

Another Word October 31, 2024

To our family and friends of First Christian Church

Donita and I want to express our profound gratitude for the outpouring of prayers, support, and love that has been showered on us by so many! This past month has been a challenge, but made easier because of you, our dear friends and church family. God's Blessings to you all!

This Sunday is All Saints Day when we remember those who have gone on before us.

Sara Stewart's 100th Birthday Party was a great success. But I bet many of you didn't know that She was interviewed and her story was told on Ashland Source. If you need a link to Ashland Source, let us know.

The Redemption Jazz Band will be in our Sanctuary this Monday, the 4th of November at 7pm. Their specialty is Dixie Land music. Don't miss this rousing, foot tapping, and hand clapping musical experience.

Because of your generous donations, (We raised \$7,600) 12 generators and a number of heaters were purchased and delivered yesterday to needy folks in some of the hardest hit areas in Western North Carolina. Teams of helpers from our area have been working to help them get back to some semblance of order. We will have a few pictures for you this Sunday.

I pray that everyone who reads this has or will take the time to "vote" this coming Tuesday your conscience and your heart. It has been suggested that all Christians should pause on November 4th at 6pm (each time zone across the country) and pray for our Nation. We are simply praying that God will hear our prayers and will heal our land.

May we pray. O Holy and gracious God, we thank You for Your love, guidance, and the very gift of life. We can at times take life for granted, especially when we get absorbed in day to day challenges. But then, something comes along in our lives that remind us that we are made in Your Image, and that what we do with our lives reflects how we feel about You. Thank You for showing us that caring for and giving comfort to others offers us a clear view into Your heart, and shows us what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Thank You for the blessings of life, in Jesus' name, Amen

We have all shown a lot of heart over the past few weeks. Purchasing Thanksgiving meals for unknown families, supplying generators and heaters for those in dire need. Loving and caring and praying for one another in times of distress. So, lets talk a little more about hearts.

The human heart is amazing. This fist sized muscle weights less than a pound. But in a 24-hour period beats around 100,000 times, and moves the equivalent of 2,000 gallons of blood throughout the body. Pretty impressive. This is why there is so much concern about heart health in the healthcare industry. We are advised to have regular checkups, exercise, and a good quality diet to maintain good health. Our entire body is dependent on the condition of our heart. The better the condition, the more likely the better quality of life.

While the medical field speaks about the physical heart, God speaks about another kind of heart. The heart that is the very center of our being. The inner heart of emotions, mental, spiritual, and moral guidance. Because the heart is the central core of life it must be protected. Proverbs 4:23 states, "Guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life." God's word goes on to say, "Keep corrupt talk far from your lips" (v.24) "fix your gaze directly before you" (v.25) and, "Do

not swerve to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil.” (v.27) The healthcare industry gives us directions for a healthy heart, and God has given us the daily regimen to have a strong spiritual heart.

So, you see, whether we are speaking of a strong physical heart, or a strong spiritual heart, when our hearts are guarded, protected, and taken care of, regardless of our age, our lives are preserved to do God’s will here on earth. And because we are indeed made in His image, we will with pure hearts, honor Him with every beat.

In His Peace,

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