



75th Annual Christmas Pageant & Tasting Party
Sunday, December 16, 7:00 p.m.

The Pageant: Sanctuary
 Join us as we see first hand the story of the nativity unfold in our sanctuary. Come to sing the carols, hear the ancient texts, offer White Gifts and hear songs offered by our children.

White gifts are the gifts traditionally brought to the Annual Christmas Pageant. They are typically canned, non-perishable foods wrapped in white paper. The gifts are wrapped in white so that all the gifts look the same. By doing this, the love and devotion of the giver becomes more important than the gift. These gifts are then given to people in need in our community, instead of to each other, so that the true spirit of Christmas may shine though.

On this special evening we will bring gifts to make an offering, letting the spirit of Christmas shine through our lives. These white gifts will serve people in need in our community through the Central Missouri Food Pantry.

The Tasting Party: Fellowship Hall
 A tasting party will follow the Pageant. You are invited to **bring tasty treats** to Fellowship Hall that we might continue the celebration of the Pageant in our holiday fellowship together. Cherry Hinderberger will lead the charge of Tasting Party organization. Please call her (445-6382) with questions or to help.



Third Sunday of Advent

Come, festively sing while awaiting the birth,
 join angels in dancing from heaven to earth.
 Wave banners of goodness, lift high thankful praise.
 One candle is lit for the joy of these days.

With the lighting of the third Advent candle, the readings of scriptures from Isaiah 35:1-10 and Matthew 11:2-11, Dr. Yonker's sermon and the singing of the great music of the season, the Advent season continues in worship services.

Our special music will include Jerry Daugherty's solo, "The Lion of Judah," arranged by Tom Fettke. The Chancel Choir will present "Prepare Ye" by Marc Robinson.

Weekly Report
 December 9, 2007
 Received \$4,231.00
 Received to Date \$210,951.11
 Attendance - 70
 (includes early worship - 10)



Annual Christmas Caroling

The youth of the church will go on their annual Christmas Caroling excursion on Sunday, December 23. Caroling will extend the joy of Christmas in song to those church members and friends that are homebound and in local care facilities. The youth are glad to welcome all in the church to join them in this great experience.

Sunday, December 23, 4:00 p.m., meeting at church. A soup supper and fun will follow in fellowship hall. We will conclude the festivities around 7:30 p.m.

Staff Christmas Fund

The Administrative Department will again make available to the church membership a staff Christmas Fund to honor 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 December 21. Please note that the gift will be divided evenly among the staff members-ministers, office staff, music staff and custodian.



From the Frontier to the Future



First Christian Church
 (Disciples of Christ)
 Columbia, Missouri



An Advent word, or two...

"The shepherds were sore afraid." It was kind of funny how afraid they looked last Friday night. The young men that played the shepherds at the living nativity were pretty good and being afraid of the Angel. It helped the gathered passers-by to get into the story. The shepherds were even entertaining enough to divert the attention from the sheep that had a propensity for "going" at the most holy of moments. Add in smart looking Wise Men, and a really cute group of little angels we called "the heavenly host" and wa-la, a story unfolds, reminding us for but a moment of the place where Jesus lay. I have needed that reminder.

Sometimes it takes me a while to get into advent. Us single guys need help sometimes getting into it. December 25 at the parent's house is a long way away it seems. Each year I have made it a conscious effort to avoid the over done hub-bub in the marketplace that hits the racks before Halloween. Thus, I have to trust the preparation for Christmas to come from more grounded sources. The hanging of the greens helped. The advent fellowship dinner helped. The living nativity helped. Hearing Handel's Messiah on Saturday night helped. Yesterday Amy Kay and I ventured out in the ice to deliver college care-packages. The adventure of icy roads, being with a friend, and the sharing of gifts to strangers helped.

It is my hope you too are helped along the way this advent season. Perhaps the ways we gather at First Christian Church to hear again, proclaim again and share again the good news — that waiting for God to come again — really are the most helpful. ~Jimmy

A Big Thank-You from the Voluntary Action Center

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Voluntary Action Center Christmas project. First Christian Church was able to provide gifts or gift cards and grocery store vouchers to 50 individuals this year. We supported several families, including two families of nine people, elderly single adults, and disabled adults. In addition to many other community services, VAC provides gifts and the means to purchase a holiday meal to over 1,100 families in our area at Christmas time. A special thanks goes out to Tammy Arnett and Fred Mottaz, who were instrumental in making this year's project a success. ~Stacia Schaefer



There will be no newsletter the week of Christmas

December Graduates

The church would like to celebrate all of our graduates, but we need your help to know of your special event! Please let Amy Kay or the church office know soon if you are a soon-to-be Graduate.



It was a full table!

More than 130 people gathered with friends to enjoy great potluck food and fellowship at the Annual Advent Fellowship Dinner December 5th.

News of the congregation

Congratulations to **Christy and Shawn Von Talge** upon the birth of their daughter, **Kenzie Christine** who was born Saturday, December 8 at Boone Hospital. She was 7lbs, 19 ½ inches at birth. The proud big sister is Kayla.

We wish a speedy recovery to **Elsie Hughes** who is recovering from a recent fall which necessitated a trip to the hospital last week. She is now at the Lenoir Health Care Center to continue recuperating.

Elizabeth Doty died at the home of Millard and Carol Thomas Monday afternoon, December 10th. Survivors include: husband, **Dabney**; daughter, **Carol Thomas**; daughter, **Ann Leonard**, of Carrollton, MO; son, **Dabney Doty, Jr.**, of Portland, OR; son, **Allan Doty**, of Corpus Christi, TX; 8 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. Services will be Fri., Dec. 14, 10:00 am, at Memorial Funeral Home.

With the ice storm, Homebound Communion was cancelled last Sunday, but has been rescheduled this coming Sunday, December 16. Elders and Deacons who had agreed to participate in this important ministry should contact Lorene Trickey to confirm their participation and calls to be made.

We bid farewell and God's blessings to **Gene and Rena Moore** who moved to St. Louis on December 4 to live closer to children and grandchildren. They have been members of our congregation since 1985 following Gene's retirement from ministry in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) which began in his student days at Phillips University in 1937. They are hoping to stay in touch with friends at: 12505 Village Circle Drive, 463, St. Louis, MO 63127, phone 314-270-7463, and e-mail emoore02@gmail.com.



Joe Reardon-Dec. 16
Christine Orscheln-Dec. 16
Don Houston-Dec. 16
Hanna Weber-Dec. 16
Julia Bower-Dec. 17
Robert Martin-Dec. 18
Norma Miles-Dec. 18
Kaedon Wheatley-Dec. 18
Robert Leach-Dec. 19
Marilyn Schappert-Dec. 22

175th Anniversary News - Genie Rogers

December Theme:

“Celebrating the Past and Embracing the Future”

175th Anniversary Time Capsule Project

The 175th Anniversary slogan created for our year-long celebration is “From the Frontier to the Future.” In looking towards our future, the committee decided to create a time capsule to be opened in the Church’s 200th year, 2032. This will be an exciting way for our members to see what First Christian Church was all about in 2007.

The time capsule will be dedicated at the end of the year. We are asking for contributions and suggestions from any individual members, groups, classes, etc. to be included in the collection.

If you are interested in putting together something or just have a suggestion, please contact Jessica Humble at 441-8021 or e mail at: humblejess@aol.com. I am sure we can create something amazing for our members to discover in 2032!

Ornaments and FCC Logo Items

A table will continue to be set up in the Narthex before and after both services for sale of church logo items, especially our timeless commemorative gold church ornament. The cost per ornament is \$12.00 or 2 for \$20.00. They will be available during the week in the church office.

Tote bags with the church image, baseball hats with the church name embroidered on them in tan and gray are available in two different styles, note cards of the ink drawing of the church, postcards of the stained glass Christian College window, china commemorative plates and mugs are all available. These are great Christmas gifts and are being sold at our cost.



Quilt

The 175th Anniversary Quilt was unveiled to a very receptive crowd at the Christmas Fellowship dinner on December 5th. It is beautiful! The quilt will hang for a few weeks in the narthex and then be moved to the Historical Room where it will stay on permanent display. What a treasure for the church to have as a remembrance of this fantastic 175th year of celebration. Many thanks to Mary Tompson, her quilt committee and all the church members who participated in the making of quilt squares.

KMIZ-TV Ads

Two promotional ads for the church have been filmed for use during Advent. They will be on KMIZ TV. They are scheduled to run four times a day including the morning and evening news. This was a goal of the 175th Anniversary Committee and the newly formed Publicity Department.



Minute for History

The last Minute for History for our 175th Anniversary Year will be this Sunday, December 16. It is a short skit written by Parker Rossman titled “The Church of Tomorrow”.

JANE FROMAN: WITH A SONG IN MY HEART



The famous singing career began here in our church choir and at our church-related Christian (Columbia) College for Columbia’s own Jane Froman. The great New York showman Billy Rose once exclaimed that the top ten popular singers were “Jane Froman and nine others.”

Jane’s mother, Anna Froman, was our church organist and choir director as well as an extraordinary voice instructor and choral director at the college. Good Christian music seemed to exhilarate both of them.

(continued on next page)

JANE FROMAN (continued)

Professionally, Jane performed nationwide in every kind of prestigious entertainment venue. She introduced the song "I Believe" on network television and had her own weekly TV shows. Flying to Europe during World War II to entertain troops, the airliner she was on crashed into the Tigris River at Lisbon, Portugal. Miraculously, she survived but was never able to walk again without a brace. Yet for many more years with an indomitable spirit, she sang before crowds larger than ever.

Jane's is a heroic story published in at least three biographies, including a new one by Barbara Seuling. An Oscar-winning movie, "With a Song in My Heart," about Jane and title of her theme song, stars Susan Hayward and has recently become a home video. The vocals are by Jane Froman and lip-synched by the actress. The November issue of Mid-Missouri Mature Living magazine highlights Jane as its cover feature story.

November 10 was the anniversary of Jane's birthday. In homage during the month, there were centennial programs around the country, including eight different public events around Columbia. When Lawrence Welk and his big dance band performed at the Hearnes Center, Jane was his guest, and he paid public tribute to her. Cautiously, she came up onto the stage to a full-house, standing applause, and they danced a few steps together.

In the church history book, "Guided by the Hand of God", Kathy Dains relates that for a time "back when," our Sunday worship services were broadcast into 11 states by Jefferson City radio station WOS, now KWOS. Mrs. Anna Froman and her daughter Jane provided the church music for these broadcasts.

Jane retired back to Columbia and married longtime friend Rowland "Smitty" Smith, a former managing editor of the Tribune. Christian College conferred on her its highest Honor Service award. She also became a Christian College trustee and founded two charitable organizations. She died in 1980, and her grave is in the Columbia Cemetery. She continues to be honored by a college annual vocal music award and by its ever-popular Jane Froman Singers, who performed in the sanctuary earlier this year as part of our 175th celebration.

~Bob Leach

Memories my years as Director of the Christ- mas Pageant on its 75th Anniversary

We moved to Columbia in the fall of 1955 and visited First Christian Church the first Sunday in town. Dr. Lemmon was the minister and so popular that on occasional Sunday's it was necessary to put up chairs at the end of the pews to accommodate the crowds. This was especially true of his New Year's sermon each year.

That first Sunday we took the girls (ages 7 and 5) to Sunday School and Mrs. Hannah Jones, the superintendent of the elementary children, was having difficulty teaching the children to learn the song to be sung in the Christmas Pageant. The song was difficult, but I offered to help her and thus entered into service at the church which has provided me joy and pleasure during the years I was able to help.

When Sam Langley took over as minister and was responsible for organizing the pageant, no one volunteered to take charge. At the rehearsal he said this might be the last time we had a pageant unless we turned it over to someone other than the Minister! Several stepped forward to help. Eva Ordway was responsible for getting the better costumes and stage properties together. Many wonderful couples have been readers at the pageant and we began using couples as Mary and Joseph when they had a new baby as the baby Jesus. That was a new excitement for the children. When Hartley and Kim Rogers had triplets in 2001, they were Mary and Joseph in the Pageant. When asked which triplet would be Jesus, Hartley answered, "whichever one isn't crying"! There was a quick last minute change of Baby Jesus as they entered and the triplet who served was very co-operative throughout the evening. The boys in the high school class were often shepherds coming down from the back of the church and it was exciting to have the three kings come down the aisle singing solo verses of "We Three Kings". One year we were short a high school singer as one of the kings. I asked Tony Ritchie to fill in (although he was already in college). He accepted, but his mother Ginny told me he complained that he wanted to say "no", but it was as hard to tell Mrs. Guy "no" as it would have been to refuse to do it for God! One evening, as the Kings came down the aisle singing, the King on the north aisle caught his robe on the front pew as he was turning toward the front,

revealing his brief, gold shorts underneath. It was a short humorous break, and then the service continued. Being chosen to be the angel was generally reserved for a girl who had been active in the church and was a junior or senior in high school. This was a special honor the girls looked forward to.

The Pageant was held on the last Sunday evening before the colleges' Christmas vacation began, so that the students would be able to participate. There were costumes for Joseph, Mary, the Angel, the Shepherds and the Three Kings (quite ornate). All the children in each department of the Sunday School had songs throughout the pageant, which enriched the story. Several soloists from the adult choir brought a professional touch to the program. I especially remember Mrs. Mary Alice Bedford, wife of Bill Bedford (professor at Christian College), Tom Mills, beloved leader of music at MU, and later Peggy Leach singing "O Holy Night" at the close of the service.

It was much later that the TASTING PARTY was added to the evening, which was a wonderful addition to the evening. The Hugheys and Hinderbergers, from the beginning have hosted this Tasting Party, which is so conducive to fellowship.

Many people have assisted with the Pageant. We, the Guy family and willing helpers, Tom and Freda Martz, often worked together putting the finishing touches in place. I remember Sam Barrett, probably in his late 70's and 80's, riding his bicycle to church, after his wife Amy passed away. He always found the tall ladder and climbed it to put up the star until Dan Backhues begged him to stop for fear he would fall. After the Pageant, we tried to put the costumes back on the hangers, which were marked "1st King", "Angel", etc. I remember Jim Rogers, still a very young elementary student, always showing up to help put the costumes away and the Shreves family also helped with that task. Rhonda Rothenberger always checked the make up and helped with the beads, etc. The most fun was taking the pictures of the characters in costume and sharing them with those who took part in the pageant. My daughter, Patti, helped with this until the Stanley's did the pictures and later, Joyce did the make-up. My help and involvement with the pageant covered 22 years of its production, until it became one of the responsibilities of Amy Kay, when she joined the church staff. Everyone has enjoyed the changes, especially the youngest children taking part for the last few years. We hope it continues another 75 years.

~Connie Guy

(youth this week)

(Due to the snow and ice JYF and Chi-Rho were cancelled on December 9.)

December 16

All youth invited to or participating in the Pageant.

December 23

Christmas Caroling & Party, 4:00-7:00 pm

CYF

One last EAT OUT on December 19.
Meet at church at 7:00 p.m., Bring \$5.

Come, Celebrate the Gift!

“Joy to the world, the Lord is come,” we sing, not “has come.” And in that classic carol, “O Little Town of Bethlehem” the last line of the first verse declares, “The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee TONIGHT.” At Christmas we not only recall events that took place long, long ago, but we celebrate that our lives are being transformed by God’s gift of his only Son; that the coming of Jesus brings joy to the world, now! And so each year we wait in hopeful anticipation for God’s son to be born again.

As you prepare to make plans for this year’s **Christmas Special Day Offering** remember that God is using these gifts to change lives. The Christmas Offering supports the work of regional ministries as they help congregations with planning and pastoral care, equipping leaders through workshops and networking, strengthening ministry through the search and call process as well as the training, licensing, and ordaining of ministers. In addition, Regions grow faithful disciples through camps and other youth programs, and reach out to those who need to know Christ by establishing new churches and training leaders in the ministry of evangelism.

Thank you for your part in this time of waiting and preparing. Please start early as you prepare for your congregation’s receipt of the Christmas Offering. It’s a busy season, but a blessed season for every Christian as we “Celebrate the Gift.”

Kenneth W. Moore
President

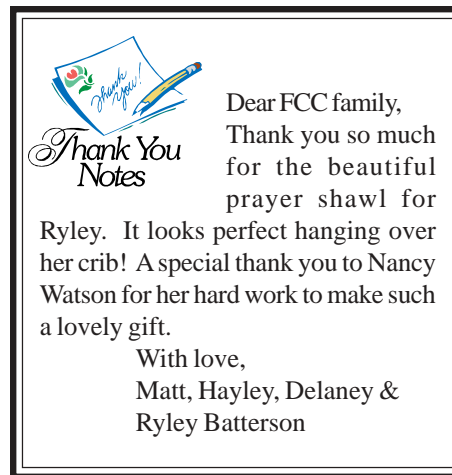
The College of Regional Ministers

Heifer Ark is filling up!



The world needs your help to show that “giving” is about more than what you can buy at the nearest retailer. The biggest shopping day of the year, “Black Friday”, just passed and “Cyber Monday” was over this week. Wouldn’t it be great if we could offset this consumer frenzy by buying meaningful gifts of hope that help struggling families worldwide become more self-reliant? You have that opportunity each Sunday throughout December in the narthex. Come to the Heifer display and purchase an animal for our Ark. We have collected \$3,997.30 towards our \$5,000.00 goal for the 175th Anniversary celebration. This gift keeps on giving the whole year. There will be gift cards available so you can give your loved one the opportunity to learn more about Heifer and how giving is also about sharing hope for a better future.

~From the World Outreach Committee



Dear FCC family,
Kindness continues to flow from First Christian Church. Dr. John Yonker delivered to me a most beautiful shawl, created by Judy Hall. It surely carries a message of comfort and love and peace. Thank you for this special thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Hensley

Any Website Experts?

As many of you may have noticed, our church website is, well....outdated. We are planning to completely redesign the website to provide a respectable FCC presence on the Internet. To help in this effort, we are looking for volunteers with website design experience. The tools used are not particularly important, but we’re looking for design experience beyond simply editing the occasional webpage with Frontpage. Is this you?? If so, e-mail David Heise at heise@firstchristian.org to express your interest!

Here’s the recipe you asked for!

White Chocolate Bread Pudding

- 1 fresh large loaf of French Bread, or two regular doubled wrapped (try to use good French bread)
- 2 bags (11 ounce each) white chocolate Ghirardelli chips (I used Nestle)
- 1 quart whipping cream
- 2 large eggs, beaten
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract

Break up French bread into bite sized pieces and pack into 9" x 13" baking dish (spray dish with Pam) and set aside.

Melt the chocolate and cream together in the microwave in two batches or in the top of a double boiler on the stove. About three minutes at a time in the microwave. Then I put the whole thing back in the microwave for two or so minutes more to make sure the chips are melted and hot. Use a whisk. Whip eggs and sugar together. Then add vanilla extract.

After chocolate chips and cream are melted, whisk egg mixture into the hot melted mixture. Pour over bite sized French bread. Bake at 350 degrees for 35 to 40 minutes (Stays warm for quite some time so you can make it ahead.) Just terrific!

If you attended the Fellowship Dinner, you’ll remember this one. Thank you to Tommy Gay Evans for sharing this!

The Visitor

First Christian Church

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



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
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

Rev. Jimmy Spear, Associate Minister
jimmy@firstchristian.org

Campus Ministry Intern: Kelly Mueller

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-Dec. 16, 2007

Van Driver: Jay Creasy *Telephone:* Sara Klockow

8:30 Early Worship, Sanctuary

Worship Asst: Will and Donna Houston, Colleen Nilges

Elder for 8:30 Service: Anne Campbell

Communion Preparation:

Paul and Vickie Rorvig, Lexie Ruffalo

9:30 Church School

Church School Greeter: Mark Hunsaker Family

Nursery Volunteer: TBA

10:30 Worship in Sanctuary

Sermon: Dr. John J. Yonker *Liturgist:* Eric Arnett

10:30 Elders: Sharon Winner, Sally Robinson, Mary Daugherty

Deacons: The Nichols Team

Greeters:

Judy Creasy, *North Door*

Hilary Nichols, *South Door*

Ushers: Hunsaker Team

Banner Bearers: Gavin Rose and Sam Creasy

Candlelighters: Makali Hawkins and Jack Creasy

Flower Ministry:

Poinsettia Sunday

Delivered: Jerry and Mary Daugherty

Evangelism Calls: Helen and Perry Stemmons



This Week (Dec. 16 - 22)

- Sun. - Adult Membership Class, 9:30 am, Green Room
- Homebound Communion (rescheduled from last week)
- Minute for "The Future"
- 75th Annual Pageant and Tasting Party, 7:00 pm
- Tue. - Bible Study, 10:30 am, Morris Parlor
- Wed. - Men's Lunch, 11:30 am, Senior Center
- CYF (grades 9-12), Eat Out!, 7:00-8:30 pm

