



First Christian Church

202 East 12th Avenue / Emporia, KS 66801-5009
(620) 342-1582 (Church Office)
(620) 342-8585 (Fax)
Web Page: www.fccemporia.org

Sunday School ~ 9:30 a.m.

Worship ~ 10:30 a.m.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Newsletter

Volume 57 - No. 17 - September 8, 2008

REFLECTIONS

As you might expect, I do a lot of reading. Much of what I read is religious, Christian, especially, but I like to read stories of faithful people, stories of people who have overcome great obstacles, stories of sportsmanship, stories of the sea, and other books and periodicals that intrigue me or promise enlightenment of some sort. Many of you know I read for Kansas Talking Books and my delightful assignment, lately, has been to read the bi-monthly “Angels on Earth” magazine.

Sometimes my “outside” reading, even though church-related, has competed with my Bible reading. And when this happens, I notice it almost immediately, because something seems to be missing in my everyday thought patterns. It’s like many of you have told me, “When I miss Church, things just aren’t right.”

I hope you spend time daily reading God’s Word. If you don’t, I urge you to start. The Bible really is a remarkable Book. But it is so much more than a Book—it really is God talking to us! I can remember a lot about many books I read, including periodicals, but none can compare with what I read in the Bible. The Bible may not be the latest news, but it helps me understand what is happening in the world. The Bible may not be science and technology, but it helps me see the hand of God in the noble works of human beings. The Bible doesn’t answer every question my mind can conceive nor does it explain everything that happens. My Bible does something much more important than answering age-old questions and explaining all the bizarre things we do...it puts me in touch with God. It teaches me to walk with God in paths of service, patience and humility. It tells me of the love and grace of God. The Bible is and does for me so much more than anything else I can read. Sometimes, as I read my Bible, I can hear the voice of God.

If you are not spending quality time in God’s Word everyday, I urge you to start—today, right now. And write a time everyday on your calendar to read God’s Word. Sometimes we consider ourselves too busy to read the Bible, or to pray. As God once said to me—while reading, “Bob, you are so busy you can’t afford NOT to pray and read your Bible!”

Really good advice.

BLESSINGS, Pastor Bob

PASTOR'S HOURS & CONTACT INFORMATION

M-W-TH 9-11 a.m. & 2-4 p.m.

Fridays & Saturdays are by appointment

620-342-1582 (Church) / 620-757-6298 (Cell)

1-877-941-2828 (Toll Free-Bob, KC)

944 Whittier-Emporia / E-Mail: bobcolerick@yahoo.com

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday thru Thursday ~ 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. / Friday - 8 a.m. to Noon

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION & DEADLINES

The First Christian Church Newsletter is published bi-monthly (except for one in December). PLEASE submit your items (in the church office or by e-mail to ttltpit@yahoo.com) to be published in the newsletter **NO LATER** than the following Monday's:

SEPTEMBER 22ND & OCTOBER 6TH

Thanks! ~ Christy

NEWS ON LINE

Check out our Web Page at www.fccemporiam.org.

If you would be willing to read your copy on our website you could save the church some paper and postage!

Let me know at 342-1582 or ttltpit@yahoo.com if I can take your name off my list for a mailed copy. Thanks!

NEW NEWSLETTER FORMAT

We want to thank those who have made comments about the new layout of the newsletter. We thank you for your patience and hope that the new format will be worth your wait.

~ Pastor Bob, Anita Imhoff, Communication Chair; Jean Miller, Ann McNeese and Cameron Moore, Newsletter Advisory Committee.

JUST A REMINDER!

Please remember that if you are unable to fulfill your turn as a greeter, nursery volunteer, worship leader, children's message giver, server, etc., please find your own replacement and let the church office know. Thanks!

DISCIPLE WORLD MAGAZINE

If you would like a subscription to Disciple World, contact Christy in the church office. A 1-year subscription is \$31.00. This magazine is also available in the library and keeps us informed of news, opinions, and missions on a national level.

SEPTEMBER MUSIC

During September & October, I will be playing the following hymns from our Chalice Hymnal for the offertories each Sunday.

September 14 ~ "Down to Earth" (Pg. 168)

September 21 ~ "Wind Upon the Waters" (Pg. 247)

September 28 ~ "Sweet, Sweet Spirit" (Pg. 261)

October 5 ~ "Water, River, Spirit, Grace" (Pg. 366)

October 12 ~ "Spirit" (Pg. 249)

I hope you will enjoy them as much as I do. ~ Sandy Heller

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR PANTRY

We appreciate all your recent donations for our food pantry but the need is still great! We have had several people visit the pantry this last week, so we are in need of more donations. We would appreciate anything you can bring in to help those less fortunate.

~ Betty & Marjorie

ATTENDANCE PADS

Don't forget to sign the attendance pad on Sundays!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.fccemporiam.org

ADDRESS CHANGES

NADINE LEXOW lives at Holiday Resort, 2700 W. 30th Avenue, but she has a new room number ~ #211

BEA STINE has a new address. It is:
Wyndom Place ~ 1401 E. 12th Avenue ~ #207

UPCOMING EVENTS

2008 REGIONAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

October 17-18, 2008
Manhattan Clarion Hotel
“Blessed Be The Labyrinth That Binds”

A Labyrinth of opportunities awaits you at the Regional Assembly this year! Workshops, Book sales, displays of our shared ministries, and unique worship will be available to all who attend. Register today ~ **DON'T MISS IT!**

Registration forms and information available at www.kansasdisciples.org or for more information, see Pastor Bob.

WALK AEROBICS

There is a new Walk Aerobics class being held at the Church on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:05 p.m. followed by a brown bag lunch. Come join us!

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

There will be an ice cream social to raise funds for Learning Center Preschool at the church on Friday, September 12th at 6:30 p.m. The social will be held in the church parking lot on the north side of the building. In case of rain, it will be moved to the church parlor. Come and bring a friend to support the kids at Learning Center Preschool!

WNPT RESUMES!

Wednesday Night Prime Time resumes on Wednesday, October 1st. Watch for more details!

“RAINED OUT” RUMMAGE SALE

Since we got rained out at the Great American Market, we're having a “Rained Out Rummage Sale” on Friday, September 12th from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, September 13th from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Locally...

Brandon Ayers, Bill Bowles, Will Calvert, Doris Douglas, Fern Garnett, Fran Grisell, Jason Hart, Becky Lauxman, Elmaleda McMinn, June Meyer, Terry Ott, Freeda Paasch, Violet Pauler, Helen Price, Jim Resch (*friend of Sandy Heller*), Mary Schaefer, Elizabeth Wells, Don White

Nationally & Globally...

Pray for those defending our nation: missionaries; and victims of war, hunger, disease and natural disasters. Pray for those suffering and in need around the world! Also, pray for our city & those affected by the layoffs at Tyson Foods.

PRAYER CHAIN

We care about you! If you or anyone you know would like to be added to our existing DWF prayer chain, please call Jeanice Miller at 343-9592 or Luella Hush at 342-2493.

IN THE HOSPITAL?

If you are a “friend in the hospital” and would like a visit or to be on our prayer list, call the church office and let us know! Also, if you do **NOT** want your name published in our church newsletter, but would like to be remembered in prayer, let us know that too!

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) is a communication link between the church congregation and the Minister to effectively serve the Lord. If you have “praises” or “concerns” about your Minister, please feel free to contact one of following people on the committee:

LeRoy Garnett @ 342-4585
Dean Grisell @ 620-342-9341
Kathy Harris @ 342-5350
Bea Stine @ 620-412-2198
Robert Wells @ 620-342-7164
Nadine Lexow

SHOP AT STAPLES?

You can still help the church by giving the good people at Staple's our phone number (620-342-1582) and your purchases will help us by giving us credit on the Rewards Program.

So while at Staple's give them our number! **THANKS!**

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Attendance

August 31, 2008 ~ SS - 31 / Worship - 91

September 7, 2008 ~ SS - 35 / Worship - 92

Stewardship Report

August 31, 2008 ~ Offering - \$2,393.50 / Capital - \$320.00

September 7, 2008 ~ Offering - \$3,928.50 / Capital - \$ 800.00

PRESCHOOL NEWS

We still have openings in the 4-year old class for Learning Center Preschool. Tell someone you know about our great school!

NEED A RIDE?

If you would like a ride to church on Sunday, please call the church office at 342-1582 by Noon on Friday.

THANKS & SYMPATHY

OUR SYMPATHY GOES TO...

The friends and family of **LOREN LAW**, brother-in-law of Mary Ann Law, who recently went to be with the Lord.

Also, to the friends and family of **CHESTER RHODES**, brother of June Roachat, who also recently went to be with the Lord.

And our prayers and thoughts go to Margi Colerick, who recently lost her brother, **JOHN HOFFMAN III**, of Tampa, Florida.

UPCOMING SERVERS

September 14, 2008

Candlelighter - Emily Lauxman

Children's Message - Cameron Moore

Diaconate - Karen Garnett, Alan Richardson, Betty Richardson, George Arnett, Becky Lauxman, Larry Gamblian

Elder - Cindy Lexow

Greeters - (N) Larry & Glenna Gamblian

(S) LeRoy & Karen Garnett

Nursery - Rita Headrick / Organist - Sandy Heller

Worship Leader - Barb Gimple

September 21, 2008

Candlelighter - Judy Moore

Children's Message - Vicky Allen

Diaconate ~ Richard Becker, Carl Headrick, Rita Headrick, Debbie Peck, Glenn Boyce, Nancy LeClear

Elder - Donna Breshears

Greeters - (N) Carl & Lana Richardson

(S) George & Ruth Ford

Nursery - Tim Norton / Organist - Sandy Heller

Worship Leader - Marie Harding

September 28, 2008

Candlelighter - Abby Griffith

Children's Message - Ardie Lauxman

Diaconate ~ Tim Norton, Larry Breshears, Joyce Cress, Bonnie Denson, George Ford, Dean Grisell

Elder - LeRoy Garnett

Greeters - (N) Richard Becker & Robert Chatham

(S) Fred & Ilda Kline

Nursery - Kathy Harris / Organist - Sandy Heller

Worship Leader - Bill Coburn

Highlights from the Kansas Disciple Women's Retreat (August 6-8 & 8-10) "Gather At The Well"

The Keynote Speaker and Bible Study leader for this year's retreat was Donna Rose-Heim, an ordained pastor in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). She currently shares a position with her husband Bill as Area Pastor of the Northwest Area of the Mid-America Region in Cameron, Missouri. Donna has written a book, "Dreamwalking". She believes when women focus on encouraging each other to dream with God and pursue those dreams they will see God's hand and heart more clearly at work in their midst.

This retreat couldn't have been more pertinent for those of us who attended! We were all encouraged to pursue our dreams and to witness God's hand at work in our lives. The four sessions with Donna included "Everyone Needs Water", "Tapping Into Living Water", "Freed To See With Living Water", "Living Water Flows Over". John 4:1-30, Jesus and the Woman of Samaria, was the Scripture used.

Through the excellent leading of Donna Rose-Heim, we pored over God's Word, sharing with one another times of rejoicing, what God was saying to each one of us in Scripture, and what "God and I" dream about. We made faith statements about ourselves and we made commitments to do specific, measurable things with God each day.

How does Jesus see us? Betty Hilton stated this retreat opened her eyes as she related to the woman at the well. Jesus offered her living water. Jesus offers us living water; are we going to accept it? The church has living water – is your tap on or off?

We were then challenged to allow the living water to flow from us. If we are living and breathing and moving, we are receiving the living water. **All we have to do is accept this living water!** Then wonderful things can happen! Yes, they truly can! And we dreamed them at retreat! Just ask anyone of us who attended the retreat! We only wish that others could have been there to be a part of what can happen when women get together and dream! Now we are committed to following through with our dreams!

The 2009 Kansas Disciple Retreat is already in planning stages. "Can You Hear Me Now?" is the theme for the 2009 retreat. More information will be forthcoming. Several women from First Christian Church are involved in the planning of this retreat. We earnestly ask for your prayers during the planning process.

Women from First Christian Church attending this year's retreat were: Marlene Hanson, Betty Hilton, Judy Moore, Debbie Peck, Vicki Thornton and Donna Breshears. You will hear more from them soon!

FROM THE LIBRARY...

The new September issue of Disciple World magazine is now available to read in the Church Library.

~ Bernice Rider

WEEK OF COMPASSION UPDATE

After leaving a path of devastation and death through the Caribbean, Hurricane Gustav bore down on the U.S. Gulf coast. Some two million people from south Alabama, across coastal Mississippi and Louisiana to southeast Texas have evacuated their homes in advance of Gustav's winds, rains and tidal surges. The Gulf Coast is still recovering from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita that devastated the region just 3 years ago.

At least 94 people were killed in the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica and Cuba and tens of thousands of homes were destroyed. Week of Compassion has already begun providing emergency grants to church partners in the Caribbean to support their relief and recovery efforts and is now garnering resources to respond to Gustav's wake in the Gulf South. Disciples have a strong network of Disciples Mission Stations across the region that will enable us to have an active and engaged participation in long term relief and recovery work.

Continuing relief and recovery efforts will be ongoing as soon as more information is available on Gustav's impact on our congregations and members and how we Disciples can best support relief and recovery efforts.

In the meantime, please remember all the people and communities in the Caribbean and the Gulf South who have been or will be affected with your prayers, plan to make a generous gift to WOC for hurricane relief and recovery. For more details you can go online to www.weekofcompassion.org.