



## Sunday Services

At the beginning of the new year we turn the pages of our calendars and our daily planner, and get serious about fulfilling our new year's resolutions, and our worship services on the first Sunday of the new year will give us the opportunity to set our bearings of faith. The well-known words of the Preacher found in Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 remind us that "for everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven". This scripture reading, along with Ephesians 1:3-12, will provide the text for Dr. Yonker's sermon, "The Right Time!"

Special music will include Julia Bower playing a piano solo, "Carol of the Bells", for the offertory at the 10:30 service. The Chancel Choir's anthem will be "When the Angels' Song Is Silent" by Mary Kay Beall. The hymns this Sunday will include: "As With Gladness", "How Great Our Joy", "Sing of God Made Manifest" and "We Three Kings".

## Happy New Year! Jesus is the Light of the World!

Children and adults designed, signed and decorated New Year's cards during Sunday School on the River of Life. The lesson included learning about symbols of the church - Chi Rho, the cross and the fish - expanding our knowledge of the Crismon Christmas Tree decorations. Pictured here are: Matthew, Jacy, Jennifer, Ava and Molly.



**Church Eat-Out**  
Friday - Jan. 2  
5:30 p.m.  
Bob Evans Restaurant  
Everyone Welcome!

## Book Club



The Ladies Book Club resumes on Wednesday, January 14th with a discussion of Jana McBurney-Lin's novel, *My Half of the Sky*.

### Weekly Report

Dec. 21, 2008

Received this week \$9,727  
Received to Date \$200,755  
Needed to Date \$210,727  
Attendance - 279  
(includes early worship - 59)

### Attendance Christmas Eve

5 pm Meditation/Communion - 25  
7 pm Service - 278  
11 pm Service - 111  
**Total - 414**

### Weekly Report

Dec. 28, 2008

Received this week \$7,432  
Received to Date \$208,187  
Needed to Date \$221,921  
Attendance - 222  
(includes early worship - 56)

## Public Notice

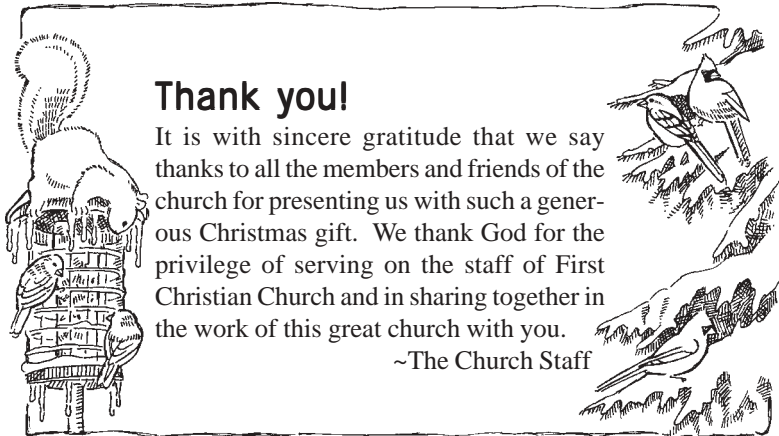
The Audio Visual Closet, Computer Lab, and Christian Education Closets - all on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor - will be getting their 30 year cleaning on January 15. A pile of excess will be available for any interested parties on Sunday, Jan. 18. Please see Jimmy Spear with questions.

The group will return to the Back Room, a cozy, comfortable meeting place, where we'll discuss this award winning novel of a young woman's struggles in Chairman Mao's modern China. We'll meet at noon so bring your lunch if you'd like. Questions? contact Linda Hutton at [lhutton50@hotmail.com](mailto:lhutton50@hotmail.com) or phone number (573) 442-5423.

## Thank you!

It is with sincere gratitude that we say thanks to all the members and friends of the church for presenting us with such a generous Christmas gift. We thank God for the privilege of serving on the staff of First Christian Church and in sharing together in the work of this great church with you.

~The Church Staff



## Heerrree's Johnny!

One of my favorite poems always comes to mind as we celebrate the birth of Christ and the appearing of the star in the east. Although it is not overtly theological, its challenge to lift our eyes and to set our sights on something like a star reminds me of the call of faith. Remember Robert Frost's wonderful poem, "Choose Something Like a Star"?

O Star (the fairest one in sight),  
We grant your loftiness the right  
To some obscurity of cloud –  
It will not do to say of night,  
Since dark is what brings out your light.  
Some mystery becomes the proud.  
But to be wholly taciturn  
In your reserve is not allowed.  
Say something to us we can learn  
By heart and when alone repeat.  
Say something! And it says "I burn."  
But say with what degree of heat.  
Talk Fahrenheit, talk Centigrade.  
Use language we can comprehend.  
Tell us what elements you blend.  
It gives us strangely little aid,  
But does tell something in the end.  
And steadfast as Keats' Eremite,  
Not even stooping from its sphere,  
It asks a little of us here.  
It asks of us a certain height,  
So when at times the mob is swayed  
To carry praise or blame too far,  
We may choose something like a star  
To stay our minds on and be staid.

Choose something like a star! At the beginning of the new year we need something like a star to inspire us, to ask of us something more, to call us to something higher.

Perhaps we have been living in the basements of life and not getting out to see the stars, missing the beauty of life around us. Perhaps we have been content to sit in the back and slide through class, when we could have been studying and really getting an education. Perhaps we have been doing just enough to please the boss, when we could have given more effort to do the job right. Perhaps we have been content to let relationships grow stale, when we could have been working to make them vital, intimate and enriching.

Perhaps we have just been too content with life, not really having any problems, but just going along in a rut.

Here is the challenge of the new year, to choose something like a star. To set our

sights on something higher! To become and do something more, for the cause of Christ, for peace on earth! For the joy of living in the spirit of the living Christ! Choose something like a star! Happy New Year!

## 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

## Jan. 7th CAFÉ

*Menu: Swiss Steak, Rice, Broccoli with  
Lemon Zest and dessert*

\* **Program:** "Pursuing Our Vision" by Sarah Read, Chair of the Master Planning Committee

\* **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**.

## Thank You

My thanks to my friends at FCC for the cards, calls, care and concern during my hospital stay and since my return home. Also, a special thanks to the Shawl Ministry for my beautiful shawl which John delivered. I am enjoying it. Mrs. Millie Bolman did a nice job on this one!

~Emmy Croll

## News of the congregation

We are pleased to hear that **Tyler Lay**, five-and-a-half-month old son of **Rob and Suzanne Lay**, grandson of **Chuck and Emily Scott** has returned home after spending a few days in Cardinal Glennon Hospital in St. Louis. The family lives in St. Louis.

**Peggy Cline** was admitted to Boone Hospital on Monday, December 20 for testing and has now returned to her home at the Lenoir Manor. After spending several days at Boone Hospital and the Health Care Center, **Mary McRoberts** has returned to her home at the Maplewood Apartments at Lenoir. Also, **Jean Rossman** spent several days at University Hospital and has returned to her home in the village at Lenoir.

**Ellwyn Ewer** has moved from the Manor into the Health Care Center at Lenoir. She resides in room 1405. Her address is 3300 New Haven Road, 65201.

Thanks to **Pat Rybolt** for her lovely solo presented as special music at the 8:30 service on December 28.

The **Pavlovich Family** is enjoying a week of vacation with their families in Kansas. Amy Kay will be back to work this week. **Jimmy Spear** will take his last 2008 vacation days this weekend and return to work next week.

Special thanks to **Mary Daugherty, Laura Daugherty, Nancy Watson, and Judy Hall** for their help with the poinsettias this year. They were beautifully arranged!

## Happy Birthday!

Albert Browne-Jan. 4  
Paige Freed-Jan. 4  
Hiliary Nichols-Jan. 5  
Lindsey Chandler-Jan. 5  
Allison Ramsey-Jan. 6  
Bob Haynes-Jan. 7  
Brian Montgomery-Jan. 8  
Bryan Garton-Jan. 8  
Samantha Fullington-Jan. 10  
Cindy Rose-Jan. 10  
Ava Hoenes-Jan. 10



# (youth) @ first christian

## CYF (9-12 grade)

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

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

**January 11 & 25**

**February 8 & 22**

at the following times:

**JYF (3-5 grade)** 4:30 – 6:00 pm

**Chi-Rho (6-8 grade)** 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm  
except...

**CHI-RHO on January 11**

Lunch out and then Bowling  
Meet after church/noon till 3 p.m.  
Bring \$ 8.

## 6 people, 6 hours, 60 fed And other related youth news...

Six CYF youth took advantage of their first day of Christmas break by going to church to cook then taking dinner to *Loaves and Fishes*, the local "soup kitchen". Drew, Drew, Alec, Lindsey, Christian, and Ryan were hard at work all afternoon cooking the ham, mac & cheese, and green bean casserole. It was a good way to put into context the message of Christmas as they fed those who were poor, hungry, and cold on a very cold night.

In a related story, the CYF was most diligent in the making of pancakes and sausage. What a great crowd turned out to share breakfast on the last Sunday of Advent. Over 80 people were served. Thanks to all who donated so generously. Funds were put into the Summer Mission Trip Fund. However, the first \$100 of pancake profit was used in purchasing the food for the *Loaves and Fishes* dinner served on Monday.

The Chi-Rho middle school group was on hand to assist as servers and was most helpful. Advent breakfast was such a success, it is planned for next year already! Thanks to adult partners for their assistance in the kitchen: Mark Mills (sausage), Dan Gieseke (pancakes), Elizabeth Updegraff and Jen Micek (fruit) and Holly Gieseke (managing Chi-Rho servers in Fellowship Hall).



The Mother's Day Out children sing Christmas songs for the STARS Christmas luncheon.

## "Here We ~~Go~~ <sup>Went</sup> A-Caroling..."

Thirty-three hardy singers braved single-digit temperatures to bring music and the Christmas Spirit to many of our older members and shut-ins. After two hours of hopping in and out of cars and harmonizing in the hallways of Lenoir - the chilled, but still enthusiastic, singers returned to Fellowship Hall for creamy potato soup, chili, hot dogs, hot tea, coffee, cocoa and desserts! Yummy appreciation goes out to the cooks: Brenda Martin, Pam Hunsaker, Sarah Read and to Joyce Stanley who also organized the warm reception.

Thanks to Rev. Jimmy Spear for organizing the



event and leading one group and to Rev. Amy Kay Pavlovich for leading the second group. Harlan Hackett got everyone started off on the right note - not too high and not too low!

If you missed the opportunity to participate this year - don't worry - Christmas 2009 is only a year away. Plan now to be part of next year's caroling party!

# 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 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-January 4, 2009

*Van Driver:* Dan Gieseke    *Telephone:* Cindy Rose

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

*Worship Asst:* Will and Donna Houston

*Elder for 8:30 Service:* Will Houston

*Communion Preparation:*

Ed Bright, Nannie Lou Mallet, Helen Stemmons

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

*Church School Greeter:* Gerry Coon

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

*Sermon:* Dr. John J. Yonker    *Liturgist:* Kurt Schaefer

*10:30 Elders:* Fred Mottaz, Perry Stemmons, Nelson Trickey

*Deacons:* The Campbell Team

*Greeters:*

Eric Arnett, *North Door*

Gerald and Susan Ramsey, *South Door*

*Ushers:* The Pavlovich Team

*Banner Bearers:* Makali Hawkins and Jadie Arnett

*Candlelighters:* Gavin Rose and Max Schaefer

*Flower Ministry:*

*Arranged by:* Mary Jane Anderson and Nancy Watson

*Delivered:* Libby and David Weber

## This Week (Jan. 4 - 10)



- Tue. - Bible Study, 10:30 a.m., Morris Parlor
- Wed. - Men's Lunch, 11:30 a.m., Senior Center  
- World Outreach, 5:30 p.m.  
- CAFÉ, 5:30 p.m. Dinner  
6:20 Devotion  
6:30 Program  
- CYF (grades 9-12), 6:30-8:00 p.m.