



THE VISITOR

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Jan. 01, 2016
Vol. 74, No. 19

Worship - Jan. 3, 10 & 17

Two services with Sunday School between return this Sunday, January 3. Here is a hint as to what is ahead for worship in January. The early morning Warming Station and Coffee Fellowship Hour continue this Sunday (see related articles on both).

January 3 – Epiphany Sunday

The celebration of the Wise Men who visit the child Jesus. Jeremiah 31:7-14 and Matthew 2:1-12 will be the basis for Rev. Stagg’s sermon “The Light of Gold, Frankincense, & Myrrh.” Hymns will include ones of Epiphany and the start of the new year : *As With Gladness, This is a Day of New Beginnings*, and *Sing of God Made Manifest*.

January 10 — 1st Sunday after Epiphany
Acts 8:14-17 and Isaiah 43:1-7 will be the basis for Rev. Stagg’s sermon “Called by Name”

January 17 – 2nd Sunday after Epiphany
Psalm 36:5-10 and Isaiah 62:1-5 will be the basis for Rev. Stagg’s sermon “Called by a New Name”



Two scenes from December

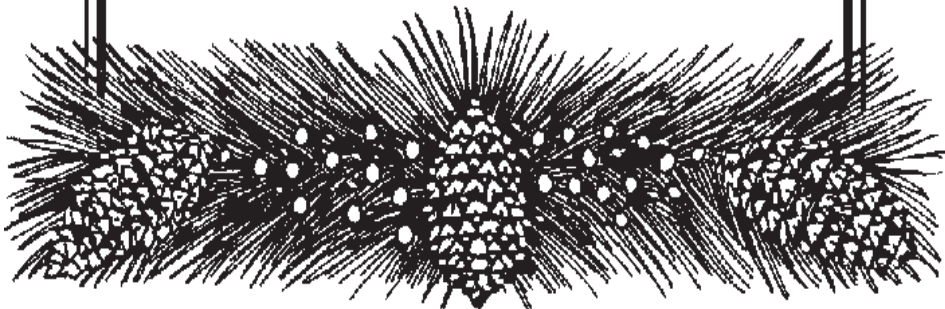
The grocery basket was full of canned goods – they came Pageant night wrapped as the white gift offering along with \$500 in monetary gifts given to the Central Missouri Food Pantry. The Voluntary Action Center’s adopt a family project was a great connection for FCC again this year. With 50 families cared for we had a bus and truck load to deliver in early December. Pictured is a great example of the gift giver who wins the award for doing it right. EVERY gift in the basket was secured and ready for transport – a FULL basket and not one thing fell out. A note to other gift givers — thank you all! -- but next year refrain from the little plastic Walmart sacks...they don’t move, transport, or hold things well. Volunteers fight those sacks over and over. Next year the Church in Society Department will be proactive in helping gift givers drop off in a “labeled and ready to transport fashion.”



**Sundays, 9:20-10:20
and after Worship
in Yonker Hall**

Thank You from the Church Staff

We, the staff of First Christian Church, want to convey our deepest thanks for your generosity expressed through the Christmas Bonuses! You are a blessing! How wonderful it is to work together through the year for Christ’s gospel with such amazing people! We believe we work in partnership with you and with each other for the mission of the church, “To know God and follow Jesus Christ.” What a joy it is to do so with people with such large capacities for love and compassion! From our families to your family, thank you so very much! Sincerely, Brad, Jimmy, Fred, Kay, Keith, Mary, Adriene, and the nursery staff



Bit from Brad

Sunday, January 24 we will have a special guest preacher, the Rev. Dr. Todd Adams, the Associate General Minister and Vice-President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). That's a very long title saying he's the number two person in our denomination. Todd is a personal friend; we worked closely on a variety of projects when he pastored a church close to mine in Houston. Dr. Mike Weinman, our Regional Minister asked if I'd be interested in hosting Todd that Sunday both to preach and to hold a conference on Governance for any church leaders in Mid-MO interested in the latest on best-practices pertaining to local congregational governance. I hope you'll be here Sunday, Jan. 24 to hear Todd preach at either service. He's one of our better denominational preachers!

Happy New Year!

~Blessings, Brad

Capital Campaign Progress Report



The above picture shows Missouri Builders continuing the re-roofing of the Sanctuary building. Notice the cone-shaped roof called a "witch's hat." Asbestos has been discovered in the "witch's hat" shingles requiring professional abatement. ARSI, our abatement contractor hopes to begin removal the week of Dec. 28, weather permitting. Otherwise, the reroofing continues on schedule.

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.



Jan 3: No Youth Groups
Jan. 10: Chi-Rho & CYF
Jan. 17: No groups - MLK wknd
(possible TBA fun)
Jan. 24: JYF & CYF
Jan. 31: Chi-Rho & CYF
Feb 7: JYF & CYF
Feb 14: No groups - Pres wknd

Kids give Chicks/Rabbits

Our 3rd, 4th and 5th grade Sunday School Class wanted to give a gift to Jesus this year. So, the money they have been saving is going to buy a Hope Basket from Heifer International. They wanted to help children who didn't have much. And, this will not only help the children but their entire family have a better life. The students thought baby chicks would be the thing to give. However, they had enough money to give a "hope basket" of chickens and rabbits. I know Jesus will love this gift!

~Brenda Mosby, teacher

Weekly Offering Report: Dec. 13, 2015

Offerings Received this week \$8,108
Offerings Received to Date \$195,581
Offerings Needed to Date \$200,208

Dec. 13 Attendance: 225
(includes early service - 48, visitors - 12)

Weekly Offering Report: Dec. 20, 2015

Offerings Received this week \$7,533
Offerings Received to Date \$208,089
Offerings Needed to Date \$209,132

Dec. 20 Attendance: 215
(includes early service - 47, visitors - 15)

Weekly Offering Report: Dec. 27, 2015

Offerings Received this week \$5,767
Offerings Received to Date \$208,856
Offerings Needed to Date \$218,055

Dec. 27 Attendance: 111
(includes visitors - 8)

News of People & Place

Audrey Shock is recuperating from a broken wrist.

Weather Closings: Remember in the winter months – if Columbia Schools are closed, so are the programs of First Christian Church. The church office will be open as able. On Sundays when bad weather presents itself watch the local TV stations and facebook page for cancellations and adjustments in our worship schedule.

Save this Visitor!
Your next Visitor will
arrive in 3 weeks. Watch
for it January 22.

2015 Special Offerings:

CC (DOC):

Christmas YTD \$953
Easter \$1,394
Pentecost \$250
Reconciliation \$462
Thanksgiving \$997
Week of Compassion \$1,551
Week of Compassion Texas floods \$300
Wine to Water \$1,952
VBS – Nepal \$137

Local Charities:

Crop Walk \$25
Festival of Sharing \$247
Food Bank \$1,870
Heifer \$3,317
Pet Project \$264
VAC Christmas \$1,280

2015 Calendar Yr. Budgeted Giving:

Church in Society:

VAC (regular) \$1,202
Discretionary \$1,081
Woodhaven (regular) \$1,445
Woodhaven (capital campaign) \$849
Col. Area Older Adult Ministry \$4,882

World Outreach:

Mission Fund \$15,228
N.E. Area Ministry \$8,426
Mid Am. Center 4 Ministry \$331

2015 Totals \$48,443

SERVING SCHEDULE Sunday, Jan. 3

Van Driver: Eric Seaman
Office Receptionist: Valerie Freed
Flower Ministry - Arranged by: Brenda Martin
Delivered by: Roy Rogers
Welcome Station: TBA

Servers for 8:30 Worship Service

Worship Assts: Susan Gray, Tom Gray, Tom Hughey
Elder: Donna Houston

Servers for 10:30 Worship Service

Communion Preparation: Diana Provenzano, Kim Leon, and Susan Klockow
Liturgist: Taylor Humble
Elders: Erin Bower, Bryan Garton, Joyce Stanley
Deacons: The Garton Team *Ushers:* The Mountjoy Team
Greeters: Trish Stagg (*N. Door*), Amy LaHue (*S. Door*), Dan Gieseke (*Atrium*), Holly Gieseke (*Portico*)
Banner Bearers: Kira Hoenes, Ella Rogers
Candlelighters: Kameron Freed, Liam Rose
Children's Worship: Holly Gieseke (ldr.); Vicki Johnson (hlpr.)

CHURCH CALENDAR Jan. 3 - 9

Sun., Jan. 3

- Warming Station, 7:00-9:00 a.m., Higbee Center
- DOC College Mission Trip to Nashville Begins
- Bible Study, 4:30-6:00 p.m., Morris Parlor
- NO Youth Groups

Mon., Jan. 4

- NO Newsletter this week
- DOC College Mission Trip to Nashville
- Church Staff Mtg., 2:00 p.m.

Tues., Jan. 5

- DOC College Mission Trip to Nashville
- Tuesday Morning Bible Study, 10:30 a.m., Morris Parlor
- Evangelism Dept. Mtg., 6:30 p.m., Morris Parlor

Wed., Jan. 6

- DOC College Mission Trip to Nashville
- Wed. Bible Study, 12:05-12:55 p.m., Morris Parlor
- World Outreach Mtg., 5:00 p.m., Keystone Room
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 5:30 p.m., Sanctuary
- Emergency Preparedness Mtg., 6:30 p.m., Keystone Room

Thur., Jan. 7

- DOC College Mission Trip to Nashville

Fri., Jan. 8

- All Church Eat Out, 5:30 p.m., Bob Evans Restaurant
- DOC College Mission Trip to Nashville

Sat., Jan. 9

- DOC College Mission Trip to Nashville

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

SERVING SCHEDULE Sunday, Jan. 10

Van Driver: Steve McCormack
Office Receptionist: Bobbi McCormack
Flower Ministry - Arranged by: Bud and Deb Batterson
Delivered by: Bud and Deb Batterson
Welcome Station: TBA

Servers for 8:30 Worship Service

Worship Assts: Will Houston, Donna Houston, Mary Daugherty
Elder: Tommy Gay Evans

Servers for 10:30 Worship Service

Communion Preparation: Chris, Jay and Jack Creasy
Liturgist: Sarah Read
Elders: Pat Rybolt, Harlan Hackett, Fred Mottaz
Deacons: The Beary Team *Ushers:* The Burnam Team
Greeters: Debbie Taylor (*N. Door*), Larry Veatch (*S. Door*), Linda Ridgeway (*Atrium*), Roy Rogers (*Portico*)
Banner Bearers: Luke Stagg, Ava Martin
Candlelighters: Carleigh Snow, Chase Hofmann
Children's Worship: Eric Arnett (ldr.); Erin Bower (hlpr.)

CHURCH CALENDAR Jan. 10 - 16

Sun., Jan. 10

- Warming Station, 7:00-9:00 a.m., Higbee Center
- Bible Study, 4:30-6:00 p.m., Morris Parlor
- Youth Groups: Chi-Rho (4:30-6 p.m.) and CYF (6-7:30 p.m.)

Mon., Jan. 11

- NO Newsletter this week
- Church Staff Mtg., 2:00 p.m.
- Nominating Committee Mtg., 6:30 p.m.

Tues., Jan. 12

- Tuesday Morning Bible Study, 10:30 a.m., Morris Parlor

Wed., Jan. 13

- Ladies' Book Club, Noon, Bethany Hall
- Wed. Bible Study, 12:05-12:55 p.m., Morris Parlor
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 5:30 p.m., Sanctuary
- DOC (college group) 8:45-10:00 p.m., Bethany Hall

SERVING SCHEDULE Sunday, Jan. 17

Van Driver: TBA
Office Receptionist: Tom Gray
Flower Ministry - Arranged by: Colleen Nilges
Delivered by: Kim Leon
Welcome Station: TBA

Servers for 8:30 Worship Service

Worship Assts: Eli Gaffney and Eric Seaman
Elder: Tom Gray

Servers for 10:30 Worship Service

Communion Preparation: David, Julie and Jake Nichols
Liturgist: David Read
Elders: Genie Rogers, Sally Robinson, Marilyn Schappert
Deacons: The Rogers Team *Ushers:* The Rose Team
Greeters: Pat Wright (*N. Door*), Sue Wright (*S. Door*),
Mary Tompson (*Atrium*), Cliff Tompson (*Portico*)
Banner Bearers: Cullen Snow, Elizabeth Martin
Candlelighters: Carleigh Snow, Chase Hofmann
Children's Worship: Julie Nichols (ldr.); Ruth Ann Obrecht (hlpr.)

CHURCH CALENDAR Jan. 17 - 23

Sun., Jan. 17

- Warming Station, 7:00-9:00 a.m., Higbee Center
- Bible Study, 4:30-6:00 p.m., Morris Parlor
- NO Youth Groups

Mon., Jan. 18

- Office closed, Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Tues., Jan. 19

- Tuesday Morning Bible Study, 10:30 a.m., Morris Parlor
- Newsletter Deadline, 2:00 p.m.

Wed., Jan. 20

- Shawl Ministry, 9:30 a.m., Millie Bolman's residence
- Wed. Bible Study, 12:05-12:55 p.m., Morris Parlor
- CWF Board Mtg., 5:00-6:00 p.m., Keystone Room
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 5:30 p.m., Sanctuary
- DOC (college group), 8:45-10:00 p.m., Bethany Hall

Thr., Jan. 21

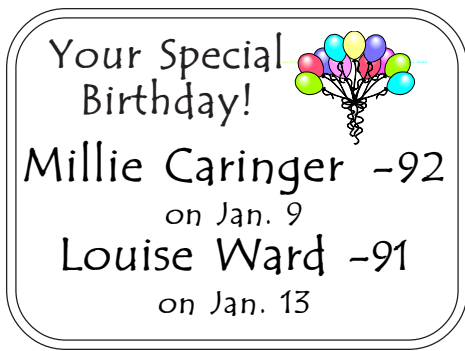
- Columbia Area Older Adult Ministry Advisory Bd., 5:15-6:30 p.m., Bethany Hall

STARS Christmas Luncheon

STARS is the 55+ Fellowship Group of First Christian Church



The STARS group of senior adults enjoyed their Christmas Luncheon of soups and snacks on Tuesday, Dec. 15. The group was entertained by the song stylings of the Mother's Day Out pre-school children along with a great story telling by Ben and Beth Nelms. The Nelms brought great flair in head-dress and voice to the story of stars and Christmas shared with the children and adults gathered.



Brummett-Harrah

Brummett-Harrah CWF group will meet on January 27th, 2:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at Bethany Hall.

Park in Front Sundays!

Bob Hutton, chairperson of the Property Department says to go ahead and park in front of the church on Sunday mornings during the “roof construction/red bags on meters” period of time. It’s all very complicated – but just know you can park there on Sunday. Please do it!

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, cell #573-864-1151 or at home 573-445-9893. Thank you for your compassion towards this needed cause.

Shawl Ministry

We will meet at our usual third Wednesday date of January 20, but we are trying a new time and place. Shawl Ministry will meet at 9:30 am at Millie Bolman’s residence at 22 Springer, Columbia, MO in the Lenoir housing complex. Everyone is welcome and we encourage new members to join!

Thoughts on What’s Happening from Jimmy Spear

Tornado damage in Texas and beyond

Rowlett and Garland TX – First Christian Church in Rowlett will be home for daily serving of 5000 meals – called Operation BBQ. www.operationbbqrelief.org The Tide Laundry semi will also be set up in their parking lot for community use. As of printing we are hearing of more damage in other places. Our Week of Compassion giving is already at work with a prompt response with funds to meet immediate emergency needs of Disciples congregations and of households and communities where Disciples congregations are located. You can give at www.weekofcompassion.org or to WOC through your church offering.

Coffee Hour continues

Lisa Snyder, a member of the Membership Department, has been hosting the coffee hour throughout Advent and Christmas. With this being a trial run period, it was found to garner a good response from folks. It will now continue on Sundays from 9:20-10:20 a.m. with coffee still available following late worship. It will be self-serve as Lisa will prepare and then go on to Sunday School. Donuts may/may not be provided each week – they are bonus! Thanks, Lisa, for providing this hospitality ministry!

Commentary on all events Advent

The success of the Living Nativity and Pageant this year was due in a very large part to the work and organization of the Advent Department. Joyce and Bragg Stanley organized the Living Nativity night refreshments and hundreds were served – mostly guests! Erin Bower, Steve and Jessica Humble, Vicki Johnson, and Amy LaHue organized the costumes, supplies. Jay and Jack Creasy put up the “shed” out front. Cherry Hinderberger and Carol Hughey organized the Tasting Party. Jeff Underwood help with Living Nativity sound and light set up. The Mills/Barnes/Mooney family set up the sanctuary tree and greens.

The Living Nativity and Pageant were so streamlined this year because a team was making it happen at every move. The set-up, implementation, and take down/clean up. What a difference! Caroling had a group of around 30 adults and youth who took two hours for singing in dining rooms at Lenoir, The Bluffs, and homes of church folks who are not able to be in church. Good song and food following made the night a treat.

Christmas Eve was a good night! The 5-6 p.m. open sanctuary time provided much needed peace and reflection to about 35 folks, the 7:00 service filled most of the lower sanctuary and the 11:00 service was about 80 folks for a late night observance of the sacred texts and watchfulness for the Christ child. Each service does indeed have a following and a special place in the course of the night’s observance.

DOC to serve in Nashville TN over break

The DOC college ministry group will be in Nashville TN all next week on their annual Winter Break Mission Trip. Serving with CSM – Center for Student Mission www.csm.org they will engage in serving projects around the city. Serving Mon-Thursday, they will be supporting God’s work in Nashville through food programs, community need programs such as: Catholic Charities - Refugee Training Center; Senior Citizens Day Care; Nashville Food Project; Open Table Nashville (A non-profit, interfaith community that disrupts cycles of poverty, journeys with the marginalized and provides education about issues of homelessness); and Loaves and Fishes soup kitchen. These places of service will allow them to meet, learn, and serve with 2 different ministry sites each day. Some of the sites may have work projects, while others will be more relational (listening to someone’s story, playing with children, etc...).

Our students will be learning about the city, its issues, and its people. Throughout the trip, they will be given opportunities to talk with people about their lives as well as about Nashville, its strengths, and its areas of need. Most nights, the group will get a “taste” of the various cultures represented in Nashville by dining at some of our best family-owned ethnic restaurants. Each day will conclude with a time of “debrief” where our CSM host will facilitate a reflection on what our group has experienced, seen, and heard.

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

Happy Birthday!

Jan. 1

Eva Bright
Steve Gieseke
Jeri Sheppard

Jan. 3

Debbie Potthast

Jan. 4

Paige Freed

Jan. 5

Lindsey Chandler
Hiliary Nichols

Jan. 8

Bryan Garton
Sam Pine

Jan. 10

Samantha Fullington
Ava Hoenes
Darren Pine
Cindy Rose

Jan. 13

Jeff Alexander
Anastasia Palmer
Louise Ward



Jan. 14

Jesse Barnes
Nannie Lou Mallett

Jan. 15

Susan Ballard
Charles Brown
Janet Mountjoy

Jan. 17

Carolyn Savoy
Mason Stevens

Jan. 18

Mike Korman
Greg Mooney
Mike Mountjoy

Jan. 20

Kay Ahrens

Jan. 21

John Crane
Susan Klockow

Jan. 23

Teresa Foster
Matthew Hoepfner
Ella Rose Rogers