



Mid-Month Movie Explores the Mission

Our Friday Night Monthly Movie will be the extraordinary film *The Mission*. The story takes place in the 1500's and follows a missionary priest in Brazil. Father Gabriel ascends the mountains of Brazil to bring Christianity to the natives. He is successful and brings about a golden age among them. Mendoza, a slaver, kills his brother in a fit of rage, and only Fr. Gabriel's guidance prevents his suicide. Gabriel brings Mendoza to work at his mission with the natives, and Mendoza finds peace and asks to become a priest. The church, under pressure, cedes the land to the Portuguese which will allow slavers in again. Mendoza breaks his vows and organizes the natives to resist while Gabriel warns him to help them as a priest. (see details on page 2)

55 + Group

Thirty-two FCC friends met February 27, 2007 for a lunch and learn gathering. A great meal prepared by C.K. Hoenes of W.C. Grinders was enjoyed followed by an informative program presented by Don Ginsburg and Nancy Thomas, entitled "To Move or Not to Move".

Time was allotted to vote for a name for the new group. If you were present but didn't vote, there's still time. Contact Carol Slusher, 874-4902, with your choice. We have a two-way tie so far with a third option one vote behind!! Remember the options were: OWLS; TRIPLE "L'S"; JOY; STARS; LOVE. The committee will review the votes March 13, 2007 at 9:30 a.m.

Come join us for the trip to K.C. to see the **Dead Sea Scrolls** - March 27, 2007. **Deadline for reservations is March 9, 2007.** ~Carol Slusher

Ken Watson Sunday

You are invited to an all-church celebration following worship on **Sunday, April 29** to honor Ken Watson's 43-year ministry with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Ken has served First Christian Church for 13 of those 43 years. We will have food and a program celebrating Ken and Nancy's years of ministry with us. They will be eager to see and meet each of you before and after the program. Mark your calendars to be here for this special Sunday in our church life. More detailed information will follow.

We are assembling a book of letters from friends and members of the congregation to Ken and Nancy. Please share a memory or simply wish them well in their retirement. Please send those letters to Mimi McRoberts, 1001 Cherry Street, Ste. 201, Columbia, MO 65201-7931, or to the church office. They will be assembled in a book and presented at the reception to Ken and Nancy.

Donations are requested for a monetary gift for Ken and Nancy from the congregation in appreciation of their 13 years of ministry at First Christian Church. Send your confidential contribution to WATSON RETIREMENT FUND, First Christian Church, attn. Fred Mottaz, 101 N. 10th Street, Columbia, MO 65201

Sunday Services

The late service on March 11 will be filled with music! The Chancel Bells will present a prelude, "More Love to Thee," and the Drennan Singers will present an introit, "I Say Rejoice," the choral response following the pastoral prayer, the anthem, "Beneath the Cross of Jesus," and the offertory, "I Am Thine, O Lord." Dr. Yonker will continue the Lenten sermons with his message based on the scripture readings found in Isaiah 5:1-9 and Luke 13:1-9.



Search Committee

The Search Committee met at the church last Saturday morning, March 3, to begin reviewing the resumes of candidates for our Associate Minister's position. The committee will hold a luncheon meeting after the late worship service on Sunday, March 18, to continue the process of reviewing the credentials and make plans to begin interviewing those ministers who seem best qualified.



Heeerrree's Johnny! will return next week!

Mid-Month Movie

(cont. from page 1)

The film raises some uncomfortable questions concerning the role of Christians in society. It looks deeply at the devotion shown by sacrifice and the courage shown by commitment. It is both a troubling and an uplifting movie. It is rated PG and will probably be OK for older children.

We invite you to join us in the Cinema on 3rd floor, **Friday the 16th, at 7:00 p.m.** There is cold water, warm fellowship and hot popcorn. Child care is provided. No charge – no reservations – first come first served – plenty of seats!

Help! Help! Help!

Was that subtle enough? Our new pictorial directory is ready to turn in to the printer, but we cannot do so until we have completed taking pictures of our shut-ins. We have about 20-25 people on our list. If 6 or 7 of you would take 3 or 4 names apiece, we could quickly wrap this up. You'll need a digital camera (we have one at the church you can borrow). You can contact your names to see if they would like their picture taken and then work out the timing with those who do. You don't need to be a professional photographer – most digital cameras work quite as well as "point & shoot" cameras from years past. Contact Ken Watson at the church (449-7265) or at home (442-4072) if you can help.

Spring Work Day

Spring Work Day is scheduled for March 31st from 8am-noon (work), lunch (provided) from noon-1pm, 1pm- 4pm (work). Everyone is welcome for as short or as long as you can make it. We will be painting, landscaping, and general repair. Contact Jay Creasy with any questions at 442-8882.

Weekly Report

March 4, 2007

Received \$9,798.80

Received to Date \$318,632.55

Attendance - 274

(includes early worship -52)



The FCC Ladies' Book Club moves to daytime on April 4th. We'll meet in the Church library at

1pm to discuss Willa Cather's *My Antonia*. Bring your own lunch/drink if so desired. For those of you who like to read ahead, April's selection is *Mists of Avalon* by Marion Zimmer.



To **Mary Richardson** for proofreading the *Visitor* every week!



Watch for the **Easter Lily order form** in the **Sunday bulletin** and **next newsletter**.

- Ruth Ragsdale-Mar. 11
- Amy Leach-Mar. 12
- Liam Rose-Mar. 12
- Diana Ballard-Mar. 13
- Joy Duren-Mar. 13
- Anna Poole-Mar. 13
- Donna Houston-Mar. 14
- Pat Rainey-Mar. 14
- Sarah Read-Mar. 14
- James Carter-Mar. 15
- Kim Williams-Mar. 15
- Rob Ridgeway-Mar. 15
- Ed Bright-Mar. 16
- Jordan Mills-Mar. 16
- George Ross-Mar. 17



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Are you interested in our schools or in education?

Come on March 19 at 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall to hear a representative from the Columbia Public School District talk about the proposed bond issue. ~Sarah Read

News of the congregation

We extend sympathy to the family of **Blanche Peak**, who died on Sunday in Overland Park, KS. Graveside services will be held there on Saturday. She was preceded in death by her husband **George** (Oct. 2000). Blanche and George were active members of our church for many years.

Bill Tetley has returned to Lenoir to continue recovering from recent surgery at Boone Hospital. We reported in error last week that **Ruth Brandenburg** had been released from Boone Hospital last weekend; she was moved to the extended care unit of the hospital and hopes to be released this week. Also at Boone Hospital are **Margo Lubensky** and **Don Seltsam**. **Ed Bright** is recovering from surgery at Regional Hospital on Tuesday.

We continue to keep in our prayers **Raven Shepard's father, Ron Shepard**, and **Cherry Hinderberger's mother, Bonnie Ludwig**, both of whom were in the hospital in Cape Girardeau, Missouri last week, **Ed and Shirley Bright's son, Ken Bright**, who was hospitalized for a few days last week, and **Sean Douglas, Marcy Peterson Douglas' husband** and **Sue Fink's son-in-law**.

Lois Brown has been released from the hospital and is living at Ashland Villa. She would appreciate hearing from friends. Her address is: Ashland Villa, 301 Henry Clay Blvd., Room D4, Ashland, MO 65010 (ph. 573-657-0288).

Thanks to **Pat Rybolt** and **Melissa Straw** for leading the congregational hymn sing before the early and late services last Sunday, in continuing commemoration of our 175th anniversary celebration.

Sara Estes is studying in England and enjoying some sightseeing. If you would like to send her mail, she says to mark it "AIR-MAIL" so it won't take months for her to get it. Her address: Harlaxton College/ Manor Box 25, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG32 1AG, United Kingdom.

Carol Slusher is a new great-grandmother. Her granddaughter, **Megan** and husband, **Nick Staus** of Sedalia are the new parents. Grandparents are **Scott and Donna Slusher** of Lexington.



175th Anniversary News - Genie Rogers

March: Higher Education Month

The 175th Anniversary committee selected for the March theme the commitment the Christian Church has historically had in Higher Education. The early history of the Disciple movement is full of schools to spread the Campbell-Stone message. Prior to the Civil War the Disciples had started 16 schools, far more than they needed or could support. Some of these closed, merged with other schools and new schools started. Education continued to be a dominant theme throughout the remainder of the 19th century. After the turn of the century and the rapid growth of state colleges, church colleges found it necessary to build dorms and invest in the physical plants to be competitive. Never adequately financed by their sponsoring denomination, these colleges found themselves seeking local community and business support. This led to greater secularization of the curriculum and student life. Following World War 11 and a new crop of students seeking education due to the GI bill, Disciple colleges expanded as rapidly as possible to accommodate the large numbers of new students. The institutions of higher learning became stronger and more secure during this time, and into the 50's. This in turn led to a resurgence of young people wanting to go into the ministry and an upsurge in seminary education. Columbia, in particular, and the state of Missouri in general, has been a great beneficiary of the resources committed to higher education by The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Several schools will be profiled each week so we can become better acquainted with the schools and their graduates. Can you guess which two schools each produced a President of the United States and who they were? You will find out by the end of the month!

The churches founded by, and still supported and connected by covenant with the

Christian Church are: Barton College, Bethany College, Brite Divinity School, Chapman University, Christian Theological Seminary, Columbia College, Culver-Stockton College, Disciples Divinity House of the University of Chicago, Disciples Divinity House at Vanderbilt, Disciples Seminary Foundation, Drury College, Eureka College, Hiram College, Jarvis Christian College, Lexington Theological Seminary, Lynchburg College, Midway College, Phillips Theological Seminary, Texas Christian University, Transylvania University and William Woods University.

Digging in Unexpected Places

One of the many delightful surprises that occurred as we put the Historical Room together on 2nd floor (next to Keystone Room) was the discovery of several carefully wrapped and stored old books that no one seems to have ever heard about. They were found at the bottom of an ancient cardboard box carefully wrapped in burlap and tied with binder twine. Some of the books were simply early 19th century family Bibles (although one – published in 1817 – may have been one of the churches earliest pulpit Bibles). But the most amazing book was a wonderful edition of the 1843 *Hexapla* (think 6). The bookplate on the inside front cover indicated that it was #17 in the library of John Mountjoy, the first minister called to serve the Christian Church in Columbia for a stated salary. He served this congregation twice (1867-1870 and 1882-1886). The book sent us scurrying for historical information about it. It is a New Testament study Bible which has the Greek New Testament across each set of facing pages. Underneath are 6 English translations used by scholars of his day. The book now rests on proud display in the Historical Room. Visit next Sunday and have a look for yourself! ~Ken Watson

175th Vesper Service

Sunday, March 11, at 3:00 p.m., First Christian Church will host the Jane Froman Singers in the sanctuary. They will be under the leadership of Nollie Moore. The title of the event is "Simply American" and will include folk songs, spirituals and anthems. The program will feature music on their new CD. The CDs will be available for sale in the Narthex after the presentation. A reception will follow in Fellowship Hall. This event is free and open to the public. This is the second of our three planned public events honoring the 175th anniversary of the church.

Anniversary Quilt

Quilt squares and information will continue to be available with a phone call to Mary Tompson: 442-8849. 130 people have now signed up and picked up their squares. Many completed squares have been turned in. This is going to be an AWESOME quilt! If any help is needed or questions answered, Mary Tompson is available at 442-8849. If there is a desire to have your name or a symbol embroidered on your quilt square, Deatra is available at her business address of Bernina Sewing, 12 S. 2nd Street, phone 289-6800. Prices will vary depending on your request.

The Bible College of Missouri - The Missouri School of Religion

The idea for a Bible College in Columbia originated in 1881 and gained momentum in the early 1890's when the Christian Women's Board of Missions began to establish Bible Chairs in schools adjacent to state universities. A committee, headed by J. H. Garrison of St. Louis, worked successfully to gain approval at the 1895 state convention to establish the Bible College. The first classes of the Bible College of Missouri were taught at the First Christian Church in 1896.

Garrison was so committed to the college that he even mortgaged his home in St. Louis to purchase property at 9th and Lowry. A building was erected on the site in 1904-05. The purpose was to train ministers, but it attracted few students. The only graduate was Jake Stidham.

The Bible College began offering courses to University students. Agreements were soon reached between the two institutions regarding accreditation and credit. Eventually, enrollment at the Bible College climbed to 1,000 students a year. The program was opened to other religious groups and denominations for participation. Presbyterian, Congregational, Episcopal, and Methodist churches and the Hillel Foundation participated. The Methodists and Hillel Foundation contributed full professorships. In the 1950s a seminary program began to train ministers for the rural church. This program flourished for a while, then waned, and later closed. In 1957 the name of the Bible College was changed to Missouri School of Religion (MSR). The University utilized MSR for classes in religion until 1978 when the Supreme Court ruled that public universities could teach religion, and the University of Missouri subsequently created a Department of Religious Studies. Up to this point, MSR had operated largely as a Disciples institution, and all the Deans were members of the Christian Church. In 1979 MSR took on a more ecumenical flavor and moved off campus to offices in First Presbyterian Church. In 1985, it relocated to the Rickman Center in Jefferson City with the mission evolving into the following: 1) to train lay ministers, 2) to provide continuing education programs for the clergy, and, 3) to develop lay theological programs. The greatest success of the program has been in the training of lay ministers. Under the leadership of John Bennett (the speaker who delivered the tribute at Ken's 10th anniversary celebration), the name of the institution was changed to Missouri School of Religion-Center for Rural Ministry to reflect the primary focus of the institution. In recent years, MSR has focused on training of lay people to be licensed ministers for small rural congregations.

All Deans of The Bible College of Missouri and later the Missouri School of Religion were members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). In 1934 Reverend Carl Agee, minister of First Christian in Columbia, retired to assume the position as Dean of the Bible College. Dr. Thomas R. Shrout, a member of First Christian Church, was Dean of the Missouri School of Religion, from 1958-1969. Dr. Alfred Illingsworth, professor of many years at MSR, and also a member of First Christian Church, taught many freshman and sophomore students "Religion 101, The Life and Teachings of Jesus".

~Thomas R. Shrout

Special Donations Report

Since July, 2006 your loving generosity for the less fortunate has been wonderful. This church fiscal year your special donations have totaled over \$13,000:

Central Missouri Food Bank	\$ 1,785.40
Crop Walk	\$ 191.25
Festival of Sharing	\$ 1,177.00
Food Resource Bank	\$ 226.75
Habitat for Humanity	\$ 500.00
Heifer International	\$ 800.00
Refugee support	\$ 1,000.00
St. Francis House	\$ 485.00
VAC Christmas	\$ 805.00 -plus gifts purchased
Christmas special offering	\$ 2,071.00
Reconciliation special offering	\$ 1,123.00
Thanksgiving special offering	\$ 1,257.00
Week of Compassion	\$ 1,720.23
Total	\$13,141.63

Also, through February your support of the church's annual Church in Society and World Outreach budgets has allowed for an additional \$37,241.91 to be given for mission work and other worthy projects. Therefore just since July FCC has donated over \$50,000 towards helping others locally and worldwide thus spreading the word of Christ's redeeming love.



Share
the Feast

REGISTER NOW!
JULY 21-25, 2007

for the
GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the
CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
FORT WORTH, TEXAS

Ask in the church office for registration information and forms or online at www.disciples.org/ga



JYF = (grades 3 - 5)

Chi Rho = (grades 6-8)

CYF = (grades 9-12)

www.firstchristian.org/youth

Heifer International Program

A special gathering of Heifer International friends will be held at Stephens College, Windsor Lounge in Stamper Commons in Columbia on Saturday, March 24, from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. David Boothby, Director of the Midwest Region for Heifer International, will be the featured speaker. Other speakers include Mel West and Carol Oliver, Missouri Representative for Heifer International. Registration and \$10 fee is required only if you will be attending the luncheon. Send registration by March 19th to Isaac Johnson, Heifer International, 3009 David Drive, Columbia, MO 65202.

JYF and Chi Rho will meet after worship this Sunday, March 11, until 2:00pm. Lunch will be together in the Fellowship Hall and then we will split off into our two distinct groups. It worked beautifully to meet this way last week and we look forward to continued good times through the rest of this school year. Thanks to **Dane Pavlovich** for Partnering JYF last week for us and to **Angie Allen-Hylen** for helping us with lunch.

CYF will be meeting for "Mid-Week" each even Wednesday evening from 7:15-8:30 pm. We will begin with some light munchies and will then have our discussion/activity/study and will end with prayer. You might notice that this is roughly the same pattern as the college group and we hope it fits for our older youth group as well. Each second (March 14th) and fourth Wednesday of the month we will gather and give it a go! Also, we will have service opportunities at least once a month on the weekend. Please let me know if you have any questions!

Thanks to the four folks who have offered to help Partner JYF or Chi Rho! We truly appreciate your willingness to be with us! Thanks also to **Joyce Stanley** for already working diligently with the garage sale which benefits our mission trips. We appreciate you!!

Successful Red Cross Blood Drive

We want to thank everyone who came to give blood last Sunday. While we didn't quite make our goal, we did manage to produce 19 units — two of those by brand new donors. Six people offered but were not able to give blood. It was a good day and everyone did a good thing! We'll host another drive in the Fall.

Youth Garage Sale! March 30–April 1

Do you remember what's in those storage boxes? If not – the youth would be happy to take them off your hands! Your unused items will make a huge difference in the success of our Youth Garage Sale. We need what you don't want! Garage Sale items may be brought to Fellowship Hall March 24 – March 28.

Contact Joyce Stanley for further information. 445-5058
jbstanley@msn.com



TV Network Features Heifer International Mission

Heifer International, one of our favorite missions, has made the television news again! About one-third of the Public Broadcasting System (PBS) "Religion and Ethics" TV program with Bob Abernathy Monday night, Feb. 19, reported on the lasting benefits of Heifer Tanzania for about 30,000 destitute rural families. It focused on the people and self-help efforts in the region around the town of Arusha in northern Tanzania east Africa and on the island of Zanzibar.

Our church 175th anniversary mission "thank offering" to God is to be to give a "Gift Ark" of livestock to Heifer to distribute.

In Tanzania, as elsewhere, impoverished rural families, assisted by Heifer consultants, choose their own kind of livestock, learn animal care, community cooperation, family health, selling of surplus, and income management. For example, one family's scrawny cow, the program showed, produced less than a gallon of milk a day. In contrast, the new Heifer gift cow gives five times that amount, sufficient for family food and for selling some. As a Tanzanian observed, "A hungry person can't worship or work very well."

Shown also were other all-purpose cattle projects, such as with the Masai tribal herders, and rabbits, dairy goats, camels, and tilapia fish. According to "Heifer Project Profiles," in Tanzania some 180 villages of fish farmers manage 2,000 large fish ponds that can produce 110,000 pounds of fish annually for food and income. Always, Heifer partners agree to pass on some of the next generation of such gifts to them to other impoverished families. How they rejoice in becoming able themselves to give! It's a Christian new idea to them that more and more people become healthier, spiritually enriched, and better off, and not only in Tanzania.

Hospice Foundation Teleconference

"Living with Grief: Before and After the Death"

Thursday, March 22, 2007

12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. CDT

30-minute local discussion will follow

Boone Hospital Center

Broadway Medical Plaza 3, Large Conference Room

Seating is limited. Call 573-815-3888 to register.

The Visitor

First Christian Church

101 N. 10th Street
Columbia, MO 65201
573-449-7265



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U.S. POSTAGE
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Minister Emeritus: Dr. Sam S. Langley

Campus Ministry Intern: Kelly Mueller

Music Staff:

Mary Bancroft, Coord. of Music & Organist
Melissa Straw, Choir Director
Norma Miller, Pianist

Mother's Day Out: Tracy Westhoff, Director

Support Staff:

Kay Beissenherz, Administrative Secretary
fcc@firstchristian.org

Jim Burt, Custodian

Fred Mottaz, Business Manager
fred@firstchristian.org

Sunday's Schedule-March 11, 2007

Van Driver: Jay Creasy *Telephone:* Debbie Potthast
8:30 Early Worship, Sanctuary

Worship Asst: Carol and Tom Hughey, Louis Janssen

Elder for 8:30 Service: Nancy Watson

Communion Preparation:

Mark Martin, Thomas and Cindy Rose

9:30 Church School

Church School Greeter: Dorothy Porter

Nursery Volunteer: Angie Allen-Hylen

10:30 Worship in Sanctuary

Sermon: Dr. John J. Yonker *Liturgist:* Jason Bent

10:30 Elders: Richard and Pam Hoepfner, Steve Green

Deacons: The England Team

Greeters:

Jeff and Lottie Creasy, *North Door*

Lorene and Nelson Trickey, *South Door*

Ushers: The Burnam Team

Banner Bearers: Julia Bower and Peyton White

Candlelighters: Emily Unterschut & Courtney Backues

Flower Ministry:

arranged: Deb Batterson

delivered: Shirley Park

Evangelism Calls: TBA

This Week (Mar. 11 - 17)

- Sun. - JYF (grades 3-5) and Chi Rho (grades 6-8), after 10:30 worship until 2:00 p.m.
- Jane Froman Singers, 3:00 p.m., Sanctuary (with reception following in the Fellowship Hall)



- Tue. - Planning Mtg. for 55+ group, 9:30 a.m., Keystone
- Bible Study, 10:30 a.m., Morris Parlor
- Wed. - Lenten Breakfast, 7:00-8:00 a.m., Sacred Heart Catholic Church (1115 Locust Street)
- Men's Lunch, 11:30 a.m., Senior Center
- CYF (grades 9-12), 7:15-8:30 p.m.
- Fri. - Mid-Month Movie Night, 7:00 p.m., Cinema - The Mission