

Friends,

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Messiah! We are entering into a great new season of ministry. I'm writing this in the midst of an already busy season and we've essentially just started. Pamela is in school and teaching school, Emma has entered Kindergarten, and Caroline and Connor are busy with 4th and 6th grade along with all the extracurricular activities, including those in the church.

Our families, no matter how they are defined, are bombarded with choices. We can find it easy to work against bad choices, but when it comes to good choices, we really need a lot of discernment.

Have you ever made a choice that was a good one? Yet, later it became a choice that became burdensome? We all have. We commit at the highest point of frustration to never do it again. Who would have thought that making a good choice could end up being so bad?

Key to making these choices is in what we value. Values drive us to decision. We do what we value. Jesus taught it this way, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Jesus was speaking of investing in the Kingdom. Kingdom investing is never a place where moths gather, rust destroys or thieves hang out. Valuing and investing in the Kingdom brings heaven and earth together. Jesus was certain in His teachings concerning Kingdom choices.

He was certain that we choose to connect with our heavenly Father, that we nurture our families, care for the poor, and love our brothers, neighbors and our enemies. Jesus counsels us to make every decision without worry but securely on wisdom.

Jesus created the church for this very reason. His church would be His people connecting with the Father, nurturing their families with the Word, caring for the poor and growing in relationships with other believers and seekers witnessing the Holy Spirit at work.

Jesus wants every moment of our lives to be a Kingdom investment. He would have every moment experienced, every minute used, every penny spent, every word spoken, everything crossing our minds, and every deed done to be of Kingdom value.

Sounds daunting, doesn't it?

But it shouldn't really. Most times we have busied our lives with the "proverbial other" that we only walk away feeling a sense of guilt which brings forth a defensiveness that has no real defense. Life goes unchanged and our Kingdom life suffers.

Jesus longs for us to be Kingdom people, living and growing within His values not the values of this world presents.

Friends,

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Messiah! We are entering into a great new season of ministry. I'm writing this in the midst of an already busy season and we've essentially just started. Let me invite you to choose the following events as a part of your family's calendar.

Ryan and Sara Nelson Concert...This Friday at 7 pm

Ryan and Sara will be presenting a concert of praise and original music and will be presenting their new ministry this Friday evening at 7pm in the Sanctuary. Come and be blessed by the music and the update on what God is doing with them in their new church plant in Kansas. They will be moving from Albuquerque this weekend, so take advantage of this opportunity to, again, wish them well as they head for Kansas.

The Secrets of Jonathan Sperry...starts this weekend

Not very often is there opportunity for a Pastor to recommend a movie but *The Secrets of Jonathan Sperry* is one of them. You and your family will be blessed by this work. Gavin MacLeod, of the *Love Boat*, says that this is the most important work of his life.

The movie starts this weekend at the UA Theatre at Tramway and Central. Contact the theatre for the time that fits your family's schedule.

Great Communion Celebration...Sunday, October 4th at 3 pm

Be a part of history as we participate in The Great Communion Celebration on Sunday, October 4th at 3:00 pm at the Montgomery Blvd. Church of Christ.

Many who attend First Christian do not fully know our heritage. We are a part of a move of God in the 19th Century called the Restoration Movement, aptly titled for its pursuit to restore the church back to its reliance on the Bible. Our common Restoration Movement heritage includes the Church of Christ, the Disciples of Christ and our church, the Independent Christian Church.

One of the more familiar documents written during this movement is Thomas Campbell's *Declaration and Address*. Most consider this the founding document that initiated the movement. We, too, celebrate the 200th anniversary of its writing on this night.

This will be an international event with combined services in almost every major city of the world.

So, join us on Sunday, October 4th at 3:00 pm at the Montgomery Blvd. Church of Christ, 7201 Montgomery, for this historic and unifying event.

Worship at First Christian Church...this Sunday

I want to, also, invite you to worship at First Christian Church. Our services are at 9:00 am and 10:45 am. We have Children's Ministry for all ages at both services. Youth are invited to Sunday School at 9 am and worship at 10:45 am. So, bring your family and meet your friends at church this weekend.

We are beginning a new message series *Our Moment in His Story* an expositional study of Paul's letter to the Ephesians. See you Sunday!

One Last Thing of First Importance

I began my fourth year of ministry here at First in June. What an opportunity I have had to serve with you in this Kingdom work. I want to celebrate with you in congratulating Nan Scott for 15 years of professional service as our bookkeeper. Nan is not one for public acknowledgment, so I will have to seek forgiveness on this one.

Having served in the church in various positions and titles, I have worked with several in the area of finance and non match up to the personality and spirit of Nan Scott. She has and continues to be a strong voice of stewardship while speaking and acting in the kindest and simplest ways to our staff and our members.

She has served our congregation through ministry challenges and changes, trials and transitions, and even watched her girls grow up to be a part of this church as adults.

She has always greeted me with a "hey there" and a smile. I am sure this is your testimony too!

So, forgive me Nan...but I truly thank God for you and look forward to continuing our Kingdom work together...congratulations on 15 years!

Serving Our Jesus,

Tom Caffery
Senior Minister