



September 30, 2011
Vol. 70, No. 12

THE VISITOR

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

World Communion Sunday, October 2

While we celebrate communion every Sunday, this coming Sunday will provide the context to celebrate on a larger scale -- as part of the whole Christian community partaking on this Sunday the symbols of Christ's love.

Communion outside our walls: Early in the 10:30 service, Elders and Deacons will be commissioned to take communion to homebound members and friends.

Sunday's sermon, "Trouble in the Vineyard," is based upon the gospel reading. It is a little uncomfortable and gives us cause to evaluate ourselves as a church. Are we doing what God wants us to do?

The scripture readings will be Philippians 3:4b-14 and Matthew 21:33-46.

At the 10:30 worship service the Children's Choir will sing *Come To Me* by Margaret Tucker and the Chancel Choir's anthem will be *O Love That Will Not Let Me Go* by John Ness Beck. Brenda Mosby will offer the gift of music at the 8:30 a.m. worship service.

STARS Fall Foliage Tour Thurs., Oct. 20

Mark the date for the annual bus tour of all things colorful in the countryside of Missouri. Good lunch and dessert adventures are a norm on this trip and not to mention great fellowship. The first 14 reservations get seats on the bus and we can fill the van too! Call the church office or put "STARS" in the Sunday morning pew pad's activity box.

STARS: The 55+ Fellowship Group of First Christian Church.



CROP WALK Sunday, October 2

Donate and/or Walk

Donate: Note "Crop" on your offering envelope on Sunday in both services.

Walk: 2:00 p.m. – First Presbyterian Church (Hitt & Cherry Sts downtown) (Come about 1:45p.m.) Wear your church shirt, meet other friends and walk together to raise awareness for hunger throughout the downtown area. The DOC (College group) will be walking together and offering their lunch money for the day toward the goal.

New Officers for Northeast Area CWF

President - Joanne Cockrell, Vice-President - Betty Hoffman, Treasurer - Shirley Park, Secretary - Joyce Stanley, Members-At-Large - Inez McPike, Joanne Allison, Terry Pfaff and Pat Lehenbauer, Service Director - Fay Vaughn, Study Coordinator - Tommy Gay Evans, and Worship Coordinator - Julia Murphy.



Annual Fall Women's Dinner - Great Success

Steve Hollis and Cindy Mustard shared information about the Interfaith Day Center (located where Loaves & Fishes is served) and



homelessness in Columbia. Forty-one women enjoyed the fabulous meal prepared by Colleen Nilges and Cindy Rose with Jeri Sheppard and Carol Slusher assisting. Sally Robinson welcomed guests and opened with prayer. Attendees brought a wide variety of personal hygiene products for the men and women who need assistance.



Epistle

The church has a long history of telling people what they should know. Unfortunately all too often the message of the church has been what it's against (sin) rather than the good news of Jesus Christ. Here are some things I think you should know.

It might sound trite but it's true, God loves you. God loved you even before you could respond. In his letter to the Romans Paul writes that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Many folks have trouble with the idea that God's love is unconditional. Some people believe liars, alcoholics, thieves, murderers and the promiscuous are beyond God's love. To think that God loves such as these implies to them that there are no standards. The truth is God's love is so radical it embraces all people even though some cause God more pain than others. Someone has said, "God cannot love you any more than God does right now."

Life will always be in transition. T. S. Eliot said, "Humankind cannot bear very much reality and part of this reality is change." We often yearn for the settled times when things are predictable. But that is not the norm. Life is a movement toward becoming. Change is part of life. If you think about it, if life was devoid of change we'd be dead.

Ninety-five percent of what we worry about never comes to pass. Jesus instructed his disciples not to be anxious about tomorrow, but let tomorrow take care of itself. In other words, live in the present. Jesus didn't say don't plan. He often warned his disciples to get ready for the end of time. He just didn't want anxiety about the future to overwhelm what we need to do in the present.

God has witnesses everywhere. A friend once gave me a little book entitled "The Thousand Names for God." Let's be honest here. Most of us are Christians because of where we were born. If I was born in India I would most likely be a Hindu. I would be Buddhist if China was my birth place. It is more than a bit presumptuous for us to claim that the Christian way is the only revelation of God. My more conservative friends would challenge me on that. But an examination of world religions shows they share many things in common. For example Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam have lists of precepts which are similar to the Ten Commandments. We believe, of course, that Jesus is the perfect revelation of God. ~lv

CAFÉ

Christian Action Fellowship Education
Wednesday Evenings

Oct. 5

Menu:

Roasted Pork Loin
Calico Potatoes
Green Beans
Pumpkin Bars



CAFÉ Programs

(6:30 - 7:30 p.m.)

- Adult study with Dr. Ben Nelms:
"Old Wine in New Wineskins-The Bible
in Modern Literature"

- Children's Choir & Activities
"Hometown Nazareth"
Music Room, 3rd floor, 5:30 p.m.

- Christian Youth Fellowship
(grades 9-12) with Jimmy Spear

*Opportunities for the church family to
share in fellowship, while learning and
growing in spirit and faith*

5:30-6:15 - Dinner
\$7-adults, \$3-kids 5-12 years
\$18 cap for a family. Under 5 free

*Child Care Available

Place your reservation by marking the
pew registration pad "activity box" on
Sunday morning or call the church of-
fice (449-7265) for dinner reserva-
tions by noon on Tuesday.

News of our People

Tom Crane and Genie Rogers are both home recuperating from recent stays at Boone Hospital. They welcome calls and cards. **Eva Bright** sends word that her son John Beffa of Kansas City recently underwent brain surgery and is doing well. It was good to see **Jim Baumgartner** back in church on Sunday after knee surgery and complications. Our prayers have been with these folks in recent weeks.

Word has come that **Helen Ingold** died on September 25. She had been living in St. Louis near family. A private service will be held in Jefferson City on September 29.

Thanks to **Linda Chandler** and all those that shared their musical talents with us last Sunday.

Cabinet Meeting
Tuesday, October 4
6:30 p.m., Morris Parlor

Woodhaven Banquet

Join other FCC friends in celebrating and raising money for Woodhaven. Woodhaven is in Columbia and a ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) - National Benevolent Association. The dinner is at the Marriott Hotel, **Thursday, October 13, 6:00 p.m.** There is room at the FCC table. Talk to Larry or Peggy Veatch to make a reservation.



**BLESSINGS
ON YOUR
BIRTHDAY**

Oct. 4-Jack Bower, Laurel Creasy,
Mary Richardson

Oct. 5-Anne Linn

Oct. 6-Mary Taylor

Oct. 7-Pamela Hoepfner

Oct. 8-Marcy Douglas, Sara Klockow,
Cheryl Lightner, Michael Snyder

Your Special
Birthday!



Moray Kiehl

- 92 on Sept. 29

Emmy Croll

- 90 on Sept. 30

Rena Moore

- 95 on Sept. 30

Mary Richardson

- 93 on Oct. 4

(youth) @ first christian

Sunday, Oct. 9th

JYF (3rd-5th Grade)

4:30-6pm

Chi-Rho (6th-8th Grade)

6-7:30 pm

Both groups: wear shoes!

(no flip flops!)

CYF (9th-12th grades)

Wednesday Nights, 6:30-7:45 pm

The first night of regular JYF and Chi-Rho youth groups was great! With great weather we started off the year outside at Stephens Lake Park with snacks, conversation and big field games. While we were able to do great things with the 10 youth in each of the groups it would have been amazing if the other 10 had been there. I suspect we will see the other half next time. Come on, parents, let's make it happen! -js



Book Club

The Ladies' Book Club shares their reactions to Wallace Stegner's novel about two young couples who form an incredible friendship during the Great Depression that endures for 40 years. Please join our group at noon in Bethany Hall on Wed., Oct. 12, when the ladies consider *Crossing to Safety*. You're welcome to bring your lunch.

Flower Ministry Thanks

I want to thank in a heartfelt way the elders who recently assembled for a delicious dinner and meeting. When I asked that perhaps a few could sign-up for the remaining 20 or so weeks of volunteers needed to deliver flowers for the struggling flower ministry what a surprise I had in store. By the time the list of dates made its way back to me every space had been filled in by this group of 16-18 elders. What amazing and angelic friends we have here at First Christian in the form of our elders.

Thank you again, dear friends.

~Mary Daugherty

Weekly Report

Sept. 25, 2011

Received this week \$5,285

Received to Date \$104,986

Needed to Date \$109,077

Attendance - 233

(includes early service - 43
and total visitors - 11)

Fair Trade Store
Buy 1, get 1 Free
all of October



Children Singing!

The Children's Choir, pictured here singing in worship on Sunday, September 18th, has begun the year with great gusto. **Cynthia Williams** directs and is assisted by **Elizabeth Mottaz** and **Hayley Batterson** in an every Wednesday program of activities and bell choir practice. Other parents assist on a rotating schedule. The theme this year is *Hometown Nazereth*.

Church in Society

In June, we finalized our FCC budget, and in the budget there were some changes to the line items that Church in Society donates to. The three charities that FCC will continue to support at the end of the year will be Voluntary Action Center (VAC), Columbia Area Older Adult Ministry, and Woodhaven. These three charities make an incredible impact on our community.

VAC provides several different programs. In the winter months they have a coat and blanket drive, and provide gifts & food to families in need. During the summer they provide fans, and lunch to kids who would normally receive free/reduced lunch at school. In the fall they help provide school supplies. They also support a Youth Enrichment Fund that allows youth to apply for scholarships for camp, extracurricular activities, college applications, summer school/technical school fees, and job training.

Sally Robinson is one of the ministers who supports the **Columbia Area Older Adult Ministry**. This program helps bring ministry to approximately seven retirement homes. Some of the services that are being brought into retirement homes are bible studies, devotions, and church services.

Woodhaven is an organization that helps adults with developmental disabilities. This organization provides services so that they live on their own, and helps them to be active members our community.

However, Church in Society realizes that with limiting our donations to these three charities we might not be giving to a charity that you feel strongly about. We will continue to accept donations for these other charities on your behalf and make these donations for you if you so desire. Thank you for your ongoing support of FCC and our community programs. ~Elizabeth Mottaz

Festival of Sharing Bags

Hurray for FCC! The Festival of Sharing Bags were swooped up by willing shoppers! Drop off filled bags in the office. If we could have them all back by **Sunday, October 2** that would be fabulous!
~Joyce Stanley

The Visitor

First Christian Church

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Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Columbia, MO
Permit No. 75

Ministerial Staff:

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Rev. Jimmy Spear, Associate Minister
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Music Staff:

Mary Bancroft, Coord. of Music & Organist
maryebancroft@yahoo.com
Cheryl Nichols, Choir Director
cnichols@stephens.edu
Cynthia Williams, Early Service Pianist &
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cmusique@aol.com

Mother's Day Out: Tracy Westhoff, Director

Support Staff:

Kay Beissenherz, Administrative Assistant
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Fred Mottaz, Business Manager
fred@firstchristian.org
Keith Picker, Custodian

Minister Emeritus:

Dr. John J. Yonker

Return Service Requested

The Mission of First Christian Church: to know God and follow Jesus Christ

Serving Schedule - Sunday, Oct. 2

Van Driver: Mike Perry
Office Receptionist: TBA
Church School Greeter: Judy Hall
Flower Ministry: Arranged by - Judy Cunningham
Delivered by - Joyce Stanley

Servers for 8:30 Worship Service

Worship Assistants: Richard Barnard, Steve and Sharon Smith
Elder: Will Houston

Servers for 10:30 Worship Service

Communion Preparation: C.K. and Paula Hoenes, Richard and
Natalie Barnard
Liturgist: Linda Ridgeway
Elders: Anne Campbell, Pamela and Richard Hoepfner
Deacons: The Campbell Team
Greeters: Jennifer Alexander (*N. Door*); Jacy Alexander (*S. Door*)
Ushers: The Mountjoy Team
Banner Bearers: Madeline Marrero and Emma Hawkins
Candlelighters: Coleman Rogers and Hunter Rogers

This Week (Oct. 2 - 8)

- Sun.** - Elders' Prayer Gathering, 9:30 a.m., Library
- DOC group eats lunch together at 1:00 p.m., YFH
- CROP Walk, meet at 1:45, First Presbyterian Church
(see front page article)
- Mon.** - Coffman-Watson CWF, 7:00 p.m., Connie Guy's home
- Tue.** - Bible Study, 10:30 a.m., Morris Parlor
- Cabinet Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Morris Parlor
- Wed.** - Men's Lunch, 11:30 a.m., Senior Center
- World Outreach, 5:00 p.m., Keystone Room
- Children's Choir & Activities, 5:30-7:30 p.m., 3rd floor
- CAFÉ: dinner - 5:30, Yonker Fellowship Hall
program - 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- CYF (grades 9-12), 6:30-7:45 p.m.
- DOC (Disciples on Campus),
8:45 p.m., Bethany Hall
- Fri.** - All Church Eat-Out, 5:30 p.m.,
Bob Evans Restaurant
(Everyone Welcome!)

