have nothing. Practice love to all, with God’s wisdom.

- Barbara Price

Sunday School Teachers

June

- 4th Hillory Wright
- 11th Barbara Price
- 18th Sara Caldwell
- 25th Hillory Wright

Elders Serving for June

- 4th Lector/Offertory
Sara Caldwell
Communion/Greeter
Floyd Mobley
- 11th Lector/Offertory
Sara Caldwell
Communion/Greeter
Floyd Mobley
- 18th Lector/Offertory
Floyd Mobley
Communion/Greeter
Sara Caldwell
- 25th Lector/Offertory
Floyd Mobley
Communion/Greeter
Sara Caldwell

Schools are out and summer travels are upon us. We ended the month of May with the Sermon Series entitled "The Kingdom of God". It was more interesting to prepare it than it was to preach it. I can't explain why, but it just was.

The Sunday School class will begin a 12 week study entitled The Power of Love, a book study of 1 Corinthians 13, more commonly called the "Love chapter" of the Bible. This material is from the writings of Dr. David Jeremiah, senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church of San Diego, California. If you would like to participate in this great study, feel free to come at 9:30 am each Sunday—you will be welcome.

A lot happened at FCC this May. Hillory and Janet Wright were called to Kentucky where his brother had open heart surgery. They made a hasty trip covered by our prayers. Phyllis Brownlee has spent the month in therapy at Manhattan, but hopes to be back at Chateau Ridgeland soon.

We sent a dozen red roses to Pat Perry for Mother's Day. All ladies in church on Mother's Day received some roses. Mother's Day was special in many ways. This Mother's Day, Marlene Druery re-joined our church, after being so active from her days downtown and later here on Briarwood Drive.

Sandra Mills, wife of former pastor Paul Mills passed during the month. Burial was in Clinton with Pastor John Holifield of Covenant Church presiding. Floyd and I attended the funeral, seeing the Banes and Gail Carter there was comforting.

Andrea will be vacationing in Minnesota from June 2-19. We wish them well in the travels and their time with family there.

Hopefully by the time you get the Caller all repairs on the administration building will be completed.

Debbie Dobbins will fill in for me on Sunday June 4th as I will be away at the Disciples Men's Retreat.

Love and Prayers,

Pastor John