



# THE VISITOR

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Dec. 18, 2015  
Vol. 74, No. 18

## Worship for Dec. 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent

*Prepare...with praise*  
based upon Luke 1:39-55

The LOVE candle will bring light to complete the circle of light that is the advent wreath. Hymns for the day will include *Angels We have Heard on High; While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks; and What Child Is This.*

Tables in the Narthex will provide a chance to sign up to volunteer at the Warming Station and buy gifts through Heifer International.

Coffee Hour this Sunday  
Yonker Hall, 9:20-10:20 a.m.

**ONE Service is set for  
Worship on Dec. 27**  
See page five for details.

## 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.



## 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.

## Warming Station

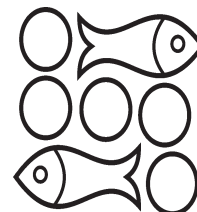
The Warming Station needs volunteers starting December 27 through the end of February. Like last year, we host the guests from the Room at the Inn (RATI) for 2 hours (7-9) on Sunday mornings before they go to Wilkes Blvd Church for breakfast. We have a cart set up with everything on it to make coffee and heat water in the Higbee Center. Volunteers need to be at the church by 6:30 a.m. If you can not stay the full time that is o.k. Please make a note of that on the sign up sheet in the Narthex. You must be 18 years old, and we need at least one gentleman each morning.

If interested, please sign up in the Narthex. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at [kcat3@aol.com](mailto:kcat3@aol.com), cell #573-864-1151 or at home 573-445-9893. Thank you for your compassion towards this needed cause.

~Janelle Patterson

## Loaves and Fishes needs your help!

Want to make a difference in our community? Our church is scheduled to serve a hot meal to those in need on Monday, December 28th. Can you spare a few hours to help prepare the meal the weekend before, or sometime Monday? Would you like to serve the meal Monday evening? Please contact Paula Hoenes, [cph@centurytel.net](mailto:cph@centurytel.net) or call 424-3165 if you are interested.



## Bit from Brad

The Chrismon Tree is decorated; the Advent Wreath candles nearly all lit; the Christmas Pageant costumes put away; gifts to Volunteer Action Center delivered; Heifer offerings given which means just one thing: Christmas Eve is nearly here!

On this night of nights, the world sits in peaceful silence, overjoyed and comforted by the good news for all people, Jesus Christ is born. Emanuel, God is with us!

Come celebrate with us Christmas Eve at 5:00, 7:00, or 11:00. Merry Christmas!

~Blessings, Brad



## All Joy

Joy was the candle of the day this past Sunday. Joy is right! You don't know joy until the church you serve that has an outdated website has a new good looking one. JOY, JOY, JOY. We found in these years that a new website was going to need to come from the membership of the church – departments of people who know about such things. The expectation of the clergy to get a new website was not realistic. The clergy ARE, however, able to work with groups that work toward the goal of a new site. That is indeed what has happened in this fall season. Months of meetings and brainstorming, text and picture selection, decisions and drafts.

We hope the new site is "us" in all the ways it expresses the life, ministry, and mission of FCC. These come through the pictures and descriptions of who we are and what we do. Now we continue to welcome others to "see us" on the net and then come see us in person. The site will also be a connector for church members to get information about what is happening in the life of the church. Check it out!  
~Jimmy Spear

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. 20:** Christmas Caroling 4pm  
**Dec. 27 & Jan 3:** No Youth Groups

## In the Window

Have you noticed the beautiful ceramic nativity scene in the office window glassed case? The Nativity Scene was donated by Linda Ridgeway in 2011. She notes it was a friend of the family, who made it herself. The friend lived in Paducah, KY., and was a member of the First Christian Church there. It graced the mantel in the Ridgeway home for many years and now finds a home for on-lookers at First Christian, Columbia. Thanks, Linda, for such a beautiful gift. We know she would be pleased that it has a home at the First Christian Church in Columbia.



We would like to thank our FCC family for the many expressions of kindness, support and love you have shown to us during Sharon's dad's illness and passing. Your thoughtfulness extended to our family during this difficult time is greatly appreciated.

~Sharon & Steve Smith and family

Thank you for awarding me the Thomas and Mildred Shroust Memorial Scholarship and the Vera M. Purdy and H. Glenn Purdy Scholarship. I will use the funds wisely to follow my dream of becoming a teacher.

~Heather Hunsaker



## News of People & Place

Congratulations to **Ben and Beth Nelms** on their 53rd wedding anniversary, Dec. 27th.

Mid-year graduate: **Laura Shirey**, BA in Psychology from University of Missouri. Laura will take a gap year before pursuing a Masters in Social Work. Laura has served as intern at FCC for a summer and DOC intern for a year continuing to be a constant in that group. Are there others graduating? Please send information to Jimmy Spear, [jimmy@firstchristian.org](mailto:jimmy@firstchristian.org)

**Mary Ann Niedergerke** is recovering from gall bladder surgery after her stay at Boone Hospital.

**Ruth Ann & Dan Obrecht** were united in holy matrimony on Friday, Dec. 11. We celebrate their nuptials along with **Elizabeth, Ava, & Kellor**.

## Happy Birthday!



Dec. 22  
Marilyn Schappert

Dec. 25  
Dorothy Baumgartner  
Susan Ripley

Dec. 26  
Don Seltsam

Dec. 27  
Linda Chandler  
Emma Hawkins  
Michael Taylor

Dec. 29  
Becky Baumgartner  
Kevin Crane  
Paula Kurtz  
Shirley Park

Dec. 30  
Jan Davis  
Jerry Miller  
Fred Mottaz

## STARS Light Tour

The mini-bus was full with sightseers as the STARS Christmas Light Tour commenced last Thursday. The evening included two hours of driving around town to see the best displays of light along with a stop at the home of Laura Crane for refreshments. New members were along for the ride and all had a great time together.



*Christmas Pageant 2015*



## SERVING SCHEDULE Sunday, Dec. 20

*Van Driver:* Carol Slusher

*Office Receptionist:* Carol Slusher

*Flower Ministry - Arranged by:* Poinsettia Sunday

*Delivered by:* Jerry and Mary Daugherty

*Welcome Station:* Pat Rybolt, Jeff Underwood

### Servers for 8:30 Worship Service

*Worship Assts:* Eli Gaffney, Brice and Mary Moeller

*Elder:* Carol Hughey

### Servers for 10:30 Worship Service

*Communion Preparation:* Pat and Sue Wright, Vicki Johnson

*Liturgist:* Joe Reardon

*Elders:* Jean Hall, Brenda Mosby, Don Mosby

*Deacons:* The Rogers Team    *Ushers:* The Rose Team

*Greeters:* Ed Bright (*N. Door*), Eva Bright (*S. Door*),

Susan Klockow (*Atrium*), Chuck Scott (*Portico*)

*Banner Bearers:* Carleigh Snow, Chase Hofmann

*Candlelighters:* Kate Volmert, Lena Schaefer

*Children's Worship:* Kim Boger (ldr.); Brad/Khons Volmert (hlpr.)

## CHURCH CALENDAR Dec. 20 - 26

### Sun., Dec. 20

- Coffee Hour, 9:20-10:20, Yonker Fellowship Hall
- Christmas Caroling, 4:00 p.m., with supper following in Yonker Fellowship Hall
- NO Bible Study

### Mon., Dec. 21

- Mother's Day Out - Holiday Break all week
- NO Newsletter this week
- Church Staff Meeting, 2:00 p.m.

### Tues., Dec. 22

- NO Tuesday Morning Bible Study

### Wed., Dec. 23

- NO Wednesday Bible Study
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 5:30 p.m., Sanctuary
- Advent Study, 7:00 p.m., Keystone Room

### Thurs., Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve

- Sanctuary open 5-6 p.m.
- Service, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary
- Service 11:00 p.m., Sanctuary

### Fri., Dec. 25

- Office Closed Christmas Day



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

## SERVING SCHEDULE Sunday, Dec. 27

*Van Driver:* Dan Gieseke

*Office Receptionist:* Carole Harris-Randerson

*Flower Ministry - Arranged by:* Nannie Lou Mallett

*Delivered by:* Stagg family

*Welcome Station:* Jan Davis, Steve Humble

### Servers for 8:30 Worship Service

*Worship Assts:* Linda and Bob Hutton

*Elder:* Susan Gray

### Servers for 10:30 Worship Service

*Communion Preparation:* Hartley Rogers, Elizabeth Mottaz,  
Wyatt Rogers

*Liturgist:* Sally Robinson

*Elders:* Jacki Davidson, TBA, Roy Rogers

*Deacons:* The Hunsaker Team    *Ushers:* The Scott Team

*Greeters:* Ron Longaker (*N. Door*), Judy Longaker (*S. Door*),

Pat Ritchie (*Atrium*), Paul Ritchie (*Portico*)

*Banner Bearers:* Jack Bower, Delaney Batterson

*Candlelighters:* Kate Volmert, Lena Schaefer

*No Children's Worship this week*

## CHURCH CALENDAR Dec. 27 - Jan. 2

### Sun., Dec. 27

- Warming Station, 7:00-9:00 a.m., Higbee Center
- Coffee Hour, 9:20-10:20 a.m., Yonker Fellowship Hall
- NO Sunday School
- **One Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.**, Sanctuary
- Lenoir Healthcare Worship, 3:30 p.m.
- NO Youth Groups or Bible Study

### Mon., Dec. 28

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

### Tues., Dec. 29

- NO Tuesday Morning Bible Study

### Wed., Dec. 30

- NO Wednesday Bible Study
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 5:30 p.m., Sanctuary

### Fri., Jan. 1

- Office Closed New Year's Day
- Church Dine-Out, 5:30 p.m.,  
Bob Evan's Restaurant  
Everyone Welcome!





**Worship for Dec. 27th**  
**One Service at 10:30 a.m.**  
**(no Sunday School this day)**

The First Sunday of Christmas will be a celebration of Christ's birth. Several creative elements along with a message from Rev. Jimmy Spear. We will gather to sing the carols of Christmastide: *The First Noel*, *Go Tell It on the Mountain* and *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*.



**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 **Sunday, December 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](http://www.heifer.org). You will also see how your gift will make a difference in people's lives.  
 ~World Outreach Department



**Capital Campaign Progress Report**

Weather permitting, Missouri Builders continue the re-roofing of the Sanctuary building. Also, Tuesday, Dec. 8, the City's Board of Adjustment, which rules on zoning issues, ruled in favor of FCC changing the Village Square Park at 9th & Walnut into a parking lot by vote of 4-1. This now allows for plans to be submitted to contractors for bidding. The church still retains the right not to proceed should costs exceed budget expectations by FCC & Boone County.

**Church Staff Christmas Fund**

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.

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.

**Calling Cards**

The Evangelism Team announces its new Calling Cards, available for any member to distribute. Located in the back of the Sanctuary, pick some up, share them, and then repeat!



## 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  
Adriene Floyd, 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

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Return Service Requested



Merry Christmas!  
from the FCC Staff

*Keith Kay Mary B.  
Adriene Brad Tracy Jimmy*