

Christian Church News

February 9, 2009
Volume 58 ~ No. 3

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

February Bible Readings

February 1-8

Ex 24: 12-18
Ps 99
Mt 17: 1-9
2 Pet 1: 16-21

February 9-16

Gen 2:15-17; 3: 1-7
Ps 32
Mt 4: 1-11
Rom 5: 12-19

February 17-23

Jn 3: 1-17
Gen 112: 1-4A
Ps 121
Rom 4: 1-5, 13-17

February 24-March 2

Ps 95
Ex 17: 1-7
Jn 4: 5-42
Rom 5: 1-11

UPCOMING EVENTS

You Are Invited!

Boy Scout Court of Honor Ceremony for Justin Wilson
Sunday, February 22 @ 3 p.m. in our sanctuary

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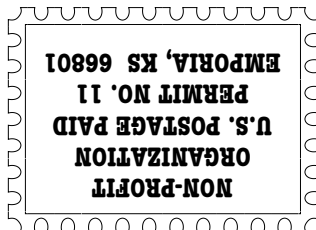
"The mission of First Christian Church is to inspire each other to reach out to the un-churched and to serve and share with our community by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ."



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





I am so thankful, impressed and pleased with the hard work of the New Beginnings Leadership Team for their faithfulness in guiding our church through the New Beginnings process (and it is a process that will go on for years.) As you have heard, we believe that God is calling this church to "Reach Out." We have our work cut out for us, and I believe we will take the opportunity to minister with each other and with God.

We must remember that our efforts to reach out will be short-lived and unproductive if we do not constantly maintain a close relationship to God. This means prayer, the study of God's Word, worship and fellowship with each other. Our outreach efforts are the heart and soul of God's continuing Grace to all the world. Those efforts are fueled by the nourishment we receive from a close relationship to each other and to God.

According to an ancient legend, a monk knelt alone in a bare cell, praying fervently. Suddenly the room filled with a bright glow. Lifting his eyes, the monk saw a vision of Jesus walking through the village streets and harvest fields, healing the lame and the blind, blessing children and preaching the word of God to those who pressed around him. The monk felt overwhelmed with awe and gratitude. His joy was soon interrupted by a

familiar sound. The chapel bell began calling for him to leave his cell and begin his daily work of feeding the poor, lame and blind who gathered outside the monastery gates. He wondered what to do. Had not Jesus come to grace his cold, narrow cell? Surely it was better to cling to this glorious sight as long as it beckoned before him. Yet he kept thinking of the needy waiting at the gates. Should he stay, or should he go? Rising from his knees, he took one last longing look at the blessed sight and hurried out to feed the poor. He worked quickly, placing loaves of bread in trembling hands. He emptied basket after basket, engulfed by a sea of pleading faces. At last his work was over and he headed back to his chamber. Hurrying down the long hallway that led to his room, he threw open the door, and there stood the vision, just as before. He realized that Jesus had been waiting for him to return. Rapture filled his heart once more, and he fell to his knees in homage. As he bowed his head the vision said, "If you had stayed, I would have fled."

God blessed us with a mission that is accomplished only as we work hand-in-hand with God.

Blessings, Pastor Bob

Mark Your Calendar
Ash Wednesday Service
7 p.m. ~ February 25, 2009



ANNUAL GIVING STATEMENTS

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

PANTRY NEEDS

I want to thank everyone who has generously given to our pantry. If you have any non-perishable items that you could donate at this time, we would appreciate it. People are frequently using our pantry and the need is ongoing. Thanks for all you do.

~ Betty Hilton

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.

PRAYER REQUESTS

LOCALLY

Ashton (Grandson of Jim & Joyce Cress, Brandon Ayers, Bill Bowles, Norman Brady, Doris Douglas, Fran Grisell, Jason Hart, Dr. Charles & Nadine Hopper, Nadine Lexow, 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.

HONOR CEREMONY

The congregation is invited to attend a Court of Honor Ceremony on Sunday, February 22, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary. Justin Wilson will be receiving Boy Scout's highest honor, The Eagle Scout Award. There will be a reception in the parlor following the ceremony. Justin is the son of Laurie Jurzen and David Wilson and the grandson of David & Carolyn Meierhoff.

~ 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!

NOTE:

NEW ADDRESS

Our friends, Bill & Gail Coburn have moved! If you would like to stay in touch with them, here is their new contact information:

Home Address:
35 Fitch Street ~ Box 445
Jaffrey, NH 03452-0445

E-Mail:
rev_coburn@yahoo.com

SYMPATHY

Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Al Moore who went to be with the Lord on Saturday, February 7, 2009. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.



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)
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

February 1, 2009
SS - 29 / Worship - 92

February 8, 2009
SS - 29 / Worship - 97

Stewardship Report

February 1, 2009
Offering - \$ 2,993.50
Capital - \$ 770.00

February 8, 2009
Offering - \$ 2,438.00
Capital - \$ 427.50

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

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

LeRoy Garnett ~ 342-4585
Dean Grisell ~ 342-8341
Kathy Harris ~ 342-5350
David Meierhoff ~ 342-2197
Bea Stine ~ 620-412-2198

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.



As our library is always open, we would encourage you to use it for a time of prayer, worship and study. We have many devotional books, study books and in a quiet, restful atmosphere. Please feel free at all times to enjoy these facilities.

~ Bernice Rider & Library Staff

KCH YEAR-END ROUNDUP

It's not easy to sift through the news, predictions and pundits in order to understand the economy. If you include information about charities and giving, the waters are muddy. At Kansas Christian Home, we want you to know what your contributions do, to see the good work and the people you have helped.

The latest Chronicle of Philanthropy reported that 37 of the 66 charities it surveyed reported that donations are down in 2008. Not so at KCH! In mid-December, contributions to KCH for 2008 were almost \$300,000, making it possible for us to:

- Serve 168 residents in the care center, through November 30th
- Raise \$213,345 for Legacy of John
- Purchase new equipment, furniture and a wireless call system
- Establish a new endowment with \$46,184 in assets
- Replace carpeting and flooring in 20 homes on the campus
- Fund special projects with gifts of \$21,216
- Start a capital fund for the Assisted Living Center with \$12,430
- Provide Christmas gifts for each resident with many donated items and \$1,425 in cash gifts
- Build a public restroom by the commons area in the apartments
- Expand current programming and introduce new activities

What a testimony of your continuing commitment to this ministry! We are grateful.

Our commitment to you as stakeholders is to use your gifts in a responsible, ethical way. I encourage you to ask questions, visit and read reports you receive about KCH. Board meetings are usually on the last Friday of even-numbered months (February, April, etc.) and are open to visitors. We plan to consistently update the website, www.kansaschristianhome.com. To receive KCH news by e-mail, contact Linda Hill at lhill@kschristianhom.org. Your contact information will not be shared with anyone else and you can opt out at anytime.

(Continued page 8)

A PASTORAL LETTER TO THE CHURCH DURING THIS PERIOD OF ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTY

Dear Disciples ~

As you are fully aware, global economic conditions are as unstable as we have seen for many years. The credit crisis, fueled by sub-prime lending, deregulation and corporate greed, has led to bank failures and mergers, declines in real estate values, higher unemployment, emergency loans and a multi-billion dollar bailout.

Many of you may be wondering about the state of our Disciples financial ministries at this time.

Recently I had the privilege of sitting with the presidents of our Disciples financial ministries to hear their assessment of the situation as it affects Disciples. I am grateful for the wisdom and calm of these leaders.

What impressed me in addition to their good stewardship of church resources was their care and concern for those neighbors both near and far who will suffer as a result of the current financial crises. I am grateful for these leaders among us!

In times like these, people on the economic margins suffer the worst. The pain is real and, in this global economy, it stretches from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth. As church, we need to be in prayers for those who are most adversely affected by these conditions. We need to find ways to reach out to our neighbors. We need to give voice through public policy for those whose voices are all too often left out of the international

conversation. This is the time to refocus on our calling to be stewards of the financial and spiritual gifts God has given to us. It is time to model faithful dependence upon the God of abundance. In the midst of volatility and uncertainty, let us live a message of generosity born of our faith and hope. Let us remember our calling to love our neighbor as ourselves. Even in the midst of financial fragmentation, let us be the movement for wholeness! Blessings,

Sharon E. Watkins
General Minister and President



CHRISTIAN CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL FACTS

- 3,754 total congregations
- 691,160 members
- There are Disciples congregations in 46 states and Canada
- Disciples can be found worshipping in English, Spanish, French, Creole, Korean, Japanese, Vietnamese, Samoan, Chinese, Filipino, Chin, Mongolian and even sign language!

~ Information obtained from the 2008 Year Book & Directory

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

I need any information for the next newsletter **NO LATER THAN** Monday, February 23, 2009. ~ Christy

(Continued from page 4)

No one knows what 2009 will bring. We don't know how our finances will be affected by the recession. Medicaid coverage has been cut in some states; the need for Legacy for John gifts will increase if Kansas follows their lead.

An article on MSNBC quoted Jack McLoughlin: "I am certainly not wealthy and am on the brink of losing everything as I write, but that does not deter me from the joy of giving."

We pray that supporters of KCH will remain committed and not deterred from the joy of caring for the ministers, missionaries, church workers and others who now depend on us. Thank you for a great year. We look forward to serving with you in 2009!

~ Linda Hill
"Kansas Messenger"
Jan-Feb 2009



photo courtesy of Linda Hill

NEWSLETTER ON LINE

Our Web Page is at www.fcemporio.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!

February 15, 2009

Candlelighters ~ 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

February 22, 2009

Candlelighter ~ Abby Griffith

Children's Message ~ LeRoy Garnett

Diaconate ~ Carl Headrick, Rita Headrick, Lola Farr,
Dianna Lewis, Hal Lewis, Ardie Lauxman

Elder - Fred Miller

Greeters - (N) Robert & Janet Wells / (S) Fred & Ilda Kline

Nursery - John Lexow / Organist - Sandy Heller

Worship Leader - Dianna Lewis

March 1, 2009

Candlelighter ~ Emily Lauxman

Children's Message ~ Bob Colerick

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

Elder - Janet Wells

Greeters - (N) Larry & Glenna Gamblian / (S) Alberta Brinkman & Norma Leonard

Nursery - Richard Becker / Organist - Sandy Heller

Worship Leader - Nancy LeClear

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!



If you like a Sunday school class that's a well organized Bible study series, then you'll like the Kumjoinus class. Vel Lukert teaches the class using the book, The Present Word, by Joseph Berry. The author of the series is a retired pastor who continues to be actively involved in the life of the church as a freelance curriculum writer. The lessons are designed to bring teachers and learners together, to ponder the Biblical text and to relate present experiences to the stories and people of the Bible. Each week's sessions is carefully outlined. Vel furnishes a printed handout with questions that give each person a tool for understanding the lesson during the class as well as a tool for further study after the class ends. The study book also offers daily Bible readings for the week that help introduce each Sunday's lesson.

The lesson for Sunday, February 1, was about the Shunammite woman and Elisha. The scripture selected for study was II Kings 4:8-17. The story is of a hospitable, wealthy woman, who offered a place of rest for Elisha, whom she believes is a Holy man of God. She built for him an addition onto her home so that he may stay there for rest during his travels through her home town. The Shunammite woman offered her hospitality without expecting anything in return. When Elisha first offered a suggestion for repayment, the Shunammite woman rejected it. The questions for study include, "Why do

some people refuse to accept hospitality when it is offered?" and "What are some benefits we receive when we practice hospitality?" The study book gives an interesting definition of the Greek word *philoxenia*, or hospitality, as "love of strangers."

Following the study of the Shunammite woman, the lesson will be the narrative about David's relationship with Uriah, Bathsheba and Nathan. The verses of study will II Samuel 12:1-7, 13-15. The daily readings for the week include topics on Lust and Adultery, An Unsuccessful Cover-up, Contrived Murder, An Easy Conscience, A Cry for Forgiveness and A Broken and Contrite Heart. Does that sound like a TV plot or Sunday School class?

If that gets your attention, then you should step into the Kumjoinus class to satisfy your curiosity! Vel has been teaching the class for nine years, although the class has been meeting for much longer. When asked of Fred Kline how long the class has been meeting, he could not recall the number of years. That would suggest that it is a well established and favorite class of the First Christian Church. Maybe you should make it a part of your experience! The class meets at 9:30 a.m. down the hall from the sanctuary, look for the "Kumjoinus" sign above the door.

~ Carol Rhoades, Reporter

OUTREACH REPORT



In an effort to keep the congregation informed of how Outreach money is being spent, I gratefully submit this report. It has been a while since I have reported so here is an accounting of the past four months.

October 2008

\$775.00 Basic Mission Finance
\$244.00 Church World Service (for distribution of 2 pair of goats & 2 pair of rabbits to a third world village)

November 2008

\$750.00 Basic Mission Finance
\$244.00 Church World Service (again, for distribution of 2 pair of goats & 2 pair of rabbits to a third world village)

December 2008

\$830.00 Basic Mission Finance
\$276.66 Emporia Salvation Army

January 2009

\$1250.00 Basic Mission Finance
\$335.92 Salvation Army
\$100.00 Prison Fellowship Ministries

Thanksgiving Offering totaled: \$281.82
Christmas Offering totaled: \$434.00

If my addition is correct, that totals \$5,521.40 for those four months. We have tried to support local, state, national and international concerns. We welcome any comments or suggestions concerning our Outreach giving.

Respectfully submitted,
George Arnett

FROM YOUR WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

New Beginnings has prompted us to take a look at our worship service. On January 26, 2009, a number of people joined us in doing just that. First of all we listed the things we like about our worship, such as: a variety of music, the communion service, real bread, lay leaders, sermons, children's message, slides and pictures on the screen, a closing hymn and the "Amen" after the benediction.

Some of the things we need to look at are: more familiar hymns, emphasize wearing name tags, getting people to sit closer together, a social time and some change in order at the beginning of the service. In an effort to make our worship more meaningful to both members and visitors, we have already begun to implement some of these changes, keeping in mind our first priority is to have a meaningful service that provides for everyone an opportunity to grow spiritually.

~ Barb Gimple