

Christian Church News

March 23, 2009
Volume 58 ~ No. 6

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

March/April Bible Readings

March 22-28

Luke 14: 15-24
Luke 15: 1-10
Luke 15: 11-32
Luke 16: 1-9

March 29-April 4

Luke 17: 22-37
Luke 18: 18-30
Luke 19: 1-10
Luke 19: 28-40

April 5-11

Luke 22: 54-62
Luke 23: 1-12
Luke 23: 26-31
Luke 23: 50-56

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, April 18 ~ Disciples Women's
Fellowship Rummage & Bake Sale ~ Page 4

NEIGHBORHOOD PARTY

Saturday, April 4 ~ 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Eastside Memorial Park / Ninth & East Street
(In case of inclement weather,
all activities will be at the church)

Lunch for everyone!

Hotdogs, chips, cookies and drink.
Easter Egg Hunt (children under 12)

**FREE! Be there for fun and
fellowship with our neighbors.**

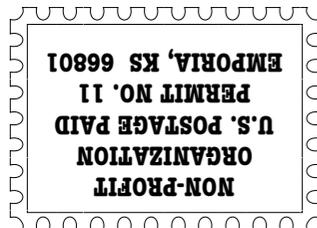
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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



"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 participated in the health-screening opportunity held at our church a couple weeks ago. I know that some of you did, also. The results I got back were not what I expected—in fact, they were quite revealing and a little disturbing. There was no emergency or anything immediately life-threatening... but certainly results that called for a change in lifestyle. Along with the bad news (my good cholesterol was not good enough and my bad cholesterol was “badder” than bad) there was some good news. Yet, changes in lifestyle are indicated and very much recommended.

Why mention this? For one thing, we must not hide our heads in the sand and pretend everything is OK. Information is our friend (most of the time). For another thing, we all need, and ultimately benefit from, the truth. Ignorance, half or untruth is not our friend.

So why mention this? In our Christian Faith, we have a great truth, and like all truth, we need to receive it and pass it on. I learned of my test results by subjecting my body to some questions and learned some disturbing answers. None of it was a secret—it was there for my discovery all along. Until I investigated and took advantage of an opportunity I didn't know the truth...and, therefore, was unable to act upon it.

As Christians, we are sitting on a great truth. We should not and must not keep it a secret. The truth in the Christian faith is not a secret. Folks who do not know the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ need to be exposed to that truth.

Like my recent tests which revealed a troubling reality, each of us has been given knowledge which, when accepted and acted upon, leads to spiritual health. Let's make sure our faith is not a secret. Our faith has been given to us freely, so let us share that faith freely with those we meet.

1 Timothy 2:1-6 NIV:

“I urge... that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone... that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. 3 This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men...”

~ Pastor Bob

NEW BEGINNINGS REPORT - March 12, 2009, to Administrative Council/Ministry Leadership Team Meeting

The New Beginnings Leadership Team is continuing to meet, at least for now, to oversee the activities which have begun in the “Reaching Out To You” ministry approach. The Plan of Action continues to be reviewed with an eye to evaluating progress and feasibility of the various items, and considering new ways to do things and new ideas that come up.

The Disciples Kitchen Team meets regularly and have already held fund raiser dinners in February and March, and are spearheading the April 4 Neighborhood Block Party, which is a lunch followed by an Easter Egg Hunt. This will take place at Eastside Memorial Park. They have decided to have a brunch on Easter morning to be a fund raiser for the Capital Campaign, rather than having a fund-raiser dinner in April.

Other ways we are reaching out to the community:

1. To older people and families by being on the contact list for both Habitat for Humanity and Rebuilding Together (formerly Christmas in April). We plan to have a team of church members to help with the projects coming up in the spring.

2. To young people and families by sponsoring a youth boys baseball team and a youth girls softball team. We hope to work out a way to meet the kids and families at the beginning of the practice season, encourage church members to attend some of each team's games, and possibly have a celebration party for the team after the season.

Heartland Cluster Event, St. Joseph, MO, on transforming churches, was attended by Jean & Fred Miller, Karen and LeRoy Garnett, and Marie Harding, Barb Gimple, & Pastor Bob. Some ideas and approaches were gleaned from the event and we will have contact with our coaches and 63 other churches once a month - a time to report anything we are doing that is working or with which we need help, and a time to hear what other churches are doing to move forward with transformation from what was in the past to what can be now.

~ Marie Harding, Facilitator,
New Beginnings Leadership Team

If you have questions about New Beginnings, want more information about what is happening in the Plan of Action, have ideas on how to “reach out” to people and community, or want to be involved in one of the ministries of the church, contact one of us and we'll see that you get connected with the right people! Everyone is encouraged to be a part of the ministry of the church.

New Beginnings Leadership Team:
Jaylene Arnett; LeRoy Garnett; Marie Harding; John Lexow; Fred & Jean Miller; Robert Wells; Cindy Lexow, Moderator; Janelle Norton, Moderator Elect; and Bob Colerick, Minister

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, Troy Knight (Janelle Norton's father), Nadine Lexow, Reba Oliver, Elizabeth Wells, Don White

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

A voice is missing. A face is gone. Ann McNeese is moving to Overbrook and getting married in April. She & her future husband, Jerry Brown have been working on joining their lives together to live on 3 acres of land in the Overbrook area. They're planning a ceremony in Eureka Springs when the combining is complete.

Ann met Jerry when he was her boss in Topeka at Southwest State Bank. Ann moved to Emporia in 1982 and she & Jerry kept in touch. Ann retired in February after 18 years at Lyon Co. State Bank. After Jerry's wife died over a year ago, he began to communicate with Ann more frequently. She was the voice he needed. Their friendship became a romance & the next logical step was to plan their life together.

Music has been a big part of Ann's life growing up in a musical family. In college, where she began singing, her major was in business commerce. Her first instrument was the piano. Her dad said she would never be able to carry a piano down the street, so she learned to play the clarinet.

Ann joined the First Christian Church in 1991. As soon as Marie Harding found that Ann had an interest in singing, Marie

quickly recruited Ann and brought her to choir practice. Ann's voice has been a great addition to the choir ever since.

Jerry & Ann will be combining their two families, which adds up to 5 children and 10 grandchildren. Best wishes to them all! Ann has promised to return for visits. We hope to hear her voice again and see her happy face.
~ Carol Rhoades, Reporter

THANK YOU

I want to thank everyone who sent me birthday greetings. Also, I'd like to thank all who came to my birthday reception ~ I really appreciated your kindness.
~ Elizabeth Willard

CONGRATULATIONS!

We applaud Justin Richardson for being selected as an area director of the National Youth Cutting Horse Association in Fort Worth, Texas. Justin has been an active member of the youth program for 8 years and finished second in the 2008 Area 7 point standings. Justin is a junior at Northern Heights High School and is editor for the NHHS chapter of Future Business Leaders of America; he also is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and here at FCC. He was one of 50 youths nationwide who were chosen as directors for HYCHA. Way to go Justin, we're proud of you!

ADDRESS CORRECTION

Bill and Gail Coburn's new address is: 36 Fitch Road ~ Box 445 Jaffrey, NH 03452-0445 (**NOT** 35 Fitch St.)
Bill's new e-mail address is: rev_coburn@yahoo.com

MEMBER HONORED

Walter Spencer was honored as Sertoman of the year on March 25, 2009. Congratulations Walter!



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

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Attendance

March 15, 2009
SS - 22 / Worship - 75

March 22, 2009
SS - 31 / Worship - 97

Stewardship Report

March 15, 2009
Offering - \$ 1,863.50
Capital - \$ 308.00

March 22, 2009
Offering - \$ 2,921.50
Capital - \$ 584.00

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Thursday, April 9th
7:00 p.m. ~ Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, April 10th (Good Friday)
12:00 p.m. ~ Ministerial Alliance will sponsor "Walk the Stations of the Cross" from Sacred Heart Church to St. Andrews Church beginning at 12:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 12th
6:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service at Wilson Park
8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Easter Brunch in Fellowship Hall (proceeds go to building fund)
10:30 a.m. Easter Service "Signs of Hope and Joy"

LEARNING CENTER NEWS

Did you make it out to see the St. Patrick's Day Parade? Learning Center Preschool had a great turn out! Twenty-eight preschoolers and their families showed up with bikes, wagons and scooters decked out in green in the spirit of the day. We were honored to receive the Committee's Choice Award for our parade entry. Philip Castillo presented the preschoolers with an award plaque when school resumed after spring break.

We'd like to say a great big "Thanks again!" to Philip Castillo and the Emporia St. Patrick's Day Committee for nominating and naming the preschool as a co-recipient of this year's St. Patrick's Day fundraising efforts!

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.

APRIL DWF MEETING

The April meeting of Disciple Women (DWF) will be held in the parlor at 1:30 p.m. on April 8. Our program will be a deviation from the New Day book we have been using this year. Near the end of our March meeting, several of our members were overheard sharing stories of the Great Depression and of World War II; stories of their lives and of Emporia's history. This motivated us to use "Reminiscence" as the theme for the April meeting. We are asking that any women who care to come prepared to share a short story of some experience which will give others some insight into a historical perspective. If anyone wishes to share, but does not feel comfortable telling her story, she can write it down and give it to one of the leaders to read. We are looking forward to a wonderful time of sharing both history and faith!

We do not yet have a hostess for this meeting, so if you would like to serve light refreshments, please call Jean Miller at 342-6963 or Sandy Heller at 342-1987.

KANSAS DISCIPLES WOMEN

Pat yourselves on the back - - - Through February 2009, Kansas Disciples Women have given \$16,517.36 to DMF - that is the top of the chart!

#2: Kentucky \$14,360.55
 #3: Indiana \$14,089.25
 #4: Oklahoma \$13,426.00
 #5: Southwest \$10,766.65
 #6: Alabama/North Florida \$10,047.60

Your giving is 17.67% of total giving for the Kansas Region.

~ Donna Breshears
 KDW Cabinet Recorder

BAKE SALE COMING!

In conjunction with the Spring Rummage Sale on April 18, Disciple Women will hold a bake sale from 8:00 a.m. till noon. If you can donate some baked goods to this sale, please bring them to the church on Friday, April 17. The proceeds will be used for DWF mission projects.

SYMPATHY

Our sympathy goes to the family & friends of Bryant Waldron, son of LaVon Waldron Bridwell and the late Richard Waldron, who passed away February 28, 2009 in Navarri, Florida. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

We are nearing Easter, and as we do so we anticipate the celebration of Christ's resurrection. As Pastor Bob reminded us in his sermon, we need to spend time EACH DAY in becoming closer to God. We, as a congregation, have received so many blessings. And, we are a blessing to many in this community and in the church family. I want to thank each of you for the responses to the stewardship campaign. Our church family is a healthy and strong family, and we can and will accomplish anything we decide to do. One very important reason this is true is because we are all aware that all we do is done for the Glory of God!

There are many activities taking place currently, and on the calendar for the near future. You can read those for yourselves, but please try to take part in one additional activity that you would normally not do. Do you need transportation to or from an event? If so, call me and we will gladly get transportation arranged! We are acting on one of the goals of our New Beginnings recommendation—reaching out to the nearby neighborhood. Our church family will host a picnic/Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 4th. The event will be held at Eastside Memorial Park at 9th and Lakeview Streets. It will begin at noon and end at about 2:00 p.m. We will provide free food and free Easter Egg treats. Please attend this event. We are getting the word out by walking through the neighborhood and handing out flyers about the event.

If you are able to walk, call the church office and leave your name. We'll match you up with a partner (or partners) and send you out into the neighborhood.

This Sunday will be the "Son Dollar Store" Sunday for the children in Sunday School. The children are given a "dollar" for their attendance each Sunday; and, for bringing a guest, etc. They then get to "purchase" some Christian mementos approximately each quarter. They will have fun "shopping" and it's a great way to remind them and their parents that their presence in Sunday School is greatly appreciated.

You will be hearing more about this in the near future, but I want to share another exciting item with you. Jean Miller has agreed to lead a daytime Bible study group. The group will begin sometime after Easter, and will run for six weeks. Jean is a thoughtful teacher and will make the group interesting. So, if you're available during the daytime, please plan to attend.

As we spend time in prayer, worship and service, we are drawn nearer to God. We know that Christ died for our sins, and that His Resurrection and love are holy, eternal gifts.....given to us! Celebrate your faith, celebrate your church!

~ Cindy Lexow, Moderator

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

I need any information for the next newsletter **NO LATER THAN** Monday, April 6, 2009. ~ Christy

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS . . .

An "Open House" is being held Sunday, March 29 at 9:30 a.m. by the teachers of the Preschool Sunday School Class. All preschoolers and their parents are invited. This will be a get-acquainted time for preschoolers and parents alike, and will include a short activity for the preschoolers, maybe some singing, and definitely some refreshments.

Come meet the teachers, see the classroom, look at the curriculum, and get an idea of what the children do on Sunday mornings. The preschool classroom is located on the main floor. One of the teachers will be on hand in the main hallway to greet you and direct you to the classroom.

We hope to see you on March 29, but if you can't make it then, you are welcome and encouraged to come any Sunday morning at 9:30.

~ Nikki Simmons, Rita Headrick, & Marie Harding, Teachers

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 02 Dean & Fran Grisell (1950)
- 04 Walter & Wilma Spencer (1992)
- 08 Jon & Laura Breshears (2000)
- 14 Robert & Luella Hush (1957)
- 15 Russell & Christy Jarvis (1995)
- 23 Neil & Virginia Kelley (1950)

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 04 Dana Sunderman
- 05 Merle Baxter
- 07 Briana Becker
- 07 Jan Stevenson
- 08 Debbie Davis
- 08 Duane Robinson
- 08 Desstaini Russell
- 10 Sandy Heller
- 12 Dale Rohling
- 16 Betty Tholen
- 20 Diana Schaefer
- 21 Fred Kline
- 21 Tammie McDiffett
- 21 Mark Schaefer
- 22 Joyce Cress
- 22 Penny Fleming
- 24 LeRoy Garnett
- 24 Gale Kelley
- 24 Bill McClellan
- 24 Betty Richardson
- 25 Andy Kuhn
- 25 Mark Shumate
- 26 Orville Brooks
- 28 Opal Sager
- 29 Wilma Lindsey
- 30 Gail Coburn
- 30 Wanda Davis

March 29, 2009

- Candlelighters ~ Emily & Morgan Lauxman
- Children's Message ~ Marlene Hanson
- Diaconate ~ Karen Garnett, Alan Richardson, Betty Richardson, George Arnett, Becky Lauxman, Larry Gamblian
- Elder - Donna Breshears
- Greeters - (N) Carl & Rita Headrick
(S) LeRoy & Karen Garnett
- Nursery - Janelle Norton / Organist - Sandy Heller
- Worship Leader - Cindy Lexow

April 5, 2009

- Candlelighter ~ Judy Moore
- Children's Message ~ Judy Moore
- Diaconate ~ Richard Becker, Carl Headrick, Rita Headrick, Debbie Peck, Glenn Boyce, Nancy LeClear
- Elder - LeRoy Garnett
- Greeters - (N) Tim & Janelle Norton
(S) George & Ruth Ford
- Nursery - Nikki Simmons / Organist - Sandy Heller
- Worship Leader - Robert Wells

April 12, 2009

- Candlelighter ~ Abby Griffith
- Children's Message ~ Tim Norton
- Diaconate ~ Tim Norton, Larry Breshears, Joyce Cress, Bonnie Denson, George Ford, Dean Grisell
- Elder - Jaylene Arnett
- Greeters - (N) Glenn & Dorothy Boyce
(S) Fred & Ilda Kline
- Nursery - Rita Headrick / Organist - Sandy Heller
- Worship Leader - Hal Lewis

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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