



Christmas Caroling - Sunday, Dec. 23, 4 PM

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., we are meeting at church. A soup supper and fun will follow the caroling outing in fellowship hall. We will conclude the festivities around 7:30 p.m.



Fair Trade Thanks

Our six week trial time for our Fair Trade store is coming to an end this Sunday, Dec. 23, and we extend a huge thanks to our church community and volunteers for enthusiastically supporting the store. There are still a few items for sale and you are invited to pop in as you would like to do so to shop this final week. At the close of this trial time, may we pray a blessing upon the farmers and artisans from all over the world who work to provide for their families through this trade. It is a good thing – thank you for your support of it. The World Outreach Department will be meeting in January to assess the trial period and will publicize the future of the store in the new year.

Christmas Eve Worship

Worship will be wonderful at 8:00pm on Christmas Eve when those of us who are able are invited to join together to hear the word, sing hymns, partake of communion and end with a candlelight service. Special music will grace the chancel and readers of all ages will give voice to our five texts. William Bower, Kindergarten, will bless us as we hear the Christmas bell ring and head out to celebrate the birth of Christ.

We will be invited to commune together with a special bread of note this year. Anne Campbell is sharing with us “Christopsomo”, which translated means “Christ’s Bread”. It is traditionally a Greek bread decorated with an early form of the Christian cross with ends that split and curl into circles. The rich, round loaf is scented with anise that can be plain or sometimes can contain fruits. For centuries the baking of Christopsomo has been a sacred tradition in Greek Orthodox homes with the baker using great care and the finest ingredients to ensure the wellbeing of the home in the coming year. The head of the household blesses the bread before the family members partake. It is traditionally baked on Christmas Eve, and families eat slices of the bread with honey. After the meal, family members leave pieces of bread on the table, believing that Christ will come and eat them during the night. Christopsomo is one culture’s unique way of celebrating and honoring the arrival of Christ into the world and remembering that He will always be with us. What a wonderful thing for us to enjoy this Christmas Eve at First Christian! We hope that you will be able to be with us at 8:00pm in our sanctuary.

Christmas Sunday Services!

As we light the 4th Advent candle we anticipate the joyous celebration of Christmas in our services of worship on December 23.

The joyous music of the season will include the great Christmas carols, “Joy to the World,” “Angels We Have Heard on High,” “What Child Is This?” and “Good Christian Friends Rejoice!” A brass ensemble will be present in both services to present the prelude and offertory and help accompany the congregational singing.

Special music at the 8:30 service will be “Who Is This Child?” presented by Brenda Mosby. At 10:30 the Chancel Choir will present their anthem, “The Virgin Mary Had A Baby Boy”.

At the early service we will witness the baptism into Christ of Colleen Nilges who made a confession of faith earlier in the year and has become an active member of our congregation.

Scripture readings celebrating the Christmas story found in Isaiah 7:10-16 and Matthew 1:18-25 will set the stage for Dr. Yonker’s Christmas Sunday message.



There will be no newsletter next week
Merry Christmas!

From the Frontier to the Future



**First
 Christian
 Church**

(Disciples of Christ)
 Columbia, Missouri



Heeerrreee's Johnny!

Christmas is almost here, but not yet! It's still Advent! Coming at the end of the calendar year, Advent marks the beginning of the church's liturgical cycle. Focusing on the birth stories of Jesus found in the gospels of Matthew and Luke, for many centuries Advent has been a time for remembering the incarnation of God in Jesus of Nazareth. But it is more than a time of looking back. Advent is also a time for acknowledging the continual coming of God to all people, and the rebirth of Christ ever anew in our midst. It is a season of great joy which culminates in the celebration of Christ's birth, yet it is also a penitential season in which we are called to examine and prepare ourselves for his promised return in glory and judgment.

Our celebration of Christ's birth comes at the time of the year when the sun, for those in the Northern Hemisphere, sinks to its lowest point on the horizon. In such wintry darkness, remembering the birth of God's Son calls us to celebrate Him who is the light of the world, and to turn our lives again to Christ, so that the light of God may dawn upon us and brighten our world.

The coming Advent brings anticipation and expectation as we await the celebration of Christmas. But it also brings a challenge, because the familiar stories of Jesus' birth are so well known that they can easily become clichés, taken for granted, and easily passed over. So may we hear again the old stories with fresh ears, that their awesome declaration of the birth of the Holy God in human flesh also catch us off guard and fill us with wonder and amazement.

Every year in our society the days leading up to Christmas are filled with Christmas music in the stores and decorations in many places, and the Advent emphasis on waiting is lost, and meaning of the season can easily be lost. In the remaining days of Advent, as we wait and hope, let us re-examine our lives in preparation for the coming of Christ. As we anticipate the birth of the One who was hailed as the Prince of Peace, may we find his spirit reborn in our hearts and minds as we reshape our lives in the image and spirit of Him who can and will bring God's peace on earth.

Homebound Thanks

Due to changing the date of communion to homebound because of weather, others stepped in to substitute. THANK YOU to Millie and Larry Caringer, Frank Boster, and Sarah Yonker for serving. A big thank you to ALL who brought cheer to others on a wintry day and to all of those who offered to help but were not needed this time.

~Lorene Trickey

Congratulations College Graduates

We extend our congratulations to **Laura Daugherty**, daughter of Jerry and Mary Daugherty, who will graduate with *cum laude* honors on December 21 from the University of Colorado with a degree in English and Creative Writing. Following commencement she plans to continue dancing professionally for the Colorado Mammoth Lacrosse Team and will spend the next four months finishing work on a novel which she began as her thesis in undergraduate school. Her plans also include enrolling in graduate school in the fall. Best wishes.

Our best wishes also go to **Kathleen Keaveny** as she leaves Columbia and moves to Kentucky. She became an Associate Member of our congregation four years ago when she enrolled in Columbia College and has been actively involved as a Guide in the River of Life elementary children's Sunday School program. She has also been an active member of the "Back Room" campus ministry group, and has participated in college mission trips. She has been accepted and will enroll in Lexington Theological Seminary for the spring semester as she begins preparation for ministry and possible military chaplaincy.

A NOTE OF



Dear Friends,
Thank you greatly for including my picture into the fifty year members. That meant a great deal to me. I can only say many thank yous for those doing this work. I cherish the ornaments. Thank you again.

~Margaret Pfander

News of the congregation

The third Sunday of Advent worship services were enriched by the joyous music of the season. Thanks to **Jerry Daugherty** for his nice solo, "The Lion of Judah", and to the **Chancel Choir** for their lovely anthem, "Come, Emmanuel", presented at the early and late services.

Our prayers are with **Mike Holman** who is at home recuperating from surgery last week at Boone Hospital, and with **Jim Fay**, who also continues to recover from surgery last week at Boone.

Many of us have appreciated the third floor murals which were primarily created by **Chris (Rusch) Carlson**. Chris has been affiliated with our church for many years and has sponsored a number of CYF mission trips. We are pleased to announce the birth of **Chris and Justin's son, Grady Paul Carlson**, who came on November 16. Grady was 8 pounds, 2 ounces and almost 20 inches long. He is a cu-tie! Congratulations to the Carlson family!

Special thanks to **Don Mosby** who has made our banner stands more functional for our banner bearers. We appreciate Don's attention to details around the church and also **Rich Hoepfner's** willingness to do so as well.

Happy Birthday

Dorothy Baumgartner-Dec. 25
Susan Ripley-Dec. 25
Jeff Colborn-Dec. 25
Frank Boster-Dec. 25
Donald Seltsam-Dec. 26
Cindy Roberts-Dec. 26
Mike Taylor-Dec. 27
Linda Chandler-Dec. 27
Emma Hawkins-Dec. 27
Becky Baumgartner-Dec. 29
Bob Chiles-Dec. 29
Kevin Crane-Dec. 29
Paula Kurtz-Dec. 29
Shirley Park-Dec. 29
Fred Mottaz-Dec. 30
Carol Roder-Dec. 30
Jerry Vaught-Dec. 31
Steve Gieseke-Jan. 1
Zach Shaw-Jan. 3
Debbie Potthast-Jan. 3
Paige Freed-Jan. 4
Hillary Nichols-Jan. 5
Lindsey Chandler-Jan. 5

175th Anniversary News - Genie Rogers

December Theme:

“Celebrating the Past and Embracing the Future”

LAST ISSUE

Review of the year - By Genie Rogers

When John asked me to chair the 175th anniversary committee for the church in May 2006 I had no idea of the process that would unfold over the following 18 months. Assembling a committee was the easy part. The participants' enthusiasm for the church was obvious from the first meeting. We worked together as a group from September 2006 through Thanksgiving to discuss ideas, develop goals for the year and plan the calendar of activities for the anniversary year. Members of the congregation eagerly shared their ideas with the committee. We explored activities that other churches had undertaken for their anniversary celebrations and assessed how they could be adapted to our church's celebration. Our group of 16 had many ideas of our own that were thrown into the mix. As with most projects, planning for this year-long event picked up steam during the process and even after the 175th year began in January 2007. My committee has been a wonderful group of people with imagination and a willingness to work. Each person made a tremendous contribution and followed through with his or her responsibilities throughout the year. I have listed the names of the members of the committee below. Each committee member has gone “over and beyond” what would be expected of anyone serving in such a group.

In review, we have explored our historical roots from the beginning days in 1832 when the Disciples of Christ movement was forging across the frontier. Our logo for the year, From the Frontier to the Future, was selected to honor our frontier heritage and origins. We selected themes for each month and planned complimentary activities and historical presentations to develop those themes. Our topics, in chronological order were: Historical Remembrances, Disciple Higher Education, Ministerial Leadership, Overseas and Mission Work, Lay Leadership, Local Mission Work, The National Benevolent Association, Christian Education,

Homecoming, Thanksgiving, and Focus on the Future. Many people authored the historical sketches for each Visitor and the Sunday bulletin to promote the particular month's theme. These weekly vignettes were intended to broaden our knowledge of the present church and the leaders of the past. These short, informative essays were part of a larger 175th Anniversary News insert where activities and events were publicized.

Ken Watson and Parker and Jean Rossman wrote the “Minute for History” presented in church by readers on the third Sunday of the month. We had a monthly “old-time hymn sing” where we brought back many old hymns for a group hymn sing prior to church on the first Sunday of each month.

We had three community events during the year where we opened our doors and invited the public to help us celebrate. The first David B. Rogers Memorial Lecture took place in February with Bob Priddy as speaker exploring our Disciple roots in his lecture titled In the Footsteps of Alexander. The speaker and event drew a packed church. In March we had a lovely program given by the Jane Froman Singers from Columbia College entitled Simply American. In July, Bob Ault presented an evening of ragtime music and storytelling in our sanctuary to honor Blind Boone's generous sharing of his talents to raise money for the building of our sanctuary. These programs were all followed by receptions in Fellowship Hall to meet our featured presenters and socialize.

We targeted most of our events to our own congregation members. These included the June Ice Cream Social, our August picnic at Stephens Lake featuring John Bolen in character and dress representing Alexander Campbell, the establishment of two 175th Anniversary Scholarships for college students, raising an ARK for the Heifer Project, two adult Sunday School short courses, participating in the Homecoming Parade, inviting



all former members and retired associate ministers back for a Homecoming Sunday luncheon, the making of a 50 year member picture, honoring our members who have served in the military, a final Sunday of the year “Time Capsule”, and the collective making of an historic anniversary quilt. All our activities have showcased the cooperation and fellowship of this congregation and paid tribute to the enormous amount of talent that is part of First Christian Church.

It would be impossible to list all the people who have done so much to make the year successful. I have tried to recognize their input and contributions each week. There are a few people I would like to mention for their support and work all year:

—Muriel and Bob Leach are walking encyclopedias of information about First Christian Church. Their memories are remarkable. They have willingly helped, supported, edited and contributed to my writing all year. In addition, Muriel, who is a wonderful editor and writer, has many times “bailed me out” when I got stuck. She was always willing and helpful. She and I will be putting together a book of the year in review that will be printed and available for everyone by March 1, 2008. It will be a good resource and supplement to our history and also a pleasant reminder of the 175th year celebration.

—I also received considerable help from my two daughters who are both far better writers than I am. They helped edit and finished paragraphs when I had “word blocks”. Ann Rogers and Mary Rogers Gordon were always willing to do a quick turn around late on Sunday for my self-imposed Sunday midnight deadline to have the Visitor material e-mailed to the office.

—Linda Hutton has provided her talents and sharp eye to the publicity all year. We have worked together in establishing a publicity

committee, which was long overdue. We supplemented our radio advertising by newspaper ads for the three public events and added extra newspaper publicity at special times. We ran an ad in every issue of Inside Columbia magazine this year. Linda obtained time slots on the David Lyle Show three times during the year. The church's anniversary celebration was featured in full-page articles in both local papers as well as a multi page magazine article with pictures in Inside Columbia celebrating our anniversary. With Linda's guidance, FCC has assumed a media presence in the community. Linda is the one responsible, along with her husband, Bob, and Columbia College, for securing and installing our wonderful outdoor banners and our Fellowship Hall banners that were also used in the Homecoming Parade.

—Mary Tompson has spent the entire year planning, organizing and putting together a team to produce the 175th Anniversary Quilt. A great deal of thought and heart went into the construction of the quilt. It will be a timeless treasure for the church with so many families and individuals represented in their contributed square.

—The ministers and office staff have been stellar all year with their help, guidance and last minute work. Ken Watson with his excellent writing skill has updated our booklet of biographical sketches of FCC ministers. He will soon complete a companion book regarding the accomplishments of our associate ministers. John Yonker has been supportive of every idea that was brought to him from the committee and made it all happen. His enthusiasm for this celebration year has been obvious from the first Sunday when he was decked out in his "1832 preacher costume" to the last Sunday in December. Without his commitment and encouragement in the development of ideas and planning, none of the events could have happened.

My thanks to everyone who participated as a worker, an observer and a participant. We have been richly blessed with the traditions of the past and the excitement of moving forward as we look to our 200th birthday.

As this year comes to a close, the committee and I have feelings of thanksgiving and pride for the special community which is First Christian Church. Everyone in the church has embraced the anniversary celebration with gusto. That attitude has made this year a rousing success. We as a church have

much for which to be grateful. First Christian Church is a unique church with its deep Columbia roots, historic building and presence in the community. Where downtown churches in many communities are struggling, we seem to be thriving. There are many reasons for that, but the two most apparent to me are our exceptional ministerial staff and a wonderful group of people joined together in fellowship and friendship around basic core beliefs. Now that we have spent the past year celebrating our heritage, we are poised to look to the future and its challenges. It is my wish that we continue to hold this attitude of celebration and hope for our church and the people it serves.

~Genie Rogers

Members of the 175th Anniversary Committee for First Christian Church of Columbia, 2007

Mary Bancroft, Chris Creasy, Judy Cunningham, Harlan and Jane Ann Hackett, Darren Hellwege, Linda Hutton, Jessica Humble, Fred Mottaz, Moray Kiehl, Genie Rogers, Tom Shroud, Sarah Storm, Cliff and Mary Tompson, Sharon Winner, Cheryl Unterschutz and John Yonker

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. This was a goal of the 175th Anniversary Committee and the newly formed Publicity Department.

Quilt

The 175th Anniversary Quilt was unveiled on December 5 and is now hanging for a few weeks in the back of the sanctuary for all to see and inspect. It will 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.

Ornaments and FCC Logo Items

Ornaments will continue to be available in the church office. They are \$12.00 apiece or 2 for \$20.00. A few tote bags, one hat, mugs and books are also available.

Thank You

Thank you to Mary Martz Dewey who has faithfully helped out every Sunday for several months selling ornaments and other 175th commemorative items before and after early church.

Minute for History

The last Minute for History for our 175th Anniversary Year was skillfully enacted by Amy Kay Pavlovich and Jimmy Spears. The skit pondering on "The Church of Tomorrow" was written by Parker Rossman. Thank you to all involved.

175th Anniversary Time Capsule Project

The 175th Anniversary slogan created for our year-long celebration was "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 on the last Sunday of the year. We are asking for contributions and suggestions from any individual members, groups, classes, etc. to be included in the collection. There will be a bulletin print-out on the last Sunday of December of the objects collected for the Time Capsule and the experience of putting it together.

If you are interested in contributing 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!

WABASH CANNON BALL COMES TO OUR CHURCH

The railroad station across Tenth Street was an important growing Wabash railroad branch line that connected with the mainline at Centralia. It was probably intentional then to locate the church at this choice site. Over the years, trains brought many college students, important people, sports teams and fans, circuses and carnivals, in addition to freight. When passengers stepped off a train here, seeing the attractive First Christian Church could hardly be missed. It made a good first impression on many of them about our town and our congregation. This is one way that the Wabash played a key role for many people to know and choose First Christian Church. With the terminal for city buses now where the Wabash used to be, it plays a similar role.

Many area, state, and denominational assemblies and meetings were held at the Columbia church, partly because of the convenience of Wabash trains to the church. Rev. Yonker says that, in the late 1940s, “the first time my mother ever came to Columbia, she rode the Wabash train from St. Louis, got off at the Wabash station here, and walked across the street to a state church women’s meeting.”

The Columbia branch line began in 1857, according to *Switzler’s History of Boone County*, as part of the pioneering North Missouri Railroad, later to become the Wabash. Coincidentally, that was 150 years ago this year, 2007, which correlates with our church’s 175th anniversary.

In earlier train days, train crews were sometimes more informal and accommodating on this 22-mile short line. Bob Mountjoy’s late wife and Mike’s mother, Doris (McBride), and her brother Jim, as youngsters, in the 1940s, would ride their bicycles from their home to the Wabash station for fun on Saturdays and vacation days. They put their bicycles aboard the Wabash train freight car and rode the train to Hallsville. There they spent exhilarating days visiting their Morgenthaler grandparents and biked around town. Then they hopped the evening train back to Columbia.

Some other youngsters, mostly boys, laid pennies on the tracks and soon a train flattened them into quarter-size copper discs. Crossed nails would look like scissors. Some of us did that, didn’t we?

The Wabash terminal facilities here included the station, freight house, loading area, three sets of parallel switching tracks, and a turntable on which to turn the locomotive around for the return trip to Centralia. Adjacent on the eastside was the MFA grain elevator and tall silo with a railroad siding track. A national circulation train modelers’ magazine once featured the unusual Columbia terminal layout with an article, photos, and diagram so modelers could build their own miniatures. The terminal still has “Columbia” clearly embossed high on its east side and “Wabash” on the west street-side canopy.

For many decades together, the Wabash and First Christian Church personified a popular gospel song, “Railroad to Heaven” during the exciting early era of trains. ~Bob Leach





75th Annual Christmas Pageant

Sunday's Schedule-Dec. 23, 2007

Van Driver: Dan Gieseke *Telephone:* Carol Slusher

8:30 Early Worship, Sanctuary

Worship Asst: Larry and Millie Caringer, Judy Hall

Elder for 8:30 Service: Sarah Yonker

Communion Preparation:

Genie Rogers, Hartley and Kim Rogers

9:30 Church School

Church School Greeter: Doris Neidhardt

Nursery Volunteer: TBA

10:30 Worship in Sanctuary

Sermon: Dr. John J. Yonker *Liturgist:* Jennifer Alexander

10:30 Elders: Tommy Tomlin, Shirley Park, Pam Hoepfner

Deacons: Stanley Team

Greeters:

Hunsaker Family, *North Door*

Steve & Jessica Humble, *South Door*

Ushers: Scott Team

Banner Bearers: Jack Creasy and Kim Potthast

Candlelighters: Megan Potthast and Max Schaefer

Flower Ministry:

Poinsettia Sunday

Delivered: Carol Slusher, Sally Robinson, Marilyn Schappert

Evangelism Calls: Sara Klockow



This Week (Dec. 23-29)

- Sun. - Lenoir Worship, 3:30 p.m.
- Caroling, 4:00-7:30 p.m. (all invited - meet at the church)
- Mon. - Church office closed
- Christmas Eve Personal Meditation and Communion
5:00-6:00 p.m.
- Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight Service of
Scripture and Carols, 8:00 p.m.
- Tue. - Christmas Day



First Night Volunteers Needed!

Please contact Jimmy or Fred in the church office to volunteer.

Sunday's Schedule-Dec. 30, 2007

Van Driver: Bryan Garton *Telephone:* Nancy Grieme

8:30 Early Worship, Sanctuary

Worship Asst: Will and Donna Houston, Anne Linn

Elder for 8:30 Service: Donna Houston

Communion Preparation:

Judith Wildman, Tom and Laura Crane

9:30 Church School

Church School Greeter: Colleen Nilges

Nursery Volunteer: TBA

10:30 Worship in Sanctuary

Sermon: Dr. John J. Yonker *Liturgist:* Joyce Stanley

10:30 Elders: Jerry and Mary Daugherty, Jacki Davidson

Deacons: England Team

Greeters:

Gene Kirkham, *North Door*

Maury and Margie Ellis, *South Door*

Ushers: Hunsaker Team

Banner Bearers: Max Schaefer and Logan Garton

Candlelighters: Ben Creasy and Makali Hawkins

Flower Ministry:

Poinsettia Sunday

Arranged: Pat Rainey and Millie Bolman

Delivered: Pam and Rich Hoepfner

Evangelism Calls: Tom and Carol Hughey, Rick Wells



This Week (Dec. 30-Jan. 5)

- Sun. - Time Capsule Dedication
- Mon. - First Night, 6:30-Midnight, in *The District* and
Stephens College (check the bulletin board
and flyers in the church office for schedule of
events including those at FCC)
- Tue. - New Year's Day
-Office Closed
- Wed. - CYF (grades 9-12), **Day Off Movie & Eats**, 12:00-3:00
p.m., meet at Church
- Chi-Rho (grades 6-8), **Day Off Movie & Eats**, 4:00-5:30
p.m., meet at Church
- Thur. - World Outreach, 5:00 p.m., Morris Parlor
- Website Meeting, 5:30 p.m., John's Office
- Fri. - Church Eat-Out, 5:30 p.m., Bob Evans Restaurant,
Everyone Welcome (note **change in location**)



THE CHURCH FOUNDATION

Have you seen the revered section of the former 1860 sanctuary that remains a part of the present foundation? To gaze upon it makes our Christian forebears and heritage—upon which we live and move ahead—come alive! See it in the west hallway from Fellowship Hall in the undercroft below the sanctuary. Open the cabinet doors along the east side and look in. There it is as the back wall, a long section of the original foundation built a century and a half ago. That church faced south. Do yourself a favor and ponder all it represents, both physically and spiritually. (Photo by Kim Rogers and Jim Rogers)



J. K. Rogers, who was also president of Christian [Columbia] College at the same time, was pastor in 1860 when that first church at this location was built. Pastor in 1893 when our present sanctuary was completed was John S. Shouse. ~Bob Leach

Letter from Woodhaven:

The development staff here alerted me this week that Woodhaven has received a \$300 gift from First Christian Church. In addition they told me that with this gift the lifetime gifts Woodhaven has received from First Christian Church is approaching the \$35,000 mark!

It is hard to know how to express our gratitude for the years of faithful support Woodhaven has received from First Christian Church, including financial, facility, volunteer time, and prayerful support. Clearly Woodhaven would not be the wonderful place it is if it did not have such strong support from your congregation.

Please let your people know of our gratitude.

Sincerely,
Larry Veatch, Coordinator of Church Relations

Born to Die (Church Union)

When the inter-denominational “Consultations on Church Union” began among various Christian denominations a number of years ago, questions were asked of the Disciple leadership as to what would happen to our church if a merger of denominations took place. One of the answers provided by our leaders was that our denomination was “Born to Die”. To understand this strange idea, we need to recall the ideas percolating along the American frontier at the time our denomination was founded. Our founding fathers were dissatisfied with denominational creeds and ritual, the position of the clergy as rulers of access to communion, and the proliferation of forms over concern with people. These things were vestiges of the state churches of Europe, and they did not make sense to people living in a democracy and struggling to survive on the frontier. Our founders conceived a church which did not have any name but Christian (and/or Disciples of Christ), in which laymen had a voice as priests, and where the Bible was the definitive rule rather than man-made creeds. It was a simple religion to which all could belong with a simple confession that Jesus was their Christ, Lord and Savior. This church would be ruled locally by members of the congregation and not by some distant authority. Most importantly, our founders believed that communion was not the exclusive possession of the clergy, but could be conducted by laymen as a simple meal.

Early Disciples thought also had a strong rational element. Barton W. Stone in Kentucky, while being related to the emotional Cane Ridge revival of 1801, insisted that a person could come to a decision to accept Jesus as the Christ upon the basis of reason rather than emotion. This type of church was envisioned by our forefathers as being one to which all other Christians would come and hence there would be only one church. Not surprisingly, this idealistic hope did not happen.

The Bible was central to the movement, but it was an enlightened view that was to be used in interpreting and understanding it, not blind literalism. In “The Christian System” Alexander Campbell points out that the Bible is to be read in the light of its own time with the purposes, concepts, peculiarities, and precepts of the author taken into account. The rules of interpretation as applied to all literature should be applied to the Bible.

The ecumenical dream of one church lives on, and the denomination (which we now are) is the leader in ecumenical movements with the goal that denominations should die. In his book “The Christian System”, Alexander Campbell said, “The church of Jesus Christ is essentially, intentionally, and constitutionally one.” In other words, our denomination was “born to die” to be a part of ONE church, the whole worldwide body of followers of Jesus Christ.

~Tom Shrout



(youth in january)

Wednesday, January 2

(No School)

Day Off Movie & Eats

CYF 12-3 pm

Chi-Rho 6-8:30 pm

Meet @ church.

Sunday, January 13 & 27

JYF 12-1:30

Chi-Rho 4:00 – 5:30

CYF every Wednesday night

Meet at the CAFÉ for dinner at 6:00. CYF meets 6:30-8 p.m.

*CYF will eat dinner at the CAFÉ on Wednesday nights, see related advertisement.

*Youth groups are on break until January.

*MLK Jr. Weekend we are on break.



FCC's Heifer International Ark is full!!

Thank you to everyone who has made a contribution to the 175th Anniversary project of raising \$5,000 for the purchase of an Ark through Heifer International. Our Ark is overflowing with gifts totaling \$6,957.35. This will make the fourth Ark First Christian Church has purchased in recent years. Though we do not know exactly which country will receive our Ark we do know that many people will benefit from receiving animals to raise and create an income for their families. Here is what the Heifer website (www.heifer.org) says about the Gift Ark

Gift Ark: Changing the World Two By Two

The Heifer Gift Ark offers hope worldwide to families who are poor and hungry. You'll help families start on a journey to fulfill a seemingly impossible dream - to secure food and a source of dependable income. Each family who receives livestock will pass on one or more of the animal's offspring to other families who are in need in their community. Every gift will multiply for years to come.

Imagine how your gift will change the world. Two cows bring milk and income to a Russian village. Two sheep help families in Arizona produce wool. Two camels help families in Tanzania earn income by transporting agricultural and industrial materials. Two oxen pull plows and carts in Uganda. Two water buffalo help Cambodian families increase rice production through animal draft power. And that's just the first five sets of animals ... your ark provides 15 pairs of animals to change lives. What a wonderful way to bring joy to the world!

Thank you again for all who contributed to our Ark. There are gift cards available if you would still like to purchase an animal to give as a Christmas gift this year. The money will go to purchase more animals to give to families around the world.

~Sally Robinson, 175th Anniversary Committee, World Outreach Committee

Pageant Thanks

The 75th Annual Christmas Pageant was a great success of a time honored tradition. Thanks to Mary Bancroft and Amy Kay P. for their advice and patience. Thanks to River of Life-Sunday morning guides for leading so faithfully. Thanks to the Wise Men for stepping out of a comfort zone and singing great! Thanks to characters, children and parents for practicing and doing such a great job making all parts of the event happen so smoothly. Thanks to Cherry Hinderberger and her able group of family & friends who made the Tasting Party so tasty! ~Jimmy

Women's Breakfast Thanks

Thank you to everyone who attended the Women's Breakfast and special thank you to Muriel Leach for her amazing rendition of "The Other Wise Man". We were all touched by this performance. By popular demand:

Gouda Egg Souffle

Be sure to use a hearty white sandwich bread, we used Texas Toast. The souffle needs to sit in the refrigerator, well covered, for at least 8 hours in order to achieve the desired consistency, and it can be made up to 24 hours in advance.

3 T butter softened plus butter for dish
10 slices bread
2 cups smoked gouda cheese
1 cup monterey jack cheese
8 large eggs
3 cups whole milk
1 small onion grated
1 t salt
1/2 t black pepper
1 t dry mustard
1/2 t hot sauce

Butter a 9x13 casserole dish. Cut bread into 1 inch pieces. Scatter half of the bread evenly in the prepared dish and sprinkle with half of the cheese. Repeat with the remaining bread and cheese.

Whisk the eggs, and remaining ingredients together in a large bowl. Pour the egg mixture evenly over the bread and press lightly on the bread to submerge. Wrap with plastic wrap and store in refrigerator.

To serve bake in a preheated 350 degree oven for 1 hour. It will be puffed and golden brown.
~Laura and Amy

The CAFÉ is coming...

Wednesday Evenings Starting January 9

Great Hot Meals Served

Classes, choirs, and new opportunities for you and your family to learn and grow in spirit and faith.

First Christian Church

Wednesday Evenings

5:30 - Dinner

6:20 - Devotion

6:30-7:30 - Adult Programming

Child Care Available

Christian Action Fellowship Education

Weekly Report

December 16, 2007

Received \$8,759.78

Received to Date \$219,717.26

Attendance - 228

(includes early worship - 45)

The Visitor

First Christian Church

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



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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



from the Staff

Amy Kay Pavlovich

Kay Beissenherz

Jim Burt

John Yonker

Jimmy Spear

Norma Miller

Mary E. Bancroft

Fred Mottaz