

## Listening to God. . . By J. Gottman

It is good to be back at First Christian after my three month study sabbatical. Let me begin by expressing my deepest thanks to our ministry team who carried out and led the ministries of this congregation. I am grateful for the extra burden that Mariann Lankton, Phil Justice, Stephanie Copeland, and Erin Cash took on. Further I give thanks for Chris Cash who also agreed to preach a few Sundays. It truly takes a teamwork to keep things going around here and a lot of flexibility. I appreciate the flexibility and continued excellence that flows through the ministry that Jim Patton provides through our music department and dedication of Eddie Truelove, our custodian.



An equally big thank you goes to our board leadership and all our committee chairs who did not miss a beat in providing leadership in their respective ministries. As I hit the ground running I look forward to catching up with each of these leaders to see how things are going.

Finally, words are far too inadequate as a way of saying thank you to this congregation who recognized and honored this time of leave taking called sabbatical. It truly was a rewarding and renewing chapter in both my personal and professional life.

And so it is with great enthusiasm that I chose our current sermon series on the topic of covenant. Covenant is foundational for who we are as people of faith and how we look at our interactions, responsibilities, and faithfulness to our Creator God. At the core of covenant is the understanding that it is a contract between two parties. In the case study for this series we are looking at the Mosaic Covenant which is a contract between God and the Hebrews with Moses as the mediator.

There are two very basic foundational elements to covenant that are paramount to how we live out our communal life. The first is foundation is that the purpose of the covenant is to create new relationships. This is part of our mission as a church. We are to share the good news of what God has done in our lives and invite others to experience that same kind of intimacy with a loving God.

The second foundational element is that covenant is future oriented. As a community and as a church we can look back with fondness regarding past events and our perceptions of a shared history both good and difficult. And yet, while that history informs who we are it does not define who we choose to be or strive to be in the future.

The beautiful thing about the covenant that God sets forth with the Hebrews and ultimately with us as Christians through the new covenant established by Jesus is that we have a choice in the matter. We can choose to accept a relationship with God. We can choose to face forward into our future. And we can choose to take control of that future and with God's help determine a faithful course of action. This is how God chooses to bless us. I pray that the relationship we make with God grows into its full potential.

Remember this - you are here of your own free will. You are here because you want to be and you want to grow in your relationship to God. You participate because you want to honor God by giving praise to the one who created you. You give because you believe in our mission and ministry understanding that it is a spiritual discipline that honors all that God has done in your life. You serve because you believe it is important and know through service you come into contact with people and worlds very different from your own. You share your gifts because you believe them to be God given and understand the power that one individual has to make an impact on the world. You are here because you desire to be in community knowing how important true loving, caring relationships can build you up.

And I pray that you are here not only because you want to feel loved, needed, cherished, and honored by your fellow human beings in this community but because you want to do the same for others just as God has done for you.

Blessings and Peace,

J.

### Important Children's Ministry Announcement

It is a double-edged sword to announce to you, my family and friends of First Christian Church, that I have accepted a position as Director of Admissions at Lexington Theological Seminary. Chris and I are very excited to be within an hour of Ella (she lives near Cynthiana, if you know where that is), but we will miss our life here very much.

My position begins on Tuesday, October 11, making Sunday, October 9 our last Sunday with First Christian. I want to thank each of you for the gift you have been to me in the past 18 months. I had no idea what to expect, and I was met with grace, love, and compassion. When Chris and I married, you accepted Chris and Ella with as much love as you welcomed me. We have grown in many ways here, and we will miss you! I am a better person and a better minister for having served with you. I cannot thank you enough for all that you have done for us. We love you!

--Erin Cash

### Living in Covenant Sermon Series

**October 2**  
"Rules and Regs (and a few stipulations)" - Exodus 20:3-17

**October 9**  
"Remembering and Renewal" - Deuteronomy 31:9-13

**October 16**  
"Needing a Notary" - Joshua 24:19-28

**October 23**  
"Abiding by the Covenant" - Deuteronomy 28:1-15

**October 30**  
"A New Covenant" - Jeremiah 31:31-34

### World Communion Sunday is October 2

World Communion Sunday, the first Sunday of October, is a worldwide opportunity for Christians in every culture to break bread and share the cup as they affirm Christ as the head of the church.

### Memorial Gifts

#### In memory of Bob Jones

Bill Farr, Bill Wood

#### In memory of Harold Gilbert

Sue Fendley, Robert & Sue Ann Morris,  
Jo James

#### In memory of Patrick Murphy

Dan & Claire Key, Jo James

#### In memory of Lewis Lanier

The Caywood family, Dan & Claire Key,  
WR & Betty Sanders, the Lankton family,  
S. Copeland, Bill Wood

#### In memory of Ella Averitt

Bill Wood, Nettie Ruth Bingham

#### In memory of Netsy Jennings

Bill Wood

#### In memory of Dot Simmons

Pat Cvengros, Sue Fendley, William &  
Carolyn Woodford, Linda Steele, Ardeth  
Fitzpatrick, Dan & Claire Key, Jan  
Godwin, JoAnn Longton, Jean Claiborne,  
Nettie Ruth Bingham, Bill Wood

#### In memory of Ortis Key

Frank & Sue Fletcher, WR & Betty  
Sanders, Glenda Montgomery, Bill  
Wood, S. Copeland

#### In memory of Minnie Hall

Bill Wood

### Thank You!

#### *Dear Friends,*

We would like to thank everyone who helped us celebrate our 50th Wedding Anniversary. We appreciate those of you that came to the reception, the many, many cards and letters, and all the greetings and phone calls. Our church family is big, and we enjoy the friendship of each and every one of you. You have been there in good times and rough times. May God bless you all.

*Don & Judy Alvey*

### Collaborative Women's Conference

October 21, 2011 -- 7 PM  
Heartland Worship Center

**Theme:** "Iron Sharpens Iron"  
For more information about the annual conference please contact **Mary Boaz at**  
[mhboaz@comcast.net](mailto:mhboaz@comcast.net)

### K-5 Children's News

In the current Workshop Rotation on Sunday mornings the children are studying Abraham & Sarah (9:30 a.m.). In September they learned about this couple and their faithfulness. The study utilizes games, video and computers for learning. October will feature art, cooking and story. Don't miss a single week of this fun learning experience.



Wednesday Afternoon Kids Groups (4:00 p.m.) are again divided into two small groups (grades K-2 and 3-5). The younger children are working their way through the Bible with *Snip and Tell* stories that allow them to participate in the story by cutting out significant characters. Older children are taking the *Dares from Jesus* as they seek to live out God's plan for their own lives. All children in these age groups are invited to attend and bring their friends.

### Middle & High School Youth Group News

The youth will have their annual Halloween party on Sunday, October 30. We are looking for volunteers to help with this event. **Call Rachel at 217-1924** if you are willing to help. **AND** we are still working with Project Hope Animal Shelter, so kids watch your e-mail for info on how you can participate. The **CYFX** event for the high school group will be held **Nov. 11-13**, in Bowling Green. We need a volunteer or volunteers to take our youth to this event as Rachel will not be able to attend. If you are willing to give some of your time to help our youth please call Rachel or the church office.

### Christian Women's Fellowship

**The CWF Fall Retreat** will be held at Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park, October 29-30, 2011. the keynote speaker is Kathy Jeffries. Many of you have heard her speak before--she is dynamite! Kathy is a former International Disciples Women Ministry vice-president. She is an African-American woman from Nashville with a big message. **Please contact Nettie Bingham, CWF vice-president, (534-0019) if you are interested in going up for the day or for the two day, one night event.**

### We'll Miss You!

The Torbett family has relocated to Texas for Jeff's job. Marcia, Caylan and Avery have been very active in the life of our congregation and we will really miss them. Marcia says the girls are enjoying their new school, attending a local church and making lots of new friends. Their new address (and e-mail) is:

**23600 FM 1093  
Apt. 303  
Richmond, TX 77406  
jmcatorbett@juno.com**

### Stewardship Counts

Have you turned in your pledge card in support of the 2012 FCC church budget? The FCC Cabinet is working to submit the budget to the Administrative Board at the October quarterly meeting. In uncertain times, many hesitate to make a financial commitment, but we believe that God gives us strength to do what God leads us to do.

**Help us make a difference in our community and around the world by supporting the FCC 2012 budget with your pledge. Return your card today!**

### Faith & Film -- Oct. 10 at 6:30 p.m.

Maiden Alley Cinema (cost \$5)  
Movie this month "Three Kings"  
Sponsored by Grace Episcopal Church

### Finance Report YTD

**Income - \$268,316  
Expense - \$293,762**

**Please prayerfully consider your giving to date and help the church meet its outreach and other obligations.**

Your gifts to First Christian Church enable our church to respond to needs in our community and around the world.

### Attendance

Date	10:45 a.m.	5:30 p.m.	Total
8/21	110	41	151
8/28	94	51	145
9/4	82	44	126
9/11	118	58	176
9/18	97	43	140

**Join us for worship  
on Sunday!**

- Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
- Traditional Worship & Communion - 10:45 a.m.
- Contemporary Worship & Communion - 5:30 p.m.
- Or listen to our radio Broadcast on 1560 WPAD AM and 99.5 FM

Check us out on Facebook!

FCC Preschool still has openings for the fall term. Please go to [fccpaducah.org](http://fccpaducah.org) and click the preschool tab, or call the preschool line and leave a voice message (270) 443-0513 if you or someone you know is interested.

**Recurring Monthly Fellowship and Outreach Opportunities**

- 1st Monday** (October 3) - *Blood Drive* from noon to 6PM - Fellowship Hall
- 1st Tuesday**, (October 4) - *Cancer Support Group*, 7 PM in church parlor.
- 1st Wednesday**, (October 5) - *Super Senior Group* (55+) lunch at The Parlor Restaurant in Lone Oak at 11:30 AM. (various other locations)
- 2nd Saturday**, (October 8) - *2nd Saturday Breakfast* from 8 AM to 10 AM in Fellowship Hall. *Bring your friends and enjoy a great breakfast for a donation.*
- 2nd Wednesday**, (October 12) - The *Fannie Jones CWF Group* is moving their monthly meetings from the second Thursday. 7 PM church parlor.
- 4th Sunday**, (October 23) - *Jackson Oaks Service* 2 PM. *Everyone is welcome to worship with the residents of Jackson Oaks.*
- 4th Wednesday**, (October 26) - Potluck at 5:45 p.m. Bring your favorite potluck dish.
- 4th Wednesday**, (October 26) - *Prayer Service* - *If you have someone to add to our prayer list please contact Mariann Lankton.*  
**Check the calendar insert for more information and dates.**

**Support the PCM Pantry**

During **October** we are collecting **instant mashed potatoes or rice**. These are inexpensive food items, so please pick up a few boxes at the grocery this week and bring them to church with you. You may leave them on the table in the narthex.

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**OCTOBER 2011**

**The Tower**

**First Christian Church \* Paducah, Kentucky**

**Come. See. Discover. Discover the Disciples!**



**Your Vision Committee at Work**

The committee has developed an initial Mission and Vision Statement for First Christian Church. We used the key elements stated in last month's Tower to develop a scripturally based statement. All members of your committee felt it is essential to our beliefs as a Christian community that our mission has its roots in Scripture.

As of this writing, there is still some "fine tuning" we feel is necessary to truly represent who we are as members of the Body of Christ, here in Paducah and beyond. The Scripture basis for the various elements of our initial statement is in place and the particular passages are listed below:

*Deuteronomy 6:5, Zechariah 7:8-10, Micah 6:8, Acts 2:42, Matthew 25:34-40, Mark 14:22-24 and 1Corinthians10:17*

We encourage you to read these passages to help you understand the Mission Statement that will be published in its final form in the next Tower. At that time, we will also have developed some, if not all, of the goals that we believe will be essential to guide us into our future here at First Christian Church to live our Mission in the world. As our goals are finalized and passed on to the Cabinet for implementation, they will be published for all to know and understand.

We look forward to input from each person in our congregation as we journey together in Christ. Please contact any Vision Committee member with your comments, ideas, suggestions or feedback.

*Larry Furmann, Kenny Boaz, Whitney Caywood, Rachel Whitaker, Pat Lynch, Eric Whitaker, J. Gottman*

*This is YOUR Congregation and thus YOUR committee; we are simply here to serve as advisors in fulfilling our mission as a Christian Church and as Disciples of Christ. Please continue to pray for each of us so that we can truly continue to be a faith based committee of Visionaries.*

**Join us for the 2nd  
Wednesday Dinners this Fall**

The Culinary Arts Class of WKCTC, and instructor Patrick Fletcher, will be preparing a delicious meal for FCC members and friends on the **second Wednesday of each month (October 12th)**. The class will serve the meal on our china dinnerware and will clean up afterward.

**The menu for Oct. 12th is:** Osso Bucco, garlic mashed potatoes, bread, and dessert. FCC will provide coffee and tea. The cost is \$5 per person with a cap at \$20 per family. **Reservations required!** Patrick and his class **must** have the reservation list by **Monday, Oct. 7** to purchase supplies, If you plan to attend please e-mail Stephanie at the church office [scopeland@fccpaducah.org](mailto:scopeland@fccpaducah.org) or call 443-8251.

**Trunk or Treat & Great Chili Cook-Off**

This year's Trunk or Treat and Chili Cook-Off will be held on Sunday, **October 30, at 6:30 p.m.** following the Contemporary Worship Service. Prizes will be awarded for the best decoration of trunks as well as for the best chili. As always, **guests are welcome** to attend so invite a family member or friend to join you and enjoy an evening of good food and fun in the Fellowship Hall of FCC Paducah.



Trunk or Treat