



Christian Church News

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Volume 58 - No. 2 - January 26, 2009

Weekly Bible Readings

Jan. 25-30
John 3:1-5
I Cor. 7:29-31
Mk. 1:14-20

YOU ARE INVITED!

Sunday, February 1, 2009

10:30 a.m. ~ Celebration of the New Beginnings & Plan of Action in Morning Worship



"Celebrating the Caregiver"
Rev. Hal Lewis & Cindy Lexow, Moderator offer a workshop on Saturday, February 7th (see page 11 for more information)

"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."



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

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

In my way of thinking, there is no question that we are living in exciting times. This does not mean that these are especially good times, or bad times. It just means that there is a lot going on, so much, in fact, that it is difficult to keep track of it all. We are bombarded with information on lots of events taking place all over the world. There are international and national happenings, local concerns, and matters that are more personal and related to our individual lives and interests. If you think about the events and concerns you know about, you can come up with quite a list in just a few minutes.

We have lots to think about, don't we? Some say information is empowering, yet, in my experience, too much information, and too much to consider is anything but empowering. It's more like bewildering and depressing. What are we to do when there is too much information and it all seems bad? Sometimes I find myself identifying with the late priest and author Henri Nouwen, in "The Genesee Diary":

Reflecting on my...work,
I realize more and more
That it lacked unity...
Now I see that I was all mixed up,
that I had fragmented my life into
many sections that did not really
form a unity...
My fears and the resulting fatigue
over the last three years
might well be diagnosed as a lack of
singlemindedness,
As a lack of one-eyedness,

as a lack of simplicity.

I want to love God,
but also make a career...

I want to be a Saint, but also enjoy the
sensations of the sinner.

No wonder that living becomes a
tiring enterprise...

I have a very divided loyalty.

Perhaps Henry David Thoreau's advice to "Simplify..." is the answer—or at least part of it. For me, when things get rough and I feel I can't get a handle on the tempests raging about me, I try to simplify. I begin to prioritize, forcing my mind to think of what is most important.

Jesus gave us some words that can help us as we try to make sense of the swirling puzzles that surround us: "The most important one [commandment]," answered Jesus [to the teacher's question], "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. (30) Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' (31) The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:29-31 NIV)

Meister Eckhart, in response to the question of how to lead a good, fulfilling life, once said to do what the person does who wants to draw a perfect circle. First, one must fix the center point of the compass. "Only then," said Eckhart, "will he be able to draw a perfect circle." That's our task. God must be the center around which everything else revolves.

Blessings, Pastor Bob

(Continued from Page 9)

Commission. So, we are going to begin looking outward more intentionally.

Is looking outward easy? Sometimes, yes; other times, not so much so! Please attend Pastor Bob's Practical Evangelism course which will help give us the skills to reach out more easily. As we spend time preparing ourselves and reaching out more, we will reap the many rewards God gives his children. You can be a part of our new Reaching Out ministry even if you are homebound, as part of any ministry is the prayer that supports it.

Be a part of the action—come to all the activities you can, bring a friend and keep your church family in prayer. Remember, all we do is for the glory of God! Amen!

- Cindy Lexow



P.S ~ Come celebrate on Sunday, February 1st, as we "officially" set ourselves on this new course.

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.



Your annual giving statements are now available on the table outside the Church Office. If you need yours mailed to you, call the church office at (620) 342-1582 and let me know! ~ Christy

"Celebrating the Caregiver"

Gentle Talk for Tough Times



First Christian Church is pleased to offer this workshop to all caregivers. Being a caregiver can be demanding, difficult and overwhelming at times. Come and share in this workshop where you'll learn some ways to help lessen the stress!

- Saturday, February 7th, 9:00 a.m. to Noon
- First Christian Church, 202 E. 12th Avenue, Emporia
- \$15 donation suggested
- Pre-register BEFORE February 4th by calling the church office, 342-1582 from 8 a.m. to Noon
- Free child care available with advance registration
- Speakers: Hal Lewis, M.Div., M.A. of Psychotherapy and Faith
- Cindy Lexow, M.S., Licensed Clinical Psychologist
- Packet of resource materials included in donation

AMONG THE MEMBERS

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Please Pray For...

LOCALLY

Brandon Ayers, Earl Bastin, Betty Bowman, Norman Brady, Vernon H. Buck, Doris Douglas, Fran Grisell, Jason Hart, Dr. Charles & Nadine Hopper, Nadine Lexow, Marjorie Rose, Mildred Steeves, 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 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.

FROM THE SALVATION ARMY...

Dear Church Members:

How wonderful your dedication to assisting those in our community who are in need. Many families are assisted throughout the year with food, utilities, rent, clothing and other needs.

We acknowledge with appreciation your recent gift of \$335.92. We are honored that you have again trusted and supported us in our ministry to assist these people.

We appreciate you and wish you and yours God's blessings...

Sincerely, Captain Jeremiah Burris

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!



BABY SHOWER!

Who: Traeger Kasodi Garnett (son of Royal & Ashley Garnett)
When: Saturday, January 31, 2009 from 2-4 p.m.
Where: First Christian Church Parlor

You are invited to bless this new little one and his parents with a "shower" of needed items. This is a "come and go" shower so come join the fun and meet Traeger!

Any diapers, clothing, blankets (did we mention diapers?) in the 3-6 months and up category would be appreciated! Traeger was born on December 30, 2008 and currently weighs about 9lbs.

THANK YOU

Dear Christian Friends, I want to thank all of you for the prayers, cards & calls while I was in the hospital.

A special thanks to Pastor Bob for calling on me while I was in the hospital in Topeka as well as in Newman's. His prayers were a real comfort to me.

Also, thanks to the DWF ladies for the Christmas cookies. They were a treat since I didn't get to do any baking this year.

Love, Mildred Steeves

IMPORTANT INFORMATION & DATES

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

Friday
8 a.m. to Noon

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



NEW PRAYER CIRCLE STARTED

A new Prayer Circle is meeting at noon, every Thursday in the parlor of the church. You are invited to join the prayer circle as we pray for our world, nation, community, church and each other.

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Attendance

January 18, 2009
SS - 35 / Worship - 107

January 25, 2009
SS - 34 / Worship - 82

Stewardship Report

January 18, 2009
Offering - \$ 1623.50
Capital - \$ 278.00

January 25, 2009
Offering - \$ 1,706.50
Capital - \$ 2,239.38



"For the earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof."
~ I Corinthians 10:26



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.

KDW THANK YOU

The Spirit Fest planning team is most appreciative of your kind hospitality January 10th for our meeting. Your facility has become a welcome haven for many of our meetings.

We thank you for the warm welcome as we work to His service for the ministry for the women of Kansas.

Blessings,
Barb Runge, KDW Coordinator

THANKS

Many thanks to Vicky Allen, who, in memory of her mother Mrs. June Meyers, who went to be with the Lord November 13, 2008, has purchased professionally printed bulletins for Lent, Maundy Thursday, Palm Sunday, Easter, Pentecost and Mother's Day.

~ Pastor Bob

SECRET PLACE DEVOTIONALS

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

~ Christy



You're Invited!

A SPECIAL INVITATION

is extended to everyone to be in Church Sunday morning, February 1, 2009 to join together for worship and for the Celebration of the New Beginnings recommendation and Plan of Action. (See attached insert) At the dinner following worship, there will be time for dialogue. The donations for the dinner will go to the Capital Campaign fund. *This is a time for Celebration!*

~ Marie Harding

WNPT NEWS

Starting Wednesday, January 28, WNPT will be sponsoring a workshop on Practical Evangelism that will last for about 8 weeks. This is a course for every Christian seeking to fulfill the Great Commission. A light meal begins at 6:00 pm and the workshop begins at 6:30 pm.



Welcome to 2009! Despite all the technology at our disposal, meaning and value still come from our personal & faith relationships. For many, the New Year is an appropriate time to evaluate, reassess, make plans for the future, and define priorities. My prayer is that in 2009 you will deepen & strengthen your important relationships.

LeRoy Garnett gave the message on January 11, challenging us to pray the Prayer of Jabez daily, through the 1st week of February. Once for ourselves, and again for our church family. He shared that praying for bounty & growth so that God's will may be done is not self-serving. Rev. Hal Lewis is currently offering a 3-week study of the prophets on Wednesday nights. On January 28th, Pastor Bob will begin an 8-week evangelism study.

Rev. Lewis and I will be presenting a workshop on February 7th, entitled, "Celebrating the Caregiver: Gentle Talk about Tough Times". Many in our church are, or have been, caregivers. This is open to the public. Rev. Lewis will discuss issues caregivers face, using the story of Ruth as illustration. I will discuss some mental health aspects of being a caregiver, and will share ideas for maintaining mental wellness while dealing with stressors.

The Boy Scout Pancake Feed will be the same day—so, you can have pancakes before or after the workshop, or both!

We are blessed that Carol Rohling has agreed to serve the remainder of Gail Coburn's elder term. She's the teacher of the Discovery Sunday School class.

Carol Rhoades is our new church reporter. Working on making our newsletter more professional, we thank all who have spent time on the task. We look forward to Carol's contributions. If YOU are the person she calls for an interview, please let her tell your story!

We all want to see our church survive & thrive & as moderator, I am thrilled with the suggestions for action coming from the New Beginnings Leadership Team. Please prayerfully read the "New Beginnings" insert included in this newsletter. We make decisions about our priorities on a daily basis and it's true that NOT taking action is also a decision. Our congregation has become keenly aware of the importance of intentional, faithful decision making going through the New Beginnings process.

Our church has many wonderful aspects, however, we have become focused on taking care of ourselves. We WILL continue to minister to one another, but we also must move forward. If the early Christians had become inward-focused, (taking care of self), they would not have been fulfilling the Great

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February Anniversaries

05 Jim & Judy Moore
17 Fred & Jean Miller (1963)

February Birthdays

10 Kat Dorcas
10 Pauline Hall
12 Marlene Bowman
14 Rikki Sunderman
15 Margie Coffman
16 Royal Garnett
16 Norma Leonard
17 Doris Douglas
17 Charles Hopper
17 Mindy Williams
18 Viola Miller
21 Barbara Wilhite
23 Ina Goad
23 Steve Pruitt
25 Tyler McClellan
25 Joshua Shumate
28 Roycean Garnett

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

I need any information for the next newsletter **NO LATER THAN** Monday, February 9, 2009. ~ Christy



NEWSLETTER ON LINE

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

NEWSLETTER NEWS

It's been a process of evolution. The newsletter, "Christian Church News" has been making changes. The newsletter committee, led by Anita Imhoff, has been working to establish some guidelines. Changes have been made in format and content with the goal of making it easier to read and more informative of events happening throughout the church.

Most recently, Carol Rhoades has been asked to write about the Sunday School classes, their style and content. She has agreed to act as a reporter and will also cover other events and happenings that involve our church.

Carol has worked 13 years in the printing industry in graphic design and pre-press preparation. She also has 5 years experience in the advertising sales field. The committee welcomes Carol into this new role as reporter for the "Christian Church News".

~ The Newsletter Committee

February 1, 2009

Candlelighter ~ Allyson Lauxman
Children's Message ~ Debbie Peck
Diaconate ~ Karen Garnett, Alan Richardson, Betty Richardson, George Arnett, Becky Lauxman, Larry Gamblian
Elder - LeRoy Garnett
Greeters - (N) Carl & Rita Headrick / (S) Wanda Davis & Betty Wright
Nursery - Rita Headrick / Organist - Sandy Heller
Worship Leader - LeRoy Garnett

February 8, 2009

Candlelighter ~ Tim Norton
Children's Message ~ LeRoy Garnett
Diaconate ~ Richard Becker, Carl Headrick, Rita Headrick, Debbie Peck, Glenn Boyce, Nancy LeClear
Elder - Jaylene Arnett
Greeters - (N) Tim & Janelle Norton / (S) LeRoy & Karen Garnett
Nursery - Tim Norton / Organist - Sandy Heller
Worship Leader - Jean Miller

February 15, 2009

Candlelighter ~ Emily & Morgan Lauxman
Children's Message ~ Nancy LeClear
Diaconate ~ Tim Norton, Larry Breshears, Joyce Cress, Bonnie Denson, George Ford, Dean Grisell
Elder - Donna Breshears
Greeters - (N) Glenn & Dorothy Boyce / (S) George & Ruth Ford
Nursery - Kathy Harris / 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!

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

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MINISTRY TEAM NOTES

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