



THE VISITOR

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

July 16, 2010
Vol. 69, No. 3

Sunday Morning Worship

The great story of Jesus visiting the home of Mary and Martha found in Luke 10:38-42 will provide the text for Dr. Yonker's sermon on July 18. Which role do we play, the one in the kitchen making everything ready for beloved friend, or the one sitting at the Master's feet?

Music for the day will include the favorite hymns: *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above, He Leadeth Me, These I Lay Down* and *Standing on the Promises*. Special music will be provided at the 8:30 service by Nora Dietzel singing *How Beautiful* and by the Chancel Choir at the 10:30 service singing *Glorious Is the Lord, Almighty*.

Senior Minister Announces Retirement

On Sunday morning, July 11, Dr. John J. Yonker announced his plans to retire. His last Sunday in the pulpit will be January 16, 2011. We wish him and his wife, Sarah, well in their next phase of life.

See Dr. Yonker's column on the following page for more information about his announcement. Copies of his sermon from last Sunday with the announcement are available in the church office.

Regional Assembly Oct. 8-10, 2010

Assembly Headquarters: **First Christian Church, 327 E. Capitol Ave., Jefferson City**

*God is doing a new thing:
Believe it! Perceive it! Receive it!*

Early Bird Registration Fee (on or before August 1) \$100: includes breakfast Saturday & Sunday, lunch Saturday and Banquet.

Register: www.mid-america-disciples.org

Vacation Bible School!

We set sail Sunday!



July 18 - 23
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
(dinner at 5:30 p.m.)

Register your child NOW!

Register online by going to www.firstchristian.org and clicking on the VBS link



Interfaith Care for Creation - July 18

Will be held at Rock Bridge Christian Church, 301 W. Green Meadows, 2:30 p.m.: Discussion of what's going on with renewable energy, climate change, BP's oil spill in the Gulf and inter-related pieces of this problem. Take part in a tour of participating interfaith gardens. Accepting cash donations, fresh produce or healthy packaged foods for area Food Banks. This is an opportunity to fellowship, look, learn, donate and enjoy fresh fruit treats.

(youth) @ first christian

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

Summer Youth Events are Here!

Each youth group will have monthly events and gatherings. Email/Facebook/postcards and this box will keep you informed! Stay tuned!

Chi-Rho Mission Trip:

August 1-3, St. Louis, MO
Inner city mission work through Union Avenue CC's "Urban Mission Inn"

At Church Camp this Next Week:

Chi-Rho Camp
Jack Creasy, Ryan Boger,
Delaney Tevis and Megan Potthast

Heerrree's Johnny!

By now you have heard the announcement that I am going to retire from active ministry in six months, and will cease serving as Senior Minister of this congregation on January 16, 2011. As I stated last Sunday morning, my decision to retire at this time has not been made lightly or overnight, but after much prayer and reflection, and consideration of the future ministry of the church.

I have been in conversation with Steve Smith, Moderator of the Administrative Board, to compile a list of people to serve on a Search Committee which will be presented to the board at the Wednesday, July 14 meeting. When those persons are recruited, the committee will begin meeting in the next several weeks to consult with the Area and Regional Ministers of the Christian Church of Mid-America who will assist them in selecting an interim minister to begin working immediately after my retirement. In the interim period the Search Committee will lead the church through a process of self-study while searching for the person who will become the next Senior Minister to serve this historic congregation.

As I mentioned on Sunday, I am not retiring at this time because of ill-health, personal problems or lack of support from the church. From the beginning of our ministry here, Sarah and I have enjoyed great support from the members of the church. There have been so many great friends who have shared the race of faith with us through the years, and we thank God for all of you. I'll say more about that in the days to come!

In the New Testament there are two words for time; one is *kronos* which refers to the time by which we count the hours on a clock. The other word is *kairos* which denotes the fullness of time, a critical time, a time of decision, a time of opportunity, a time of anticipation, when something is about to happen. I am retiring now because now is such a time. This is such a time for me and the church. When I retire in the middle of January I will be half way through my 65th year. Although I am still healthy and able to work, and could continue working full-time for several years, I believe it is the right time for some one 20 years younger than I to step in and lead the church into the future and implement some of the dreams outlined in the Master Plan approved in June by the Administrative Board.

I do not retire at this time with fret or worry about the church. The church is strong and will remain strong. With new leadership to bring fresh ideas, vision and energy the church can be stronger, and you will find new ways to welcome and serve people in the name of Christ. The church will continue to thrive and prosper because you are here, because you will continue running the race of faith with one another in the months and years to come.

Thank you for the privilege of serving with you in this place through many years. In the months to come I ask for your continued support of Jimmy Spear and me as we continue running the race of faith, reaching out to the future which God is giving to us.



The family of Donald R. Houston would like to extend their thanks to members and staff of First Christian Church for the support and love given our family during Don's illness and passing. Love is what we feel each time we enter our church!

~Will & Donna Houston and
Karen & Don Poe and family



BOOK O R N E R

An interesting book, copyrighted in 2009, was recently given to the library by its author, a Columbia, MO resident for many years, Dr. William H. Taft. Since he is now 94 years old, it is probably the last in the number of books he has written. His life was centered on journalism, either writing or teaching, the last 25 years at Missouri. This book, [They Don't Write Like This Anymore](#), is a compilation of items taken from newspapers all over the country. With a talent for picking the outlandish, the humorous, the accidental Dr. Taft brings together items on exceptional affairs and routine news.

The last 10 pages of the book tell the story, with pictures, of the early history of printing in America. No computers!

News of the congregation

Among the members of our congregation in our prayers at this time are **Muriel Leach** who is recovering from surgery on Saturday, July 10 at Regional Hospital. She hopes to return to Lenoir this week. **Molly Read** is home recovering from surgery at University Hospital on July 10.

Don Seltsam continues to receive care as a patient at Boone Hospital. **Bonnie Backues** was admitted to Boone Hospital last week for testing. It was good to see **Ralph Dobbs** in church only a few days after he was released from University Hospital where he spent a few days last week. We also keep **Tom Martz** in our prayers as he begins a series of outpatient treatments at University Hospital.

We are praying for a speedy recovery for **Shirley Owens, Perry Stemmons'** sister, as she recuperates from injuries received in a fall early Monday morning at her home in Broadway Village Apartments.

Congratulations to **Valerie and Bryan Freed** on the birth of their son, **Cole Armon**, who was born on July 1 at Boone Hospital Center. He came into the world weighing 7 lbs., 7 ozs. The proud big brother and sister are **Kameron and Paige**. It was great to see the whole family in church last Sunday.

Thanks to **Sally Estes** for her lovely clarinet music presented at the early service last Sunday. She was accompanied by **Cynthia Williams**. And thanks also to **Jean Hall** and **Mary Bancroft** for the piano duets, and to the **Chancel Choir** for their anthem presented at the late worship service July 11.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- July 18**-Elyn Brothers, Judy Cunningham, Tom Sisson, Kim Boger
- July 19**-David Ross, Mike Perry, Dave Beem
- July 20**-Thomas Hughey, Pat Calnan
- July 21**-Bryant White, Hailey Korman
- July 22**-Thomas Crane, Gerald Ramsey, Kristin Van Heyningen, Amber Roberts, Ashley Buxton
- July 23**-Lesley DeHaven, Elizabeth Updegraff, Joselyn Walsh
- July 24**-Audrey Snyder

Mid-Summer Festival

Rev. Jimmy Spear and Vitaly Ahmedov (Summer Ministry Intern) organized an evening of fun at the Mid-Summer Festival this past Wednesday. An enthusiastic crowd of over 50 participants braved the stormy weather to enjoy Italian Village pizza at Bethany Hall. Keith Picker entertained with singing and guitar music; and CYF members led the group in several games of BINGO. Meanwhile, the pre-schoolers and younger members took over Fellowship Hall where they enjoyed two bouncy houses provided by Jeri and Ronnie Sheppard and Tom and Cindy Rose. Molly Read painted faces ranging from terrifying pirates to cheerful butterflies. Jimmy joined the crowd and demonstrated his skills with pla-doh art!



The youngest participant was 6 day old Cole Freed who - although too young to enjoy the bouncing - clearly appreciated the bright lights and good friends gathered in Fellowship Hall.



The Visitor

First Christian Church

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573-449-7265

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Summer Ministry Intern: Vitaly Ahmedov

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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, July 18

Van Driver: Eric Seaman
Office Receptionist: Bobbi McCormack
Church School Greeter: Mark Hunsaker Family
Bethany Hall Greeter: Sally Robinson
Flower Ministry:
Arranged by - David Ross, Brianna Shepard
Delivered by - Rick Wells, Jacki Davidson

Servers for 8:30 Worship Service

Worship Assistants: Tom and Carol Hughey, Jeri Sheppard
Elder: Sarah Yonker

Servers for 10:30 Worship Service

Communion Preparation: Shane and Erin Bower, Tony Klein
Liturgist: Roy Rogers
Elders: Jerry and Mary Daugherty, Sharon Winner
Deacons: The Nichols Team
Greeter North Door: Susan and Gerald Ramsey
Greeter South Door: Colleen Nilges
Ushers: The Nichols Team
Banner Bearers: Emily and Erich Unterschultz
Candlelighters: Julia and Will Bower



This Week (July 18-24)

- Sun.** - Vacation Bible School Begins, 6:00-8:00 p.m. (dinner served at 5:30 p.m.)
- Double-header Church Softball Game, 6:00 & 7:00 p.m., both on Yellow Field at Rainbow Softball Ctr.
- Mon.** - Vacation Bible School, 6:00-8:00 p.m. (dinner @ 5:30)
- Drennan Singers, 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary
- Tue.** - Vacation Bible School, 6:00-8:00 p.m. (dinner @ 5:30)
- Wed.** - Prayer Shawl Ministry, 10:00 a.m., Bethany Hall
- Men's Lunch, 11:30 a.m., Senior Center
- Vacation Bible School, 6:00-8:00 p.m. (dinner @ 5:30)
- Thr.** - Vacation Bible School, 6:00-8:00 p.m. (dinner @ 5:30)