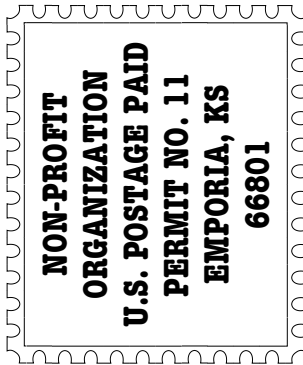


**First Christian Church**  
202 East 12th Avenue / Emporia, KS 66801-5009  
(620) 342-1582 (Church Office)  
(620) 342-8585 (Fax)  
Web Page: [www.fcemporiam.org](http://www.fcemporiam.org)

**Sunday School ~ 9:30 a.m.**

**Worship ~ 10:30 a.m.**



**First Christian Church**  
**(Disciples of Christ) Newsletter**  
Volume 57 - No. 19 - October 6, 2008

## **REFLECTIONS**

Optimism is a good thing. I believe we need a spirit of optimism in every aspect of our lives. I'm having trouble thinking of good things that happen when we are negative (all I can think of is that in thinking negatively, we usually are disappointed. We can either say with satisfaction "I knew it would never work," or, be surprised when dire predictions never materialize.) Yet, lots of good things happen when we think and act in a positive, hopeful manner.

I heard one definition of an optimist as being like a man getting married at the age of 75 and looking for a home near a school. Someone else described optimism as a man going on a picnic who packs four pounds of hamburger, three pounds of hot dogs, a bag of charcoal and one match. But Zig Ziglar said it best: "I'm such an optimist—I'd go after Moby Dick in a rowboat and take tartar sauce with me."

Some folks have a realistic type of optimism that doesn't sugar-coat everything, and then there is an optimism that tends to be "pie-in-the-sky." Neither of these are helpful. To me, a constructive optimism is what is needed, because we inject our hope, faith, love and life into accomplishing the optimism we feel and see.

I love the constructive optimism of two little boys who were playing one day. One said to the other, "Wouldn't you hate to wear glasses all the time?" The other boy thought a moment and replied, "No-o-o, not if I had the kind Grandma has. She knows how to fix a lot of things, and she sees lots of fun things to do on rainy days, and she sees when somebody is tired and feels bad, and she knows how to make them feel better, and, and, she always sees what you meant to do even if you haven't got things just right." The same little boy paused a moment and said, "I asked her one time how come she was so nice, and she said it was the way she had learned to look at things—so it must be her glasses." Was it Grandma's glasses, or was it a personal investment in optimism?

I believe Jesus was an optimist. His optimism was a constructive optimism grounded not in human beings, possessions or anything except God. Jesus' optimism was founded on the promises, assurances and Word of God. Nothing in all creation is completely, 100% reliable—only God. That's an investment we can all "buy" in to.

**BLESSINGS, Pastor Bob**

## **KANSAS DISCIPLES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

### **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: [bobcoolerick@yahoo.com](mailto:bobcoolerick@yahoo.com)

### **OFFICE HOURS:**

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

### **NEWSLETTER INFO & DEADLINES**

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

**OCTOBER 20TH & NOVEMBER 3RD**

Thanks! ~ Christy

### **NEWS ON LINE**

Check out our Web Page at [www.fccemporia.org](http://www.fccemporia.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 [tllpit@yahoo.com](mailto:tllpit@yahoo.com) if I can take your name off my list for a mailed copy. 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.

### **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!**

The next Assembly of the Christian Church in Kansas is barely a month away, on October 17 and 18 at the Clarion Hotel in Manhattan.

Dr. Nancy Clair Pittman of Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa will guide Kansas Disciples in reflecting on the ministries of congregations and groups. Representatives from each congregation, ministry, and fellowship group will enter the labyrinth to speak to the gathered Disciples about the challenges, vision and passion of each ministry.

In turn, the Assembly will offer its blessing to all those who take up the represented ministries.

The Manhattan Clarion Hotel will be a wonderful setting for us to worship, pray and laugh together. Registration materials are in your congregations and on the regional website, [www.kansasdisciples.org](http://www.kansasdisciples.org).

The Regional Assembly Planning Team has attempted to provide a small pitcher or urn to each local church. The pitcher is intended to carry water from your community for the opening session. The water from all the communities will be mingled into our common baptismal font, as a symbol of our oneness in the Regional Church.

We gather to both bless and to be blessed. We gather to recognize that God has done good things through our congregations, and to receive both challenge and blessing as we anticipate our future together.

Yes, this Assembly is different! It requires many participants, not just a speaker and a few to offer prayers. All of us together become participants in "the labyrinth" as we bless our shared ministries and seek God's blessings on our work together.

Please consider attending the Regional Assembly ~ you'll be glad you did!

### **INK & TONER CARTRIDGES**

The church ***NO*** longer has an outlet to have your used ink and toner cartridges recycled with a rebate coming back to the church. ***Please stop bringing them*** to the church as we are having to throw them away. Thanks for your help in the past!

## 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](http://www.kansasdisciples.org) or for more information, see Pastor Bob.

### WNPT MEETS ON WEDNESDAYS!

Join us for Wednesday Night Prime Time!

The meal is at 6:00 p.m. ~ Study starts at 6:30 p.m.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR...

### Locally...

Brandon Ayers, Bill Bowles, Will Calvert,

Doris Douglas, 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.

### 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!

## 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!

## 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.

## FLINT HILLS SENIOR LIFE FAIR

Wednesday, October 29, 2008 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Harvest House ~ Flint Hills Christian Church

1836 E. Highway 50, Emporia, Kansas

~ **Health Screenings** ~ **Entertainment** ~ **Door Prizes** ~  
~ **Educational Sessions** ~ **Exhibits** ~

Matt Jones, Emporia Native & Cancer Survivor, Professional Speaker & Author, Keynote Speaker, 12:45 p.m.

“Life’s a Marathon ~ Making Your Golden Years Your Best Years!”

FREE and discounted screenings are open to ALL ages!

Educational sessions will feature information on

Senior Friendly Travel Opportunities and Senior Housing Options

Fair Attendance is FREE / Lunch will be provided at a cost of only \$5.

(*Advance lunch registration required by October 24th.*)

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Everyone is invited to a birthday party for Bea Stine on Sunday, October 12, 2008, from 2-3 p.m. at Wyndam Place, 1401 E. 12th Avenue, Emporia. Come help Bea celebrate!

***OOPS! I forgot to put in the last newsletter's Anniversaries that Keith & Doris Douglas will be celebrating an anniversary on October 12th. Happy Anniversary Keith & Doris!***

## **OCTOBER MUSIC**

For Offertory on October 12th, I will be playing "Spirit" (Pg. 249) from our Chalice Hymnal. I hope you will enjoy it as much as I enjoy playing it. ~ Sandy Heller

## **PANTRY UPDATE**

The pantry is still in need of donations. The need is always there and we must be as well. Thanks for all you do ~ please bring in any non-perishable foods you can bring. We don't need any canned green beans at this time. THANKS! ~ Betty & Marjorie

## **NEW BEGINNINGS UPDATE**

First, a great big THANK YOU to all those who participated in the Cottage Meetings! Being involved was a major commitment of time and energy. Fifty-five church members were involved in the Cottage Meeting (5 groups), plus the seven group leaders. Almost all participants faithfully attended the four weekly, two-hour meetings.

We thank everyone who provided cookies and other goodies for all the Cottage Meetings. The goodies were delicious and much appreciated by all.

Now that the Cottage Meetings have been completed, the New Beginnings Leadership Team will be meeting to share information from each of the five groups to find common points between all the groups. This process will take some time. We want to make sure we respect all the information contributed at the Cottage Meetings. From the information, we will determine what appear to be the greatest opportunities to include in our strategy for ministry. We will be making a recommendation to the Administrative Council. They will, in turn, make a recommendation to the congregation.

We will make every effort to keep everyone fully informed as the New Beginnings process continues. Please pray for our church and our leadership as we continue through this New Beginning process to discern the will of God for Emporia First Christian Church.

Your New Beginnings Leadership Team: Jaylene Arnett, LeRoy Garnett, Marie Harding, John Lexow, Fred & Jean Miller, and Robert Wells

## **FROM THE PRESCHOOL...**

The children at Learning Center Preschool have been very busy ~ making new friends and learning what it's like to be in school. We've learned that God made everything ~ and everything that God made He intends for good!

This month we're exploring insects, spiders, and creepy crawlers ~ those tiny things in nature that God made! He even loves the tiniest of bugs!

The four-year-old class has begun visiting the LCP "library" each Friday morning. We would like to invite our preschool families and anyone from the FCC family to sign up to be a special guest story reader. If you do not visit the preschool room often, but would like to be a story reader, please call Mrs. Suzanne to schedule a time.

## **OTHER NOTES FROM THE LCP:**

**USBORNE BOOK FAIR** ~ The Usborne Book Fair is coming up the week of October 21-25. All are welcome to come!

**2ND ANNUAL LCP PANCAKE BREAKFAST** ~ The Pancake Breakfast will be held Saturday, October 25th. Preschoolers will begin selling tickets this week. Tickets can also be purchased at the church office. Hope to see you there!

**FAMILY PORTRAIT FUNDRAISER** ~ In coordination with preschool individual photos, LCP is planning family photo nights! LCP & FCC families are invited to sign up! 25% of the proceeds from the Family Photo Night sales will go back to the preschool!

Thanks for all the support and help!

~ Suzanne West

## **ATTENDANCE PADS**

Please remember on Sunday mornings to sign the attendance pad!  
Thanks ~ we appreciate it!

## **ATTENDANCE & GIVING**

### **Attendance**

September 28, 2008 ~ SS - 38 / Worship - 95

October 5, 2008 ~ SS - 29 / Worship - 83

### **Stewardship Report**

September 28, 2008 ~ Offering - \$2,582.50/Capital - \$564.00

October 5, 2008 ~ Offering - \$2,680.66 / Capital - \$650.00

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE** ~ [www.fccemporiam.org](http://www.fccemporiam.org)

## **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

## **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.

## **UPCOMING SERVERS**

### **October 12, 2008**

Candlelighter - Brianna Becker

Children's Message - LeRoy Garnett

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

Elder - Gail Coburn

Greeters - (N) Carl & Rita Headrick

(S) Betty Hilton & Marjorie Rose

Nursery - Richard Becker / Organist - Sandy Heller

Worship Leader - Robert Wells

### **October 19, 2008**

Candlelighter - Cindy Lexow

Children's Message - Nancy LeClear

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

Elder - Fred Miller

Greeters - (N) Tim & Janelle Norton

(S) Leta Moore & Joan Shumate

Nursery - Marie Harding / Organist - Sandy Heller

Worship Leader - Hal Lewis

### **October 26, 2008**

Candlelighter - Allyson Lauxman

Children's Message - Jaylene Arnett

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

Elder - Janet Wells

Greeters - (N) Glenn & Dorothy Boyce

(S) Wanda Davis & Betty Wright

Nursery - Betty Richardson / Organist - Sandy Heller

Worship Leader - Robert Chatham

## **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!