



THE VISITOR

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Dec. 12, 2014
Vol. 73, No. 18

Third Sunday of Advent Worship, December 14

The Word came...

John the Baptist said "Repent"

...and dwelt among us.

The theme of JOY will guide our worship this coming Sunday. The Children's Choir will present several songs in the 10:30 worship service. Hymns of the day will include *Angels from the Realms of Glory*, *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*, and *Once in Royal David's City*. The chancel choir will bring the anthem *Come, O Come to Us We Pray*.

The DOC - college mission team will be commissioned in the 10:30 service for their trip in January to Mississippi.

Part two of *The Word came...* sermon series will bring words from John the Baptist calling God's people to repent.

Pancake Breakfast



Sunday

Dec. 14

9:00 - 10:15 a.m.

Yonker Fellowship Hall

Menu: Pancakes, eggs, sausage, beverage

The *Disciples on Campus* (DOC) college ministry is raising funds for their **Winter Break Mission Trip to Clarksdale, MS.** The mission team will be serving and learning in Jan. 2015



The Christmas Pageant Dec. 14, 7:00 p.m.

The Annual Christmas Pageant will be held Sunday evening, December 14. The tradition is long standing and brings out a full sanctuary in the coldest of conditions. How great it will be to hear again the ancient story and see the portrayal of the holy family, shepherds, angels and wise men by children and adult friends in the congregation. With carols sung and instruments played,

we will all have a chance to partake in the night's joy.

A "white gifts" offering will be collected again this year. All are encouraged to bring nonperishable canned/boxed food wrapped in white paper. This tradition reminds us of the importance of the giving, and not the type of gift. The food will be shared with the local food pantry.

A huge **tasting party** in Yonker Fellowship Hall will follow the pageant. All are encouraged to bring a finger food-cookie-dessert-appetizer type of holiday deliciousness to share.

All participants should be on the 3rd floor of the Education building at 6:15 p.m. Preschool angels meet in the nursery at 6:15 p.m.

The tradition of the annual pageant is for 5th graders and a parent to be shepherds, seniors in high school to be big angels, kids in K-1 to ring bells, kids in 2-5 to sing, and three men from the congregation to serve as wise men. A recent baby and parents in the congregation will be Jesus, Mary and Joseph.



Work Begins...!

It's exciting to see work now underway on the Education Building roof.

Please remember, if you have not turned in your capital campaign pledge envelope, please do so today. It will take all of us working together to reach our goal of \$1.2 - \$1.5 million.

Students Take Winter Break Mission Trip

Clarksdale, Mississippi is the home of Real Faith Christian Church. Real Faith CC is the destination for the DOC (College Ministry) group's Winter Break Mission Trip. The group annually takes a week of winter break to go somewhere in the world and serve others.

This year the group will help a church that needs their sanctuary building completed. Real Faith CC endeavored to build a new sanctuary a few years back but was stalled when the pastor and contractor left with the job not finished and the account empty.

Several units of our denomination, The Christian Church (DOC), have taken on the project of getting this congregation in their sanctuary by Easter 2015. Working with Disciples Volunteering, groups have gone to Clarksdale this past fall and will this spring to work on the church. Our group is taking a week in January to help the church finish their chancel, baptismal prep rooms, tile many floors, and finish some walls.

I was visiting friends in Indianapolis over sabbatical. One of those friends, who works for Church Extension in the CC (DOC), was a part of the church in Joplin our group served several years ago. He recalled our group's work ethic and suggested this project to us knowing we could be of help.

The mission team is still in formation with 20 already signed up. Students from Lee's Summit Christian Church, who have journeyed with us the last couple of years for the winter break trip, will go with us again this year.

The DOC group is the college ministry fellowship group that meets on Wednesday nights in Bethany Hall throughout the school year. They are from Columbia and other places, most of them attending school here in Columbia representing MU, Columbia College, and MACC. DOC is a collaborative effort of leaders from three churches who work in student ministries: Jimmy Spear (First Christian), Nick Larson (Broadway Christian), and Angela Pigg (Olivet Christian).

The Winter Break Mission Trip team will depart on January 3 and return January 10.
~Jimmy Spear



Oasis Dec. 17 5:30 pm Yonker Hall

Potluck Meal
Program by Church in Society

Sign up on the Sunday Pew Pad sheet, in the church office, or call 449-7265.



I want to thank everyone that helped with Dorothy Allen's reception. Susan Klockow, Patti Freeman, Diana Provenzano, Joyce Stanley, Cindy Smith, Susan Ramsey, Susan Gray, Sally Robinson, Sarah Storm, Opal Stites, Brenda Mosby, Sue and Pat Wright, Donna Houston, Nancy Watson, Colleen Nilges, Pam Hunsaker and Elizabeth Mottaz, for the delicious food that was brought in, helping in the kitchen, serving, and cleaning up afterwards. Ruth 1:8...May the Lord reward you for your kindness
~Janelle Patterson

News of Our People

John and Sarah Yonker have asked that their new temporary address be shared in the newsletter: 1686 Heffington Dr., Chesterfield, MO 63017.

Ed Bright returned to the hospital Friday and back home Saturday after having complications from his hip-replacement surgery.

Freda Martz continues to need our prayers for strength and comfort, as she was rejected for heart-valve replacement surgery.

Dan Niday continues his home hospice care; Dan is a long-time member and father of **Sharon Ronchetto**.

Philip Schappert, son of **Marilyn Schappert**, grandson of **Ralph Dobbs** is in ICU in Atlanta, Georgia after sustaining serious injuries from an automobile accident while on a business trip.

Iva Dell Thurman (97) died Dec. 6. She has been a member of FCC since 1958. Iva Dell was a special friend of the Brummett-Harrah CWM/CWF group. Services were held Wed., Dec. 10th at Memorial Funeral Home.

Happy Birthday

Dec. 14
Susan Woodbury
Dec. 15
Buddy Boger
Jerry Daugherty
Darby Henry
Dec. 16
Joe Reardon

Dec. 17
Nat Scavone
Julia Bower
Laura Estes
Caden Snow
Dec. 18
Robert Martin
Kaedon Wheatley
Dec. 19
Dana Flora
Robert Leach



Staff Christmas Fund

The Administrative Department will again make available to the church membership a Staff Christmas Fund to honor our excellent church staff during this Christmas season for their combined efforts in helping make our church one in which we can all take great pride. Checks should be made to First Christian Church with "Staff Christmas Fund" noted on them. Deadline for contributions is Sunday, December 21. Please note that the gift will be divided evenly among the staff members-ministers, office staff, music staff and custodian.

**Big
Thank
You!**

Thank you to my church family for the big bouquet of flowers and also thank you to Carol Slusher for delivering them. They are beautiful!

~Tommy Tomlin

Future Youth Meetings/Dates:

Dec. 14: Pageant

Chi-Rho help with white gift offering.
CYF lead the offering statements.

Dec. 21: Caroling Party 4:00-7:00 p.m.

JYF (grds 3-5)

Chi-Rho (grds 6-8)

CYF (grds 9-12)

*Youth Groups will be on
break December 28 and January 4.



All Church Christmas Caroling

"HERE WE COME A-CAROLING!"

Sunday
Dec. 21
4:00 p.m

Everyone is invited to bring a little joy of Christmas to some of our older members through Christmas Caroling. We gather at church at 4:00 p.m. and organize into groups to go out to community living environments and homes, some inside, others outside. By 6:30 we are headed back to church for a post-caroling supper and fellowship.

Weekly Reports Dec. 7, 2014

Received this week \$9,855
Received to Date \$199,090
Needed to Date \$199,945
Attendance - 211
(includes early service - 48
and visitors - 12)

Annual Art Show is Calling All Artists!

We invite you to submit 1 to 3 pieces to Artists Among Us, a showcase of art by members of our congregation- past, present, and future. All media areas are welcome, including but not limited to: drawing, painting, photography, ceramics, sculpture, woodwork, jewelry, fibers, etc. Pick up your entry form in the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Kim Leon at 573-529-1617 or kimberlykleon@gmail.com.

Entry Form: DUE 1/04/15

Opening Reception: January 24, 5 to 7 p.m.
Music, art, food and good company!!!

Jimmy Spear - Heifer Ark



We are well on our way to raising \$5,000 for a Heifer Ark in honor of Rev. Jimmy Spear.

Our goal is to raise this money by the end of December 2014. We have raised **\$4,179** so far. A flock of geese or a trio of rabbits will make a great Christmas gift or birthday gift for a friend or family member. This will be the gift that keeps on giving. Make your check to First Christian Church and in the memo section write Gift Ark and drop it in the offering tray on Sunday or drop the check off in the church office. We have cards you may give to your family or friend telling them of your donation in their honor. We will have the Heifer display in the Narthex the next few Sundays leading up to Christmas. If you want to do some activities at home with your family check out the Heifer International website for more details at www.heifer.org. You will also see how your gift will make a difference in people's lives
~World Outreach Department

Ladies' Book Club



Just a reminder the Ladies' Book Club takes December off so we will not be meeting next Wednesday. If you have any spare time for reading, the Ladies will discuss Marja Mills' biography of Harper Lee in *The Mockingbird Next Door*.

STARS Christmas Lunch

Make sure to make a reservation for the **STARS luncheon**, Wednesday, Dec. 17, 11:45 a.m. Soup, breads and dessert will be the menu and children singing will be the annual program. There is transportation from LENOIR WOODS if you are interested. Please note it in your RSVP to the church office. Join us all you 55+ folks!

*STARS is the 55+ Fellowship Group of
First Christian Church*



Room at the Inn: Winter Shelter Opening this Thursday, Dec. 11

Just a reminder that the Room at the Inn winter shelter, whose mission is to provide a warm and safe place to sleep, will be opening this Thursday (December 11) and will continue to be open until March 10, 2015. The need is always great but will be even greater this year with the extended days of operation. Three critical needs are: (1) **volunteers** (contact Sarah Storm at 573-289-0072 if you would be willing to volunteer or need more information on volunteer opportunities with Room at the Inn); (2) **monetary donations** (checks should be made to FCC with "Room at the Inn" noted in memo); monetary donations can be placed in Sunday offering tray or dropped off at the church office; and last but certainly not least, (3) **in-kind donations** as listed below (an **updated** list of needed items has also been posted this week to the Church and Church in Society bulletin boards); in-kind donations can be dropped off at the church office (there is a "Room at the Inn" plastic container outside church office door). Monetary and in-kind donations are tax deductible. If you have donations but are unable to deliver to the church, contact Sarah Storm at 573-289-0072.

Clothing Items: White socks, hats, gloves, scarves

Breakfast & Snack Foods: Granola bars, bread, instant oatmeal, cold cereal, condiments for sandwiches, instant soup packages, crackers (peanut butter & cheese packs), and peanut butter/jelly

Supplies

Paper & plastic utensil items: 12-oz coffee cups, cold drink cups, plates, bowls, plastic ware, paper towels, napkins, tissues

Other Supplies: Feminine hygiene products, quart- and gallon-size zip lock bags, trash bags (kitchen and 30-40 gallon size), bottled drinking water, coffee, tea, cocoa, sugar, creamer, lemonade mix, paper packing tape (for labeling bags), ear plugs/eye masks, small toiletry items (lotion, toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc.) Nicorette lozenges, laundry soap, cleaning supplies, hand warmer packets, wet wipes

The Visitor

First Christian Church

101 N. 10th Street
Columbia, MO 65201
573-449-7265

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Columbia, MO
Permit No. 75

Ministerial Staff:

Rev. Brad Stagg, Senior Minister
brad@firstchristian.org
Rev. Jimmy Spear, Associate Minister
jimmy@firstchristian.org
Laura Shirey, DOC Intern

Music Staff:

Mary Bancroft, Coord. of Music & Organist
maryebancroft@yahoo.com
Ariene Price, Director of Chancel & Bell Choirs
singers.and.ringers@gmail.com

Mother's Day Out: Tracy Westhoff, Director
tracy@firstchristian.org

Columbia Area Older Adult Ministry:

Rev. Sally Robinson, Chaplain
chaplainsal@yahoo.com

Support Staff:

Kay Beissenherz, Administrative Assistant
fcc@firstchristian.org
Fred Mottaz, Business Manager
fred@firstchristian.org
Keith Picker, Custodian

Minister Emeritus:

Dr. John J. Yonker

Return Service Requested

The Mission of First Christian Church: to know God and follow Jesus Christ

Serving Schedule - Sunday, Dec. 14

Van Driver: Carol Slusher
Office Receptionist: Moray Kiehl
Flower Ministry - Poinsettia Sunday
Delivered by: Mary Daugherty

Servers for 8:30 Worship Service

Worship Assts.: Tom and Carol Hughey, Tommy Gay Evans
Elder: Charlie Koelling

Servers for 10:30 Worship Service

Communion Preparation: Russ Palmer, Monica Palmer, and Jack Creasy
Liturgist: Jennifer Gwinner
Elders: Erin Bower, Colleen Nilges, Roy Rogers
Deacons: The Creasy Team
Greeters: Perry Stemmons (*N. Door*), Helen Stemmons (*S. Door*)
Chuck Scott (*Atrium*), Colleen Nilges (*Portico*)
Ushers: The Burnam Team
Banner Bearers: Maddie Micek and Olivia Johnson
Candlelighters: Emma Hawkins and Elizabeth Martin
Children's Worship: Holly Gieseke (ldr.)



This Week (Dec. 14 - 20)

- Sun.** - Children's Choir performs at 10:30 worship service
- Bell Choir, 8:30 a.m., 3rd Floor, Education Bldg.
- Pancake Breakfast, 9:00-10:15 a.m., Yonker Fellowship Hall
- Christmas Pageant and Tasting Party, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary and Yonker Fellowship Hall
- Mon.** - Newsletter deadline and Church Staff Mtg., 2:00 p.m.
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 5:30 p.m., Sanctuary
- Capital Campaign Management Team, 6:30 p.m., Keystone Room
- Tue.** - Tuesday Bible Study, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Morris Parlor
- Wed.** - Men's Lunch, 11:30 a.m., Senior Center
- STARS Christmas Lunch, 11:45 a.m., Yonker Hall
- Oasis, 5:30 p.m., Yonker Fellowship Hall
- Thr. & Fri.** - Mother's Day Christmas Party
- Sat.** - Columbia College Commencement