



Sunday Services

In the dead of winter when the wind blows and the mercury dips lower and lower, we look for signs of spring and hope that it comes quickly. And when the stock market plunges, and the economic forecast is gloomy, we hope a new administration in Washington will turn things around. We live by hope! Thus Dr. Yonker's sermon for Sunday, January 18 will focus our attention on the issue of "Abound in Hope!", based on Romans 15:4-13.

Administrative Board Meeting Called

A special meeting of the Administrative Board has been called for Sunday, January 18, at 11:45 a.m. in Morris Parlor. The sole item of business will be consideration of a proposal from Senior Minister, John Yonker, for the congregation to sponsor the Older Adult Ministry of Rev. Sally Robinson. A member of our congregation, Rev. Robinson has provided ministry for older adults in residential and long-term care at Lenoir and in other facilities since coming to Columbia in 2001. Following the bankruptcy of Lenoir in 2004, and the decision of the Christian Church of Mid-America to cease sponsorship of her ministry through the Northeast Area office, our congregation will become the recognized institution sponsoring her ministry. Members of the board are urged to be present, and all interested persons are invited to attend this important meeting.

Weekly Report

Jan. 11, 2008

Received this week \$7,220
Received to Date \$228,211
Needed to Date \$237,769
Attendance - 353
(includes early worship - 50)



Welcome New Members!

It was a joy to welcome **Ben and Beth Nelms** into our congregation at the late service on January 11 as they transferred their membership from the First Christian Church in Gainesville, Florida. No strangers to our people, they have been worshipping with us and participating with us in various church functions for several months. Both have retired from careers in education; Beth taught English at Hickman High School, and Ben taught English and Education at Mizzou before leaving to become Dean of the College of Education at the University of Florida in Gainesville. They are the proud parents of five children and five grandchildren. They reside at 3309 Talent Dr., Columbia 65203, phone #446-0062. Welcome Ben and Beth!

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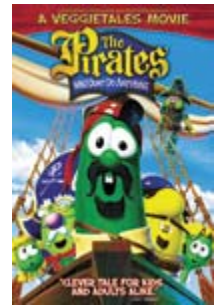
Nominations to be Received

According to the bylaws, a Nominating Committee comprised of the Administrative Board Moderator, four Elders, four Deacons, two Junior Deacons, two members of the congregation-at-large and the Minister shall be appointed to prepare a report for presentation to the Administrative Board at the March meeting. At the November 2008 board meeting, the following persons were approved to serve in such capacity: Moderator Chris Creasy, Elders - Bettie Koelling, Shirley Park, Nancy Watson, Steve Lightner; Deacons - Judy Hall, Susan Klockow, Erin Bower, Mike Korman; Junior Deacons - Jordan Mills, Josh Garton and Minister - John Yonker.

Nominations from the congregation for any office (Elder, Deacon, Junior Deacon, officers of the board) will be accepted until February 1. Forms for members wishing to make nominations will be available in the church office during business hours, and in the Narthex on Sunday mornings until that date.

Mid-Month Movie: for KIDS!

The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: A VeggieTales Movie



Saturday, January 24

3:00 p.m.

Church Cinema on the 3rd Floor

Nursery Childcare Provided
Free Hot Popcorn served!

Join the hilarious tale of adventure following the comic misadventures of three animated veggie pals who reluctantly set sail for adventure and discover that real heroes don't have to be tall, strong, handsome, --or even human. While *Pirates...* is for all ages, this matinee movie in the church cinema invites church kids, their families and friends too!

Twinkle, Twinkle

Saturday's "First Christian Day with the Stars" basketball game between the Stephens College Stars and the Columbia College Cougars was the perfect match for our church to sponsor. We have many ties with Stephens; one of which is that their head coach is my husband. We also are related denominationally to Columbia College. This was a great game for us because of who was playing.

Stephens knew going into the game that the Cougars were ranked 13th in the nation for a good reason. They are good. This was Stephens' first conference game EVER. Stephens lost, disappointingly, by 35 points.

There are many ways one could reflect upon the game. Dane and the players will do their share of analyzing, but those of us from our church, other fans and the media also come away from the game with our different takes. Before the Tribune was delivered on Sunday morning we wondered how the article would come off. Thankfully, the title of the game's article was "Twinkle, Twinkle – Stephens Impressive in AMC Opener". Dane didn't think the article could be any more positive about his team after such a loss. The game's analysis was honest, but with grace.

Are we able to do the same? It is tough. No doubt. We can let one another down – we can let ourselves down. Are we able to continue on in a relationship even when it is messy and still have an honest yet positive outlook? This is a discipline, a skill... and a choice. Thanks be to God that this is a place where we can practice the skills that we want to have within the church and outside of its walls. Thanks be to God that this is a place where we have great examples of how to live grace-filled lives. Cliff and Mary Tompson are just one couple who serve as exemplars for me personally. Think of your own examples and may we all strive to reflect the love of God by choosing this path of grace ourselves. ~amy kay

College Notes...

We are glad that our regular Back Room gatherings have begun again and we can catch up on the break's happenings! Come and join us on Wednesday evenings from 8:45 – 10:00pm whenever you are able to do so. If you need a ride, please call 808-1980. Thanks!

CAFÉ

Christian Action Fellowship Education

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. 21st CAFÉ

Menu: Texican Shredded Pork
Corn Spoonbread
Salsa and Chips

* **Program:** Watch and Explore
Martin Luther King's
"I Have a Dream",
a documentary to be shown
in the Cinema (3rd floor of
Education Building)

* **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.**

DISCIPLE MEN!

Breakfast and Bible Study

Saturday morning, January 31

- Hot breakfast by famed cook Laura Estes served at 8:30 a.m. (home by 9:45 a.m.), cost \$5
- Bible Study by John Yonker, Jimmy Spear & guest leaders.
- All men of the church welcome.
- *Menu:* Biscuits & Gravy, scrambled eggs, fruit, coffee and juice
- *Reservations by:* Wed., January 28

News of the congregation

Jean Black, Ed Bright and **Joyce Stanley** all have returned home to continue recuperating from surgery last week. **Shirley Olcott** was admitted to Boone Hospital on Friday evening, January 9 and remains there at this time for testing. We are keeping **Tony Hulen's father, Junior Hulen**, in our prayers as he recuperates from surgery last week at Boone Hospital. He is a member of our sister congregation, the Christian Church in Madison. We, also, remember **Brad Volmert's father, Richard Volmert** who is recovering from surgery last week at University Hospital. Our prayers are with **Gerald Ramsey's brother, Vernon Ramsey** who is facing the possibility of surgery this week at St. John's Hospital in St. Louis.

Congratulations to **Maigan and Dan Shifley** on the birth of their daughter, **Hannah Grace**, who was born on December 31. She weighed 8 lbs., 14 oz. and was 22" long. Her big sister is two year old **Ava** and the proud grandparents are **Mark and Judith Wildman**.

Basketball players among us...

Stephanie Mottaz, Senior member of the Hallsville Girls Basketball Team, nominated for Courtwarming Queen; **Bryan Grieme-Versules**, Sophomore at Hickman High School and on the JV Boys team; **Steve Gieseke**, 8th grade, Oakland Jr. High Team; **Brian & Jenny McCarty**, 8th grade, Fulton Middle School Teams.



Mary Bess Green-Jan. 18
Mike Mountjoy-Jan. 18
Mike Korman-Jan. 18
Margie Ellis-Jan. 18
Royanne Tracy-Jan. 19
Kay Ahrens-Jan. 20
Connie Guy-Jan. 20
Harry White-Jan. 21
John Crane-Jan. 21
Susan Klockow-Jan. 21
Teresa Foster-Jan. 23
Matthew Hoepfner-Jan. 23
Ella Rose Frances Rogers-Jan. 23
James Silvey-Jan. 24
Marion Storm-Jan. 24

(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 25

February 8 & 22

Sunday, January 25

JYF (grades 3-5) 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.
Parent Partner needed.

Chi-Rho (grades 6-8) 6:30 – 8 p.m.

Actor Andy Janssen

Our own Andy Janssen debuts this weekend as the lead in “Jellybean Conspiracy ‘Theatre of Kindness’” in Jesse Hall. Andy plays the character of Tom who has Down’s Syndrome. In this production, Tom’s sister Cricket learns to see her brother with new eyes and in the end is able to offer him a deeper kind of love than she was previously able. This show is produced by Columbia’s Performing Arts in Children Education (PACE) which believes that the performance will educate our community about the difficulties of being a person with special needs in an environment that may accommodate them, but not include them. Shows that are open to the public are this Friday, Jan. 16th and Saturday, Jan. 17th at 7:00 pm, and Sunday, Jan. 18th at 2:00 pm. Tickets are available at the door. For ticket information please call 573-443-0541.

Andy is a regular worship assistant at our Sunday morning early service. We are proud to know him and of his great accomplishments with this production.

Wanted!

One of our active college students is in need of a Lazy Boy and sofa. If you have either or both of these things, please call Amy Kay at 808-1980.

Week of Compassion Responds to the Gaza Crisis

Thursday, January 8, 2009

As most of us peacefully celebrated the holidays and the long awaited birth of the Christ child, our sisters and brothers in the Middle East still await the birth of peace in their midst.

Week of Compassion is responding to the tragic situation in Gaza through our major implementing partner organizations, Church World Service (CWS) and Action by Churches Together (ACT). ACT efforts include those of the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC)’s Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR), International Orthodox Christian Charities, the Lutheran World Federation and Norwegian Church Aid, all long-time CWS partners. These are initial efforts and will be expanded later as the situation continues to unfold.

CWS-supported efforts now include the provision of food, including high-energy biscuits for children, medicine and blankets, as well as the deployment of trauma counselors.

ACT partners are awaiting permission from the Israeli army for the supply trucks to enter the blockaded area.

ACT members report that there is a need for supplementary feeding for 80,000 preschool children, but only one in four children has received such supplements during the war. The need for emergency psychosocial care within the war-torn area is overwhelming, ACT reports. “The best therapy for children is to resume normal life”, says ACT’s representative in Israel and Palestine, Liv Steinmoeggen. Providing aid to infants and small children, together with their mothers, is among our highest priorities.

Due to the complexity of the crisis and the potential for further violence, the distribution of food will be dangerous and complicated. ACT will operate together with UN agencies and distribute through Palestinian community representatives.

In addition to your generous gifts to this ongoing crisis, we invite you to join us in praying for peace in a region of the world that is still longing for the birth of true peace.

Shawl Ministry Update

We are picking up our needles and hooks again after our holiday break and we want to welcome all new knitters and crocheters who may wish to join us. We have lots of fun and receive much positive feedback from those who have received the shawls, so please consider joining us in this wonderful ministry. Do not be deterred from participating because you are unable to be present at our meetings. Several of our members who participate can not attend because of work or other conflicts and we would love to have you join us. If you don’t know how to knit or crochet this would be an excellent opportunity to learn. We have great teachers.

We will meet this coming Wednesday, January 21, at 10 a.m. at the home of Mary Tompson. For more information call 442-8849.



Thank You
Notes

Thank you so much for your prayers and concern throughout my time of illness, as well as your visit and the beautiful prayer shawl! Your support and guidance throughout the years has been an infinite blessing, but in times like the present, I can honestly say that without such a strong spiritual base in my life, I cannot imagine where I would be! Your care and gratitude is forever appreciated. Thanks again.

~Andrea Smith

I appreciate the care and concern shown during my surgery and recovery and was blessed to have John’s presence and prayers. Thank you for the comforting prayer shawl and all of your thoughts and prayers.

~Jean Black

Special Offerings 2008

In 2008, the members and friends of First Christian Church have generously supported the Christian Church (DOC) special offerings:

Central MO Food Bank	\$2,035
Crop Walk	\$ 70
Festival of Sharing	\$ 450
Habitat for Humanity	\$ 100
Heifer International	\$1,555
PET Project	\$ 601
VAC Christmas Project	\$ 170
Woodhaven	\$ 100

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 18, 2009

Van Driver: Matt Batterson *Telephone:* Carole Randerson

8:30 Early Worship, Sanctuary

Worship Asst: Tom and Carol Hughey, Jeri Sheppard

Elder for 8:30 Service: Mary Bancroft

Communion Preparation:

Al, Elizabeth, Al, Brendan and Joshua Browne

9:30 Church School

Church School Greeter: Mark Hunsaker Family

10:30 Worship in Sanctuary

Sermon: Dr. John J. Yonker *Liturgist:* Julie Nichols

10:30 Elders: Marilyn Schappert, Ken Watson, Millie Bolman

Deacons: The Nichols Team

Greeters:

Anne Campbell, *North Door*

Betty and Rich Montgomery, *South Door*

Ushers: The Nichols Team

Banner Bearers: Julia Bower and Jacob Ripley

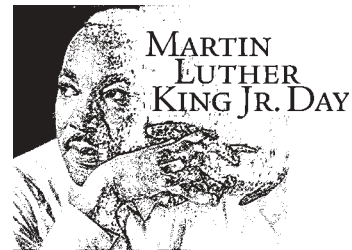
Candlelighters: Jacy Alexander and Wolf Schaefer

Flower Ministry:

Arranged by: Erin and Shane Bower

Delivered: Brenda and Mark Martin

This Week (Jan. 18 - 24)



- Sun. - Administrative Board Special Mtg., 11:45 a.m.,
Morris Parlor
- Mon. - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (office closed)
- Tue. - Bible Study, 10:30 a.m., Morris Parlor
- Wed. - Men's Lunch, 11:30 a.m., Senior Center
- CAFÉ, 5:30 p.m. Dinner
6:20 Devotion
6:30 Program
6:30 Bible Study
- CYF (grades 9-12), 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- Back Room (college group), 8:45-10:00 p.m.