



**The 75th Annual Christmas Pageant
December 16, 7 pm**

PAGEANT CLASSIFIEDS - WANTED:

Three wise men

Adult Males, preferably wise.
Ability to sing and walk. (at the same time)
Ability to look good in period garb.
(preference given to those who have not
been kings recently)

Shepherds

5th Grade boys and dads (or important men in their lives).

Angel of the Lord

Female
Senior in High School
Active in the life of the church.

Choristers and Rainbow Bells

Elementary and younger children to sing favorite Christmas Carols.
Practice will be on Sunday mornings during the River of Life Sunday School Hour
December 2, 9, 16.

*Pageant Note: Only children who have practiced and/or connected with the Pageant preparation will be involved in the production. Any children who show up on the night of the Pageant expecting to be a part of the production will instead be invited to participate as members of the gathered congregation. Thank you. ~Jimmy



Jimmy Spear To Be Installed!!

November 25 will be a special Sunday at First Christian Church as we celebrate the installation of the Rev. Jimmy Spear as our newest Associate Minister. Having come to us on November 1 from the First Christian Church of Louisiana, Missouri, Jimmy has already begun working with the children and youth and assuming other duties in his role as Associate Minister.

Both worship services will include a brief service of installation, singing of great hymns, "We Sing Your Mighty Power, O God," "Marching to Zion," "Restless Weaver," and "Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether". The 10:30 service will feature a brass quartet presenting the prelude, "God Is gone Up in Jubilation," by N. Rimsky-Korsakov, an offertory on "Lord, You Give the Great Commission," by Alan Nellis, and the postlude, March from "Occasional Oratorio" by G.F. Handel. The Chancel Choir's anthem will be "A Song of Thanks" by Carl Nygard.

Scripture readings found in Jeremiah 23:1-6 and Luke 1:68-79 will serve as the texts for Dr. Yonker's installation sermon.

Fair Trade Store Nearly Sold Out!

Our Grand Opening on Sunday, November 18th, could have almost been a Grand Closing by the end of the day thanks to many generous shoppers. We only have a fourth of our inventory left and are thankful that our vendors are shipping us one more shipment each. We should be getting new items in throughout the next two weeks. When these goods are sold, we will simply close the store and await the next stage of our Fair Trade conversation within the World Outreach Department. We are overwhelmed and thrilled with the response to the store. Thanks for shopping Fair Trade!

Thanks also to the 22 people who came for training to run the store last week! It was a good, brief time together that I have been told was helpful. There are still time slots in the next couple of weeks that are open. Let me know if you would like to get trained one on one and help with the workings of the store.

Although we had 15 free ideas for advertising the store, we have decided to do only two because of our initial great response. We will keep the store within our church community and the word of mouth that is generated by our own shopping during this six week trial time of the store. Once again, thank you for supporting trade that benefits artisans and farmers from around the world directly.

~Amy Kay



Heeerrreee's Johnny!

As we approach the holiday season many of us are already making airline reservations and checking gas prices in anticipation of trips across the country and across the state to be at home with family at Christmas. I was talking with someone last week commenting on the warm weather and swift passing of time, both of us saying, "Can it be Christmas already?" Well, not quite, but almost! And so we are gearing things up around the church for Hanging of the Greens, the Christmas pageant, Christmas Eve services and all the other things which go into making the holiday season truly a season of celebrating the birth of Christ.

But, of course, before all that happens, this week there is Thanksgiving! Another person mentioned just the other day that Thanksgiving is actually their family's favorite holiday because it is just a time to be together with family and friends. There is no gift buying, there are no special services to plan, it is just a time to eat and nap and watch football and relax. And it sounds good to me!

As we gather with family and friends this week, let us take as much time as possible simply to enjoy these good things. When we sit down to eat on Thursday afternoon, as we begin to pray, let us open our eyes and give thanks for all the goodness of life around the table. Let us thank God for the presence of the people around the table who have stuck with us through the years, who have cried with us and laughed with us, who believed in us and encouraged us and challenged us.

Let us give thanks for them all, even those who are no longer with us. I hope the memories of those who are no longer at the table not only bring tears to our eyes, but smiles to our faces, as we remember how much their lives have meant to us, and how poor we would be if we had never shared their lives.

Before we rush off into Christmas, let us linger long at the table of thanksgiving. Let us take in every moment, reflecting on every good thing, and offer our lives again in gratitude to One who is the source of all life and love and goodness, that we might become such a source of life and love and goodness to all people with whom we live and work and play, and whom God sends our way in the days to come.

News of the congregation

We are saddened to learn of the death of **Betty Mai** who died early Friday morning, November 16 at the Lenoir Health Care Center. Along with her husband, **Charlie**, and children, **Nancy** and **Chuck**, Betty moved to Columbia in 1966 and united with our congregation. They left in 1973, and came back in 1978 when Betty again became an active member of our church, and became secretary in the church office during the ministry of Sam Langley. She was preceded in death by Charlie in 2002, and their daughter, Nancy Jeanne Kreighbaum, who died in 1988. Betty is survived by her son, Chuck Mai of Edmond, Okla., a granddaughter, Kristy Peterson of Olathe, Kan., a grandson, Scott Kreighbaum of Lawrence, Kan., Chuck's three children, Eric Mai of Norman, Okla., and Chelsea Mai and Justin Mai of Edmond, and by two sisters and a brother. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m., Saturday, December 8, at the Lenoir Epple Chapel.

Our sympathy is also extended to **Nancy and Ken Watson** on the death of Nancy's mother, **Alice Keller** who died Sunday morning, November 18 at the Lenoir Health Care Center. She was 84 years old. In addition to Nancy and Ken and their daughters, **Heather** and **Erica**, Alice is survived by her son, **Jim Keller** and his family of Cincinnati, Ohio. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m., Sunday, November 25 at Broadway Christian Church.

Thanks to the members of the **Hand Bell Choir** for their beautiful prelude, offertory and communion music presented at the late service on November 18. Thanks to **Harlan Hackett** for his wonderful solo, "Bless This House," at the early service. And, thanks to **Donna Houston**, and **Mary Daugherty** for presenting the Minute for History at the worship services last Sunday.

It was a joy to witness the blessing and dedication of **Tommy Gay Evans'** granddaughter, eight month-old **Meenakshi Elizabeth Evans**, at the 8:30 service on November 18. Meena and her two year old brother, **Vikram**, and her parents, **Darren and Sarita Evans** live in the Phoenix, Arizona area.

Mary Ann Niedergerke was admitted to Boone Hospital last Friday, November 16. **Elizabeth Hensley** is at home recuperating from a recent fall. After spending some days

in the hospital recently, **Norma Miller, D.K. Seltsam**, and **Rena Moore** have all returned home. **Steve Duren's wife, Debbie**, has returned home to continue recuperating from recent surgery. **Mike Randerson's father, Randy Randerson**, has been released from the hospital and moved to The Bluffs Nursing Home.

Elizabeth Doty and her husband, **Dabney**, have moved to live with their daughter, **Carol Thomas** and her husband, **Millard**, for the duration of Elizabeth's illness.

Edith Taylor will be spending some time in Texas. Friends may write or call her at: 2712 International Blvd., Weslaco, TX 78596 c/o Alice Richardson (ph. 956-969-2948).

Thank you!

We are truly grateful that the congregation supports all the recovery programs that it does, including our group. You may never realize just how many people you have helped (and their families and communities). We are so thankful that you have. ~Sister to Sister



Thank you to the flower ministry for the flowers that you sent while I was in the hospital. They cheered things up.

~Ruth Brandon



Chanda Hughey-Nov. 25
Margaret Hamlin-Nov. 27
Bill Niedergerke-Nov. 27
Ray Lentz-Nov. 28
Doug Tarwater-Nov. 29
Maxwell Crane-Nov. 29
Christy Lowe-Nov. 30
Charlie Koelling-Dec. 1

175th Anniversary News - Genie Rogers

November Theme: Thanksgiving

Ornaments and FCC Logo Items

These next few weeks will be the beginning of the Christmas season. December 2 will be the first Sunday of Advent. Christmas trees will be going up and thoughts turn to the celebration of Christmas. You will want to have your gold Christmas ornament ready to hang on your Christmas tree this year. A table will be set up after both services in the Narthex for sale of the FCC ornaments this Sunday. Tote bags, hats, note cards and post cards will also be for sale. The cost is \$12.00 for one ornament or 2 for \$20.00. They will be available during the week in the church office.

A new black design/black handled tote bag with the church image is only \$5.00. It is a great size to be used as a book bag.

Baseball hats with the church name embroidered on them in tan and gray are available in two different styles. They are \$8.00 per cap.

Note cards tied in bundles of 5 of the ink drawing of the church are available for \$2.00 and bundles of 5 of the stained glass Christian College window postcards are available for \$1.00. These are great gifts as we approach the holiday season.

Quilt

The quilting has been finished and it is now being bound. It will be ready for an unveiling at the Christmas (December 5) Fellowship Dinner. The following day it will be hung in the historical room for display. For the *Visitor* published the first week of December, Mary Tompson has written a detailed account about the making of the quilt and the many people who have been involved. What a treasure this will be for all of us.

Fellowship Dinner

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, December 6 for a special Christmas Fellowship Dinner. The program will be *The Missourians*, a group of acappella Christmas carolers who will be dressed in Dickens-style attire. The fee we will be paying them for their appearance is donated by the group to the Thomas Mills University of Missouri-Columbia Singers Endowment Fund, which provides funds to the University Singers. Many of us remember Tom Mills, a long time member of our church and long time church choir director. His son, Tom Mills, Jr. has also served as choir director at FCC. The vocal group makes only a limited number of appearances, so we feel fortunate to be able to welcome them to our church. Invite a friend to come to church with you that evening and bring your family. This is a night that will be enjoyable and get everyone in the holiday spirit. As usual, the supper will be a carry-in and we ask that those who can, bring a dish and some extra for those who are no longer able to prepare food.

After the program, the quilt will be unveiled for everyone to see before it is put in the historical room on permanent display later in the week.

Special Stories

Mary Bancroft has reported a delay in printing the booklet of stories so you have another week or two to get your special story to her. It can be a funny recollection, an experience, a special event in your life that created a bond with the church or anything you want to write about. These stories will be collected and bound in a pamphlet to share with each other. Please turn stories in to the church office, or e-mail to Mary Bancroft at: mbancr01@juno.com



Minute for History

A special thank you to Mary Daugherty in the late service and Donna Houston in the early service for reading this month's Minute for History. It was a thoughtful and special reminder of our need to meet the challenge of preparing for the future and to plant a "peach tree to bear fruit" for the next generation, as we have been so richly blessed. Thanks to Ken Watson for writing this heartfelt reminder.

The Building of Rickman Center

In 1949, Lester Rickman was called to be the State Secretary of the Missouri Missionary Society. During the 1950's money was raised in a Capital Fund Campaign to provide better but still centrally located office space for the MO Association of Christian Churches, Higher Education, and a new conference center to serve churches with new programs. Over 1 million dollars was raised with \$118,000 allocated to a new office building and \$235,000 for the conference center.

Rev. O. Eugene Moore was called by Dr. Rickman to be the Associate General Secretary of the MO Association of Christian Churches and the Executive Secretary of the Department of Religious Edu-

(continued on back)

The Building of Rickman Center (Cont')

caution. His duties involved the supervision of the building of the state office building in 1961 and later the camp and conference center, which became known as the Rickman Center.

Two hundred acres were purchased just south of Jefferson City on Highway 54, and a planning committee was established to hone ideas of what kind of a facility was wanted for youth, college and adult camping, and retreats. The final plan consisted of a central dining room, assembly hall, and three clusters of three kinds of cabins that would house up to 12-14 people each. All would be flexible to accommodate different ages and sexes. Special areas would be designated for "rustic camping" and for a retreat center, plus a swimming pool.

The central building, completed and dedicated in October 1967, was a cause of celebration for the Christian Church in Missouri. With the completion of the one building, \$189,000 of the \$235,000 budget had been spent. The estimated cost of one housing unit was \$32,500. Building plans came to a halt due to shortage of funds. Dr. Rickman chose to wait until the State Assembly would approve another capital fund campaign. That meant there would be no camps or conferences on the grounds as intended. But Gene Moore was determined to have the grounds open by June of 1968 for campers and retreats. He proposed building 10 temporary cabins on the west side of the assembly building in an area to be used for rustic camping, which would not interfere with the adopted Master Plan. He worked this into the remaining budget by using all volunteer help, a "concrete crew of preachers," and by tapping every Christian Church source in the state for building material discounts.

With the cooperation of many people, a hearty and committed group of workers with an imaginative overseer, the 10 cabins and a central bathroom, with a sewer lagoon, were completed in time for Chi Rho camp in June of 1968. These cabins are still in use today.

Since its beginning many groups - local, state, and national, both church and secular - have used the modernized facilities. First Christian has benefited widely from its use. Not only have our youth attended camps and conferences there, but so have our elders and women's ministries, and other groups. In addition, through the years our church has used the facilities for all-church planning meetings, CWF retreats, family camps, college-age retreats, and various other meetings. This was all because of the foresight of Gene Moore, a long-time member of First Christian.

~Gene Moore and Muriel Leach

Mailing Delays: We have experienced some post office delays in the last few weeks with the newsletter. The post office is busy this time of year and because our mailing is sent at the bulk rate the post office can delay it when it deems necessary. We hope this will not occur often, but when it does we'd like to let you know that the *Visitor* newsletter is posted on the First Christian Church website at www.firstchristian.org. In fact, it is ready to view *in color* on **Wednesday afternoons** and you don't have to wait for the mail at all! Check out the newsletter tab on the website to view all the newsletters for the last six months!



Heartbeats of Faith Campaign

The Churchwide Healthcare Program is the health insurance program available to clergy (active and retired), missionaries, and church workers in congregations, regions and general ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). By action of the General Assembly in 1971, the Churchwide Health Care program was created with the Pension Fund acting as trustee. More than 2,900 church servants and their families rely on the Churchwide Health Care program for their primary medical, prescription, dental, and vision insurance.

The campaign will assure the sustainability of the Churchwide Healthcare Program in a self-funded program. The trustees of the Churchwide Healthcare program were confronted with the ongoing management issues including: increasing costs, declining participating membership, and a substantial debt. The viability of the program was challenged.

The General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) gathered in Portland, Oregon, in July 2005, was asked to make a critical decision: the church needed to renew its strong commitment to churchwide health care and take steps to support it, or face the probable demise of this program.

Gifts to the Heartbeats of Faith Campaign will be invested in the new Health Care Benefit Reserve Fund. The fund principal is available to:

- Manage program costs,
- Sustain program viability,
- Offset claims in excess of premiums.

Income earned from the Health Care Benefit Reserve Fund is available to:

- Subsidize health care premiums for older (60+years) health plan participants, pensioners who have great financial need, and new church pastors.
- Support wellness programs for clergy and other church workers.

Many of our friends, Harsh & Frances Brown, Parker & Jean Rossman, Sally Robinson, Barbara Allen (former Northeast Area Minister) to name a few, rely on the Churchwide Health Care and would have difficulty getting other insurance if this insurance were to stop. If you would like more information, visit the website: www.heartbeatsoffait.org If you would like to make a donation send your check to:

Heartbeats of Faith Campaign
c/o Pension Fund
130 E. Washington Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

~World Outreach Department

(youth this week)

(Youth groups will be on break over the thanksgiving holiday weekend.)

The next youth gatherings will be:

CYF

Meets each Wednesday at church from 7:00–8:30 p.m.

This week WE EAT
(Wednesday, 28 November)
7:00–8:30 p.m.
Bring \$5. We will eat dinner out.
Meet at church.

Chi-Rho

Meets again December 2
4:00–5:30 p.m.

Junior Youth Fellowship

Meets again December 9
After 10:30 worship until 1:30 p.m.

Friends of Rickman Annual Dinner

You are invited to join the Yonker and Spear table at a special holiday dinner honoring the ministry of The Rickman Center. Rickman is the conference facility for the Christian Church in Mid-America and the summer church camp site for the Northeast Area.

The “Friends of Rickman Dinner” is an annual meal served in the Rickman Center dining hall. A great menu and after dinner entertainment will round out the evening. Disciples from all over the region gather for this most important event. The dinner is free but also serves as a major fundraiser for the Rickman Center. Pledges and offerings will be welcomed.

Mark the date, **Friday, November 30**, in the evening. Please call Jimmy Spear by Monday, Nov. 26 to make your reservation. Transportation can be arranged.

Rev. Jimmy Spear presently serves on the Rickman Commission.

Weekly Report

November 18, 2007

Received \$7,941.00

Received to Date \$193,722.32

Attendance - 265

(includes early worship - 63)

Youth Ministry Update

I have had the great privilege to meet with parents and youth associated with our three older youth groups, the JYF, Chi-Rho, and CYF. We have made plans in regard to the three groups’ activity in the life of the church.

The **Junior Youth Fellowship** (3rd-5th graders) will meet regularly on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month following the morning worship est. 12:00-1:30 p.m. Parents and I will facilitate these gatherings.

The **Chi-Rho** (6th-8th graders) will meet regularly on Sunday evenings at the church from 4:00-5:30 p.m.

The **Christian Youth Fellowship** (9th-12th graders) will meet regularly on Wednesday evenings. For the Month of November they will be taking me to their favorite places to eat. These EAT OUT gatherings will allow us to share casually our stories and build relationships within the group.

I will be in search for “just the right adult partners” to journey with the two older youth groups. If you or someone you know in the church would be a great fit, a youth group partner (adult sponsor), please let me know. (i.e.: a great role model, someone who is flexible, of good character, generally nice, would relate well to teenagers.)

All three youth groups will spend time in practices of spiritual/character development and growth, service to neighbor, and having social fun together. As with all things related to the church calendar of activities, news of the present week or upcoming changes to the schedule will be listed in the *Visitor*.

In these short three weeks I note the amount of really great kids in this church. I continue to be impressed with their enthusiasm for worship and youth activities. I welcome your calls and emails. ~Jimmy Spear

Movie Night

Friday, November 30th
7:00 p.m., 3rd Floor Cinema
(child care provided)

Movie: “About a Boy”
Hugh Grant (2002)

Brummett Harrah Group

Brummett Harrah Group and spouses will celebrate the Christmas season together at the home of:

Harry and Serena White
December 12, 1:00 p.m.

Bring finger food and your appetite. Please bring a can of food per person for the food bank.

Election Day Thank You

Thank you to everyone who helped make the 10th annual Election Day luncheon a success. What a system! I estimate over 50 volunteers made it happen and while I would love to individually list everyone and give them a big hug for their help I don’t think we have the space. We raised close to \$1700.00 that will go to our youth groups and CWF missions. Thank you!

Holiday Shopping Day

Home Alone/STARS are planning a Seniors Day Out or Holiday Shopping Day on Wednesday, Dec. 5th from 10:00-2:00. Do you need help with holiday shopping or errands? Call the church (449-7265) or Carol Slusher (874-4902) by Dec. 1st. Friends are looking forward to making this a great day together.

STARS (55 and older)



Mark your calendars for a
Soup Lunch and
Christmas Matinee

December 13, 2007
11:30 – 3:30

The movie is
“The Christmas Carol”
(Free Will offering)
Make reservations in the church
office (449-7265) by Dec. 11th.

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-Nov. 25, 2007

Van Driver: Carol Slusher *Telephone:* Helen Stemmons

8:30 Early Worship, Sanctuary

Worship Asst: Barb Rothenberger, Sue Fink, Colleen Nilges

Elder for 8:30 Service: Marvin Tracy

Communion Preparation:

Joni Cupp, Pat Ritchie, Drew Gieseke

9:30 Church School

Church School Greeter: Doris Neidhardt

Nursery Volunteer: TBA

10:30 Worship in Sanctuary

Sermon: Dr. John J. Yonker *Liturgist:* Anne Campbell

10:30 Elders: Brenda and Don Mosby, Rich Hoepfner

Deacons: The Stanley Team

Greeters:

Will and Donna Houston, *North Door*

Jay and Chris Creasy, *South Door*

Ushers: Scott Team

Banner Bearers: Gavin Rose and Jack Creasy

Candlelighters: Julia Bower and Sam Creasy

Flower Ministry:

Arranged: Debbie Potthast and Erin Bower

Delivered: Sara, Susan and Jessica Klockow

Evangelism Calls: Sara Klockow

This Week (Nov. 25-Dec. 1)

- Sun. - Installation Service for Rev. Jimmy Spear,
during 10:30 worship-reception
following in Fellowship Hall
- Lenoir Health Care Worship, 3:30 p.m.
- Pathfinders Date Night, 6:30 p.m., Parlor
- Mon. - Drennan Singers, 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary
- Tue. - Drennan Group, 9:00 a.m., Drennan Room
- Bible Study, 10:30 a.m., Morris Parlor
- Wed. - Hannah Jones Group, 9:30 a.m., Lenoir 2nd
Floor Apts.
- Men's Lunch, 11:30 a.m., Senior Center
- Ladies Book Club, 12:30 p.m., Morris Parlor
- CYF (grades 9-12), 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- Fri. - Movie Night, 7:00 p.m., 3rd Floor Cinema

