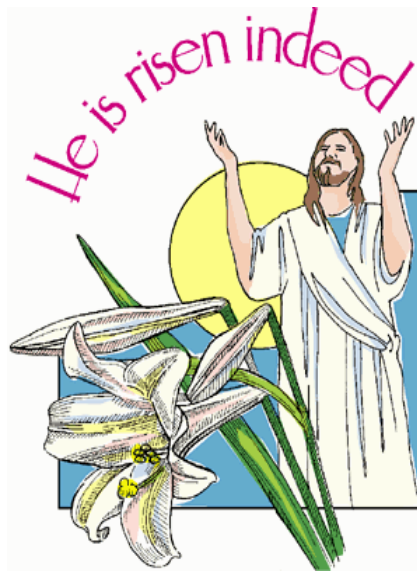




Easter Sunday

On Easter Sunday our worship services will be filled with great music, reading of the scripture and the proclamation of the Easter message. We will lift our voices in the hymns, "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today", "That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright", "Sing of One Who Walks Beside Us", and "He Lives", A brass choir will accompany congregational hymns and present "The Lord is Risen Indeed" and "Thine is the Glory". And the offertory, "The Holy City", will be presented by Jerry Daugherty. The Chancel Choir will sing "Christ is Risen Today".

Scripture readings for Easter morning found in Matthew 28:1-10 and John 11:17-27 will set the foundation for Dr. Yonker's sermon, "The Shaking of the Foundations!"



Pastors' Class Concludes

The 2008 Pastors' Class concluded last weekend with an overnight retreat at the Rickman Conference Center in Jefferson City, and two members of the class responded to the invitation to membership at the 10:30 service on Palm Sunday by making confessions of faith: **Brian Grieme-Versules**, the son of **Nancy Grieme**, a 9th grader at Jefferson Junior High School, and **Haley Evers**, the daughter of **Steve and Tracy Evers**, a 7th grader at Gentry Middle School. These young people and other members of the class who may make confessions of faith will be baptized during the 10:30 service on Sunday, March 30.

STARS to Learn About Nutrition and Exercise!

Are you interested in learning how to eat better and keep fit? Then you are invited to the STARS meeting, Tuesday, March 25 in the Morris Parlor.

Following a great lunch of Sherried Chicken & Puff Pastry, Spinach Salad and Blueberry Butter Cake prepared by Laura Estes, our Wednesday evening CAFÉ gourmet cook, we will hear a presentation by Ms. Cary Skelton, Certified Dietician and Co-Director of the Optimus Center for Health.

We will gather at 11:30 a.m. in Morris Parlor and lunch will be served at Noon with the program to follow.

Meal reservations must be made no later than Noon on Monday, March 24, by calling the church office, 449-7265.



Welcome New Members!

Welcome to **Richard and Ruth Ann Martin** who became members of First Christian Church by confessions of faith at the 10:30 service on Palm Sunday, March 16. The parents of three year-old **Elizabeth** and two year-old **Ava**, Richard and Ruth are both employed outside the home. Along with his brother, Richard is owner/partner of the Italian Village Pizza restaurant on Vandiver Drive, and Ruth Ann works as a lab technician at the University of Missouri. They reside at 1209 Longwell Drive (65203), phone 443-6328. Welcome!

Spring Cleaning Time!

Yes, it's true! Spring is just around the corner! It's time to "cast off the old and put on the new". Please save all unwanted, unnecessary (but still useable) treasures for the Youth Garage Sale. All items may be brought to the Fellowship Hall Saturday, March 29 – Wednesday, April 2. Support Youth Mission Trips through your garage sale donations and contributions.

Volunteers are NEEDED to set up, sell and clean up! Contact Joyce Stanley for further information. 445-5058 jbstanley@msn.com

Weekly Report
 March 16, 2008
 Received \$6,157.00
 Received to Date \$333,657.11
 Attendance - 315
 (includes early worship -63)

Heeerrree's Johnny!

As we prepare for Easter, the words of Stephen Patterson, professor of New Testament at Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, come to mind. In his recent book, *The God of Jesus: The Historical Jesus and the Search for Meaning*, Patterson speaks about the radical Easter faith which stirred the hearts of Jesus' disciples, and which can yet stir the hearts of his followers more than two thousand years later.

"History says that Jesus' life and work came to an end on Golgotha. Christian faith claims that it did not. Herein lies the decision of Christian faith. It is not a decision about miracles or demonstrations of power, about corpses or empty tombs. For the earliest Christians, this was a decision about Jesus. Was he right or was he wrong?"

For Christian faith to be *faith*, this decision, this risk to believe in Jesus must be embraced without fear. It cannot be bolstered with appeals to certain remarkable historical events that would seem to prove the case. . . . To say, "I believe, because history proves that God raised Jesus from the dead," is not faith. It is a refusal to have faith. It is unfaith.

Patterson declares that resurrection is not about the resuscitation of a corpse, it is about the resuscitation of hope in the face of cruel realities. It is about the resuscitation of hope against all odds that there is indeed a God, and that God loves us beyond all our furthest imaginings.

"History cannot prove these things are true. We can only risk asserting that they are true, and listen and watch for this same God in our own lives. This is all the earliest Christians had to go on. It is all we have to go on."

I have often wondered what would happen to us if we took the resurrection of Christ seriously! If we not only talked about believing, but if we bet our whole lives that the message of new life through Christ is true! I wonder how our lives would change if we saw eternal dimensions to everything we say and do!

Are you ready for Easter? It's not a question of polishing our shoes, or putting on new clothes. It's a matter of daring to open our lives to the possibility of new life! God dares us to try it! Won't you try it with us!

Ladies' Book Club



Ladies' Book Club meets Wed, March 26, at 12:30 in Morris Parlor to review *Riding Shotgun* by Rita Mae Brown. Grab a sack lunch/beverage and join our discussion of this time travel novel. Thanks to Barb Rothenberger on Wednesday, April 23, the editor of *Missouri Women Writing About Their Lives*, Carla Waal, will be joining us. Try to attend this very special Book Club!

Your Special Birthday!



Carl Miles
-90 on Mar. 22
Mabel Smith
-90 on Mar. 23



Mary Jane Rogers-Mar. 23
Jared Swope-Mar. 23
Mabel Smith-Mar. 23
Helen Stemmons-Mar. 24
Amy Bangs-Mar. 24
Sarah Garcia-Mar. 24
Joshua Ripley-Mar. 25
Jonathan LaHue-Mar. 25
Libby Weber-Mar. 26
Kira Hoenes-Mar. 27
Marjorie Hook-Mar. 28
C.K. Odor-Mar. 28
Robert Dewey-Mar. 28
Ferd Lightner-Mar. 29
Bradley Snyder-Mar. 29
Dorothy Hatfield-Mar. 29

Thank You!

Thank you for the many cards, notes, telephone calls and flowers I received for my 95th birthday. They made the day very special.

~Marceline Shamberger

News of the congregation

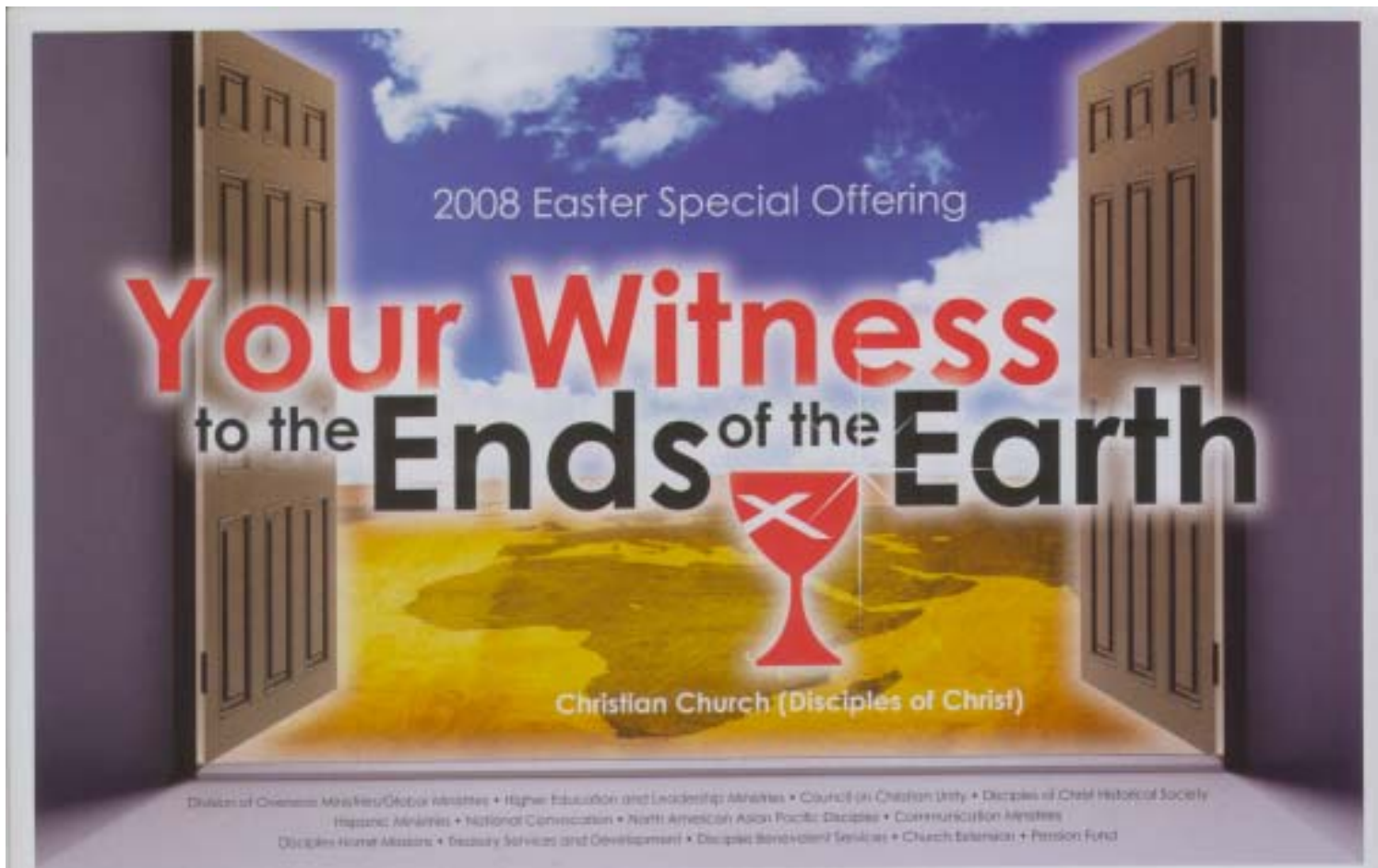
Thanks to **Susan Woodbury** for her lovely solo, "The Palms", presented as special music at the early service on Palm Sunday. She was accompanied by her sister, **Jean Hall**, on the piano. The late service on Palm Sunday was filled with the voices of the **Drennan Singers**, under the direction of **Norma Miller**, who presented an introit, anthem, offertory and recessional. Members of the group included: **Debbie Batterson, Becky Baumgartner, Kelli Embry, Jean Hall, Micki McGuire-Kirkham, Cheryl Lightner, Susan Ramsey, Bette Scavone, Lisa Snyder, Pat Rybolt, Lorene Trickey**, and **Susan Woodbury**. Thanks for the beautiful music!

We are saddened to learn of the death of **Jean McCauley** who died on Wednesday, March 12. A member of our congregation since Aug. 1988, Jean was a graduate of Hickman High School, and along with her husband, **Jacob McCauley**, were previous owners of the Atkins & McCauley Chemical Company. A graveside service was conducted by John Yonker at Memorial Funeral Home on Tuesday morning, March 18.

Dubby Muir is now staying at the Lenoir Health Care Center for therapy following a brief stay in the hospital recently. **Bob Leach** has also moved to the Lenoir Health Care Center to regain strength after spending a few days at University Hospital last week. **Elwyn Ewer** was released from the hospital but was re-admitted to Boone Hospital late last week. **Bedonna Clark** continues to receive care at Boone Hospital.

Congratulations to **Julie Bramon** and **Sara Estes** who have been named to "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges" at William Jewell College in Liberty. Julie is the daughter of **Kerry and Becky Bramon**, and Sara is the daughter of **Jim and Sally Estes**.

Congratulations to **Vicki Rorvig** who was the "Featured Teacher" in the Columbia Daily Tribune newspaper on Thursday, March 13. A math coach at Derby Ridge Elementary School, Vicki has been teaching in the Columbia Public schools for seventeen years when she moved to Columbia with her husband **Paul**, and daughters, **Anna** and **Kaela**.



2008 Easter Special Offering

Your witness to the ends of the earth

The Easter Special Day offering provides financial resources for ministries that extend from your Sunday school rooms to the ends of the earth. Contributions to the 2008 Easter offering will benefit many ministries including Disciples Hurricane Recovery Initiative, Disciples Women's Ministries, Disciples Care for Children, the Student Ecumenical Partnership, Global Ministries, web and internet ministries, Ministerial Relief and Assistance, and many more.

Your giving takes you and others...to the edge of the United States

DHM is partnering to lead our long-term recovery efforts from the damage and devastation of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Through the Disciples Hurricane Recovery Initiative, we are on the ground, along the coast, rebuilding homes, communities, and lives. These mission stations provide a critical presence along the gulf and are dependent on your financial gifts to the Easter Offering.

Your giving takes you and others... to the ends of the earth

The challenge of HIV/AIDS is a daily struggle at the Samaritan Care Center in Southern Africa. Rev. Dawn Barnes, a Disciples missionary and SCC Board Member, sees lives transformed daily. Dawn shares the story of Thandiswa, a young woman dying of AIDS. Rose, the center coordinator, was there to comfort her and provide hospice care in her waning hours. Rose's ministry is to care for those who have no one to care for them. Rose says, "This is what God has called us to do...to be the hands of Christ." Thandiswa died after only being in the center for one day, but she died surrounded by the peace of Christ's hands...your handstaken to South Africa by your financial gifts to the Easter offering.

To make your contribution to this special offering: make your check payable to First Christian Church and write "Easter Offering" on the memo line of the check, then mail to the church at 101 N. 10th Street, Columbia, MO 65201.

Pastors' Class 2008

Pictured to the left: Josh and Al Browne.

In the "Making the Banner" picture below are:
Mamie Meenehan, Kelsey Korman, Haley Evers,
Brenden Browne, Sally Kessell, Brian Grieme-
Versales.

Hard at work in the bottom picture are Sally Kessell
and Mamie Meenehan, along with mentor, Brenda
Martin (center).



(youth)

@ first christian

April 6

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

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

CYF Spring Break

Afternoon Event

Wednesday (March 26th)

Meet at church at Noon for

⇒ Lunch

⇒ Movie

⇒ & then evening CYF

Mission Trip: June 8-14

Greensburg, Kansas

+++++

Church camp forms for all camps are still being accepted.

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

The River of Life
Grades K-5

A Resurrection
Party!

Easter Sunday
9:30 a.m.
on the 3rd floor



Notes for and about the College Group

We will not be meeting for the Back Room this Wednesday evening, March 26. Enjoy your spring break!!

Kelly, Campus Ministry Intern, has done a great job as our point person for the organization of our May 18th College Mission Trip. This year's learning and serving will be in Washington D.C. We will be hosted by National City Christian Church (DOC) and will engage in urban ministries while taking in places like the Holocaust Museum and memorials.

All college students and young adults who are choosing to not attend college at this time are invited to participate. The deadline for telling Amy Kay of your desire to go to our nation's capitol throughout the entire week of May 18th is Sunday, April 6th. If you have an Internship pending or something of that nature, rsvp a "maybe" by the 6th. ;) The cost to attend is \$50 and the church will cover the rest of the expenses. We believe this experience will be meaningful and fun – we want you to come. If the \$50 is a problem, simply let Amy Kay know. We are looking forward to a great trip!

Wardrobe Volunteers Needed – Women and Men!

Option #1: Old Man Winter is (finally!) on his way out! And so are the winter clothes at the Wardrobe! Change-over dates are March 25 – 28 from 9:00 – 3:00. Winter clothes will be packed up and spring and summer clothes hung up. Many willing hands are needed!

Option #2: April 11, Friday, from 11:00 – 4:00 volunteers are needed to sell items at the Wardrobe.

If you can help on ANY of these days and times – please call Millie Caringer 449-1128 or Barb Rothenberger 446-3262

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

March 26 CAFÉ

Menu:

Jamaican Jerk Chicken

Mango Salsa

Black beans & Rice

Pineapple Upside Down Cake

* **Neighborhood & block
sprucing (outside!)**

* **Bible Study**

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

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

Chancel Choir Rehearsals

Maundy Thursday, March 20 – 6:20 p.m.
in the choir room

Good Friday – 11:40 a.m. in the choir room

Easter Sunday – 7:40 a.m. in the sanctuary

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!

The Visitor

First Christian Church

101 N. 10th Street
Columbia, MO 65201
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-Mar. 23, 2008

Van Driver: Bryan Garton *Telephone:* Pat Ritchie

Communion Preparation for 8:30 Service:

Tom & Carol Hughey, Betty Scavone

8:30 Early Worship, Sanctuary

Elder for 8:30 Service: Bettie and Charles Koelling,
Cherry Hinderberger

8:30 Service Deacons: The Campbell Team

8:30 Greeters: Will & Donna Houston, *North Door*
Molly Read, *South Door*

8:30 Ushers: The Scott Team

8:30 Banner Bearers: Jack Creasy and Kim Potthast

8:30 Candlelighters: Megan Potthast and Max Schaefer

8:30 Service Liturgist: Donna Houston

Communion Preparation for 10:30 Service:

Joe & Kim Reardon, Lindsey Chandler

9:30 Church School

Church School Greeter: Doris Neidhardt

10:30 Worship in Sanctuary

10:30 Liturgist: Brenda Martin

10:30 Elders: Debbie Batterson, Eldon Drennan, Anne Campbell

10:30 Deacons: The Stanley Team

10:30 Greeters: *North Door*-Jay and Chris Creasy

South Door-Julie and Hilary Nichols

Ushers: The Pavlovich Team

Banner Bearers: Ben and Sam Creasy

Candlelighters: Julia Bower and Gavin Rose

Lilies Delivered by: M. Daugherty, M. McRoberts, J. Cunningham

Evangelism Calls: Sara Klockow

This Week (Mar. 23-29)

Sun. - Easter Sunday

Tue. - Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.,
Morris Parlor
- STARS meeting, 11:30,
Morris Parlor

Wed. - Hannah Jones Group,
9:30, Lenoir 2nd Floor Apts.
- Men's Lunch, 11:30 a.m., Senior Center
- Ladies' Book Club, 12:30 p.m., Morris Parlor
- Brummett-Harrah Group, 1:30, Donna Houston's home
- **CAFÉ:** Dinner, 5:30-6:15
Devotion, 6:20
6:30 p.m. -
* Jeff Moore, Week of Compassion
* Bible Study
- CYF (grades 9-12), 6:30-7:30
- No Back Room (college group) - Spring Break!

Fri. - Parker-Scott Group, 1:30 p.m., Lenoir Community Ctr.
- Spring Women's Retreat, 4:30 p.m., Rickman Center,
Jefferson City

