

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)

June, 2022

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We are at the end of Eastertide. Eastertide is a period of 50 days beginning at sundown on the eve of Easter Sunday and lasting six more Sundays. It is one of the most holy times of the liturgical year, or at least it should be. This is the time when we go from seeing the disciples, hold up in various rooms and houses for fear of the Jews, to apostles of Jesus discovering their faith. We see that overwhelming fear and hesitation grow into confidence and conviction when they realize that the hope Jesus had taught them was transformed from death to life.

Eastertide can be seen as a struggle in doubt to be transformed by the renewing not only of our minds but our spirits and hearts to the witnesses of the resurrection. Sometimes, and maybe many times, we traverse through experiences of doubt. That's not all bad as it facilitates our perspective to renew the vigor of our faith. Like Jesus literally going through the dark tomb to find light at the end, we figuratively go through those darker times in our life to find light and truth and faith within ourselves, within one another, and within the world.

Now we will come to Pentecost. It is the longest season of the church year and the purpose of it is the illumination of the ministry of God's people to go throughout the earth and make disciples. I have not studied for sure if the church grew faster during this time than any other time in history, but I would not be a bit surprised especially when you consider the percentage of people on earth at that time. It was akin to a wildfire spreading through the Roman Empire to eventually become the state religion. This was the time when many people, especially gentiles, were added to the community of faith throughout not only the Roman world but the entire world. Although we have only legends, they do report that the apostles spread as far as India to North Africa to Parts of England. That is a huge expansion for the church in such a short period of time.

The apostles had a story to tell to the nations, as we sing on occasion. But then so do we as disciples of this time and age. We have seen some physical growth in our congregation as several people have joined our fellowship. We rejoice in that and give to God. God has indeed sent us some people with special talents. It seems like he has looked down upon us and blessed us richly. We pray that we may be a rich blessing to both those that have worshipped with us a long time and those who have recently come to give of their time and talents in tithes.

Let us now come with the spirit of the disciples of old, develop a joy of telling our story and all that Jesus has done through our lives for us. Let us tell that story to others just as the disciples in the 1st century did. Let us never be asked "why haven't I heard the news." Let us tell the news that Jesus, who was once dead, has been raised from the dead. We are his disciples and he walks among us and lives among us with the Holy Spirit. Indeed, he has done so many great things in our lives that we can look back and say THANK YOU Lord. We can also look forward and say to our family, friends and neighbors come, come be a part of our fellowship and join in the joy that we have in our Lord and savior Jesus Christ.

Pastor's June projected days in office: 1, 7, 20, 21, 27. The Pastor will do more work from the home office during June due to both personal and spousal doctor appointments, some family commitments, and personal retreat. He will make up for it by taking unpaid vacation July 11 – 31. He can generally always be reached by phone or Email.



BOOK CLUB

For June we are reading “The Mothers And Daughters Of The Bible Speak” by Shannon Bream. This book deals with Biblical women of the Bible and shows how God's plans can turn our worlds upside down. Through these stories, the author explains the connection between faith and family. The women of the Bible weren't perfect. They were human beings like us who faltered and struggled to do their best. Come join us for this book.

In September we will be reading “Jezebel” by K. Larsen. Annabelle Fortin got herself in a lot of trouble. Forced to do community service at an assisted living facility for early onset dementia she meets Jezebel, one of the residents. This is the story that unfolds over the course of Annabelle's court ordered six month sentence. Nothing is what it seems!

We will take July and August off for the summer.

We are changing the way we do Book Club. From now on we meet once a month, on the first Monday at 3:00 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, June 6th, at 3:00 pm in the church library.

Submitted by Jaquae L. Sands, 382-3428



CHOIR NEWS June 2022

Summer is here and with it comes time for vacations. So when the choir is smaller than usual, we'll be asking the congregation to join us on the anthem. We'll be sure and choose hymns you know. So everyone gets a chance to be a choir member!!! We'll still bring you many anthems too! See you on Sunday!

Keep in Tune,
Jaquae



A JOYFUL NOISE



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



June 7th Pat Rhodes
 7th C J Wiggin
 7th Shirley Lewis
 7th Karen Lucas
 11th Lain McWilliams
 17th Marla Null
 20th Jane Walkington



June 2nd Desmond & Barbra Walker
 22nd Ron & Sue Colwell
 28th Lain & Joan McWilliams
 30th Phil & Karen Lucas
 30th Bob & Pat Rhodes



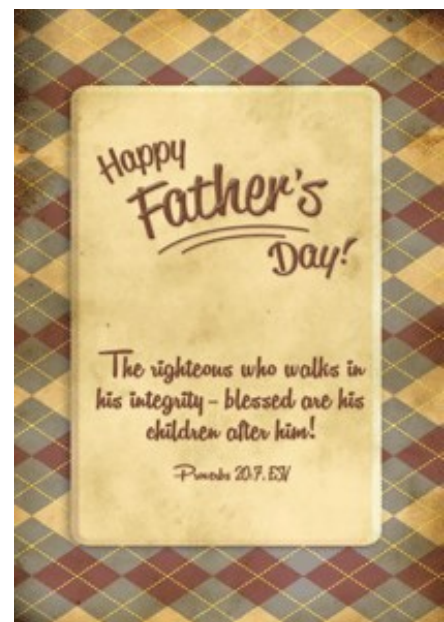
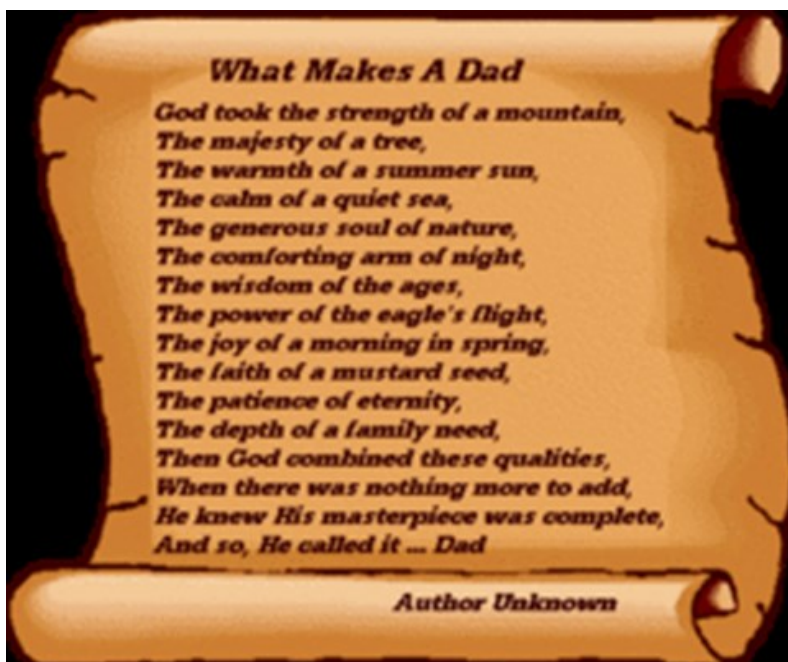
Worship/Education/Fellowship Committee

"There's a sweet, sweet, Spirit in this place, and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord." as the old hymn goes. This was evidenced by our last two Sundays: Rob Mason brought us a rousing message from John 14:23-29 and we welcomed Bob Green into our church family.

The elders brought a beautiful, meaningful message on Memorial Day Sunday. Prilli Andrews led us in the Pledges of the two flags and the Bible, and we honored our graduates. Jaquae Sands shared a memory of our beloved Anna Coley and led the choir and congregation in singing "Victory in Jesus." Roger Sands, Sue Colwell and Prilli Andrews gave "mini sermons." Unbeknownst to them, they all brought the same message "God is always with us." Thanks, Teresa, Sandi, Ron, Rich and everyone else who led us in this special service.

Kudos to Pastor Alan for seeing the potential in our pitiful family of four years ago. We were struggling with grief, disappointment, and depression. He has brought us, kicking and screaming, into the 21st century. With his leadership and guidance, we rose to fulfill the Spirit of the Lord, as evidenced by our two weeks without his physical presence. Blessings to all,

Ann





Dads and Our Memories

Through my younger years, I don't remember much about my dad ("Daddy" as I called him). He seemed obscure, someone who worked hard and long but there is one memory of him that I cherish. We did not have much in material things when we were growing up, but we did have a lot of love, and it *seemed* to me too much discipline, but nothing but the love seemed to matter in those days.

When we were very young and the day had ended and all were ready for bed, my two older brothers and I used to pile on Mama and Daddy's bed to say our prayers and Daddy would read a scripture, that is one of the most treasured memories of my life. It helped form my life pattern (though I veered from that for a time). My dad taught me that prayer at the beginning and end of the day was important because it helped us remember how we should act through the day, and it has helped me through this life.

Quotes and quips from my dad:

- If a job is worth doing, it is worth doing well.
- A job is not done, until the tools are put away.
- Be glad you do not get what you deserve because we all deserve the fires of hell, instead through Christ we have life-eternal, which is undeserved, don't ever forget that.
- Be careful of the friends you choose because you are what your friends are.
- Forgiveness is available all the time so own-up to choices you have made, even if they have been bad choices.
- You can do anything you set your mind to do if you trust in the Lord.

My dad was not perfect, and we had many differences of opinion about life and what matters, and I can still celebrate him. Even if we did not have an earthly father that we can celebrate we all have a heavenly who loves us and gave the ultimate sacrifice for us, His Son....So let's all celebrate our heavenly Father in this month of June and every day.

Pat

