

Another Word June 7, 2022

To our friends and family of First Christian Church

It's been over two years since we began writing these weekly letters. Beginning with the lock-downs in March of 2020, they were designed to keep everyone informed while Sunday services were suspended. But even after services were resumed, we have continued sending them, especially to those who aren't able to regularly attend.

No, we aren't ending the letters, but we will now be sending them out on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Don't worry. We will include scriptures for the following two weeks, and any pertinent information you may need. And of course, if something important occurs between the times, we will be sure to send out an email blast.

For the next 2 months, we will be taking a journey through the book of Acts. Actually, the journey has already begun; May 29<sup>th</sup> was the Ascension, (Acts 1) and June 5<sup>th</sup> was Pentecost, the birth of Christ's Church. (Acts 2)

This coming Sunday's scriptures will be Psalm 8, and Acts 5:27-42. Lana Bell is our serving Elder. The scriptures for June 19 are Psalm 42 and 43, and Acts 7:55-60, plus Acts 8:1-3. Shelly Carpenter will be our serving Elder.

Please remember Dale and Cari Campbell, Mary Bee, and Ken Donelson in your prayers.

May we pray.

O Holy and gracious God, we come to You today with Joy and wonder in our hearts. You show Your love and care for us through The Holy Spirit

who directs and guides us to better lives. We ask for Your strength and courage to stand firm so we may pass Your love on to our neighbor. Please bless and protect our military, police, fire, and care givers who selflessly serve. And may Your wisdom again inspire our leaders to work together to bring about true justice, peace, and stability in this broken world. In Jesus' perfect name we pray, Amen.

Lies! Lies!! Lies!!!

I think we all have found ourselves in situations where we have said something that we know is not true. A child when asked, "Did you wash your hands?" will often say yes, in hopes to get away with not washing. Maybe there are a few embellishments added to a job application to make you look better. Or, how about when the doctor asks you a serious health question and you just shrug, wince in pain and say, "Oh, I'm fine."

It's amazing that we will say most anything in order to not be held accountable for our actions, or to improve our status in the eyes of someone else. We call these answers "half truths," "stretching the truth," or even "little white lies." God calls them just lies.

I think one of the best examples of these "Little white lies," involves a baseball game that was played in the old Cleveland Stadium on May 15, 1981. It was a damp, chilly night and Len Barker was on the mound. And in front of 7,290 paying fans, Len pitched a perfect game. So far so good, right? However, since 1981, it has been estimated that three quarters of a million people have claimed to have been there that

night. Hmmm, it seems there may be more than a few “white lies” being told.

I know, I know. What’s the big deal? No one could possibly be hurt because of someone claiming to have been there. And it was so long ago, who really cares. On the face of it, I agree. However, when you get right down to it, whether it is a half truth, or just a little white lie, we need to remember, it is still a lie.

Psalm 34 states, “Keep your lips from speaking lies.” Colossians 3 says, “Do not lie to each other.” In Hebrews we are told, “It is impossible for our God to lie.” I think that is our cue that we should live our lives by following God’s example.

We may find confessing can be difficult because in our pride, we may not want to admit our sins. Maybe we have fudged the truth just a little and try to justify our actions. But our loving and gracious God gently nudges us. He wants us to ask Him for forgiveness. And when we do, “He will forgive us and cleanse us from all our sins.” (1 John 1:9). We then can be free of the guilt that is associated with our tall tales.

By the way, the last out was a fly ball to center, caught by Rick Manning. And yes, I saw him catch it..... on the television.

In His Peace,

*Rich*