

Notes from the Board

The Church Board met March 5 with 16 directors present. Functional Committee reports were approved as read.

Plans to make the choir loft more flexible for use by other groups—children’s choirs, praise band, skits, programs, etc.— were discussed by the board. In order to accomplish this, it is necessary to replace the permanent seating with movable chairs. Tony Bryson made a motion to replace the theater seating with movable chairs. Bill Tuggle seconded. Motion carried. A committee made up of two members of the the Property Committee, two choir members and one member of the Worship Committee will select chairs and will return to the board with their suggestions at the April Board meeting.

Education: Discussed the need for a new Sunday School class for the 20 to 30 age group. The committee will investigate this further and look forward to starting the class in the fall.

Evangelism: Committee is planning a “Come & See” lunch to be held on March 25.

Membership: Photographs for a new directory will be taken on June 14, 15 & 16. The committee will hold an Easter Breakfast to be served at 9:00 a.m. Easter Sunday.

Outreach: Wk of Compassion offering total was \$1,257. This was up \$395 from last year. Easter offering promotion will be April 1. Offering will be received on Easter Sunday. The committee will provide food baskets for up to seven families for Easter at a cost of \$50 each.

Property: The committee approved updating church’s phone system and purchasing external back up and ups for the office computer.

Stewardship: The annual Stewardship Campaign will begin April 9; Commitment Sunday will be May 6.

Worship: A Ministerial Alliance sponsored Good Friday service will be held in our sanctuary on Friday, April 6.

Youth Activities: Made plans for a Family Movie Night on April 14th to watch the movie *Facing the Giants*. Youth Sunday & Banquet

The Christian Contact

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Children thru 6th Grade Bowling Trip this Sunday

Children up thru 6th grade will go bowling Sunday, March 11, 1:30 p.m. Children 3rd grade and younger must be accompanied by an adult. We will leave the church promptly at 1:30 and go to Mexico Lanes. Cost is \$5.50 for two games (shoes included). Children may bring money for snacks if they want. We should return to the church around 4:00 p.m.

Theater seats to be given away

If anyone is interested in any of the old theater seats, please contact the church office. They will be given away and we would like any members of the congregation who are interested to have first opportunity.

Cherub Choir to sing at 10:40 Worship this Sunday

The Cherub Choir, made up of children through 2nd grade, will sing this Sunday, March 11 at the 1040 Worship Service. This choir is led by Connie Herteen with Jessica Wheeler and Janee Hinds helping out.

Sunday School recognition to begin with younger classes on March 11

This Sunday, March 11 we will recognize the younger children’s Sunday School classes from the 2, 3 & 4 year olds through 4th grade. Classes will be recognized at both the 8:15 and 10:40 worship services. March 18 we will recognize the 5th grade through high school classes and on the 25th we will recognize the adult classes.

Trip to Holocaust Museum has been rescheduled

A trip for high school juniors and seniors to visit the Holocaust Museum in St. Louis has been changed from its original date. The trip will now take place on Sunday, May 6th.

Sign up for Chain of Prayer

Please sign up as soon as possible for the Chain of Prayer. The sign up sheet has been placed in the back of the sanctuary. People are also needed to sign up for two-hour time periods to serve as host/hostess.

Greetings from the Pastor

Perhaps you've heard the modern expression, "you are what you eat." There is indeed some truth in that because aspects our body composition and even proper body functioning depends on what we eat. Perhaps you've heard the ancient expression, "you become in character what you do repeatedly." Some guy named Aristotle said that, and there is a lot of truth in this. We develop moral character by disciplining ourselves to behave in moral ways. As time passes, and as we maintain discipline, such behavior becomes natural for us and a moral character has been formed.

I believe this same thing is true in our spiritual lives. We might modify Aristotle's expression for our own purposes and say something like, "we become spiritually what we do repeatedly." We grow spiritually by disciplining ourselves to participate in spiritual disciplines. It would be incorrect to assume that our spiritual natures "just develop" on their own without any attention on our part. Certainly (to use a Pauline metaphor), God has planted the seed, but we must water it and nurture it in order that it might be brought to fullest flower. Developing our spiritual nature takes the same kind of disciplined practice as the development of our moral character. But as Amy Johns notes in her article, sometimes we fail at maintaining discipline. Sometimes we fail to practice those things which build us up.

During Lent, when we are called to serious self reflection and introspection, taking note of such failures can be especially important. They remind us that we're not perfect. They remind us that we do fail ourselves, fail others and fail God. This reminds us that we cannot save ourselves after all, and we stand in need of God's forgiveness and salvation through God's grace. Coming to a fresh understanding of this during Lent helps us to be appropriately appreciative when we celebrate their actualization on Easter morning.

Joe

From the Choir Director

There are a multitude of things happening in the musical life of FCC! We have had special preludes, the Chancel Choir is learning the Easter cantata, we have musicians perfecting solo music, the Cherub and Junior choirs are getting ready to sing, and the Praise Band has been able to play two weeks in a row! So what does all this mean? Practice, practice, and more practice.

Practicing is a large part of our lives, even those not involved in music. Teachers assign homework to reinforce learning. We "practice" for big events - weddings, graduations, getting our driver's license. We try out new recipes before we take them to a dinner (at least those of us who aren't blessed in the cooking department do!). This "practicing" signifies a commitment - a commitment to learning, to marriage, to participating in the church.

Faith should be something that we "practice" as well. Spending time with God on a daily basis in scripture or prayer takes discipline and commitment. There are times I am more disciplined than others and I am able to go for several months in this manner. Other times, I fall short of my expectations for myself as well as God's desires for me. At one point in my studies, I expressed to my voice teacher that I was discouraged with my lack of progress and maybe I should just quit singing altogether and pursue something else. Her response was that I would have days like that (or months) and I should just "keep on keeping on" - continue practicing, continue being committed to my singing, and eventually it would become easier and I would accomplish some of the techniques I was trying to master. She was right. I have often looked back on that advice and felt it could be applied to many areas of my life. Now, when I fail to spend time with God, instead of feeling like I should give up completely, I know that with God's grace and forgiveness I can keep moving forward and strive to do better. I simply have to keep practicing!

Amy

Joys and Concerns

MYRTLE RITCHIE, GERALD AYER and IDA MOORE have all been dismissed from the hospital.

KATHY BERCK & SARAH RUBY are both patients at Boone Hosp.

We extend Christian sympathy to *MYRTLE RITCHIE* on the death of her sister, Darlene Bohrer on Feb. 24 in Brookfield, Mo. Graveside services were held Feb. 28 at Winn, Mo.

Prayer list: Please add Della Harvey (Mildred Harvey's daughter-in-law) to your prayer list. She is starting chemotherapy for lung cancer.

Women's Fellowship serves the church, the local community and the work of the broader church

Recent service projects of the Women's Fellowship demonstrate the work of this group of women who meet in small groups monthly and as a General Fellowship quarterly.

In January they sponsored a blanket offering which resulted in \$665 being sent to Church World Service. At their last meeting the women approved giving \$1,114 toward the purchase of the sanctuary carpet, \$1,000 to the Pew Cushion Fund and \$200 to help provide Workcamp scholarships. Each month the three fellowship groups make a donation to a different local or area program that serves people in need, such as Rainbow House, Handi-shop, Coyote Hill, etc. Of course, one of the services most appreciated by the church family is the meals served to families who have lost a loved one.

If you are looking for a way to respond to the call to serve others and become more involved in your church family, consider joining one of the three fellowship groups. Watch the church activities calendar for meeting time and place or call the church office for more information.

Serving Sunday

8:15 a.m. Worship Service

ELDER: Nancy Buie
DIACONATE: Bartee, Peck, Bryson, Yager
Werkmeister, England
GREETERS: Phil & Jana Hoffman, M. Troyer
WORSHIP LEADER: Dayton Shepherd
A/V OPERATOR: Greg & Tracy Davenport

10:40 a.m. Worship Service

ELDERS: S. Burnett & R. Vance
DIACONATE: Gramke, Torreysons, Siglers
Kottwitz, Mechlin
WORSHIP LEADER: Krystal Torreyson
GREETERS: Torreysons and Boswell
SCRIPTURE: Psalm 63:1-8; Luke 13:1-9
SERMON: "Reward and Penalty"
COMM. PREP: Forsee, Kaiser, Gramke
A/V OPERATORS: Jordan Wheeler & J. Breedlove
ELEVATOR ATT. Dale Davidson
ELDERS ON CALL: Joe Vance & Mary Buck

Attendance last Sunday

Sunday School:	103
8:15 Worship:	100
10:40 Worship:	111

Financial report

Giving last Sunday	\$ 6,733.50
Other inc.	500.00
Receipts to date	\$ 149,475.96
Disbursements	\$ 144,743.27

CHURCH ACTIVITIES NEXT WEEK

Sunday, March 11 Usual Sunday morning services
9:00 a.m. Cherub Choir practice
9:30 a.m. Pastor's Class for H.S. & adults (Balcony)
1:30 p.m. Children thru 6th Grade Bowling Trip
4:00 p.m. Junior Choir Practice
5:00 p.m. 4th - 8th Pastor's Class (F.H.)
6:00 p.m. 7th & 8th Youth Meeting
8:00 p.m. High School Youth Meeting

Wednesday, March 14

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice
7:30 p.m. Cantata Practice

Thursday, March 15

1:00 p.m. Sarah Group Mtg. (F.H.)

Friday, March 16

6:30 p.m. Chi Rho Retreat in Columbia

Sunday, March 18

Usual Sunday morning services
4:00 p.m. Junior Choir Practice
5:00 p.m. Pastor's Class
6:00 p.m. 7th & 8th Youth Meeting
8:00 p.m. High School Youth Meeting