

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)

February 2023

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We have been in the season of Epiphany since January the 6th. Epiphany is about the cosmic event of God coming to earth as a person and the wonder of the signs and miracles that pointed towards his birth through the ages. It is initially signaled with the celebration by the magi who, through prophecy and study, were led by a star to Jesus in Bethlehem. We ask ourselves at this time “how does God come to us?” “How does God lead us?” We may also say “how do we see God?” or experience him not only through scripture and prophecy but in the miraculous things. This may happen in our living or that we see around us. As we are living every day in his world as His creation do we see his hand at work?

We have a sign in our home that says “God does not cause the storm to pass but teaches us to dance in the rain”. Since we have three more weeks in Epiphany, I would ask you to observe, look, and see how God is at work around you and those you love. Do you see your prayers answered or are they heard by others and by God? Do you find the fellowship of the church and the presence of the Holy Spirit giving you comfort and peace? In the midst of trials do you look deep down in yourself and see that God is with you? How is God teaching you to dance in the rain?

Certainly not the least of our celebrations and festivities comes after epiphany. The holy season of Lent will start on Ash Wednesday February 22. Now that we have seen the signs of God with us, Emmanuel, we are driven to repent. Lent is about introspection and repentance. Thinking ourselves not worthy of God to dwell with us, he does anyway and he becomes flesh and blood and spirit. With a gift like that, what else can we do but be driven to repentance and again return to God, if we have strayed, and find fellowship, communion, and relationship with him and within His bride of Christ, the church and the fellowship that we have as believers.

Now knowing God is really with us, for Lent we take into account what we have done and what we have left undone. Joel 2; 12 puts it this way when he says “yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your hearts, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding and steadfast love, and relents from punishing.” Now as we approach the season of Easter, which is so holy in the eyes of the church, we are called to repent and return to the Lord. We renew our relationship with him as individuals and as a community, remembering what He has done as we live in His creation every day!

Pastor’s February Office Days: 7,8,14,15,21,22,28



²¹ He will yet fill your mouth with laughter, and your lips with shouting. Job 8:21



Why did Adam and Eve do math every day?

They were told to be fruitful and multiply.



Inspirational Quotes

TODAY
WILL NEVER COME AGAIN.

Be a blessing.

Be a friend.

Encourage someone.

Take Time To Care.

**Let your words heal,
and not wound.**

"God never said that the journey would be easy, but He did say that the arrival would be worthwhile" -
Max Lucado

"If you can't fly, then run, If you can't run, then walk, If you can't walk, then crawl, but whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward." - [Martin Luther King Jr.](#)



BOOK CLUB

In February we will be reading “Judah's Wife” by Angela Hunt. Leah is a very young woman of 14 years old. She's had a rough life with an abusive father and a weak mother. But she meets Judah, who stands up for her and her friend. Her mother wants her married to get her to safety from her father. So Judah and Leah meet several more times and finally decide to get married. Leah feels Judah is a strong, gentle man and only wants peace in her life. But the nation Judah was named for has been conquered by a cruel king, who says all Jews must conform to Syrian law or risk death. Judah's father takes his whole family away resisting the decree, which ignites a war that ends in his death, so Judah is now in charge of his people. Leah wants nothing but peace. This is the story of the Maccabees told through Leah's eyes, who learns that love requires courage and sacrifice.

In March we will read “And The Shofar Blew” by Francine Rivers. This is the story of Paul and Eunice Hudson. He seemed like the perfect pastor to lead Centerville Christian Church. She seemed like the perfect pastor's wife. All is not as it seems. He packs up his wife and son Tim and they move across the country to do the Lord's work. He was good at his job, turning the church around and making it successful. But he didn't understand his quiet wife. She knows something isn't right and hasn't been for a long time. She goes to God in prayer asking for help as her heart is breaking. This is a story about relationships, the church and God's call on people's lives.

We meet once a month, on the first Monday at 1:30 pm. Please read the entire book before you come and be prepared to ask questions for all of us to answer. We are all leading the book from now on, and all will participate as much as we can. Please order your book from Amazon, or wherever you buy your books.

Our next meeting is Monday, Feb. 6th at 1:30 pm in the church library.

Here are our next books coming up:

Feb. 6th, “Judah's Wife” by Angela Hunt

Mar. 6th, “And The Shofar Blew” by Francine Rivers

Apr. 3rd, “Egypt's Sister” by Angela Hunt

Submitted by Jaquae L. Sands, 382-3428



CHOIR NEWS

(February 2023)

Already a month has gone by in 2023. I'm so thankful for my choir members because they have been working really hard to bring you beautiful music each week. We have a few more fun and well known anthems and then Lent will be upon us and the music and mood will change. Make sure you come and bring a friend to church so you don't miss anything!!! See you on Sunday!

Keep in Tune,
Jaquae

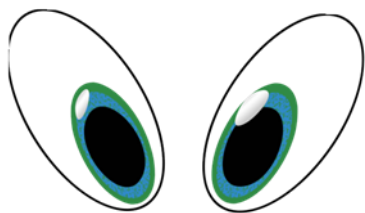


A JOYFUL NOISE

(February 2023)

For now, the chimes are on hold. We need more people so if you're thinking about joining us, please give me a call. I'd love to hear from you! They say all good things are worth waiting for!

For Whom the Bell Tolls,
Jaquae



Are you keeping your eyes open for unsung heroes in our church? Please submit someone's name that should be recognized for the little things that are done for the church.



God gave us many promises: He will always love us; he will take care of us; he will meet all our needs; he will never forsake us; and many, many more. We have made promises to ourselves; namely, New Year's Resolutions. Now that we are already in the second month of the New Year, one might ask, "How many pounds have you lost? How many steps did you take today? Did you eat all your vegetables? What about your commitments to the church? Your family? Your neighbors? Perhaps we should revisit our New Year's Resolutions.

One promise might be to spend more time with the Bible. Rick Broadway has consented to lead our Sunday School class while Ron Colwell is out. (Did you remember that Liz's mother recently died? Did you send a note? Were you able to have a word with Sue now that she is well enough to come back to church?)

We also need to greet the newest member of our congregation, Carol Faulconer. Be sure to say "Hello" and make her feel welcome. Perhaps we should also make sure our snowbirds know how much we appreciate their contributions to our family. They are very active - you'll notice them when we have our next Fellowship Meal. Our February meal will be on the 19th and showcase "Casseroles." See how creative you can be.

Christmas is only a memory now, but we are already planning for the Shoebox Mission. Check to see what is suggested for our boxes and remember that money is needed, as well. Just mark your contribution "Shoebox," and it will go towards sending the gifts next November.

Now is the time for me to take some of the above suggestions and get busy. Blessings to each and every one.

Ann

Rich's Corner

Eleven men gathered in the kitchen during our January meeting to once again enjoy Pastor Alan's blueberry pancakes. The main order of business was to lay plans to put lights on the new sign, and to discuss plans for another supper in March.

We also revealed who had been our 2022 Secret Prayer Partners and to draw names for 2023. Please get in touch with your Prayer Pal anonymously and let them know that you will be praying for them during the coming year.

Our next meeting will be February 14th at 9:00AM. in the church kitchen. Be on the lookout for a surprise secret chef.

The nominating committee is in the process of securing a slate of officers for the coming year. If you are asked to serve, please prayerfully consider stepping up and be a part of the ongoing work of the church.

Kudos to Pastor Alan who has figured out how to hook up a second television set in the sanctuary to project the words to the hymns, responsive readings and announcements. for the people sitting on the east side of the sanctuary. We also want to thank his wife, Kathy for the illustrations that she chooses for the slides.

It has been said that the beatitudes are good attitudes to be in!



Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they
will be filled.*

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

*Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

Matthew 5:3-10 NIV

