

*Be exalted, O God, above the highest heavens.  
May your glory shine over all the earth.  
Psalm 108:5 (NLT)*

AUGUST

2015

## SERVING THIS MONTH

### ELDERS

Mick Arnold, Bill Faust

### ELDER ALTERNATES

Jim Bates, Todd Peak

### DEACONS/USHERS

Ed Redmond (D/U), Jim Sisk (D/U),  
Graham Anderson (D), Dave Vaught (D)  
(An usher needs to be responsible for  
locking foyer door after service starts.)

### JUNIOR DEACON

Ethan Henkel

### DEACONESSES/JR DEACONESSES

Dee Ross, Wendy Vaught

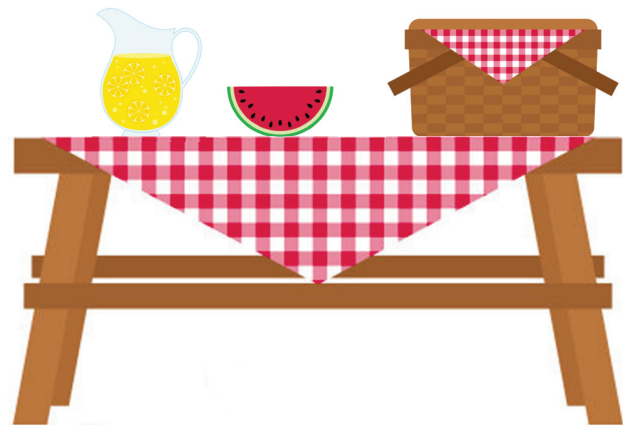
*If you cannot serve during your scheduled  
month, please contact another server  
to see about switching with you.*

*If you know of a shut-in desiring  
communion be taken to them, please  
call Jean Brannon at 276-669-7311.*

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ALL CHURCH PICNIC

Sun., Aug. 23rd • 5:00 pm • Steele Creek Park, Shelter G



Please bring your favorite picnic covered dishes and come join the wonderful time of fun and fellowship of our church families!! Also, please bring your lawn chairs, lawn games/toys, etc. We have the shelter rented from 3:30-9:00 pm, so there will be plenty of time for food, fun, and fellowship!! We hope everyone will attend this annual event. See you there!



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
311 SPENCER STREET {ON THE MLK JR. BLVD.} • BRISTOL, VA 24201  
276-669-2014 • FIRSTCHRISTIAN@BNU.NET



## THE LONGER I SERVE HIM

I've (we've) had some experiences of late I will most definitely not put in the easy column of life.

Lest I weary you with too many stories, I will go back to December when Pastor had surgery to remove the tumor from around his sciatic nerve. At the very same time, our dear Iler Walden was in intensive care, very ill. As I went to visit Pastor, I would also go see Iler. Seeing her sweet expressions of love and trust in the Lord was encouragement I can't describe. It so happened, during the same stretch of time, our dear Laura Anderson was also in the hospital. I would go visit with her, and the smile on her face and the sweetness of her spirit made me so ashamed. My attitude during difficulty wasn't always with a smile. I've watched Iler and Laura, both with terrible physical problems, and I knew without a doubt that during the years of their lives Jesus had become sweeter and sweeter. Both ladies (and those two are exactly that, ladies) very countenance told me the longer they served Him the sweeter He had grown.

Let me come to more recent days. Our dear Ralph Branson . . . his mind may have declined, but start talking about Jesus and His face lit up. Jesus had become dearer to him with each day—he never stopped loving or trusting Jesus.

Now I come to this week. I go to help at my in-law's house. It's time to bless the food at the meal. I ask Beth, my mother-in-law, if she would like to pray. The words that came from a sometimes confused mind had no confusion as to the sweetness of Jesus to her. Before leaving their house, we went to the living room to sit by the piano and sing precious songs of hope and encouragement. We had a beautiful trio going. Mom and dad Peak had not lost their song. Jesus had become sweeter.

Each of these I've mentioned are not youngsters anymore but I can tell you I had not one doubt of how sweet Jesus was to them. They each told me so . . . not always in words but, oh, I heard them loud and clear saying, "The Longer I Serve Him the Sweeter He Grows."

How is it in your life? Does Jesus become sweeter to you? Do you find yourself singing, "'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus" with more fervor?

Take a moment to stop and think how sweet Jesus is to you. Is He growing sweeter the longer you serve him?



Thank you First Christian Church Choir for your faithfulness this summer! It has been a rewarding season, especially the Sunday we sang while the drama team performed. I'm looking forward to the upcoming season of wonderful and moving choral music.

If anyone would like to participate in our choir, we meet each Sunday following the morning worship service and we only practice until 1:00, sometimes 1:15! But we can still get into our favorite restaurants without waiting!! Come join us!

Connie

## KIDZ ZONE WORKERS FOR AUGUST

### K-6 (AGES 6-10)

Week 1	Jessica Stacy
Week 2	Dottie Corey
Week 3	Connie Branson
Week 4	Tammy Henkel
Week 5	Family Worship Day




## L-I-F-T — LADIES IN FAITH TOGETHER

We have had an awesome time at our LIFT Ladies Ministry meetings. God has definitely been moving and bringing the ladies closer to HIM and each other. We have discussed flip-flopping our faith, as well as what not to wear spiritually as Christian Women in Christ. Our last meeting had a great turnout and we learned how we could all use S'MORE of Jesus as we enjoyed s'mores! We have special themes each meeting to make it fun while learning. Our next meeting will be held August 11th and our theme is "Women of Strength." We will be discussing how to be strong Christian Women! Please join us! Our meetings are held at Abingdon Olive Oil Company—Bristol in downtown Bristol at 6:30pm.

# AUGUST 2015



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR FCC

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 9:45 – Sunday School 10:50 – Worship Service 11:15 – Children's Church  No evening services.	3	4	5 7:00 – Midweek Services Adults / Children	6	7	8
9 9:45 – Sunday School 10:50 – Worship Service 11:15 – Children's Church  No evening services.	10 1:00-4:00 – Food Pantry  7:00 – Board Meeting (All church members are invited to attend board meetings)	11 6:30 – L-I-F-T	12 7:00 – Midweek Services Adults / Children	13	14  Meals on Wheels We deliver smiles™ 10:00 – Meals on Wheels	15
16 9:45 – Sunday School 10:50 – Worship Service 11:15 – Children's Church  No evening services.	17	18	19 7:00 – Midweek Services Adults / Children	20  Newsletter Info Due on Margie's Desk by today	21	22
23 9:45 – Sunday School 10:50 – Worship Service 11:15 – Children's Church  Church Picnic 3:30-9:00	24	25 6:30 – L-I-F-T	26 7:00 – Midweek Services Adults / Children	27	28	29
30 9:45 – Sunday School 10:50 – Worship Service 11:15 – Children's Church  No evening services.	31  7:30 pm Haven of Rest					

Margie is in the church office from 8:30-12:30, Tuesday thru Thursday.

Please have items for September's newsletter to Margie, Pastor Herb, or Judy by August 20th.



# HOW TO PRAY FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

BY RICK WARREN

*"Epaphras . . . always prays for you that you will grow to be spiritually mature."  
(Colossians 4:12a NCV)*

Paul wrote about a prayer warrior in Colossians 4:12: "Epaphras . . . always prays for you that you will grow to be spiritually mature" (NCV).

Epaphras is a hero to me. I don't know about you, but prayer is hard for me. You'd think it should come naturally, but it doesn't for me. So it impresses me even more that Epaphras had the discipline to always take time to pray for people.

But I also love the fact that he prayed for peoples' spiritual growth. We usually pray for peoples' needs—health and financial and relational—but we don't spend nearly as much time praying for their spiritual growth. We don't pray that God would change our character to be more like him. I think one of the reasons is that we don't know what to pray about.

Fortunately the Bible is filled with verses about how to pray for somebody to grow spiritually.

"May you be able to feel and understand . . . how long, how wide, how deep, and how high [God's] love really is; and to experience this love for yourselves" (Ephesians 3:19a TLB). Who do you know that may be struggling and needs God's love in their life right now? Bring them to mind and say, "God, let them know today how much you really love them."

"I pray . . . that you will always be eager to do right" (Hebrews 13:21 CEV). Parents, wouldn't you like to pray that for your kids, that they not only do what is right but that they are eager to do the right thing? Pray for them right now: "God, give them integrity."

"I pray that the God who gives hope will fill you with much joy and peace while you trust in him" (Romans 15:13a NCV). Who doesn't need more hope or joy or peace in their lives? Pray, "God, I know somebody who needs some hope. Help them to trust in you during this difficult time."

"I pray that the glorious Father . . . would give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation" (Ephesians 1:17a GW). Who do you know that's facing a decision? Ask God to give them his wisdom.

"I pray the Lord will guide you to be as loving as God and as patient as Christ" (2 Thessalonians 3:5 CEV). Has anyone got that one down yet? We're just not there yet. But we can pray for each other, that we will grow the rest of our lives to get closer to that. Pray that verse for someone.

"I pray . . . he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit" (Ephesians 3:16a NIV). Who do you know that feels overwhelmed by life or like they're having to do everything on their own power? Pray this for them. Say, "God, help them to know they're not alone today. Give them strength and power."

## Talk It Over

- Why is it sometimes hard to ask others to pray for our spiritual growth?
- How do you think God feels when we pray Scripture to him?
- Who in your life can you ask to pray for you to grow spiritually?