



Above: Ken and Nancy Watson receive their standing ovation at the end of their reception on Sunday afternoon. After a full morning and early afternoon of celebrating Ken's 43 years of ministry, those gathered sprung to show him their appreciation for his life in the broader church and in our church specifically. If you would like to see more pictures of the day's celebration, visit the church's web site at www.firstchristian.org.

Commitment Sunday - May 6

May 6 is Commitment Sunday, the day we celebrate the ministry of our church and make our commitments of time, talents and financial resources for the coming year. Worship services will include scripture readings found in John 13:31-35, and Revelation 21:1-6 and Dr. Yonker's sermon.

The services will begin with the monthly old time hymn sing. At the 10:30 service Sally Robinson will present the children's moment to kick off a Heifer International Ark project in celebration of our 175th Anniversary. We will recognize the recipients of church scholarships and commission the college mission trip team.

Special music this Sunday includes a solo by Linda Chandler at the 8:30 service. She will sing "Awesome God" with "How Great He Is." At the 10:30 service the Chancel Choir will sing "Be Thou My Vision."

Are you unplugged?

If not, then you need to see "The Matrix!" Our Mid-Month Movie for May will feature the great 1999 science-fiction film starring Keanu Reeves and Lawrence Fishburn. Rated R for sci-fi violence and brief language, this two hour film is filled with religious symbolism and will provide great discussion as we discover the presence of matrix, and learn how Neo and other characters seek to free themselves from its power. Can't you smell the corn popping? Come to cinema for the Mid-Month movie at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 18 to get unplugged.



Weekly Report
April 29, 2007
Received \$8,167.75
Received to Date \$379,168.16
Attendance - 342
(includes early worship - 35)

The church is experiencing some interruption in e-mail service. If you have sent messages in the last week, please check to be sure that they have been received. We are sorry for any inconvenience that this has caused.

Please continue to call and let us know when you are sending urgent e-mail messages.

Thank you!



Heerrree's Johnny!

Let me take my column this week to offer my own thanks to all those who worked so hard to make Ken Watson's retirement Sunday such a great day. In addition to the several names mentioned I want to add one more, Genie Rogers. As chair of our Administrative Department, she was the person working behind the scenes who recruited the people to do the various jobs which got done so well to make Ken's day such a great day.

And let me also add a special thanks to the members of the choir and all the musicians who shared their talent with us last Sunday. From Brenda Mosby's wonderful solo, which not only brought tears to her eyes, but many more of us, the music provided by Mary Bancroft, Melissa Straw, the Chancel Choir and the Handbell Choir, and the members of the brass ensemble was just perfect for the day. I have often said that if I were a lay person looking for a church home the first thing I would look for is a church where there is great music. Thanks to all you who continue to help make it so.

Reflecting on such a day, I am reminded of the conversation Ken and I had several years ago when we were talking about all the volunteer jobs which are required to be done every Sunday morning. Have you ever stopped to think about how many people it takes to conduct worship services and church school classes? From answering the church office phone, to preparing and serving communion, teaching Sunday School classes, driving the church van, arranging and delivering flowers, ushering, presenting the music, and all the rest? So many more than we imagined or often think about. Those of us "professional ministers" know very well that the work of the church is not limited to the ordained folks. Without your interest and involvement and commitment, the work of Christ and the ministry of the church would come to a screeching halt.

Many of you have been asking how the search for a new associate minister is coming. We have had read several resumes of ministers who have expressed interest in our position and conducted one personal interview. We were disappointed when a second interview scheduled for this week was cancelled. But we believe the right person is out there, and with the Spirit's guidance, we will find the right person to come to work with us in the near future. We ask for your continued prayers and support as we continue into a new day of ministry for First Christian Church.



To: The Shawl Ministry
Thanks for the lovely shawl. The messages in the enclosed card were duly noted and very helpful. Thanks again. Art Gaus

To: The Shawl Minsistry
Your thoughtfulness was appreciated. Thank you for the beautiful hospital scarves-a great idea. Jean and Parker Rossman

Shawl Ministry Notice

There will be a change in the regularly scheduled meeting time for this month only. We will meet on the **second** Wednesday, **May 9**, at 10:00 a.m. at Mary Tompson's, 209 W. Parkway. If you would like to join this active group of church friends, you will be more than welcome. Just show up with a smile-that's all that's necessary.

A special thanks to Mimi McRoberts who gave us a large bag of yarn to keep our fingers busy. What wonderful friends we have!

Happy Birthday!



Delaney Tevis-May 6
Nancy Kirtley-May 6
Sue Underwood-May 6
Maddox Colborn-May 6
Beth Fitzgerald-May 8
Ann Rogers-May 9
Lucinda McRoberts-May 9
Zola Finch-May 9
Sebastian Pavlovich-May 9
Harlan Hackett-May 10
Laura Hutton-May 10
Marian Lightner-May 10
Sharon Winner-May 10
Rachel Tarwater-May 10
Wayne Meyer-May 10
Mary Bancroft-May 11
Amy Kay Pavlovich-May 11
Makali Hawkins-May 11
Jacy Alexander-May 12
Kathleen Keaveney-May 12

News of the congregation

Parker Rossman and **Edith Taylor** have both returned home to recover from surgical procedures last week at local hospitals. **Don Houston** continues therapy at Boone Hospital as he recovers from recent surgery. **George Harris** had out-patient surgery on Tuesday morning at Regional Hospital.

Thanks to **Brenda Mosby** for her lovely solo presented at the 8:30 service last Sunday. Also, thanks to **all the musicians** for their additions to our 10:30 service on Ken Watson's retirement day.

Eric Arnett took part of his day off to hang the outside light over the Walnut Street door by the Drennen Room. **Jay Creasy** had re-wired the light fixture. They both deserve a pat on the back for their volunteer help for the church.

Ladies' Book Club

The Ladies' Book Club takes a break this summer but our May 23 meeting moves to the home of Laura Estes, 201 W Parkway. Laura's personal chef service the "farmer's daughter" will provide lunch at 12 sharp!! PLEASE let Linda Hutton (442-5423 and/or lhutton50@hotmail.com) know if you plan on attending by May 16. At this meeting the Book Club will discuss Paulette Jiles' Civil War novel *Enemy Women* based on true events in Missouri during 1863. ALSO, we will select eight books for next year's reading pleasure. So, come with your choices or call/email them to Linda prior to the May 23 meeting if you can't make it.



Church Eat-Out

Friday - May 4
5:30 p.m.
Country Kitchen
Everyone Welcome!





175th Anniversary News- Genie Rogers

April: Ministerial Appreciation Month

It has been an interesting, exciting and celebratory month in remembering the fascinating stories and times surrounding our former ministers. This week the final biography is on Clarence Lemmon, frequently referred to as the greatest of all former Disciple ministers.

Each man profiled as well as those who are in the shadows of our look into history, were all products of their time and each brought with them the culture and attitudes of the period in which they lived. In researching the people, I was consistently impressed with the intelligence, respect for education and the progressive thinking they shared. The intellectual searching and questioning that we exhibit today, as Disciples, is simply an extension of those who have gone before. It is a hallmark of the denomination and something to take pride in.

Sunday was a wonderful day as the church shared in the retirement celebration of Ken and Nancy Watson, our beloved Associate Pastor for 13 years. Many, many people helped to make the day special for Ken, and the affection shown was genuine and overwhelming. It is with hope that we will see Ken and Nancy back worshipping, learning and laughing with us in a year or so.

Banners

Have you noticed 9th Street this week? Take a look next time you are downtown. The 175th anniversary banners that have been on Walnut Street and the 10th Street side of the church are now installed on 9th Street which, when added to the parking lot, complete our block. Many thanks to Linda Hutton for all the work and negotiation she has done to get these banners ordered and installed. Also, thanks and appreciation to Columbia College for adding our 9th Street banners this past week after installing the others in January. The College has been generous with their time & resources to put up all the banners for our 175th celebration.

Special Thank You's

Special thanks to those who played special roles in making Ken's retirement Sunday a memorable day:

—Micki Kirkham for the beautiful tribute to Ken expressing thanks from a grateful congregation

—Mimi McRoberts and Brenda Mosby for putting together the Book of Letters and the guest book with their artistry and scrap booking talents

—Joyce Stanley for being in charge of the delicious buffet of food, service & clean up; and others who helped: Bragg Stanley, Christy Von Targe, Sarah & Marion Storm, Eric Arnett, Royanne Tracy, Sally Robinson, Sarah Yonker, Dabney Doty and the Gieseke, Hunsaker and Humble families

—Mary Bancroft and Barb Rothenberger for the Fellowship Hall Decorations, tables, and centerpiece plants

—Melissa Straw for putting together a music reflection of Ken's and Nancy's life; and others who performed: Michael Straw, Jean Hall, Susan Woodbury and Mary Bancroft

—Judy Cunningham for making the Bulletin Board displayed in Fellowship Hall of Ken and Nancy's life in pictures

—To everyone for their contributions for a monetary gift for Ken and Nancy and for sending letters for the Book of Letters.

Old Time Hymn Sing

As part of the 175th celebration, an "old time hymn sing" will be held each month for 10 minutes beginning at 8:25 for the early worship service and at 10:25 for the late worship service. Brenda Mosby will lead the early service hymn sing this coming Sunday and Melissa Straw will lead at the late service. Dig out your old favorites and call requests in to Norma Miller for the early service and Mary Bancroft for the late service or call the office with your request.

Quilt

Sunday, May 20, is the deadline for turning in your quilt square. If you need help completing your square, there is still plenty of time and people to call on for help. Call Pat Rainey (446-0419), Mary Tompson (442-8849) or Tommie Ross (442-0615) to assist.

Next Month

The theme for the month of May is the World Mission Work of First Christian Church. Efforts will be made to become familiar with how our church got started with mission work and some of the projects that have been undertaken through the years—stay tuned!

Clarence E. Lemmon 1888-1963

This last week of Ministerial Appreciation month focuses on the profile of Clarence Lemmon. It is difficult to write about Dr. Lemmon in a short article. He served the longest pastorate in Columbia of 33 years. Church leaders and community leaders considered him a giant among men. He was a spell-binding orator and known as one of the great preachers in America. He was passionate about evangelism and the work of the church in the community, nation, and abroad. He is credited with creating unity within the church that has been characteristic of First Christian Church to this day.

David Yonker wrote the biography of Clarence Lemmon (found on the reverse side) while a student at Lexington Theological Seminary as a term paper. So many of our church members still have vivid memories and recollections of time spent with Dr. Lemmon. I am asking for **each of you** to take a few minutes and write down a story **you remember** about Dr. Lemmon, an encounter in church or elsewhere that is interesting. I will compile all these stories as an attachment to Dave Yonker's work for the book that will be compiled and published from these weekly history subjects at the end of the year. Please send these stories (story) to: Genie Rogers, 1400 Business Loop 70 East, Columbia, MO 65201-4612 or drop them by the church office. It is important to keep these wonderful leaders and shapers of our history alive not only in our own memories but in the minds of the next generation. They still have many lessons to teach us all!

Genie Rogers

Clarence E. Lemmon 1888-1963 (cont.)



Dr. Clarence Eugene Lemmon epitomized what it meant to be a pastor and a scholar. He was a pastor whose life displayed the love of God, who was well loved and respected by members of his congregations and citizens of the communities in which he lived. Born February 2, 1888, in Seward County, Nebraska, Lemmon was the son of a farmer and a school teacher. He died at his Lenoir Home in Columbia on October 27, 1963 and is buried in Columbia Cemetery.

On June 13, 1913, the same day he received a degree from Cotner College in Lincoln, Nebraska, Lemmon was ordained, beginning a fifty-year life as a minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He later received honorary Doctorate of Divinity degrees from Cotner College and Culver-Stockton College. Following pastorates in Ashland and Hastings, Nebraska, Dr. Lemmon served the Hamilton Avenue Christian Church of St. Louis from 1921-1930. He moved to Columbia to become the minister of First Christian Church in May 1930, a position that he held until his retirement in 1963.

He was a great minister who took pride in preaching weekly, and gained a wide reputation for his sermons. He was invited to preach in many churches and ministry meetings across the country. Senator Warren R. Austin, Ambassador to the United Nations, read one of his sermons, *The Crisis of Fellowship*, over station WOR, NEW YORK, in June 1947. He always had a sense for the surrounding society. In 1942, Dr. Lemmon preached a sermon entitled, *The First War Year*, and preached a series of sermons with

such titles as, *Spiritual Logistics*, *Spiritual Priorities* and *Spiritual Rationing*, to give the congregation a sense of hope and assurance that God was still active in the world. Another sermon series had the title, *The Children of Today in the World of Tomorrow*. In the 1950s, at the height of the anti-communist campaign of Senator Joseph McCarthy, the congregation broke out in cheers one Sunday morning when Dr. Lemmon denounced the ruthless, un-Christian tactics of the senator from Wisconsin. At the end of every year he would give a year-end review sermon, which would connect the church with what was happening around the world.

One of the hallmarks of C.E. Lemmon's ministry was his keen intellect and his scholarly life. He wrote a monthly book review in the *World Call Journal* from 1932 to 1963. He had numerous articles published in *The Christian Evangelist* magazine and authored two books, *The Art of Church Management*, and *Religion Helps*. He also edited two books of sermons, from New Testament and Old Testament texts, published by the Disciples of Christ Christian Board of Publication. In the early 1960s he was elected to The Panel of Scholars, of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Clarence Lemmon was active in the life of the church beyond the cities where he lived. While serving the Hamilton Avenue church, in 1927, he was elected head of the St. Louis Ministerial Alliance, and the following year he was named the head of the Missouri Council of Churches. In 1925, Dr. Lemmon was a delegate to the Universal Christian Conference on Life and Work in Stockholm, Sweden, and in 1927 he was selected as chair of that ecumenical council. Within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) he served on the board of directors of the United Christian Missionary Society, the Pension Fund and the University of Chicago Divinity School. In 1943-1944 he served as President of The International Convention of the Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ).

Dr. Lemmon was not a man who was afraid of a challenge, and did not back down from the attacks of conservative members of Christian Churches who attacked his liberal positions on biblical interpretation and open church membership, receiving persons who had not been baptized by immersion into the church.

Clarence Lemmon's accomplishments were numerous. While he was minister of First Christian Church in Columbia, 2,195 people

joined the church, 703 persons were baptized, 741 couples were married and approximately 1,400 funerals were conducted. He paid off the \$100,000 debt on the Education Building and raised over \$54,000 for church improvements and repairs.

In 1950 Dr. Lemmon wrote an article for "The Christian-Evangelist", the denominational journal of the Disciples of Christ, in which he identified the marks of a minister's vocation. He said that ministers should accept their role "naturally and without affection." In his opinion, if a minister can be "what he is, a preacher and a pastor, without claims for special privilege, without arrogance or clerical status, but without stooping or fawning toward the public, he has achieved the high art of vocation."

Parker Rossman, member of First Christian Church, who worked with Lemmon on our church staff in the 1940s, remembers him well: "He was a great pastor because he thought things through, he planned, he listened, he understood, and learned from experience. He was committed to ministry in the local church." Rossman went on to say that he turned down positions of denominational leadership because he saw what a parish minister could do in one town and one church if he stayed thirty years. Dr. Lemmon said it best when he stated that "a minister is not counted by the books he writes, or the sermons he preaches, but by the friends he made". He was among the best, and he touched thousands of lives in fifty years of ministry.

Written by David Yonker; Reduced in length by John Yonker.

Of Local Interest: It is interesting to note how intertwined we all are. Prior to Dr. Lemmon's arrival in Columbia, he served the Hamilton Avenue Christian Church in St. Louis (1921-1930) during the time a family named Yonker were active in the church. John's grandmother was president of the Women's Group and worked closely with Dr. Lemmon. John's father was baptized by Dr. Lemmon along with his siblings (John's uncles and aunt). John's aunt Maud Mary Litz of Charleston, West Virginia is the only living member of his Dad's generation and was in Columbia at the time of Dave and Liz Yonker's wedding. Many of us got the chance to meet this lovely lady. John has a signed copy of Dr. Lemmon's book, *Religion Helps*, that was a cherished gift to his Grandmother with a line of Dr. Lemmon's good humored teasing along with his signature.



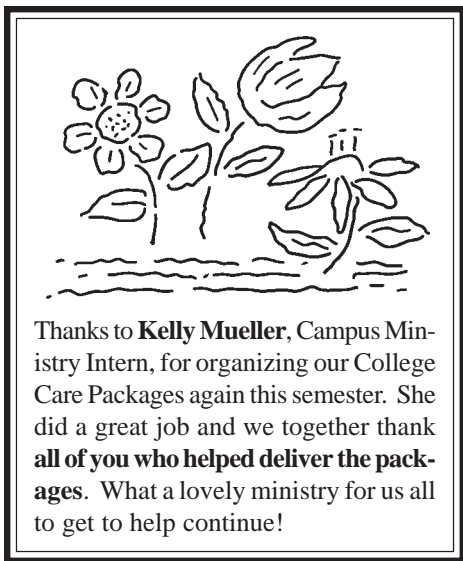
JYF = (grades 3 - 5)
 Chi Rho = (grades 6-8)
 CYF = (grades 9-12)

www.firstchristian.org/youth

JYF and Chi Rho will meet this Sunday, May 6th, after the 10:30am worship service until 2:00pm. We will be Partnered by Sally Robinson and will explore the ministry of Heifer International like we have never explored before! It will be good to meet together again – one week off is too much! ;)

If anyone would like to Partner lunch for our groups, please let me know.

CYF will meet next on the even Wednesdays of the month which are May 9th and May 23rd from 7:15 – 8:30pm. Those of us who have gathered love this new time and hope that others will as well. Music, movies and current events have been leading our discussions. Come along and check it out soon!



Thanks to **Kelly Mueller**, Campus Ministry Intern, for organizing our College Care Packages again this semester. She did a great job and we together thank **all of you who helped deliver the packages**. What a lovely ministry for us all to get to help continue!

Outdoor Pageantry!

If you enjoy watching outdoor marching music and pageantry, come join us on Monday, May 7th at 7 p.m. in the Cinema for a screening of the ESPN2 broadcast of the Drum Corps International World Championships from last summer. For more information, call Russ at 875-5038.

OH, WELL!

What do you do when the well runs dry? You prime the pump, right? Our little well in the narthex has not been “full to overflowing.” In fact, most Sundays it’s been dry. Since January we’ve received only \$2.87 for helping supply a well in Kenya. But individuals and CWF groups have “primed the pump” by sending contributions to the CWF treasurer, Royanne Tracy. Since July 1, 2006 through April 22, 2007, our church members have contributed \$676.62 toward the Regional Women’s Ministries mission goal of supplying a well for this drought-ridden East Africa country. Because of lack of water and failure of crops, hunger has reached catastrophic levels.

So drastic has been the need for a water well in Kenya that the Women’s Ministries have been contributing toward this goal since July, 2005. Since that date our local church contributions have totaled \$980.31. The Regional project will continue through June 30, 2007.

However, for our 175th Anniversary our church members will begin contributing towards another Heifer International Gift Ark in May. (Our church has provided four Gift Arks in the past.) Therefore, the little well in the narthex will be available only one more Sunday (May 6). However, anyone who still wishes to contribute through June 30 may send a contribution to Royanne Tracy, 3081 S. Winding Trail Dr.

Ladies...Do You Know What Interplay Is?

Interplay is a philosophy or practice dedicated to ease and fullness, peace and diversity, creativity and community, development and change. Wow! Coletta Eichenberger, our speaker for this year’s women’s Retreat, is a certified Interplay leader. She offers her unique blend of spirituality, Interplay and bodywork to those who seek wholeness and to live more joyful, grace-filled lives. Interplay can be therapeutic without the therapy, while learning things about ourselves and others, but emphasizing community building, especially among women. Hope you join us on June 23, 2007 at Dulany Hall, Columbia College from 9:00 to 3:30. The cost is \$5 and includes lunch. Any questions, call Mary Taylor at 573-687-2256 or e-mail marytaylor52@hotmail.com

Broadway Christian Church Lecture Series

This lecture series will be held on Tuesdays at Broadway CC (2601 W. Broadway) from 7:00-8:30 p.m. These lectures are free and open to the public without reservations.

On **May 8** “Sex, Politics and the Ethics of Stem Cell Research” will be the title of the lecture by Dr. Bill Bondeson, M.U. Curators’ Professor of Philosophy and Ethics. Dr. Bondeson, who for years has taught medical ethics to M.U. medical students will look at scientific procedures dealing with stem cell research, the various types of stem cells, and the political turmoil surrounding the ethics of stem cell usage.

Other lectures are: May 15- “White Nationalism on the American Landscape” by Dr. Larry Brown; May 22- “Global Terrorism! Conflict Resolution?” by Dr. Paul Wallace; May 29- “Providing Vital Involvement in Our Own Aging” by Dr. Bob Dolliver. Watch for descriptions of the upcoming lectures in the newsletter or check the church bulletin board for the complete list.



BOOK ORNER

The Journey, by Billy Graham. Subtitled “**How to Live By Faith in an Uncertain World.**” As he shares his own stories, including some regrets, Billy gives us advice born of his wisdom and deep love for God.

What kind of a journey has your life been so far? Have you felt overwhelmed by circumstances, unmet goals, disappointment, heartache? Does the journey have to be this way, or can it be different? With God’s help you can begin again and find joy in learning to walk with Him every day.

We all know this author, preacher, evangelist who has delivered the gospel message to more people face-to-face than anyone else in history and has ministered on every continent of the world. Join him once more in this one-of-a-kind road map, with all roads guiding you back to God.

On the Book Cart

The Visitor

First Christian Church

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Minister Emeritus: Dr. Sam S. Langley

Campus Ministry Intern: Kelly Mueller

Music Staff:

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

Mother's Day Out: Tracy Westhoff, Director

Support Staff:

Kay Beissenherz, Administrative Secretary
fcc@firstchristian.org

Jim Burt, Custodian

Fred Mottaz, Business Manager
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Sunday's Schedule-May 6, 2007

Van Driver: Carol Roder *Telephone:* Debbie Potthast

8:30 Early Worship, Sanctuary

Worship Asst: Bettie and Charlie Koelling
Elder for 8:30 Service: Brenda Mosby

Communion Preparation:

Roy and Joy Overacre, Kayla and Kyle Pikop

9:30 Church School

Church School Greeter: Gerry Coon

Nursery Volunteer: Amy LaHue

10:30 Worship in Sanctuary

Sermon: Dr. John J. Yonker *Liturgist:* College/Youth

10:30 Elders: Anne and Tommy Tomlin, Shirley Park

Deacons: The Campbell Team

Greeters:

Joy Duren, *North Door*

Donna and Will Houston, *South Door*

Ushers: The Pavlovich Team

Banner Bearers: TBA

Candlelighters: Makali Hawkins

Flower Ministry:

arranged: Pat Rainey

delivered: Barb Rothenberger

Evangelism Calls: Anne Campbell

This Week (May 6-May 12)

- Sun. - Food Drive Sunday
- Old Time Hymn Sing (both services)
- Awards and Scholarships Presentation at the 10:30 worship service
- JYF (grades 3-5) and Chi Rho (grades 6-8) after 10:30 worship until 2:00 p.m.
- Mon. - Drennan Singers, 6:15 p.m., Sanctuary
- Tue. - STARS Planning meeting, 9:30 a.m., Keystone Rm.
- Bible Study, 10:30 a.m., Morris Parlor
- Trustees' Meeting, 3:30 p.m.
- Yakama Mission Trip Planning Mtg., 7:00 p.m., Keystone Room
- Wed. - Shawl Ministry, 10:00 a.m., Mary Tompson's
- Men's Lunch, 11:30 a.m., Senior Center
- CYF (grades 9-12), 7:15-8:30 p.m.
- Back Room (college group), 8:45-10:00 p.m.
- Fri. - College Mission Trip to Tucson, AZ begins

