



THE VISITOR

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Dec. 11, 2015
Vol. 74, No. 17

Worship for Dec. 13 Third Sunday of Advent

Prepare...with action
based upon Luke 3:7-18

Joy will be the word to listen for this Sunday as we light the third advent candle. Joy will also be expressed in the hymns of the day -- *Angels from the Realms of Glory*; *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* and *Once in Royal David's City*.

Rev. Brad Stagg will bring part two in the sermon series "Prepare." The children will be sized for pageant robes after the Children's Worship time.

The women's choir, *The Drennan Singers*, will present music for both worship services. No Coffee Hour as such this Sunday, but do come for breakfast - see below.

Pancake Breakfast



Sun., Dec. 13

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 Nashville, TN. The mission team will be serving and learning in Jan. 2016

Weekly Offering Report: Dec. 6, 2015

Offerings Received this week \$9,078
Offerings Received to Date \$187,565
Offerings Needed to Date \$191,284

Dec. 6 Attendance: 203
(includes early service - 37, visitors - 14)



Sunday Night!

The Christmas Pageant & Tasting Party Dec. 13, 7:00 pm

The Annual Christmas Pageant will be held Sunday evening, December 13. The tradition is long standing and brings out a full sanctuary of folks. We will hear again the ancient story and see the portrayal of the holy family, shepherds, angels and wise men by children and adult friends from 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 in support of the Central Missouri Food Pantry. All are encouraged to bring nonperishable canned/boxed food wrapped in white paper. Monetary donations will also be accepted. This tradition reminds us of the importance of the giving, and not the type of gift.

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. (Emails will go out this week.)

Youth & all-church Christmas Caroling

**Sunday, December 20
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.



The Administrative Department will 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.

Church Staff Christmas Fund

Checks should be made to First Christian Church with "Staff Christmas Fund" noted on them. Deadline for contributions is Sunday, December 20. Please note that the gift will be divided evenly among the staff members-ministers, office staff, music staff and custodian.

Bit from Brad

A few things I am thinking about and hope you too will consider in these days.

Administrative Board Results:

The Admin. Board voted two new deacons: Gene Kirkham to fill the final 2015-2018 position and Valerie Freed fills the unexpired term of Ben Micek. The Admin. Board also approved the 2016 Nominating Committee: Jadie Arnett, David Beem, Sonya Carney, David Chrisman, Jacki Davidson, Bryan Garton, Harlan Hackett, Colleen Nilges, Marion Storm, and Brad Volmert. Thank you one and all!

The Admin. Board approved the Capital Campaign Management Team's request to apply for the Stafford Family Charitable Trust for additional funding for our Capital Campaign per the instructions of the trust application process.

At a specially called meeting, the Admin. Board unanimously approved the new Financial Operating Policy created by the Financial Operating Policy Taskforce, a taskforce under the Stewardship & Finance Department. The Taskforce was chaired by Sarah Storm. Now with the Board's approval, the Taskforce begins the planning and implantation phase before actually transitioning to the new process and procedures. Much more to come!

Bible Study Holiday Schedule:

No Bible Studies will take place the weeks of Dec. 20 and 27. They will resume Sunday, January 3 on regular days and times. So no Bible Study on Dec. 20, 22, 23 or Dec. 27, 29, 30. Enjoy this time with family and friends!

Evangelism Calling Cards:

The Evangelism Team created new Calling Cards available for members to share with anyone interested in learning more about FCC. These handy little cards help potential visitors to remember important information like worship times, website link, and location of our church. Pick some up and pass them along! Let's see what happens! And thanks for continuing to wear your name tags during the Advent/Christmas season when we have so many visitors!

~Blessings, Brad

JYF (grds 3-5) &
Chi-Rho (grds 6-8)
4:30-6:00 p.m.
CYF (grds 9-12)
6:00-7:30 p.m.



Dec. 13: No groups-Pageant, 7pm
Dec. 20: Christmas Caroling 4pm
Dec. 27 & Jan 3: No Youth Groups

STARS - Lights & Lunch

Be sure to make a reservation for the **STARS Luncheon**, Tuesday, Dec. 15, 11:45 a.m. Soup and breads provided. Bring snacks/desserts "potluck" to fill out the table. A program of stories will be paired with the MDO children singing. 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*

Give a Pig! Give a Goat! Give Heifer International Gifts this Christmas

A flock of geese or a trio of rabbits will make a great Christmas gift for a friend or family member. Indeed, this kind of gift keeps on giving. By giving to Heifer International, your gift buys an animal that can help sustain a person or family in a third world country.

There will be a Heifer display in the Narthex **Sundays, December 13 and 20**. Make your check to First Christian Church and in the memo section write "HEIFER". We have cards you may give to your family or friends telling them of your donation in their honor.

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

News of People & Place

Births! **Allie Drew Taylor** born to Michael and Dee Taylor on Nov. 30 in Columbia. Grandparents are James and Debbie Taylor. **Callie Nichole Martin**, born to Dan and Alyssa Martin on Dec. 5 in St. Charles. Grandparents are Mark and Brenda Martin.

Healing:

Colleen Nilges is home following outpatient surgery Dec. 3.

Opal Stites is at The Neighborhoods for rehabilitation.

Adriene Hamlin's (DOC student) mother, Bobbie Hamlin, is at University Hospital following a major auto accident.

Prayers of sympathy:

Sharon Smith and family in the death of her father, Forrest Kenney. Services were last Saturday in Billingsville.

Tony Marrero and family in the death of his father, Dr. Tom Marrero. Services were held Dec. 8 at Sacred Heart Church.

Frances Brown, in the death of her sister Laura Carlson, who resided in Nevada.

The **DOC college group** will take January 3-9, 2016 as their **Winter Break Mission Trip**. They will be working with CSM - the Center for Student Missions in Nashville TN. Their work will focus on food/poverty/community need programs in the city. Pancake sales this Sunday will support the \$350 per person cost.



Dec. 13
Virginia Ivey

Dec. 14
Susan Woodbury

Dec. 15
Buddy Boger
Jerry Daugherty

Dec. 16
Darby Henry

Dec. 16
Joe Reardon

Dec. 17
Julia Bower
Laura Estes
Caden Snow

Dec. 18
Robert Martin
Kaedon Wheatley

Dec. 19
Dana Flora

Robert Leach
Nat Scavone

Christmas Eve

Worship of Carols,
Communion & Candlelight
7:00 & 11:00 p.m.

Childcare available for 7:00 p.m. service

The sanctuary will be open
from 5:00-6:00 p.m. for
personal meditation.



Our thanks to each of you who provided a poinsettia. They will remain in the sanctuary for the 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service and then may be picked up by donors. Remaining plants will be taken to the homebound.



I so enjoyed visiting with Susan and Gerald Ramsey Sunday as they delivered the lovely altar bouquet to me. It is so nice to have that link with you. I am doing well and returning to my normalcy. Also glad to visit with Brad...such a caring minister and church. Thank you much. ~Paula Kurtz

I would like to thank you for honoring me with the 175th scholarship. I greatly appreciate the award & the money will go directly toward my education. Thank you again!

~Steve Gieseke

Words fail when it comes time to try and express what my heart feels as I attempt to say thank you to my church family for their prayers, emails, texts, cards, food, and flowers during my recent surgery! Special thanks to Brad and Pam for calming my daughter's nerves-she was more nervous than I was. The power of prayer cannot be measured. It is a feeling and a power that gives strength and calmness~to be cradled in His care. My deepest gratitude and blessings to all of you!

~Colleen Nilges

Advent Studies for Adults

Sunday Mornings

9:30 - 10:20 a.m. in Bethany Hall
Not a Silent Night:
Mary Looks Back to Bethlehem

Wednesday Evenings

December 16, 23
Hark the Glad Sound
7:00 p.m. Keystone Room

Your Special
Birthday!



Norma Miles -96
on Dec. 18



BOOK O R N E R

We have on the Book Cart in the Narthex four new novels from the Guideposts patchwork Mystery Series. Titles are Timeless Treasures, Homespun Holiday, Pieces of the Past and Threads of Truth. We know you will like these! Also in the "processing pipeline" A Peace of My Mind by Stuart Briscoe and The Lord is My Shepherd by Robert Morgan. The latter two are from the Billy Graham Library Selections and are also on the Book Cart.

Another is Growing Slowly Wise by David Roper of The Daily Bread Ministries of Grand Rapids, MI. This is an insightful study of the Book of James and can be found either on the Book Cart or Library Shelf. (Look in card file for the shelf number.)



Capital Campaign Progress Report

The coping (metal flashing) covering our water-saturated capstones for the Education Building is completed. The coping material for the sanctuary will be completed after the new roof is installed. The picture here shows Missouri Builders beginning work on the sanctuary roof. Unfortunately our projections for a Christmas completion were overly ambitious; workers tell us it will take a minimum of two months. Well, at least the work has begun!

The Visitor

First Christian Church

101 N. 10th Street
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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
Adriene Floyd, Director of Chancel & Bell Choirs
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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
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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, Dec. 13

Van Driver: Don Mosby
Office Receptionist: Betty Moon
Flower Ministry - Arranged by: Poinsettia Sunday
Delivered by: Cherry Hinderberger
Welcome Station: Chris Creasy

Servers for 8:30 Worship Service

Worship Assts: Tommy Gay Evans, Jerry and Mary Daugherty
Elder: Larry Burnam

Servers for 10:30 Worship Service

Communion Preparation: Curt & Carolyn Snow, Janelle Patterson
Liturgist: Ann Rogers
Elders: Bryan Garton, Eric Seaman, Fred Mottaz
Deacons: The Beary Team *Ushers:* The Burnam Team
Greeters: Joyce Stanley (*N. Door*), Frances Brown (*S. Door*),
Bud Batterson (*Atrium*), Deb Batterson (*Portico*)
Banner Bearers: Olivia Johnson, Izzy Arnett
Candlelighters: Cullen Snow, Elizabeth Martin
Children's Worship: Jessica Humble (ldr.); Trish Stagg (hlpr.)

CHURCH CALENDAR Dec. 13 - 19

Sun., Dec. 13

- Drennan Singers perform at both services
- Pancake Breakfast, 9:00-10:15 a.m., Yonker Hall
- Bible Study, 4:30-6:00 p.m., Morris Parlor
- Christmas Pageant, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary
- Tasting Party, following Pageant,
Yonker Fellowship Hall

Mon., Dec. 14

- Newsletter Deadline and Church
Staff Mtg., 2:00 p.m.

Tues., Dec. 15

- Tuesday Morning Bible Study, 10:30 a.m., Morris Parlor
- STARS Christmas Luncheon, 11:45 a.m., Yonker Hall

Wed., Dec. 16

- Shawl Ministry Cancelled this month
- Wed. Bible Study, 12:05-12:55 p.m., Morris Parlor
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 5:30 p.m., Sanctuary
- Advent Study, 7:00 p.m., Keystone Room

Thr., Dec. 17 and Fri., Dec. 18

- Mother's Day Out Christmas Program

