



Welcome New Member!

It is a joy to welcome Carroll St. John into our congregation! A native of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, she moved from that community to Columbia about 18 months ago to work for the University Hospital in the dialysis unit. She has been visiting our congregation for several weeks and united by transfer of her membership from the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Cedar Rapids at the late service on April 15. We look forward to continuing to help her feel at home in our community and our congregation. Her address is: 3306 Black Hills Dr., 65202 and ph. # 814-1880. Welcome Carroll!

Sunday Services

Our late worship service on April 22 will be a special celebration of the commitments of the young people who have participated in our Pastors' Class. The class has been meeting on Wednesday evenings, and will conclude with a Friday and Saturday retreat at the Rickman Center in Jefferson City. Members of the class who decide to make confessions of faith will be introduced by their mentors and be baptized at the late worship service.

Dr. Yonker will deliver the morning message, "Tending the Tender" based on 1 Peter 1:3-9. Special music will include Jerry Daugherty's solo, "The Holy City" presented at both worship services, and the Chancel Choir anthem, "The God of Love My Shepherd Is."

STARS

A new group is being formed in our congregation for those who are 55 years old and older. Seniors, Together, Affirming our faith in God, Reaching out to one another and others; Serving Christ (STARS) plan to meet every month on the fourth Tuesday. As the name says we will be affirming our faith in God in our times together, planning activities where we reach out to one another and others in our community as we serve Christ. This new fellowship will also have opportunities to learn new things. At our first meeting on February 27 we had a lunch and learn with Don Ginsburg and Nancy Thomas - "To Move or Not To Move? Housing choices for seniors." In March we went to Kansas City to see the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit. On April 24 we will meet for lunch (noon) at Columbia College, Dulany Hall in the Cougar Room; the meal will be \$4.50 as we go through the lunch line. At this lunch we will discuss what other activities the STARS will be interested in this year. The coordinating committee has planed May and June activities and would like input from you. So plan to join us on April 24th.

Coordinating Committee: Harlan & Jane Ann Hackett, Will & Donna Houston, Joy Duren, Carol Slusher, Paula Kurtz, Barbara Rothenberger, ex-officio John Yonker and Sally Robinson.

Weekly Report

April 15, 2007

Received \$6,325.53

Received to Date \$372,614.61

Attendance - 284

(includes early worship - 59)

Blessing of the Seeds

Saturday, May 5, is a very special day! We are all invited to breakfast at 8:30 a.m. at Prairie Grove Methodist Church in Hatton, MO. I know that is rather early, but think of the companionship. We will have a "Blessing of the Seeds" and then if weather permits we will go down the road a few miles and plant them, hoping for a wonderful harvest in September or October.

Our friends in Hatton will provide scrambled eggs and we will bring "Meats and Sweets." Please let the church office know by Sunday, April 29 if you would like to participate in this exciting event. Thank you.

Harsh Brown, Secretary, World Outreach Committee

From the Frontier to the Future



**First
Christian
Church**

(Disciples of Christ)
Columbia, Missouri

1832 175th Anniversary 2007

From Ken's Desk...

I had really intended to write a "swan song" column this week. I think I will miss these biweekly chats quite a lot. After all, how many times do we get the opportunity to think out loud and to share those thoughts with friends? But this was not to be...

The news began early this morning, trickling down in small bits and pieces that something dreadfully wrong was happening in Virginia. A few people had been wounded, and perhaps some killed, on the campus of Virginia Tech. As the morning moved along, the numbers became more horrifying. The most recent count is 33 people dead and dozens wounded, some critically. For reasons that we may never know, a young Asian gunman opened fire on students in an engineering class and then moved on to gun down students and professors in other classrooms and some trying to flee. Promising young lives were brutally ended. Devoted professors were slain. No rhyme, no reason, no mercy. Those who survived will bear permanent emotional scars. Everyone loses. Why?

Every investigative power will be focused on finding out what happened and why. The sad truth is, there can be no explanation. Circumstances, genetics, coincidences, and randomness will all figure in the final analysis. But there can be no real explanation. As people of faith we are often tempted to slide all too quickly into the response of the "mysterious ways of God." We'll try to excuse God, accuse God, or refuse God. We will want to anoint our damaged body with the salve of trite phrases and dark accusations. None of it will amount to an ounce of explanation. The brutal fact is that we live in a world of violence. Violence is not productive. It shatters lives; it destroys communities; it warps and scars the hearts and souls of us all. Ever since Cain killed Abel in an act of senseless jealousy, we have been marked by violence.

So what do people of faith do? Duck our heads and hope no one asks us why? Mumble platitudes about "God's Plan"? Harden our hearts and move forward? No. These are not the response of faith. The faithful response, it seems to me, is to stand beside all who are wounded and weary and scarred and weep with them. God does. God weeps for the cross, for the gas ovens, for the suicide bombers, for the slaughtered soldiers, and for us. The tears of God are the same tears we shed for all who suffer. Just as we would gather into our loving arms all those whose lives have been shattered at

Virginia Tech, so God gathers us and weeps for a better day, a day when the stone will be rolled away from the prisons of our violent nature, and life will spring out of the darkness into the eternal light of love.

We cannot undo what has been done. Christ is crucified. The children are dead. And the anger and the sorrow are all mixed up inside of us. Only the confession of Job makes any sense: "Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand...and repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:3,6). Bind up the wounds, attend to the stricken, witness God's love to a world soaked in violence, pray for peace. The only answer God has given us to the cruelty of the world is the empty tomb. It will have to do.



It was a joy to welcome Rev. Paula Ritchie to the pulpit Sunday, April 15. She delivered the sermon at the 8:30 and 10:30 services. Paula grew up at First Christian and is a "Timothy" of our church. She is pictured above with her husband, Tom Hackley, and Dr. Kenneth Watson.

Drennan Group to Meet

The Drennan Group will have their annual carry-in salad supper April 24, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. in the Keystone Room of the church. (Drinks, cups, plates and utensils will be furnished). Shirley Park and Sally Robinson will be guests of the evening. Come for an evening of great food and fellowship.

News of the congregation

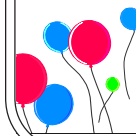
Our prayers are with those who are in Boone Hospital at this time: Don Houston, recuperating from surgery; Bill Neidergerke, admitted on Saturday; and Sue Wright is recovering from surgery on Wednesday at Boone Hospital.

We extend our sympathy to Ron Sheppard and Raven Sheppard on the death of their father, Ron Sheppard, Sr. who died Wednesday morning, April 11, in Farmington, MO. Services were held there on Monday, April 16th.

Our sympathy is also extended to Jerry Vaught on the death of her brother, Edward "Buddy" Yates, of Smithville, MO, who died Sunday, April 15th. Services will be held in Smithville this week.

Kaela Rorvig was featured in the April 13th edition of the Columbia Daily Tribune. She competed in the fourth annual Audrey J. Walton Combined Events track meet held at Walton Stadium.

Your Special Birthdays!



Jean McCauley-

94 on April 22

Bud Smith-

92 on April 25



Sandy Powell-April 22
Abby Holman-April 23
Joshua Garton-April 23
Daniel Rees-April 24
Betty Moon-April 25
Millard Thomas-April 25
Erin Peterson-April 25
Bobbi McCormack-April 25
Paul Speckhals-April 26
Bill Bates-April 27
Gary Unterschutz-April 27
Pamela Hunsaker-April 28
Hannah Pingleton-April 28
Magdalena Schaefer-April 28

175th Anniversary News - Genie Rogers

April is Ministerial Appreciation Month

Ken's Retirement Celebration

It is fitting that Ken's retirement coincides with our April theme of honoring the ministerial leadership we have at First Christian Church. Ken has been such a wonderful asset for the past 13 years, helping us to understand scripture, the history of the church and much more. His eclectic knowledge makes him the "go to" person for nearly every question we have. Come help make Ken's retirement day a memorable one.

The 10:30 service at church will have some extra special touches with a reception following church. There will be lots of delicious food and a program to honor Ken in song and dance by Melissa and Mike Straw. This is a "do not miss" event.

A **Book of Letters** is being assembled by Mimi McRoberts and she needs your letter to include in the book. A letter of any size, length or shape is welcome. We need your letter soon as the deadline is **April 27, 2007** so it can be included in this book. It will be a treasure for Ken and Nancy to have so we want high participation. Please send your note to: **Mimi McRoberts, 1001 Cherry Street, Ste. 201, Columbia, MO 65201-7931.**

A fund is being collected to present Nancy and Ken with a check as a thank you gift from the congregation. Deadline for contributions is **Friday, April 27, 2007**. If you wish to contribute, please send your check to Fred Mottaz, 101 North 10th Street, Columbia, MO 65201 and note in the memo line that it is for the Watson Retirement Fund.

Thank You

Thanks to Donna Houston at the 8:30 service and Erin Bower at the 10:30 service for reading the Minute for History. We are learning more about former ministers of our church and the leadership and change they brought. A thank you to Ken Watson for writing the Minutes for History we have been using. Next month's Minute for History will be a special dialogue written by Jean Rossman with her playing one of the roles and Amy Kay playing the other. More later!



Quilt

The quilt is generating so much interest that squares are still being picked up for completion. Over 75 have been returned and they are WONDERFUL. This quilt is going to be awesome! The deadline to have the squares in is May 20th, then the ladies of the committee will begin assembling the squares and putting the quilt together in its final design.

Reminder: Each block needs to be 6 1/2 inches square, which will allow for a generous seam allowance to end up with a 6" square in the quilt. Do not trim or cut the material squares you have been given to another size.

If you have not yet signed up for a block or if you need a little help completing it, there is still time. Call Pat Rainey (446-0419), Mary Tompson (442-8849) or Tommie Ross (442-0615) for help. We want everyone to be included in our anniversary quilt!

Heifer International Ark

As part of the 175th Anniversary celebration First Christian Church has set a goal to raise \$5,000 for an Ark through Heifer International. The Ark will be sent to a village where needy people will raise the animals to make money to feed their families, send their children to school and have clothes to wear. To honor your mother on Mother's Day, why not purchase in her name a flock of geese, or a trio of rabbits, or a cow through Heifer International. Beginning May 6 there will be a display set up in the narthex to give you the opportunity to purchase your animals as a gift to someone in the world.
~World Outreach Committee

Joseph H. Foy 1838-1917

Perhaps one of the more intriguing and unusual preachers at the Columbia Christian Church, Joseph Foy was born in Wilmington, NC in 1838. He attended Scott's Hill Academy, Davidson College and the University of North Carolina. At UNC he studied law and received his license to practice, but preferred teaching. He taught at several prestigious colleges in the state. Twice he enlisted in the Confederacy, but was discharged each time with acute hepatitis.

In 1860 he married Kate Battle, the daughter of a Christian church minister. Picking up an interest in the gospel, eight years later he was Ordained in the Ministry. By 1878 he had earned his Divinity Degree from North Carolina and, in 1884, he received the LLD degree from the University of Mississippi. He was a noted linguist, speaking and reading a dozen different languages and read many European papers in their native language. Their marriage produced two daughters, Maude who became a doctor in St. Louis, and Josephine, who graduated from Christian College and became an actress.

He held two split pastorates beginning in 1878 at Central Christian Church in St. Louis. Complaints and unrest began among members of the congregation in response to his "liberal and advanced thinking." After continued turmoil in the church he resigned and asked to be admitted into the Episcopal Church, as he "wanted a larger latitude of opinion than he could find in the Church of Christ." His first call was brief at the St. Peters Church in St. Louis. In 1886 he accepted a call as the rector at the Calvary Episcopal Church in Columbia. His first stay in Columbia was brief and he returned to the Disciple fold serving Christian churches in Omaha NE, Norfolk,

VA, and then returning to St. Louis to the Fourth Christian Church. In 1889, the Columbia Christian Church issued him the call to replace Elder Benjamin Deweese. He is the first of several successive ministers to hold the title "Reverend Doctor," including current Minister, John Yonker and Associate Minister, Ken Watson.

Foy began new mid-week services every Wednesday evening. These programs, called "lecturesses," addressed such issues as: "The Ideal Husband," "The Ideal Wife," etc. These lectures were popular, open to the community, and frequently were published in the newspaper.

Under Foy's pastorate, music was brought into the church service for the first time. The use of organ music had divided the church for years but there was not a great deal of controversy in Columbia. There had been organ use in Sunday School classes, weddings, and funerals. Before using the organ in church services, he put it to a congregational vote and no one opposed it.

In January 1891 Foy resigned as minister, accepting a teaching position at Christian College. Plans had already begun during his tenure to erect a new church building and fund raising had begun. In mid 1891, church representatives appeared in Boone County Circuit Court to incorporate the church and make the official name **First Christian Church of Columbia, Missouri**. Foy continued to deliver sermons periodically at the church and assisted with plans for the new church structure.

Foy left Christian College to go to Salisbury MO to teach in the fall of 1891 then later returned to St. Louis where he taught in the Jewish sector of the city until his retirement in 1911. When Italians moved into the area, he learned their language and was held in high esteem and served in the role of family advisor. By the time of his death in 1917, Foy had become a Catholic and services were conducted in the New Catholic Cathedral.

Chinese People Crave Bibles

Many people may not realize China allows the Bible to be distributed and even to be printed there now. During the Cultural Revolution, Bibles had been banned and even burned. Then in 1979, President Jimmy Carter had an historic meeting with Chinese Premier Deng Xiaoping, explains Melinda Trine in the current American Bible Society "Record" magazine.

President Carter asked the leader to grant freedom of religion, allow free access to the Bible, and permit the return of Western missionaries. After some consideration, Deng decided that the Chinese people would be granted the first two freedoms, but that missionaries would not be allowed to come back. However, since then, Melinda says, the Bible itself has become a powerful life-changing missionary.

One of the "crown jewels" of Bible work in China now is the Amity Printing Company, which began in 1987 in Nanjing, west of Shanghai. Since then, it has produced more than 40 million Bibles and New Testaments for distribution to and through individuals and churches, many places difficult to drive or walk to.

The special Bible paper is hard to obtain and expensive.

So, the global United Bible Societies subsidize the paper. One UBS unit is the American Bible Society in which First Christian Church participates and helps through our department of World Outreach Ministries.



YOUTH GROUP SCOOP

JYF = (grades 3 - 5)
 Chi Rho = (grades 6-8)
 CYF = (grades 9-12)

www.firstchristian.org/youth

This Sunday, April 22, all youth are invited to Fred Mottaz's house to go fishing and enjoy the spring weather. We will leave from the church at 3:30pm and will return by 7:30pm. Fred will obviously Partner this event as will Mark and Pam Hunsaker. We would really appreciate the involvement of one additional Partner to drive and hang with us at the farm. Let Amy Kay or Fred know if you are interested in being with the youth.

CYF will meet for Mid-Week on the next even Wednesday, April 25th from 7:15-8:30pm. Each time we gather, we begin our time in the Fellowship Hall with some light snacks and then either move to Amy Kay's office, the Cinema or our CYF room on the third floor for our discussion. We always end in prayer by 8:30pm. Hope that you can come to Mid-Week this week and every even Wednesday of the year. ;)

Huge Partner thanks to **Dan Cullimore** for Partnering our youth groups last Sunday by not only providing lunch, but also leading us in our neighborhood clean-up efforts. Our North Central area of Columbia has a Neighborhood Association that gathers to help create and keep a good place to live and visit. Thanks to Dan for his involvement in the Association and for getting us involved as well!



BOOK ORNER

"Don't Check Your Brains at the Door"
Know What You Believe and Why by Josh McDowell and Bob Hostetler – All too often Christian students trip blithely off to secular colleges or jobs – and return with their faith shattered. Why? Many teens don't know what or why they believe. This entertaining course enables teens to firmly secure their faith. Then, when questions and doubts come, they'll have a ready defense. Ideal for junior and senior high students.

~On the Book Cart

Book Club to Meet



Please consider joining the FCC Ladies' Book Club on Wed, April 25 in the Church Library at 12:30 p.m. This month's selection is *The Mists of Avalon*, a retelling of the King Arthur legend from a woman's perspective. Next month, May 23, we meet at the same place, same time to discuss the novel *Enemy Women* by Paulette Jiles. The setting is southern Missouri in 1863 and based on true events during the Civil War. If you have questions, please call Linda Hutton at 442-5423.

Thank You!

Again, we thank all those who donated lilies to add to the beauty of our Easter worship. A special thank you goes to the ladies who came to the church to arrange the plants:

Barb Rothenberger,
 Bettie Koelling,
 Carol Slusher,
 Linda Ridgeway and
 Nancy Watson.

Thanks for your time!

College Care Packages

Can you believe that the end of the semester is upon us?!? College Care Packages are in the works and will be ready for delivery to our hard working college students this Sunday, April 22nd. This is a long held ministry of our church that extends our care to students during the rough part of the semester. We put together care packages and then folks from the church community deliver them around town with smiles and blessings from the church. If you have a few minutes to drop off a care package or two, we could really use your help! They will be out before and after worship to pick up, or if you are unable to worship on that day but are able to deliver, please call Amy Kay or Kelly in the church office. Thanks!

Graduates

We look forward to celebrating our High School Graduates on Sunday, May 20, at which time we will also rejoice with our College Graduates. If you are a college graduate or know of someone who is, please contact the church office so that we don't miss anyone. Thanks!

Church Off-line

Last week the church was unable to access the internet and thus our emails from Wednesday until the beginning of the current week. We apologize for the inconvenience. Thanks to Ken for attending to this problem and getting us back on track.

You may be interested in knowing that a Technology Task Force has been created, is meeting and addressing issues of technology in the church. They are a talented and experienced group of people whom we are already thankful for. The group is looking for another member who has an eye for website design. If you are interested, talk with Amy Kay. Thanks!

Islamic Center Hosts Open House

The Islamic Center hosts an annual event for those who would like to discover more about Islam and the Muslims living in Columbia. The Open House will take place on **Sunday, April 22**, between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. The Islamic Center of Central Missouri is located at 201 South Fifth St. (between Locust and Elm Streets), in Columbia. Should you have any questions, please call 875-4633.

Love in the Land of Dementia

"Love in the Land of Dementia," a workshop for family members and professionals who provide care and comfort to persons with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, will be held **Thursday, April 26**, 9:30 a.m. -3:30 p.m., at Columbia United Church of Christ, 3201 I-70 Drive, Northwest. A \$20 registration fee includes lunch and materials. For more information or to register for the workshop, contact the Alzheimer's Association Mid-Missouri Chapter at 573-443-8665.

The Visitor

First Christian Church

101 N. 10th Street
Columbia, MO 65201
573-449-7265



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Rev. Amy Kay Pavlovich, Associate Minister
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Minister Emeritus: Dr. Sam S. Langlely

Campus Ministry Intern: Kelly Mueller

Music Staff:

Mary Bancroft, Coord. of Music & Organist
Melissa Straw, Choir Director
Norma Miller, Pianist

Mother's Day Out: Tracy Westhoff, Director

Support Staff:

Kay Beissenherz, Administrative Secretary
fcc@firstchristian.org

Jim Burt, Custodian

Fred Mottaz, Business Manager
fred@firstchristian.org

Sunday's Schedule-April 22, 2007

Van Driver: Tom Yonker *Telephone:* TBA
8:30 Early Worship, Sanctuary

Worship Asst: Tom and Carol Hughey, Anne Linn

Elder for 8:30 Service: Sarah Yonker

Communion Preparation:

Steve and Sharon Smith, Jason Bent

9:30 Church School

Church School Greeter: Doris Neidhardt

Nursery Volunteer: Tammy Arnett

10:30 Worship in Sanctuary

Sermon: Dr. John J. Yonker *Liturgist:* TBA

10:30 Elders: Steve and Mary Bess Green, Brenda Martin

Deacons: The Stanley Team

Greeters:

Carol Slusher, *North Door*

Candice and Chris Stormer, *South Door*

Ushers: The Pavlovich Team

Banner Bearers: Julia Bower & Heather Hunsaker

Candlelighters: Sam Creasy and Jack Creasy

Flower Ministry:

arranged: Elizabeth Mottaz

delivered: Jeff and Susan Ripley

Evangelism Calls: Gene and Micki Kirkham

This Week (April 22 - 28)

- Sun. - Baptismal Service during 10:30 worship, reception following the service for everyone
- Lenoir Worship, 3:30 p.m.
- All youth, 3:30-7:30, Fred Mottaz's
- Church Softball Game, 8:00 p.m., Purple Field at Rainbow Softball Center
- Mon. - Drennan Singers, 6:15 p.m., Sanctuary
- Lecture Series, "The Historical Jesus," 7:00-8:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall
- Tue. - Bible Study, 10:30 a.m., Morris Parlor
- STARS Luncheon, 12:00 noon, Columbia College
- Drennan Group, 6:30 p.m., Keystone Room
- Search Committee, 7:00 p.m., Morris Parlor
- Wed. - Hannah Jones Group, 9:30 a.m., Lenoir 2nd Floor Apts.
- Men's Lunch, 11:30 a.m., Senior Center
- Brummett-Harrah Group, 1:30 p.m., Royanne Tracy's
- Scholarship and Awards Committee, 4:00 p.m., Keystone Room
- CYF (grades 9-12), 7:15-8:30 p.m.
- Back Room (college group), 8:45-10:00 p.m.
- Fri. - Parker-Scott Group, 1:30 p.m., Lenoir Community Ctr.