



February 15 - 1st Sunday of Week of Compassion Observance!

“A leper came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him, ‘If you choose, you can make me clean.’ Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, ‘I do choose. Be made clean.’”

This famous story of Jesus moved with pity to touch a leper found in Mark 1:40-45 will form the basis of Dr. Yonker’s sermon on the first Sunday of our Week of Compassion observance, and will call us to respond to hurting people all across the world.

Special music for the morning will include at the 10:30 worship service Chancel Bells playing “Deep River”, a traditional Spiritual. The Chancel Choir’s anthem, “Lead Me Lord” will also be accompanied by Chancel Bells and Mary Bancroft, organist.

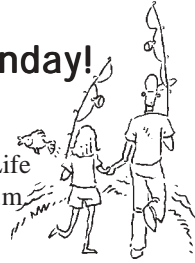
At the beginning of the 10:30 service Elders and Deacons will be commissioned to take communion to the sick, homebound and other members of the congregation unable to gather for worship in the sanctuary.

Local Mission

Columbia’s soup kitchen, “Loaves and Fishes” relies on faith communities to provide and serve suppers. Our church is a part of this ministry and our evening to provide (prepare and serve) supper is always the fourth Monday of each month. The sign up on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall shows that no one has volunteered for this month, February 23. Please consider taking the lead for this meal and inviting some of your church friends to help. There are instructional sheets with the sign-up that explain the process of serving and Amy Kay is available to help as well. Thanks!

Fishing and Calling the Disciples Begins this Sunday!

Children K-5th grade
3rd Floor – The River of Life
Sunday Mornings 9:30 a.m.





Baking, net making, learning to fish, and meeting the 12 disciples are just a part of the excitement that will be a part of this Sunday School rotation. For five weeks our children will learn about Jesus calling the disciples to fish for more than fish, not to mention all the other good stuff found in the story of 12 called to follow.

Sunday School for Pre-School aged children is shared each week in the nursery area beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Parents are encouraged to attend The Pathfinders Class that meets at 9:30 a.m. in “The Back Room” just behind the Sanctuary.

Wanted: Fisherman, Etc.

 **Fisherman: must have tackle and big fish stories.** Job: To share the joy and “how to” of fishing with elementary children. Time: Two Sundays at 9:30 a.m. between Feb. 22-Mar. 15.

 **Wanted:** Fish shaped cookie cutter, fishing nets and fishing accessories.

Please see Jimmy Spear.

Weekly Report

Feb. 8, 2008

Received this week \$5,576

Received to Date \$255,706

Needed to Date \$272,215

Attendance - 299

(includes early worship - 55)

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

Feb. 18th CAFÉ

Menu: Moroccan Style Chicken
with carrots
Fruited Couscous
Fresh Fruit

* **Program:** Rev. Jim Wilson, Global Ministries Missionary (most recently in Botswana)



* **Bible Study** with Dr. Yonker

* **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.**

Soaring toward Spring

Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

The Old Testament prophets offered words to the community appropriate to their circumstances. The haughty and high-handed were offered words of warning while the hindered and helpless received encouragement. These words found in Isaiah 40:30-31 speak comfort to God's people who are living in exile. Perhaps they speak words to us in our time and season. Perhaps they speak of God to us.

It is not hard to know how we relate. I would guess some days we soar, some days we run, some days we only walk and some days we may not even be able to move. Where do we get strength at any of these places of life, these seasons? Are you soaring, are you running, are you walking, or unmovable in this season of your life? Read the text once more.

In our waiting and even in our weary exhausted state, we like people of old find a hope and a search for joy in the presence of God. In the words of prophets, in the actions of disciples, in the prayers of friends, and in the faith that is ours we find God. Perhaps God is found in others to renew our strength with. Perhaps God is found in friends who help us search for joy. Perhaps just being with others whose ideas are hopeful does the trick.

These reflections are based upon one of the meditations found in the 2008 Advent devotional "*Partners in Prayer*" by Dawn and Joseph Weak. Their thoughts and approach to Isaiah 40 resonated with me this last advent and continue to do so. Sometimes as different seasons of life end and new ones approach, or as we sit in the midst of a long winter, a reminder of God's encouragement and the faithfulness of friends in faith is just what we need. In this winter season, when an occasional spring day pops, grab a-hold of it and recall again how God's people in the midst of varied circumstances and seasons find the chance for a new season to take shape. May our gatherings and prayers this week reflect that kind of joy and may it enable our soaring and running.

News of the congregation

We were saddened to learn of the death of **Cliff Odor** who died at home on Monday evening, February 3. The son of **C.K. and Minnie Odor** he was raised in our church and spent his life working as a carpenter and stone mason. He was 55 years old. A visitation will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, February 21, at Parker's Funeral Services, followed by a celebration of life at 11:30 a.m. Members of the congregation are invited. He is survived by his mother, Minnie Odor of Columbia; his sisters, **Christina Wilde** and husband **Walt** of Pensacola, Fla., **Cynthia Blosser** and husband **John** of Jefferson City, **Cayte Stilec-Stevenson** and husband **Robb** of Steamboat Springs, Colo., and **Liz Embree** of Barefoot Bay, Fla.; his brother, **Clark Odor** and wife **Debbie** of Germantown, Tenn.; and nieces, nephews, great-nephews and great-nieces.

Our sympathy is extended to the entire **Russ DeVenney family** at the death of his father, **Russell Frederick DeVenney, Sr.**, on Saturday, Feb. 7 at The Bluffs. Graveside services were held Tuesday, Feb. 10, at the Blair Cemetery in Camdenton, Mo.

Our love and sympathy is extended to **Mike and Mary Curry** on the death of their son, **Chris Curry** who died last Friday evening, February 6. A funeral service will be held this week in Pryor, Oklahoma. We also extend our sympathy to **Ryan Hughey** and the members of his family on the death of his good friend, **Mary Simon**.

We have learned former church secretary and member, **Ellen Gill**, died December 6 at home in Arnold, Mo. She served here for Rev. C. E. Lemmon while her husband Jack was away during World War II. He survives at home in Arnold.

Thanks to **Nora Dietzel** for her solo presented at the 8:30 a.m. service last Sunday. She was accompanied by **Norma Miller**.

The following people have been in our concern in the past week: **Ken Bright** and **Peggy Cline** who are hospitalized at Boone and **Vic Richard** who is at University Hospital. We continue to think of those who have been released from the hospitals: **Mary McRoberts, Elizabeth and Itsel Updegraff**.

We just discovered that this past fall **Josh Humble** was on the championship Columbia Colts 8th Grade CYFL football team - 11-2. Also, they were St. Louis Jr. Football

League champs and third place in the Atlanta, GA, Turkey Day Classic.

Special thanks to the **Worship Department** that has been meeting and provides thoughtful, helpful council and is taking the lead on a number of upcoming tasks. **Erin Bower** is our group's reporter to the Board. Our thanks are also extended to the **Membership Department** who continues to create helpful events and services for the life of the church. **Laura Estes** is our department chairperson.

Art Gaus recently received awards for service as secretary-treasurer of the Missouri Horticultural Society for 44 years (1965-2009) and of the Missouri Apple Merchandising Council for 20 years (1989-2009). Art, now retired, was an MU horticulture extension professor who helped develop the Missouri grape and apple industries. Appropriately, his auto license is APL-DOC!

Thank You!

Dear Shawl Ministry and FCC,
Thank you very much for the beautiful shawl for Itsel, it is a treasure. We are so blessed to be a part of such a loving and nurturing church family. Thank you for the joy and warmth that all of you bring to us each week!

With love and thanks,
Derek and Elizabeth Updegraff



Birthdays
Sarah Yonker-Feb. 15
Sally Robinson-Feb. 15
Tom Martz-Feb. 15
Bonnie Backues-Feb. 16
Sally Kessell-Feb. 16
Patti Freeman-Feb. 17
Dan Tevis-Feb. 17
Kimberly Potthast-Feb. 17
Brian McCarty-Feb. 17
Jenny McCarty-Feb. 17
Mark Mills-Feb. 18
Sue Fink-Feb. 19
Reesy Tetley-Feb. 20
Martha Niday-Feb. 20
Rina Joo-Feb. 21

(youth) @ first christian

CYF (9-12 grade)

Every Wednesday Night
5:30 Dinner at CAFÉ
6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Meet in CYF room.

Every Monday Night, 7:30 p.m.
CYF Bible Study
Downtown Panera Bread Co.

CYF Mission Trip #1: June 19-26

Pastor's Class will be offered in the weeks prior to Palm Sunday. If your child is of age and is interested in exploring this topic please call or see Rev. Spear. Contacts will be made in the coming weeks to those who likely fall into the age-readiness bracket.

February 22

JYF (grades 3-5) 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.
Chi-Rho (grades 6-8) 6:30 – 8 p.m.

JYF & CHI-RHO will meet on the following Sundays:

February 22 and March 8 & 22
Parent Partners Needed

Cure for Winter Blues! Feeling a little sad, a little down, a little blue –

Ask yourself – “What can I do?”

Clear out the clutter, pack up those dust-catching knick-knacks and donate them to the Youth Garage Sale March 27 - 29. We want to send our kids on their Mission Trips this summer with no worries about finances. Your contributions – great and small - make our Youth and College Mission Trips possible.

Contact Joyce Stanley for further information: 445-5058 or jbstanley@msn.com.

Homebound Communion

THANK YOU to these Elders and Deacons giving a gift of their time to visit and share communion with the homebound on Sunday, February 15. **ELDERS:** Mary Bancroft, Jacki Davidson, John and Julie Hickey, Will and Donna Houston, Moray Kiehl, Mary and Cliff Tompson, Royanne and Marvin Tracy, Nelson Trickey, Sharon Winner. **DEACONS:** Chris and Jay Creasy, Bryan Garton, Nancy Grieme, Judy Hall, Gene and Micki McGuire Kirkham, Susan Klockow, Mary Kay Mueller, Molly Read, Sarah and Marion Storm, Gene Taylor. **JR. DEACONS:** Joshua Garton and Jordan Mills. Thanks to Betty Moon for preparing the communion trays.



Join the Choir

Chancel Choir will prepare a special cantata for both services of Palm Sunday, April 5. Rehearsals in preparation for this Palm Sunday cantata will be Monday evenings, from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Chancel Choir will continue to have brief rehearsals at 10:00 a.m. Sundays pre-worship services and immediately after the 10:30 service for anthems presented

in worship through lent. Rehearsals will be held on the following Monday evenings, beginning at 5:30 p.m. and ending no later than 6:30 p.m.: Monday, Feb. 16, Monday, Feb. 23, Monday, March 1, Monday, March 8, Monday, March 15, Monday March 22, and finally, Monday, March 29.

Returning, new and “sometimes” choir members are encouraged to join the choir in our Monday rehearsals for this special musical event! Consider singing with the chancel choir even if you don’t normally join us in the choir loft - - it will be a joy to have you!

~Cheryl Nichols



BOOK O R N E R

If you were born in the early 1900s and lived in a farming community, you will readily relate to our friend and member’s Recollections of a Country Kid on the County Line. Printed in 2005, the book is a compilation of incidents in the lives of a family of eight (including an aunt who got the one bedroom in the house) during the very difficult days of the 1920s and early 30s Depression. Chapter headings such as “Lost in the Cornfield”, “Box Social Shenanigans”, “Rubber Band Guns” and “Steam Engine Blowup” will bring back memories.

Donald Brooker attended the University of Missouri-Columbia in the late 30s and early 40s, then was a Link Trainer Mechanic during WWII. Later he taught aviation at Stephens College and earned degrees in Agricultural and Mechanical Engineering. After a stint on the Purdue Faculty he became Professor of Agricultural Engineering at the University of Missouri, retiring in 1982.

Don Brooker, the author, continues to write for the community newsletter where he lives at Lenoir Woods Retirement Community. His interesting book is on the Book Cart.

Driving a Big Van

The Membership Department would like to invite you to consider discovering the delight of driving a big, 15 passenger van. Our First Christian van runs like a dream – you would love the feel of being behind the wheel!

If you would like an opportunity to drive, please let the office know as we have a Sunday morning driver spot open (one Sunday every other month). It would also involve providing rides for evening events. Driving the van is an important ministry because without its services, many of our friends could not get to church. Please consider driving and ask Amy Kay if you have any questions as you consider being a part of this service. *Our insurance requires a check of driving history and must approve all of our member drivers.

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

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-February 15, 2009

Van Driver: Jeff Ripley *Telephone:* Bobbi McCormack

8:30 Early Worship, Sanctuary

Worship Asst: Betty Moon and Marguerite Smith

Elder for 8:30 Service: Bettie Koelling

Communion Preparation:

Dan, Deidre and Drake Tevis

9:30 Church School

Church School Greeter: Mark Hunsaker Family

10:30 Worship in Sanctuary

Sermon: Dr. John J. Yonker *Liturgist:* Lynn Klotz

10:30 Elders: Nancy Watson, Dan Backues and Anne Campbell

Deacons: The Nichols Team

Greeters:

Nancy Watson, *North Door*

Maury and Margie Ellis, *South Door*

Ushers: The Nichols Team

Banner Bearers: William Bower and Annika Hylen

Candlelighters: Erich Unterschut and Ben Creasy

Flower Ministry:

Arranged by: Jessica, Steve and Taylor Humble

Delivered: Steve and Cheryl Lightner

This Week (February 15-21)

- Sun. - Week of Compassion
- Homebound Communion
- Mon. - CYF Bible Study, 7:30 p.m., Downtown Panera Bread
- Tue. - Bible Study, 10:30 a.m., Morris Parlor
- Wed. -Prayer Shawl Ministry group, 10:00 a.m.,
Mary Tompson's home
- Men's Lunch, 11:30 a.m., Senior Center
- CAFÉ: 5:30 p.m. Dinner
6:20 Devotion
6:30 Program: Rev. Jim Wilson, missionary
6:30 Bible Study
- CYF (grades 9-12), 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- Back Room (college group), 8:45-10:00 p.m.

