

# Christian Church News

April 20, 2009  
Volume 58 ~ No. 8

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

## APRIL/MAY BIBLE READINGS

April 26-May 2  
PS 119: 105-125  
LK 10: 38-42  
LK 11: 1-36

May 3-May 9  
PS 99  
HEB 6:9-20  
HEB 7: 1-28  
HEB 8: 1-13  
HEB 9: 1-28  
HEB 10: 1-18

## UPCOMING EVENTS

April 25 & 26  
Rebuilding Together Workdays ~ Page 11

Annual Meeting ~ April 26  
11:45 a.m. ~ Page 3

Northeast District Assembly  
April 26 @ 2:30 p.m. ~ Page 8

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Church Women United  
Fellowship Breakfast ~ Page 4

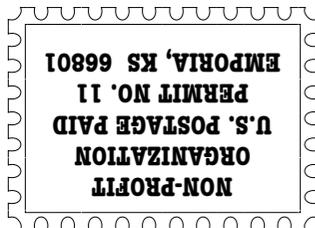
*"The mission of First Christian Church is to inspire each other to reach out to the un-churched and to serve and share with our community by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ."*



**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)



I am so thankful I live in a world of possibilities. Isn't it exciting that when we wake up each day there is the possibility of surprise, wonder, mystery and so much more? Of course, there is the possibility of harmful, dangerous and boring experience, also, but then, we've always known that—our default setting seems to be that things will be bad.

Certainly, we live in a dicey world where anything can happen—and probably will. Who would have thought that 10 years ago today, April 20, 1999, “gunkids” would invade Columbine High School and kill a teacher, 12 students, and wound 23 others? Or, on April 19, 1995, 168 people would die in the bombing of the Alfred Murrah Federal Building? It's risky to be alive, anywhere!

Yet, in the midst of life, we have God, who promises to be with us and to help us endure no matter what happens. Our Bible is full of people who faced and endured great challenge, even pain. Consider Sarah. She wanted a child so badly but found herself in old age with no children. When she bitterly laughed at her misfortune, she was told she would have a baby—one who would be the father of nations.

What about Moses? God had plans for Moses, but Moses was doubtful—to

a fault. Find someone else, he told God—someone who could speak better; someone who was a better leader. Yet Moses stuck with God and God stuck with Moses. We know the great things Moses did.

I identify with Gideon. When God came to ask him to save Israel, Gideon hid from God. But later, Gideon led a battle that defeated a great army. And, we can't forget David. His songs to God are filled with praise, yet he had many questions, doubts and fears. And there is Thomas. He was very doubtful, yet he became a leader in the early church.

God is working even as you and I are living our lives. God is alive and active in the midst of so much that is happening in our world—in ways that we don't understand or know. Although we tremble in anguish at events like Columbine and Oklahoma City, God has caused good to come out of those tragedies.

God can and does work through the messiness of life to help us see more clearly and to find the treasure in life. Faith is not blind or naive. It is a great blessing that God uses and rewards to draw us closer. Read Matthew 17 and think about the mustard seed.

Blessings, Pastor Bob

### **NOTE FROM PANTRY COMMITTEE**

The pantry is in need of groceries again. Please bring your contributions to the church. Canned goods as well as other grocery items are needed to replenish the shelves in the church pantry. Thank you.

~ Glenn & Dorothy Boyce

### **DISCIPLES' KITCHEN**

Disciples' Kitchen is a task force born of the recognition that Emporia FCC has a large, well-equipped kitchen that should be used as an outreach resource in our neighborhood/community, and should also be used to raise money for our Capital Fund (Building Fund).

The idea of this task force was discussed and supported at an Administrative Council Meeting. Moderator Cindy Lexow appointed Fred Miller as chair, with the remainder of the group to be made up of volunteers and those requested to serve. Currently the Disciples' Kitchen task force consists of LeRoy and Karen Garnett, Robert Wells, Anita Imhoff, Janelle Norton, Marlene Hanson, Jean and Fred Miller, and Bob Colerick.

The Disciples' Kitchen is supporting a monthly church dinner, with proceeds going to the Capital Fund. It also supported the recent neighborhood

party and Easter egg hunt. The group will continue to plan and organize meal functions as outreach activities, and intends to begin serving meals to the public to raise money for the Capital Fund.

~ Submitted by Fred Miller

### **OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE**

Would you like an opportunity to do a hands-on service project? If so, join members of First Christian as we join hands with community members to complete service projects. The community project is Rebuilding Together (formerly Christmas in April). Rebuilding Together has six projects they've selected which need workers to complete some basic maintenance/repairs. You do NOT have to have any specialized skills—they will be glad to use workers who can paint, or sweep, or clean. The primary work time is Saturday morning, April 25<sup>th</sup>. (Free lunch will be provided by Bobby D's for all volunteers.) There are a couple of projects which will run into the afternoon on Saturday; and, one project which will be on Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>.

Signup sheets are available in the church office, and will be available on Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Please call either John Lexow (343-3164) or George Arnett (343-2182) if you have any additional questions. Let's work together to benefit someone in need! Thanks!

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**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

*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.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to Ann McNeese and Jerry Brown who were married April 7, 2009 in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. Their address is P.O. Box 617, Overbrook, KS 66524.

Congratulations to Aaron Plump (grandson of Mary Volland) who received a "1" rating (the highest) in solo violin and orchestra at Shawnee Heights High School, Topeka, during the Northeast Kansas Regional Competition on April 4, 2009.

**DAYTIME BIBLE STUDY TO BEGIN**

A daytime Bible study will begin on Tuesday, April 28, at 10:00 a.m. I will be the leader for this study, based on a six-part study series entitled *And Still We Rise*. This series does not examine a particular book of the Bible, but looks at six different scriptures dealing with the theme of personal and congregational transformation.

Both women and men are welcome to attend this study. There is no charge, and no book purchase is required. Please consider joining us even if you are unable to attend all six sessions.

~ Submitted by Jean Miller

**THANK YOU FROM HETLINGER**

The staff and consumers at Hetlinger Developmental Services, Inc. would like to sincerely thank First Christian Church for participating in our Can Recycling Program. We are pleased to inform you that your business donated 4 pounds of aluminum cans during 2008. Once again, thank you for your continued support!

~ Stacey Shafer,  
Communications/PR Assistant

**UPDATE ON COBURNS**

This week we received a detailed update about the Bill Coburn family. Since it is too long to include in its entirety in this newsletter, those who are interested in catching up on their lives, may read the letter which may be found in the church library.

~ Anita Imhoff



*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

April 12, 2009 (Easter)  
SS - 26 / Worship - 146

April 19, 2009  
SS - 28 / Worship - 91

Stewardship Report

April 12, 2009  
Offering - \$ 2,627.50  
Capital - \$ 255.50

April 19, 2009  
Offering - \$ 2,674.50  
Capital - \$ 452.27

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

The annual congregational meeting of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Emporia, Kansas will be held on **SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2009** at 11:45 a.m. The meeting will be held in the sanctuary. The purpose of the meeting will be to approve the general operating budget (which is an insert to this newsletter) and to elect the elders, diaconate, trustees and members of the Administrative Council as proposed below.

PROPOSED OFFICERS:

Trustees: Dorothy Boyce and Jean Miller

Elders: Hal Lewis, Judy Moore, Marlene Hanson, Cameron Moore

Deacons: Joe Denson\*, Marie Harding\*, Janece Bacon, Guy Bacon, Carl Richardson, Lana Richardson, Nikki Simmons, Jake Dalton, Janelle Norton and Joan Shumate

(\*denotes one-year term. All other terms of office are three years.)

PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS, Class of 2011:

(Terms are for 2 years, July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2011, except Youth Rep which is 1 year.)

Treasurer, Fred Miller, Serving 2<sup>nd</sup> term  
Secretary, Barb Gimple, Serving 2<sup>nd</sup> term  
Member at Large, John Harding, Serving 2<sup>nd</sup> term (1<sup>st</sup> term was as Trustee)  
Member at Large, Marie Harding, Serving 1<sup>st</sup> term  
Member of Diaconate, Nancy LeClear, Serving 1<sup>st</sup> term  
Trustee Rep, Dorothy Boyce, Serving 1<sup>st</sup> term  
Youth Rep, Justin Richardson, Serving 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1-year term

**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.

**CHURCH WOMEN UNITED MAY FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST**

Church Women United of Emporia will hold their May Fellowship Breakfast on Friday, May 1 at 8:30 a.m. Grace Methodist Church is the host church for this event. The cost of the breakfast is \$3.50, and reservations may be called to Sandy Heller at 342-1987 or Jean Miller at 342-6963 by Monday, April 27.

Please plan to attend this breakfast and enjoy fellowship with women of faith from many churches in Emporia.

~ Jean Miller

**LIBRARY NEWS**

Imegene Marsh has completed the 2008 First Christian Church Historian book. It's great to look at all the activities our church has done this past year.

Imegene has also compiled a book of Olive Hoch's writing and memories. She was very active in our church years ago. These items were found in the home of the her sister, Violet Wilson Pauler. Thanks to Imegene for all her hard work.

We have all the Historian books from several years compiled by past historians. They can be checked out.

~ Library Staff

This year's services during Lent and Easter are going to be ones that I remember for years to come. The deep, true reality that Christ is the Light, and that He was sent for each and every one of us, resonated for me. Perhaps it was because we had recently been without electricity for 24 hours during the ice storm. Perhaps it was simply the beauty of the moving Maundy Thursday service conducted by Pastor Bob. Whatever the seeds, during the service I could easily imagine the disciples at the last supper, striving to make sense of what Christ was telling them.

The Easter service was unique and wonderful. I had not been in on any of the details of the service, but did know ahead of time that it was starting with darkness and would end in light. I was aware of this as I prepared the offertory meditation for Easter. I believe there are many things in our modern world which serve as distractions or barriers to our relationship with God. And believe me, after even 24 hours of not having electricity, I am NOT opposed to the benefits of electricity! But, sometimes the constant "illumination" of the modern world actually makes it harder for us to see. We are no longer dependent on the sun for illumination—we can create light basically anytime, anywhere. There is a cycle of activity and rest which is mandated when there is no electricity. I'm sure it's beneficial to have the certainty of daily rest. But, I think it's even more powerful to be forced to step back from all the "going,

doing, having" and savor time away from "things" and "activity". If we're not careful, the advantages of our technological world can lead us away from relationships with one another. It can become easier to ignore the sufferings of our fellow man. It is ALWAYS possible to find something to distract us from deep thought, contemplation and prayer. There are so many choices now of how to spend our time, energy and money that it is more important than it's ever been to be in relationship with Christ.

I truly believe there is "rubble", evil, all around us. I also believe we are apt to get so busy that we fail to see it. This isn't God's plan. God created us to be in relationship with Him. He wanted that so much, and loves us so dearly, He sent Christ to suffer and die for OUR shortcomings, so that we can be in the love relationship God desires (and we need!). So, let's be aware that each one of us is now part of the search party. We're the ones who are leading the search, sharing the light and rescuing others. Let the Light shine to others in all we do. It is my prayer, and the prayer of every leader in our church, that the tasks we do as church family will illuminate others so that they may have a deeper relationship with God.

Let God's light shine through you in all you do! We are blessed to have so many loving, talented workers in this church family. Hope to see each of you on Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, which is also our **congregational annual meeting**. God Bless!!  
-Cindy Lexow, Moderator

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

I need any information for the next newsletter **NO LATER THAN** Monday, May 4, 2009. ~ Christy

**GRADUATION RECOGNITION**

Sunday, May 10th, graduates will be recognized in worship service. Please contact the church office at 342-1582 if you know a graduate to be honored. We want to honor our graduates.

**NORTHEAST DISTRICT ASSEMBLY**

April 26, 2009 / 2:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
1880 SW Gage Blvd. ~ Topeka, Kansas

**ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE**

2:30 p.m. ~ Registration  
2:45 p.m. ~ First Gathering - Dr. Paxton  
                    Jones, Keynote Speaker  
4:00 p.m. ~ Break  
4:15 p.m. ~ Business meeting - Moderator  
                    Richard Sack, Presiding  
4:45 p.m. ~ Dinner  
5:30 p.m. ~ Worship

**MAY ANNIVERSARIES**

24 Kurt & Sheila Steinkuhler

**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

02 Brooke Douglas  
02 Chris Parsons  
02 Janet Wells  
06 Bob Duncan  
07 Joan Shumate  
08 Michelle Harding  
08 Jan Jones  
08 Winona Rhoades  
11 Shelley Findlay  
11 Cindy Kuhn  
15 Jami LeClear  
15 Grant McClellan  
16 Slay'tn Davis  
17 William Calvert  
18 Tracie Parsons  
18 Gene Pruitt  
21 Bob Foster  
23 Brandon Hopkins  
25 Robert Hush  
25 Loren Merry  
26 Brittany McWilliams  
26 Alexa Sunderman  
27 Robert Wells  
27 Joseph Wright  
28 Larry Gamblian  
28 Nathan LeClear  
30 Sylvia Barb  
31 Dennis Kelly

**April 26, 2009**

Candlelighter ~ Briana Becker  
Children's Message ~ Sandy Heller  
Diaconate ~ Karen Garnett, Alan Richardson, Betty Richardson, George Arnett,  
                    Becky Lauxman, Larry Gamblian  
Elder - Fred Miller  
Greeters - (N) Larry & Glenna Gamblian / (S) Betty Hilton  
Nursery - Kathy Harris / Organist - Sandy Heller  
Worship Leader - LeRoy Garnett

**May 3, 2009**

Candlelighter ~ Cindy Lexow  
Children's Message ~ Marie Harding  
Diaconate ~ Richard Becker, Carl Headrick, Rita Headrick,  
                    Debbie Peck, Glenn Boyce, Nancy LeClear  
Elder - Janet Wells  
Greeters - (N) Carl & Lana Richardson / (S) Leta Moore & Joan Shumate  
Nursery - John Lexow / Organist - Sandy Heller  
Worship Leader - Jean Miller

**May 10, 2009**

Candlelighter ~ Allyson Lauxman  
Children's Message ~ Cameron Moore  
Diaconate ~ Tim Norton, Larry Breshears, Joyce Cress,  
                    Bonnie Denson, George Ford, Dean Grisell  
Elder - John Lexow  
Greeters - (N) Richard Becker & Robert Chatham / (S) Wanda Davis & Betty Wright  
Nursery - Richard Becker / 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!

**CALENDAR**

**6**

**CALENDAR**

**7**