

Greetings from St. Louis!

I hope this letter finds you well. This is one of many “firsts” for me as I begin my ministry journey with you. My plan is to correspond with you each month from my heart and from the heart of what is going on at First Christian.

So, I write this while taking a break from preparing my last sermon at South Telegraph. My focus is *A Sign of Weakness Will Represent Him*. The cross fixes our hearts and minds on His atoning sacrifice and yet is unfavorable, misunderstood and is difficult to embrace. Our signs... our weaknesses... are an open invitation to embrace the cross of Christ with humility and with security knowing He is the victor over sin and death. The grave is conquered!

Easter

Invite a friend, co-worker, neighbor, family...to Easter services. The Staff and their teams have planned an 8:00 am service which will center on the cross leading into a Resurrection Worship at 10:30 am. Make plans to spend the morning celebrating God’s greatness and power through the resurrection of His Son, Jesus!

Special Benevolence Offering

Easter Sunday is also going to be an opportunity for you and your family to present to God a special offering above your regular giving. These funds will be directly used to assist our church family in times of crisis and financial need. Scripture says, “They gave as everyone had need.”

Let me encourage you to pray with your family, even the kids, in what God would purpose in your heart to give. I believe that God will pour out His blessings upon us as we strive to live in community with one another. Let’s give Him our best!

Itinerary

I will be arriving in ABQ on Monday, April 17th and look forward to seeing you all again. If you would like to meet for ministry or socially, please contact Candice for that scheduling. I am available for breakfast, lunch or dinner times. I do plan to stop by a few more small groups this trip and have breakfast with various ministers around the state at the New Mexico Christian Convention.

VBS

I introduced the idea of “all church events” during the State of the Church message a couple weeks ago. There is nothing like the body of Christ converging in an effort to reach people and to grow disciples. I believe we have such an event coming this summer.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) gives us the opportunity to reach our kids and their friends. In addition, when all of us are collectively using our gifts for the purpose of ministry it enhances unity, community and raises our awareness of what God can truly do through us.

Some of you...right now...are thinking, "But Tom, I don't do kids!"

"Good!" I say. "But you do "do" something. That is what counts."

I look forward to seeing you signed up and participating in reaching and growing kids in Christ. Plus when you touch the hearts of children...you touch the hearts of parents and relatives that may need Him too. God is good isn't He!

Baby Dedication

I look forward to being a part of this years' Baby Dedication on April 23rd. What an exciting time for parents to set their children apart to Him. Then we and the parents can dedicate ourselves to bringing up children in the way of the Lord.

Our son Connor fulfilled a great step in his obedient walk of faith with God this past Sunday (April 2nd) by publicly confessing and being baptized into Christ.

Transition Prayer

Pamela and I continue to ask you to pray for us as we transition from St. Louis to Albuquerque. Pray that God will lead us in the selling our home and finding the right home there. Our last days at South Telegraph are sure to be emotional yet with a strong confidence in knowing we are following His will coming to First.

Thank You

Finally I desire to thank all of you for your hospitality during my visits. Your thoughtfulness and care has not gone unnoticed. Your care packages and gifts to my family while I am away from them are above and beyond. I thank you.

Now, may God richly bless you in all you say and do in His mighty Name.

Tom Caffery