



March 14, 2014
Vol. 72, No. 29

THE VISITOR

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

ANNOUNCING:

MEN'S SPRING RETREAT

APRIL 5, 2014
9 AM TO 1:30 PM
BETHANY HALL

RESPONDING TO HUNGER IN OUR COMMUNITY

- WORSHIP LED BY BRAD STAGG
- SERVE AT THE
CENTRAL MISSOURI FOOD BANK
- LUNCH PREPARED BY LAURA ESTES
- FELLOWSHIP WITH MEN
OF THE CHURCH

▸ COST: \$15 PER PERSON.

PLEASE SIGN-UP BY MARCH 30
BY EITHER:
"MEN'S R" ON THE SUNDAY PEW PAD,
OR EMAIL/CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE.

turn
WINE
to
WATER

The yearly celebration in
support of
Week of Compassion
water projects will be held
Saturday, April 12, 7-9 p.m.
in Bethany Hall

Worship for the Second Sunday in Lent, March 16

"Acting" is the catch word for this week's continued look at our Preparation for Resurrection, a sermon and worship series for Lent. Based upon texts from Genesis 12:1-4 and Romans 4:1-5, 13-17, Rev. Stagg will preach on "Acting on Faith." Elders and deacons will "act on faith" as they take communion to those who are unable to be in worship through Communion Connection (see the next article).

The Chancel Choir will bring the peaceful "Christ the Apple Tree" as an anthem for 10:30 with Nora Dietzel offering the special music for 8:30, entitled "That's What Faith Must Be." Hymns for the day will include the *O Worship the King; Bless Now, O God, the Journey; O God, Unseen Yet Ever Near.*



Communion Connection

Communion Connection is happening Sunday, March 16. Many FCC friends that cannot make it to church on a regular basis will have communion delivered to their home or facility next Sunday by Elder/Deacon teams. If you would like to be part of this important ministry please contact Brenda Martin.

Making the 3rd Flr. Ready this Sunday

Sunday, March 16, 12 - 3 p.m. The Children's Christian Education Department will hold a work afternoon and welcomes able folks to assist. There will be a quick potluck lunch in Fellowship Hall followed by all present reporting to the 3rd floor for moving/cleaning/prepping rooms for use. Bring your change of clothes and readiness to lend a hand.

Dr. Ben Nelms to Teach on Character in April

We are a people who identify with characters: in stories, novels, plays, movies, myths, folklore, even comic strips, ads, and pop literature. Last year, *Time* magazine focused on these characters among us in *The 100 Most Influential People Who Never Lived.*

Join Ben as he will focus on several types of characters with whom we identify and examine other examples from our culture that *Time* magazine did not include. Ben will teach from 6:15-7:30 on Wednesdays, April 2, 9, and 16.

Bit from Brad

Ignatius of Loyola, a Spanish knight turned priest turned theologian during the 16th century, founded the Society of Jesus, the Jesuits. The Jesuits are a religious order within the Catholic Church who bases their life around the *Spiritual Exercises* written by Ignatius. The influence of Ignatius' *Spiritual Exercises* has traveled far beyond the Roman Catholic Church and is recognized by Protestants, Catholics, and Orthodox Christians across the globe for their common sense approach to spiritual guidance, direction, and faith development.

As the season of Lent has come upon us once again, I offer two words of encouragement from Ignatius' common-sense approach to spiritual development for your prayer life as you prepare yourself for Christ's passion and resurrection this year.

"Pray as you can, not as you cannot."

Sometimes we get so caught up trying to pray correctly; with the right words, with the right eloquence, with the right demeanor. Whether we're trying to model someone else's style or have been told this is "the way to pray," we often struggle to find a way to connect to God in a meaningful manner. My friends, there are no "prayer police" in heaven! So, don't worry about what others say how to pray or how not to pray; turn off that inner critical voice which tells you that your prayers are inadequate and insufficient. Rather, "pray as you can, not as you cannot."

Pray as you can, pray with the words and thoughts and feelings that you do have. If your prayers are a check list of items, then pray those items on your check list. If you don't know what to pray, then simply tell God that you don't know what to say. It is alright and it will be alright. The important thing is simply to pray. Some folks who don't have words to pray, offer their feelings and emotions, and that's OK too.

When "we pray as we cannot," when we pray with formulas or words that are not our own or don't work for us, then they make little difference to God, for God wants our hearts, not our formulas or what we think God wants. When "we pray as we cannot," a pseudo-self/false self is formed and thus a barrier between God and our true self is formed. Obviously, God knows it's false form of us, so the only one being fooled is us. Praying that is not true to our true self also inhibits the true creation which God intend us to be from blossoming and growing as God intended us. So the best thing is simply to "pray as we can," trusting that the Holy Spirit is a sufficient Advocate and Intermediary working on our behalf who will see to it that our prayers are sufficient for God the Father.

"Better That Your Prayers be Short and Frequent than Long and Seldom"

Every moment we need air to breathe to stay alive. Likewise, we need God. We don't take one big gasp of air in the morning, then try to run all day long on that one big gasp followed by another gasp just before bedtime. Similarly our souls cannot thrive very well if we try to get one big "gasp of God" each morning or at bedtime. We need to learn to be as dependent upon God during our days and nights as we would our breathing.

Short, frequent prayers keep us connected to God all day long and well as keeping our time together focused. Short, frequent prayers allow us time to share the ups and downs of life with God, preventing a build-up of stress or an amping up of our egos.

Long, seldom prayers usually are an attempt to overcompensate for our time away from God. Dressed up with fancy language, long seldom prayer can become more about the prayer itself than our connection with God.

Our relationship, our connection, with God is the single more important thing that we have, bar none. May these ancient lessons breathe new life into your relationship with God this Lenten Season!

Blessings, Brad

Spring with STARS!

STARS is the 55+ Fellowship Group of First Christian Church

Watercolor Exhibit in Fulton - Thurs., April 3.

8:30 a.m. departure.

See First Christian Ch., Fulton
See Churchhill Museum in Fulton
for touring 10-11:30 a.m. (\$6.50)
Lunch at BEKS in Fulton
Afternoon return to Columbia



Upcoming Reserve NOW!

Daniel O'Donnell Concert in Branson

Friday-Saturday, Nov. 14-15

Overnight Trip. We will buy tickets in
early April. RSVP now to ch. office.

Coyote Hill Pancakes

Don't forget the Coyote Hill all-you-can-eat Pancake Breakfast fundraiser this Saturday, March 15, 7:00 am to 12 noon at the Memorial Baptist Church, 1634 Paris Road. \$5.00 adults, \$3.00 ages 3-12, free under age 3. A tasty tradition!

Weekly Report

March 2, 2014

Received this week \$ 3,752

Received to Date \$ 302,430

Needed to Date \$ 308,095

Attendance - NA

Weekly Report

March 9, 2014

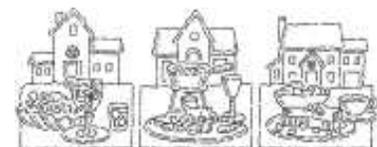
Received this week \$ 10,337

Received to Date \$ 312,767

Needed to Date \$ 316,078

Attendance - 189

(includes early service - 35)



Dinner for Six

Sign up now for the next round to begin in April. Six people having three meals in three months. Call the office, or see the sign up in the Narthex.

Youth Groups, Mar. 16

Chi-Rho: 4:30-6 p.m.

CYF to see "Son of God":

6:00 pm meet at Forum Theater.

Bring ID & \$6.50

Children's Choir: (grades k-5)

March 16: 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Chi-Rho Bells: Mar. 16: 4-4:30 p.m.

Future Youth Meetings:

Mar. 23 & 30: No Youth Meetings due to Spring Break.

CYF will EAT OUT over spring break-
-Lunch on Wed., Mar. 26.

JYF (grds 3-5)

Chi-Rho (grds 6-8)

CYF (grds 9-12)



Ladies' Book Club

Reviews of *The Orchardist* by Amanda Coplin are glowing. NPR calls "The Orchardist ... a stunning accomplishment, hypnotic in its storytelling power." All women are invited to join the Ladies' Book Club on Wed, April 9 at noon in Bethany Hall when we determine if we agree with the reviews.



Wishing You a
**Happy
Birthday!**

March 16

Jordan Barnes
Ed Bright
Wilson Hickey

March 20

Ken Watson

March 21

Russ Palmer
W o l f g a n g
Schaefer

March 18

Amy Foster
Katherine
Richardson

March 22

Grace Henry

March 19

Lois Ross
Cari Sapp

News of Our People

Congratulations to **Tommy and Anne Tomlin** as they celebrate their 53rd wedding anniversary on March 19.

Prayers are extended to several who had outpatient procedures last week and are now home recuperating: **Tom Hughey, Marion Storm, and Jacy Alexander.**

Celebrating New Life with the Taylor family: **Aria Green Taylor** was born on March 1, the first child of **Mike and Deanna Taylor.** Grandparents are **James and Deborah Taylor.**

Wolf Scheafer is a featured actor this week in Gentry Middle School's performance of Hairspray.

Prayers of sympathy are extended to: **Ed Bright and Nannie Lou Mallett** in the death of brother-in-law Gene Musback. Kim Boger and family in the death of her step-father Charles Kelsey who died recently in an auto accident.

Marsha and Tom Sisson share the news that their daughter Monique Jacob has completed her one-year-nine-month-long treatment for melanoma and she is cancer free. They say "thank you for standing with us and all for all of your prayers. Prayer does work!"

From Janelle Patterson: "I would like to thank everyone that helped with Charles Tomlin's reception. Nancy Watson, Pat Wright, Susan Ramsey, Diana Provenzano, Cherry Hinderberger, Tommy Gay Evans, Pam Hunsaker and Sarah Read for prepping, serving, clean up and making desserts. All help was greatly appreciated."



A blessing for me happened on February 16, 2014. Flowers that heard hymns, prayers, and sermon from worship were also delivered by Brenda Martin to my 90th birthday celebration, arranged by my children and families, attended by many. I am still feeling the love from church family and my own as well as friends. I also treasure all cards and well wishes that I received.

~Bonnie Jean Backues

Palm Sunday Cantata Voices Welcomed!

The Chancel Choir will share a cantata with the congregation on Palm Sunday, April 13th. If you are looking for an opportunity for singing, but can't make a long-term commitment right now, won't you consider joining us for the cantata? We will be focusing on the cantata each Monday evening beginning at 6:00 (regular rehearsals begin at 5:30). All voice parts are welcomed, and there is a particular need for male voices. For more information, please contact Adriene Price at 864-4355, or by email at singers.and.ringers@gmail.com. We hope to see you on Monday night!

Attention Depart Leaders

Your proposed budgets are due at the April 1 Cabinet meeting.

CAFÉ

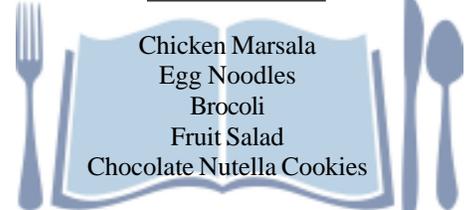
Christian Action Fellowship
Education

Wednesday Evening
March 19

The Meal: 5:30-6:15 pm

A unique menu created each week by church chef, Laura Estes is served buffet style in Yonker Fellowship Hall.

March 19 Menu



Cost: Adults - \$8, Teens (ages 13 thru college) - \$5, Children (ages 5-12) - \$3, Children (under age 5) - free, Family Special Rate - \$18.

**Reserve your spot in the church office or by putting "CAFÉ" on the Sunday pew pad.

The Class: 6:15-7:30 pm

Spiritual Disciplines: Corporate
led by Brad Stag in Morris Parlor

The Visitor

First Christian Church

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

Ministerial Staff:

Rev. Brad Stagg, Senior Minister
brad@firstchristian.org
Rev. Jimmy Spear, Associate Minister
jimmy@firstchristian.org

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
MOM23ROCKS@aol.com

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

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

Return Service Requested

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

Serving Schedule - Sunday, March 16

Van Driver: Eric Seaman
Office Receptionist: Pat Rybolt
Church School Greeter: Jerry and Kathy Miller
Flower Ministry - Arranged by: Carol Slusher
Delivered by: Carol Slusher & Cherry Hinderberger

Servers for 8:30 Worship Service

Worship Assts.: Carol Hughey, Cherry Hinderberger, Tom Hughey
Elder: Mary Daugherty

Servers for 10:30 Worship Service

Communion Preparation: Joe and Kim Reardon, Helen Stemmons
Liturgist: Elizabeth Mottaz
Elders: David Read, Joyce Stanley, Sarah Read
Deacons: The Nichols Team
Greeters: Steve Humble (*N. Door*), Jessica Humble (*S. Door*)
Bob Hutton (*Atrium*), Linda Hutton (*Portico*)
Ushers: The Rose Team
Banner Bearers: Kameron Freed and Max Gregory
Candlelighters: Olivia Johnson and Ava Hoenes
Children's Worship: Kim Boger (*ldr.*), Stacia Schaefer (*hlpr.*)

This Week (Mar. 16 - 22)

- Sun.** - Communion Connection Sunday
- Chi-Rho Bells, 4:00 p.m.
- Children's Choir, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
- Chi-Rho (grades 6-8), 4:30-6:00 p.m.
- CYF (grades 9-12), 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- Mon.** - Newsletter Deadline & Church Staff Meeting, 2:00 p.m.
- Baptism & Discipleship Class, 4:30-6:00 p.m., Keystone
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 5:30 p.m.
- Tue.** - Tuesday Morning Bible Study, 10:30-11:30 a.m.,
Morris Parlor
- Wed.** - Men's Lunch, 11:30 a.m., Senior Center
- Shawl Ministry, 10:00 a.m., Bethany Hall
- CWM/CWF Board mtg., 4:30-5:30 p.m., Morris Parlor
- Baptism & Discipleship Class, 5:30 p.m., Yonker Hall
- CAFÉ: dinner, 5:30 p.m., Yonker Fellowship Hall
program, 6:15 p.m., Morris Parlor
- DOC (college group), 8:45-10:00 p.m., Bethany Hall