



## Christmas Sunday - December 21

With the days drawing near to Christmas, our worship services on December 21 will see the lighting of the 4<sup>th</sup> Advent Candle, the candle of love. The reading of two well-known Advent scripture passages, Isaiah 9:2-7 and Luke 2:1-20, will form the texts for Dr. Yonker's sermon.

Hymns on this advent Sunday will include: "Angels We Have Heard on High", "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" and "What Child Is This". Special music will include at the 8:30 service "O Holy Night" with Jerry Daugherty as soloist. The Chancel Choir will sing "O Love So Small" by John Carter at the 10:30 service.

## Here We Come a Caroling...

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

We will return to church for a hot soup and snack supper and be headed home before 7:30 p.m. Childcare provided.




### Christmas Eve Services

**5:00 - 6:00 p.m.**  
Meditation and Communion

**7:00 & 11:00 p.m.**  
Carols, Scriptures,  
Communion and Candlelight

(The 7:00 p.m. service also includes music by the Chancel Choir and a moment for children.)

Childcare provided



**There will be no  
newsletter next  
week**

## Sunday, December 28

The theme for this Sunday is "Grace", with scriptures from Isaiah 61:10-62:3 and Galatians 4:4-7. Hymns will include: "O Thou Joyful", "Go Tell It on the Mountain", "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" and "Joy to the World". At the 10:30 worship service the Chancel Choir will sing "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" by Howard Helvey.



### 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.

## 2008 Christmas Offering

"God Has Done Great Things" is the theme for the 2008 Christmas offering. We will be receiving these offerings at both services on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. The Christmas offering supports the ministries of the Mid-America Region here in Missouri, such as the Camp and Conference program, Elder's Institute and CWF programs. Please consider making a gift this year.

~World Outreach Department



### Weekly Report

Dec. 14, 2008

Received this week \$13,257.60  
Received to Date \$191,028.00  
Needed to Date \$201,632.00  
Attendance - 309  
(includes early worship - 65)

## Sitting up front on a big Sunday

The book in my chair Sunday morning was untitled "The House without a Christmas Tree." Abigail had been listening to the sermon in the 8:30 service and apparently when perusing the church library book cart found the book and thought it would help with my tree situation. I think she was sitting up front.

The Angels were so excited to be in the pageant singing their song and adorned with tinsel they went right up to the front to do it... even a little early. I was lucky to be right on the floor in front of them. Their expressions, waving to family, blowing kisses and big singing were really something to behold. Apparently at home they have all been singing *Away in a Manger* for weeks. They didn't just want to sit up front, they wanted to be up front!

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade boy shepherds came in a little early... but maybe that is what the shepherds in Jesus birth story do. Maybe they come in early, before others, because they want to be up front to see of what the angel spoke.

From parents to extended families, to friends and even regular guests there was a wide array of folks. But I noticed they did not sit in their same Sunday spots! Everyone sat up front! The usual front people were all of a sudden surrounded and making room for new pew mates. I imagine it felt pretty good to be packed in the pews with friends, all with the same idea of being able to see.

Everyone sat up front!

The annual Christmas Pageant is perhaps the only event of the year where folk come into the sanctuary and try to sit up front. I am sure it is to get the best view of what is transpiring as the nativity story unfolds. But I wonder if this phenomenon speaks more about us and even to us in this day. I would say, our attention is different when we are up front and our attitude is different when we want to be up front.

Perhaps the pageant teaches us something about ourselves. I know our kids actions and very approach to things usually do. How do we approach events related to God? Do we seek out the back row or the front row? Do we want to be up close to the action or as far back as we can get? Does it only happen when the angels are cute? Or can it happen during other times that aren't so entertaining. In times of worship, study, prayer, where is it we prefer to sit? I wonder

if our perspective, our attention, and even our attitude would be different if we just changed our pew location. Would that new perspective change us in ways that are for the better? Perhaps in this advent season it would be just the change we need to see the birth of Jesus anew.

Everyone sat up front! ...and the whole place and time, all that was seen, was different. So, come on up front. Our kids will be up there watching and waiting. It could very well be the best place to see and experience the story of Emmanuel. And unlike the inn of Mary & Joseph's day, there is plenty of room. ~Jimmy Spear

## 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](mailto:lhutton50@hotmail.com) or phone 442-5423.

## Happy Birthday!



Marilyn Schappert-Dec. 22  
Dorothy Baumgartner-Dec. 25  
Susan Ripley-Dec. 25  
Jeff Colborn-Dec. 25  
Frank Boster-Dec. 25  
Donald Seltsam-Dec. 26  
Cindy Roberts-Dec. 26  
Mike Taylor-Dec. 27  
Linda Chandler-Dec. 27  
Emma Hawkins-Dec. 27  
Becky Baumgartner-Dec. 29  
Bob Chiles-Dec. 29  
Kevin Crane-Dec. 29  
Paula Kurtz-Dec. 29  
Shirley Park-Dec. 29  
Fred Mottaz-Dec. 30  
Jerry Vaught-Dec. 31  
Steve Gieseke-Jan. 1  
Jeri Sheppard-Jan. 1  
Zach Shaw-Jan. 3  
Debbie Potthast-Jan. 3

## News of the congregation

Our sympathy is extended to **Larry and Yvonne Clark** on the death of Larry's mother, **Doris Clark**, age 97, who died at the Lenoir Woods Health Care Center on Tuesday evening, December 9. One of ten children, she spent thirty years in the classroom teaching elementary children and taught Sunday School in the First Christian Church of Gainesville. Following her husband's death in 1987, Doris moved to Columbia in 1989 and became an active member of our congregation and the Christian Women's Fellowship. A service of committal was held in Gainesville, Missouri on Friday afternoon, December 12, and a memorial service will be held at the Lenoir Epplle Chapel at 11 a.m. on Friday, December 19.

**Marguerite Prather Hoberecht** died at age of 105 years on Wednesday, December 10 at the Foxwood Springs Care Center in Raymore, Missouri. She was born in Columbia on May 15, 1903; attended the University of Missouri where she met and married her husband, **Milton Hoberecht**, who preceded her in death in 1946; and moved to the Kansas City area several years ago to be near her daughter. Marguerite united with our congregation by confession faith and baptism in 1915, during the ministry of Madison Hart, 93 years ago! She is survived by her daughter, **Joyce Kuechler**, and two grandchildren, **Steve Kuechler** and **Janise Naughton** and four great-grandchildren. A graveside service was conducted by John Yonker on Friday afternoon, December 12 at Memorial Park Cemetery.

Congratulations to **David Ross** who was united in marriage to **Ann Dinwiddie** on December 3. The ceremony was held in Eureka Springs, Arkansas.

Our prayers continue to be with **Ken Bright**, the son of **Ed Bright**, and Jean Rossman who are patients at University Hospital. We're glad to see that **Sarah Yonker** is feeling well as she recuperates from gall bladder surgery last week.

Thanks to **everyone who has provided poinsettias** for the beautification of the sanctuary during these days of Advent. And a special thanks to **all the musicians** whose gifts of music have brightened our worship services in these days before Christmas.

**(youth)**

**@ first christian**

**Sunday, December 21**

**Christmas Caroling**

All youth and their families are invited to join the annual Christmas Caroling adventure. We will meet at church at 4:00 p.m. and return to church for food to finish up before 7:30 p.m.

**CYF & CHI-RHO**

**Sunday, December 21**

**Preparing and Serving Breakfast.**

CYF at church by 8:15 a.m. to cook and prepare.

CHI-RHO at church by 9:20 a.m. to help serve, and work tables.

**CYF Serving Loaves and Fishes**

**Monday, December 22**

Meet at church at 1:00 p.m. to cook and prepare food.

We will then serve at Loaves and Fishes till about 6 p.m.

Perhaps we can have several shifts: cooks then servers.

**Youth Group Break**

All 3 youth groups will be on break until school starts back in January.

**JYF & CHI-RHO** will meet on the following Sundays:

January 11 & 25

February 8 & 22

CYF will begin Wed. Jan. 7.

**The River Continues...**

Sunday mornings for elementary children continue to flow on The River of Life. The INCARNATION is the theme as they learn the story of Jesus birth in the Sundays surrounding Christmas.

**December College Graduates**

Let us know your good news! Please contact the church office before Friday, Dec. 19 at 5pm to let us know that you are graduating from any level of higher education this semester. We want to celebrate with you!

**NO  
CAFÉ**

Dec. 24th

or

Dec. 31st



A huge thank you to Laura Estes and Amy LaHue for cooking the fabulous Women's Brunch on Saturday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>. A large number of ladies gathered to celebrate the season and enjoy the friendship of the women of First Christian Church. Thanks to all of those who helped set up, decorate and support this wonderful annual event.

---

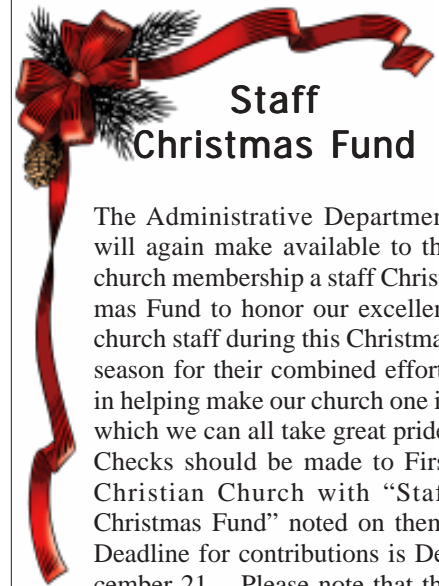
Thank you so much for all the prayers, thoughts and visits while my husband was in University Hospital. The prayer shawls were a real blessing. A special thanks to Minister Jimmy Spear, Don and Brenda Mosby for your visits to the hospital. I felt very comfortable and welcomed when I attended your worship service on September 7. God has truly blessed us with new Christian friends!

~Paulette and George Bradburn

---

Thank you to everyone who has expressed concern for me following my gall bladder surgery. The thoughtful words, get well cards and delicious foods are helping me recuperate that much faster.

Most sincerely,  
Sarah Yonker



**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.

**Pageant Thanks**

Thanks to Cherry & Ed Hinderberger & their great helpers Carol and Tom Hughey in hosting the great Tasting Party following the pageant. The 76th Annual Christmas Pageant was yet another highlight to the advent experience at FCC. Mary Bancroft and Jean Hall, class leaders Jennifer Alexander, Molly Read, Elizabeth Rottman, and pre-school teachers Paula Hoenes, Laura Estes and Hayley Batterson were each so integral in making the music special.



**First Night Workers  
December 31<sup>st</sup>**

Two people are needed to keep an eye on the building, assist guests, "be around" and lock up. 6:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. shifts available. First Night passes and entertainment provided. See Jimmy Spear to volunteer.



*Christmas Fellowship Dinner*



*Women's Christmas Brunch*



*CAFÉ Christmas Making*



*Care Package Christmas Cookie Decorating*

# Scenes of the Season



*Above three: Living Nativity*



*Above three: 76th Annual Christmas Pageant*

## Sunday's Schedule-Dec. 21, 2008

*Van Driver:* Russ Chandler *Telephone:* Bobbi McCormack

### **8:30 Early Worship, Sanctuary**

*Worship Asst:* Betty Moon, Larry and Millie Caringer

*Elder for 8:30 Service:* Anne Campbell

*Communion Preparation:*

Paul and Vickie Rorvig and Lexie Ruffalo

### **9:30 Church School**

*Church School Greeter:* Mark Hunsaker Family

### **10:30 Worship in Sanctuary**

*Sermon:* Dr. John J. Yonker *Liturgist:* Molly Read

*10:30 Elders:* Tommy Tomlin, Pam Hoepfner, Shirley Park

*Deacons:* The Nichols Team

*Greeters:*

Paula Hoenes, *North Door*

Jeff and Lottie Creasy, *South Door*

*Ushers:* The Nichols Team

*Banner Bearers:* Julie Bower and Kim Potthast

*Candlelighters:* Anna Poole and Sam Poole

*Flower Ministry:*

*Arranged by:* Poinsettia Sunday

*Delivered:* Jerry and Mary Daugherty

## This Week (Dec. 21-27)

Sun. - Advent Breakfast, 9:30-10:15, Fellowship Hall  
- All Church Caroling, 4:00-7:30 p.m., meet at church

Mon. - CYF serving at Loaves and Fishes

Tue. - NO Bible Study

Wed. - Christmas Eve Services  
5:00-6:00 p.m., Meditation and Communion  
7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m., Services of  
Scripture, Carols, Communion and  
Candlelight

Thurs. & Fri.-Christmas Holiday (office closed)



## Sunday's Schedule-Dec. 28, 2008

*Van Driver:* Carol Slusher *Telephone:* Cindy Rose

### **8:30 Early Worship, Sanctuary**

*Worship Asst:* Louis, Janice and Andy Janssen

*Elder for 8:30 Service:* Sarah Yonker

*Communion Preparation:*

Mark, Pam and Ryan Hunsaker

### **9:30 Church School**

*Church School Greeter:* Doris Neidhardt

### **10:30 Worship in Sanctuary**

*Sermon:* Dr. John J. Yonker *Liturgist:* Joyce Stanley

*10:30 Elders:* Jerry & Mary Daugherty and Jacki Davidson

*Deacons:* The Stanley Team

*Greeters:*

Nina Oliver, *North Door*

Daryl and Lynn Klotz, *South Door*

*Ushers:* The Scott Team

*Banner Bearers:* Zac Ruffolo and Koinna Hylen

*Candlelighters:* Annika Hylen and Sam Creasy

*Flower Ministry:*

*Arranged by:* Debbie, Matthew and Mitchell Taylor

*Delivered:* Candace & Christopher Stormer

## This Week (Dec. 28 - Jan. 3)

Sun. - Lenoir Health Care Worship, 3:30 p.m.

Tue. - NO Bible Study

Wed. - Men's Lunch, 11:30 a.m., Senior Center

Thurs. - New Years Day (office closed)



## 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



*Amy Kay Pavlovich*  
*Kay Beissenherz*  
*Keith P.*  
*John Yonker*  
*Jimmy Spear*  
*Norma Miller*  
*Mary E. Bancroft*  
*Fred Mottaz*

It was two Monday's before Christmas and all through the office, the church staff was thinking let's wish them all a **Merry Christmas!**