



THE
July 20, 2007
Vol. 66, No. 3

VISITOR

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Sam Spence Langley

Our friend and beloved minister, the Reverend Dr. Sam Spence Langley, died at Boone Hospital Center on Saturday morning, July 14.

Dr. Langley served as Senior Minister of First Christian Church from 1970-1991.

Sam was born on August 22, 1926 in Fordyce, Arkansas and spent his childhood years in the St. Louis community of Webster Groves. He received his undergraduate degree from Phillips University in Enid, Oklahoma and completed his Doctor of Divinity at Yale Divinity School. He married his precious Ima Lou in December of 1946. She preceded him in death on March 8, 2004.



Rev. Langley served Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregations in Altus, Oklahoma; Northside Christian Church in St. Louis; Kingsway Christian Church in Memphis, Tennessee; and First Christian Church in Marshall, Missouri before concluding his career at First Christian Church in Columbia.

Rev. Langley held leadership positions in the community and state including membership on the Board of Trustees of Columbia College, Chairman of Board of Directors of Woodhaven Learning Center, member of the Columbia Rotary Club, and member of the Board of Directors at Lenoir Retirement Community. He held positions as the Moderator of the Christian Church in Missouri and the Missouri Christian Minister's Institute.

Sam is survived by son Stephen and wife Joanne, of Kansas City, son Stan and wife Trudy of Sturgeon, daughter Luanne of Nixa, Missouri and grandchildren Adam and Sarah.

A memorial service was held at 11:00 am on Tuesday, July 17 at First Christian Church. Memorial contributions may be made to First Christian Church Memorial Fund, or the Sam S. and Ima Lou Langley Scholarship Fund, Yale Divinity School.

Black Gold

The Mid-Month Movie will star coffee beans **this Friday, July 20th at 7:00 pm** in our very own Cinema. The college students would like to share this recently made and award winning documentary with this whole church family as they enjoyed watching it during one of their "Random Movie Nights" this summer. "Black Gold" is a documentary that examines the growing challenges coffee farmers face. The movie shows one man's struggles while traveling the world in an attempt to find buyers willing to pay a fair price for the coffee. Come and sip on some fairly-traded coffee while munching on some popcorn as we view and then discuss "Black Gold". Child Care is provided in our nursery and you can even begin purchasing your own "Just Coffee" in the church office for \$9 per bag if you so desire. Hope to see you here for the movie!

Sunday Services

Sunday's worship service will be centered on the lectionary texts of Amos 8:1-12 and Luke 10:38-42. In coordination with our 175th Anniversary Celebration, we will be focusing on mission work and within this context will be graced by a skit that was written by the Rossmans and a solo by Jessica Klockow.

At the 8:30 worship service Brenda Mosby will sing "More Than Wonderful" by Lanny Wolfe. Norma Miller, pianist and Mary Bancroft, organist will provide duets at the 10:30 service.

Weekly Report

July 15, 2007

Received \$5,503.00

Received to Date \$60,704.15

Attendance - 283

(includes early worship - 50)

General Assembly

Attending the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) General Assembly in Fort Worth, Texas this next week will be: John and Sarah Yonker; Amy Kay, Dane and Seb Pavlovich; and Sally Robinson. We pray for their safe travel.



Heerrree's Johnny!

We hoped that Sam Langley would have had several more years to enjoy retirement living since he moved back to Columbia after Ima Lou's death in 2004. As I mentioned during his memorial service on Tuesday morning, it was a joyous day when he walked down the aisle and reunited with the church after having been gone since his 1991 retirement. When I shook his hand that Sunday morning and introduced him, the congregation gave him a rousing round of applause. It was well deserved, for twenty-one years we were privileged to have him as our Senior Minister.

On more than one occasion in these past few years he and I have had our private conversations about the church, and noted what an honor it has been for both of us to serve this congregation. When he was called here from the church in Marshall, Missouri, he told me he had known our church's great history of ministry through the years and felt unworthy to accept the position because of that fact. And I, in turn, told him that I felt the same way, in large part, because I had known him and knew what a fine ministry he had with our church.

As I listened to Bill Shoop and Jim Spainhower tell their stories of their long-time friendships with Sam through the years, and put into words their great admiration and respect for him, I knew that so many other people could have also told of their experiences with Sam, and the many ways which his ministry touched their lives. As one of our members told me just the other day, "I was devoted to Sam because he was always there for me and my entire family." What more could be said? Except that he always tried to there for everyone also.

As I walk around the church I often think of Sam because of all the improvements which were made to the building in his twenty-one year ministry. Perhaps none more so than the cross atop the bell tower. Many of you remember the story and the day that Sam had it installed, the last week of his ministry. Ima Lou had been such a support to him in all his years of ministry that he wanted to do something in her honor. Since she had often suggested that the bell tower needed something he received permission from the church board to install the cross. And so he came down to the church on a Wednesday evening to watch them place a cross on top of the bell tower, and surprised her the next

Sunday morning when he took her outside to see it. It was the completion of her dream, and the ending of his ministry at First Christian.

And now, every time I drive up the street to the church, I remember Sam and Ima Lou Langley, and give thanks to God their ministry in this place. Thanks be to God!

Thanks for Boone Hospital Worship Services

Frances and I received a note of thanks from Boone Hospital for the services we provided in the month of June for worship. We, in turn, would like to thank those folks who participated. They were: Shirley Park, David Heise, Lorene Trickey, Steve and Sharon Smith, Steve and Mary Bess Green. Thank you all very much. This is a fine service provided for the patients at Boone Hospital. Harsh and Frances Brown

Debit Survey

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank everyone who completed the automatic debit survey. Three out of four of the responses were marked "no". There were 15 responses marked "yes". There are costs to offer this service. There is a \$75 initial set up fee. Each month the fee is \$14.95. The fee to create each file is \$5.00 plus 10 cents per item. If 15 people use this service the cost to the church to create just one file would be \$21.45 (\$1.43 per item). The Stewardship Committee has decided that, at this time, it is cost prohibitive to offer this convenience.

Thank You



First Christian Church,

Thank you for the beautiful bouquet of flowers delivered to me on my 92nd birthday. I do appreciate your thoughtfulness. Thank you again.

Love to all,
Elwyn Ewer

News of the congregation

Elsie Hughes has been released from Boone Hospital and gone to the Lenoir Health Care Center where she will continue recuperating from surgery last week. **Tom Carey** was also released from the hospital last week and is now spending some time at the home of his daughter, **Julie Hickey**. **Don Seltsam** has returned home after spending a day at Rusk Rehabilitation Center. Our prayers are with **George Harris** as he begins outpatient medical treatment for the next few weeks.

Our sympathy is extended to **Jim** and **Gloria Burt** and the members of their family on the death of Jim's father, **Charles H. Burt**, who died early Sunday morning, July 15 at the Audrain Medical Center. Funeral services were held at 1 p.m., Wednesday, July 18 at the Pickering Funeral Home in Mexico. He was 90 years old.

Our prayers are with **Sam Langley's** family: His son and daughter-in-law, **Stephen** and **Joanne** and their children, **Adam** and **Sarah Langley**, of Kansas City, his son and daughter-in-law, **Stan** and **Trudy Langley** of Columbia, and his daughter, **Luanne Langley**, of Nixa, Missouri.

We also remember **Pat Rybolt's** two sisters: **Gloria Wold** who is recovering from a recent heart attack, and **Marybelle Zimmerman** who is recovering from recent heart surgery and a stroke.

Thanks to **Brenda Martin** and all the members of the **Handbell Choir** for planning and hosting such a nice reception for **Melissa Straw** after the 10:30 worship service last week. Thanks also to Melissa's son, **Matthew Straw** for the beautiful piano solo presented at the offertory, and to **Jean Hall** and **Mary Bancroft** for the piano/organ duets presented at the late service. To conclude the day of recognition, members of the Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir gathered for a picnic supper at the home of **Susan** and **Bruce Woodbury** located in the country near Harrisburg. It was a fitting tribute to Melissa's thirteen and half year music ministry with our church.

Tom Yonker is participating in the annual CRY Festival (Christian Regional Youth) this week at Columbia College. Serving as an adult sponsor, he is also leading two workshops on helping Disciples youth from across the state learn about religious and cultural diversity. **Amy Kay Pavlovich** also enjoyed leading a worship at CRY Festival.

175th Anniversary News - Genie Rogers

Tribute

Our hearts are filled with both joy and sorrow for our beloved former pastor, Sam Langley, who died July 14, 2007. The 175th Anniversary Committee joins many others in expressing sympathy to the Langley family. In celebrating our history during this anniversary year, the entire church has focused on the rich fabric of which this church is woven. We have been blessed by an outstanding series of ministers to guide and lead the congregation. Our strength comes from their character and leadership. Sam had unquestioned integrity, kindness, and generosity in his thought and action. He provided steady guidance during times of family sorrow and the exhilaration of happy times. He and Ima Lou were role models of how to live a Christian life. He enriched our lives and we will miss him.
~The 175th Committee

Picnic with Alexander Campbell

We are very fortunate to have as our guest on Sunday, August 5, 2007, Rev. John Bolen, Disciple minister and professor at Simpson College in Oskaloosa, Iowa. He has spent many years honing the skills of portraying Alexander Campbell in his appearance, dress and speech. He will deliver the sermon at both services on August 5 and we will once again return to our 1832 roots. Anyone who wishes is encouraged to dress in period clothing. Once again, we will be using our old fashioned offering boxes. We will try very hard to be "in period." Later in the afternoon we will gather at the Reichmann Building at Stephens Lake Park. All Disciple area churches, Woodhaven staff and clients, and Lenoir Woods residents will be invited as our guests. FCC will provide fried chicken, paper plates, cups, plastic utensils and lemonade for everyone. We ask each family who is able to bring a covered dish.

Amy Kay will be in charge of games for all the kids. We hope some of the old-fashioned games will appeal to the kids like potato sack races! Anyone who is able to help Amy Kay, please call her at the church office.

Our friend, Elder Campbell will be present, in character, and will offer the blessing before supper. He will be around to discuss the challenges of church history of the day and the pull between the Campbellites and the followers of Barton Stone. We will utilize the air conditioning of 2007 and the updated kitchen in the new Reichmann building so it will not be a total step back into history! Bring the kids, your extended family and a covered dish for an old-fashioned picnic with other Columbia Disciple Churches.

Sally Robinson is in charge of planning and details for the picnic. If you are able to help please contact her directly, or the church office. We hope to have a good crowd and plenty of food for our guests.
~Genie Rogers

Local Mission Work

The Jail Ministry

The Jail Ministry, sponsored by the Interfaith Council, began at the request of Major Warren Brewer, Director of the Boone County Jail around 1990. Major Brewer saw the need for the inmates to have contact with representatives from the churches to help them deal with their anger and mistrust about incarceration and prepare them for re-entry into society. For the correctional process to be successful, there needs to be an effective path to readjust to a normal life outside of jail.

The mission of the Jail Ministry is to provide spiritual nurture and comfort to inmates through Bible study and worship and to demonstrate to the prisoners that Christian people care for them. The Boone County jail houses approximately 200 people at a given time. Their offenses range from traffic tickets to first-degree murder. Participation in the Jail Ministry is at all times a privilege, not a right for the inmates. Approximately 25 men and 15 women attend the services weekly. The men and women are separated, and the men are separated again by temperament. One-on-one ministry is also available. Sometimes the ministry continues after release with assistance in job interview preparation, driving the inmate to appointments, and maintaining a relationship of friendship and concern.

The volunteers involved in the Jail Ministry go out every Sunday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and meet with both men and women separately. This is a voluntary event for the inmates. The meetings last for 1 ½ hours. Each church group approaches the task in a slightly different way, but generally the time is spent in Bible study, singing, praying, and personal testimony as to how God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are working in the lives of those present. It is clearly stated that the volunteer representatives are not there to "save souls" but to help the inmate become aware of God's presence through the Holy Spirit in their lives.

This is a ministry that can be quite difficult. Edith Taylor of our church has been a long-time member of the Jail Ministry. Harsh Brown has joined her in the last ten years as a volunteer from our church. Together they represent FCC as a team. Others who are involved and help on a regular basis from our church are Cherry Hinderberger and Marvin Tracy. Our church budget this year donated \$200 for the purchase of Bibles for the Ministry.

As followers of Christ, we believe in the inherent value of each person. The Apostle Paul, in 2 Corinthians 5:19, said "God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation."
~Harsh Brown



Local Mission Work

Fun City

Fun City began as a grass roots effort led by Beulah Ralph and Rev. and Mrs. Melvin West in 1970 to provide a safe, supervised learning environment for low-income kids during the summer months. It began with 25 children housed in the lower level of St. Paul AME Church on Park Avenue. For years it operated on a very modest budget with financial, in-kind, and food donations by the churches and civic organizations.

In 1973 Fun City incorporated as a not-for-profit organization under Community Playground. In 1974 the agency moved to Grant Elementary School, then the following year they moved to Douglass High School where it remains today. The central location of Douglass School in the First Ward and within walking distance of public housing has made it an appealing location for the people who are most in need of the services. A great many of these neighborhood children were watching siblings during the day, did not have regular meals or supervision, and needed exposure to some organized enrichment activities. The facilities of Douglass pool, Douglass Park, and the school itself all are utilized. Besides providing a safe place during the day, there has been increased emphasis through the years on writing and reading skills during the summer months. Field trips are planned to close areas of interest such as the Capitol and the St. Louis Zoo.

Of the 150 children served each summer, most live below the poverty level. In recent years, Fun City has qualified as a Day Care Provider under Division of Family Service (DFS) rules, therefore receives state reimbursement for the summer program.

In an attempt to build on the summer success, Fun City has expanded to include a Saturday “Youth Academy” as part of the services offered. Tutoring and academic enrichment are provided at the Blind Boone Center. This meets throughout the school year. Parental involvement is encouraged and attempts are being made to establish a forum for urban parents. In 2003, the Interact Teen to Teen Theater became part of the Fun City Youth Academy programs to promote good decisions regarding risky behavior for at-risk youth.

During the first decade of the operation of Fun City, the First Christian ladies were very involved in helping the program be a success. Year after year from 1973 to 1996, Drennan Circle baked over 3,000 cookies yearly for use at snack time for the children of Fun City. Our local outreach budget continues to send a yearly contribution for \$500 toward the summer program. Members of our church have served on the Board of Fun City, most recently Edith Taylor. Kirsten Leach, leader of the Campus and Career Group in the early 1980’s, supervised our college age students for a summer of volunteer help at Fun City. Nelson Trickey also spent many volunteer hours helping at Fun City during the earlier days of their operation.

In April, 1995, the Columbia Daily Tribune reported: “On Wednesday, as they have for 22 years, the ladies of First Christian Church’s Drennan Group fired up the kitchen’s six ovens and baked 2600 cookies for Fun City, a summer day camp for inner-city youngsters. First to arrive at 6:45 a.m. was Lorene Trickey and by shortly after noon all the cookies were baked and bagged. Getting caught with their hands in the cookie dough were Brenda Martin, Betty Bohon, Mary Curry, Cheryl Stansberry, Cathy Seltsam, Mimi McRoberts, Sally Estes, Susan Ballard, Judith Wildman, Beth Arey and Norma Miller. Dr. John Yonker served as taste-tester. Over 200 dozen cookies will be stored in the freezers of Fun City Board members until ready for use as snacks”.



Fun City is a good example of defining a community need and pulling together the support of churches, the school system and the city of Columbia to provide the initial support and later adding state DFS money to maintain their quality of service.

~Genie Rogers



www.firstchristian.org/youth

JYF and Chi Rho will not meet this Sunday, July 22, but will gather on Saturday, July 28th for a swimming party! We will meet at the church at 1:30pm and will return by 4:15pm. Wanna come enjoy the water with the youth? We certainly welcome Partner involvement! Call Amy Kay if you are interested in helping at 808-1980.

The **CYF Mission Trip Reunion** has been set for Friday, July 27th at 7:00pm. Anyone is invited to attend as we will watch the pictures of our trip, reminisce, hear the update on the house we helped with and enjoy the now famous vanilla ice-cream with sprinkles.



Mission Trippers above: Dane and Amy Kay Pavlovich, Kelsey Schutjer, Sara Klockow, Lindsey Chandler, Charise Garrett, Intern Heather, Ryan Hunsaker, Alec Wright, Drew Gieseke and Lexi Ruffolo.

College Notes....

Bowling this Sunday! Come join us this Sunday at Town and Country Lanes, located on North Providence, at 7:30. Stop on by whenever your schedule allows, and come prepared to show off your skills. We hope to see you all there.



Thomas Crane-July 22
Gerald Ramsey-July 22
Ashley Buxton-July 22
Amber Roberts-July 22
Lesley DeHaven-July 23
Audrey Snyder-July 24
Larry Dietzel-July 25

Abram Brummett-July 25
Julia LaHue-July 25
Jenny Hallan-July 25
Mary Kite-July 26
Jewell Dietzel-July 27
Derrick Evers-July 27
Mark Martin-July 28

Dear FCC Family,

I can't find the words to thank you appropriately for all the gifts you have given me in the past 14 years. I treasure the special relationship I have with each staff member, bell choir member, chancel choir member, and members of the congregation.

FCC is unique in that it has such a loving, nurturing congregation and staff. It has seen me travel the journey of a newly-married, novice teacher and conductor, through the birth of two children, and now those children are using their musical gifts to worship God, as well. FCC, as a village, has nurtured my family in numerous ways—whether that is someone always ensuring Margaret got from Sunday School to church, to checking in on the status of my family and my parents, and so much more.

The decision to leave was one of the most difficult I have ever made. I became so beset with all of my professional responsibilities, I felt that my ministry would be more effective if I stepped down from my leadership position as choir director. I do plan to stay in the life of the church as much as possible, and thank you in advance for continuing to make me feel welcome.

Finally, thank you for the generous love gift and beautiful plaque presented at Sunday's service. While it was an emotional time, I hope you were able to see how very touched I was by your generosity. The reception was simply beautiful, and the party given by the choir and bells at the Woodbury home was lively and fun!

I will always treasure the memories of my time at FCC, and look forward to being with you whenever possible.

With Sincere Thanks,
Melissa Straw



The Visitor

First Christian Church

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Ministerial Staff:

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

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

Summer Ministry Intern: Elizabeth Rottmann

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
Michaela Ragains, Receptionist

Sunday's Schedule-July 22, 2007

Van Driver: TBA *Telephone:* TBA

8:30 Early Worship, Sanctuary

Worship Asst: Steve, Sharon and Andrea Smith
Elder for 8:30 Service: Barbara Rothenberger

Communion Preparation:

Bruce and Susan Woodbury, Doris Neidhardt

9:30 Church School

Church School Greeters: Doris Neidhardt

Nursery Volunteer: TBA

10:30 Worship in Sanctuary

Sermon: Rev. Amy Kay Pavlovich *Liturgist:* Linda Ridgeway

10:30 Elders: Pamela and Richard Hoepfner, Bettie Koelling

Deacons: The Stanley Team

Greeters:

Barb Rothenberger, *North Door*

Sara Klockow, *South Door*

Ushers: The Scott Team

Candlelighters: TBA

Flower Ministry:

Arranged: Pat Rainey

Delivered: Genie Rogers and Gloria Hay

Evangelism Calls: Sara Klockow

This Week (July 22 - 28)

Disciples of Christ General Assembly (July 21-25)

- Sun. - **No** JYF or Chi Rho
- Lenoir Health Care Worship, 3:30 pm
- Church Softball Game, 5:00 pm, Yellow Field
- College Bowling, 7:30 pm, Town & County Lanes
- Fri. - CYF Mission Trip Reunion, 7:00 p.m.
- Sat. - JYF and Chi Rho Swimming Party, 1:30 p.m.-4:15 p.m.
(meet at church)



**Swimming
PaRtY**