



Sally & Betsy's Big Trip

Revs. Sally Robinson (our own) & Betsy Happel (Minister, Red Top Christian Church) recently spent ten days walking where Jesus walked. Next Wednesday evening we will have the opportunity to hear about their recent trip to the Holy Land. They will offer a program of pictures and stories of their most eventful spiritual pilgrimage. The program will be in the Morris Parlor at 6:30 p.m. as part of the Wednesday night CAFÉ program. Join us for this interesting travelogue.



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! Ladies! Springfest 2008

Everyone is invited to an exciting day to Pray, Play, Learn and Eat. Come Saturday, April 26th, 9:30 to 2:00, at First Christian Church. The cost is \$12. Enjoy coffee, buns and lunch by our gourmet cook, Laura Estes. The meeting is planned by Connie Ess, Women's Ministries staff person. Join other ladies from across Northeast Missouri for an awesome day.

Attention Ladies!

The Women's Ministries (CWF) board has done a lot of good things over the years. Most recently, we have emphasized giving to organizations that support women and children. We would like to continue to do so but we need women to serve on our board. It's always good to have new faces and new ideas! We proved that last year when we added Amy LaHue, Laura Estes, Stacia Schaefer, Kim Hartley and Erin Bower. All the other women who continued to serve did a fantastic job but have been doing so for a number of years. Perhaps it's time for some more new faces that will represent the entire body of women in our church. Please keep in mind that attendance at meetings is not required for most positions. Currently we have the following openings on our board for the 2008-09 year.

- President or Co-Presidents
- Reading Coordinator
- Membership
- Historian
- Corresponding Secretary
- Social Action

If you would be interested in coming "on board" or just have questions as to what each position requires, please call Mary Taylor at 489-2351 or Joyce Stanley at 445-5058. Thanks!

Morning Worship for 27 April 2008

This Sunday in morning worship we will be encouraged in our walk of faith by texts from 1 Peter 3 and John 14. The love of God for us, us for God, and Jesus in-between will guide us in ways of faith as Rev. Jimmy Spear brings the morning message in both services. "Christ-Led Courage" will mark the theme of this week's emphasis on Stewardship as we embark into week 3 of our Stewardship Campaign, "I have called you friends..."

Hymns of the day will include "All My on God is Founded" and "My Life Flows On". The Drennen Singers will bring special music throughout the 10:30 service. Join us as we continue our walk of faith on what should be a glorious Sunday morning.

Blessing Box Donations

Many of us count our blessings by dropping in a coin or two into some sort of "Blessing Box". These little donations give thanks for simple things like a sunny day, or a special call or visit from a loved one or friend, a hug from a grandchild, relief from pain, an answered prayer, or just anything for which you are grateful.

Our church has a large blessing box that stays in the back of the church and your blessing donations are welcomed to be added to others for a nice donation. These can be brought anytime, but we need to be thinking about getting them to the church soon. This is sponsored by the Christian Women's Fellowship, but donations are accepted from any one who's felt blessed this year.

Weekly Report
April 20, 2008
 Received \$6,753.26
 Received to Date \$364,028.86
 Attendance - 272
 (includes early worship -68)

Heeerrree's Johnny!

With the month long stewardship campaign upon us, I've been wondering, as I always do, what would happen to the church, and to us, if we took the matter of Christian stewardship seriously. What would happen if we saw everything we are, and everything we have, as gifts from God? In writing these words, I know there are some who are already saying, "Wait just a minute! Everything? Surely you can't mean it! What about all the years I spent going to school, training myself for my work, working hard to earn my living. I've done a lot on my own!" And there's no question about that. But perhaps the story of Fritz Kreisler, famous violinist of a former generation, can help us put things in perspective.

Following an automobile accident, he gave his first recital in Carnegie Hall to a great audience which packed the auditorium. Some felt he should not have attempted to play again. Even his best friends tried to convince him that the recital would only reflect how much of his skills he had lost in the accident. But when he began to play, the audience knew that he still retained his genius, and at the close of the concert he received a standing ovation. Later that evening he repeated his recital, and later he said,

"I was born with music in my system. It was a gift of God. I did not acquire it. So I do not even deserve thanks for the music. Music is too sacred to be sold. I never look upon the money I earn as my own. It is public money. It is only a fund entrusted to me for proper use. My wife feels exactly as I do about these things. In all these years of my so-called success in music, we have not built a home for ourselves. Between it and us stand all the homeless of the world."

Do you hear it? "I was born with music in my system. It was a gift! I did not acquire it, it is not my own. It is entrusted to me for proper use." Here is the spirit of stewardship. Here is a proper understanding of life. Life is God's gift, and everything we are privileged to be and to have is God's gift.

When the time comes for us to make up our own minds about our commitment to the church, may we have courage enough to commit ourselves with conviction. May we make our pledges with such faith to discover the joy of giving back to God what belongs to God, and to see how much we can do together for the One who has given us life.

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 30 CAFÉ

Menu:

Falafel (a common street food in the Middle East, a chickpea croquette served in pitas with an assortment of sauces)

Tziki Sauce

Hummus

Babaganoush (smoky eggplant spread)

Pita crisps and crudites for dipping

Baklava

* **Holy Land Program**, with Sally Robinson

* **Bible Study**

* **CYF** (grades 9-12)

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

Happy Birthday

Gary Unterschutz-Apr. 27

Pamela Hunsaker-Apr. 28

Hannah Pingleton-Apr. 28

Magdalena Schaefer-Apr. 28

Sherry K. Dobbs-Apr. 29

Kelli Embry-Apr. 29

Susan Ramsey-Apr. 29

Anne Tomlin-Apr. 29

Jade Mills-Apr. 29

Korinna Hysten-Apr. 30

Jane Ann Hackett-May 1

Doris Neidhardt-May 2

Jacob Ripley-May 2



News of the congregation

Jerry Daugherty is at home recovering from surgery on Monday morning at Boone Hospital. **Nannie Lou Mallett** is at Boone Hospital recovering from surgery there on Monday afternoon. **Dick Underwood** is also recuperating from surgery at Boone Hospital.

Connie Guy continues to recuperate from a recent fall and is now undergoing therapy at Rusk Rehabilitation Center. **Ken Bright** has returned home to continue his recovery from surgery last week. **Bob Leach** hopes to be released from Rusk and return home at the end of the week.

Our prayers continue to be with **Melissa Straw's father and step-mother** as they recover from injuries received in a recent automobile accident.

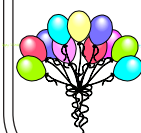
Our sympathy is extended to **Dale and Tommy Gay Evans** on the death of Dale's sister, **Ruth Huber**, who died on April 9.

We extend our sympathy to **Dorothy Baumgartner** and her family on the death of her husband, **Howard Baumgartner**, who died at his home on Saturday, April 19. Other survivors include her son and daughter-in-law, **Jim and Becky Baumgartner**, members of our congregation; her son and daughter-in-law, **Steve and Lynda Baumgartner** of Rocheport; her daughter and son-in-law, **Carolyn and Jerry Young** of Lee's Summit; a brother and his wife, **Bob and Susan Baumgartner** of Houston, TX; six grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren. Funeral Services were conducted by John Yonker on Wednesday, April 23, at Parkers.

Thanks to **Amy Lightner** for her lovely solo presented at both early and late worship last week. The musical gifts of the **Handbell Choir, Chancel Choir** and the instrumentalists are greatly appreciated.

Congratulations to **Jim and Sally Estes** on the birth of their grandson, **Dylan James Estes**. Weighing in at 7 lbs. 14 ozs., 22 inches long, Dylan was born April 21 to parents, **Jamie and Kari Estes** of Lake Ozark.

Your Special Birthday!



Alex "Bud" Smith

-93 on Apr. 25

(youth)

@ first christian

Dodgeball Challenge!

CYF will meet on Sunday evening (27th) at Broadway Christian Church as they have challenged the Broadway CYF group to a roaring game of Dodgeball!

CYF will meet @ Broadway at 6 p.m. for dinner with Dodgeball to follow.

The next JYF & Chi-Rho

Sunday, May 4

JYF: 12-1:30 p.m.

Chi-Rho: 4-5:30 p.m.

A new River of Life Rotation

will begin on May 4. Talk to Jimmy Spear if you would like to explore the opportunity to lead a workshop. The story of Abraham and Sarah will be our focus for 5 weeks in May – June.

Thank you!

A big thank you goes to the following volunteers who worked very hard this past Saturday on the landscaping around our church property: Eric Arnett, Buddy Boger, Kerry and Becky Bramon, Larry Burnam, Jay Creasy, Nancy Grieme, Dan and Drew Gieseke, Paula and Ava Hoenes, Ryan Hunsaker, Mike and Kelsey Korman, Fred Mottaz, Hartley Rogers, Tom and Gavin Rose and Jimmy Spear.

It's so nice to have such a dedicated and talented group of people willing to give of their time to make our church stand out as a true jewel in our community.

Mark Hunsaker
Property Committee Chair

Women's Ministries (CWF) Silent Bazaar Campaign Successful!

Due to the generous response we had to the Silent Bazaar, the Women's Ministries board has been able to pass along gifts to local charities that benefit women and children.

Coyote Hills Children's Home, which provides a home for children and adolescents who might otherwise not have one, has been sent a check for \$300 (in addition to the \$350 we sent last fall). A check for \$350 has been sent to Community Nursery Schools, which is currently expanding facilities for infants in order to help more low income moms. Rainbow House, where children in crisis situations can be safe, was sent a check for \$500.

Additionally, to remember the youth of our own church, Women's Ministries has added \$1,000 to the 175th Anniversary Scholarship Fund. Thanks again to all who participated by making a donation for the Silent Bazaar.

College Care Packages

Special thanks to all of those who delivered college care packages for us last weekend! Your care for students is evident and wonderful - thanks! Thanks also to Anne Campbell for assisting in the care package ministry again this semester.

If you are a student who did not receive a package, please let Amy Kay know and we will certainly get a goodie bag to you promptly. Sometimes it is simply difficult to keep up with your current physical address. We definitely want to get a package to you!



Scholarships

Scholarship information should have been received last week by all of those who we know to be eligible for the awards. Please contact the church office if you are a graduating senior or are entering your Sophomore or Junior years of college and did not receive a packet with all of the information.

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Connie and Jerry Guy would like to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers, cards and phone calls. Connie has been moved to Rusk Rehabilitation Center and we are all hoping to see her on the road to recovery. If anyone has seen a black coat with a Mizzou pin and a black/white knit scarf that she was wearing the morning of her accident, please let the church office know. Thank you.

~Pattie Freeman

Thank you to Mark and Ryan Hunsaker for installing the new sink in the flower room which is a much needed improvement. We appreciate the family of Grace Smith asking that funds given in memory of Grace be used for the improvement of the flower room. This is very fitting since Jim and Grace Smith started the flower ministry.

~Lorene Trickey

On behalf of the Daniel Boone Regional Library board, staff, and Friends, I wish to express our appreciation to you for your gift to the Columbia Public Library of 13 boxes of books. These items were received April 9, 2008.

Again, thank you very much for your interest in library services.

~Melissa Carr, Director

I would like to thank the Drennan Group and all my friends who sent me cards for my 90th birthday. I also enjoyed the beautiful Easter Lily. Thank you so much.

~Mabel Reeves Smith

Graduates

If you are a graduate, please let us know of your upcoming achievement so that we might celebrate with you. We will be recognizing graduates in worship on May 11 and will do so again at a later date if you have yet to return home from graduating in a town away from Columbia. Please call or email the church office with your exciting news. Thanks!

The Visitor

First Christian Church

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U.S. POSTAGE
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Columbia, MO
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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 27, 2008

Van Driver: Dan Gieseke *Telephone:* Nancy Grieme

8:30 Early Worship, Sanctuary

Worship Asst: Anne Linn, Steve and Sharon Smith

Elder for 8:30 Service: Cherry Hinderberger

Communion Preparation:

David, Julie, Andrew, Jake and Teddy Nichols

9:30 Church School

Church School Greeter: Doris Neidhardt

Nursery Volunteer: TBA

10:30 Worship in Sanctuary

Sermon: Rev. Jimmy Spear *Liturgist:* Elizabeth Mottaz

10:30 Elders: Robert Swanson, Joyce Stanley, Carol Slusher

Deacons: The Stanley Team

Greeters:

Barb Rothenberger, *North Door*

Rachel Fullington, *South Door*

Ushers: The Scott Team

Banner Bearers: Logan Garton and Gavin Rose

Candlelighters: Jadie Arnett and Sam Poole

Flower Ministry:

Arranged by: Lisa and Michael Snyder

Delivered: Paul and Vickie Rorvig

Evangelism Calls: Sara Klockow

This Week (April 27-May 3)

Sun. - Church Softball Game, 7:00 p.m., Red Field

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. -

* Holy Land Program, Sally Robinson

* Bible Study

- CYF (grades 9-12), 6:30-8:00

Thur. - World Outreach, 5:00 p.m., Keystone Room

Fri. - Church Eat-Out, 6:00 p.m., Bob Evans Restaurant -
Everyone Welcome!

