



Stewardship Kick-off – April 2008

Announcing the kick-off of the 2008-09 annual stewardship campaign...what I want to do is to tell you a little bit of what has been happening the last several weeks and what will happen in the near future.

For several weeks now all of the 12 functional departments have been meeting and planning the church's programs and activities for the coming year, and discussing the budgetary implications of these plans. I am sure that all of us believe that the church must operate as an intelligent, soundly budgeted organization and that we must carefully match our programs to our budgetary constraints. Thus the importance of the stewardship campaign – it determines program!!

For the next three weeks on Sunday mornings the bulletins and inserts will focus on Stewardship and our church's programs. There will be occasional "Minutes for Stewardship" presented on Sunday mornings and articles will appear in the church Visitor. You will receive a personal letter from the church – maybe two-but you will NOT be contacted personally by the committee regarding your pledge. We do ask that each of you consider this campaign carefully and prayerfully, and that you learn as much as possible about all of the church's programs so that you can be fully informed as you make your plans. Your commitment to stewardship will then be your own, a completely personal and private matter. We have set May 4 as the date for Commitment Sunday, the target date to receive your Estimate of Giving card. Of course not everyone will be able to fit this schedule so the campaign will continue for a few more

weeks. Periodic updates and progress reports will be made, all pointing to a Victory Sunday date of June 1 when the pledge total will be announced.

Based on these figures, the church Cabinet will then construct a budget which will be further considered by the Administrative Board and then brought to the congregation for final approval on June 22. We will be set to go then when the new church year begins July 1.

In conclusion I would like to tell a little story – a true one that happened to me right here a few weeks ago – and which I think, at least if broadly interpreted, may be a stewardship story. It happened on a Sunday morning and we were a bit early to church so I went into the sanctuary, probably to be sure I got my preferred seat. In the back of the narthex – under the stained glass window – was Gene Moore so I went back to say "Hi". This was just before Gene and Rena moved to St. Louis to be near their son and his family and we all knew the move was imminent. We talked a bit about several things when he reached out and took hold of the lapel of my jacket as if to pull me closer to emphasize what he was about to say, and he said "Cliff Tompson, I have been all over this country; I have been in churches all over this country, — and I want to tell you—this church at Tenth and Walnut is a great church. You just don't find churches like this. It really is very, very special! Be sure that all of you do all you can to make sure it stays this way!!" Well, I think we've all felt this church was special, but it really meant something to me to hear Gene Moore say it with such deep conviction and such sincerity. And we know, too, that Stewardship is not the only factor that makes a church great, but it certainly is an important factor and it is one factor that we can all do something about! So thank you for your prayerful considerations of your role in the Stewardship campaign as you give of your time and your talents and your resources to the work of our Lord through this wonderful church.

~Cliff Tompson

In Worship on April 20!

"Christ-like Compassion" is the theme of the 2nd Sunday of our stewardship campaign. The well-known story of the stoning of Stephen found in Acts 7:55-60, and the challenging call to grow up into Christ, recorded in 1 Peter 2:2-10, will be read during the worship services and serve as the basis for Dr. Yonker's sermon.

Amy Lightner will sing, "He That Keepeth Israel" by Adolph Schlooser at the 8:30 service, and the Chancel Choir will present their anthem, "I Love You, Lord" at the 10:30 service. The Chancel Bells will provide the prelude, "Song of Gladness", at the 10:30 service. Hymns will include "Take My Life and Let It Be," "Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service," and "A Hymn of Joy We Sing."

Welcome Don & Mary Ann!

It was a joy to welcome Don Hayden and Mary Ann Paluch into First Christian Church as they responded to the invitation at the 10:30 service last Sunday, April 13. A photograph and more information about them will be included in the next issue of the VISITOR.

Child Abuse Awareness Month - April 2008

Statistic: 36.7% of all women in prison and 14.4% of all men in prison in the United States were abused as children.

An Event to know about:

April 24

6:30-8:30

at **Boone Electric Cooperative**

Speaker: Kristi Turner, MSW, PLCSW, CAC
 Clinical Coordinator, Rainbow House

Topic: Be a hero: Save a Child

What everyone should know about child abuse (Sponsored by Rainbow House)

JYF & Chi-Rho talking about Bullying at meetings on Sunday, April 20

Heerrree's Johnny! will return next week!

Calling all Male Singers of First Christian Church!



Do you love to sing? Do you normally not have time to sing Bass or Tenor in the FCC Chancel Choir? Or...do you just consider yourself able to "Make a joyful noise"? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions – we need you! Consider yourself cordially invited and strongly encouraged to join your voice to our Men's choir – gathered especially for Mother's Day, Sunday, May 11.

We will rehearse this special music in the sanctuary right after conclusion of 10:30 services on Sundays April 20, April 27 and May 4. Questions? Ask Mary Bancroft or Cheryl Nichols.

Ladies: please submit your rsvp for Wed, April 23, Book Club luncheon to Linda Hutton, lhutton50@hotmail.com

Graduates

On Sunday, May 11, at the late service we would like to recognize all graduates who are affiliated with our church. If you are going to be a graduate, or know someone who is, please contact our church office and let us know of the good news.

Happy Birthday



Elizabeth Flanders-Apr. 21
Kristin McFarland-Apr. 21
Sandy Powell-Apr. 22
Abby Holman-Apr. 23
Joshua Garton-Apr. 23
Daniel Rees-Apr. 24
Betty Moon-Apr. 25
Alex Smith-Apr. 25
Millard Thomas-Apr. 25
Erin Peterson-Apr. 25
Bobbi McCormack-Apr. 25
Paul Speckhals-Apr. 26



News of the congregation

We are pleased to report that **Connie Guy** is recuperating nicely from a fall at church last Sunday morning. She is a patient on the 5th floor of University Hospital. Also, it was good to see **Tom Hughey** in church on Sunday morning after having surgery last week at Regional Hospital.

Bill Niedergerke has returned home after spending a few days at Boone Hospital last week. **George Ross** has also been released from the hospital, and is spending some days at The Bluffs Nursing Home to continue recovering from surgery last week.

Ken Bright, son of **Ed Bright** and nephew of **Nannie Lou Mallett**, is recovering from surgery on Wednesday at Boone Hospital.

We also keep in our prayers **Melissa Straw's father and step-mother** who are recuperating from injuries received in an automobile accident while visiting their son in Iowa. They are hospitalized in Des Moines.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of **Marian Lightner** who died at her home on Tuesday, April 8. Along with her husband, **Ferd**, she had lived in Columbia since 1958 and had been a member of our congregation for many years. A funeral service was conducted by John Yonker at the church on Friday, April 11, with graveside services conducted by Jimmy Spear in Chula, Missouri on Saturday, April 12. She is survived by her husband, **Ferd Lightner** of their home, her son and daughter-in-law, **Steve and Cheryl Lightner**, grandson and wife and great granddaughter, **Paul and Lindsi and Kayli Jo Lightner**, all of Columbia, and granddaughter, **Amy Lightner**, of St. Louis, a sister and two brothers and their families.

We also extend sympathy to **Don Brooker** on the death of his wife, **Thelma Brooker**, who died at the Lenoir Woods Health Care Center on Tuesday, April 8. She and Don moved to Columbia in 1937 and had also been members of our congregation for many years. Thelma was preceded in death by their son, **Larry Brown Brooker** several years ago. In addition to her husband Don who lives at Lenoir Woods Retirement Center, Thelma is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, **Nancy and Neal Bowers** of Ames, Iowa, her daughter-in-law, **Joyce Brooker** of Overland Park, Kansas, and two granddaughters and five great-grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by John Yonker at the church on Saturday afternoon, April 12, with burial in Memorial Cemetery.

It was a pleasure to welcome **Perry and Helen Ewing** back to our worship services last Sunday. They moved to St. Louis last year to live closer to their son and his family.

We had the joy of witnessing the service of blessing and dedication of **Kayla Christine Von Talge** and **Kenzie Von Talge**, daughters of **Shawn and Christy Von Talge** at the 10:30 service on April 13. They were accompanied in the worship service by grandparents, **Susan Wilson** and **Ron and Lorna Von Talge**; uncle, **Scott Wilson**; and cousin, **Brendan Wilson**.

Thanks to **Ken and Nancy Watson** for helping with the Youth Garage Sale. Ken helped with the electronics and Nancy helped with checking people out on Friday.

Thanks to **Pat Rybolt** for her lovely solo at the 8:30 service last Sunday, April 13.

We've learned that **Paul Koch** will pastor St. Peter's United Church of Christ, Washington, MO. He has been with First Christian Church in Huntsville, Ala. He was our associate pastor from 1993-96.

CAFÉ

ChristianActionFellowshipEducation

Wednesday Evenings

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 23 CAFÉ

Menu: Baked Potato Bar with toppings
Chili, Ham and Broccoli,
Traditional mix of butter, sour
cream, cheese, onions & bacon
Country Life Carrot Cake
Optional kids menu: Hot Dogs

* Child Abuse Prevention

* Bible Study

* CYF (grades 9-12)

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

(youth)

@ first christian

April 20

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

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

CYF - April 23

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.



Fourteen women participated in last week's Self-Defense class during the Wednesday evening Café. We learned tips, skills and even practiced defense techniques from 6:30-8:30pm. God be with all of those who actually have to enact some of these things!

College Care Packages

Because this will be Amy Kay's last Sunday in worship before having a baby, we will be delivering College Care Packages early. Kelly, our Campus Ministry Intern, has been busy checking with students about their current physical addresses and we have their updates with maps printed and ready for delivery this Sunday, April 20. We will have the addresses divided up into sections of town and if you would have a few moments to deliver one or two packages, it would be greatly appreciated. Suggestions on deliveries are written and will be provided on Sunday. Thanks for your consideration! This is a wonderful, long term ministry of the church that we are excited to continue.

STARS Program!

On Tuesday, April 22 the STARS will gather for lunch and a program at Columbia College. Costing no more than \$5 per person, lunch will be served in the Dulany Hall Cafeteria, at 11:45 a.m. Following the meal together, the group will hear a presentation on personal security by Officer Jessie Haden of the Columbia Police Department.

Anyone interested in parking in the church lot and riding to the college together should contact Carol Slusher at 874-4902. Mark it on your calendar and plan to join us!



Landscaping Day
Saturday,
April 19

8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.



Contact the Church office for Scholarship Forms if you do not receive them in the mail this week.

Weekly Report

April 13, 2008

Received \$8,915.00

Received to Date \$364,028.86

Attendance - 317

(includes early worship -68)

Eastern Star Sunday

Ashland Chapter #309 Order of the Eastern Star will celebrate "Eastern Star Sunday" by attending our church on Sunday, April 20. All Eastern Star members, Masons, Rainbow Girls and your families are invited to sit with us in the front right pews. Our church members of Ashland Chapter are Lynn and Daryl Klotz, Louis Ward, Sally Estes, Linda Chandler, and Sharon Winner. Lynn is the Worthy Matron of the Chapter and Brenda Austin of Ashland is the Worthy Grand Matron of the Grand Chapter of MO.



Thank you to my Brummett-Harrah friends, Rev. Yonker and other FCC family for your concern and acts of kindness during my recent health problem.

~Jane Ann Hackett

Thank you for the flowers, shawl and bread during my recent illness. I am better now and hope to be back in church soon.

~C.K. Odor, Sr.

The Visitor

First Christian Church

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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
Cheryl Nichols, Choir Director

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-April 20, 2008

Van Driver: Jay Creasy *Telephone:* Cindy Rose

8:30 Early Worship, Sanctuary

Worship Asst: Marguerite Smith, Charlie & Bettie Koelling

Elder for 8:30 Service: Sarah Yonker

Communion Preparation:

Steve and Sharon Smith

9:30 Church School

Church School Greeter: Mark Hunsaker Family

Nursery Volunteer: TBA

10:30 Worship in Sanctuary

Sermon: Dr. John J. Yonker *Liturgist:* Dan Gieseke

10:30 Elders: Steve and Mary Bess Green, Anne Campbell

Deacons: The Nichols Team

Greeters:

Elizabeth Mottaz, *North Door*

Joyce Stanley, *South Door*

Ushers: The Hunsaker Team

Banner Bearers: Kim Potthast and Ben Creasy

Candlelighters: Logan Garton and Gavin Rose

Flower Ministry:

Arranged by: Brianna Shepard and Rebekah Hart

Delivered: Cathy and Robert Seltsam

Evangelism Calls: Helen and Perry Stemmons

This Week (April 20-26)



- Sun.** - JYF (grades 3-5), 12:00-1:30 p.m.
- Chi Rho (grades 6-8), 4:00-5:30 p.m.
- Church Softball Games: 7:00 p.m., Orange Field
and 8:00 p.m., Blue Field
- Mon.** - Membership Committee Mtg., 5:30 p.m., Parlor
- Drennan Singers Rehearsal, 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary
- Tue.** - Drennan Group, 9:00 a.m., Drennan Room
- Bible Study, 10:30 a.m., Morris Parlor
- STARS luncheon, 11:45 a.m., Columbia College Dulany
Hall, Cougar Room
- Wed.** - Hannah Jones Group, 9:30 a.m., Lenoir 2nd Floor Apts.
- Men's Lunch, 11:30 a.m., Senior Center
- Brummett Harrah Group, 1:30 p.m., Joy Duren's home
- **CAFÉ:** Dinner, 5:30-6:15
Devotion, 6:20
6:30 p.m. -
* Child Abuse Prevention
* Bible Study
- CYF (grades 9-12), 6:30-8:00
- Back Room (college group), 8:45-10:00 p.m.
- Fri.** - Parker-Scott Group, 1:30 p.m., Lenoir Community Ctr.
- Sat.** - NE Area CWF Spring Fest, 9:00-2:00, First Christian