

CHURCH *Life*

A monthly publication of First Christian Church, Princeton WV



RIVIVAL!

Not long after the day of Pentecost, Peter and John had made a routine of going to the Temple to pray. This particular day it was about noon they were entering the Beautiful Gate for the “hour of prayer”. A man, who had been lame from birth, was there begging as he had done every day at the gate. Peter draws the man’s attention, grabs him by the hand, and raises him up. Acts 3:7 declares that “*immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened.*”

A few very interesting observations from this particular miracle are worthy of our attention. As noted, the man was placed there every day to beg alms of those entering the temple. In vs. 10, the people were testifying to the fact that this was indeed the man who sat “*every day*” at the gate. With as many times, that are recorded, of Jesus ministering in and round the Temple particularly around Feast Days, had Jesus walked past this man and not heal him? The day Peter and John happened by this man morphed into a tremendous opportunity for the Gospel. *But many of those who had heard the message believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.* Acts 4:4

We can only speculate, but of the times Jesus walked past this fellow, did He smile knowing that one day that lame man would be used for God’s glory and the advancement of His kingdom? Had Jesus healed that man early, the events recorded in Acts 3&4 may or may not have occurred, but he, the lame man, would not have been an instrumental part of it. Perhaps Jesus postponed “his miracle”, for something far greater to occur!

Often, we seek a miracle from Jesus. Often, we get discouraged when the miracle we seek seems to be postponed, or even gone unanswered. How often in our prayer time does Jesus walk by smiling, knowing that the miracle we seek

is not long for the waiting and His timing will produce far more for His glory and His kingdom than we can even think or imagine. *Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.* Eph 3:20-21

As one would expect, speaking biblically, “*no small stir*” occurred that day. While Peter was preaching to the crowds that were quickly gathering, he said something that has captivated me in my devotion time this week. *Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord:* Acts 3:19 The call for repentance of our rebellious sinful lives and returning to the truth of the Scriptures is and always has been fundamental for a relationship with the God of creation, but the rest of that verse has me salivating for a deeper understanding.

Refreshing (an-aps-ook-sis), in the Greek, means recovery of breath, REVIVAL! I have to double take back to that verse. This is what my heart has been crying for. I understand David when he cried out, *As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants for Thee, O God.* Psalm 42:1. Then Peter explains how that refreshing came, *from the presence of the Lord.* The Greek (pros-o-pon) the appearance, countenance, the person of Adoni, I don’t feel that this is in reference to Jesus’ second advent as vs 20 goes on to say; *and that He may send Jesus, the Christ...* referring to His Millennial Reign.

God’s presence brings with it refreshing of soul and spirit and even sometimes of body as physical healings do occur at these times. Revival throughout the centuries has occurred when God’s presence fell upon a community,

city, or nation, resulting in many believers repenting of their sins, drawing closer to the Holy Spirit and serving God as well as unbelievers falling on their knees seeking forgiveness of sins and salvation. Often the religious leadership rejected such movements as they have occurred outside their established structure and control. When God’s presence falls, there are no boundaries or barriers that God cannot work through. *Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things...* Acts 13:38-39a Broken hearts and lives are mended, prisoners are set free, those living in darkness are brought to the light, those held captive through the temptations of the flesh are released. Acts 26:18 There will be many lost souls who come to a knowledge of salvation in Jesus Christ.

Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; Acts 3:19 Many have been praying for revival to sweep across our land. Many have been praying for revival to sweep across Princeton WV. My prayer is for us all to repent and return to God. The church at Ephesus was challenged by Jesus in Revelation 2:5 *Remember therefore from where you have fallen and repent and do the deeds you did at first...* I pray for those times of refreshing promised in the scriptures that come with the *presence of the Lord.* O Lord, see us, hear our prayer, and meet us here.

Pastor Steve



Prayer Concerns

Week Ending August 19, 2023

Bhebhe Family, Joyce Coburn, Family of Diane Forbes, Family of Steve Lilly, Murphy Family, Gary Reed, Mary Jane Rorrer, Tiffany's Family, Barbara Terry, Teena Testa

Week Ending August 12, 2023,

Ronnie Cecil, Margaret Conner, Ben & Andrea Haring, Ron Hess, Jerry Wimmer

Week Ending August 5, 2023

Emme Chandonnet, Family of Lisa Fields, Mark Murphy, Pastor Bill Pollack, Scooter Smith, Believers of Ukraine, Denate Williams

In the Military:

Mike Kennedy, Devin Lusk, T. J. Morris, Robert Worrell

Our Friends Who are Homebound:

Violet Belcher, Betty Craft, Betty Doyle, Mike Elmore, Lola Fanning, Evelyn Jenkins

Our Friends in Nursing/Retirement Facilities:

*The Havens: Peggy White
The Havens: Cleo Halsey
Stonerise Princeton: Gary Reed*

Mark Your Calendars!

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

*Elders Meeting — 6:00 p.m.
Ministry Teams — 6:30 p.m.
Board Meeting — 7:00 p.m.*

Social Media Broadcast

Follow us on Facebook at First Christian Princeton WV.

Website: firstchristianprincetonwv.org

Youtube: First Christian Princeton WV

E-mail: fccprincetonoffice@gmail.com

Phone Live Stream: 1-833-336-0457



Prayer Is The Key by M. S. Lowndes

Why does it seem
We often give in
To temptation that comes our way?
It's often so hard
To say 'no' to the flesh
Though we try, we forget to pray—
For this is the key
To unlock the door,
To overcoming temptation and sin,
We must keep God's word
And diligent in prayer
And remain faithful unto **Him**

SEPTEMBER 2023

Elder: Sam Conner, Larry Wimmer
Deacon: Mark Murphy, Randy Winfrey
Deaconess: Tonni Bennett, Barbara Terry
Lay Readers: Haleigh Murphy

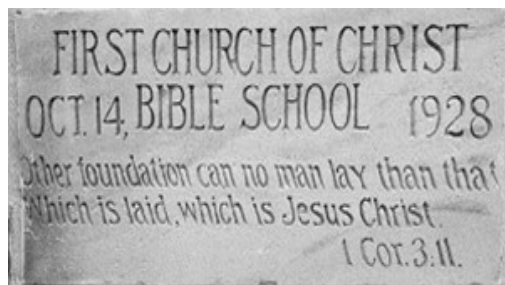
Christian Women Fellowship

Christian Women will meet on **Thursday, September 7 at 11:00 a.m.** We will meet in the upstairs lounge.

Senior Breakfast

Senior Breakfast is on **Tuesday, September 12 at 9:00 a.m.** at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant. Come join in the fellowship and fun.

From the Archives



Our building was constructed in two stages; the educational unit, which was dedicated in 1929, and the sanctuary, which was dedicated in 1951.

The October 13, 1928 edition of the *Bluefield Sunset News* contains the following story about plans for the laying of the cornerstone of the educational unit.

“New Church Cornerstone to Be Placed in Princeton.”

Dr. John Ray Clark, state secretary of Christian churches, of Parkersburg, will deliver the principal address Sunday afternoon at exercises incident to the laying on a cornerstone for a new unit of the First Church of Christ, Princeton. The cornerstone will be laid for the new Bible school unit of the church. Dr. Perry J. Cook, pastor of the church, will preside, and virtually all ministers of Princeton will take part in the program. Sunday school superintendents of the county seat will have a seat on the platform.

The new church unit is being built at an estimated cost of \$53,500, subscribed by members of the congregation. The brick work has been completed, and the contractors have promised the building will be under roof by the last of next week.”

According to an article in the October 16, 1928, issue of the *Bluefield Daily Telegraph*, the following items were placed in a sealed copper box in the cornerstone: a complete roll of all who had contributed to the building program; a membership roll of 767 members; a history of the local congregation; one copy each of the Christian Standard, Christian Evangelist, West Virginia Worker (denomination's state newsletter), The Lookout, The Princeton Christian (congregation's newsletter), The Princeton Observer, The Princeton News, and the Bluefield Daily Telegraph, and a copy of the Bible.

Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Morning Worship: 11 a.m.

September 2023

First Christian Church



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
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3 Georgia Bailey 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Worship Service	4 Wesley Bane; Harold Buckner Labor Day Church Office Closed	5 Krista Wall Archer; Rhonda Rose; Carla Stinson 7:00 PM Church Council	6 11:00 AM Adult Prayer Hour & 7:00 PM 7:00 PM Children's Program	7 Prince Bhebe 11:00 AM Christian Women Fellowship 6:00 PM Handbell Choir	8	9 Matt Dye																																																																																																		
10 Terry Rose; James Terry 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Worship Service 11:00 AM Pastor Rick Newton	11 Ishmael Bhebe	12 9:00 AM Senior Breakfast/Cracker Barrel 6:00 PM Elders Meeting 6:30 PM Ministry Teams 7:00 PM Board Meeting	13 C.E. Ball, III; Turner Nelson 11:00 AM Adult Bible Study & 7:00 PM: Pastor Rick Newton 7:00 PM Children's Program	14 Paul & Lori Broyles 6:00 PM Handbell Choir	15 David Baker	16																																																																																																		
Pastor Steve Vacation Sept. 10-16																																																																																																								
17 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Worship Service 11:00 AM Pastor Ishmael Bhebe	18 Start to submit Newsletter Articles & Announcements	19 Samantha Elliot Alvarado	20 Ralph Ball, Jr.; Donald Osborne 11:00 AM Adult Bible Study & 7:00 PM 7:00 PM Children's Program	21 6:00 PM Handbell Choir	22 Fred & Georgia Bailey Bruce & Ellen Hill Brandy Lane 7:00 PM An Evening of Music with Jeff & Alanda Brannon	23 Barbie Coburn; Bruce Hill																																																																																																		
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Discipleship

We are excited to share about women’s bible study for this fall! The dates are **September 24th to November 5th.** Continuing on Sunday evenings but changing to one hour, from **6 pm to 7pm.**

I am so excited about this study. It is “As for Me”: life through the lens of the Psalms by Adrienne Camp. This 7- session Bible study is a journey through the book of Psalms. Gain a deeper understanding of who God is and be encouraged to hold on to Him no matter what is happening around you. Let the Psalms become the prayers you carry with you into every moment of every day, so that you, too, can say with confidence, “As for me, I will worship and serve the Lord no matter what (Ps.34.1)”

Please let us know if you can join us so we can start getting books ready. The books are \$20.

Christian Women Fellowship

A total of \$200 dollars was sent to Kathy Rahall with the WCOMC to go towards the building of a domestic violence shelter in Mercer County. We would like to thank everyone who contributed to this endeavor.

At our last meeting we voted to change the name of our women’s group back to Christian Women Fellowship. While our name has changed our mission has not. We will work together as women of faith to serve our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, September 7th at 11:00 am** in the upstairs lounge.

Fellowship

The fellowship Team would like to thank everyone that helped make our annual picnic a success. A big thank you to everyone who worked in the kitchen, those who helped set up the tables and those who helped clean up. Last, but definitely not least, thanks to everyone that provided the delicious sides, pizza and fruit! It was a great afternoon of fellowship, music and fun!

Membership

Homecoming **Sunday will be October 22nd.** Rev. Gary Lyons will be our guest speaker. Invite your family and friends to join us! *Donna Reeves*

Outreach

We would like to give a huge thank you to all who are leaving food in the boxes. You are so appreciated and the Salvation Army is very grateful.

Worship

Calling all Handbell ringers and those that want to learn rehearsals will begin **Thursday, September 7th at 6 pm.** Please notice the time change. We will rehearse for one hour. Anyone who is interested in learning is welcome. We will teach you.

We wish to thank the Lay Readers, *Tonni Bennett* and *Linda Cheverton*, for the month of **August.** We are looking forward to having *Haleigh Murphy* as the Lay Reader for the month of **September.**



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805 Straley Ave
Princeton, WV 24740
Rev. Stephen M. Janning, Minister
firstchristianprincetonwv.org



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