

A Note from Michael

How many times have I heard this statement: "There are so many talented people here that I really wouldn't contribute much with what little talent I have." I hear this at least once every week or two. I'm sure there are many people sitting in our sanctuary at the First Christian Church, on any given Sunday, who think they lack the talent to serve.

This similar thought comes from a parable told by Jesus where He used the word "talent," referring to a sum of money. (Centuries of inflation rates make it difficult to figure the exact amount, but it was sizable.) In the parable, a man left three servants in charge of his estate. You know the story, don't you? To one servant, he gives five talents; to another, two talents; and to the other, one talent. *The first two servants doubled their assets by putting their entrusted money to work.* The third servant, with one talent, buried his in the ground for "safe" keeping. When the master returned, he rewarded the two industrious servants, but old number three was thrown "outside into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (Matt. 25:30)

This situation is true with our own Master. He will not accept excuses. There will come a time when we will be held accountable for how we have used what has been entrusted to us. Do you lack talent? If so, WATCH OUT! *Don't get caught sitting on what little you do have. Dig it up and start putting it to good use.*

Michael Tomlinson

- With the up-and-coming Easter Season, now
- would be a really good time to get involved:
- Drama/The Last Days
- Piano Playing
- WOW God Stories/Testimonial
- Worship Choir
- Playing an Instrument
- Let Michael know, if you haven't already, if you are
- interest in any of these ministries, email him at:
- michaelfcc@mycci.net

Night In Italy

The FROG and ROCK Youth will host a "Night in Italy" on Saturday, February 8th from 5:30—7:00 pm. Each ticket will cost \$8.00 which will include baked spaghetti or chicken tetrazzini, salad, bread, dessert and drink. You may purchase tickets in the narthex starting on Sunday.




Italian Dinner

Soup & Chili Cook-Off



We will have a Soup and Chili Cook-Off on Saturday, February 29th at 4 pm. Individuals who wish to enter should have their crock-pot of chili or soup in Campbell Hall by 3:45

pm. Prizes will be awarded for 1st and 2nd place. Everyone will have an opportunity to eat a bowl of chili or soup of their choice. Crackers, celery, carrots, dessert, hot dogs, peanut butter sandwiches and drinks will be provided. We will also be auctioning off cakes and pies so please bring your best baked item to auction. All proceeds will go to the Deaconess to help with funeral dinner expenses, etc...



All men are invited to the Men's Breakfast on Saturday, February 1st at 7:30 am in Campbell Hall.

Important Security News

When exiting the Education Building please DO NOT use the right hand door to exit. There are multiple signs posted but people are still using the right hand door to leave. If you exit through this door the door will be **unlocked all night**. We want to protect what God has given us, so please use the left hand door to exit.





Building Fund balance:
\$420,346.02

Sunday, January 26th

8:30 am Traditional Worship
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Contemporary Worship
2 pm Pre-Pack at the Food Center
4 pm Outlet Program
5:30 pm F/R Meeting

Monday, January 27th

10 am Staff Meeting
6 pm Evangelism Meeting
7 pm Elders' Meeting

Tuesday, January 28th

7 am Prayer Meeting
6 pm Bible Journaling

Wednesday, January 29th

9 am Crafts R Us Group
5 pm Bell Choir Practice
6 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, January 30th

6 pm Praise Team Practice

Saturday, February 1st

7:30 am Men's Breakfast

Sunday, February 2nd

8:30 am Traditional Worship
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Contemporary Worship
4 pm Outlet Program
5:30 pm F/R Meeting

Monday, February 3rd

10 am Staff Meeting
5:30 pm Worship Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 4th

7 am Prayer Meeting
6 pm Bible Journaling

Wednesday, February 5th

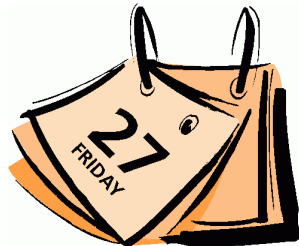
9 am Crafts R Us Group
5 pm Bell Choir Practice
6 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, February 6th

6 pm Praise Team Practice

Saturday, February 8th

5-7 pm Night in Italy Fundraiser



Board Splinter 1/13

Deaconesses: December was a busy month with the Ladies Night Out, Wassail and a reception for Kenny and Michael. Served one funeral dinner and have pecans for sale.

Senior Minister: Finished a fall class at LCU, Cultural Insights with an A. Christmas Eve Service was beautiful! Baptized Ernice Cook-Crawford. Finished sermon series on Protecting the Soul. Continue with Discipleship series with the Elders.

Elementary Minister: We need volunteers for Sunday morning Nursery and regular Sunday School to rotate with others to give them a break. We also need a middle and high school Sunday School teacher to rotate. The Christmas program went well.

Worship Leader: Called on 2 choir members who were ill. The choir kicked off on January 8th and we will be singing in the up and coming months and will be rehearsing for the Easter Cantata "Living Hope" and looking for volunteers to sing. For our Good Friday service we hope to have a drama entitled "The Last Days" and looking for volunteers.

Worship: Keeping the 5th Sunday Services in 2020. Need to upgrade a mic and getting prices. Kenny Jones has resigned from the Worship Committee and added Michael Tomlinson.

Outreach: they donated \$500 to Coats 4 Kids and \$1,000 to Riddle School to pay for overdo lunches.

Christian Ed: they are adding 3 people to the committee. The F/R Christmas party had 22 students.

Personnel: Jan Kepley's salary was wrong and adjusted up approximately \$2,000.

World Outreach: they are meeting on January 14th.

New Business: added Ernice Cook-Crawford as a deaconess for a 3 year term, added Kathy Newlin as an Elder, and added Tom Dickerson and Daryn Clapp as trustees for a 3 year term.

Church Attendance

Jan. 12th — Traditional: 90, Contemporary: 78 = 168

Jan. 19th — Traditional: 85, Contemporary: 84 = 169

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Mattoon IL 61938
Permit No. 23



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