

CHURCH Life

A monthly publication of First Christian Church, Princeton WV



Paul's letter to Titus, one of his disciples in the faith, starts out with a very interesting statement; *Paul, a bond-servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth...* Titus 1:1a After identifying his position with God the Father and Jesus His Son, he then reveals two key elements of his purpose; *the faith of those, the knowledge of the truth.*

When it comes to the why of Paul's ministry, his heart and motive is clearly seen. First, to build and increase the faith of those who belong to the family of God, *the chosen*. Everywhere he went, Paul not only shared the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, but he also established churches in every community. For him, it was not about building up the industry of church, but building up a fellowship of believers who encourage, and help one another, to share life together always striving for family and unity.

His pastoral letters to Titus and Timothy are full of instruction concerning church leadership and structure, behavior toward believers and nonbelievers alike, and purpose; *For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus; who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.* Titus 2:11-14

Paul's second declared purpose is stated as *for the knowledge of the truth*. What truth? Good question! Everyone declares that they possess truth or that truth is an ambiguous, subjective, philosophy of life. Statements such as; truth is relative, truth changes with time,

my truth is..., not Paul, *"the knowledge of the truth"*. Paul declared his job was to reveal this truth *which is according to godliness*. Whose god? What guidelines? Good questions again! He continues to define this truth as a hope that produces eternal life. Pretty bold statement, yes? Again the question remains; whose god? Many declare that they not only harbor truth but offer some form of eternal afterlife bliss. ...*which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago.* Titus 1:2

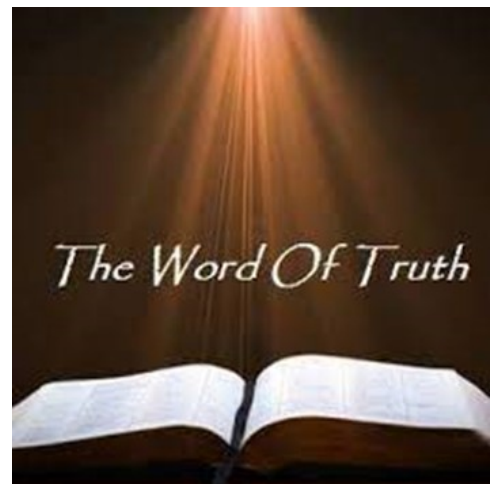
Now concrete evidence is presented to refute all possibilities outside the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and His only begotten Son Jesus of Nazareth, *which God, who cannot lie*, the overwhelming evidence clearly presented to us in the Scriptures. The Holy Bible itself, undeniable proof that it contains this truth we are desperately searching for, this same truth Paul is declaring. Prophetic utterances given by dozens of authors over a 1400-year time span that are fulfilled to the minutest detail cry loudly of its authenticity. Prophecies that are so detailed that skeptics declare they could only have been written after the events as a summation instead of a foretelling. The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1948 attest to the authenticity of the books as some date hundreds of years before Jesus was even born. There are many well educated men such as Josh McDowell who set out to disprove the Bible only to come to faith in the Savior of that very Bible.

So back to Paul, as he testified that his purpose was to declare this truth and to encourage Titus and all believers to share this truth which brings the *hope of eternal life*. Paul will continue in verse 3 *but at the proper time manifested, even His word, in the proclamation with which I was entrusted according to the commandment of God our Savior;* This word "hope" in the Greek is vastly different

from our understand in this modern day. The word used implies; confident expectation, assurance, something joyfully anticipated. Paul again used the same word when he declared, *For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus.* Titus 2:11-13

So, truth is not found in anyone save the perfect Son of God. Our salvation is not found in any government or political system. Our hope resides only in the work of the cross and the resurrection from the dead. How desperately do we hold to this truth? Are we willing to surrender all that this world has to offer as did Paul, Peter, James, and the other disciples? Will we sell all that we have to purchase the treasure found in the field of the Word of God? Do we live for and anticipate the glorious return of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ? How genuine is our faith.

Pastor Steve



Prayer Concerns

Week Ending February 22, 2025

Daniel Burns & Family, James Hopkins, Stephen Shrewsberry

Week Ending Feb. 15, 2025

Lorelai Bostic, Dan Burns & his family, Hannah Johnson, Wendy Johnson, Lucy Pack, Ralph Re-pass, Scooter Smith, Believers of Ukraine

Week Ending February 8, 2025

Memory Bhebhe, Sharon Compton, Mrs. Carr, David Dunston, Emily, The Family of Frederick Jon Janning, Angie Kaluk, Michael Reed, Kenneth & Donna Reeves, Requel Russell, Loved ones in Israel & Palestine, Rev. Bill Pollack, Baby Porter, Steve & Sylvia Spooner, Mr. & Mrs. Randy Wilson, and Wisdom for our government

In the Military:

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

Our Friends Who are Homebound:

Betty Doyle, Mike Elmore, Lola Fanning, Evelyn Jenkins

Our Friends in Nursing/Retirement Facilities:

Glenwood Healthcare Center:
Cleo Halsey
Glenwood healthcare Center:
Gary Reed

Mark Your Calendars!

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

Church Council

Tuesday, March 11,, 2025

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:

† **Jean Foster** who passed away on February 24, 2025.



Charles
&
Jean
Foster

Zimbabwe Church Project

As a community of faith, we are reaching out to ask for your continuous support to help finish the flooring surface of the Mupumbu COC in Mupumbu, Zimbabwe. Thank you for your generous support in our endeavor to complete this segment of the mission.

MARCH 2025

Elders: Kenneth Reeves, Larry Wimmer
Deacons: Dan Crutchfield, Randy Winfrey
Deaconess: Deidre Crutchfield, Barbara Terry
Lay Reader: Haleigh Murphy

Christian Women Fellowship

CWF will meet on **Thursday, March 6, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.** in the office lounge.

Senior Breakfast

Senior Breakfast is on **Tuesday, March 11 at 9:00 a.m.** at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant. Come join in the fellowship, with faith, family and friends.

From the Archives



The beautiful stainless steel cross that dominates the chancel of our sanctuary is the focus of our attention as we enter the sanctuary. The cross was an anonymous gift in 1951 from the primary architect of the sanctuary.

The preliminary sketches of the sanctuary were done in 1927 by well-known Bluefield architect Alex B. Mahood, who designed many buildings in southern WV including the Mercer County courthouse. The educational unit portion of our building was dedicated in 1929 but the planning and construction of the sanctuary was delayed by the need to settle the debt from the construction of the educational unit. Pastor Frank Stuck ran a successful campaign, entitled “Debt Free by ‘43”, to settle the debt, which allowed the design and ultimate construction of the sanctuary to begin in the mid 1940s. In 1946, Mr. Mahood conveyed his sketches to Mr. Pearson and Mr. Pearson’s design work began.

Mr. Pearson was born in Bluefield, WV, and educated at Carnegie Tech and at the University of Virginia. He opened his architectural office in Radford in 1945 after spending the war years working in the engineering department of the Hercules Powder Company at the Radford Arsenal. Between January 1948 and July 1949, he partnered with Walter Raymond of Pearisburg, VA, doing business as Raymond and Pearson, Architects. The cornerstone of our sanctuary, which was set in April 1949, records Raymond and Pearson as the architects although Mr. Raymond’s participation in the project was brief.

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

March 2025

First Christian Church



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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2 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Sunday Morning Worship 6:00 PM Women's Bible Study	3 James Brogan; Parker Hall; Willie Nelson	4 7:00 PM Church Council	5 Misty Peal; Katie Coburn 7:00 PM Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM Children's Program	6 Jennifer Wimmer, Emory Testa, Brad Ball 11:00 AM Christian Women Fellowship-Office Lounge 7:00 PM Music Rehearsal	7 Aaron Reed	8																																																																																				
9 Lora Harman; Mina Reed Daylight Savings Time 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Sunday Morning Worship 6:00 PM Women's Bible Study	10	11 Aleigh Torres-Milam 9:00 AM Senoir Breakfast-Cracker Barrel 6:00 PM Elders Meeting 6:30 PM Minstry Teams 7:00 PM Board Meeting	12 Whitney Hill 7:00 PM Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM Children's Program	13 7:00 PM Music Rehearsal	14	15																																																																																				
16 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Sunday Morning Worship 6:00 PM Women's Bible Study	17 Martha Bailey	18	19 Drew Foster 7:00 PM Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM Children's Program	20 Sherry Brogan; Allison Coburn 7:00 PM Music Rehearsal	21 Chad Bowling	22 Amelia Broyles Grose																																																																																				
23 Ashley Folden Bowen 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Sunday Morning Worship 6:00 PM Women's Bible Study	24	25 Steven Peal	26 Keith Duncan 7:00 PM Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM Children's Program	27 7:00 PM Music Rehearsal	28 Buddy Raines	29 Vickie Harry; Bill Sherwood; Jeanie Wills																																																																																				
30 Carol Howard 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Sunday Morning Worship 6:00 PM Women's Bible Study	31 Michael & Christie Reed Leona Jackson																																																																																									

Lent



Discipleship

Thanks to all that came out to support the youth for our Valentine Dinner Theater. They presented “Be My Valentine Charlie Brown” and “The Parable of the 4 Soils.” They did an amazing job of entertaining and serving the dinner. The women prepared delicious lasagna and a large array of dessert was provided by many!! We had a great turn out!! Also, special music was provided by Zac, Doreen and Hannah. Thanks to ALL!!! God Bless, *Teressa*

Youth Valentine Dinner Theater



Rick Newton Ministries

The second half of March, I will be in New England doing ministry. The 19th, 20th and 21st of March, I’m the keynote speaker at the New England Gideon convention. *Pastor Rick*

Worship

We wish to thank the Lay Reader, *Linda Cheverton* for the month of **February 2025**. We are looking forward to having *Haleigh Murphy* as the Lay Reader for the month of **March 2025**.



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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