



## Sunday Services

When we hear the word Jonah we think about the man who was swallowed by a fish and lived to tell about it. But there is much more to it than that! And, that will be the subject for Dr. Yonker's sermon on January 25. The text is found in Jonah 3:1-5, 10. We will also read Psalm 62:5-12.

Special music at the 8:30 worship service will be "He Was There All the Time" with Kelli Embry, soloist. The Chancel Choir's anthem at the 10:30 service will be "The Greatness of Our God" by Benjamin Harlan.

## Church Website & Email

After months of frustration with our web site and email, we are changing providers. Our thanks to David Heise who has dealt with all of our technical headaches and who is doing all the work to switch us to a better provider. He spends hours working with us and we are truly thankful.

It is going to take a week or so to get us all moved and functioning again. In that time, please call us instead of emailing. Also, Amy Kay's email has been particularly problematic again and she knows there are 450 emails that she is not able to receive... please call or use facebook to convey any emails from the past few weeks. Sorry for the inconvenience and thanks for your patience!!

### Weekly Report

Jan. 18, 2008

Received this week \$6,729  
Received to Date \$234,941  
Needed to Date \$247,400  
Attendance - 275  
(includes early worship - 66)



## Breakfast & Bible Study Saturday, January 31 8:30am, Fellowship Hall

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

## Board Approves Ministry

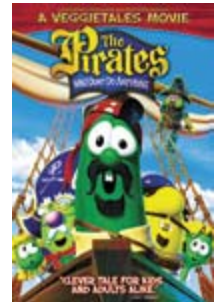
Last Sunday our Administrative Board voted unanimously to sponsor the Columbia Area Older Adult Ministry with Rev. Sally Robinson employed as Chaplain for this ministry. This ministry will continue as a self-supporting ministry, with financial support coming from concerned congregations and individuals of the Columbia area. Our church has budgeted support for this ministry for a number of years and other churches in our area have done so as well. Sally's office will be located on the third floor and will share space with the Computer Lab. If you have any questions about our sponsorship, please visit with Sally or John Yonker. Welcome, Sally!

## Building with our Building

This year's annual Planning Retreat will be focused on faithfully responding to our Christian call with our church facilities. This Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, we will meet in the Fellowship Hall for a light lunch during the first half hour following the late worship service. Our program will start thereafter with an introductory skit followed by several rounds of facilitated dialogue and other fun and creative activities. Come for part or all of the event as you are able. Child care for preschoolers will be provided in our nursery. The retreat will end by 2:30pm with opportunities to visit afterwards.

## Mid-Month Movie: for KIDS!

*The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: A Veggie Tales Movie*



## Saturday, January 24 3:00 p.m. Church Cinema on 3<sup>rd</sup> 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!

## Simple Gifts

The old Shaker melody is so easy to recall. It is a popular American folk tune whose melody was weaved into Aaron Copeland's *Appalachian Spring*. It is the tune of the camp song *The Lord of the Dance* that I danced to in worship as a youngster. The song *Simple Gifts* is found in our Chalice Hymnal at number 568, and called *'Tis the Gift to Be Simple*. Perhaps you have sung it in your life and have recalled it's power. A simple power.

*'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free, 'tis the gift to come down where we ought to be, and when we find ourselves in the place just right, 'twill be in the valley of love and delight. When true simplicity is gained to bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed; to turn, turn, will be our delight till by turning, turning we come round right.*

These words have moved me over the years. For they seem to speak of our lives, our faith, our land. They combine our hopes and fears and align them with our needs for the future. It is funny how a tune brings forth thought and then history and then inspiration.

Newsletter day this week at FCC is also Inauguration Day in these United States. I just watched, via CNN.com/facebook, America recall again the gifts of freedom and celebrate democracy. As a quartet of world renowned musicians, Yo-Yo Ma, Itzhak Perlman, Gabriella Montero, and Anthony McGill performed John Williams' arrangement of *Simple Gifts* I was again moved. Music does that for me. At big moments in history, in my life, even each Sunday in our sanctuary — moved by tune and verse.

The church was full on Sunday. We gathered for worship and proclaimed the gospel. Communion was served and prayers were offered. As this work week unfolds, the Shaker tune in my head will inspire me for my days ahead. For it will remind me of freedoms celebrated today, my place in this great land, and the opportunity to *turning around right*.

In this new year, what will be your tune & verse? May it be a simple gift.

~Jimmy

THANK YOU!  
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!  
THANK YOU!

A big thank you goes out to the following dedicated members of our church for their work in the Fellowship Hall: **Eric Arnett, Buddy Boger, Kerry Bramon, Ryan Hunsaker, Mark Mills and Drew Nichols**. Due to their efforts we were able to replace some worn base board moldings around the columns and install chair rail in preparation for a more colorful environment. ~Mark Hunsaker

## Book Club



The Ladies Book Club returns to the inviting, comfortable Back Room at noon on Wednesday, Feb 11 to discuss our pre-Valentine's Day selection, *Eat, Pray, Love* by Elizabeth Gilbert. The memoir details the author's attempt to recover from divorce by traveling the world, restoring her spirits and writing a book about it all. She spends four months in three countries — Italy, India, and Indonesia — in an attempt to restore her zest for life. Reviews seem to either love or hate this book. Bring your lunch and join us to see what the Ladies Book Club decides.

Happy Birthday!



Carroll St. John-Jan. 25  
Jan Keithley-Jan. 26  
Kara Zimmer-Jan. 26  
Samuel Creasy-Jan. 26  
Glenda Clark-Jan. 26  
Jim Baumgartner-Jan. 28  
Jim Ross-Jan. 28  
Matthew Hickey-Jan. 29  
Anita Dresser-Jan. 29  
Annika Hylen-Jan. 29  
Bryan Freed-Jan. 29  
Marcus Floyd-Jan. 29  
Ronald Sheppard-Jan. 30  
Adam Taylor-Jan. 31

## News of the congregation

Our sympathy goes to **Lana Poole** and her family on the death of her father, **Rue Adcock**, of Eldon, MO. Rue passed away on Monday at age 88. Services were held Thursday in Eldon.

We are saddened to learn of the death of **Edna Coleman**, former member of our congregation, who died in the St. Louis suburb of Fenton on Friday, January 16. Funeral services were held in that community on Tuesday.

Our sympathy is extended to the **Roy and Joy Overacre** family on the death of Joy's father, **Rolla Plattner**, 81, of rural Grand Pass, MO. Services were held Thursday in Waverly at Waverly Christian Church with Rev. Bill Koch officiating.

**Pat and Sue Wright's** granddaughter, **Casey Fadler**, is a patient at University Hospital recovering from injuries received in an automobile accident over the weekend. **Shirley Olcott** is recovering from surgery on Friday, Jan. 16 at Boone Hospital. **Jean Black** is home recovering from surgery on Tuesday.

Our congratulations are extended to **Andy Janssen** for a wonderful weekend of The Jellybean Conspiracy performances! It was an amazing show and we are proud of Andy for his acting debut.

Congratulations to **Sarah Smith Auer** and **Kris Nelson Auer** on the birth of their first baby, **Jacob Nelson Auer**. Jacob was born on Thursday morning and is now home with his parents in Overland Park, Kansas. He is the first grandchild of **Steve and Sharon Smith**. Jacob weighed 7 lbs., 5 ozs. and was 20 ½ inches long. Congrats to you all!

### Huge Thanks!

Thanks to Amy Kay, John and Jimmy for their visits and prayers, to all the wonderful cooks who dropped off snacks and casseroles, to everyone who sent cards or gave me a call and to Millie Bolman for her beautiful blue prayer shawl.

My new knee is starting to limber up and I hope to be promoted from walker to cane later this week! [Hmmm - Joyce with a large stick - is that really safe??] It is wonderful to be a member of FCC - a church filled with loving, caring people. Thank you!  
~Joyce Stanley

# (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.  
**Chi-Rho** (grades 6-8) 6:30 – 8 p.m.

## Children's Sunday School Takes Break in February

In the year and half that I have been among you we have been having Sunday morning children's education every single Sunday. There has not been a pause nor a break to revisit how this important ministry functions and who will lead this ministry. School has breaks, youth groups take breaks, and many enjoy holiday breaks. While many children have taken breaks from Sunday mornings, the River of Life program has continued every Sunday of the year. This month the program will take a break so as to be better equipped in the year ahead.

A newly re-formed Christian Education Department will be meeting in the next few weeks to give direction and oversight to our needs and plans. Two Sundays will be set aside as intentional "break Sundays" as we renew our program.

Several realities have become clear in recent months that cause me to seek this pause and change. First, it is difficult to identify and recruit teacher/leaders. The number of children that attend the 9:30 Sunday morning hour does not reflect the number of children we have active in this church. In order to better resource teachers/leaders and be responsible for the time and resources of this ministry we must take a break to talk, brainstorm, pray, and regroup. Parents will be key players in this pause. The entire church membership will be key in this pause.

In Summary:

The River of Life (Children's Education for K-5<sup>th</sup> grade on Sunday Mornings) will be on break Sunday, February 1 and 8.

**February 1** will be an all-teacher/leader meeting at 9:30 a.m. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.

**February 8** will be a teacher/leader training and volunteer opportunity at 9:30 a.m. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Lessons/Dates will be presented and displayed for teachers. All the lessons for the next 4 months will be available to pick up/sign up to teach.

**The River of Life will resume its flow on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor on Sunday, February 15.** This day we will welcome children again to the wonders of the bible story as it is presented in creative and inspiring ways. I welcome your thoughts. ~Jimmy Spear

## Receiving Nominations

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.

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.

## VAC Christmas Project

A huge thank-you goes out to all church members who participated in the Voluntary Action Center Christmas project this year. First Christian Church sponsored nineteen families in 2008. Altogether, 1,230 local families (over 4,000 people) received gifts and groceries through the program, which was in its 25<sup>th</sup> year in 2008. I personally appreciated everyone's patience as our sponsorship went through some changes in the way we handled and delivered the gifts. First Christian really came through and made the holiday much brighter for many children and adults in our community. Thanks again!

~Stacia Schaefer

# 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. 28th CAFÉ

*Menu:* Turkey Wild Rice Soup  
Honey Wheat Knots  
Ms. Aimee B's Salad  
Dessert

\* **Program:** "Spoons, Apples and Sardines" - Come to CAFÉ for a Mid-Winter break with some fun games (cards/board) and good friends. Beware - some games can get pretty competitive! ;)

\* **Bible Study** with Dr. Yonker

\* **CYF** (grades 9-12) with Jimmy Spear  
Tonight will include a service project. Central Missouri Food Bank from 6:30-8:00.

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**.

## Drennan Group

Drennan Group will meet Tuesday morning, January 27, in the Drennan Room at 9:00 a.m., Carol Slusher will give the program on "Trust Puzzle" and the worship. Pat Rainey is hostess.

# 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 25, 2009

*Van Driver:* Bob Black    *Telephone:* Carol Slusher

### 8:30 Early Worship, Sanctuary

*Worship Asst:* Will and Donna Houston, Marguerite Smith

*Elder for 8:30 Service:* Joyce Stanley

*Communion Preparation:*

Bryant, Susan and Erik White

### 9:30 Church School

*Church School Greeter:* Doris Neidhardt

### 10:30 Worship in Sanctuary

*Sermon:* Dr. John J. Yonker    *Liturgist:* Drew Gieseke

*10:30 Elders:* Steve and Cheryl Lightner, Carol Slusher

*Deacons:* The Stanley Team

*Greeters:*

Tracy Evers, *North Door*

Joyce Stanley, *South Door*

*Ushers:* The Scott Team

*Banner Bearers:* Sam Creasy and Emily Unterschutz

*Candlelighters:* Matthew Hoepfner and Alexandra Estes

*Flower Ministry:*

*Arranged by:* Bryan, Debbie and Joshua Garton

*Delivered:* Steve and Tracy Evers



## This Week (Jan. 25 - 31)

- Sun. - Planning Retreat, Noon-2:30 p.m., Morris Parlor  
- JYF (4:30-6:00 p.m.)  
- CHI-RHO (6:30-8:00 p.m.)
- Mon. - Nominating Committee, 7:00 p.m., Morris Parlor
- Tue. - Drennan Group, 9:00 a.m., Drennan Room  
- Bible Study, 10:30 a.m., Morris Parlor
- Wed. - Hannah Jones Group, 9:30 a.m., Lenoir 2nd Floor Apts.  
- Men's Lunch, 11:30 a.m., Senior Center  
- Brummett-Harrah Group, 1:30 p.m., Tommy Gay Evans' home  
- Church and Society Mtg, 5:30 p.m., Keystone  
- CAFÉ, 5:30 p.m. Dinner  
6:20 Devotion  
6:30 Program: "Spoons, Apples and Sardines"  
6:30 Bible Study  
- CYF (grades 9-12), 6:30-8:00 p.m.  
- Back Room (college group), 8:45-10:00 p.m.
- Sat. - Disciple Men's Breakfast, 8:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall