



Welcome New Members!



Those worshipping at the 10:30 am service last Sunday, March 30, were thrilled to witness the baptisms of **Richard Martin, Steve Bratner, Haley Evers, Bryan Grieme-Verslues, Kelsey Korman, Mamie Meenehan** and **Jeff Ruffolo**. In addition to a special worship service, we also enjoyed this year's Pastor's Class banner which hung by the baptistry and an informal reception.

Thomas Patrick Calnan responded to the invitation at the 10:30 service on March 30 and united with our congregation by transfer of his membership from the First Christian Church of Hannibal. He is a painter by trade who also enjoys music and exercise in his free time. He resides at 303 N. 10th. Welcome Pat!

Pastor's Class

We were thrilled to enjoy a four week class plus weekend retreat with eight youth and their Elders throughout the last months. John was the primary teacher for this endeavor and he covered many of the core beliefs of we who call ourselves "Christian" and, further, who we are in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). You are welcome to check out the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall to see pictures of our experiences together which were also led in part by Amy Kay and Jimmy. We had a good time and are thankful for these who participated: **Josh Browne** with **Al Browne, Brendan Browne** with **Eric Arnett, Haley Evers** with **Tracy Evers, Bryan Grieme-Verslues** with **Dave Nichols, Sally Kessell** with **Anne Campbell** and **Brenda Martin, Kelsey Korman** with **Mike Korman, Mamie Meenehan** with **Brenda Martin**, and **Jeff Ruffolo** with **Jeff Creasy**.

Sunday Services

Wear your walking shoes because this Sunday, April 6, we will be journeying towards Emmaus together. To bring the text from Luke 24 to life, we will have special music, new and old hymns and preaching based upon the interesting story.

The choir's anthem at the 10:30 service will be "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me".

Summer Ministry Internship

Beginning in 2002, our church has benefited from offering Internships to our college students. Students have reported gaining much from their experiences working in the church day in and day out. This summer we are fortunate to once again be able to offer an Internship for the program areas of Children, Youth, and Campus. The Intern will work most closely with Jimmy (Children and Youth) and as time permits will work with Amy Kay as well (Campus). If you are interested in applying for this summer's Internship, please talk with Amy Kay by **Monday, April 7th**. An application form will be given to you at that time. Thanks!

Church Eat-Out

Friday - April 4
 5:30 p.m.
 Bob Evans Restaurant
 Everyone Welcome!

Weekly Report

March 30, 2008
 Received \$5,093.25
 Received to Date \$345,039.11
 Attendance - 344
 (includes early worship -70)

Heeerrreee's Johnny!

I hope last Sunday's worship service was as much fun for you as it was for me! That sounds strange I know; we don't normally talk about worship as being "fun". Maybe a better word would be "exciting" or "inspiring", but hopefully you get the point. It is always fun for me to conduct a service of baptism, and last Sunday's late service was no exception.

While spending several weeks and a week-end retreat with young people and their adult mentors, we have an opportunity to talk about some basic things like the meaning of baptism and the reason why we take communion every Sunday morning. It is always great to review with them the history and great heritage of Christian life we share as members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). And I never get tired of talking about the ministry of our congregation with young people and adults who are just becoming aware of the long journey of faith shared by members of First Christian Church in Columbia.

Very often as I step down into the baptism during sessions of pastor's classes, I remind them of how long this building has stood on this corner, and what a long line of people they are joining who have been immersed in that very place. Thousands! And when the morning of their own baptism comes, it is a joy to watch the expressions of their faces: anticipation as they wait their turn; amazement as they discover the water is not freezing cold; joy and relief as I raise them up with water pouring down off their heads and shoulders.

As I watch them walk up the steps to dry off, I always say a quick prayer that they will stay wet for a long time! That they will remember that day for the rest of their lives! That they will never forget the public declaration they have made to live in and with and for the spirit of Christ.

As you witnessed those five young people and two adults baptized last Sunday morning, or as you have read about it just now, I call upon you to offer your own prayers for them; to learn their names in the VISITOR, to say a prayer for them tonight and every night you pray for the church; to covenant with me to support and encourage them to stay wet; to grow up into Christ; to keep living out their declaration to live as faithful disciples of Christ. If you do that it will be really fun to see what happens to them, and to us together!

CAFÉ

ChristianActionFellowshipEducation

Wednesday Evenings

*Great Hot Meals Served
Classes, choirs, and new opportunities
for you and your family to learn and grow
in spirit and faith.*

5:30-6:15 – Dinner
\$5 adults
\$3 kids 12 & under
\$15 cap for a family
Under 5 free

6:20 - Devotion

6:30-7:30 - Adult Programming
Child Care Available

April 9 CAFÉ

Menu:

Spring Chicken Soup
Farmhouse Cheddar Muffins
Triple Treat D'Lite 3 flavors to choose
from - Chocolate, Butterscotch,
Pistachio

- * Self-defense for Women
- * Bible Study
- * CYF (grades 9-12)

Call the church office (449-7265) for dinner reservations by noon on Tuesday.

Each Wednesday night a crew of a few are needed to help make Café happen. A cashier is needed before dinner, a handy detail setup person at 5:00 p.m., and after dinner several dish/kitchen cleaners. Please see Jimmy, Amy Kay or the Café bulletin board to sign up!



During my recent illness I was given a beautiful Prayer Shawl made by Millie Bolman. I am so grateful for it and will love using it.

Thanks to CWF for the Easter Card. I love to get cards and this one is special.
~Dubby Muir

News of the congregation

After spending several days at Rusk Rehabilitation Center to recuperate from surgery, **Don Seltsam** has returned to his home on Maple Grove Way. His father, **D.K. Seltsam** has moved from his long-time home north of Columbia to live next door to **Don**, at 381 Maple Grove Way, Columbia, 65201.

Jane Anne Hackett has returned home after spending two days at Boone Hospital last week. **Bob Leach** has moved from the Lenoir Woods Health Center to Rusk Rehabilitation Center to continue therapy in regaining strength after a recent time in the hospital.

We are saddened to learn of the death of **Margot Lubensky** who died at her home on Friday, March 28. Margot had lived in Columbia and had been a member of our congregation for many years along with her first husband, the late **H.F. "Pat" Patterson** and her two sons, **Chris** and **David**. A funeral service conducted by John Yonker was held in our sanctuary on Tuesday morning, April 1. Our sympathy is extended to her husband, **Earl** of their home, her sons, **Christopher** and his wife, **Jan**, and **David** and his wife, **Shelley**, four grandchildren, her brother **Elwood Truman**, sister, **Ellen Gilbertson**, and several nieces and nephews.



Dortheda Leath-Mar. 30
Bryan Leath-Apr. 6
Charles Scott-Apr. 8
Angela Allen-Hylen-Apr. 8
Yvonne Clark-Apr. 9
Troy Sisson-Apr. 9
Laura Daugherty-Apr. 10
Erich Unterschultz-Apr. 10
Sadie Villalpando-Apr. 11
Smiley Herrin-Apr. 12
Alan Bancroft-Apr. 12
Willie Harris-Apr. 12

(youth)

@ first christian

April 6

JYF (grades 3-5) 12:00-1:30

Chi-Rho (grades 6-8) 4:00-5:30

CYF - April 9

Meet at the CAFÉ for dinner at 5:30. CYF meets 6:30-8:00 on the 3rd floor.

Mission Trip: June 8-14

Greensburg, Kansas

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Church camp forms for all camps are still being accepted.

Potential church camp counselors: see Jimmy if you are interested.

The Good Samaritan

The River of Life...
Christian Education for
Children K - 5th grade.
3rd Floor starting @
9:30 a.m.

College Notes

Please pass along your current physical address to us in the next couple weeks, friendly nomads, because we would love to deliver a college care package to you... at your current residence! You may email, facebook, call, tell us at the Back Room or worship – do whatever you wish, but pass that info along and goodies will be yours when you need them most. ;)

** IMPORTANT VBS DATE CHANGE **



Due to some scheduling conflicts, the dates for Vacation Bible School have been changed to **Sunday, July 6 through Thursday, July 10th**. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Volunteers are needed for the following positions so we can start planning our exciting week at Power Lab VBS. The program materials are easy to use and I will help you organize everything. Please call Jessica Humble at 441-8021 if you want to be a part of this amazing week!

- Cinema Science Leader (Chadder Chipmunk Videos)
- Bible Blast Leader (Bible Stories)
- Wacky Works Crafts & Missions Leader
- Hyperspeed Games Leader
- Squeaky Beaker's Preschool Leaders
- Lab Crew Leaders for Elementary & Preschool

Vacation Bible School
@ First Christian Church
July 6-10 ~ Evenings

Child Abuse Awareness Month - April 2008



BOOK ORNER

An estimated 906,000 children are victims of abuse & neglect every year. The rate of victimization is 12.3 children per 1,000.

April is National Child Abuse Awareness Month. For the next 4 weeks we will share statistics, news and resources that can help us all be aware of this very important issue. In the coming weeks, an effort will be made to review "Safe Ministries" policies that are in use in many churches and evaluate our own policies and procedures. If you are interested in this subject and would like to be a part of that review, contact Rev. Spear.

After a couple weeks of "difficult" books, we offer A Touch of Hope, a Caregivers Survival Guide by Jana Carrington, a member of this congregation as she was growing up. This book was purchased for our library by Helen and Perry Stemmons who thoughtfully had the author autograph it.

Some of our church members are or will be serving as caregivers. This little white book with coil binding was created by the author's need to alert caregivers to the facts regarding caregiver stress. She experienced this stress first hand and believes it contributed to a subsequent diagnosis of breast cancer. As a survivor, she felt inspired to write this guide after finding limited support materials to self-care in the marketplace.

The book will educate and encourage caregivers to attend to their own well-being first and be strengthened to attend to duties and responsibilities toward their loved ones.

~On the Book Cart

Ladies' Book Club

On Wednesday, April 23 at 12:30 p.m. the Ladies' Book Club meets in Morris Parlor to discuss *Hardship and Hope...Missouri Women Writing about Their Lives, 1820-1920*. One of the editors, Carla Waal, graciously agreed to join us. Laura Estes, a Book Club member, will provide a light lunch. Please kindly respond to Linda Hutton at 442-5423 or lhutton50@hotmail.com by Monday, April 21, if you plan to attend and would like lunch.

The Visitor

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Cheryl Nichols, Choir Director

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Support Staff:

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Jim Burt, Custodian

Fred Mottaz, Business Manager
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Sunday's Schedule-April 6, 2008

Van Driver: Frank Boster *Telephone:* Nina Oliver

8:30 Early Worship, Sanctuary

Worship Asst: Sue Fink, Anne Linn, Judy Hall

Elder for 8:30 Service: Anne Campbell

Communion Preparation:

Larry and Millie Caringer, Eric Arnett

9:30 Church School

Church School Greeter: Gerry Coon

Nursery Volunteer: TBA

10:30 Worship in Sanctuary

Sermon: Rev. Amy Kay Pavlovich *Liturgist:* Jason Bent

10:30 Elders: Marsha and Tom Sisson, Joyce Stanley

Deacons: The Campbell Team

Greeters:

Sara Klockow, *North Door*

Colleen Nilges, *South Door*

Ushers: The Pavlovich Team

Banner Bearers: Makali Hawkins and Jadie Arnett

Candlelighters: Jacob and Josh Ripley

Flower Ministry:

Arranged by: Lisa Zimmer and Susan White

Delivered: Sharon and Steve Smith

Evangelism Calls: Anne Campbell

This Week (April 6-12)

- Sun. - Garage Sale, 8:00 a.m.-Noon, Fellowship Hall
(clean-up following until 3:00 p.m.)
- JYF (grades 3-5), 12:00-1:30 p.m.
- Chi-Rho (grades 6-8), 4:00-5:30 p.m.
- Mon. - Coffman-Watson Group, 7:00 p.m., Moray Kiehl's home
- Tue. - Bible Study, 10:30 a.m., Morris Parlor
- Wed. - Men's Lunch, 11:30 a.m., Senior Center
- **CAFÉ:** Dinner, 5:30-6:15
Devotion, 6:20
6:30 p.m. -
* Self-defense for Women
* Bible Study
- CYF (grades 9-12),
6:30-8:00
- Back Room (college group),
8:45-10:00 p.m.

