



Sunday Morning Worship

The wonderful story of Jesus turning water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana of Galilee found in John 2:1-11, coupled with Psalm 36:5-10, a celebration of God's steadfast love, will set the theme for our worship services on Sunday, January 17, and provide the texts for Dr. Yonker's sermon, "Extravagant Living."

The morning's hymns will feature *Called as Partners in Christ's Service* as the big opener while *I Love to Tell the Story* and *Become to Us the Living Bread* will also be shared. At the 10:30 service the Chancel Choir's anthem will be *Many Gifts, One Spirit* by Allen Pote. Jean Hall will provide organ and piano music this Sunday.

Be a Ringer!

The **Chancel Bells** will reconvene from 8:45-9:30 a.m. beginning Sunday, January 24th. The bell choir meets in the level below the sanctuary. New bell ringer positions are available.

All interested in playing bells are most welcome!
More information: contact Cheryl Nichols (ph. 823-5094).



New (Younger) Adult Class

A new class has been gathering on Sunday mornings. The yet to be named group, begun by six couples, started meeting at the beginning of Advent. With a strong foundation laid, the door is now open for new guests to join the Sunday morning bible study and conversation. Curriculum presently used is from "The Thoughtful Christian" - a Bible study designed to stimulate thoughts about Christian values and how they relate to today's world. The present curriculum encourages class members to share their thoughts and beliefs while wrestling with questions that inform the way we live out our faith in everyday life. This month's focus: Sabbath Practice & Resistance.

The growing number of younger members/young families has increased the need for a new class to further the spiritual growth of this demographic. While all are welcome in the class, a focus has been placed upon involving younger church members, single or married, without or with young children in a Sunday morning context. The new class meets at 9:30 a.m. in "the Back Room" which is located behind the sanctuary off the first floor landing of the back staircase. Fellowship, warm beverages and a welcome await.



The Blessing & Dedication of a Child

Aubrey Schomaker, daughter of Richard and Allie Schomaker, was dedicated at the 10:30 service, January 10th. A good number of family members joined her for this memorable day.

PathFinders Adult Sunday School

We are one of four adult Sunday School groups in the life of the church and are currently located in Bethany Hall each Sunday morning from 9:45 – 10:20am. This Sunday, January 17th we will be wading into a new curriculum on the Lord's Prayer. This particular topic is a part of a series that is written predominately by mainline protestants and has come out in the past few years. Susan McCarty will facilitate our first study and discussion and it will be an overview of the course. The following week Eric Arnett will lead with the opening phrase of the prayer. We will follow the prayer through until "amen" or until the class gets tired and wants to switch gears! You are welcome to come join in one Sunday or many Sundays anytime soon!



After a holiday break the Shawl Group will reconvene January 20, 10 a.m. in Bethany Hall. We invite anyone who has considered picking up their knitting needles or crochet hook – or would like to

learn, please join us if you can. We always have a good time – It's Wednesday, 10 a.m., January 20! We'd love to see you.

Heeerrree's Johnny!

By now you have seen the publicity regarding the study group Ken Watson and I are going to lead based on Marcus Borg's book, "The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith: How We Can Be Passionate Believers Today." If not, I invite you to join us at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings beginning January 20, in Morris Parlor following the CAFÉ dinner.

In case you are wondering what it is all about, let me offer a few words of explanation and enticement! Marcus Borg, now retired after a career teaching religious studies and New Testament, is a world recognized scholar who has devoted his life to studying the life and teachings of Christ, and helping church people to understand and apply them to their lives. He was an active member of the Jesus Seminar when it focused on the historical Jesus, and has been chair of the Historical Jesus section of the Society of Biblical Literature.

Dr. Borg is the author of several books, including "Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time," which we used as the basis for a discussion group in 2000. Some of you may remember participating in that group, and recall his coming to Columbia for a weekend lecture series at First Christian Church in October 2001.

Unlike many scholars of religious studies departments in major universities, Marcus Borg is not simply an academic who happens to earn a living teaching and writing, he is a man who has committed his life to learning and teaching people the ways of Jesus. A native of North Dakota who grew up in a Lutheran family, Borg is married to an Episcopal clergywoman and is now an active layman in the Episcopal Church. He is a man with a PhD from Oxford University, yet who speaks and writes in language aimed at helping lay people understand the issues of Christian faith.

One of the reviewers of his book writes, "For the millions of people who have turned away from many traditional beliefs about God, Jesus and the Bible, but still long for a relevant, nourishing faith, Borg shows why the Christian life can remain a transforming relationship with God." If you are one of those longing for such a relevant, nourishing faith, this might be exactly what you are looking for. Call the office to sign up today!

News of the congregation

Our prayers continue to be with **Beth Martz (Mrs. Matthew)**, daughter-in-law of **Tom and Freda Martz**. Following recent surgery in a Kansas City hospital she had returned home, but was re-admitted to the hospital for further surgery and care. She is a patient at Heartland East Hospital in St. Joseph, Missouri.

Geraldine Coon was admitted to University Hospital on Monday after a fall. **Stan Stafford** was admitted to Boone Hospital last week and is a patient in the Medical Intensive Care Unit. **Erica Watson** is recuperating from surgery to repair a broken wrist which she suffered in a fall on the icy parking lot at Gerbes Grocery Store last week. We are glad to report that **Fred Mottaz** is doing well following surgery to repair a heart valve last Tuesday at Boone Hospital. He was released and went home on Saturday morning, and called into the church office on Monday morning to check on us!

Congratulations to **Ed Bright** and **Eva Siegel** who were united in marriage in a ceremony conducted by **John Yonker** at the church on Sunday afternoon, January 10. They were joined by members of their families and friends in a reception in the Fellowship Hall immediately following their wedding. Congratulations and many happy years together!

Thanks to **Pat Rybolt** for presenting two vocal solos at the 8:30 service on Sunday, January 10, and to the Chancel Choir for the anthem at 10:30, accompanied by **Mary Bancroft**, organist. It is great to have **Cheryl Nichols**, Chancel Choir Director, back to worship with us and to direct the Chancel Choir following her surgery in December.

It was a great joy to witness the Service of Blessing and Dedication for eight-month old **Aubrey Jolynn Shomaker**, daughter of **Richard and Allie Shomaker**, at the 10:30 service on Sunday, January 10. They were joined in worship by grandparents, **Tom and Betty Hauser** and **Darlene Shomaker**, **Uncle Chris Shomaker**, and **Aunt and Uncle and Cousins, Stacy and George, Max, Jake and Sam Quinn**.

Congratulations to **Dr. Matthew Martz**, son of **Tom and Freda Martz**, principal at Skaith Elementary School in St. Joseph who has been selected as 2009 Missouri Distinguished Principal by the St. Joseph Asso-

ciation of Elementary School Principals and District of Missouri Association of Elementary School Principals. He is one of thirteen principals who will be honored on March 13 at a reception held in conjunction with the annual MAESP Spring Conference at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach.

Amy Kay is taking her two weeks of educational leave and is enjoying a class in process theology taught by Dr. John Riggs at Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis. She will be back on Wednesday evenings for CAFÉ and the college group if you need to catch her, or you are welcome to email if you need something during this time.



Jan. 17-Mason Stevens, Carolyn Savoy

Jan. 18-Mary Bess Green, Mike Mountjoy, Mike Korman, Margie Ellis

Jan. 19-Royanne Tracy

Jan. 20-Kay Ahrens, Connie Guy

Jan. 21-Harry White, John Crane, Susan Klockow

Jan. 23-Teresa Foster, Matthew Hoepfner, Ella Rogers

Financial Peace

Many members of last semester's Dave Ramsey class spoke of how helpful the course was to their direction with personal finances. Some are debt free already (barring a house payment) and others have a plan to get that way in the coming years. It is a really wonderful thing to be able to "tell money where to go instead of wondering where it went."

Our church would like to offer the class again if there are enough interested in learning together. We are thankful for Kerry Brammon who is willing to coordinate this offering for us during the months of February, March and April. The class would meet each Wednesday evening from 6:00 – 8:00pm and would again cost \$100 per family unit for all of the class supplies and resources. We will only offer the class if there are at least four family units interested in engaging in learning together. Please let Amy Kay or the office know if you are interested by Jan. 20.

Chi-Rho Retreat in March

Chi-Rho Youth (6-8 grade) will attend a retreat sponsored by the NEA/OLA/SEGA (three areas of our church in MO) to be held in Macon MO, March 12-13. It will be great to see old camp friends and to have an away overnight together. Forms will be dealt with the first week of February.

"Let there be Light...." (and Warmth!) Our kids & the creation

This month's elementary Sunday School lessons on the River of Life focus on the story of creation found in Genesis 1:1 - 2:3 and the importance of being responsible stewards of the earth's resources. Nine 3rd, 4th and 5th graders joined Molly Read and Joyce Stanley in the green room while five kindergarten, 1st and 2nd graders met with Amy LaHue and Tammy Arnett in the craft room.

Both groups were enthusiastic and focused on learning! There's plenty of room for more lively learners on the 3rd floor at 9:30 Sunday morning. Hope to see you there!

(youth) @ first christian

JYF (3-5th grade)
CHI-RHO (6-8th grade)
CYF (9-12th grade)

JYF and CHI-RHO: Sunday, Jan. 24

JYF: 4:30 - 6 pm

Chi-Rho: 6 - 7:30 pm

(Other dates: Feb. 7 & 21)

Feb 7 will be a trip to swim at the ARC.

Pizza Lunch after worship then to ARC, back to church for pickup by 2:30 pm.

Chi-Rho (Area) Retreat March 12-13

CYF in 2010

Bible Study on Tuesday Nights

6:30-7:30 p.m. in Bethany Hall

Youth Group - Wednesday Nights

6:30-8:00 p.m.

(Dinner served at 5:30 p.m. \$5)

CYF attending the NEA/SEGA Retreat

January 15-16

Departing Fri. 4:30pm/Return Sat. 5pm

M.L. King Jr. Celebration Two Opportunities:

Ceremony of Lights

Monday, January 18, 7:00 p.m.

Historic St. Paul AME Church (501 Park)

Lecture at MU

Engaging the Community: Closing the Achievement Gap

Wednesday, January 27

6:00 pm Reception; 7:00 pm Presentation

MU, Memorial Union, Stotler Lounge

www.diversity.missouri.edu

Altoid Tins

Don't forget to save your Altoid breath mint tins and send them to Jimmy in the office. When we have a quantity they will be used in a youth worship activity. Thanks!

First Night

Special thanks to **Fred and Elayna Mottaz** and **Donna Kessel** for hosting First Night on New Years Eve this year. It seemed that all who were able to come had a grand time.

College Notes

It was wonderful to be with a dozen students on Sunday, January 10th as we enjoyed lunch, games and conversation in which we looked forward to another good semester. Our college group is really an excellent combination of students from the University, Stephens College, Columbia College and Moberly Junior College. Please come and check the group out or encourage others to do so as this is a welcoming and inclusive clan of fun students. We meet each Wednesday evening from 8:45 - 10:00pm and are currently located in Bethany Hall. w/thanksgiving for the opportunity to be with the students ~amy kay

Weekly Report

January 10, 2010

Received this week \$7,402

Attendance - 244
(includes early worship -39)

Children & Youth Numbers:

River of Life: 14

MS: 5; HS: 3

JYF: 10; CHI-RHO 9

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

\$6 adults

\$3 kids 5-12 years

\$17 cap for a family

Under 5 free

6:20 - Devotion

6:30-7:30 - Adult Programming

Child Care Available

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**.

Jan. 20th CAFÉ

Menu: Egg Rolls
Sweet and Sour Chicken
Stir Fry Vegetables
Rice
Almond Cookies

*** Program Choices:**

- To be announced

- Study of The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith by Marcus Borg, led by John Yonker and Ken Watson, Morris Parlor

* **CYF** (grades 9-12) with Jimmy Spear

The Visitor

First Christian Church

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Columbia, MO
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Mary Bancroft, Coord. of Music & Organist
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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, Jan. 17

Van Driver: Dan Gieseke
Office Receptionist: Marguerite Smith
Church School Greeter: Mark Hunsaker Family
Bethany Hall Greeter: Pat Rainey
Flower Ministry:
Arranged by - Debbie and David Potthast
Delivered by - Gerald and Susan Ramsey

Servers for 8:30 Worship Service

Worship Assistants: Millie and Larry Caringer, Sarah Yonker
Elder: Harsh Brown

Servers for 10:30 Worship Service

Communion Preparation: Dane Pavlovich, Ben and Jen Micek
Liturgist: College Students
Elders: Brenda Martin, Ken Watson, Joyce Stanley
Deacons: The Nichols Team
Greeter North Door: Susan Klockow
Greeter South Door: Holly Wheatley
Ushers: The Nichols Team
Banner Bearers: Abe and Sam Creasy
Candlelighters: Will and Julia Bower
Children's Worship Leader: Jessica Humble
C.W. Helper: Debbie Potthast

This Week (Jan. 17 - 23)

- Sun. - Church Women United, 2:30 p.m., Morris Parlor
- Mon. - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: office closed
- Tue. - Bible Study, 10:30 a.m., Morris Parlor
- CYF Bible Study (grades 9-12), 6:30 p.m., Bethany Hall
- Wed. - Men's Lunch, 11:30 a.m., Senior Center
- CAFÉ: Dinner, 5:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Programs:
- To be announced
- Study of Marcus Borg's book, led by John Yonker and Ken Watson, Morris Parlor
- CYF, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- College Group, 8:45 p.m., Bethany Hall

