

Another Word    October 4, 2022

To our family and friends of First Christian Church

Last evening, The Percy Hall Orchestra played to a very enthusiastic crowd. Classic big band at it's finest! The next concert will be Nov. 7.

Thanks to all who contributed to the Crop Walk, and to Dick Reich for making it a success! We collected over \$800. Well done, all!

The deadline to sign up for The Living Legacy Seminar is this Friday Oct. 7. If you plan to attend and haven't yet registered, call 419-281-1477.

The Elders are working on a list for visitation. Our goal is for each person to visit 2 people a month. That way, our members in nursing homes and home bound would receive a visit from a different church member at least once a month. If you would be interested in this outreach, please contact Linda or Rich for further information.

There will be a budget meeting Wed. the 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30, and a leadership meeting Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am. All are welcome to attend.

Our scriptures for Oct. 9 are Psalm 66:1-12, and Luke 17: 11-19. Lana Bell is the serving Elder. Scriptures for Oct. 16 are Psalm 119: 97- 104, and Luke 18: 1-8. Matt Henderson is our Elder.

As we go to prayer, please remember those who cannot be with us weekly as we worship.

O Holy and gracious God. We gather together as one to offer ourselves in praise to You. May we always conform our hearts and minds to Your will, and welcome with joy the renewing gift of the Holy Spirit. We dedicate our lives and all that we are to Your Glory. May we continue to work tirelessly spreading Your word and Your love to a broken and needing world. In Jesus' precious name we pray, Amen.

One of the best learning experiences of my life was while I was with The Boy Scouts. We learned many skills; how to work together, how to think for yourself, and to realize you were capable of doing amazing things. Above all though, was how to deal with life's responsibilities. But to me, the best parts of Scouting were the weekend campouts.

Every month or so, come rain or shine, we would plan meals, pack up all our gear in the church parking lot, and head out to some remote lake or woods and set up camp. Of course, all the skills we were being taught would be put to the test. In fact, there is one campout I remember quite clearly.

We were on a farmer's back property. We pitched our tents on the edge of his woods, made supper, cleaned up, and then sat around the campfire roasting marshmallows and telling scary stories. It was January, there was snow on the ground, and it was rather cold. Our Scout Master had us check out tents to be sure they were secure, and we all turned in around eleven.

That night the weather turned ugly. The wind began to blow, our tents began to shake, and within a few minutes most of our tents began to rip and blow away! Luckily, we were only a mile from the farmer's barn. We spent the rest of the night listening to the raging snow storm outside while tucked safely away between bales of straw.

This story came back to me because I remembered that Paul was a tent maker. (Acts 18) In fact, that was how he supported himself. I'm sure he made high-quality tents because everything Paul did was the best. Whether sewing leather together, making tent frames, or preaching the gospel, he always gave it his best.

I'm sure that initially, Paul thought of tents as being nothing more than a temporary dwelling, something not even close to a permanent home. And while thinking that, I'm sure Paul then began thinking of our bodies as a tent, something that is also only temporary.

I can hear someone out there right now saying, "Ok Rich, how can you make such a statement?" Well, in 2 Corinthians 5:1 Paul writes, "Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in Heaven, not built by human hands."

See the similarities of my story and Paul's thoughts? When this tent we live in goes down, (when the storms blows away your tent), we will have a permanent residence (like the sturdy barn), that is waiting for us in Heaven.

So, if you think about it, we are all here on earth, just camping out. And when our temporary tent is of no further use, it will be traded in for a permanent home; an eternal, immortal home, compliments of our Father in Heaven.

In His Peace,

*Rich*