

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



“Come Home To Tradition”

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH JOPLIN MESSENGER

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David Johnson, Pastor; Email: pastor.first.christian.joplin@gmail.com; cell:(417)499-3535 Bonnie Kime,
Office Manager; Cell Phone: (417)850-8275; M-Thur, 10:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.
Volume 36 #9 SEPTEMBER 2017

FROM THE PASTOR: “Running With Perseverance the Race”

The army of Alexander the Great was advancing on Persia. At one critical point, it appeared that his troops might be defeated. The soldiers had taken so much plunder from their previous campaigns that they had become weighed down and were losing their effectiveness in combat. Alexander immediately commanded that all the spoils be thrown into a heap and burned. The men complained bitterly, but they soon came to see the wisdom of the order. Someone wrote, “It was as if wings had been given to them- they walked lightly again.”

Wilbur Chapman, Christian evangelist in the late 19th Century, once said, “My life is governed by this rule: Anything that dims my vision of Christ or takes away my taste for Bible study or cramps my prayer life or makes Christian work difficult is wrong for me, and I must, as a Christian, turn away from it.” Any areas in our lives where we are refuse to submit to God’s will and obey His Word we must eliminate. We can’t resist God in any area of life and expect Him to bless and move us to the next level in our spiritual development. And we certainly won’t have filled the spiritual vacuum within all of us that we so desperately need.

We can’t fix ourselves and become godly people. We can’t will ourselves to change and become more like Christ. Our best move as Christians is to humble ourselves before God, admit our spiritual bankruptcy without Him and allow Him to work in our lives (Matthew 5:3; James 4:10). If He is going to effectively work in our lives, then we have to remove any and every roadblock that stands in the way. The Apostle Paul learned this and so can we. As he writes in Romans 7:21-25, “So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God’s law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. What a wretched man I am! Who will recue me from this body of

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(continued from front page)

death?” Then he answers his own question in verse 25, “Thanks be to God- through Jesus Christ our Lord!”

It is only Christ who delivers us! It is only Christ who changes us! It is only Christ who totally transforms us from the inside out to become more like Him. The writer of Hebrews is right on the mark when he says, “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart” (12:1-3).

Let’s always pray for numerical growth in the church and also spiritual growth in our lives! And may our focus always be on Jesus.

In Christ - *David*

PASTOR ON VACATION

Pastor David and Neara Johnson will be on vacation now through September 9.

This Sunday, September 3, Victor Knowles, Founder & President of, POEM, “Peace On Earth Ministries,” will be preaching. His sermon title will be: “In Times Like These.”

1. In times like these we need the Bible.
2. In times like these we need a Savoir.
3. In times like these we have an anchor.

We welcome the opportunity to meet Victor and his wife, Evelyn.

SUNDAY SERMON TITLES & SCRIPTURES:

Sunday, September 3 – “In Times Like These” – 2 Timothy 3:1-5

Sunday, September 10 – “If I Only Had...God!” – Ecc. 1:1-2

Sunday, September 17 – “Has Life Got You Down?”– Ecc. 2

Sunday, September 24 – “Time & Again”– Ecclesiastes 3



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 MEETINGS:

Immediately after worship on September 10, the church



committees will meet, followed by the monthly September Board meeting.

Before the Board Meeting there will be a meeting of the church Safety committee. If you would like to be a part of this committee, please attend or talk to Pastor David Johnson.

FIRST CHOIR PRACTICE SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 - 4:00 P.M.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!

(Rescheduled from August)

BIRTHDAY PARTY "LUAU" -
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17,
6:00 P.M.



On Sunday, September 17 at 6:00 p.m. in the FLC we will Celebrate EVERYONE'S Birthday!!! Membership will provide Finger Food followed by Birthday Cake and Ice Cream and Special Entertainment. The theme "Luau". If you have a Hawaiian shirt or grass skirt, wear them!!! It will be a lot of FUN!!! Everyone come, and enjoy time with your Church Family!

***If you would be willing to bring some finger food let
Linda Ashby or Kathy Coy know.***



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 6:00 P.M.

Women's fellowship Study will resume Wednesday, September 20 at 6:00 pm, in the FLC. After this month we will meet on the second Wednesday of each month. Snacks will be provided. All ladies are invited to attend and bring a friend!

DONATIONS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED FOR HAITI ORPHANAGE

We are accepting donations for needs in Haiti. The notice below explains what is needed.

White Fields Overseas Evangelism will soon be shipping a pick-up truck to Haiti to be used by the new orphanage that has been started in Pignon, Haiti. It will not cost anything for us to load the truck down with good used equipment that could be used by the orphanage. Items such as: **Microphone Stands, Microphones, Sound Systems, Speakers, Musical Instruments,**

Music Stands, Guitars, Keyboards, Drums, AND used Clothing

If you have any of these items you would like to donate, we would be glad to receive it, and then we will send them to Haiti to be used by the orphans at Pignon, Haiti and First Christian Church of Pignon. Bring to our church or call the office, 623-2390.

CROP WALK IS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8 - 2:00 P.M.

We will again meet at the First Presbyterian Church, 6th & Pearl to walk the CROPWalk in support of local and worldwide hunger. 25% of money raised stays local. If you would like to participate contact Kelly Benson

