

Another Word, May 16,2023

To our family and friends of First Christian Church

Donita and I will be in Cincinnati this Sunday watching our grandson (boy does time fly) graduate from high school! As an extra blessing, our daughter Betsy and Andre will also be there so we will have a special family get together. We plan to return on the 23rd.

For those on email, the Senior Health Fair is tomorrow, the 17th from 11am to 1 pm in Mozell Hall at the fairgrounds. It's a great time to pick up information about the many services available in Ashland County.

This may be a little early, but our next Legacy Seminar will be held June 17th from 10 am to noon. I will have flyers available next week.

Our next Bible Study will begin Tuesday May 30th. It is a 5-week study of the book of Esther called, "You were made for this moment." A sign-up sheet will be posted in the gathering area. Again, there will be two classes available, 10:30 am or 6 pm.

The Baby Bottle campaign over Lent was a great success. We raised \$1,672.17. Melanie and the whole staff at The Ashland Pregnancy and Care Center send their love and thanks!

Our next two week's scriptures are:

May 21: Isaiah 6: 1-12. Shelley Carpenter is our serving Elder. Alan Girard will bring us a message based on Mark 4: 1-20. Sowing Seeds.

May 28: Psalm 104: 24- 34, 35b. Linda Gardner is our serving Elder. This is Pentecost Sunday and Memorial Day Weekend. Our scriptures are Acts 2: 1-21, and John 15:9-13.

Please keep Ashley (Shelley's daughter), Alice Metcalf, and Lennie Reich in your prayers.

May we pray. O Holy and gracious God, when our lives should be filled with joy and love, we often find ourselves facing pain, fears, and loss. We know and accept that these are a part of living. However, there are times when we feel

overwhelmed and wonder how we will ever again see the light of day. But then You, knowing our needs, send us a smile, a note of encouragement, even someone to take our burden from us. You are always with us, guiding us through the challenges of life, and we are truly grateful. We ask that you open our eyes and hearts for opportunities that we may, through your love and our actions, encourage others to know you better. We ask this in Jesus' most precious name. Amen.

About a year ago, I read about an experiment concerning seeds. Knowing what Alan will be speaking about this coming Sunday, I feel this is the perfect time to tell this story.

In 1879, a botany professor by the name of William Beal filled 20 bottles with various seeds then dug deep into the soil and buried them. Once buried, one of the bottles would be dug up every twenty years and the seeds planted. His reason? He wanted to see which seeds could withstand lying dormant over long periods of time, be planted, germinate, grow, and become viable for food. Imagine an experiment that would take centuries to complete.

Now fast forward to the year 2021. Yes, just 2 years ago the seventh of Professor Beal's twenty bottles was dug up and the seeds planted. After over 140 years, some of the seeds did sprout, survive, and thrive.

Matthew, Mark, and Luke all tell the story of the Sower of the seed. Jesus spoke a lot about seed planting, especially comparing it to the sowing and spreading the seed of "the word."

But this is where my part of this story ends. To find out where Alan picks it up and continues, you will need to come to church this Sunday or tune in to our Face Book page to find out. Trust me when I say, you will love his message!

In His Peace,

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