

THE CHRISTIAN CALLER

fccfarmville.org

from the Pastor

May 2018



“...You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ”

Matthew 22:36-39



Where do we fix our eyes?

I remember our first-grade teacher asking us to “go around the class and tell everyone what they wanted to be when they grew up.” There were doctor wannabees, teacher wannabees, astronaut wannabees, all sorts of wannabees but no one was a poor and forgotten wannabee. We all had great aspirations. I’ve learned that once aspirations die so do hope and love and kindness. The world of a person without aspirations becomes a dark, lifeless place. Opportunity is for those who can afford it.

Sometimes in response to poverty I hear Christians misinterpret 2 Corinthians 4.18 as end times text, “So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”

It’s as though they are telling the poor that they will see the reward down the road in eternity but for now, suffer. As if “the poor just can’t cut it like the rest of us”, Or they think, “I did it, why can’t they?” Then Christians elect people who pass laws which take food, education and other opportunities and subsidies from the poor. Didn’t Jesus tell the disciples “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” If all things are possible with God, what does it mean when Christians remove those possibilities from others?

For the comfortable who have enjoyed plenty of opportunity, it’s easy for them to misinterpret 2 Cor. because “life” favors them. The “comfortable apostle” tells the poor, “quit being lazy” or “get off the drugs”, even though the evidence proves the poor are no lazier or on drugs than they are. Several Christian “leaders” are saying these things today and many agree with them. As a reward, swelling mega churches have become their letters of recommendation. Congregations pray for these super apostles everyday and the political leaders they support. Paul wants to change this same vision in Corinth.

Paul wants the Corinthians to take their eyes off these types in chapter 3 and not become one of them where he says-Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, like some people, letters of recommendation to you or from you? You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone. You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

Pauls’ tells his opponents in 2nd Corinthians, they achieved their “freedom” through cunning or power or dumb luck. Today their apostleship comes by validation of human recommendation, swelling congregations and bank accounts and political favors achieved through cunning, power and dumb luck. It is contrary to the freedom Paul delivers to those in need of Christ’s vision in Corinth. True freedom is the liberation of people to be what God intended them to be and help them realize they are part of the new covenant. Paul says that letter of recommendation comes from Gods-self whom the poor see and receive through the apostles like Paul, who deliver affirmations and hope rather than kill aspirations and opportunity.

Board Meeting Highlights

General Board Meeting April 8, 2018

Present: Judy Owens, Jessica Avery, Kim Griffiths, Marah Walker, Wes Flake, Christine Dempsey; Al Joyner, Leslie & Amy Church, BJ Lawrence, Chester Ellis, Gina Langston, Miriam Lewis, Josh Walker, Bert Smith, Paul Bryant, Harold Flanagan, Doris Briley, John K Briley, David Whitley, Mary Steinbauer. Jean Suggs, Kevin Deibert

EDUCATION: Josh & Marah Walker won the basket drawing and the proceeds were \$100 for the DWM Woman-to-Woman ministry.

PROPERTY & GROUNDS: A meeting for the dishwasher/counters will happen in the next 2 weeks.

OUTREACH: Mention was made of the fund raiser for David Gay on April 22. Easter gifts were delivered to shut-ins.

WORSHIP: Outdoor worship on 4/22/18. Community worship at Dogwood Festival on 4/29/18 with communion service open to the community at FCC at 11:30. Looking into carillon replacement.

MEMBERSHIP: Mar 21 the Wed Night program will feature Bethann Wilke and Ainsley's Angels. April 4 will feature Amy Driver and her trip to India with Woman-to-Woman.

DWM: Auction on 4/21. Raffle tickets are available for the quilt made by Shirley Meeks for the Dogwood Festival – proceeds will go to buying an Ainsley's Angel running chair.

CMF: 3rd Sunday of March, June, September and December – church wide breakfasts at 9:30am. Fish Stew Night – Tues, May 1. Free (donations appreciated) and open to the public 6-7:30.

OLD BUSINESS: The Playground Committee: Jessica Avery, Leslie & Amy Church, Miriam Lewis, Lou Ann & Horace Wiley, Ashley Watson .

NEW BUSINESS: Donna Moore will serve as Deacon for the remainder of 2018/2019 for Kathy Marengo.

Next Board Meeting—May 13

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Those who Paul opposes are misled by mainstream appearances he's saying in the text. It is the mainstream who are not looking toward things unseen. The opponents have taken Paul's suffering and hardships as failures instead of the marks of a true apostle. Paul puts them on notice that they have foolishly been misled. That their eyes are fixed on the wrong things.

As he says about those who minister to outcasts which are natural opponents for the mainstream, "To the one we are an aroma that brings death; to the other, an aroma that brings life. And who is equal to such a task?" Unlike Paul's opponents then and now, prophetic activists do not peddle the word of God for profit and comfort. On the contrary, in Christ they speak before God with sincerity, as those sent from God. You see, Paul is clear that he used to be one of those mainstream life taking types. Paul repented, he was transformed and turned toward the suffering, like Christ, to affirm the lives of the poor and forgotten people.

No one aspires to be poor. Those who kill the aspirations of the poor, whether it be taking away subsidies, health care, social security or even to remain silent to their plight, effectively giving up on them, don't see the unseen in them, here, now. For super apostles, Paul tells them to renounce their secret and shameful ways, to not distort the word of God and to not use deception to lure the masses. Regarding no one from a worldly view. Instead seeing the eternal in those who are unseen and fixing their sight upon them where God's letter is written.

Be a beacon of light for the poor, the tired, the huddled masses, the spiritual refugees, who've been cast away because they're gay or lesbian or too old or a minority, whose aspirations grow dim. That is what God, the unseen presence, has written in our hearts.

Paul is trying to convince everyone to be a steward of this vision. That's where his eyes are fixed. Where are our eyes fixed?

With love, Kevin

In Our Prayers

Prayer needs:

Mabel Bowen, Larue Brinson, Ann Byrd, Marie Cowan, Dave Davis, Melissa Davis, Cissy Deas, Bud Eason, Jean Ellis, Annie Gurganus, Bobby Hodge Sr, Janie Joyner, Caleb Knox, Betty Lewis, Joyce Letchworth, Shane Miller, Camilla Murphrey, Beth Norville, Joan Smith, Myrtle Sugg

In service to our country:

Jameson Cowan, Glen McDustrell, Zach Murphy, Jake Nicholson

Please notify an Elder of any changes.

Membership

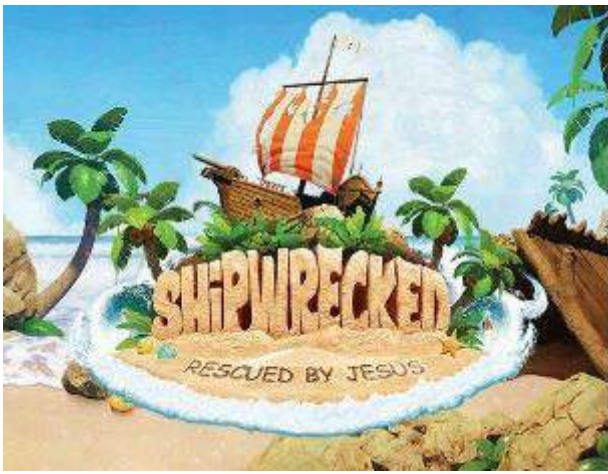
WNS Calendar:

May 16	COVERED DISH
June 20	COVERED DISH
July 18	COVERED DISH

Please be sure to introduce yourselves to our newest members!

Jason, Brandy, Waker, and Weston Powers who joined by statement of faith.





COMMUNITY VBS

June 10-14

6-9pm

First Baptist Church

Registration forms
available at our office



CMF Fish Stew Night

Tues, May 1 6-7:30

Public welcome!

donations appreciated

April Birthdays

Joyce Letchworth	May 2
John Redden Lewis	May 4
Noah Knox	May 5
Ashley Watson	May 6
Cissy Deas	May 8
Carolyn Hawke	May 9
Sallie Eason	May 11
Jacob Dudley	May 13
Zoey Joyner	May 14
Dinah Baldwin	May 16
Suzanne Yester	May 19
Sasha Reiff	May 27
Johnny J. Briley	May 30

April Anniversaries

Jimmy & Angie Cowan	May 11
Bobby & Linda Hodge	May 15
Jimmy & Joyce Letchworth	May 27

Farmville Benevolent Ministries

GOLF

TOURNAMENT

FRI, MAY 18

8:30am or 1pm

\$70/person

4-person Superball

**Continental Breakfast and
Lunch provided (12-1)**



"Yes, the disciples followed Jesus...
but not on Twitter."

GIVING MADE EASY

Your bank will do the work for you! Just sign up with your bank's 'auto pay' feature, and your bank will mail a check to FCC on a regular schedule—whether it's weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, or something else.

You get to be sure that even if you have to miss a Sunday or even if you left your checkbook at home this week, your giving goes on and your church can continue its work.

More and more of our members are using this hassle-free method to keep up with their giving. Check it out!



**Coffee & Pastries
Every Sunday**

9:30am Fellowship Hall



9:30 June 17 by CMF
Everyone invited!

BREAKFAST



- DWM—Dogwood Festival Quilt
- Coffee & Pastries every Sunday morning!
- Raffle winners Josh & Marah Walker
 - Is the dishwasher here yet?





EARTH DAY



May Servants

Elders: John Briley HE; Miriam Lewis

Deacons: Christine Dempsey HD, Jessica Avery,
Julie Walker, Velinda Moore, Paul Bryant

Offering Trustee: Chester Ellis

*If you are unable to serve,
please contact someone
to take your place.*



WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

May 16—COVERED DISH

June 20—COVERED DISH

July 16—COVERED DISH

Church Staff

Rev. Kevin Deibert Senior Minister
pastor@fccfarmville.org

Timothy Price Director of Music
music@fccfarmville.org

Kim Griffiths Church Administrator
office@fccfarmville.org

Julia Beamon Nursery Attendant

Church Office: (252) 753-3179

Regular Office Hours:

9 am—3 pm, Mon—Thurs, 9am—12pm Fri

Also by appointment.

office@fccfarmville.org fccfarmville.org

Mission of First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

Farmville, North Carolina

*It is the mission of First Christian Church (DOC) of Farmville, NC
to provide an environment where all who come can learn,
fellowship, worship, and grow spiritually closer to God. We will
fulfill our greater obligation to spread the Good News of Jesus
Christ by being of service to the members of our community and
to the world. Our efforts will be done in the name of Jesus Christ.*



**First
Christian
Church**

Disciples of Christ

3776 South Main St.
PO Box 205
Farmville, NC 27828



CMF Fish Stew Night

Tues, May 1 6-7:30

Public welcome!

donations appreciated

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
May		1 6p CMF Fish Stew Night 6-7:30 Open to public—donations welcome	2 9a Quilting Bees	3 National Day of Prayer	4 11a Soup Kitchen	5	
	6 5p Choir practice	7	8	9	10	11 12 Farmville Fun Run	
	13 8a Elders mtg 5p Choir practice 5p DWM Exec. mtg 6p Ministry Teams 7p General Board mtg	14 10a DWM—church library 7p DWM—church library	15 9-11 FBM 7p Trustees mtg	16 6p COVERED DISH	17	18 8:30 FBM Golf Tournament	19
	20 8 CMF mtg 5p Choir practice	21	22 6:30 Cub Scouts	23	24	25	26
	27	28 MEMORIAL DAY	29	30	31	SUNDAYS 9:30 Coffee & Pastries NEW! 10a Sunday School 11a Worship	
5-29-6/1 Meals on Wheels							