



THE VISITOR

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Dec. 16, 2016
Vol. 75, No. 19

Worship: Fourth Sunday of Advent, Dec. 18

How fulfilled are you this holiday season? Matthew's gospel shares our true fulfillment comes from Christ Jesus who is Emmanuel. Come find how fulfilling life is when God is with us. This Sunday we reflect on the announcement to Joseph, reflecting on Isaiah 7:10-16 and Matthew 1:18-25 in Rev, Stagg's sermon, "Fulfillment: Emmanuel." Come find true fulfillment this Sunday in worship! To help prepare us for the celebration of Jesus' birth, the Brass Quartet accompanies our music and our students are awarded their annual scholarships.

Scholarship Sunday

Sunday, December 18 will be the chance for the church to honor those who will receive church scholarship funds for this academic year. \$8,200 will be awarded to the group in the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

This year is special as we will award the Norma Miller/Drennan Singers Scholarship for the first time. Norma's son Craig will be present to help begin this tradition.



All Church Christmas Caroling Sunday, Dec. 18

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



Upcoming!

**Christmas Day and
New Year's Day**
**One worship service
at 10:30**
(No Sunday School or Warming Station
these two days)


**Note on page 3, the Dec. 26
Loaves and Fishes serving
opportunity!**

LIGHT

OUT OF THE DARKNESS

Christmas Eve
7:00pm

*You are invited to be a part
of this special celebration
in service and song.*



ONE NIGHT ONLY. THE MESSIAH IS BORN.

Bit from Brad

I knew the question was coming; I saw it coming... 18 months ago. It comes every six or seven years and I knew this year would be no different than years prior. But this was the first time it came from one of my own kids. **“Why do we have to go to church on Christmas Day?”** We’ll have just been there the night before! What about Christmas morning? How will it work?”

“I don’t know how it’ll work, but we’ll think of something,” I replied. “Daddy, you’re the boss! You can just cancel it; it’s no problem!” my child insisted. “Well, it doesn’t work exactly like that... besides, God is my real boss and I’m not too sure God would be terribly pleased if we canceled church on His son’s birthday.” A downcast, glum look stared back at me.

“Besides,” I said, “it’s not that we have to go to church on Christmas morning. We GET to go to church on Christmas!” The glum look was replaced with eye-rolling, “Whatever, Dad...” “No, seriously, I mean it. We GET to go to church on Christmas morning.” Eye-rolling slowly evolved into curiosity. “What?”

“Think about it. Christmas falls on Sunday once every six or seven years. And the average American life expectancy is about 79 years of age. So in a person’s lifetime that is about 12 times Christmas falls on a Sunday. As Disciples of Christ who partake in communion every Sunday, that’s only 12 times max the average person can have communion on Christmas Sunday. Now for argument sake, let’s say a person doesn’t take communion at their first Christmas Sunday because they haven’t been baptized nor do they take it at the end of life due to health reasons, so now we’re down to 10 times. Then, strike another opportunity for one’s rebellious college years when a person may not even go to church and dock another because you traveled away from home and we’re down to 8 chances to have communion on Christmas Sunday morning. Take away one more just for good measure and suddenly the average Christian only has 7 opportunities in our entire lifetime to receive communion on Christmas Sunday. That’s not many chances!”

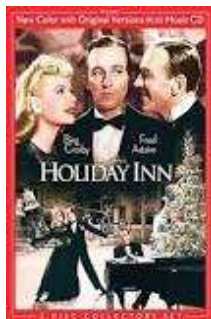
“Daddy, we GET to go to church on Christmas Sunday!” “I know, honey, I know.”

“We’ve got to tell people how important coming to church on Christmas Sunday truly is!” now an excited, earnest voice tells me. “OK, I’ll be sure to tell the folks at FCC.”

We GET to go to church on Christmas Sunday! It’s an opportunity that doesn’t come around as often as you might think! See you Christmas Sunday at 10:30!

Merry Christmas! ~Brad

Friday Night Movie Classics



“Holiday Inn”

Friday, Dec. 16th
7:00 p.m.

3rd Floor Cinema at FCC

Popcorn provided.
Join us and bring a friend.
Hosted by Dan & Holly Gieseke.

Camp Dates Announced: Summer 2017

CYF – grades 9-12: June 4-9 at
Jo-Ota in Clarence MO

All others NEOLA camps are at Covenant
Point in Holts Summit:

Elementary – grades 2-3:
June 20-22

Junior – grades 4-5: June 20-24)

**That Camp About God & Sex –
grade 8:** June 25-July 1

Try-It – little kids and parents:
July 14-16

Chi Rho – grades 6-8: July 16-21

Future Fall Group Dates:

Dec. 18 CYF Christmas
Caroling
4-7 p.m.

Meet at church.

Calendar for youth groups
in January on will be
out in next week’s visitor.

youth
@ fcc

NOTE the **summer 2017 camp dates** at
the bottom of this page.

DOC - Disciples on Campus

DOC is making plans for their **Winter
Break Mission Trip** set for January 2-7.
They will learn and serve in Tulsa, OK

Getting to Know Church Departments

The ministry and mission of First Christian Church are carried out through the organizational structure of an Administrative Board, Cabinet, and Departments. In the coming months the *Visitor* will offer descriptions of these departments that the congregation would take greater ownership in knowledge of them.

COMMUNICATIONS:

(Mark Mills, Chairperson)

The department will coordinate, oversee, manage, and execute all communications of First Christian Church—both “in-house,” as well as public communications. These include, but are not limited to:

- *the website, newsletters, bulletins, pictorial directories, bulletin boards, telephone answering system, radio spots, advertising, TV commercials, social media.*
- *This department will work closely with church staff, especially the Church secretary and the Administrative Board Secretary.*

Report for Sun., Dec. 11, 2016

Offering - \$6,738

Attendance - 219 (includes: early
service- 41, visitors- 6)

News of People & Place

Prayers in this week and ongoing shared on behalf of **David Polach** who will begin several months of chemotherapy treatments and **Debbie Potthast** as she awaits a cancer treatment plan.

Will you Serve Loaves & Fishes Dec. 26?



Our church is serving Loaves and Fishes Monday, Dec. 26th. This is “all welcome to volunteer” month, so if you can volunteer to shop, serve, and/or cook contact:

Paula Hoenes

Phone # 573-424-3165 or email

Cph@centurytel.net



Staff Christmas Fund

The Administrative Department will make available to the church membership a Staff Christmas Fund honoring 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 Friday, December 23. Please note the gift will be divided evenly among the staff members: ministers, office staff, music staff, and the custodian.



Dec. 18

Robert Martin
Kaedon Wheatley

Dec. 19

Dana Flora
Robert Leach
Nat Scavone

Dec. 22

Marilyn Schappert



Christmas Pageant



The 84th Christmas Pageant held last Sunday evening was lovely. Participants were 13 shepherds (5th graders and parents),

Wise Men (l to r: Geoff Karr, Dave Nichols, Jeff Alexander), Angels (HS Seniors Julia Bower and Zac Ruffolo), two readers (did you all know that Jennifer Alexander and Jacki Davidson are sisters?), and a great group of kids that sang and rang bells. The littlest Angels were hard to capture in a photo (below they are almost overtaking leader Jessica Humble) and finally, how sweet little Lillian was as baby Jesus. She is pictured above mid-yawn in the care of her parents Scott and Shannon Schaefer. It was, as it has become, a most special night to watch the ancient story of love unfold.

The White Gift Offering collected 147 food items and \$262 for the Columbia food pantry.

Thanks to Carol and Tom Hughey for hosting a most enjoyed Tasting Party following the Pageant.



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
sallyarobinson16@gmail.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

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

SERVING SCHEDULE Sunday, Dec. 18

Van Driver: Dan Gieseke
Office Receptionist: Janelle Patterson
Flower Ministry - Poinsettia Sunday
Welcome Station: Pat Rybolt & Jeff Underwood

Servers for 8:30 Worship Service

Worship Assts: Will & Donna Houston, Eli Gaffney
Elder: Will Houston
Offering Counters: Sarah Storm and Kim Reardon

Servers for 10:30 Worship Service

Communion Preparation: Shane, Erin, Julia & William Bower
Liturgist: David Read
Elders: Nora Dietzel, Hayley Batterson, Sarah Storm
Deacons: The Rogers Team *Ushers:* The Rose Team
Greeters: Pat Ritchie (*N. Door*), Paul Ritchie (*S. Door*),
Richard Barnard (*Atrium*), Lexy Bell (*Portico*)
Banner Bearers: Kaedon Wheatley, Izzy Arnett
Candlelighters: Cullen Snow, Elizabeth Martin
Children's Worship: Kim Boger (*ldr.*) Cindy Rose (*hlpr.*)
Offering Counters: Brenda Martin and Harlan Hackett

CHURCH CALENDAR Dec. 18 - 24

Sun., Dec. 18

- Warming Station, 6:00-9:00 a.m., FCC Higbee Center
- Bell Choir, 8:30 a.m., Bell Room (3rd floor Ed. Bldg.)
- Coffee Hour, 9:20-10:20 a.m., Yonker Hall
- Choir Cantata Practice, 1:30 p.m., Sanctuary
- All Church Caroling, 4:00 p.m., meet at church

Mon., Dec. 19

- Mother's Day Out Christmas Program, 12:30 p.m., Yonker Hall
- Newsletter deadline & Church Staff Mtg., 2:00 p.m.

Tues., Dec. 20

- Tuesday Morning Bible Study, 10:30 a.m., Morris Parlor
- Mother's Day Out Christmas Program, 12:30 p.m., Yonker Hall

Wed., Dec. 21

- Wed. Bible Study, 12:05-12:55 p.m., Bethany Hall
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 5:30 p.m., Morris Parlor

Thur., Dec. 22

- College Town Hillbillies, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Bethany Hall

Sat., Dec. 24

- Christmas Eve: Sanctuary open for Meditation & Communion,
5:00-6:00 p.m.
- Christmas Eve Service, 7:00 p.m., "Fulfillment of light!",
Lessons & Carols, Communion & Candlelight featuring a
Choral Cantata, "Light"