

# Christian Church News

February 23, 2009  
Volume 58 ~ No. 4

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

## Feb/Mar Bible Readings

### February 24-March 2

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

### March 1-7

Gen 9:8-17  
Ps 25:1-10  
Mk 1:9-15  
1 Pet 3:18-22

### March 8-14

Mk 8:31-38  
Gen 17:1-7, 15-16  
Ps 22:23-31  
Rom 4:13-25

### March 15-21

Jn 2:13-22  
Ex 20:1-17  
Ps 19  
1 Cor 1:18-25

## UPCOMING EVENTS

You Are Invited!

Special Program ~ Page 8  
Dinner News ~ Page 10

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page 3 ~ Lick, Lick, Stuff, Stuff

Page 8 ~ World Day of Prayer

Page 11 ~ Playground Project

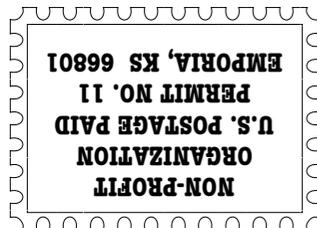
*"The mission of First Christian Church is to inspire each other to reach out to the un-churched and to serve and share with our community by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ."*



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.fccemporia.org](http://www.fccemporia.org)



Are pinball machines as popular as they used to be? A few years ago, they were everywhere—restaurants had them, malls had special areas for them, retail businesses had them, some homes had them. I think pinball machines are as stimulating as, say, 20 cups of coffee. You can't play one or even stand near someone playing one without getting excited.

Personally, I'm not a pinball machine enthusiast—I rarely played them, but I am interested in how they seem to reflect daily life: Hurry here, Boing!! Do this, Boing!! Rush to this, Boing!! Swoosh, launch into this project, Boing!! Boing!! Fwumph!, game's over. And all the while we are racking up this fantastic score while the lights are flashing and the sounds are blaring. Then, when it's over, what does it all mean, what does it get you? We find the bright lights and mind-altering sounds are gone like they were never there. And the high score? Turns out to be worthless.

In our hurry and rush toward what the world points to as important, we must constantly do a reality check and uncover what is truly valuable and everlasting. We may blunder along and miss completely the presence of God. I believe that God seeks us, but I also believe we must seek God, and like the song says, "I was searching for love in all the wrong places."

Years ago we used to speak of "brainwashing." Although we may not use the term much anymore (there is probably a newer term for it) it still happens—and it can happen to you and me! Adam and Eve were brainwashed and so was King Saul. Unpleasant and unchristian thoughts enter our minds; our appetites for good and benevolent actions are diverted; unsupported concepts are given credibility; faithful treasures are passed by for slick, perishable, temporary fortune.

God never stops loving us but we must seek God, as well. It is through God's Word, worship and sacraments that we hear and feel the presence of God. The presence of God can be with us all the time as we invite God into our lives. Take care who (or what) you invite into your life. The pinball machine habit is hard to break.

Blessings, Pastor Bob

### **PLAYGROUND PROJECT**

The Administrative Council of the church approved the Learning Center Preschool's suggestions for remodeling. At the February 12, 2009 meeting, The Learning Center's Playground Remodeling Committee members presented the suggested remodeling steps to the Administrative Council. The Council has voted to proceed with these changes. All remodeling costs will be paid by the Preschool's remodeling funds, and are not being paid by the Church.

A brief summary of the changes is as follows: Phase 1 ~ Relocate the north fence line, remove existing swing, remove existing climber, relocate existing sandbox, relocate existing duck rider, install new mulched area with rock tunnel and balance beam, remove two poles (formerly used for volleyball), and re-seed grass. On display in the parlor there is an excellent architect's drawing of the changes, along with the written suggestions. You will also find on display copies of a report from the Lyon County Health Department (dated 9/18/08) and a report from The Family Resource Center (dated 11/19/08). Please review these documents at your leisure.

The preschool parents and friends hope to do most of the physical labor involved with these changes during the week of spring break, March 16-20. There's always room for helpers, so if you wish to help, contact the church office. We are trying to find new homes for the existing climber and swings. Anyone interested in having either of them should sign the sheet in

the parlor OR call the church office. These pieces will be free to any church member who wants them. Preschool parents will dismantle them, but the church member will be responsible for moving them off church property. If you need help, let us know.

We will take names until the first week of March, then have a drawing to determine who gets the pieces. If no one from the church is interested, we will try to sell these pieces, otherwise we will haul them off.

If you have any questions call Pastor Bob, myself, or Carl Headrick.

~ Cindy Lexow, Moderator

### **PANTRY NEWS**

First, I want to thank Marjorie Rose & Betty Hilton for their time and effort keeping the food pantry running. They have given of their time and energy to purchase and bring foods to the church and kept the pantry stocked for us with money donated for the pantry.

Both of them feel, at this time, that they need to resign from this ministry. In doing so, it opens an opportunity for anyone who would be willing to serve stocking the pantry.

If you would be willing to do a little shopping and keep the pantry stocked, we would appreciate your help in this ministry of the church. Contact me at 342-1582 if you are interested.

Second, we still need non-perishable foods or money donations to keep our food pantry stocked and

Third, I am completely out of plastic sacks. If you have some extra plastic grocery bags you could bring to use in the pantry I would appreciate it! Thanks ~ Christy



**PRAYER REQUESTS**

*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.*

**LOCALLY**

Brandon Ayers, Bill Bowles, Jason Hart, Dr. Charles & Nadine Hopper, Nadine Lexow, Elizabeth Wells, Don White

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Our congratulations to Justin Wilson, son of Laurie Kurzen, and grandson of David & Carolyn Meierhoff on his Eagle Scout Award Sunday, February 22, 2009.

**THANK YOU**

I would like to thank everyone for showing such kindness to me on my birthday. I appreciated all the cards, visits and well wishes. Again, thanks for remembering me.  
~ Doris Douglas

**DINNER NEWS**

On Sunday, March 1, 2009 we will have another dinner in the Fellowship Hall following the church service. The menu for the meal will be:

Baked beef stew, salad, Tippins corn bread, choice of apple, cherry or peach pie with ice cream and a drink.

Carry-out dinners will be available if that would be convenient for you. If you would like to have a carry-out dinner contact Marlene Hanson, Judy Moore, Barbara Gimple, Dorothy Boyce or call the church office at 342-1582. ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE APPLIED TO THE CHAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUND. We hope you can join us for dinner!  
~ Sunday Dinner Crew



*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](mailto:bobcolerick@yahoo.com)

**ATTENDANCE & GIVING**

*Attendance*

[February 15, 2009](#)  
SS - 32 / Worship - 94

[February 22, 2009](#)  
SS - 37 / Worship - 84

*Stewardship Report*

[February 15, 2009](#)  
Offering - \$ 2,014.50  
Capital - \$ 213.00

[February 22, 2009](#)  
Offering - \$ 2,679.96  
Capital - \$ 255.00

**LICK, LICK, STUFF, STUFF**

The Stewardship Finance Committee (SFC) has been busy. Here we are two weeks into our Pledge Campaign, and already we have made two large mailings. The Campaign started on February 8 and will end on March 1. We have several replies already from our mailings with a good response, or should I say a "good start."

The SFC hope that we will be able to complete a budget for next year based on our pledges. Last year we approved a budget for \$23,000 more than our pledges. This year we are hoping for just the opposite, that is more money from our pledge campaign than our budget would indicate we need.

So, during your quiet time this week, you need to ask God's help in deciding what your offering should be. Does God want you to take a small forward step in your giving, or does He want you to soar in giving with a step of faith? Just remember that everything is possible with the Lord.

~Larry Breshears, Chairman,  
Stewardship Finance Committee

**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.

**DWF MEETING**

Our daytime DWF will meet this month at the church. Betty Hilton will have the lesson & Jean Miller will provide refreshments. Hope to see our members there. ~ Sandy Heller

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

On Friday, March 6, Church Women United of Emporia will join women around the world in observing World Day of Prayer. The worship service for this event, written by the women of Papua New Guinea, follows the theme *In Christ, there are many members, yet one body*. The observance will be at Emporia Presbyterian Church, West Campus, at 2:00 p.m.

Church Women United, as many of you know, is made up of Christian women of nearly all denominations. There are three programs each year, World Day of Prayer the first Friday in March, May Fellowship Breakfast the first Friday in May, and World Community Day the first Friday in November. Locally, each participating congregation is represented on a board, which also meets three times a year - primarily to plan the next worship service.

Our current representatives are Sandy Heller, Carolyn Kuhn, and Jean Miller. Carolyn is also Vice President of the local unit, and Jean is Treasurer. In addition, all three women sing in the CWU choir. All three of them would like to see a good turnout of our Disciple Women on March 6.

All followers of Christ are welcome to attend any of the Church Women United events. Local president Evora Wheeler asked us to stress the fact that men are welcome to attend our meetings, so gentlemen—see you on March 6!

~ Jean Miller

Hello, again! As I write these comments, we are nearing Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of the Lenten Season. As a denomination, we are in the midst of our annual stewardship campaign; and, we have also recently accepted the recommendations from the New Beginnings leadership team.

We will begin a concerted effort to “Reach Out”, and in doing so, witness to others about the Holy Spirit. One of the ways we plan to reach out is to have quarterly “block parties” to invite those in the neighborhood to an event at First Christian. We also plan to do more evangelism activities, participate in ‘hands-on’ work projects outside our walls, and strengthen our knowledge of the Word.

Please be a part of the many activities at First Christian! There are always several activities from which to choose. If there is a need you feel is not being met, please offer it as a suggestion to a Ministry Team or the leadership.

On page 11, you will find information about The Learning Center Preschool’s playground remodeling activities. Although we’re not as young as we used to be, we would like to get a crew of workers to help them for a few hours. Even if we don’t come up with enough able-bodied folks to be of physical help, we would like to offer a meal to the pre-school parents who are doing the work. Contact the church office if you would like to help with either task.

Although we’re not quite into spring, it is beginning to feel like a season of “new beginnings” in several ways. Please be a part of helping our church family grow and blossom, so that we may be living examples of God’s Good News!

~ Cindy Lexow, Moderator

**MARCH ANNIVERSARIES**

3 Bill & Carol Hopkins  
22 Glenn & Dorothy Boyce

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

02 Glenna Gamblian  
02 Rosemary Robinson  
04 Keith Douglas  
06 Breann Frevert Johnson  
06 Tina McCurdy  
07 Alta Burd  
07 Reagan McClellan  
08 Lindsay Ewy  
08 Dianna Lewis  
11 Robert Chatham  
11 Imegene Marsh  
17 Betty Lyons  
17 Elizabeth Willard  
20 Bertha Kelly  
20 Emily Lauxman  
20 Gary McCurdy  
21 Nikki Simmons  
23 Virginia Crouch  
23 Marjorie Jones  
26 Emily Lowe  
28 Don Lill  
29 Dorothy Matile  
29 Craig Richardson  
31 Randy Kelley  
31 Mary Volland

**NEWSLETTER ON LINE**

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

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Next deadline: Monday, March 9, 2009.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE DATES  
FOR 2009**

January 12 / January 26  
February 9 / February 23  
March 9 / March 23  
April 6 / April 20  
May 4 / May 18  
June 8 / June 22  
July 6 / July 20  
August 10 / August 24  
September 4 / September 21  
October 12 / October 26  
November 9 / November 23  
December 7 (Only one in December)

**LENTEN BOOKLETS**

We have prepared for you a booklet of daily  
devotions for Lent. We hope these booklets  
with prayers, thoughts and reflection will  
help you as you prepare for Easter.  
~ Pastor Bob

**SPECIAL PROGRAM**

Mark your calendar! The Wednesday Night  
Prime Time program March 11 will be  
"Christian 'Thin-Places' of Ireland,"  
presented by Rev. Margi Colerick. Margi  
will share personal experiences and photos,  
legends and stories of ancient and more  
modern religious sites collected on her  
trips to Ireland. ~ Pastor Bob

**BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

On Saturday, March 14th from 2-4 p.m.  
there will be a celebration in honor of  
Elizabeth Willard's 80th birthday! I am her  
daughter and will be hosting the party at  
the Eagles Clubhouse located at 9th &  
Whittier. All are invited to come and  
congratulate her on this milestone!

~ Janet Lostutter

**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

**March 8, 2009**

Candlelighter ~ Briana Becker

Children's Message ~ Dianna Lewis

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

Elder - John Lexow

Greeters - (N) Carl & Lana Richardson / (S) Betty Hilton

Nursery - Marie Harding / Organist - Sandy Heller

Worship Leader - Barb Gimple

**March 15, 2009**

Candlelighter ~ Allyson Lauxman

Children's Message ~ Pastor Bob

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

Elder - Robert Wells

Greeters - (N) Richard Becker & Robert Chatham / (S) Leta Moore & Joan Shumate

Nursery - Betty Richardson / Organist - Sandy Heller

Worship Leader - Marie Harding

**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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