

THE TIE THAT BINDS

JULY 2019



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FROM THE MINISTER...

07/01/2019

Summer is upon us. Warm weather, summer vacations, family get-togethers, and the like. It was always one of my favorite times of the year growing up. It meant school was out and my favorite pastime of baseball took center stage. I'm sure you all have your favorite things to do during the summer.

Let me encourage you to not neglect your attendance at church during the coming three or four months. Be faithful in your attendance and your contributions to the church. I'm praying that this will be a great summer for everyone.

I was reading in one of my books this past week and found the following facts from the Bible to be interesting. I think you will find it interesting as well. Often times, we will tell someone to seek God's will in a particular matter. This is good advice in everything that we do. Consider the following:

The shortest chapter in the Bible is Psalms 117. The longest chapter in the Bible is Psalms 119. The chapter that is in the center of the Bible is Psalms 118. There are 594 chapters before Psalms 118. There are 594 chapters after Psalms 118. When you add these numbers up you get 1188. The center verse in the Bible is Psalms 118:8.

I believe that this says something significant about God's perfect will for our lives. The next time that someone says that they would like to find God's perfect will for their lives and that they want to be in the center of His will, just point them to the center of God's Word! Psalms 118:8 (NKJV) "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man." You may think this is odd how this all worked out, but just maybe God is in the center of it! Faith doesn't get you around trouble, it gets you through it! God bless you.

In His Service, Pastor Charles

Called Congregational Meeting July 7, 2019 @ 12:00 PM



During the June Church Board held on June 19, the Search committee made a presentation that recommended Pastor Charles Waugh to be called as minister. After questions and answer period we called for a vote. The vote was taken by written ballot. The Board approved to bring the call to the congregation at the next congregational meeting. A congregational meeting has been scheduled of July 7, 2019 after church to consider the recommendation of the search committee and the church board.



Ross's Blessing Box Pantry



The First Christian Church is installing a "Blessing Box" filled with non-perishable food or personal hygiene items in front of the church. Anyone in the community who needs a little extra help can take items from the box, and anyone who wants to offer their help can add items to the box.

**"Take what you need,
leave what you can,
Above All Be Blessed"**

The box is not locked and is accessible at any time during the day or night.

Auda and Mary Alice Ross were faithful members of the congregation. Of the many things they did for the church, one was to contribute food goods each week to the small basket in the gathering place that is distributed to LACARE. There are other folks doing the same every now and then.

A presentation was given to the church board members based on an article in the Austin newspaper about a program called the Petite Blessing Pantry. That article stirred a passion and the light clicked that we should replace our Monday's Kitchen mission with this Little Free Pantry and call it Ross' Blessing Pantry.

There's a small-scale charity movement starting to take hold in neighborhoods across the country. Think of those "little free library" boxes, but with a twist: These are small pantries stocked with free food and personal care items like toothbrushes and diapers for people in need.

They're found near churches, outside businesses and in front of homes. The food pantries come in all sizes. Some have religious connections and are located near churches. Others are adopted by businesses whose employees want to pay it forward. All are serving up food and supplies to anyone in need.

"We felt like this is something that our church could do — something small that you know, would benefit so many people so long as the word got out about it," noted by Ron Petrick, Moderator of the Board of First Christian Church.

The bright white box with Red lettering is about 2 feet wide and is mounted on a post near the street.

Similar "yard-based" food pantries have gone up across the country, in states like Oklahoma, Indiana, Kentucky, Florida and Minnesota.

"The frequency of the turnover it suggests that the need is tremendous", said Mr. Petrick.

All of the items inside the boxes are free and there are no forms to fill out. Those using the boxes come and go as they wish. And that sense of anonymity is something you won't find at traditional community food pantries.

Many Military Families Are Relying On Food Banks And Pantries

The support from the local community can be overwhelming

It's also stocked with other essential supplies, like soap

The concept is simple. The box is a miniature food pantry -- receiving items from those who want to donate, and offering it to those who need them.

Petrick says "Whether you're taking or giving, you can just go to the blessing box, seven days a week."