

THE CALLER



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ) OWENSBORO, KY

From the Preacherman....

It happened at an Elders meeting early on a Sunday morning twenty years ago. I was the pastor of Cherry Log Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the mountains of North Georgia. Judy Hardy was the elder in charge of the short devotion and prayer at the start of the meeting. The plan had been the same for countless meetings I have attended over the years as a pastor of 5 churches. But this one was different.

Judy's prayers were always memorable, poetic, moving and personal. On this day, however, she asked permission to share a prayer a friend had brought to her attention. She pulled out a weathered photocopy and began to read. In that moment I knew, I knew, that this prayer, attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, would be with me for the rest of my days. After memorizing it, a few weeks later I pronounced the prayer as a benediction for my congregation at the conclusion of worship. And it was just right.

Benedictions are difficult. People are ready to leave, checking their watches, shuffling their feet. There are passages of Scripture to say, short prayers to memorize or perhaps something new every week. They all felt strained to me, kind of important, but really just a way to say, "That's it. We are done. See ya!" So, I kept casting about, searching for just the right thing.

And there it was: A benediction asking for God to bless us with discomfort, anger, tears and foolishness, a clarion call to go and live differently than every other way the world calls good and important. It was an entreaty to see and find God in the midst of struggle and pain and suffering, all the places that Jesus showed up to reveal divine presence in the midst of the world at its worst. It is a prayer with meat on its bones, one that will stay with you in the dark night of your own souls. It pleases me deeply to see people whispering the words as I say the prayer aloud on Sundays.

And so, now I leave it here with you, to take with you whenever you may need it....

May God bless you with Discomfort...

at Easy Answers, Half-Truths, and Superficial Relationships,
so that you may live Deep Within Your Heart.

May God bless you with Anger...

at Injustice, Oppression, and Exploitation of People,
so that you may work for Justice, Freedom, and Peace.

May God bless you with Tears...

to shed for those who suffer from Pain, Rejection, Starvation, and War,
So that You may reach out Your Hand to Comfort them
and to turn their Sorrow into Joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness...

to Believe that You can Make a Difference in this World,
and DO those things others claim cannot be Done.

Peace.... Chris

July

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 Refugee Food Pantry Men's Fellowship 6:30 am	4 HAPPY 4TH OF JULY OFFICE CLOSED!	5	6
7 Worship/Sunday School	8	9 Elders Meeting @ 5:30 p.m.	10 Men's Fellowship 6:30 am	11	12	13
14 Worship/Sunday School	15 VBS	16 VBS	17 VBS Men's Fellowship 6:30 am	18 Refugee Food Pantry 1:30 pm	19	20
21 Worship/Sunday School	22	23 Board Meeting @ 5:30 p.m.	24 Men's Fellowship 6:30 am	25	26	27
28 Worship/Sunday School	29	30				

*Men's Fellowship meets at Panera- 4600 Frederica St.

Birthdays

3 Janey Burns
4 Harroll Simon
4 Pat Cotton
8 Carolyn Watkins

9 Landry Roberts
9 Abbe Quisenberry
10 Adam Fischer
12 Hannah Webb
13 Cathy Perrin
14 Angel Evans

16 Emily Baur
16 Libby Johnson
18 Terri Bailey
18 Charles Emerson
19 Jon skillman
21 Debby Crone

21 J. Andrew Johnson
21 Jackie Maddox
22 Larry Douglas
23 Linda Jones
25 Leslie Carlisle
26 Ron Waite

27 Vicki Bellamy
29 Jim Midkiff
30 Naomi O'Hearn
31 Lenee Bowen

Anniversaries

John & Jenny Busse
Norris & Pat Cotton
Charles & Jody Emerson
Calvin & Wanda Gilbreath
Matt & Natalie Johnson
Andy & Becky Lockett
Tom & Jackie Maddox
Joey & Teresa McKinley
Kevin & Naomi O'Hearn
Steve & Susan Rice
Allen Holbrook & Forrest Roberts
Harroll & Pearl Simon
Jon & JoAnne Skillman

April Financials

Offering for the Month:	\$56,770
Other Revenue Month:	\$4,682
Total Revenue:	\$61,453
Expenses for the month	\$41,706
Year-to-Date Offering	\$169,742
YTD Other Revenue	\$12,814
YTD Revenue	\$182,556
YTD Expenses	\$166,981
Net for the year	\$15,574
Outreach:	
West Area Disciples CC	\$1,250
Disciples Mission Fund	\$3,500
HELP Office	\$0
Food Pantry	\$1,904

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH CYF

MISSION TRIP WRAP-UP

OUR CYF GROUP TRAVELED TO NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE TO VOLUNTEER AND LEARN ABOUT CITIZENS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS WITHIN THE CITY. THE GROUP SERVED ALONGSIDE TWO OTHER CHURCH YOUTH GROUPS AT THREE DIFFERENT SERVICE SITES.

SOLES4SOULS

Soles4Souls is a non-profit organization that provides shoes and clothing to people experiencing poverty and homelessness all over the world. FCC CYF sorted through boxes of brand new, donated clothing and helped unload semis of donations to be sent to various locations.

ROOM IN THE INN

This non-profit offers several services to people experiencing homelessness and addiction including temporary housing, classes and meals that the community can “purchase” with credits earned from attending classes. Room In the Inn has locations all around the US. The mission of RITI is, “To provide programs that emphasize human development and recovery through education, self-help and work, centered in community and long term support for those who call the streets of Nashville home.” The CYF served breakfast and lunch to attendees and helped sort donations.

LAUNCH PAD

Launch Pad offers temporary shelter for the homeless young adult population in Nashville. Launch Pad’s mission statement is also centered around self-affirming services for the LGBTQ+ community. FCC CYF learned about the services provided and helped sort donations.



LAUNCH PAD



SOLES4SOULS



VINE STREET CHRISTIAN CHURCH

THANK YOU

FOR YOUR DONATIONS TOWARDS OUR TRIP & YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS. WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!

Thank you 

**“THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH FOR YOUR PRAYERS, MEALS AND SUPPORT AS WE WELCOMED HOME OUR FIRST BABY GIRL. WE FEEL SO INCREDIBLY BLESSED TO HAVE A CHURCH FAMILY LIKE YOU! OUR MURRAY LEE IS THE LUCKIEST GIRL IN THE WORLD TO CALL YOU HER FAMILY, NOW, TOO.”
THANK YOU, MEAGHAN & CHRISTIAN MURPHY**

VBS

VBS will be held on July 15, 16, & 17, 4-6:30 PM. We need adults & Youth (middle school & up) to help with stations, group leaders, snack volunteers, & more! Please contact Meaghan Murphy if you are available in any capacity!



MEETINGS!

Elders Meeting: July 9 @ 5:30 p.m.
Board Meeting: July 23 @ 5:30 p.m.



We are working on getting the 2024 “Who’s What” updated! If your classroom has a copy to revise all attendees, please do so and return to FCC office!