



Christian Church News

Weekly Bible Readings

Dec. 7-13
 Mk. 1: 1-8
 Ps. 85: 1-2, 8-13
 2 Pet. 3: 8-15a

Dec. 14-20
 Jn. 1: 6-8, 19-23
 Is. 61: 1-4, 8-11
 Ps. 12
 1 Thess. 5: 16-24

Dec. 21-27
 Lk. 1: 26-38
 2 Sam. 7:1-11, 16
 Lk. 1: 46b-55
 Rom. 16:25-27

Dec. 28-Jan. 3
 Lk. 2: 22-40
 Is. 61:10-62:3
 Ps. 148
 Gal. 4: 4-7

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
 Volume 57 - No. 23 - December 8, 2008

YOU ARE INVITED!

Christmas Eve Light & Communion Service
8:00 p.m.
(Refreshments will be served)



A special invitation to view
"Nativities from Around the World"
December 19-21 and Christmas Eve
(Refreshments will be served)
(see Pages 3 & 11)

"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."



Sunday School ~ 9:30 a.m.
Worship ~ 10:30 a.m.
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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



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 U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT NO. 11
 EMPORIA, KS 66801

REFLECTIONS

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By the time you receive this newsletter we will already be in the middle of Advent. Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. On November 30, 2008, we celebrated the beginning of Advent with a beautiful and meaningful Hanging of the Greens Worship. Last Sunday, December 7, 2008, was the Second Sunday of Advent and we continued our celebration by seeing how Christmas is a time of great promise. Throughout Advent and the Christmas season our church will be both busy and reflective, active and quiet. We will be busy and active serving others in many ways and we will be reflective and quiet in prayer and worship.

As I have every Christmas season, I will be preaching a sermon series designed to help us rediscover the width and depth of Christmas. On Sunday, December 14, I will preach on Christmas: A Time of Waiting; on December 21, I will preach on

Christmas: A Time of Gifts. On December 28, Christmas: A Time of Response.

I hope that Christmas Eve will find you at your church with friends and family in adoration, reverence and devotion to the Babe born to be our Savior. Our annual Service of Light and Communion will be traditional with music, meditation, prayer, Communion and the lighting of candles. I know family get-togethers, the opening of gifts and lavish dinners are important—but so is this, and it comes but once a year. It is worthy of your presence.

I trust you will observe Advent in your hearts and lives this year. I know many activities are expected of each of you at this time, but, even though it is a trite saying, we must not forget the reason for the season. To shop, party, gift, and rush here and there without stopping to reflect on the birth of a

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OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

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HELP OUR PANTRY!

We are in need again! Our pantry is very low and with the holidays upon us there will be more people in need of food. If you can contribute any non-perishable foods or a cash donation, it would be greatly appreciated!

~ 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.

OFFICE HELP NEEDED

I will be on vacation from December 22nd thru January 4th and we need some volunteers to answer the phone. If you can help out for a few hours, there will be a sign up sheet outside the church office on the table. Thanks for your help and I pray that you have a very blessed Christmas! *“Rejoice, that the immortal God is born so that mortal men may live in eternity.”* (John Muss)

Blessings! ~ Christy

NATIVITY HELP

How would you like to bless Bob & Margi Colerick for their generosity in sharing their beautiful Nativity display with us? You can! They will begin setting the nativities up at 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, December 16th in the church parlor. Many hands make light the load and they would really appreciate the help!

Thank you! ~ Christy

WANT TO READ?

Volunteers are needed to edit recordings for the “Talking Books” program at Emporia State University. Come for a little or as long as you can. For more information, contact Steve Rinker @ 341-6285.

~ Debbie Peck



Please Pray For...

LOCALLY

Brandon Ayers, Doris Douglas, Fran Grisell, Jason Hart, Dr. Charles & Nadine Hopper, Becky Lauxman, Nadine Lexow, Elmaleda McMinn, Freeda Paasch, Helen Price, Elizabeth Wells, Don White, Elizabeth Witty

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 and county leaders.

COMPLIMENTS...

There have been so many compliments on our Hanging of the Greens Service on November 30th. As a church we should be pleased that the efforts of so many people all came together that we might honor God and be reminded of the importance of Advent.
~ Pastor Bob

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!

NEW BABY

Congratulations to Jim & Joyce Cress! They are grandparents to their new grandson, "Ashton Louis Wescott" born to their daughter and son-in-law, Seth & Stacy Wescott of Shawnee, Kansas. Seth came into the world on Tuesday, November 18, 2008. Congratulations and "Welcome" Ashton! Jesus loves you and we do too!

~ Submitted by Jeanice Miller

THANKS

Thanks for the prayers, cards and calls following my knee replacement surgery. All were very much appreciated.

~ Jeanice Miller

THANKS...

Thank you, Sandy Heller, for donating three new candlelighters and a stand to hold them. The new candlelighters are a burnished bronze, and, together with the wood stand, make a beautiful and functional addition to our worship area. Many thanks, Sandy, for your thoughtfulness and generosity!

~ Pastor Bob

PASTOR'S HOURS AND 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

OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Thursday
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Friday
8 a.m. to Noon

"NATIVITIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD"

You are invited to come see our collection of Nativities on view at First Christian Church on Friday, December 19th from 5-8 p.m., Saturday, December 20th from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. & Sunday, December 21st from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Come enjoy the Nativities and some refreshments.

~ Pastor Bob

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Attendance

November 23, 2008
SS - 26 / Worship - 103

November 30, 2008
SS - 36 / Worship - 92

December 7, 2008
SS - 31 / Worship - 91

Stewardship Report

November 23, 2008
Offering - \$2,798.89
Capital - \$190.00

November 30, 2008
Offering - \$2,498.81
Capital - \$400.00

December 7, 2008
Offering - \$8,500.50
Capital - \$850.00

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.

SECRET PLACE DEVOTIONALS

Secret Place Devotionals are available in the church office for \$1 donation. See me if you'd like a copy.

~ Christy

FROM THE LIBRARY

We have several interesting Christmas books in the library and on the book cart. We also have children's Christmas books. Relax from the Christmas rush and read a good book, it will leave you refreshed and remind you of the reason for the season.

~ Luella Hush

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Savior—for you and me!—is like the proverbial *resounding gong or a clanging cymbal*—it means nothing and gains you zilch.

Faithfully and reverently observing the significance, importance and consequence of Christmas helps us see that there is an unmistakable connection between Christmas and Easter. The purpose of the birth of Jesus (God made flesh and dwelling among us) is to reveal God's love and mercy (God's Grace) through the life and teachings of Jesus. Also His suffering, death and resurrection is a time of expectation as we yearn for deliverance from the evils (hate, injustice, sin, etc.) of the world which leads to understanding that God overcame the evil through God's Son, Jesus.

The Christmas season also revives in us the belief that if God could use a helpless baby to save the world, then God can use us to make the world a better place—at least in the place where we happen to be.

Christmas...it means so much. This year, don't settle for the stale crumbs of the cake, or the crumpled remains of the gift-wrapping paper. Settle for no less than the tasty cake of "Glory to the Newborn King," and the greatest gift itself, "Christ the Savior is born."

Blessings, Pastor Bob

January Anniversaries

21 Forrest & Mildred Steeves
28 Larry & Glenna Gamblian

January Birthdays

01 Ruth Ford
01 Bonnie Schaefer
02 Betty Bowman
02 Pat Mercer
02 Elizabeth Witty
05 Quentin Coffman
05 Betty Foster
05 Bessie McCartney
09 Travis Milner
09 Ted Williams
10 Erma Mae Jones
10 Nancy Mayer
11 Kindra Garnett
11 Leonard Werner
12 Allyson Lauxman
15 Colter Richardson
15 Treva Stuck
17 Glendon Iverson
18 John Lexow
19 Earl Bogle
21 Brenda Hall
22 Charles Wilhite
25 Jeanne Canaday
26 Marie Kelley
26 Curtis Rhoades
26 Tyler Tilton
28 Sadj Davis
29 Ed Mercer, Jr.
29 Stanley Smith
29 Joe Witten
30 Robert White
31 Tim Norton
31 Walter Spencer
31 Kerry Thornton

SERVERS (Continued from Page 8)January 4, 2009

Candlelighter ~ Abby Griffith
Children's Message ~ Cameron Moore
Diaconate ~ Karen Garnett, Alan
Richardson, Betty Richardson,
George Arnett, Becky Lauxman,
Larry Gamblian

Elder - John Lexow
Greeters - (N) Larry & Glenna Gamblian
(S) Fred & Ilda Kline

Nursery - Betty Richardson
Organist - Sandy Heller
Worship Leader - Robert Wells

January 11, 2009

Candlelighter ~ Janelle Norton
Children's Message ~ Judy Moore
Diaconate ~ Richard Becker, Carl Headrick,
Rita Headrick, Debbie Peck,
Glenn Boyce, Nancy LeClear

Elder - Robert Wells
Greeters - (N) Carl & Lana Richardson
(S) Alberta Brinkman & Norma Leonard
Nursery - Barb Gimple
Organist - Sandy Heller
Worship Leader - Hal Lewis

NEWLETTER DEADLINE

I need any information for the next
newsletter **NO LATER THAN** Monday,
January 12, 2009. ~ Christy

December 14, 2008

Candlelighter(s) ~ Debbie Peck
Children's Message ~ Tim Norton
Diaconate ~ Richard Becker, Carl Headrick, Rita Headrick,
Debbie Peck, Glenn Boyce, Nancy LeClear
Elder - Gail Coburn
Greeters - (N) Tim & Janelle Norton / (S) Wanda Davis & Betty Wright
Nursery - John Lexow / Organist - Sandy Heller
Worship Leader - Marie Harding

December 21, 2008

Candlelighter(s) ~ Emily & Morgan Lauxman
Children's Message ~ Barb Gimple
Diaconate ~ Tim Norton, Larry Breshears, Joyce Cress,
Bonnie Denson, George Ford, Dean Grisell
Elder - Fred Miller
Greeters - (N) Glenn & Dorothy Boyce / (S) LeRoy & Karen Garnett
Nursery - Richard Becker / Organist - Sandy Heller
Worship Leader - Bill Coburn

December 28, 2008

Candlelighter(s) ~ Judy Moore
Children's Message ~ Sandy Heller
Diaconate ~ Carl Headrick, Rita Headrick, Lola Farr,
Dianna Lewis, Hal Lewis, Ardie Lauxman
Elder - Janet Wells
Greeters - (N) Robert & Janet Wells / (S) George & Ruth Ford
Nursery - Marie Harding / Organist - Sandy Heller
Worship Leader - Gail Coburn

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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!

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

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MINISTRY TEAM NOTES

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