



# Christian Church News

### Weekly Bible Readings

#### Nov. 9-15, 2008

Mt. 25:1-13  
Josh. 24:1-3a, 14-25  
Ps. 78:1-7  
1 Thess. 4:13-18

#### Nov. 16-22, 2008

Mt. 25:14-30  
Judg. 4:1-7  
Ps. 123  
1 Thess. 5:1-11

**First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Volume 57 - No. 21 - November 3, 2008**

### **YOU ARE INVITED!**

***Thanksgiving Music Fest & Dinner  
Sunday, November 23, 2008 @ 4:00 p.m.  
First Christian Church Fellowship Hall***

***Update on Capital Campaign from Stewardship Ministry  
(see page 7)***

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Sunday School ~ 9:30 a.m.  
Worship ~ 10:30 a.m.**



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

**NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 11  
EMPORIA, KS 66801**

***"The mission of First Christian Church is to inspire each other to reach out to the un-churched and to serve and share with our community by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ."***



I know I am probably “jumping-the-gun” a little but in an effort to be proactive, helpful, and to make my/our Christian Faith relevant and meaningful, I want to offer a suggestion. Actually, I want to do more than that: I want to urge you to prayerfully consider the following proposal. *This year, instead of buying Christmas gifts and gift cards, make a donation to a worthy cause in the name of the person you want to give to.*

You can adapt this plan to make it work for you, but here is how I have strongly mandated it to my family. Every year we buy a gift (or many gifts) for someone(s). We may know basically what they want, like a coffee pot, but do they want a 10 or 12 cup pot?—white or black or silver?—with a grinder or not?—one that brews a cup at a time or in a carafe? Or maybe they want a tricycle—what color? How big? Plastic or metal? Air-inflated tires or hard rubber? You go from store to store (thankfully, gas is cheaper, but around Christmas, who knows) you have questions and doubts about which product; you decide on a product and can't believe it costs THAT much. Now, I've got to wrap it and get it to the person I'm buying for—when is the mailing deadline? Or, I can ship it...for HOW much? And, of course, don't forget to get a gift receipt so they can exchange it if they don't like it. And how many do I have to buy for?—I'm exhausted just thinking about it.

Save yourself some time, exhaustion, frustration—and a little

less pollution for our beleaguered planet. Find a good charity or two or three and give a donation in the name of and in honor of each of those on your gift list. (Most of them even allow you to use your credit card.) And for many of us it's a tax deduction.

It is not too early to make your wishes and thoughts known to those on your gift list—or those who might have your name on their lists. I have asked my family to honor my wishes in this regard—and no more cherry-filled cordials, socks with boa constrictors on them, or plastic wind chimes.

On the table outside the Church Office is a Church World Service catalog. I believe this is a worthy organization, but there are many others for you to use and/or suggest.

I hope you will consider this suggestion. I believe it is a good way of doing some good in the world; it sharpens my awareness of the unimaginable needs of much of the world; it makes me less of a consumer; and most of all, I think it is what Jesus would have me do. As one person said: *“Usually when my family asks me what I want for Christmas, I struggle to come up with something—I've got everything I need, really. This year, I'm pleased that I can suggest a gift [from Church World Service] – a gift that someone else really needs! I made contributions in both my mom's and mother-in-law's names. I feel so good about giving this gift!”* So do I!

BLESSINGS, Pastor Bob

### PLEASE SUPPORT OUR PANTRY

Thanks so much for being faithful to support our food pantry. With your generous donations we have been able to fill the pantry. Please continue to remember us, either with non-perishable items or cash donations. We appreciate your help blessing those less fortunate. ~ Betty Hilton & Marjorie Rose

### 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.

### 2008 REGIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN KANSAS (Continued from Page 10)

Saturday afternoon's session was preceded by a Disciples Women Luncheon, a Disciples Men Luncheon and a Disciples Youth Luncheon sponsored by Phillips Theological Seminary. The afternoon session began at 1:30 p.m. following fifteen minutes of Gathering Music and was broken down into an “Elders and Diaconate Labyrinth,” a “Clergy Labyrinth,” a “Congregational Labyrinth” and a “Communion Labyrinth.” Each labyrinth included a discussion of business items, songs being sung, a challenge being issued, a message being given and a blessing and laying on of hands being conducted. In the “Congregational Labyrinth,” Pastor Bob gave a presentation on “Our Witness” for congregations averaging under 125 people in worship. The assembly concluded with the “Communion Labyrinth” during which we took communion by intinction and received regional offerings. The sessions were very long, with the afternoon session running almost four hours, although there

were brief breaks between labyrinths, and people were admonished to come and go as needed.

We visited displays staffed by different manifestations of the regional church, Phillips Theological Seminary and Cokesbury which had been set up in the lobby outside the ballrooms in which we met between sessions and while on breaks. Bob and I paid a last visit to the displays after the formal closing of the assembly, said goodbye to Robin and departed for Emporia, arriving home just after dark Saturday evening.

The assembly was upbeat in spite of the economy and the fact that we are down in giving within the region as a whole. Paxton said something during his “State of Ministry in Kansas” address within the context of the “Congregational Labyrinth” that resonated with me. He said that giving is down not only because of the economy but also because of the fact that our mainline church attendance is down. However, he said that those golden days of the church in America in the 1950's and early 1960's followed on the heels of the Great Depression, two world wars and the Korean Conflict, all of which occurred within a time span of less than fifty years. At the time, there was an expectation that everyone should attend church and that it was even good business practice to do so. But those who attend church today do so intentionally. People attend church not because it is the acceptable thing to do anymore but because they really want to be there. We need to acknowledge that fact, work within that framework and not allow ourselves to be totally consumed with “playing the numbers game.” I take comfort in that.

In His Service, Rev. Bill Coburn

Please pray for...



**LOCALLY...**

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

*(Our prayer/concerns/joy list continues to grow longer. Don't forget to call the office if a name can be removed. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.)*



**NATIONALLY & GLOBALLY...**

Pray for First Christian Church in Olympia, Washington in the New Beginnings Process.

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!

**2008 REGIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN KANSAS (Continued from Page 9)**

Saturday morning's session was preceded by a Disciple Women Alumnae Breakfast and a Joint Breakfast hosted by the Christian Church Foundation for those who chose to participate in them.

The morning session began at 9:00 a.m. following a half hour of Gathering Music. There was no separation of Bible study, worship and business sessions at this assembly. The Saturday sessions lasted for more than three hours with people being admonished to take breaks as needed during the sessions. The morning was broken down into a "Women's Labyrinth," a "Men's Labyrinth" and a "Youth Labyrinth" which included appropriate regional business items being discussed and voted upon, songs being sung, a challenge being issued, a message being given and a blessing and laying on of hands during each labyrinth. The morning session ended with conducting six items of regional business, including a Christian Church in Kansas Report, approval of a new Regional Constitution, proposing priorities for the Christian Church in Kansas, approval of the Selection Committee Report, the receiving of reports of Annual Fund and Raise Up Leaders campaigns and approval of a report from the Time and Place Committee.

*(Continued Page 11)*

**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 in KC)  
944 Whittier-Emporia  
E-Mail: [bobcolerick@yahoo.com](mailto:bobcolerick@yahoo.com)

**OFFICE HOURS**

**Monday thru Thursday**  
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
**Friday**  
8 a.m. to Noon



Attendance and Offering Report

**ATTENDANCE & GIVING**

**Attendance**

**October 26, 2008**

SS - 32 / Worship - 90

**November 2, 2008**

SS - 38 / Worship - 92

**Stewardship Report**

**October 26, 2008**

Offering - \$2,841.00

Capital - \$522.50

**November 2, 2008**

Offering - \$2,780.00

Capital - \$522.50

## DWF NEWS

November will be a busy month for the day group.

On November 7th at 2:00 p.m. First Christian Church will be hosting Church Women United in celebration of World Community Day. We will need cookie donations from both DWF groups. We want to encourage our members to attend the meeting to help serve our guests and be available to collect the offering.

The next meeting for the DWF Day Group will be November 12th at 1:30 p.m. Vel Lukert will be the study leader. Wanda Davis will serve as hostess.

## KANSAS DISCIPLE WOMEN

Notes from the KDW (Kansas Disciple Women) Business Meeting during the Regional Assembly held October 17-18. New Officers were elected for the 2008-2010 term. Elected were:

Cindy Baldwin - President  
Belinda Amend - 1st vice President  
Alexis Jones - 2nd Vice President  
Donna Breshears - Recorder

## DWF NIGHT GROUP

DWF Night Group will be doing "Christmas Child" again this year. Here are gift suggestions we will be collecting at our next meeting on Monday, November 10th:

**School Supplies** ~ pens, pencils & sharpener, crayons, markers, stamps, ink pad sets, writing pads, paper, solar calculators, coloring & pictures books, etc.

**Toys** ~ small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yo's, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch's, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky, etc.

**Hygiene Items** ~ toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag), comb, washcloth, etc.

**Other** ~ hard candy, lollipops (double bag all candy), mints, gum, t-shirts, socks, ball caps, sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries).

**A Personal Note** ~ In a separate envelope, you may enclose a note to the child & a photo of yourself & family. Include your name & address so the child can write back. **4**

**DO NOT INCLUDE** ~ Used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; chocolate or food; out-of-date candy; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snowglobes or glass containers or aerosol cans.

If you would like to help, please put the items in a shoebox with the box and lid wrapped separately. Also we have to send \$7.00 for freight with each box. You can get the "Boy/Girl" labels that must be on the boxes from me. ~ Karen Garnett, Rachel DWF Group

## 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.

## FROM THE LIBRARY

We have received notice from Disciples World that they had a fund drive that was successful, so the magazine will continue. Subscriptions are \$30.00 per year. Disciples World receives income from these sources. Paid subscriptions account for 36%, Advertising accounts for 32% and gifts comprise 32%. Disciples World, Inc. receives no denominational mission dollars. It is a non-profit organization, so your gift is tax deductible.

## 2008 REGIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN KANSAS

The 2008 Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Kansas, Inc., was held at the Clarion Hotel in Manhattan from October 17-18. I attended the assembly as one of eight ministers ordained in Kansas in the biennium since our last regional assembly and as a voting delegate from our church, even though I have been providing pulpit supply for our church in Holton for the past two months and have been unable to attend services here. Hence, I have been asked to report on the assembly for the benefit of our members who were unable to attend.

Four representatives from First Christian Church of Emporia attended all or part of the assembly. Pastor Bob and I drove to Manhattan Friday afternoon, where we joined Robin Colerick, who drove from Pratt with a member of her church to attend the assembly. Leroy Garnett and Donna Breshears joined us Saturday. Bob and I served as ordained clergy representatives of our church, Leroy reported on "Our Witness" as Disciples Men in the region during the Saturday morning session and Donna was installed as Recorder of the Kansas Disciples Women Fellowship at the Women's Luncheon following that session.

The theme of the assembly was "Blest Be the Labyrinth that Binds!" The labyrinth is an ancient symbol whose design witnesses to wholeness and the spiral of a winding yet purposeful path. It is a divine imprint found in all religious traditions in various forms around the world, so when we came together to celebrate our life together as the Christian Church in Kansas, we used the labyrinth as the symbol or metaphor of our journey. Friday afternoon was devoted to Labyrinth Workshop Opportunities.

There were four workshops from which we could choose. Bob and Robin attended

"Theological Wars: A Disciples Perspective," given by the Rev. Dr. Nancy Pittman, Assistant Professor of Practice of Ministry and Director of Doctoral Studies and Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa, who was designated Labyrinth Theologian for this assembly. I attended a workshop entitled "Clergy Self-Care," given by the Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. Sharon is a dear friend who served as Director of Student Services at P.T.S. and sang with us in the chancel choir at University Place Christian Church when I began my seminary studies in Enid.

The assembly began Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. following a Pastor and Moderators Dinner and a half hour of Gathering Music presented by First Christian Church of Manhattan musicians. The assembly was formally convened under the heading of "Regional Church Labyrinth," during which regional church business was conducted. Business included ratifying the call of Paxton Jones to serve as our Regional Minister, although Paxton had already served in that capacity for more than fifteen months by then, and installing Renee Bridwell and Ken Marston as the newest Associate Regional Ministers of the Christian Church in Kansas. Sharon brought "A Word to the Church" and led us as we entered into a covenant with our new regional clergy staff. Paxton was presented with a regional minister's pin, a regional minister's stole and a study Bible, and we blessed his ministry with a laying on of hands. A reception for regional staff and a youth after-session completed the evening.

(Continued Page 10)

## NEWSLETTER ON LINE

Our Web Page is at [www.fccemporio.org](http://www.fccemporio.org). Call the church office (342-1582) or e-mail [ttltpit@yahoo.com](mailto:ttltpit@yahoo.com) if your name can be removed from the newsletter mailing list. Thanks!

## LEARNING CENTER NEWS

A special thank you goes out to the First Christian Church members who took part in the fund raiser last week for The Learning Center preschool by making a purchase at Pizza Hut. Your continued support is greatly appreciated. Thank you, Learning Center PTO

Thank you to all of the church members that donated their time to help make the Learning Center pancake feed a great success! Many of you graciously volunteered your time. Another special thank you goes out to the Church members who purchased tickets and helped make the 2008 pancake feed a huge success. Thank you, Learning Center PTO

**COMING SOON** ~ November 19th will be "Family Eat Out Night" at Golden Corral. Look for more information coming soon!

Learning Center Preschool & FCC family, Thank you all so much for all the efforts put into the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pancake Breakfast! Whether you sold tickets, bought tickets, cleared tables, flipped pancakes, cooked sausage, gathered donations, gave donations, made decorations, or just came and enjoyed delicious pancakes and sausage...thank you! We couldn't have been successful without you!

Our Usborne book fair was also a **8** great success. Between the two events, we have raised nearly \$1,900 toward our playground remodeling project.

October was a busy month at LCP. We explored creepy crawlers and enjoyed a special visit with Pastor Bob. Parents, have your children been giving thanks for God's "liquid sunshine"? We ended the month with our Halloween parties; we talked about how our jack-o-lanterns can remind us of God's love for us—He wants us to be a shining light for all to see! "Thank you!" to the parents who accompanied us on our trick-or-treat walk to Sauder Alumni Center and to the DWF ladies and FCC members who provided treats for our in-church parade! What a blessing you are to us!

November brings a new exploration theme: "**Going Places!**" We'll explore different modes of transportation. Of course with Thanksgiving approaching, we will take notice of all the things we have to be thankful for every day. We plan to work with the PTO to take up a food collection to donate toward the FCC food pantry. It looks like we're in for another busy month!

Looking forward to December, we could use some more help. As we prepare for the coming of Christmas, we'd like to turn our "house" center into a nativity dramatic play center. If you have props that we could borrow—child sized bath robes, colorful sashes, head scarves, props for shepherds, wise men, Mary and Joseph... please let me know. You can also mark items with your name and contact information and leave them in the church office. Thank you again, in advance! May you have a blessed November!

~Mrs. Suzanne

## SERVING THIS MONTH

5

### November 9, 2008

Candlelighter(s) ~ Emily & Morgan Lauxman

Children's Message ~ Dianna Lewis

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

Elder - Robert Wells

Greeters - (N) Larry & Glenna Gamblian / (S) George & Ruth Ford

Nursery - Janelle Norton / Organist - Sandy Heller

Worship Leader - Jean Miller

### November 16, 2008

Candlelighter(s) ~ Abby Griffith

Children's Message ~ Gail Coburn

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

Elder - Cindy Lexow

Greeters - (N) Carl & Lana Richardson / (S) Fred & Ilda Kline

Nursery - Nikki Simmons / Organist - Sandy Heller

Worship Leader - Fred Miller

### November 23, 2008

Candlelighter(s) ~ Emily Lauxman

Children's Message ~ Cindy Lexow

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

Elder - John Lexow

Greeters - (N) Richard Becker & Robert Chatham

(S) Alberta Brinkman & Norma Leonard

Nursery - Nikki Simmons / Organist - Sandy Heller

Worship Leader - Fred Miller

## 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!

**STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY**

Capital Campaign Shortfall ~

The Capital Fund Campaign conducted approximately one year ago was intended to provide enough money to make the monthly mortgage payments of \$3,923.00. We fell short of that by approximately \$900.00 per month. We had a reserve in our Capital Fund generated by the earlier campaigns and have been making up the difference by drawing from those reserves.

Those reserves are now nearly depleted. When the remodeling project was first proposed, it was with the understanding that we would not use operating funds to pay the mortgage. That would appear to have been a prudent decision, as our operating fund is providing just enough for the day-to-day operations of our congregation.

These facts bring me to a request of you, the congregation:

- If you made a pledge a year ago, please be sure you are up-to-date on it.
- If you did not make a pledge but have given to the Capital Fund anyway, please continue with your gifts.
- If you are in neither group, please consider giving to the Capital Fund at this time, through either a lump-sum donation or consistent giving.

In addition to this plea, we will be conducting a modified emergency campaign by contacting some of our congregation personally.

~ Fred Miller, Treasurer

**NEW BEGINNINGS UPDATE**

After several meetings of the New Beginnings Leadership Team, we have developed a summary of the information gathered from the Cottage Meetings. We want to share this information with those who attended the Cottage Meetings before a recommendation is made to the Administrative Council. Cottage Meeting participants will receive the summary and an invitation to attend a follow-up meeting on Wednesday evening, November 19. At that meeting we'll discuss the summary and other thoughts and ideas related to the New Beginning process. The Wednesday Night Prime Time (WNPT) attendees will suspend their Bible Study for that evening to allow us to have this important additional Cottage Meeting.

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