



## Commitment Sunday - May 4!!

"I Have Called You Friends!" our 2008 stewardship campaign, challenges us to respond to the call of Christ to fulfill his mission in the world through the work of the church.

Estimate of Giving cards will be presented and "Offering Ourselves to God" sheets, indicating the commitment of our time and talents through the many committees, activities and opportunities of service in the church, will be presented in an act of dedication to God in both worship services.

Worship services will include great hymns: "Gather Us In," "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus," "Called As Partners in Christ's Service," and "Come, Share the Lord." At the 8:30 service Brenda Mosby will offer special music, "We Believe in God". At the 10:30 service the Chancel Choir will present their anthem and communion music will be provided by a quartet: Kelli Embry, Debbie Batterson, David Read and Harlan Hackett. They will sing "How Deep the Father's Love for Us".

Dr. Yonker will deliver the COMMITMENT SUNDAY sermon based on the lectionary readings found in John 17:1-11 and in Acts 1:6-14.

Christ calls us to respond as freely and generously as we have received every blessing and abundance from God. May God inspire our commitment for the building of a solid foundation for the coming year of service at First Christian Church!

## Wardrobe Thanks!

Wardrobe volunteers are invited to an Open House at the Wardrobe, 715 Park Ave. on May 7, 8 and 9 for coffee and snacks between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. each day. There will be a short presentation and recognition program at 10:00 a.m. each day

## Minute for Stewardship

We're now well into our stewardship campaign for 2008 and in the last few days you will have received a letter from the church with an Estimate of Giving card to be returned to the church by next Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. The stationery on which this letter is printed displays the slogan for the campaign, "I have called you friends". If you look closely at the letterhead, you'll see a citation to the verse in the New Testament that gave us the words for that slogan, John 15:15. It is worth quoting not only this verse in full but the verses that lead up to it, beginning with John 15:12. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my father."

There are quite a few organizations in town that use the word "friends" to indicate support for a particular institution: the Friends of the Columbia Public Library, for instance, or the Friends of the Missouri Theater. Perhaps some of you belong to one or both of these groups. The use of "friends": here signals a mutual interest, and a willingness to contribute time, talent, and treasure to help the institution that these friends care about. So we could call ourselves the Friends of First Christian Church in this sense. But in a church community like ours the meaning of "friends" runs deeper and gets us closer to the meaning of John 15:15. We are not only friends of the church and friends to each other but the friends of Christ, who held back nothing from us, who laid down for the love of his friends everything he had to give, including his own life. In being friends of the church in every way that we are able, we are also advancing the work of the church in the world and helping to fulfill Christ's commandment in John 15:12 that we love one another as He has loved us. We hope you'll consider all of these meanings of friendship in and to the church as you prepare your pledge card for next Sunday. ~David Read

## A Very Good Breakfast

Everyone is invited to participate in the breakfast at Prairie Chapel Methodist Church in Hatton, MO on Saturday, May 3 at 8:00 a.m. Bring some fruit and sweet rolls. The good folks of the church will provide everything else. This is an event in connection with our partnership with a farmer who has dedicated 10 acres of soybeans for the "Foods Resource Bank". The profit from the sale will be for the benefit of farmers in some country of need. Call Harsh Brown (874-1863) if you are interested in attending.

~World Outreach Committee

## Personal Security/Safety

With the news of an attempted robbery in the parking lot of our church, the advice of Officer Jessie Haden, of the Columbia Police Department, presented at the STARS meeting last week at Columbia College, is timely.

Be aware of people when entering and exiting the church building. Take note of the surroundings; have your keys ready and walk in pairs or groups as you go to your cars. Be ready to call for help and make lots of noise. It's OK to sound a false alarm when you feel threatened.

### Church Eat-Out

Friday - May 2  
 5:30 p.m.  
 Bob Evans Restaurant  
 Everyone Welcome!

### Weekly Report

April 27, 2008  
 Received \$5,798.50  
 Received to Date \$376,582.25  
 Attendance - 268  
 (includes early worship -55)

## Our Pope, Our Church

Although I don't think Dr. Sharon Watkins would enjoy being labeled our Pope, she is our denomination's "General Minister and President" and she did, in fact, meet the real Pope a few weeks ago. (Go, Disciples!) Shortly after chit-chatting with him, she continued on with her other duties like meeting with our Board of Directors for Higher Education and Leadership Ministries (HELM). I'm not sure which was more fulfilling for Dr. Watkins because I was afraid to ask amidst our long hours of sitting and meeting...

I was absent from church on Sunday because of an important meeting. I serve on the HELM board which met Friday through Sunday in St. Louis. The fourteen member board consists of folk you might expect... really well known, brilliant and successful life-long Disciples -- folk from near and mostly far who come from all aspects of Disciple Higher Education.

Among the general work of a Board there laid an unfortunate chasm between some of our Undergraduate Colleges and Universities and the HELM arm of the church. Essentially, our "problem" came down to this: who does God call us to be as the church in this day and age and how does that manifest in our relationship with institutions of higher education? Many had thoughts on the issue and occasionally they were along the same lines. We came to a decisive conclusion to further the work and relationship of all involved by recommending that Dr. Watkins, in good Disciple tradition, set up a task force to look at the issues at hand.

Perhaps this seems like a lot of meeting and reworking church structure which has already been reworked many times... It might be tiresome to some of us who have lived through it before, but if we are to continue to try to discern who God is calling us to be in the present day, then we have to reconsider the structure that allowed us to be the church in the past. We can not move forward as good stewards in faith-filled ministry without such difficult conversations. Funding might be different in the end than it is now for some ministries, but we can hope that all involved will take comfort in the knowledge that our church's leaders are faithfully responding to the call to be church, discerning the best we can who God wants us to be.

This is essentially how it is for our local church as the stewardship campaign unfolds what we work with next year. Further, this type of discernment includes what we

are individually called by God to consider. How do we spend our money and time -- what ministry does this spending allow us to be involved with?

As the sun greets us each day, we are reminded that as time continues on, our lives, church, and world progress. If we don't rouse ourselves to the newness of God's call we will be stale ourselves. Thanks be to God for leaders among us and the opportunity to transform and move forward in this, a most hope-filled ministry.

## 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

## May 7 CAFÉ

Menu: Roasted Pork Loin, new potatoes and green beans

\* Bible Study  
\* CYF (grades 9-12)

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

## News of the congregation

In our mention of family members following the death of **Thelma Brooker** her granddaughter, **Lori Ann Brooker**, who died two years ago on June 6, 2006 was omitted. We join the Brooker family in remembering and giving thanks to God for her life.

Thanks to **The Drennan Singers** for their nice musical selections which they sang during the 10:30 worship service last Sunday. Directed and accompanied by **Norma Miller**, members of the group present to sing were: Susan Woodbury, Micki McGuire-Kirkham, Lorene Trickey, Sally Estes, Debbie Batterson, Susan Ramsey, Jean Hall, Kelli Embry, Bette Scavone, Becky Baumgartner, Pat Rybolt, Cheryl Lightner, Lisa Snyder and Brenda Mosby.

Thanks to **David Read**, member of the Stewardship Department, for his Moment of Stewardship presented at both worship services last Sunday.

Among the members and friends of our congregation in our concern at this time are: **C.K. Odor** who was admitted to Boone Hospital last week and moved to the VA Hospital on Monday morning to continue receiving care. **D.K. Seltsam** spent a few days in the hospital last week and returned home on Monday, April 28. **Connie Guy** has returned to Rusk Rehabilitation Center to continue recovering from a recent fall after spending several days in Boone Hospital recently. **Gladys Roth** was admitted to Boone Hospital late last week.

**Dorothy Golson** has returned from Fairhope, Ala., where she attended the April 19 wedding of her Grandson John Grant Golson and Elizabeth Ann Clark. The couple will reside in New York City after a trip to Rome, Italy.

## Your Special Birthday!



**Helen Stockholm**  
-97 on May 4

## Thank you!

Thank you so much for the care package! It was so very thoughtful of Amy Kay and staff to assemble them. I'll certainly find a good place for those brownies!  
~Jessi Klockow

## Happy Birthday

Deidre Wipke-Tevis-May 4

Drake Tevis-May 4

Delaney Tevis-May 6

Nancy Kirtley-May 6

Sue Underwood-May 6

Maddox Colborn-May 6

Ann Rogers-May 9

Lucinda McRoberts-May 9

Sebastian Pavlovich-May 9

Harlan Hackett-May 10

Laura Hutton-May 10

Sharon Winner-May 10

Rachel Tarwater-May 10

Wayne Meyer-May 10



# (youth)

@ first christian

CYF - April 30

Meet at the CAFÉ for dinner at 5:30. CYF meets 6:30-8:00 on the 3rd floor.

The next JYF & Chi-Rho

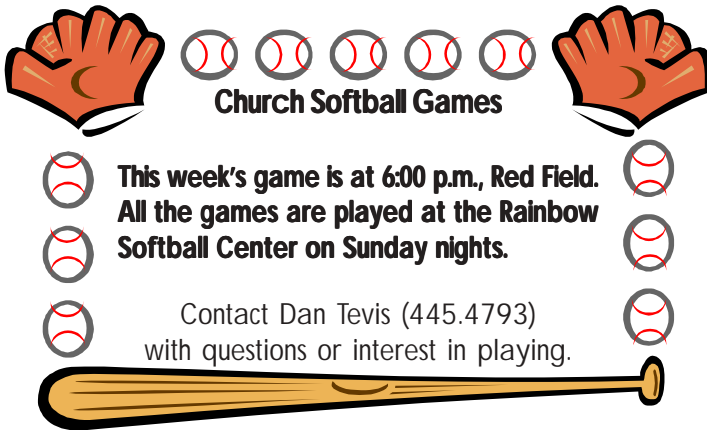
Sunday, May 4

JYF: 12-1:30 p.m. and 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. The River of Life has finished the story of The Good Samaritan. Thanks to leaders **Holly Gieseke, Debbie Taylor, Lisa Snyder, Erin Bower, Brenda Martin, Jessica Humble, and Kim Rogers.**



On Sunday night the CYF went across town to challenge the Broadway C.C. CYF to a rousing game of Disciple Dodgeball. Our one team of 13, pictured here in their matching headgear, defeated both BCC teams every time. Our next challenge will be an outdoor game of Ultimate Frisbee this summer. Broadway hosted us with a great meal and fellowship and we were glad to be with them.



**Church Softball Games**

**This week's game is at 6:00 p.m., Red Field. All the games are played at the Rainbow Softball Center on Sunday nights.**

Contact Dan Tevis (445.4793) with questions or interest in playing.

**New this Week!**

## Abraham and Sarah

- The River of Life...
- Christian Education for Children K - 5th grade. 3rd Floor starting @ 9:30 a.m.

## Darfur Conflict Worsens

A new report to the U.N. Security Council describes a worsening conflict in Darfur and an ever-growing number of people seriously impacted by the fighting. Of Darfur's estimated population of six million people, now more than 4.25 million have been affected and are dependent upon international assistance for survival. More than 2.7 million have been displaced elsewhere in Sudan and in nearby countries. Some officials now estimate the death toll may be close to 400,000. With the peace process deadlocked and the joint peace-keeping force, known as UNAMID, lacking critical capabilities and not yet fully operational, there is little hope in the near future for a reversal of the situation on the ground. Indeed, the deteriorating security situation and the growing global food crisis is forcing the World Food Program to cut its food rations to Darfur in half next month.

In the midst of this nightmarish scenario, the Darfur Emergency Response Operation (DERO) of Action by Churches Together and Caritas International continues to provide water, sanitation, health, nutrition, education, psycho-social care, protection, agricultural services, and basic emergency assistance to hundreds of thousands of the Darfuri displaced. Again this year, Week of Compassion has pledged at least \$100,000 on behalf of North American Disciples to support the '08 ACT Darfur appeal of USD\$13.6 million.

## Book Club News



What a wonderful treat the Ladies' Book Club enjoyed on Wed, April 23. Carla Waal, author of *Hardship to Hope: Missouri Women Writing about Their Lives*, shared the background in researching and writing her book. Carla, a retired theater professor, also read selected passages to our group. Laura Estes provided us with a delicious lunch! Thanks to Barb Rothenberger for inviting Carla and to Laura for our wonderful meal!

Because May is a busy month and we take a summer break, the regular Book Club Meeting is moving to Wednesday, August 6. At the August meeting, Katherine Graham's *Personal History* will be discussed. The Public Library has two copies and 2 audio copies. At August's meeting, we will also select the next nine books for our Club. If you have a copy of *Personal History* to share or just want to suggest a really good book for next year, contact Linda Hutton at lhutton50@hotmail.com or 442-5423.

# The Visitor

## First Christian Church

101 N. 10th Street  
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573-449-7265

Non-Profit Org.  
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Columbia, MO  
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## Address 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 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-May 4, 2008

*Van Driver:* Bryan Garton *Telephone:* Anne Campbell

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

*Worship Asst:* Sue Fink, Pat Ritchie, Mary Daugherty

*Elder for 8:30 Service:* Linda Ridgeway

*Communion Preparation:*

Mitch and Angie Allen-Hylen, Joshua Garton

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

*Church School Greeter:* Gerry Coon

*Nursery Volunteer:* TBA

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

*Sermon:* Dr. John J. Yonker *Liturgist:* Brad Beary

*10:30 Elders:* Joyce Stanley, Tommy Tomlin, Barb Rothenberger

*Deacons:* The Campbell Team

*Greeters:*

Dick and Jerry Vaught, *North Door*

Chuck Scott, *South Door*

*Ushers:* The Pavlovich Team

*Banner Bearers:* Jadie Arnett and Sam Poole

*Candlelighters:* Logan Garton and Kim Potthast

*Flower Ministry:*

*Arranged by:* George and Willie Harris

*Delivered:* Genie Rogers and Jim Rogers

*Evangelism Calls:* Anne Campbell

## This Week (May 4-10)

- Sun. - Stewardship Commitment Sunday  
- JYF (grades 3-5), 12:00-1:30 p.m.  
- Chi Rho (grades 6-8), 4:00-5:30 p.m.  
- Church Softball Game, 6:00 p.m., Red Field at Rainbow Softball Center
- 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. -  
\* Bible Study  
- CYF (grades 9-12), 6:30-8:00  
- Party for College Graduates, 8:45 p.m., Pavlovich Home

