Dear Friends,

I have watched a lot of basketball lately. Our granddaughter, Annibel, plays, and over the weekend, her team played in a winter tournament here in Carbondale. It was a real joy to get to see her play. Connie and I both love basketball and when Ann (what she is called by the family) wasn’t playing, we stayed and watched two other games. I think we saw six games in two days or something like that. Basketball is an interesting game to me, because a team will play really well one game and not very well the next. I have seen times when the whole team can’t miss a basket, and then I have seen times when a team couldn’t make a shot, no matter how hard they tried. I don’t get it, but it is the way it is. The important thing about basketball for me is that understanding what it means to be a “team” is critical. Other sports have this characteristic as well, but it seems to me that for basketball, it is even more important. As a player, you cannot be selfish and not pass the ball, or take all of the shots, because if you do, it becomes obvious to the rest of the team that you are not thinking about the team, you are thinking about yourself. If this keeps up, before long, the other players may begin to focus on themselves and play on their own. This is a path that leads to disaster and losing, because players don’t look to see who might have a better shot at the basket, they just want to shoot themselves. It can be difficult to get players to understand that they have to work as a team, but if a coach can get the players to understand this, chances are, the team will do well.

Working as a team is important in many areas of life, isn’t it? If a married couple doesn’t work as a team, it can be a bad situation as well. When a husband or wife thinks only of what they want or what makes them happy and doesn’t look for what is good for the other person, trouble is on the way. When a coworker looks only for ways in which he or she can get more recognition from the boss or climb the ladder, it isn’t long until there is no teamwork at the job. What can happen here is that a business or company suffers and it cuts down on the effectiveness of that business or company.

Because the church is made up of imperfect people, like me and like you, the same can be true for the church. Sometimes in the church, we can forget that when we all work together, we can accomplish so much more. When we remember that welcoming the gifts and talents of everyone, when it comes to doing the work of the church, the “fellowship of believers” is stronger and more effective. Jesus even had to deal with the idea of teamwork with disciples. If you recall, James and John got in an argument with the other disciples over who was the most important, and Jesus had to calm the situation down. One of the reasons Judas did what he did was because things with Jesus were not going the way he thought they should, and so he took matters in his own hands. When the disciples finally decided to work together, especially after the resurrection, Simon Peter became the leader and everyone else seemed okay with that. Look at all they accomplished when they all worked together—the Good News of Christ spread around the world and is still being shared even today.

All of this doesn’t mean that in the church everyone has to agree on everything, because there is nothing wrong with disagreeing. What all of this does mean is that the more we work together, the more we can accomplish for the Kingdom of God. The more we offer our talents and abilities to be used in the work of the church, the more we can accomplish. And the more we view what we do in the church as “teamwork,” the more those outside the church see just how important working together can be. With all that is going on in our country today, I can think of a better example the church can offer, can you?

See you Sunday,

Rev. Alan Rhein

Musings

---

In Church This Sunday
January 28, 2018
8:15 and 10:45 a.m. Worship Services
9:30 a.m. Sunday School

Sermon: “A Breath of Fresh Air”
Rev. Alan Rhein

Scripture: Mark 1: 21-28

Anthem: 8:15 Look to the Day
Paula McNally, soloist
10:45 Look to the Day
Sanctuary Choir

Hymns:
181 Ye Servants of God
102 Now Thank We All Our God
199 Fairest Lord Jesus
558 We Are the Church

Altar flowers this week are given by Dick & Jan Verduin, in celebration of their 55th wedding anniversary.

Indoor Greeters: Sara, John, Cayden and Carlisle Hinde

Acolytes: 10:45 Paige Hefferman and Olivia Bishop

Sound System Operators:
8:15 Scott Wright; 10:45 Ron Browning

Liturgists: 8:15 Dan Frey; 10:45 Irene Carlton

January Ushers: Dan Anderson III, Captain; 8:15 Doug Bedient, Steve Mitchell
10:45 Dan Anderson, Gary Hill, Gene Morgan, Don & Donna Bryant

See you Sunday,
In Church This Week

**In Sympathy:** Sympathy to Sam & Su Cox, family and friends, on the death of their niece, Laura Ellen Drake, who passed away on December 10, 2017, in St. Petersburg, FL.

**Thank you:**
“We appreciate, so much, your prayers for Jim during his surgery and recuperation.”

**Congratulations:** Congratulations to Steve & Lisa (Washburn) Owens, on the birth of a son, John Kelly Owens, January 21, 2018, in Chicago. Proud grandparents are Dorothy Owens of Chicago, and Sally & John Washburn.

**WAYS OF GIVING THAT COULD BE USED FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT OR THE BUILDING FUND**

**HAVE YOU UPDATED YOUR BENEFICIARY LIST?**
Have you had life changes? Divorce? Divorce of a child, grandchild or parent? Death of loved ones? Favorite charity closed? Every January, every person should review their beneficiaries for their wills; life insurance policies; IRA/retirement plan; trusts; and similar instruments. Be sure the names are correct; addresses are updated; statuses are current. Be sure your intentions are up to date!

**CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES:** CGA’s are a great way to make a significant gift to your church AND receive an annual income for life. For example, a donor makes a $50,000 CGA. The owners are ages 78 and 76. They will receive a life income for both at a return rate of approximately 5%; receive a one-time charitable tax contribution of about $12,000; receive annual tax-free income of about $1,840; and insure your church has funds to use in ministry. Most institutions set the minimum donation of $10,000.

(NOTE: The federal government sets this interest and tax deductible amounts monthly. Every charitable organization will have the same rates!)

---

**Sunday, January 28, 2018**

**Outside Greeter:** Kathy Hollister
**Van Drivers:** Dan Anderson III, Don Bryant, Jr.
**Welcome Center:** 8:15 Kathy Swindell; 10:45 Angie Voss
**Coffee Hosts:** 8:15 Deanna Diel; 10:45 Alison & Trent Funk
**Parish Nurses:** 9:15 Betty Graig; 11:45 Dana Oberg
**Children’s Church:** K-2nd: Necia Jannings; 3rd - 5th Susan Grotts
**Children’s Church Registration:** Barb Swinburne
**January Nametags:** Betty Graig

---

**Prime Timers Luncheon & Program**

**Program by Tom Logan, President/Founder of Marion Medical Mission, on “Water Wells”**

Luncheon $8
**DONATIONS NEEDED**

**CARBONDALE THRIFT SHOP**

215 N. Illinois Avenue

The Carbondale Thrift Shop has been serving the community since Church Women United founded it in 1967. As you are cleaning up after the holidays, we would like to remind you to please donate items you no longer need to The Thrift Shop. Clothing, household items, furniture and seasonal items are welcome. Your donation is tax deductible and we will provide you with a receipt upon request. Items can be dropped off at The Thrift Shop between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, please contact The Thrift Shop at 618-549-6976.

*Thank you, M. Daniel Becque, President*

---

**MARION MEDICAL MISSION (MMM)**

Marion Medical Mission provided a summary of its 2017 provision of fresh water wells in Malawi, Zambia and Tanzania. The report mentioned Elizabeth, a woman born in 1919, who has spent 98 years waiting for a source of clean water for her family. She’s lain awake at night worrying about ill family members and watched her village bury far too many children because of water-borne illnesses. That is why, when MMM arrived to provide a protected source of safe drinking water to her village, she overcame the pain of her crippling arthritis and struggled to the well dedication. Elizabeth was one of 345,000 people whose prayers were answered this year as MMM installed 2,805 wells for poor villages. FUMC donations to MMM share the love of Christ with every villager like Elizabeth - - people who live in abject poverty. They now know that Christians care about them and want them to thrive. FUMC has provided annual funding for two or more wells for several years. Each well provides water for a village of approximately 123 people.

*Thank you for the outstanding support you have provided for our mission activities.*

---

**TIME TO DONATE YOUR PLASTIC BAGS**

Learn How You Can Help the Carbondale Mat Makers - Carbondale Mat Makers makes waterproof sleeping mats out of plastic bags for the homeless. They meet on Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m. - 12 noon, at St. Andrews Episcopal. Anyone interested in helping is welcome! If you have any questions, please call Laura Depolo at 618-967-8986.

**PLEASE DONATE MORE PLASTIC BAGS FOR MAT MAKING. WE CAN ONLY USE THE GROCERY OR WAL-MART TYPE BAGS.**

---

**CHECK IT OUT!!!...**

in the Diane Neill Dorsey Memorial Children's Library

*Tell Me About Baptism*

by Stephen Elkins

“...teaches children what happens to us when we are baptized and why baptism is so important.” Part of the Train 'Em Up interactive, fun-filled series of books about Christian beliefs and principles.

---

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Storytime**

Parents and children are invited to join us **Wednesdays 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

Diane Dorsey Memorial Children's Library

Join Ms. Jane for stories, music, games, and crafts as we learn about the Bible and how Jesus taught
SUNDAY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
Children’s Opportunities

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Children’s Sunday School - (K - 5th grade) uses Deep Blue from Cokesbury. The morning begins with music at 9:30 a.m. in Room 415.

Sundays at 10:45 a.m. Children’s Church - (K - 5th grade). All children are invited to Children’s Church following the Children’s Time at the 10:45 a.m. worship service.

January Children’s Church - Jesus in the Temple
Bible Story: Luke 2:41-52
Bible Verse: “Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” (Luke 2:49)
Main Idea: God’s “house” is a comfortable place to learn, ask questions, and discover God’s plan for us.

Youth Opportunities, 9:30 a.m.
Faith development through Bible lessons, emphasizing a relationship with God through Jesus.

Middle School meets in Room 410 and uses On the Go.

High School Class meets in Room 409 and uses a variety of materials connecting the lessons of the Bible with issues relevant to today’s youth.

Adult Opportunities, 9:30 a.m.
Renew - Renew is a group of women seeking deeper meaning in their lives through Bible study, reflection, and prayer. They meet at 9:30 a.m. in Room 402. Women of all ages are welcome.

The Investors Class - Investors is an intergenerational class for all adults. They meet at 9:30 a.m. in Room 404 (the Chapel). Everyone welcome!

The Electives Class - Scripture studies are led by John Sims. They meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Heritage Room. All are welcome!

Small Group Opportunities
The Daniel Plan meets in Room 402 at 9:00 a.m. on most Tuesdays. Check the church calendar. Everyone welcome.

Grateful Hearts meets on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m., Room 308.

Youth Group meets at 6:00 p.m. weekly on Wednesdays in Room 409 and Fellowship Hall.

Youth Super Church, Sunday, January 28, 2018, 10:45 a.m.

February 2018 Birthdays

February 2
Judy Cunningham
Nancy Mitchell
Amanda Shelby
Matthew Mitchener
Maddie Poshard
Patti Simon
Lisa Washburn - Owens
Matteo Bongiorno

February 4
Phillip Ripley
Ron Diel
Natalie Nickerson

February 5
Joe Bryant
Baleigh Koester

February 7
Meghan Hagedorn

February 8
Terry Meyer
JoAnn Rice
Violet Fager

February 9
Laura Depolo

February 10
Joanna Durr-Gil
Carlisle Hinde
Cayden Hinde

February 11
Ed Tresnak
Gayle Steams

February 11
John Bedient
Callie Scott

February 12
Natalie Walker
Emily Jung
Molly Bishop
Harper Cook
Becky Baker
Celia Butler

February 14
Joseph Toe
Adelyn Tallman

February 15
Drew Hudsins
Maggie Mandell
Mollie Mandell

February 16
Beth Arthur
John Verduin, III
Peter Huh
Nicholas Harfst
Karen Graham
Nancy Sheeley-Mendoza

February 19
Gary Austin
Joan Erickson

February 20
Jay Crippen
Jefferson Wright

February 21
Scott Mitchell
Emma Francis

February 22
Doris Brown
Carole Daesch
Courtney Bertsch
Connor Greer
Tori Greer
Donna Bryant
Carly Cook
Kelly Lenzini

February 23
Betty Crippen
Howard Hesketh, Jr.
Patrick Parker
Nancy Hoffman
Charlene Zieba
John Williams
Lindsey Bailey

February 24
February 27
Sidney Matthews
David Childers