



Third Sunday in Advent

On the third Sunday of Advent our preparation will center around the theme of peace. The church family will gather as we continue our journey with John the Baptist (John 1:6-8, 19-28) and the prophecy of Isaiah (Isa. 61: 1-4, 8-11). The children will assist in lighting the advent candle of peace; the hymn "Angels from the Realms of Glory" will be our opening hymn; at the Communion table we will join our voices in "Once in Royal David's City." Music for the day will also include at the 8:30 service a solo by Brenda Mosby, "Someday". At the 10:30 service the Chancel Choir anthem will be "Every Valley" and there will be organ-piano duets by Mary Bancroft and Norma Miller. Rev. Jimmy Spear will bring the morning message.

Halfway through the advent season it is a joy to welcome guests to worship. Thus far we have recalled the gifts of God in hope and joy. As we share the gift of peace this Sunday all are encouraged to recall again the impact of this special season in their preparation for Christ's coming. Is this perhaps something to share with a friend or neighbor?

76th Annual Christmas Pageant & Tasting Party Sunday, December 14, 7:00 p.m.



The Pageant: Sanctuary

Join us as we see firsthand the story of the nativity unfold in our sanctuary. Come to sing the carols, hear the ancient texts, offer White Gifts and hear songs offered by our children.

White gifts are the gifts traditionally brought to the Annual Christmas Pageant. They are typically canned, non-perishable foods wrapped in white paper. The gifts are wrapped in white so that all the gifts look the same. By doing this, the love and devotion of the giver becomes more important than the gift. These gifts are then given to people in need in our community, instead of to each other, so that the true spirit of Christmas may shine through.

On this special evening we will bring gifts to make an offering, letting the spirit of Christmas shine through our lives. These white gifts will serve people in need in our community through the Central Missouri Food Pantry.

The Tasting Party: Fellowship Hall

A tasting party will follow the Pageant. You are invited to **bring tasty treats** to Fellowship Hall that we might continue the celebration of the Pageant in our holiday fellowship together. Cherry Hinderberger will lead the charge of Tasting Party organization. Please call her (445-6382) with questions or to help.

Caroling, Caroling, Caroling We Go!

The youth-led annual church caroling party is set for Sunday, Dec. 21. All ages are welcome as we carol to homebound friends and all around Lenoir. Meet at church at 4:00 p.m.

Advent Breakfast

Sunday, Dec. 21
9:30-10:15 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

A light breakfast of pancakes, sausage, and fruit will be served by the older youth groups. Come for breakfast on your way to worship!

Proceeds to youth mission work.

Magi Gifts Inspire Our Giving!

During the Congregational meeting, last June, we voted to adopt our current budget for First Christian Church. Thanks to the generous gifts of FCC members and friends, we have been able to pay the bills to keep the church operating in these months since July 1. However, our offerings have not provided enough income to support the local agencies which serve people here in Columbia through the Church in Society budget. Nor have we had income to make contributions to fund the world-wide mission work of the church through the World Outreach Department. During this Christmas season, as we remember the gifts the Magi brought to the newborn King, please consider making special gift donations to fund the mission of Christ outlined in the Church and Society and World Outreach Departments.

Weekly Report

Dec. 7, 2008

Received this week \$10,098

Received to Date \$177,871

Needed to Date \$191,139

Attendance - 333

(includes early worship - 63)

Heeerrreee's Johnny!

Perhaps you heard the story: The day after Thanksgiving, a 34-year old man was trampled to death by a mob of people rushing into a Wal-Mart store in Valley Stream, New York. Kdimytai Damour was a seasonal worker stationed at the door of the store as shoppers eager for the so-called "Black Friday" bargains waited outside. The store was scheduled to open at 5 a.m., but the crowd could not wait. Five minutes before the hour some people started pounding their fists and pressing their weight against the glass doors, which finally gave way in a shower of glass. And the crowd rushed in!

Four people, including a pregnant woman, were injured, and Damour was killed as people stepped all over him. As bad as that sounds, it did not deter some shoppers from their early morning mission. As store authorities tried to clear the store, some shoppers complained that they had been waiting in line since the night before, and they at first refused to leave the store but continued to go right on looking for their bargains.

It happened on so-called "Black Friday," the day after Thanksgiving, the busiest shopping day of the year, which businesses hope will put them in "the black" for the year. It happened on the first day of shopping in the Christmas season.

I hope the irony is not lost on us! Commenting on the episode, Leonard Pitts, writing in the Miami Herald newspaper, says part of the reason behind the incident is our vulnerability to mob psychology. "You will do things as part of a crowd that you would never do as an individual. Theoretically, anyone who lacked a strong enough moral center and sense of self could have been part of that mob in Valley Stream."

But there is more to it than that. "It is also our common love of stuff," Pitts says. "We pay lip service to other things. We say children are a priority, but when did people ever press against the door for a Parents' Night at school? We say faith is a priority, but when did people ever surge into a temple of worship as eagerly as they do a temple of commerce?"

A good question to ponder: When did we ever surge into the church to worship as eagerly as we go to the ball park, or the mall, or make a bee-line for the lake on a summer weekend? May the season of buying and gift

giving find us in control of our spending, in tune with the hearts of people who live in need of the basics which we take for granted, and in touch with the spirit of the One who calls us to give of ourselves in service to others.



Christmas Eve Services

We are looking forward to a lovely evening of worship on **December 24** and hope that one of the three offerings fits into your schedule. The time of meditation and communion will be from **5:00 – 6:00pm**. Two services will follow. The **7:00pm** and **11:00pm** services will include scripture, carols and communion. The **7:00pm** service will feature a children's moment and the chancel choir. Both services will end in candlelight. This is a great evening to invite friends and family of all ages to worship with you. May peace and joy be with you as we near this special time of Christmas.



Susan Woodbury-Dec. 14
Buddy Boger-Dec. 15
Jerry Daugherty-Dec. 15
J.A. Flanders-Dec. 15
Amanda Montgomery-Dec. 15
Darby Henry-Dec. 15
Joe Reardon-Dec. 16
Christine Orscheln-Dec. 16
Don Houston-Dec. 16
Hanna Weber-Dec. 16
Laura Estes-Dec. 17
Julia Bower-Dec. 17
Robert Martin-Dec. 18
Norma Miles-Dec. 18
Kaedon Wheatley-Dec. 18
Robert Leach-Dec. 19
Dana Kollar-Dec. 19

News of the congregation

Peggy Cline spent a few days at Boone Hospital last week to recuperate from a fall, and has now returned to her home at Lenoir. Our prayers continue to be with **Ken Bright** who has been a patient at the University Hospital for several days.

Please keep **John Wyss**, husband of **Barb Wyss**, an active member of the Coffman-Watson CWF group, in your prayers. A former member of our congregation, John is a resident of the Lenoir Woods Health Care Center.

J.W. "Stan" Stafford has retired after serving 23 years on the Columbia College Board of Trustees. In addition to serving on the board, Stan also has been a regular financial supporter of the college, with gifts made to fund the construction of the college library, named after him and his late wife, **Lois**, and to support renovations of the Southwell Complex, which houses basketball courts, training rooms and the Columbia College Athletic Hall of Fame. At the September 2008 meeting, the Board of Trustees named him a Trustee Emeritus.

Our church is thankful to have many who share their gift of music during worship and one of our talented soloists is **Brenda Mosby**. After many requests, Brenda has made a CD with some of the music that she has shared with us. If you would like a CD, please talk with Brenda soon as she will be leaving after Christmas for a number of months. If you would like to donate \$10 to offset the cost of producing the CD, you may do so, but don't feel that it is necessary. Brenda's email is moserbj@aol.com and her phone number is 442-7507.

Let us know your good news! Please let the church office know this week if you are a **December college graduate**.

Book Club

The Ladies Book Club resumes on Wednesday, Jan. 14 with a discussion of Jana McBurney-Lin's novel, *My Half of the Sky*.

The group will return to the Back Room, a cozy, comfortable meeting place, where we'll discuss this award winning novel of a young woman's struggles in Chairman Mao's modern China. We'll meet at noon so bring your lunch if you'd like. Questions? contact Linda Hutton at lhutton50@hotmail.com or phone 442-5423.

(youth) @ first christian

Pageant Schedule, Dec. 14th

All pre-school and elementary children will be in final rehearsal for the pageant beginning at **9:30 a.m.** Robes will be assigned. Evening preparation will begin at **6:15 p.m.** with all children and adult participants reporting to the 3rd floor for robes and costumes.

Sunday, December 14th

CHI-RHO and CYF will be at church by **6:15 p.m.** to be ready for the Christmas Pageant. Chi-Rho and CYF will serve as ushers and greeters.

Sunday, December 21st

All children and youth are invited to join the annual Christmas caroling adventure. We will meet at church at **4:00 p.m.**, returning for foods and finishing by **7:00 p.m.**

On the Book Cart

All of the books on the book cart at this time are Christmas books. The book cart is located in the narthex. Check one out today!

175th Anniversary Scholarship

To celebrate the rich tradition of supporting higher education, the 175th Anniversary Scholarship was established in 2007 to assist members of First Christian Church in their pursuit of college education. Available to incoming freshmen or upper class students, in any major field of study, at any accredited college or university, scholarship monies are drawn from interest earned from a permanent fund. If you would like to help increase the scholarship, donations may be made to: First Christian Church (Attention: 175th Anniversary Scholarship), in care of the church, 101 N. 10th Street, Columbia, MO 65201.

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

Dec. 17th CAFÉ

Menu: Chicken Tetrazzini
Tossed Salad
Bread
Oatmeal Cookies

* **Program:** A Christmas story with Muriel Leach

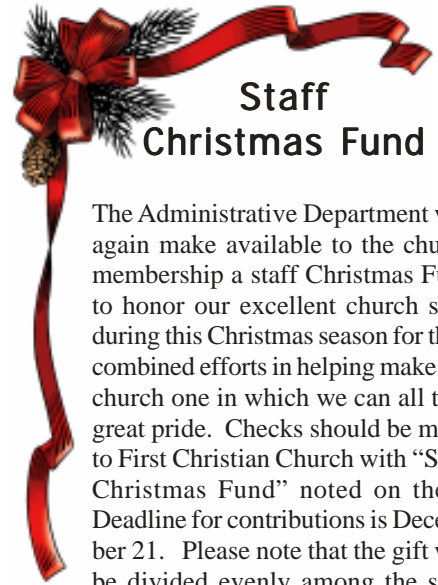
* **Bible Study** with Dr. Yonker

* **CYF** (grades 9-12) with Jimmy Spear

Place your reservation by marking the pew registration pad "activity box" on Sunday morning or call the church office (449-7265) for dinner reservations by **noon on Tuesday.**

STARS Luncheon

There is still time to sign up for the STARS Christmas Luncheon to be held Wednesday, December 17, 2008 at 11:45 in Morris Parlor. We will be enjoying a lunch of chicken pot pie, salad and dessert, entertainment by our children who attend Mother's Day Out program and then we'll all join in singing Christmas favorites led by Lorene Trickey and accompanied by Norma Miller. The cost is \$6 per person to be paid at the luncheon and you can sign up as late as December 15 in the church office. Transportation is available if you'll call Carol Slusher at 874-4902.



Staff Christmas Fund

The Administrative Department will again make available to the church membership a staff Christmas Fund to honor our excellent church staff during this Christmas season for their combined efforts in helping make our church one in which we can all take great pride. Checks should be made to First Christian Church with "Staff Christmas Fund" noted on them. Deadline for contributions is December 21. Please note that the gift will be divided evenly among the staff members-ministers, office staff, music staff and custodian.

Care Package Thanks

Many thanks to church friends of all ages who agreed to deliver college care packages for us last Sunday! I have heard from dozens of students over the years who have said that receiving the package meant a lot to them. This is a lot of work, but well worth it! Special thanks to Laura Estes who headed our cookie making and the kids and ladies who assisted and our College Ministry Intern, Andy Vickers, who worked extra with this ministry. ~amy kay



Mark Your Calendar!

A **Deep Cleaning Day** is planned for Sat., January 3, 2009. This will be for the annex building. The start time is 8:00 a.m. Everyone is invited to help.

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

Return Service Requested

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 Intern: Andy Vickers

Music Staff:

Mary Bancroft, Coord. of Music & Organist
maryebancroft@yahoo.com

Norma Miller, Pianist
Cheryl Nichols, Choir Director

Mother's Day Out: Tracy Westhoff, Director

Support Staff:

Kay Beissenherz, Administrative Secretary
fcc@firstchristian.org

Fred Mottaz, Business Manager
fred@firstchristian.org

Keith Picker, Custodian

Sunday's Schedule-Dec. 14, 2008

Van Driver: Jeff Ripley *Telephone:* Laura Crane

8:30 Early Worship, Sanctuary

Worship Asst: Will and Donna Houston, Anne Linn

Elder for 8:30 Service: Joyce Stanley

Communion Preparation:

Roy Rogers, Nancy Grieme and Bryan Grieme-Verslues

9:30 Church School

Church School Greeter: Dorothy Porter

10:30 Worship in Sanctuary

Sermon: Rev. Jimmy Spear *Liturgist:* Joni Cupp

10:30 Elders: Sharon Winner, Sally Robinson, Julie Hickey

Deacons: The Creasy Team

Greeters:

Dan Gieseke, *North Door*

Pat and Sue Wright, *South Door*

Ushers: The Burnam Team

Banner Bearers: Ben Creasy and William Bower

Candlelighters: Wolf Schaefer and Megan Potthast

Flower Ministry:

Arranged by: Poinsettia Sunday

Delivered: Bragg and Joyce Stanley



This Week (Dec. 14 - 20)

- Sun. - Poinsettia Sunday
- Pageant and Tasting Party, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall
- Tue. - CWF Board Mtg., 9:00 a.m., Keystone Room
- Bible Study, 10:00 a.m., Morris Parlor
- Wed. - STARS Luncheon, 11:30 a.m., Morris Parlor
- Men's Lunch, 11:30 a.m., Senior Center
- CAFÉ, 5:30 p.m. Dinner
6:20 Devotion
6:30 Program
- CYF (grades 9-12), 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- Back Room (college group), 8:45-10:00
- Thur. - Mother's Day Out Christmas Program, Noon-2:00, Fellowship Hall
- Master Planning Mtg., 6:00 p.m., Keystone Room
- Fri. - Mother's Day Out Christmas Program, Noon-2:00, Fellowship Hall