



**THE**  
August 31, 2007  
Vol. 66, No. 8

# VISITOR

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

## Sunday Services

On this Labor Day Sunday, Dr. Yonker will address the issue of taking our faith to work with us, making our vocations expressions of our Christian living. The scripture reading will be taken from James 1:14-26.

The Old Time Hymn Sing is this Sunday. Come early...the hymn sing begins at 8:25 and 10:25, before each service.

Harlan Hackett will provide special music at the 8:30 service with a solo, "Fairest Lord Jesus Medley."

## College Ministry Internship

If you are a college student who is interested in helping with our campus ministries, you are invited to contact Amy Kay during the next two weeks for a job description and application. The deadline for returning the application is Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. The Internship will begin directly following the interviewing process.

## Mass in Memory of Sam Langley

Tu Le and his family (wife and 4 children,) were former refugees from Viet Nam that FCC helped sponsor over 25 years ago. They were unable to go to Sam's funeral but thought so highly of him that they have arranged to have a mass said in memory of Sam on Sept 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 **am** at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Sam knew the Le's were Catholic and arranged for them to have transportation to their church until they could afford a car. They were always very grateful. Anyone is welcome to attend and the service will last 20-30 minutes in their sanctuary. ~Judy Cunningham

## Welcome to Interim Choir Director

FCC gives a warm welcome to Cheryl Nichols who has agreed to be our Interim Chancel Choir Director. Cheryl brings lots of experience with her having taught music in Moberly, Kirksville, Ashland and now at Stephens College where she teaches performance and technique classes. In addition, she directs the concert choir, has 20 students in voice and piano, is the staff accompanist and directs the school musicals. She was with us in worship this last Sunday and conducted the after-church choir rehearsal. She's already touched base with many people she knows in our congregation and we are feeling very fortunate to have her join our staff at this time of transition. Please greet her and let her know how much she is appreciated.

~Mary Bancroft

## Encore Children's Worship Training

By popular demand, we will have a second round of training for Children's Worship helpers and leaders on September 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> during the Children's Worship time in the Chi Rho room. Sarah Read will lead this two-part training session for all those interested in helping with the ministry. Of note, attendance at both sessions is important. They are not the same session repeated, but parts one and two. Contact Sarah or Amy Kay if you have any questions.

### Weekly Report

Aug. 26, 2007

Received \$7,740.50

Received to Date \$102,355.70

Attendance - 307

(includes early worship - 66)

## CWF Attention! Attention!

We are hosting the first meeting of the 2007 Church Women United fellowship dinner on Friday, Sept. 7 at 5:00 p.m. We will prepare the drinks, paper goods and tables for 50. Please come be good hostesses and bring a simple "covered dish" if you are able.

~Shirley Park

## Get Those Stamps In!

Anne Linn is getting ready to send another box of stamps to our "Stamps for Children" service project. If you've been holding on to your stamps, send or bring them to the church as soon as you can. There are containers in the elevator alcove to receive them. Information about this program is on the credenza in the alcove. There should be 1/4" margin around each side of the stamp. Anne will prepare it for shipping if you leave plenty of room so she can process it correctly. Commemorative and foreign stamps are especially requested. We appreciate Anne's willingness to take on this important project.

Carol Slusher, with help from Erin Bower, will be the CWF Service Coordinator for 2007-2008. ~Muriel Leach

*From the Frontier to the Future*



**First Christian Church**

(Disciples of Christ)  
Columbia, Missouri

**1832 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2007**

## Heeerrreee's Johnny!

It's been an eventful time for us at the church this summer! While these three months have flown by, we have been doing many things!

Continuing our 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we have shared a tasty ice cream social, gathered together for a "Hullabaloo," and welcomed Alexander Campbell to our pulpit and church picnic. The old guy looked pretty good considering he is approaching his 219<sup>th</sup> birthday!

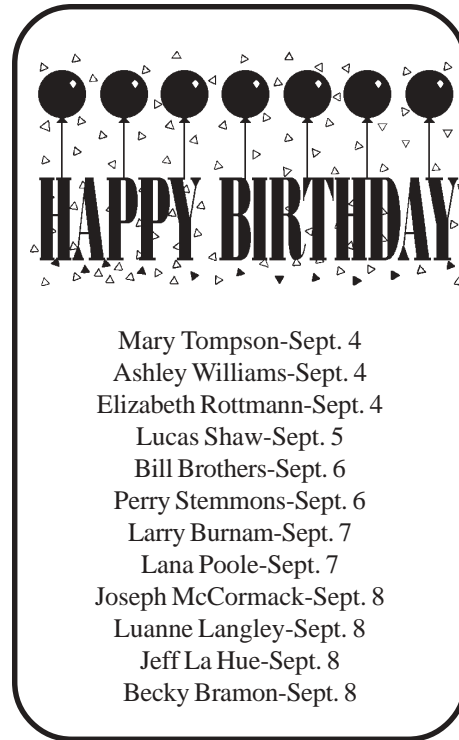
Our young people have gone to church camp and worked hard alongside their adult partners on their mission trips. Some of us shared in the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Ft. Worth, Texas, and we all celebrated the music ministry of Melissa Straw who concluded more than thirteen years service with us in the middle of July. We rejoiced in the melodies of faith as the choir came back from their summer vacation. And we have found a talented musician to lead the choir in the interim period while we search for the next person to assume those duties.

And, beyond all that, we have called the Reverend Jimmy Spear to become our next Associate Minister. Concluding his duties with the First Christian Church in Louisiana in the middle of October, he will move to Columbia, and begin his work with us at the first of November. A date which we look forward to with joy and anticipation!

As I get back into the swing of things after a two-week vacation, I am reminded how many people it takes to keep the church going. The Apostle Paul said that the church is the body of Christ, and all the members of the body are needed to keep it alive and healthy. Recognizing this fact, I want to express my thanks to you for all the things you do to make our part of the body of Christ so much alive and in such good health. So many times I think to myself, in the spirit of Louie Armstrong, what a wonderful church this is.

I especially want to thank Amy Kay for carrying on so well in my absence. It's not surprising to hear what a good job she did in preaching and leading worship, and how much people appreciated her pastoral calls. In her years with us we have seen her grow and blossom, and have come to know her sincere and deep love for Christ and the church, and her desire to become the very best minister that she can be.

I thank God for you, and ask for your continued prayers and support as we continue to move from the frontier to the future.



I want to thank all the people in the church who came to see me in the hospital on August 15, called on the phone and sent me cards before and after that day. And, for the dinner that Genie Rogers brought us and the Prayer Shawl that Millie Bolman delivered. At our age, it is great to know that you belong to a loving and caring church like First Christian. Now that I have reduced the threat of a stroke, I may live to be 94, 95 or older.

Gene Moore

*Thank You!*

I appreciate being remembered on my ninetieth birthday with the beautiful bouquet of flowers. I also thank Frances and Harsh Brown for bringing them to me.

Margaret (Peggy) Cline

## News of the congregation

**Martha Cooper** died at her home on Friday morning, August 24 at the age of 79. She had been a member of our congregation along with her husband, **Ed**, for many years. He preceded her in death several years ago. Together they co-owned Cooper Travel from 1975 until her retirement in 2005. We extend our sympathy to her family: son **Dan Stookey**, and daughters, **Melissa Counts** and **Marti Blando** and their families. A memorial service was conducted by John Yonker on Tuesday morning, August 28 at Parkers.

**Eunice Cottle**, former member of our congregation, died in an Overland Park, Kansas nursing home on Thursday, August 23. A memorial service was conducted by Rev. Rick Frost at Broadway Christian Church on Wednesday, August 29. Eunice and her husband **Ferd** were among the members of our congregation who started the Broadway Christian Church in 1958. Our sympathy goes to all her family, including the members of the **Brooker Family**; her daughter, **Joyce Cottle Brooker** who married **Larry Brooker**, son of **Don and Thelma Brooker** and their daughter, **Nancy Brooker Bowers** of Ames, Iowa.

We continue to keep **Sean Douglas**, husband of **Marcy Peterson Douglas**, in our prayers; he was hospitalized last week.

**Miriam Leach Powell**, a longtime church member here, died Sat., Aug. 18, at her home in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. She grew up in this church, graduated from Hickman High in 1940 and then Christian College and MU, sang in the church Chancel Choir, and was a Christian Student Congregation (CSC) president when Parker Rossman was its church staff director. The two hometown girls, Jean Fleming Rossman and Miriam, were longtime friends. She was an aunt of **Alan** and **Bob Leach**. Funeral services and interment were here in Columbia on Sat., Aug. 25. Miriam is survived by her children, **Dennis**, **Janie** and **Emily** who grew up in our church.

Our thanks to all the members of the **Chancel Choir**, under the direction of **Pat Ritchie** for their beautiful anthem last Sunday, and to **Mary Bancroft** and **Norma Miller** for their organ/piano duets. Also, thanks to **Jerry Daugherty** for his solo, "Amazing Grace" presented at the early service on August 26.

A big thank you to **Will** and **Donna Houston** for putting communion cup holders on the back of the choir chairs.



# 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary News - Genie Rogers

## October Homecoming

Sunday, October 14, 2007 is "Coming Home Sunday." All former Associates, Senior Ministers and FCC Timothys have been contacted by mail to save the date. More detailed invitations will be mailed out to them after Labor Day. Rev. David Yonker will be the guest minister with a catered lunch to follow in Fellowship Hall. Reservations will be needed since the event will be catered. The meal will cost the church \$11.00 per person. Donation jars will be on each table.

Our members are needed to serve as hosts to former members who will be returning to spend the day with us. We want to contact those who have moved away or become part of other local congregations. We will need everyone who is a current member to help spread the word. We are also depending on those who have adult children who grew up as part of the FCC church family to let your kids know we want to welcome them home that weekend. Some of these people still receive the *Visitor*, but many have moved and we no longer have the correct address. If you know any names of former members who would enjoy visiting with old friends in Columbia, please turn their name and address in to the office so we can include them on our mailing list for the event. Invitations will be available in the office for church members to address to former members and the church will mail them.



## The Bible As Literature

On September 9 a new short course will begin during the Sunday School hour on Sunday morning, 9:30-10:20. The class will be taught by Dr. John Yonker and is titled *The Bible as Literature*. This is a condensed version of the semester class John taught at Columbia College last fall semester. He explores the different types of literature in the Bible used to convey a message, such as the songs, poems, myths, creation stories and apocalyptic stories, just to name a few. The Bible has just about everything. Time will be devoted to how the Bible originated and why we have 66 books. A few lucky people were able to sit in on this class when it was offered at Columbia College, beside the enrolled CC students, and all reported it was fantastic. We all know John as a wonderful teacher so this will be a big treat. Put the four Sundays of September on your calendar beginning with September 9 and come meet in the C.L. Class room for an interesting hour of learning more about the Bible.



## 50-Year Member Picture

Those of you who have been members of First Christian Church in Columbia for 50

## A PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

years are asked to mark **Sunday, September 9, 2007** on your calendar, immediately following church. Recently, a 50-year picture surfaced from the 150th anniversary and we would like to have a matching picture taken in Fellowship Hall of the **50-year members as part of the 175th anniversary**. It will be part of a framed collage for the historical room. Church records reveal there are 65 active members, 23 inactive members and 9 out-of-town members who have been 50-year FCC members. We want all of you who are able to be in this official 50-year picture. Copies will be available for the cost of printing to anyone interested. A letter was recently sent out from our list. If you did not receive a letter and have been a member of FCC for 50 years, please call the office. If you need to have special arrangements to be brought to the church and returned home for the picture taking, please call the office and if you need a photographer to come to your home and take your picture, please call the office, 449-7265. We would like to get as many 50 year members to the church as possible as it is very limited how many people we will be able to "photo-shop" in to the picture with digital technology.



## Thank You

Thanks to Linda Hutton who presented the Woodhaven Story for a Minute for History at church on Sunday, August 27, 2007. Dr. Ken Watson wrote the informative article. It reminds us of the very close association FCC has had with the establishment and nurturing of Woodhaven, and the support it has provided to people with disabilities.

## Lenoir Retirement Community

In the book, "Lenoir's First 25 Years," Jessie Carlson writes that the National Benevolent Association of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has provided comfort and maintained homes for the comfort and care of the aging. Many of those cared for were indigent members of the Christian Church without sufficient means for their full support. As time went on, various persons in the Christian Church began to recognize that financial need was not the only justification for providing a home for aging members. Absence of congenial associations with like-minded persons can be as damaging to health and well being, as can the physical and emotional needs which accompany poverty. As the awareness of these needs grew, it became increasingly evident that some relatively affluent persons were alone, being the last remaining members of their families. Others were childless couples or those whose children were grown and scattered across the United States or the world. In the 1940's dreamers from across the Christian church began to hope for a day when a "pay-type" home could meet the needs of those looking for a Christian home to live out their final days.

Dr. Frank and Lavina Nifong of Columbia, Missouri and members of first Christian Church were also dreamers. Wealthy, childless, and growing older themselves, the Nifongs were looking for a worthy project to which they might leave their estate. The state highway had divided their large farm which included Maplewood Farm, then located three miles southeast of Columbia. Mrs. Carlson writes, "As they sat on their front porch they could gaze across the highway and, in imagination, see on the slight rise before them a spacious home devoted to the care of the aging. This would not be an ordinary institution, but in a Home, amid lovely surroundings and with congenial companions who were living through the same phase of life which they were experiencing. The Nifongs were sure that older persons of wealth, needing physical care, wished to live in a way that maintained their dignity and self-respect."

In early 1945 Mr. J. Eric Carlson learned of the Nifongs dream and shared the information with the Executive Committee of the National Benevolent Association. Mr. C.S. Alvord, the Area Representative for NBA, was requested to call on Dr. and Mrs. Nifong.

After many meetings and correspondence it was learned that the Nifongs were prepared to give 170 acres of land and \$100,000 to establish a home for the aging. The Columbia-Jefferson City road had been cut through their farm leaving 170 acres on the east side of the road undeveloped. The Nifongs had very definite ideas about the kind of home they proposed; it was to memorialize Mrs. Nifong's parents, Slater and Margaret Lenoir. The home must be built on the land they gave with a definite governing policy and be administered "for aged folk of culture and refinement" who might be able to contribute wholly or in part for their care. They even had suggestions for members of the governing board. The Nifongs had many questions for NBA, and talks were slow to come to a conclusion. After two years of negotiations, the two sides finally came to an agreement, and on June 5, 1947, the first meeting of the Board of Incorporators met at Dr. and Mrs. Nifong's home.

In September 1949, the Lenoir Memorial Home opened its doors to its first resident, Miss Emma Lyon. Six days later Mrs. Eva Springer became the second resident. Mrs. Laura Hill was the superinten-

dent, cook, janitor and any other skill that was required. Soon Mr. Ed Gose was employed as the maintenance man.

Lenoir has been home to many familiar names in First Christian Church's history; Dr. Clarence E. Lemmon, Dr. Jennie Fleming and her sister, Miss Ann along with Miss Veda Harrah were early residents of Lenoir. Former senior minister Dr. Sam S. Langley was a recent resident until his death in July 2007. Currently, 50 FCC members continue to live at Lenoir.

Lenoir continued to grow, and by 1971, 100 people were living on the campus. At the April 11, 1973 board meeting, drawings were presented for a proposed separate nursing care facility. Up to this point there was a nursing area inside Lenoir Memorial Home.

Dr. and Mrs. Nifong would be amazed at the growth of Lenoir. Lenoir sits on 110 acres of the original farm with five areas and living levels of residing in a continuing care community. The Village has homes, duplexes and four-plexes. The Maplewood Apartments allows for independent apartment living. The Manor and the Gardens and Residential Care Facilities with nurses available to the residents 24 hours a day with supportive living services, and the Health Care Center offer skilled nursing care.

In 2005 Lenoir was sold along with 10 other older adult facilities to Fortress Investments in the National Benevolent Association's bankruptcy settlement. Lenoir was later resold to Lutheran Senior Services out of St. Louis. Now known as Lenoir Woods, First Christian Church still has a large presence on the campus. On the fourth Sunday of each month we provide leadership at the Vesper Service in the Health Care Center. Many of our current FCC members reside in one of the units in the Lenoir Woods facility. They enjoy the activities and fellowship of other residents and continue to keep the Lenoir community a vital living area for older adults.

~Sally Robinson



**FALL DINNER**

for all women

Invite a friend or neighbor!

**Monday, September 17th**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Fellowship Hall, FCC**

Please RSVP by September 13th -  
call the church office (449-7265)



[www.firstchristian.org/youth](http://www.firstchristian.org/youth)

**JYF** will be meeting after the late worship service this Sunday, September 2, until 2:00pm. Last week the five boys who were in attendance really wanted to make a video (including music) and this week we will begin our production. We have two Partners who will help us with this creative, fun, deeply theological project. (Lunch provided) Hope you can come!

**Chi Rho** will also meet after the late worship service this Sunday, September 2, until 2:00pm; however, after lunch we will be meeting on our own and will be having our own creative fun with the very real topic of anxiety. Ahhh, the worry! Come and explore some of the reason that we worry and a bit about how we can deal with it. We will be doing this in our own youth group kind of way and we hope you can come because the more the better with these types of issues.

**CYF** will continue meeting on the even Wednesdays of the month from 7:15 – 8:30pm. Our September gatherings will be on September 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Since we meet every other week and during our week days, we hope that you will be able to prioritize your youth group and come. We would love to have you.

Upcoming events of note: Chi Rho and CYF are going Barn Swinging on Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup> which is a Saturday without a Mizzou football game. From 8:30am – 8:30pm we will be road tripping to the Springfield, MO area for some good old-fashioned (yet safe) swinging through a barn on a rope. ;) We will also go on a unique bus ride and have a hotdog bonfire before returning home. As always, there is no fee for this event.

On Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup> (rain out = 28<sup>th</sup>) we are invited to Fred Mottaz's home for our annual hay (rack) ride! This is the day of our Homecoming festivities in the church, but we will go in the evening to Fred's so it will be a whole day of fun for us. ;) More details will follow closer to the event.

Not to leave JYF out, we will be enjoying a Corn Maze this fall and also experiencing a huge Scavenger Hunt that you will hear more about in the coming weeks. ;) Good times ahead for all of our groups!

Huge, mega thanks to all of those who have made our recent happenings happen! **Elizabeth Rottmann** was the creative thinker behind our Chi Rho mock Kidnapping last Saturday. She came into the office to help plan our event during the week and then nabbed half of our Chi Rhoers early Saturday morning. Thanks to Elizabeth



for providing us with some fresh, creative ideas and for her work to actually make it happen! Thanks also to **Pam Hunsaker** and her **whole family** and **Susan McCarty** for their exceptional breakfast that greeted the kids and parents on that early Saturday morning. They began their work at 5:30am! It was an extremely wonderful breakfast – complete with ice-cream for our waffles! Our first kidnappee was picked up at 5:00am – whew! And it was great fun; a lovely way for 13 Chi Rhoers and many parents to kick-off our year together!

## Sunday School Notes...

The Pre-School Sunday School class is wonderful as there are a number of ages 3 through Pre-Ks who gathered around the table last week and will hopefully continue to do so through this year. Two of our three teams of rotating teachers for this class are C.K. and Paula Hoenes and Laura and J.D. Estes who will do a great job with these cuties. Come along to Sunday School and give it a try!

The River of Life will be flowing this week as we have our three groups divided up (grades K-1, 2-3 & 4-5) to learn stories about lesser known women in the Bible. I was impressed on Sunday about how many women we could name and knew a bit about, but now it is time to learn about more of these ladies! Hope you can come.

The Youth Sunday School options were discussed last week and the interest of those learning and teaching are currently centered around service learning and individual projects. Attention is being given to Heifer, Habitat, CROP, etc. and we hope if you are in Grades 6-12 that you will find these options for your Sunday class experience to be interesting and meaningful. Go to the Chi Rho room for a list of where each thing is being offered. Sarah Read is a teacher for some options and Kerry and Becky Bramon are leading as well.

## Julie Bramon Returns from Nepal

Julie Bramon served in Kathmandu, Nepal, this summer. She worked for the Peace Rehabilitation Center there. It rescues, prevents, protects, and rehabilitates Nepali girls and young women victims of the burgeoning and brutal southeast Asia sex slave business. Julie's report counts 12-18,000 young Nepali are trafficked into India every year. Working from eight strategic Nepal cities, PRC helped save 4,525 women and girls this past year. Julie went to all the centers, and her work was in both direct aid and administration. PRC is part of a strong network of similar organizations. She has an astounding story to tell!

Julie is a daughter of Kerry and Becky Bramon. Her good work was made possible by a Christian summer service scholarship of William Jewell College at Liberty, Mo., where she is a senior. ~Bob Leach

# The Visitor

## First Christian Church

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Columbia, MO 65201  
573-449-7265



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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Columbia, MO  
Permit No. 75

### Ministerial Staff:

Dr. John J. Yonker, Senior Minister  
jyonker@firstchristian.org

Rev. Amy Kay Pavlovich, Associate Minister  
amykayp@firstchristian.org

### Music Staff:

Mary Bancroft, Coord. of Music & Organist  
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-Sept. 2, 2007

*Van Driver:* TBA *Telephone:* TBA

### **8:30 Early Worship, Sanctuary**

*Worship Asst:* Anne Linn, Colleen Nilges, Tom Hughey

*Elder for 8:30 Service:* Sarah Yonker

*Communion Preparation:*

Mitch Hylan, Angela Allen-Hylen, Kim Williams

### **9:30 Church School**

*Church School Greeter:* Gerry Coon

*Nursery Volunteer:* TBA

### **10:30 Worship in Sanctuary**

*Sermon:* Dr. John J. Yonker *Liturgist:* Brad Beary

*10:30 Elders:* Don and Brenda Mosby, Joy Duren

*Deacons:* The Campbell Team

*Greeters:*

Steve and Jessica Humble, *North Door*

C.K. and Paula Hoenes, *South Door*

*Ushers:* The Pavlovich Team

*Candlelighters:* TBA

*Flower Ministry:*

*Arranged:* Julie and David Nichols

*Delivered:* Harlan and Jane Ann Hackett

*Evangelism Calls:* Anne Campbell

## This Week (Sept. 2 - 8)

Sun. - Old Time Hymn Sing at 8:25 and 10:25  
- JYF (grades 3-5) and Chi Rho (grades 6-8), after 10:30  
worship until 2:00 p.m.

Mon. - Labor Day - Office closed for holiday



### **LABOR DAY**

Tue. - Mother's Day Out Program begins new session

Wed. - Men's Lunch, 11:30 a.m., Senior Center  
- World Outreach Mtg., 4:30 p.m., Morris Parlor  
- Administrative Board Mtg., 6:00-8:30 p.m., Parlor  
- Back Room (college group), 8:45-10:00 p.m.

Fri. - CWF hosting Church Women United, 5:00 p.m.,  
Fellowship Hall  
- Church Eat-Out, 5:30 p.m., Country Kitchen  
(everyone welcome)