



In Worship on Dec. 6th – The 2nd Sunday in Advent!

Taking the theme: PEACE from the scripture texts for the day, our worship services on the 2nd Sunday in Advent will continue our preparation to celebrate the birth of Christ with scripture readings from Luke 1:67-79 and Ephesians 2:13-19, and Dr. Yonker's sermon, "Finding Our Feet on the Pathways of Peace".

Both worships will be filled with the hymns of the season and music! A piano duet by Jean Hall



ship ser- be filled g r e a t the sea- special favorite duet by a n d

Mary Bancroft , *Bring A Torch*, *Jeanette Isabella*, will enliven both services. At 8:30 Brenda Mosby will present the solo, *Some-day*, by Rick Vale. The 10:30 service will also include the young Rainbow Bells (grades K-1) and the Chancel Choir will offer the anthem *Soon and Very Soon*, a spiritual arranged by Andrae Crouch, with Russ Chandler adding percussion.

Luncheon & Discussion about Bethany Hall

All church members are invited to a luncheon in Fellowship Hall, Sunday December 6 following the 10:30 service. Menu: Soup and Salad, cornbread and crackers, fruit and homemade desserts. A freewill offering will be taken to cover the cost of the lunch.

After sharing our lunch together we'll settle down for a discussion about future uses of Bethany Hall. Information about the history and use of Bethany Hall during the past year are provided in this week's Visitor.

Childcare for pre-schoolers and elementary school age children will be provided. Call 449-7265 to make your reservation.



make their home in Ashland. Telephone numbers are: Richard - 573-230-9857, and Natalie - 314-479-3882. They are regular attenders of the 8:30 worship service and have begun attending the new young adult Sunday School class that meets in the Back Room. Welcome Richard and Natalie!

Welcome New Members

We welcomed **Richard and Natalie Barnard** into our congregation at the 8:30 service on Sunday, November 29. A nurse who works in the Emergency Room at the University Hospital, Natalie comes to us by transfer of membership from First Christian Church in Brunswick, Missouri. Richard works at the Boone County Collector's Office, and transferred his membership from the Roman Catholic Church in Jefferson City. They

VAC Christmas Gifts Due

Those who participated in the Voluntary Action Center Christmas Project need to be sure to drop off their gifts at the **Trinity Presbyterian Church on Monday, December 7**. The drop off times are 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. If you cannot deliver the gifts yourself on that date you can drop them off in the church office on Sunday, December 6, but you must call the church to let them know if you are selecting this option. Thank you for your generosity!

Weekly Report

Nov. 29, 2009

Received this week \$5,743

Received to Date \$187,463

Needed to Date \$189,270

Attendance - 327

(includes early worship - 61)

Beginning a New Study

The CL Church School class begins a new quarterly Bible study this Sunday in Morris Parlors at 9:30 a.m. We will study "Christ the Fulfillment" from the book of Matthew. Please join us for a lively discussion led by our teacher Marsha Rawlings. ~CL Class



Women's Christmas Brunch December 5 9:00 – 10:00

All women are invited to share a delicious holiday brunch prepared by Laura Estes. Transportation is available; please sign up in the church office by Dec. 3 (449-7265).



Heerrree's Johnny!

Can it be that time of the year again? Must be, because we have already shared in the great Hanging of the Green service and begun to think about the celebration of Christ's birth again. As I noted during the welcome to worship last week, the beginning of Advent marks the beginning of the church's liturgical cycle. Focusing on the birth stories of Jesus found in the gospels of Matthew and Luke, for many centuries Advent has been a time for remembering the incarnation of God in Jesus of Nazareth. But it is more than a time of looking back. Advent is also a time for acknowledging the continual coming of God to all people, and the rebirth of Christ ever anew in our midst, and proclamation of the miracle of the coming of God to this world. Advent is a season of great joy which culminates in the celebration of Christ's birth, yet it is also a penitential season in which we are called to examine and prepare ourselves for his promised return in glory and judgment.

Advent comes at the time of the year when the sun, for those in the Northern Hemisphere, sinks to its lowest point on the horizon. Yet in such wintry darkness, Advent calls believers to give thanks for the birth of God's Son who is the light of the world, and to turn their lives again to Christ, so that the light of God may dawn upon us and brighten our world.

The coming Advent brings anticipation and expectation, as we await the celebration of Christmas. But it also brings a challenge, because the familiar stories of Jesus' birth are so well known that they can easily become clichés, taken for granted, and easily passed over. The challenge of Advent is to listen again to the stories and to hear with fresh ears their awesome declarations of the birth in human flesh of the Holy God.

Advent is meant to be a time of waiting and expectation. Every year in our society the days leading up to Christmas are filled with Christmas music in the stores and decorations in many places, and the Advent emphasis on waiting is lost. Yet the days of Advent leading up to December 25 call us to wait and hope, to re-examine our lives in preparation for the coming of Christ. The days of Advent which anticipate the birth of the One who was hailed as the Prince of Peace call us to reshape our lives and our world for the coming of the One who can and will bring God's peace on earth.

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
\$6 adults
\$3 kids 5-12 years
\$17 cap for a family
Under 5 free

6:20 - Devotion

6:30-7:30 - Adult Programming
Child Care Available

Dec. 9th CAFÉ

Menu: Honey Spiced Ham, Broccoli
Casserole, Sweet Potatoes and
Chocolate Pie

* **Program Choices:**
- Financial Peace University, Cinema
- Bible Study, Keystone Class Room

* **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**.



Dec. 6-Alan Leach, Debbie Garton
Dec. 7-Erica Watson, Geraldine Coon
Dec. 8-Alexandra Estes, Kenzie
Von Talge, Gabriel Senecal
Dec. 10-Harsh Brown, Marjorie Carter,
Cheryl Unterschut, Curt Snow
Dec. 11-Beuna Lansford
Dec. 12-Cliff Tompson, William Bower

News of the congregation

Eunice Smith died at the Lenoir Woods Health Care Center on Sunday morning, November 29. A native of Bethel, Missouri, Eunice graduated from Columbia High School in 1928 and the University of Missouri in 1935. She taught Home Economics in Sweet Springs, Hamilton and St. Louis Public Schools. In 1939 she married Harold Smith of Barnard, Missouri and he preceded her in death in 1967. Transferring her membership from a Disciples of Christ congregation in St. Louis, Eunice joined First Christian Church in 1971. She was also active in the Ophelia Shepherd Extension Club, the Deer Park Extension Club and the Jefferson Club at the University of Missouri. Survivors include nine nieces and nephews. At her request no funeral services will be held. Burial will be at IOOF Cemetery in Graham, Missouri in the spring.

We have received word of the death of **Jerry Carrington** (76). He died Nov. 26 and funeral services were held Monday at Memorial Funeral Home in Columbia. He is survived by his wife, **Charlette**; two daughters and three sons.

Martha Collins has returned to her home at the Terrace Apartments after being hospitalized and spending about a week at The Bluffs nursing home recently.

We bid Godspeed to **Marv and Royanne Tracy** who are moving to Liberty on December 9 to be closer to family members. Their new address will be 1901 Quail Ridge Court, Liberty, MO 65068. (No phone number as yet!) They have already visited and are looking forward to joining the Liberty Christian Church.

Thanks to **Linda Chandler** and **Jerry Daugherty** for their solos presented at the early and late services last Sunday. And thanks to everyone who participated in the Hanging of the Greens which was held at both worship services last Sunday. It was a great way to begin the Advent season!

Matthew Taylor, a senior at Rockbridge H.S., advanced to the rank of Eagle Scout on November 24, 2009, with Troop 5. There will be an Eagle Ceremony sometime after the first of the year.

(youth) @ first christian

JYF (3-5th grade)
CHI-RHO (6-8th grade)
CYF (9-12th grade)

Sunday, Dec 6

JYF: 4:30- 6:00 p.m.

Chi-Rho: 6:00 at church

Pizza served then we will go see the new "Christmas Carol" movie at Forum 8. Pick-up youth at Forum 8 at 8:30 p.m. Bring \$8

JYF and CHI-RHO December 20
All church Christmas Caroling 4-7 p.m.
Bring your families, food at the end!

CYF - Wednesday Nights

6:30-8:00 p.m.

(Dinner served at 5:30 p.m. \$5)

CYF -- Bible Study on Tuesday Nights

6:30-7:30 p.m. in Bethany Hall

We are studying Daniel.



The 77th Annual Christmas Pageant Sunday, December 13, 2009

7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
Tasting Party to follow in Fellowship Hall

Pageant Practice for Children Continues Sun. Dec. 6 & 13

This Sunday, Dec. 6, the children will be fitted for choir robes, continue their song practice and learn about shepherds.

As a special pre-pageant treat, The Rainbow Bells will present music in worship this Sunday, Dec. 6. These children are in grades K-1.

What is a "Tasting Party"? The "Tasting Party" is a snack extravaganza, an hors d'oeuvres marathon, a feast of great proportions. Church members and friends are invited to bring finger foods the night of the Christmas Pageant. When paired with delicious punch they create a great fellowship opportunity for all who have been a part of the night's Pageant. Join us for the annual Tasting Party!

Fair Trade Treasures

By popular demand, we will be making one more holiday season order and those treasures will be in next week. This is obviously the season when products from around the world come in and go out of our store at lightening speed. One friend in the church said yesterday that the thing she has learned about Fair Trade is that you have to buy it right when you see it or it will be gone! We are thankful for all of the unique products that provide a fair wage to the farmers and artisans whose talents we enjoy. Store hours are Wednesdays 4-8pm, Sundays 9am-1pm and during special events.

ATTENTION ELDERS

Reminder of seminar
"How to work with Older Adults"

December 10th @ 6:00-7:00 pm
Lenoir Woods

RSVP: 443-1111
Boone County Council on Aging

Children and Parents Rejoice

We are pleased to welcome Jeri Sheppard onto our Child Care staff! Jeri is an early morning worshiper and has agreed to work in our nursery after Sunday School and at other times as needed. We are thankful for Jeri and all of our dedicated staff through whom our children know God and understand "church".



Church Dine-Out Friday - December 6

5:30 p.m.

Bob Evans Restaurant
Everyone Welcome!

Thanksgiving is over -or Is It?

We have just celebrated a major holiday and are now in the season of Advent. This is a time when we are especially attuned to our many blessings and how we can help others. One way that is always available without any cost is prayer. It only takes a few minutes. When you pray for those on the prayer list, for others in need that you know or for those unknown to you, you connect yourself to God and those people in a special way. You may say a longer prayer or a prayer you learned as a child or simply say, "God, I ask that you bless and strengthen these people. They need your help today." Then read silently or aloud the names on the weekly prayer list. Amen! Your prayers will be a blessing to others and to yourself as well. Let's prepare for the coming of Christ with thankful and prayerful hearts.

Bethany Hall

History

The building at 125 N. 10th Street was acquired when the church secured ownership of the entire city block between Walnut and Ash, 9th and 10th Streets. After remodeling, the church leased the building to commercial businesses: Canterbury Travel Agency, Woodruff Marketing, and The Strand Hair Salon. The Strand vacated the property in July 2008 and moved to a location in southwest Columbia to accommodate the desire to have a spa for their clients.

Following meetings of the Administrative Board officers, the Trustees and other interested persons, a proposal was made and accepted by the Administrative Board at the November 12, 2008 meeting to retain the use of this building for church purposes. \$6,700 of a \$20,000 gift by an anonymous church member was designated for improvements and miscellaneous purposes to start using the building. It was agreed that following a six-month trial period, church use of the building would be evaluated.

Improvements

The following improvements to the building have been made: painting, carpeting, sheet rock, plumbing for 2nd bathroom, new sink, counter top, cabinets, new door, keys and locks, six new tables, and a new awning over the east door. Old wooden chairs from the Morris Parlor, and sofas and an ottoman from the Back Room were moved into the building.

Total cost of improvements –Interior: \$6,076.84

Exterior: \$1,709.32

Church Uses

The building now known as Bethany Hall has proven to be a safe and attractive meeting space and has been used by various groups for church purposes. These include:

A welcoming place for people to gather on Sunday morning. Laura Estes served breakfast from March to October and Sunday morning coffee and donuts and bagels for church members and friends continue to be served.

Fair Trade Store, Sunday School class meeting room

The Pathfinders Class

“The Back Room” group on Wednesday nights

CYF Monday evening Bible study

Shawl Ministry monthly meetings

Book Club monthly meetings

LIFE CWF group

Brummett-Harrah CWF group meeting

Drennan CWF group meeting

Summer Festival - July 22, games, cake walk

Receptions: for Marge Hook, for Dr. Valentine, Culver-Stockton College president

Birthday party

Anna Bancroft baby shower

Special Sunday groups - birthday party, hosting new members after baptism

(Continued Next Page)

(Bethany Hall Con't.)

Caring Family meetings

Typical Sunday morning usage: September 13

**2 greeters, 2 people serving food
8 members of Sunday School class
12-15 people eating brunch**

Outside group usage:

**Wedding planners meeting
Birthday party
Wedding rehearsal
Recipe Club meeting**

**Christmas party
CROP Walk water/rest station**

Financial Information

Total income received from rental (March to present): \$1,200

Projected Use/Financial Estimates

Commercial Rental

**Income: up to \$1,500 p/month
\$18,000 p/yr**

Expenses:

- Insurance: included in policy**
- Real Estate Taxes: \$767 p/yr**
- Exterior Maintenance: \$1,790.32
(2009 to date)**

**Fulfilling mission of the church:
Income only**

- Use by church members**

Bethany Hall

Income:

- Fair Trade Store: \$7-8,000 p/yr**
- Wedding rehearsals & other groups:
\$2,400**
- Dialogue groups: \$1,500 first year**
- Artists display space: \$1,000**
- Grants for other programs: \$500**
- Other: \$500**

Expenses:

- Insurance: (same) included in policy**
- Utilities: \$236.12/month average**
- Taxes: \$0 (excluded for church usage)**
- Maintenance: (same) \$1,790.32**

**Fulfilling mission of the church:
- Income**

- Opportunities for expanding the ministry of the church
among outside people and groups!**

[December 1, 2009]

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 Ministry Intern: Charise Garrett

Music Staff:

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

Cheryl Nichols, Choir Director
cnichols@stephens.edu

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

Serving Schedule - Sunday, Dec. 6

Van Driver: Matt Batterson

Office Receptionist: Debbie Potthast

Church School Greeter: Judy Hall

Bethany Hall Greeter: Judy Cunningham

Flower Ministry:

Arranged by - Larry Burnam, Nannie Lou Mallett

Delivered by - Helen and Perry Stemmons

Servers for 8:30 Worship Service

Worship Assistants: Andy, Louis and Janice Janssen

Elder: Ken Watson

Servers for 10:30 Worship Service

Communion Preparation: Gene Taylor, Robert Mountjoy,
Mike Mountjoy

Liturgist: Sally Robinson

Elders: Will and Donna Houston, Julie Hickey

Deacons: The Campbell Team

Greeter North Door: Joy Duren

Greeter South Door: Marguerite Smith

Ushers: The Pavlovich Team

Banner Bearers: Hunter Rogers and Gavin Rose

Candlelighters: Wyatt Rogers and Zac Ruffolo

This Week (Dec. 6-12)

- Sun. - Lunch & Discussion about Bethany Hall, after 10:30
worship service, Fellowship Hall
- JYF (grades 3-5), 4:30-6:00 pm
- Chi-Rho (grades 6-8), 6:00-7:30 pm
- Tue. - Bible Study, 10:30 am, Morris Parlor
- CYF (grades 9-12), 6:30 pm, Bible Study in Bethany Hall
- Wed. - Men's Lunch, 11:30 am, Senior Center
- CAFÉ: Dinner, 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
Dave Ramsey class, 6:00 pm, Cinema
Bible Study, 6:30 pm, Keystone Class Room
- CYF, 6:30-8:00 pm
- College Group, 8:45 pm, Bethany Hall