



First Sunday in Advent Hanging of the Greens!!

Can it be that time of the year already? Yes it is! November 30 is the first Sunday in Advent! One of the ancient traditions of the church, Advent marks the beginning of the church year according to the liturgical calendar, when Christians across the world prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ once again.

On Sunday we will begin our celebration of Advent with our annual Hanging of the Greens service at the 8:30 and 10:30 worship services. Singing of seasonal music, scripture texts and readings, and lighting of the first Advent candle will remind us to prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ as the sanctuary is decorated with greenery.

Special music for the morning will include Pat Rybolt's solo, "Who Would Send a Baby?" by Mary Kay Beall at 8:30, and the Chancel Choir's anthem at the 10:30 service will be "Soon and Very Soon" by Andrae Crouch and arranged by Jade Shrader.

Advent Fellowship Dinner

Come and feast at this carry-in dinner, enjoy one another's company and relish in the sounds of "Holiday Bound" on Wed. Dec. 3 at 6:00pm. The program will consist of wonderful seasonal music and readings. The group features our own Nora Dietzel. You are invited to bring a dish of meat, vegetable, salad or dessert to share and know that the drink, table service and child care are provided. If you would like to be picked up and taken home in our church van, please let Amy Kay know by Tuesday, Dec. 2.

Weekly Report

Nov. 23, 2008

Received \$4,039.51

Received to Date \$156,604.00

Attendance - 322

(includes early worship - 61)



Women's Christmas Breakfast

Please join us

**Saturday, Dec. 6
9:00 a.m.**

FCC Fellowship Hall

RSVP by Wed., Dec. 3 by calling the church office 449-7265. If able and interested there will be opportunities to help cook, set up on Friday, Dec. 5, and clean up immediately after. Please call Laura Estes if you can help (441-2386).

Cookies Cookies Cookies

Dec. 6 after the Women's Breakfast, don your aprons and mix, bake, decorate, and pack cookies. We will be making a variety of cookies for College care packages. Young chefs (kiddos) welcome, as we will have a special baking project for them. Child care will be provided. RSVP to Laura Estes (441-2386).

College Care Packages

Sunday, Dec. 7th we invite you to help with a long-time ministry of the church – delivering care packages to college students in Columbia. This is a fun thing and always well received! We will have the packages in the Narthex with students' contact information on the 7th. Physical addresses are being checked right now so that we are confident the packages get to our Disciple friends in town. Please consider taking a care package or two on Dec. 7th and sharing a smile with our students. If you have a child in college, we invite you to take a package for him or her. Thanks for your consideration!

Living Nativity

The Downtown District is hosting the lovely Living Windows festival on Friday, December 5 from 6:00 – 8:00pm. Our church takes part in the fun by putting on a "Living Nativity" complete with costumed characters and animals. Refreshments are served in the Narthex between showings. We need characters of all ages! Contact Amy Kay to sign up or check out the sign-up sheets in the Narthex on Sunday morning. If the temperature is below 20 degrees or there is snow, we will not participate in this event.

Fair Trade Store

Our church's store will be in the Fellowship Hall this Sunday, November 30th. Meander through the tables anytime throughout the morning hours. We have just received special coffees for the first time that you might like to peruse. If you are not able to be here for the Hanging of the Greens day, you are welcome to shop any time in Amy Kay's office where the store is temporarily located.



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



A light breakfast prepared and served by the CYF.

Proceeds from donations will go toward mission projects. (local and summer)

Invite a friend to come early on the 21st and share in a warm breakfast.

Holiday Shopping with Heifer International

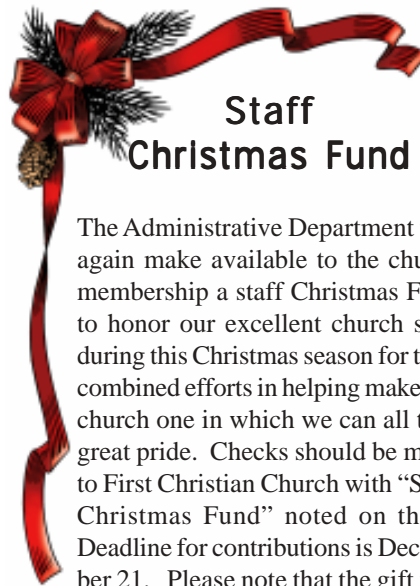
Take a unique approach to gift giving this holiday season with Heifer International. In just a few minutes, you could be stocked with goats, chicks, pigs, and water buffaloes to help families around the world. With gifts to Heifer, there will be no worry about gifts that clutter, don't fit, long lines or parking – just the joy of knowing your gifts make a difference in the life of a family long after the holidays are over. Stop by the Heifer display in the narthex this Sunday and make your purchases. There are gift cards available to send to your family and friends to inform them of the wonderful gift you purchased in their name. Make your check payable to First Christian Church, in the memo section write: Heifer Ark. ~World Outreach Committee

Food Resource Bank Report

Harsh and Frances Brown, Muriel Leach, Tom Shrout, Sally Robinson, C.K., Paula, Ava, and Kira Hoenes along with Amy Kay, Dane, Sebastian, and Atticus Pavlovich traveled to Prairie Chapel United Methodist Church Saturday evening to celebrate the harvest of the soybean crop for this year's Foods Resource Bank growing project. While the weather did not help our crop, our yield was half of what we grew last year, we did receive \$897.11 to send to FRB. We enjoyed a wonderful hymn sing and delicious meal with our friends in the country. We hope you will join us next spring as we bless the seed for next year's crop. ~World Outreach Department

Strand Building Meeting

As John announced last week in his pastoral column, we are all invited to a meeting to discuss the final details of retaining the old Strand building for our own use. The Administrative Board voted to retain the property for our use on a six month trial basis which will be followed by an evaluation. However, it is important that we have all of the details laid out well for this to be a successful endeavor. The meeting to go over these details will be on Thursday, Dec. 4 at 7pm. The back door will be open, lights on and air warm for us to come on in and be a part of God's ministry as we are able at 125 N. 10th Street!



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.



I want to thank everyone for the cards, flowers and visits. I really appreciated Rev. John's visits and prayers. ~Jack Kirtley



Christy Lowe-Nov. 30
Charlie Koelling-Dec. 1
Steve Green-Dec. 3
David Read-Dec. 3
Janie Beth Hellwege-Dec. 3
Paula M. Hoenes-Dec. 3
Brenda Martin-Dec. 4
Linda Ridgeway-Dec. 4
Laura Estes-Dec. 4
Don Brooker-Dec. 5
Mike Randerson-Dec. 5
Erik White-Dec. 5
Carole Harris-Dec. 5
Alan Leach-Dec. 6
Debbie Garton-Dec. 6

News of the congregation

Thanks to the all those who presented special music for our worship services last Sunday: to **Jerry Daugherty** who sang, "Give Thanks" at 8:30 accompanied by **Norma Miller**, to the members of the **Chancel Handbell Choir** for their prelude, the members of the **Chancel Choir** for their anthem, to **Mary Bancroft**, organist, and to **Jean Hall** for her piano solo during communion.

It was a joy to share the service of blessing and dedication for **Sam Hayes Boster**, infant son of **Frank and Erin Boster**, at the late service on November 23. He was accompanied in the chancel by his big brother, **Thomas**. We were glad to have other members of the family present for the service including grandparents, an uncle, aunts and cousins.

Emmy Croll has returned home to continue recuperating from surgery last week at Boone Hospital Center.

Congratulations to **Kerry and Becky Bramon** on the marriage of their daughter, **Joni Ruth Bramon** who united in marriage to **Arnie Fagan** on Saturday evening, November 22 in a ceremony conducted by **Judge Gary Oxenhandler** on land they own on the Missouri River Bluff. The ceremony was witnessed by twenty family members and friends with a celebration dinner following at the Frederick Hotel in Boonville.

Congratulations to **Mary and Cliff Tompson** on the birth of their great-grandson, **Noah Thomas**, born to their granddaughter and grandson-in-law, **Amanda and Brandon Mize** in Iowa City, Iowa on November 17.

Thanks to the **Nichols and Creasy Families** and **Cindy Ruffolo** for retrieving all the Christmas decorations from the storage closet and putting them in place in the sanctuary in preparation for the Hanging of the Greens service and the Advent season.

Our own **Andy Janssen**, son of **Louis and Janice Janssen**, regular attenders of the early worship service, has secured a part in the play, "The Jellybean Conspiracy" which will be produced on stage at Jesse Hall in January. Andy plays the part of a brother with Downs Syndrome. The play runs Jan. 15-18. Call 443-0541 for ticket information or check www.kidsintheact.org/jellybean-conspiracy.html for details.

(youth) @ first christian

Elementary Children

Children K-5 will be Choristers and Rainbow Bell ringers at the 76th Annual Christmas Pageant.

Christmas Pageant Practice

Nov. 30, & Dec. 7, 14

During part of the Sunday School each week.

9:30 a.m. on 3rd Floor.

Practice of Carols and Bells!

Parent leaders are needed.

JYF and CHI-RHO will meet on Dec. 7th at their usual times.



Blood is a precious commodity with a limited shelf life. Red blood cells must be used within 42 days. Platelets must be used within five days. Plasma can be frozen and used for up to one year.

Please help Community Blood Center to insure that this precious commodity is being adequately provided to our local hospital patients. Donate blood at the upcoming blood drive held at Olivet Christian Church in the Fellowship Hall, 1991 S. Olivet Rd. on Wednesday, December 10 from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. To make an appointment online, go to www.esavealifenow.org and use sponsor Code olivetchristian. You may also contact Karen Bradley at (573) 817-3528 or pasma60@aol.com.



Seats Available

3 seats available for the *Friends of Rickman Dinner* at the FCC- Columbia Table. See Jimmy Spear to make a reservation. Friday, December 5, 6:00 p.m., Rickman Center, Jefferson City, MO

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The River of Life: Incarnation

November 30-December 28

Christian Education for children K-5
3rd Floor, Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

~

Three Kings

Three Wise Men are sought for the 76th Annual Christmas Pageant, Dec. 14.

Adults males, preferably wise. Ability to kind of sing and walk. Ability to look good in period garb. (Preference will be given to those who have not been kings recently.)

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From the Frontier to the Future

The book is at the bindery. It should be available either Thanksgiving weekend or the first weekend in December for purchase at the church office and before and after worship services. The cost is \$15 per book. It would be a great Christmas gift for families and friends of First Christian Church.

There will be No
CAFÉ
December 3rd

Please attend the FCC
Christmas Fellowship
Carry-in Dinner at
6:00 pm that evening!

STARS Activities

Eleven of us represented First Christian Church at the Thanksgiving Luncheon provided by the 60+ group from Broadway Christian November 24, 2008. The food was delicious and fellowship inviting. We all had a great time.

Ten of us journeyed to St. Louis November 24, 2008 to hear the Vienna Boys' Choir. The choir performed at the St. Louis Roman Catholic Basilica Cathedral. The music was spectacular and the trip was enjoyed by all.

December 17, 2008 is the date set for the **STARS Christmas gathering**. Please come to join us for the luncheon and enjoy hearing the children from Mothers' Day out as they entertain us after our meal of Laura's chicken pot pie, salad and cookies. The cost for the meal will be \$6. Please make reservations by December 15, 2008. Sign up in the church office.



A huge thank you to those who helped assemble the newsletter last week. Extra hands were needed with the special inserts you received. Pictured here from left to right are those who helped: Margie and Maury Ellis, Joyce Stanley, Sue Wright, Barb Rothenberger, Betty Moon, Kay Beissenherz (secretary), and Dave Beem.



The Visitor

First Christian Church

101 N. 10th Street
Columbia, MO 65201
573-449-7265

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U.S. POSTAGE
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Columbia, MO
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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-Nov. 30, 2008

Van Driver: Bob Black *Telephone:* Carol Slusher

8:30 Early Worship, Sanctuary

Worship Asst: Barb Rothenberger, Betty Moon

Elder for 8:30 Service: Millie Caringer

Communion Preparation:

Judith Wildman, Holly Wheatley, Brad Beary

9:30 Church School

Church School Greeter: Colleen Nilges

10:30 Worship in Sanctuary

Sermon: Dr. John J. Yonker *Liturgist:* Hanging of the Greens

10:30 Elders: Mary Tompson, Cliff Tompson, Sally Estes

Deacons: The Creasy Team

Greeters:

Donna Houston, *North Door*

Daryl and Lynn Klotz, *South Door*

Ushers: The Nichols Team

Banner Bearers: Jacy Alexander and Jacob Ripley

Candlelighters: Jodie Arnett and Gavin Rose

Flower Ministry:

Arranged by: Joni Cupp and Betty Moon

Delivered: Gerald and Susan Ramsey, Millard and Carol Thomas

This Week (Nov. 30 - Dec. 6)

Sun. - Hanging of the Greens at each
Worship Service

Mon. - Drennan Singers Rehearsal,
6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

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

Wed. - Men's Lunch, 11:30 a.m., Senior Center
- Christmas Fellowship Dinner, 6:00 p.m.,
Fellowship Hall
- CYF (grades 9-12), 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- Back Room (College Group), 8:45-10:00 p.m.

Thr. - World Outreach Meeting, 5:00 p.m., Keystone Rm.
- Strand Building Meeting, 7:00 p.m., at the
Strand Building

Fri. - Living Nativity, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Sat. - Women's Christmas Breakfast, 9:00 a.m.,
Fellowship Hall

