



THE
November 30, 2018
Vol. 77, No. 16

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) THE VISITOR

Our mission: to know God and follow Jesus Christ



The Lord is Coming...

Prepare!

The First Sunday in Advent, Dec., 2

We begin the Christian Year and the Advent season with the annual Hanging of the Greens worship service. In both worship services we ceremonially prepare our sanctuary and we spiritually prepare our hearts for the Advent and coming Christmas season. Come join this wonderful church tradition as we hang wreaths and garlands around the sanctuary, decorate the Chrismon tree with beautiful handmade ornaments and light the first of four Advent candles. Let us prepare for Christ's coming into our hearts as we "get into" this holy season! Join us this Sunday. Perhaps it is a great time to commit to being present all the Sundays of Advent and Christmas?

VAC Presents Due Back Sunday

All presents for VAC Christmas Project/Angel Tree families are due in Bethany Hall this Sunday, Dec. 2 in Bethany Hall between 9:30 - 10:20 a.m. Contact Elizabeth Mottaz or the church office if an alternate drop off time is needed. Thanks!

Blue Christmas Worship Service

*A service of hope and healing
Sunday, December 2
4:00pm*



Living Nativity Friday, Dec. 7, 6-8pm

Now a tradition on the night of Columbia's Living Windows Downtown District event, our church presents the story of Jesus' birth. The story is depicted on the east lawn and sidewalk of the church utilizing our members, costumes, and taped music with narration and special lighting.



Participants Read Here:

A *pizza supper* will be served to all participants in Yonker Hall beginning at 5:00pm. All participants need to be in the narthex between 5:30/45pm if in the 6 pm show. Participants are needed to do at least two consecutive shows. There are a total of 4 shows starting on the half hour between 6-8pm (youth, children primarily).

Sign up in the Narthex this Sunday:

Hospitality Volunteers needed:

- Servers for refreshment time in Bethany Hall.
- Cookies for refreshment time.

Set Up Volunteers needed:

- Set up help needed week of the Living Nativity (one evening probably Tues. or Wed.)
- Set up help needed day of the Living Nativity (12-2pm)

Participants needed:

- children, youth, adults to costume and act out parts.

Come and take in the unique rendition of an ancient story. Bring a friend...stay for hot chocolate and fellowship.

What is "Blue Christmas?"

Christmas can be a time when we are in need of reassurance and comfort. Perhaps we are grieving over the loss of a loved one, struggling with illness or have experienced the loss of a job. Be sure to join us for a special "Blue Christmas Worship Service— A Service of Hope and Healing" **THIS Sunday, December 2 at 4pm**. It will be a time of quiet reflection and meaningful words, prayers, music and candlelight.

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Bit From Brad

The **November Admin Board** met Nov. 13 with a full quorum, approving several matters. The 2018-19 Nominating Committee selected by our Board Moderator was ratified unanimously. Members are: Eric Seaman (Chair), Erin Bower, Tracy Evers, Valerie Freed, Paula Hoenes, Jessica Humble, Ryan Hunsaker, Vicki Johnson, Allie Schomaker, Brad Volmert; Youth Deacons: Julia LaHue & Coleman Rogers. The Nom Com meets January 7 & 28 and February 25 to discern next year's leaders. Thank you one and all!!

The Board passed a motion recommended by the Columbia Area Older Adult Ministries (CAOAM) to reallocate some budget items. Rev. Sally Robinson explained that Beth Simpson's (the assistant director of CAOAM) hours have been reduced from 10 hours a week to 5 hours a week. This resulted in the CAOAM Advisory Board to advise reallocating the \$5,000 difference to create a marketing development plan. The Board approved unanimously.

The Stewardship & Finance Dept. moved that the Financial Operating Policy be amended to increase the number of check signers from five (5) approved signatories to as many as seven (7) approved signatories to ease the scheduling of check signing. All checks will continue requiring two signers on each check; signers will continue being rotated so signers are scheduled to sign together as infrequently as possible; and checks will continue to be cut on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month (except on holidays). The Board approved the motion unanimously.

Subsequently, the Stewardship & Finance Dept. put forth the name of Nora Dietzel as a sixth Board-approved check signer to be added to the current check signers: Hayley Batterson, Kim Boger, Jessica Humble, Mark Mills and Perry Stemmons. A seventh signer may be brought forth a later date. The Board approved unanimously.

The Board also received reports on the current status of the Music Staff from me (covered in my column two weeks ago) as well as updates from Bob Hutton on various property projects including: south doors, stairwell handrails, the balcony and the boiler. Bragg Stanley submitted a written report regarding a timeline/schedule for the Open and Affirming Exploration Team's one-on-one conversations.

Be sure to thank our Cabinet and Board leaders who give so much to make our church go!! Eric Arnett (Moderator), Colleen Nilges (Vice-Moderator), Dan Gieseke (Treasurer), Jan Davis (Secretary) and each department and ministry team chair and member deserve our appreciation for all the time and energy devoted away from families and recreation so that the ministry and mission of First Christian Church is sustainable, viable and faithful. Thank you one and all!!!

~Blessings, Brad

Report for Sunday, November 25, 2018

Attendance 185 (guests- 16) Total offerings: \$5697.00

Even with a Blizzard Coming

The forecast last Sunday night had everyone in Columbia acting like they grew up in Florida — but not the faithful group of folks who made sure the church was decorated for the Advent and Christmas season. The crew was plentiful and tackled all parts of the **DECORATE** — the big tree, the various greens and banners, the nativity sets and the outside stable. Children were active in Yonker Hall creating ornaments for the tree in that room and some to take home. Thanks to Jessica Humble and Christy Von Talge for making the **CREATE** happen.

Brenda Mosby and Sarah Storm readied the food for the **EAT** and all were fed.



Thanks!



Outside, a group of 4 guys spent an hour in the sleet and snow getting the stable up and ready for Living Nativity. Jay Creasy, Mason & Ryan Silverwood and C.K. Hoenes got extra points!



Buy Heifer Gifts Sunday



The World Outreach Department makes the opportunity available each Advent for unique gifts to be purchased through Heifer International. Give a gift that changes poverty and hunger in a faraway place. Give a pig or cow, a rabbit or chicken. Want to know more? Go to www.heifer.org then buy with us as a church in the narthex on Sunday, **Dec. 2 and Dec. 9**. Gift cards are available.

News of People & Places



Will you keep in prayer the following church friends this coming week: **Carolyn Savoy**, having suffered a stroke has been a patient at Boone Hospital and is in hopes of returning soon to Ashland. **Wilke Wilkerson** has been a patient at Boone Hospital. **Natalie Barnard** has accompanied her parents to the Mayo Clinic so her mother, **Mary Bowyer**, can receive much needed medical care. **Paula Slusher**, having had a success surgery last week is now home.

Thanks to **Schuyler Wheeler** for sharing his love and powerful playing of the Reuter organ in recent months. Mary Bancroft has returned and will be at the organ this Sunday.

Thank you to Jim and Grace Smith for the Ministry of Flowers program they started many years ago in our Church. The chancel flowers Dan Backues & Liza Zimmer arranged and delivered to me looked beautiful on our Thanksgiving table and were so very appreciated. Thank you for your service. I was also glad to read the Worship bulletin. A nice surprise has been meeting Lisa's daughter as one of my fantastic radiation ladies at MCA, and thank you also to Brenda Martin who has checked on me regularly from her lab work. My treatment has been going well but am still working on getting past the fatigue. Thank you to all for the prayers, good thoughts, and the many beautiful cards I have received. Hope everyone had a blessed Thanksgiving. God Bless us one and all,

~Sharon Winner

Remembering our servicemen and servicewomen is important all through the year, but during the holidays it is especially uplifting to get an encouraging note from home. If you would like to send a note or card to our son, Mitchell, this holiday season, here is his address:

SPC Mitchell Taylor
35th CAB
APO AE 09378

~ James, Debbie and the entire Taylor family, thank you—and merry Christmas!



Capital Campaign Update

Our Capital Campaign Ambassadors will calling church families, November 29th through December 5th, to ensure they received a commitment packet and to answer any campaign-related questions. There are 19 Ambassador Team members and they are led by Susan Gray and Linda Hutton. We appreciate the work of our Ambassadors!



We continue with our Prayer and Discernment time for the Capital Campaign. The Campaign Prayer Team has created a prayer booklet comprised of many beautiful prayers written by the elders. A prayer booklet has been included in your commitment packet. We appreciate our elders and the Campaign Prayer Team led by Larry Veatch and Tommy Tomlin.

Please bring your completed commitment card to worship on **December 9th, Commitment Sunday**, as we celebrate God's abundance and provision in our lives. Parents are reminded that their **children's "piggy banks"** — the plastic containers are to be returned in 10:30 worship on Commitment Sunday.

Youth & Children in December



Chi-Rho Youth Group: Lunch, Games, Gift Swap

Bring fun, wrapped gift of less than \$5.00.

Sunday, December 2, 12:00-2:00pm, Bethany Hall

CYF: Dinner & VAC Present Shopping Blitz

Sunday, December 2, 6:00-8:00pm, Bethany Hall

Pageant Practice: Dec. 2, 9, 16

Children ages pre-K to 5th grade will practice their songs and bell ringing for the annual Christmas Pageant on Dec. 16 at 4:00pm. All practice will take place during 10:30 worship as a part of their Children's worship time on **Dec. 2, 9 and 16**. Pre-K will practice in the nursery. K-2 will ring rainbow bells, grades 3-5 will sing. Practice is necessary to participate.

Birthdays the 1st week of December

3rd: Paula Hoenes, David Read

4th: Brenda Martin, Linda Ridgeway

5th: Carole Harris-Randerson, Mike Randerson

6th: Deborah Garton, Alan Leach

8th: Alexandra Estes, Gabe Palmer, Kenzie Von Talge



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U.S. POSTAGE
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Columbia, MO
Permit No. 75

Ministerial Staff:

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

Music Staff:

Mary Bancroft, Coordinator of Music & Organist
maryebancroft@yahoo.com
Dr. Laura Schweibacher, Interim Director of Choirs
lmayes66@yahoo.com

Mother's Day Out Pre-School:

Tracy Westhoff, Director
tracy@firstchristian.org

Columbia Area Older Adult Ministry:

Rev. Sally Robinson, Chaplain
sallyarobinson16@gmail.com

Support Staff:

Robert Floyd, Office Manager
fcc@firstchristian.org
Fred Mottaz, Business Manager
fred@firstchristian.org
Keith Picker, Custodian

Return Service Requested

SERVING SCHEDULE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

Bus Driver: Kim Leon
Office Receptionist: Richard Barnard
Welcome Station: Debbie Garton
Flower Ministry Arranging/Delivery: Eric Seaman

Servers for 8:30 Worship Service
Worship Assistants:
Tom & Carol Hughey and Mary Daugherty
Elder: Eric Seaman
Offering Counters: Mary Daugherty and Kim Reardon

Servers for 10:30 Worship Service
Communion Prep:
Mike & Janet Mountjoy and Jeff Wheeland
Greeters:
Laura Crane (N. Door) Jane Ann Hackett (S. Door)
Bud Batterson (Atrium) Lorene Trickey (Portico)

Banner Bearers: Lillian McCormack and Jodie Silverwood
Candle Lighters: Brady Marrero and Kenzie Von Talge
Liturgist: Wolf Schaefer
Elders: Pat Rybolt and Larry Veatch
Deacons: The Garton Team **Ushers:** The Wright Team

Children's Worship:
NO Children's Worship— Hanging of the Greens
Offering Counters: Janelle Patterson and TBD

CHURCH CALENDAR DECEMBER 2-DECEMBER 9

Sunday, December 2

-Hanging of the Greens, Both Worship Services
-Coffee Hour Fellowship, 9:20-10:20am
-Sunday School Classes, 9:30am
-Chi-Rho Youth Group, 12:00-2:00pm, Bethany Hall
-Blue Christmas Service, 4:00pm, Sanctuary
-CYF Youth Group, 6:00-8:00pm, Bethany Hall
-DOC College Ministry, 8:30pm, Bethany Hall

Monday, December 3

-Church Office Staff Meeting, 2:00pm, Keystone Room
-Drennan Singers Rehearsal, 5:30pm, Sanctuary
-Coffman-Watson CWF Group, 7:00-8:00pm, TBD

Tuesday, December 4

-Tuesday Bible Study, 10:30am-12:00pm, Morris Parlor
-Acoustic Jammers, 6:30-8:30pm, Bethany Hall

Wednesday, December 5

-Wednesday Bible Study, 12:05-12:55pm, Bethany Hall
-World Outreach Department Mtg., 5:00-6:00pm, Keystone
-Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 5:30-6:30pm, 3rd Flr. Choir Room
-Chancel Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6:40-7:40, 3rd Flr. Bell Room

Thursday, December 6

-Trustees Meeting, 12:00pm, Bethany Hall

Friday, December 7

-Church Dine-Out, 5:30pm, Bob Evans Restaurant
-Living Nativity, 6:00-8:00pm, Church Lawn

Sunday, December 9

-Capital Campaign Commitment Sunday