

November 2007

Greetings!

I hope that this letter finds your family in good health and spirits. We are embarking on another season of giving thanks. I am so glad for this season primarily because it allows me to focus on all the blessings He has bestowed and helps me focus on the needs of others. Second, I must admit it leads right into Christmas. So, we go from thankfulness to giving. We get to be Christ-like in joyfully thanking Him for the blessing of His greatest gift...His Son...Jesus.

Thanksgiving Offering

Our upcoming Thanksgiving Offering is an opportunity for our families to reach out beyond ourselves. All of the giving will be used for translating the scripture into audio format for the people of Vietnam. We are partnering with Hosanna Ministries on this project.

Make this a family worship thing! Set up a time where you sit down as a family to discuss and pray what God would have you do to support those in need. What you will find is that a sacrificial act of worship will rise from your discussion. The times that Pamela and I have done this we have been able to use it as a moment of teaching and have been blessed by the "heart" of our children. We have in turn been changed by our own children's sacrificial spirit as they have understood the burden of those with needs which challenged us immensely.

So no matter the size of the gift...consider what your family will give on Sunday, November 18th to the Thanksgiving Offering.

Christmas Season

All of the Sundays in December will be a celebration of the coming our Lord and Savior, Jesus. We encourage you to worship with us and invite your neighbors, friends and family. We have a couple special events planned along with our Sunday services.

Sunday, December 9th our adult choir will be presenting a *Christmas Cantata*. You are sure to be blessed by experiencing the music and message of the Christmas story.

Our *Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service* at 11:00 p.m. will be a wonderful celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Elder Candidates

We will again be affirming our Elders at our Annual Congregational Meeting on December 2nd.

We are pleased to introduce Art Cordova, Greg Gross, Lawrence Junker, and Steve Peltier as new Elder Candidates for a two year term. They, along with current Elders, Randy Summers and Tom Headley will be up for congregational approval. These men, upon approval, will join returning Elders Bryan Burns, Lloyd Hoover and Todd Zeter.

Each of these men has been a part of a thorough interview process. Our desire is to present to you men of God who desire the “good work of elder.” According to scripture our leaders need to be above reproach, with this, we also desire your feedback. If you have any questions or comments concerning this process we encourage you to contact a current Elder.

Bryan Burns 281-2793 Tom Headley 293-4930 Lloyd Hoover 286-0600
Randy Summers 299-5891 Todd Zeter 237-1869

I look forward to serving with these men in the coming year. Please be in prayer for these men and their families as they embark in another leadership step for God.

2008 Budget

You will also be asked to affirm the 2008 Church Budget on December 2nd. Budgets are always a guideline to assist in good stewardship. The coming year’s budget is presented with two columns. The first column represents the basic budget needs of our ministries. It represents the “bottom lines” if you will with no real room for vision growth. The second column is where we present to you the visionary requests from our ministries as they developed their budgets for 2008.

Each column has the weekly budgeted need for the proposed ministry expenses. We are looking to God to provide the need through our church family. Your giving is vital to the mission of First Christian!

Giving is a matter of the heart. God sees the intention of our hearts when it comes to giving. He knows what we are able to give whether in our regular tithes or in additional offerings. His desire is for us to mature in our giving. He *enables* so that we are able. He wants us to truly embrace giving as worship. He instructs us through His servant Paul to give from a heart that has not been coerced but reflects charity with cheer.

We have prided ourselves in not burdening our congregation with too much giving talk. But this is the season to remind all of us of the importance of giving. Our Finance Team, Elders, and Staff have created the budget no to just inform you, but to have you truly buy into the mission and vision of First Christian.

Jesus teaches us that our giving truly reflects our heart...our mindset towards God. I believe that God has provided for us tremendously. Yet, He will allow us to limit ourselves in what we can be in ministry based on our giving. May I encourage each of us to examine our hearts and pray that God will supply our needs *according to His riches and glory* which He has given to us?

I look forward to 2008 at First Christian. We have a great year planned. I look forward to sharing more with you in the near future about what God is stirring. May God enrich your lives as you determine to be thankful and bless your families in this season of thanks and giving!

God Bless You,

Tom Caffery