

FOCUS

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October 2011

BEYOND 735



Our Mission

First Evangelical Church exists to communicate the Word of God to produce faithful followers of Jesus Christ who love, worship and serve Him for the glory of God.

Our Vision

As members of the Bride of Christ, we purpose to:

EXALT THE LIVING GOD
THROUGH WORSHIP

EXAMINE THE WORD
OF GOD THROUGH
INSTRUCTION

ENCOURAGE THE FAMILY
OF GOD THROUGH
FELLOWSHIP

EXTEND THE LOVE OF GOD
THROUGH EVANGELISM
AND MISSIONS

Pastor's Pensées

Cole Huffman

An Evanie for Azmaveth

I write this the day after the 2011 Emmy awards. I didn't watch it—didn't know it was on television last night and wouldn't have watched it anyway. But you know the award shows: Emmys, Oscars, Grammys, Doves, Espys, CMAs, VMAs, and other less prominent venues. (I like the annual Golden Raspberry Awards, or "Razzies," in recognition of the worst in movies.) These galas can be preening and self-congratulatory, of course, and there is something a tad oxymoronic in effusive "critical acclaim." But most award programs emerge from the premise that it is fitting to honorably distinguish those who have particularly excelled in their labors.

In this vein, we recently created the "Evanies" for our staff. The Evanie is a simple certificate with some kind of "happy" attached like a paid lunch or gift card. It would be fitting to hand recipients a bronzed cauliflower resting on a Bible in the pattern of our now erstwhile church logo. But we haven't the budget for that.

Our Evanies are peer-promoted and given to any First Evan staff member (pastoral or support) who excelled in his or her work. I even got

nominated for one! Evanies aren't categorized, and only one winner is awarded per week by random draw. It is simply a fun way for us to regularly commend work well-done, and from the theological premise that our work matters to God.

Many Christians assume "church work" is intrinsically more important to God than "secular work." But biblically considered this is a non sequitur. Consider how, tucked away in all the begats and begottens of 1 Chronicles, there is an interesting little listing of David's employees. After noting what each employee's work was the section concludes, "These were stewards of King David's property" (1 Chron. 27:31). Go back in time to David's day and ask Azmaveth what he does. He replies, "I am a steward of the king's treasuries" (a banker or broker, essentially). And you, Ezri? "I'm a steward of the king's soil" (a land manager or farmer). Obil? "I'm a steward of all the king's camels" (animal husbandry, including veterinary care). There it is: white-collar, blue-collar, and no collar. But each one's work benefitted both king and kingdom.

MEMPHIS MINISTRY: BE A CHAMPION

We invite you to be a Champion for a First Evan approved Memphis Ministry through our exciting Matching Gift program. You can apply for a matching gift for the ministry you have already been involved with - by the hours you volunteer and/or by your financial giving to that ministry.

For example: if you give \$300 a year to a ministry, then you can apply for a matching gift through First Evan for that ministry. You need to complete the application process and turn it in during the month of October.

You can access the application by going to www.firstevan.org and clicking on Memphis Ministries. You will find the list of First Evan approved ministries, and the application is listed under the News and Events section. The Memphis Ministry Committee will review the applications that are submitted and respond accordingly. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jo Anne Clark at joanne@firstevan.org.

INTERNATIONAL MARKET, NOVEMBER 13

At this market you will find products from around that world that have been hand-crafted by the poor, the vulnerable, the survivors of human trafficking and similar injustices. The products provide a way for the women and children to sustain their freedom through learning a skill and supporting themselves financially. Please support these evangelical ministries by buying gifts for you, your family, and your friends.

Our work, whatever it is we do and however it is remunerated, takes up the majority of our time and energy every week. Our work so dominates our years in fact that we tend to fuse what it is we do for a living with who we are or perceive ourselves to be. But the Christian view of occupation is that our work is more than something to do for filling up our wallets and waking hours each day to a ripe old retirement age. Our occupations are stewardships through which we fulfill the greatest commandments to love God and neighbor.

Think about it: the most natural context for loving God with all your strength is your daily work. This follows for loving neighbor, too. God has given you skills and expertise and aptitude that blesses your neighbors and contributes to their good. This was the bottom line in Martin Luther's theology of vocation: that all occupations—pimping, thieving, and serving as a papal priest (!) were Luther's exceptions—glorified God as long as they contributed to neighbors' good. So the work you do affects others in both the larger socio-economic frame of your entire community to the smaller frame individuals you come into personal contact with in your work. But as Francis Schaeffer used to teach, there are no little people, no little places. He

meant in the provident ordering of God every one and every place has value. This is why Luther used to say, "God milks the cows through the vocation of the milkmaids."

Take garbage collection. I don't glorify it and wouldn't want to do it. But I do esteem the value of the work garbage collectors do and tell them so when I see them in my neighborhood. I remember a line from a popular Alabama song (they won a lot of Grammys and CMAs, by the way) years ago that esteemed the value of what we call blue-collar jobs, called "40 Hour Week." The line: "And the fruits of their labors is (sic.) worth more than their pay." Did you know the first guy in Scripture ever said to be filled with the Spirit of God was blue-collar? Bezalel was a craftsman whom God filled "with skill, ability, and knowledge in all kinds of crafts" (Ex. 35:31).

The most natural context for loving God and neighbor with all our strength is our daily work, whether we're blue-collar, white-collar, black-collar, or no collar; whether an Emmy or an Evanie ever recognizes it. The work you and I do is a gift we'll love giving to others when we know it delights the one who gifted and fitted us for it.

www.ticketmaster.com

C.S. LEWIS

November 5 at 4:00 and 8:00 p.m.

THE *Screwtape* LETTERS

Max McLean as Screwtape

"A PROFOUND EXPERIENCE!"
- *Christianity Today*

"HUMOROUS & LIVELY...THE DEVIL HAS RARELY BEEN GIVEN HIS DUE MORE PERCEPTIVELY!"
- *The New York Times*



The Equipping Institute Quarter 2 begins Wednesday evening, October 26th and runs for six weeks concluding on December 7th. **The deadline for registration is Sunday, October 16th.** The courses offered during Quarter 2 are

- Core Courses Track - The Word
In this course you will prepare and present an expository Bible lesson using time-tested methods for studying the Bible, including proven methods of observation, interpretation, and application.
- Local Ministry Track - In House: One Another
This course seeks to provide a thorough introduction to the whys and how-tos of effective ministry within the body.
- Global Missions Track – Strategic Perspective (How Is It Done?)
This course will focus on studying the ‘people groups’ concept, cross-cultural gospel communication, church planting, contemporary world context and creative means of missions.

For more information or to register please see the First Evan website.

DISCOVER FIRST EVAN

Discover First Evan is a class for anyone interested in learning more about First Evan or desiring membership. Attending the class in no way obligates you to join but it is the first step in membership. The next class will be Sunday afternoon, October 30, from 12:30 – 3:30 pm in room A-211/213. If you are interested in attending, please contact Paula Mayberry at paula@firstevan.org or call 682-8452.

BASKETBALL REGISTRATION SEPTEMBER 18-OCTOBER 16

Micro (age 5 & 6): \$45

1st grade & up: \$65

Registration forms and drop box are located at the Recreation Desk. For more information, contact Jacki at 683-7700.

AN INVITATION TO SING WITH THE WORSHIP CHOIR FOR LESSONS AND CAROLS, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

On that day, singers who are not regular choir members will join with the Worship Choir and members of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra to present special services celebrating the birth of Christ. Rehearsals begin Sunday, October 23 at 4:00 p.m. in the Choir Room. Childcare will be provided. For more information, contact Jan in the Worship Office at 682-8452.

Kids Karnival
Fun for the Whole Family
Wednesday
October 26th
6:00-8:00 p.m.
in the gym

Moon Bounce... candy
Giant Slide... candy
Obstacle Course... candy
Games... candy
Prizes... candy

Lots of fun for everyone!
(and did we mention candy?)

No Scary Costumes Please

A great outreach opportunity – invite your neighbors & friends.



Library News

Do you need a place to store old cassette tapes? Get them out of shoeboxes and drawers and organize them on the back of a closet door. See Vicki Hill in the library for a great idea.

Would you like to donate a magazine subscription to the library? Please see Vicki Hill for a list of preferred titles.

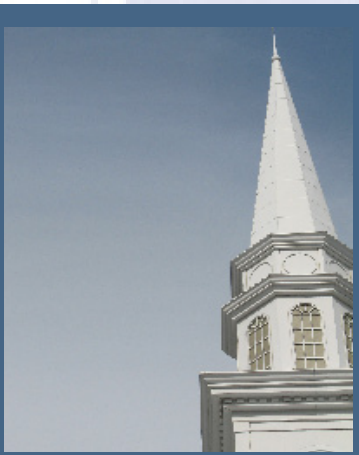


First Evangelical Church

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October 2011



CLASSES, WORSHIP

9:15 - 10:30 a.m.

- Traditional Service (Sanctuary)
- 1st NewSong Service (gym)
- Adult Sunday School classes
- Children's KidSong

10:45 - 12:00 noon

- 2nd NewSong Service (gym)
- Adult Sunday School classes
- Children's Sunday School classes

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Communion	3	4	5 Equip. Inst. 1st Qtr. ends	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Ladies Retreat thru 10/16	15
16	17 LLL Movie Day 1:00	18 Men's Fish Fry	19	20 LLL Day Trip	21	22 LLL Luncheon
23	24 Care Givers	25	26 Equip. Inst.-2nd Qtr. Begins Kids Karnival	27 He Cares	28	29
30 Reformation Service 6 p.m. 2nd Pres.	31					