



## Christmas Sunday - Worship on Dec. 20

Christmas Sunday will be filled with great music and the Word! The mighty organ, guest brass ensemble and choirs will highlight this day. Voices will be lifted in the hymns, "Angels We Have Heard on High," "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks," and "What Child Is This". Scripture readings from the Gospel of Luke will focus our attention on the annunciation of the birth of Jesus to Mary, and Mary's song of praise, found in Luke 1:26-35, 46-55.

Music of the day will include Harlan Hackett singing "How Will We Know Him?" at the early worship service. The 10:30 service will include the Chancel Bell's "A Christmas Fanfare," and an anthem of bells, choir, organ and brass entitled "Glory Be to God in the Highest." Plus, our children in grades 2-5 will sing two selections from the Pageant.



## 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.

### Weekly Report

Dec. 13, 2009

Received this week \$18,133

Received to Date \$222,946

Needed to Date \$208,357

Attendance - 354

(includes early worship - 85)

## Christmas Eve Worship - December 24th 5:00, 7:00 & 11:00 p.m.

Join us on Christmas Eve and share in the wonder and joy of Christ's birth. The evening will offer meaningful services at three different times.

At 5:00 p.m. the sanctuary is open for quiet personal meditation with communion offered.

The 7:00 & 11:00 p.m. services will include carols, scripture, communion and candlelight. The 7:00 p.m. service will also include a time for the children and music by the Chancel Choir, Chancel Bells & soloists.



## Special Board Meeting - This Sunday!

A special Administrative Board meeting has been called for Sunday, December 20 immediately following the 10:30 worship service. In anticipation of Amy Kay Pavlovich's ordination interview with the Commission on Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Mid-America, board members will gather in the front of the sanctuary for a brief meeting called for the purpose of affirming our congregation's endorsement of Amy Kay Pavlovich's candidacy for ordination. Amy Kay was called to our church in July 2001 and has been taking classes on her weekly day off at Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis since 2004. She is scheduled to graduate in May from Eden Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree and will be ordained following graduation.

## All Church Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 20  
4 - 7 p.m.



Meet in Fellowship Hall at 4 pm and depart for caroling to special folks at Lenoir and those homebound. We will return to the church for a light supper and fellowship.

## News of the congregation

Among those members and friends of our congregation in our prayers at this time are: **Elaine List**, daughter of **Fred List**, who was admitted to Boone Hospital late last week; **Ruth Brandenburg** continues to receive care at Boone Hospital. **Buena Lansford** is at home recovering from an outpatient surgical procedure last week. **Pat Wright** was dismissed after being in the hospital overnight last week for surgery. **J.W. "Stan" Stafford** has also been released from the hospital after a stay last week.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of **Perry and Helen Stemmons** on the death of the husband of Perry's niece. He died last week in Indiana.

Thanks to **Nora Dietzel** for presenting two solos at the early service, and to **Brenda Mosby** for her solo offered at the late service, both last Sunday.

We celebrate the over 50 years wedding anniversaries of **Serena & Harry White** (52 yrs.), **Reesy & Bill Tetley** (70 yrs.) and **Dottie & Bryan Leath** (68 yrs.).

We say good-bye to **Mark & Becki Lawver, Caleb & Grace**, who have worshiped with us in recent years as Becki was here working on her PhD at MU. They will be moving over the Christmas break to the state of Utah where she has taken a teaching position. Traveling mercies, Lawyers!

### Your Special Birthday!



**Norma Miles**  
- 90 on Dec. 18



**Dec. 22-**Marilyn Schappert  
**Dec. 25-**Dorothy Baumgartner, Susan Ripley, Jeff Colburn, Frank Boster  
**Dec. 26-**Donald Seltsam, Cindy Roberts



## Beyond a 77 Year Old Script

*Away in a Manger no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head.*

For the past four weeks our pre-schoolers have been singing this in Sunday school which has led them to sing it in the car, in the tub, at school and anywhere else they take to song. Apparently, as I have heard from their parents, the lyrics to "Away in a Manger" can sometimes be elusive to a three year old. *The little Lord Jesus* has been sung as *little poor Jesus* and even *little ol' Jesus*. Hilarious.

There is never such an angelic time for little kids as when they are playing the role of angels and singing about *little poor ol' Jesus*. For the children of our church, the annual Christmas Pageant is such a time and we wouldn't have it any other way.

The pageant this year was wonderful. Our children sang with angelic voice, the shepherds seemed inquisitive, the wise men looked like great kings from the east and the tall angels seemed to really calm and loveliness very presence. The Jesus was most cooing in the manger, and cooing. I think baby and all who pated it was the that they were surby folks who love family and friends together in a time-tradition and an anstory of God's love. I think that feeling makes singing in a gold robe and walking barefoot in a tunic a little easier for a 4<sup>th</sup> grader.



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I think we had around 50 children in the pageant this year. It sure seemed like it when we were getting ready on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor! How great it was to have all of them participate. I hope that they each got a charge out of the big group of friends that were at their church doing something pretty neat. For each of us adult types, we got a glimpse of the potential we have in a group of kids to teach, lead and nurture in these years. It is my hope that such a reminder will bring those little singers, angels and their parents back around the place in the next year, that we might share the rest of the story of the *little poor ol' Jesus* --that started out in a manger of hay.

~Jimmy Spear



# (youth) @ first christian

JYF (3-5<sup>th</sup> grade)  
CHI-RHO (6-8<sup>th</sup> grade)  
CYF (9-12<sup>th</sup> grade)

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

CYF will be on break for the two weeks  
of Christmas break. (both Tues. Bible  
Study and Wed. night CYF)



CYF will serve dinner at  
Loaves and Fishes on  
Monday night, Dec. 28.

Meet in church kitchen at 2 p.m. to cook.  
Serving after 4 p.m.  
We will **EAT OUT** after the serving at  
Loaves and Fishes.

JYF and CHI-RHO in 2010  
January 10 & 24  
February 7 & 21

## College Thanks

Many thanks to those who took College Care Packages around town for our students and to our Campus Ministry Intern, Charise Garrett, for her extra work with this project. If you or your family member did not get a package, I am going to keep a stash of "Best Wishes Packages" all the time in my office. Please come by and see me! I would love to visit and send you along with our church's support... known through goodies. :) It is a wonderful thing to be located downtown in a college/university setting. Thanks be to God for the students who claim FCC as their home-away-from-church-home! ~Amy Kay

## Two on Student Board

Hickman High's noted all-student "Speak Your Mind" forums include **Drew Gieseke** and **Drew Nichols** on its nine-member steering committee. Some 200 students participate in these voices of democracy, which now commemorate its 20th year. Students plan it all, says the current Columbia Public Schools Quarterly Report. Faculty coordinator George Frissell says, "Very few schools in the whole nation have anything like this!"

## Early and Extra Music Rehearsals for Chancel Choir & Bells



**Sunday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>** there will be rehearsal for the anthem Sunday morning with guest conductor, Melissa Straw in the sanctuary.

9:30 - Chancel Bells practice prelude in Sanctuary

9:45 - Choir, Brass and Bells rehearse anthem in Sanctuary

**Thursday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>** the Chancel Choir will meet at 6:30 p.m. for practice on Christmas Eve anthem for 7:00 service, directed by guest conductor, Nora Dietzel. Bells also meet early to robe and play prelude at 7:00 service.

Chancel Bells will not meet again until Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at regular rehearsal time, 8:45 a.m. in Bell Room.

A big thank you goes to all our dedicated and fine musicians who serve so well for all our worship experiences here at First Christian!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!  
from Cheryl Nichols

## Interfaith Cookbook

As you are going through your recipes for this holiday season, please consider sending your favorite ones in for the Interfaith Holiday Celebration Cookbook which will be sold as a fundraiser next fall. All proceeds will go to the Interfaith Daycenter. It will include all the different holidays: St. Patrick's Day, Passover, Easter, Halloween, Christmas, Thanksgiving, etc. Please send your recipes to Debbie Nagel at [IFDC4@aol.com](mailto:IFDC4@aol.com) with the heading RECIPES or 5419 Dalcross Dr., Columbia, MO 65203. She will be collecting through March 2010. Any questions or ideas to make this a successful project call 442-7755.



Thank you to Emma H. for the beautiful Christmas card. ~Jeryl Vaught

Thank you all for the cards, concern and caring during and following my recent surgery and recovery. ~Paul Ritchie

## Fellowship Brunch - Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup>

Come to the Fellowship Hall for a few minutes or for an hour to visit with friends over fruit, sweet breads and beverages. From 9:15 a.m.-10:30 a.m. you are invited to come and go as you wish and simply enjoy the season of Christmas together.

## CAFÉ

ChristianActionFellowshipEducation

**\*\*CAFÉ will be on break  
Dec. 23 and 30. It will resume  
Wed. January 6.**

## January Bible Study with Marcus Borg!

Beginning Wednesday, January 6, John Yonker and Ken Watson will lead a Wednesday evening study of Marcus Borg's book, The Heart of Christianity. This study will replace the regular Wednesday CAFÉ bible study and is open to everyone in the congregation.

An internationally recognized New Testament scholar, Dr. Borg has written several books on the study of the historical Jesus. Many of our members recall his visit to Columbia when he came to lecture at First Christian Church in 2001. This 12-week series will give us the opportunity to discuss the issues which lie at the heart of Christianity, including faith, the Bible, being born again, sin and salvation, and other topics many of us find difficult. There will even be times during the 12 weeks to see and hear from Marcus Borg (via DVD) on these topics.

Sessions will be held in the Keystone Classroom on Wednesday evenings, 6:30 - 8 p.m. on the following dates: January 6, 20, 27, February 3, 24, March 3, 10, 24, 31, April 7, 14 and 21.

Call the church office to register for the class. For more information you may contact John Yonker at the church office: 449-7265.

# The Visitor

## First Christian Church

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

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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Columbia, MO  
Permit No. 75

### 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

## Return Service Requested

### Serving Schedule - Sunday, Dec. 20

*Van Driver:* Jeff Ripley  
*Office Receptionist:* Bobbi McCormack  
*Church School Greeter:* Mark Hunsaker Family  
*Bethany Hall Greeter:* Ben & Jen Micek  
*Flower Ministry:*  
*Arranged by -* Poinsettia Sunday  
*Delivered by -* Jerry and Mary Daugherty

#### **Servers for 8:30 Worship Service**

*Worship Assistants:* Will and Donna Houston, Anne Linn  
*Elder:* Anne Campbell

#### **Servers for 10:30 Worship Service**

*Communion Preparation:* Paul and Vickie Rorvig, Mary Kay Mueller  
*Liturgist:* Bragg Stanley  
*Elders:* Tommy Tomlin, Shirley Park, Pam Hoepfner  
*Deacons:* The Nichols Team  
*Greeter North Door:* Dan and Holly Gieseke  
*Greeter South Door:* Steve Humble  
*Ushers:* The Nichols Team  
*Banner Bearers:* Makali Hawkins and Julia Bower  
*Candlelighters:* Jacob Ripley and Will Bower

### This Week (Dec. 20-26)

- Sun. - Special Administrative Board Mtg., after 10:30 service, Sanctuary  
- All Church Caroling, 4:00-7:00 p.m., meet in Fellowship Hall (see front page for details)
- Tue. - Bible Study, 10:30 am, Morris Parlor
- Wed. - Men's Lunch, 11:30 am, Senior Center
- Thur. - Christmas Eve Services:  
5:00 p.m. - Personal Meditation and Communion  
7:00 & 11:00 p.m. -  
Worship with  
Carols, Communion  
and Candlelight
- Fri. - Christmas Day  
- Office closed

