

FCC

Be exalted, O God, above the highest heavens. May your glory shine over all the earth.
Psalm 108:5



January 2014

First Christian Church Newsletter



Serving This Month

Elders

Allen Anderson, Herb Peak

Alternates

Jack Dale, Todd Peak

Deacons/Ushers

Jon Grunstra (D/U), John Kim (D/U), Adam Barker (D), Bill Faust (D)

(An usher needs to be responsible for locking foyer door after service starts.)

Junior Deacon

Ethan Henkel

Deaconesses/Junior Deaconesses

Jean Brannon, Sharon Dorsey

If you cannot serve during your scheduled month, please contact another server to see about switching with you.

If you know of a shut-in desiring communion be taken to them, please call Judy Johnson at 276-608-2086, or Alice Legard at 276-608-2153.



Dear Friends,

Pastor and I, along with Todd and his family, want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the gift of monies from the church. What a blessing! And, so many of you sent us beautiful cards and we received other gifts of love. You are an amazing part of our hearts, always showing your love to us. We appreciate it more than you can ever know.

Kidz Zone Workers for January

K-6 (ages 6-10)

- Week 1 Teresa Barker, Ethan Henkel
- Week 2 Dottie Corey, Kari Henkel
- Week 3 Connie Branson, Morgan Henkel
- Week 4 Tammy Henkel, Grayson Peak
- Week 5 Family Worship Day



newcomer's coffee

If you have been visiting or have become a member of First Christian within the last year, this is for you!

Current members – please join us to help welcome newcomers to our congregation.

Sunday, January 12

10:15 – 10:45 am • Bethany Hall

Ev's Echo

Happy New Year

It's the time of year we reflect on the past and make those resolutions for the future. 2013 has been filled with so many things . . . fun times, memory making with my family, many many kindnesses from wonderful people, exciting times of ministry (including our mission trip to Mexico), precious messages on FaceBook from friends in my past, (messages that have reached deeply into my heart), and retirement. I could go on and on. Of course there are those times that brought great disappointment, sad goodbyes (when Chris, Tanya, Pearl and Vedder were officially in Columbia, Maryland), times of deep hurt, times of loneliness, and circumstances that were very painful.

Both sides—the good and the bad—are part of life.

God has ALWAYS proved faithful and for that I will forever praise Him. When I go before His throne I want to stand before Him with my thanks.

This Christmas I was reminded of how our lives can get. Each year we start out with everything in order, our lives are all cleaned up. I liken this to my preparations for family Christmas . . . our house in order, the gifts neatly in their place, food preparations ready, cookie trays fixed, the table set and ready for our family to gather Christmas evening. It was beautiful and I was excited when everyone arrived, the buzz of chatter ringing in my ears, and warming my heart. The little ones so excited, stockings were hung on the stairway (we don't have a fireplace) and I had a feeling wash over me that was, ahhhh, so good.



At the end of the evening the den floor was filled with torn paper, ribbon here and there, gifts everywhere (which represented the blessing of the Lord). Everyone was too tired to move, yet my awesome kids got busy and before they said their good-byes, the place where all our laughter, fun, and sharing together in giving was all straight again.

Life does that to us . . . we have it all in order, then things come along and we find ourselves a mess, so we muddle our way through, somehow get it back together and straightened up. It happens over and over but God gives us His grace, His strength, His encouragement, His hope and we find ourselves cleaned up, ready to go on for whatever is before us.

A wonderful verse was in my scripture reading today: Psalm 85:8 “Let me hear what God the Lord will speak for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints, to those who turn to Him in their hearts.” (Note: turn to Him in their hearts!)

When my life gets in a mess I can turn to the Lord and listen to what He speaks—a voice speaking peace be still. Then I pray: Create in me a clean heart, O Lord, renew a right spirit within me, cast me not away from your presence, O Lord, take not your Holy Spirit from me, restore unto me the joy of my salvation and renew a right spirit within me.

May your New Year be kept in order by continually looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of your faith!

Evelyn



January 2014



Calendar of Events for FCC

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 9:45 – Sunday School 10:50 – Worship Service 11:15 – Children’s Church <i>No evening services.</i>	6	7	8	9	10 10:00 – Meals on Wheels	11
12 9:45 – Sunday School 10:15 – Newcomers Coffee 10:50 – Worship Service 11:15 – Children’s Church <i>No evening services.</i>	13 1:00-4:00 – Food Pantry 7:00 – Board Meeting	14	15	16	17	18
19 9:45 – Sunday School 10:50 – Worship Service 11:15 – Children’s Church <i>No evening services.</i>	20	21 	22	23	24	25
26 9:45 – Sunday School 10:50 – Worship Service 11:15 – Children’s Church <i>No evening services.</i>	27	28	29	30	31	

Margie is in the church office from 8:30-12:30, Tuesday thru Thursday.

Please have items for February’s newsletter to Margie, Pastor Herb, or Judy by January 21st.

First Christian Church
PO Box 158
Bristol, VA 24202

Giving Gifts of Love

This Christmas it seems there have been special opportunities for our church to give. What a joy to watch our First Christian family reach out to others in sharing the love of Jesus through numerous gifts this Christmas. Let me list as many as I can remember: Bingo Night for our friends at Stant Hall and Jones Manor; gifts for two children; a tremendous “love offering grocery shower” for Food Pantry (Pastor delivered over 50 bags of groceries to that outreach!); and, several BEAUTIFUL fruit baskets were given. Also, Pastor and I were blessed to sing Christmas carols with the folks at Broadmore Assisted Living—what a joy! One lady you will recognize, our Zella Roberts who is 104 years of age. No, I didn’t make an error with the numbers.

We want to say thank you for those who participated in the giving of these gifts. We ask God to bless and repay you in ways we cannot. We certainly don’t give to be repaid, but somehow God in His great love gives back to us over and over and over again.

