

CHURCH *Life*

A monthly publication of First Christian Church, Princeton WV



THE PRICE OF BEING A PASTOR By Pastor Rick Newton

We are blessed with having Pastor Steve and Teresa serving us here at FCC! For with them comes a deep abiding love for their flock, a commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ, faithfulness to His Word, as well as commitment to serve Him and His people with compassion.

Being a Pastor list among the four most difficult professions in the United States! In 2 Timothy 2 for example, Paul uses seven different metaphors to describe the rigors of pastoring. He pictures the minister as a “teacher” in verse 2, a “soldier” vs 3&4, an “athlete” in vs 5, a “farmer” in vs 6, a “workmen” in vs 15, a “vessel” in vs 20, 21 and a “slave” in vs 24. All such images evoke ideas of sacrifice, labor, service and hardship. They speak eloquently of the complex and varied responsibilities of spiritual leadership. Not one of them make leadership out to be glamorous. Some contemporary church leaders do fancy themselves to be business men, media figures, entertainers, psychologist, even lawyers. Those notions contrast sharply with the description and the symbolism that scripture employs to depict a Pastor. Church family, just know also that, that just scratches the surface because here is a continuing list of what is expected of a Pastor; they must be:

Eloquent Pastor, Example, Father, Husband, Counselor, Confidant, Conference caller, Planner, Minister, Visionary, Director, Mentor, Friend, Reconciliator, Marriage Counselor, Youth Counselor, Leader’s trainer, Bible Teacher, Strate-

gist, Intercessor, etc...Besides being: Keeper of the temple, Construction superintendent.

And above all else, a willingness to serve humbly. Remember the word Pastor itself means Shepherd. That’s appropriate imagery. A shepherd leads, feeds, nurtures, comforts, corrects and protects his flock! Those are responsibilities that belong to every pastor. So shepherding a spiritual flock is not so simple. It takes more than a passive leader to be a spiritual shepherd! The standards are high, and the requirements are hard to satisfy 1 Tim. 3:1-7. Not everyone can meet the qualifications, and those who do, few seem to excel at the task. Spiritual shepherding demands a godly, gifted, multi-skilled man of integrity, yet he must maintain that humble perspective and demeanor of a shepherd boy. That’s the reason the scriptures demand that he be “Spirit filled.” Remember also, the position comes with tremendous responsibilities of leading God’s flock, but it also comes with the potential for either great blessings or great judgment. Good leaders are doubly blessed, 1 Timothy 5:17 tell us, and poor leaders are doubly chastened, vs 20. James 3:1 warns “Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such, we shall incur a stricter judgment.”

Don’t get me wrong, pastoring has many blessings as well. Those hours spent each week in God’s presence, and in the word are a high and holy privilege. Pastoring also embraces all of life’s bless-

ings. They share the joy with parents over the birth of a child, as well as the pain of children, over the death of a parent. They help celebrate at a wedding; pastors also offer comfort at a funeral, not to mention all the inevitable unpredictability that accompanies the calling. An incredible adventure also may begin at any given moment. It is at those times that the pastor goes beyond his sermon to stand in the gap for God in the lives of His people.

Pastoring also requires much wisdom...To separate the essential from the tyranny of the urgent. That’s not easy. Not everything that clamors for attention is essential! Some of the biggest challenges come though, when trying to separate the real contrast in today’s competing ministry models. Do we do traditional versus the contemporary, or do blended services? No matter what, it has to be scriptural compared to unscriptural, not just preferences in styles. That takes much discernment and prayer! As does answering the questions of “how should the church respond to a rapidly changing culture?”... What does God consider relevant?... And then, really, just how concerned is Jesus with the traditional and or the contemporary question? Then after all, what direction does Jesus want for His church in the 21st century? These are all questions a pastor has to wrestle with and then try to explain articulately to his people while staying focused on “moving forward” in the Kingdom of God, for our day. (To be continued)

Prayer Concerns

Week Ending August 24, 2024

Margaret Conner, Renee Cornwell, Ronnie Becker, Stephen Shrewsberry

Week Ending August 17, 2024.

Family of the Rev. Norman Arrington, Wendy Johnson, Scooter Smith, Jerry Wimmer, Sandra Wimmer, Believers of Ukraine

Week Ending August 10, 2024

Barbara Butler, Family of Jeff Compton, Jim Miles. Danny Puckett, Loved ones in Israel & Palestine, Bud & Judy Raines, Rev. Bill Pollack, Wisdom for our government

In the Military:

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

Our Friends Who are Homebound:

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

Our Friends in Nursing/Retirement Facilities:

The Havens: Cleo Halsey
Stonerise Princeton: Gary Reed

Mark Your Calendars!

Thursday, September 5, 2024

Church Council—7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 10 2024

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*



With Sympathy

We offer our love and sympathy to the family of:

† **Rev. Norman Arrington** who passed away on August 12, 2024

Memorial Gift Fund

Memorial gifts have been given in loving memory of:

† **Peggy White** by Larry Wimmer

† **Peggy White** by Kenneth & Donna Reeves

September 18 through October 2 I will be in Zimbabwe on a mission trip from our church. There are several objectives we are hoping to accomplish on this trip so please pray that God will bless and direct every aspect of this work. *Pastor Steve*

SEPTEMBER 2024

Elders: Kenneth Reeves, Larry Wimmer

Deacons: Mark Murphy, Manny Testa

Deaconess: Deidre Crutchfield, Barbara Terry

Lay Reader: Haleigh Murphy

Christian Women Fellowship

Christian Women Fellowship will meet on **Thursday, September 5 at 11:00 a.m.** in the up-stairs lounge.

Senior Breakfast

Senior Breakfast is on **Tuesday, September 10 at 9:00 a.m.** at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant. Come join in the fellowship and

From the Archives



Our relationship with the Bluefield church has been a mixture of cooperation and competition. The April 9, 1936 edition of the *Princeton Observer* reports one such competition and announces the upcoming Easter services. The numbers are impressive.

“Princeton Wins Over Bluefield in Church Contest.

Impressive Easter Service Is Planned For Church Sunday Morning

There were 394 persons present for the mid-week prayer meeting Wednesday night at the Christian church. The highlight of the service was a candle light communion service with the minister of the South Princeton church of Christ, Rev. Rinead Thornton, participating.

The local church is contesting its mid-week attendance with the Christian church in Bluefield.

This week the count was Princeton, 394; Bluefield, 194; Bible school attendance last Sunday morning was Bluefield, 483; Princeton, 482.

The local church of Christ extends a sincere welcome to everyone to attend its Easter Services.

Impressive Easter services are being planned which begin at 6:30 a.m., the most impressive service of the year.

At 9:45 o'clock, a beautiful Easter pageant entitled, “Seven Words From the Cross,” will be presented by a group in charge of Mrs. Sarah Evans Charlton. A goal of 600 attendance has been set for the Bible school and the picture which could not be produced last week on account of the weather will be taken this week.

In the evening, at 7:30, another musical pantomime in charge of Edward Rule, the choir and pastor, will be presented. The title is “In the Garden of the Gods”.

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

September 2024

First Christian Church



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
1 10:00 A.M Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Service	2 Sharon Elmore;Phillip Whittington Office Closed Labor Day	3 Georgia Bailey	4 Wesley Bane; Harold Buckner 7:00 PM Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM Children's Program	5 Krista Wall Archer;Rhonda Rose;Carla Stinson 11:00 AM Christian Women Fellowship 6:00 PM Handbell Choir/Handell Room 7:00 PM Church Council	6	7 Prince Bhebhe																																																																																				
8 10:00 A.M Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Service	9 Matt Dye	10 Terry Rose;James Terry 9:00AM Senior Breakfast/Cracker Barrel 6:00 PM Elders Meeting 6:30 PM Ministry Teams 7:00 PM Board Metting	11 Ishmael Bhebhe 7:00 PM Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM Children's Program	12 6:00 PM Handbell Choir/Handell Room	13 C.E. Ball, III;Turner Nelson	14 Paul & Lori Broyles																																																																																				
15 David Baker 10:00 A.M Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Service	16	17	18 7:00 PM Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM Children's Program	19 Samantha Elliot Alvarado 6:00 PM Handbell Choir/Handell Room	20 Ralph Ball, Jr.; Donald Osborne	21																																																																																				
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22 Fred & Georgia Bailey Bruce & Ellen Hill Brandy Lane 10:00 A.M Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Service	23 Barbie Coburn;Bruce Hill	24	25 7:00 PM Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM Children's Program	26 6:00 PM Handbell Choir/Handell Room	27	28																																																																																				
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29 Corey Nelson 10:00 A.M Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Service 6:00 PM Women's Fellowship Night	30	<div><div>Aug 2024</div><table><tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr><tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr><tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr></table></div> <div><div>Oct 2024</div><table><tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr><tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr><tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr></table></div>					S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	S	M	T	W	T	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
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Nuptial Ceremony Invitation

Note of Reminder:

Please keep **Saturday, October 19, 2024** open to attend the wedding of Barbara Forrest and Jim Stophel at First Christian Church, Princeton at **2:00 p.m.**



Fellowship Night

We are going to Smokey’s on the Gorge Restaurant. It is located in Lansing, WV. The date is **Saturday, September 28**. We will leave the church at **4:30 p.m.** This will be a time of fellowship and fun. Please let Donna or Kenneth Reeves know by **Saturday, September 21st**. Thank you
Donna Reeves



WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP NIGHT: The women of the church are invited to a night of fellowship, food and a short devotional. It will be at Andrea’s house. The date is **September 29 at 6:00 p.m.** Hope you can join us. *Andrea Haring*

Local Outreach

Thank you everyone who donated food for the Salvation Army. It was very much appreciated.
Linda Cheverton

Note of Gratitude

A big shout out to Kenneth Reeves for taking the time to plant Crepe Myrtle shrubs, cane flowers, hosta and ornamental grass in the garden area at the front of the church. He says there is more to come. Thanks Ken, it looks beautiful. *Linda Cheverton*

Worship

Handbell rehearsals will begin **Thursday, September 5th at 6:00 p.m.** in the Handbell room. As always, anyone who would like to learn the art of ringing or if you already know how to ring, you are welcome to come and participate. If you would like to learn, contact Barbara Forrest or Linda Cheverton.

We wish to thank the Lay Reader, *Ethan Lilly* for the month of **August 2024**. We are looking forward to having *Haleigh Murphy*, as the Lay Reader for the month of **September 2024**.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
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First Christian Church
805 Straley Ave
Princeton, WV 24740
Rev. Stephen M. Janning, Minister
firstchristianprincetonwv.org



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