

# Christian Church News

May 18, 2009  
Volume 58 ~ No. 10

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

## MAY BIBLE READINGS

### May 24-30

Jn 17:6-19  
Acts 1:15-17, 21-26  
Ps 1  
1 Jn 5:9-13

### May 31-June 6

Acts 2:1-21  
Ps 104:24-34, 35b  
Rom 8:22-27  
Jn 15:26-27;16:4b-15

### June 7-13

IS 6:1-8  
PS 29  
Rom 8:12-17  
Jn 3:1-17

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### June 7

All Church Birthday / Capital Campaign Dinner  
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### June 10

DWF Newsletter  
(Page 4)

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SOS Help Needed ~ Page 11

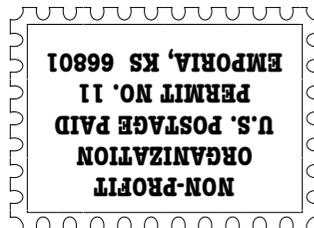
*"The mission of First Christian Church is to inspire each other to reach out to the un-churched and to serve and share with our community by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ."*



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 have said for many years that we, as Christians, need to have “an attitude of gratitude.” I believe it...I preach it...and I try to live it. The phrase did not originate with me—I heard it or read it somewhere; nevertheless, it is a good saying and a trait worthy of any Christian. And I am suggesting to you that you keep that phrase and way of thinking high on your list of priorities.

I read a report that a man named Hans Selye, apparently an expert on dealing with stress in our current culture, did a series of studies on emotional stress and how it affects our physical health. In his book, “Stress Without Distress,” Selye reportedly suggests that the two emotions most detrimental to our health are vengeance and bitterness.

To me, that is interesting, because our faith has already taught us that, plus a lot more about ourselves. Jesus is recorded in Luke 9:24-25: ***For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?***

The review of Selye’s book implies that the most nurturing outlook we can have is an attitude of gratitude. [Isn’t it nice to know that modern science is teaching us what we should have

learned 2000+ years ago!] So how do we gain an attitude of gratitude that will enhance our life, lift our stress, nourish our soul, and diminish the harmful effects of vengeance, bitterness and other unhelpful acts we do everyday?

There probably are many ways, but I suggest we say “Thank you” often and sincerely. I think we don’t say “Thank you” nearly as frequently as we should. Why?—I don’t know—maybe we are too busy or too wrapped up in personal thoughts and activities, or just don’t notice or think about it. But we should. So let’s start today. Let’s start right now! (We may miss a few in our attempt to thank each other, but stressing over that is also harmful, so we will do the best we can.)

Many thanks to...

- ...our musicians, choir, chimers, soloists, directors;
- ...those who keep our building and grounds clean, safe and attractive...painters, gardeners, mowers, sweepers, wipers, moppers, dusters, put-away-ers;
- ...those who serve on committees, councils, teams, elders and diaconate;
- ...those who do the many unseen and unknown things around the church like prepare communion and pray.
- ...those who operate the audio/visual system;
- ...those who count, run errands, hand out bulletins, fold newsletters;

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Thank you, too, for sending your offerings directly to your regional church office in Topeka. This has proven to be an effective part of the Kansas Plan, allowing your gifts to more rapidly be put to work as together we engage in “Raising up Christian leaders for today and tomorrow.” This step is especially important as the Kansas Region, like so many of our congregations, is experiencing a marked decrease in contributions. DMF receipts through the first quarter of 2009 total \$136,987.49, a decrease of \$28,259.92 compared to the first quarter of 2008. Your congregation’s giving to DMF during this same period totals \$2,937.00 compared to \$1,300.00 last year.

We continue to covet your prayers and your partnership as together we serve Christ and our neighbor. If there are ever questions or a need we can address, please give me a call and I will be happy to respond! May God continue to bless our shared ministries!

Grace and peace,  
Paxton Jones, Regional  
(and NE District) Minister

### **HELP WANTED**

On Sunday, June 7, Disciples Kitchen is having a Capital Campaign Fundraiser. It will be combined with the All Church Birthday Dinner.

We are in need of 13 volunteers to bake birthday cakes for the tables. If you are able to help, please contact Karen Garnett at 342-4585.

### **SOS HELP NEEDED**

Recent information shared by Emporia SOS states that domestic violence in our area is steadily on the increase. According to Dena Russell, SOS Volunteer Coordinator, SOS is in need of victim advocates and people to help out at the battered women’s shelter. Some of the positions at the shelter are paid positions. Job descriptions containing more information are in the church office if you want to know about the positions. If you can be of assistance please contact her at:

Dena Russell, Volunteer Coordinator  
SOS CASA of The Flint Hills  
25 W. 5th Avenue / P.O. Box 1191  
Emporia, Ks 66801  
(620)343-2744 / (620)343-3070 fax  
<<mailto:drussell@soskansas.com>>

Submitted by Anita Imhoff

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grace that we neglect its call.” Perhaps we, as a church, had gotten too good at taking care of each other, as we celebrated God’s grace, and were neglecting its call. We will continue doing the celebrating with each other, but we will also emphasize the “calling” by sharing the word with the community. And what a great time we’ll have doing this!!

So, get out your gardening gloves, pull on the galoshes, and mark the rows! We’re ready to garden...not just for the puttering, but for the harvest!! God Bless!

~ Cindy Lexow, Moderator

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**LOCALLY**

Penny Boese, Wanda Gibbs, Jason Hart, Dr. Charles & Nadine Hopper, Reba Oliver, 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.

**THANK YOU**

We thank John Lexow and members of First Christian Church for volunteering their time to help with the Rebuilding Together event. It was a great success and those in need really appreciated your help. This time of the year is busy for everyone, but taking time to give back to others in the community was much appreciated.

This annual event is becoming one of the more popular community service events. Thank you again for taking the time to help those in need, we look forward to working with you again next year.

Sincerely, Carmen Leeds  
Rebuilding Together Volunteer Coordinator

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

Congratulations to Rev. Robin Colerick. She received word that she is now a “Board Certified Chaplain” by the Association of Professional Chaplains.

~ Submitted by Pastor Bob

**THANK YOU**

Dear Friends, Thank you so much for making my 80th birthday so special! I appreciate the cards, the calls and the ones who were able to be at my party on Saturday. I was very proud of Pastor Bob, the ladies who helped with the reception, and our lovely church. Go Disciples! ~ Joan Shumate



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

May 10, 2009

SS - 29 / Worship - 88

May 17, 2009

SS - 26 / Worship - 93

Stewardship Report

May 10, 2009

Offering - \$ 1,799.50

Capital - \$ 215.00

May 17, 2009

Offering - \$ 2,079.50

Capital - \$ 279.00

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...those who greet, welcome, listen, announce, share and take time to talk; ...You, and for all you do.

I know we’ve left out some faithful people and their dedicated and valuable work. We have many wonderful members, helpers and friends who minister in the name of Jesus Christ in so many ways... many thanks to you! We have an awesome God and we have an awesome membership that takes faith seriously. Our “attitude of gratitude” starts with God and includes each of us.

Blessings, Pastor Bob

**SECRET PLACE DEVOTIONALS**

The new Summer 2009 edition of *The Secret Place* is now available for \$1.00 per copy. Also, we have some back issues if you are interested. Pick up your copy in the church office.

~ Christy

**BIBLE STUDY**

Remember Tuesday’s 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor Bible Study

“And Still We Rise”  
Facilitator, Jean Miller

**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 NEWS**

The June 10 Disciple Women's meeting will be a noon salad luncheon at Presbyterian Manor, Room 110. I hope many of you are looking forward to this chance to eat and fellowship together. Just bring a salad and your own table service. Our gracious hostesses, Marie Wood and Janet Wells, will provide beverage and crackers.

Then on July 8, we will meet for brunch at 10:00 a.m. in the clubhouse at Holiday Resort. The Day Group officers will provide the food for this event. Both of these events were well attended last year, and the residents of Presbyterian Manor and Holiday Resort who are unable to attend many of our meetings were especially grateful for the opportunity to take part. Please put both of these meetings on your calendars now!  
Submitted by Jean Miller

**LETTER FROM PAXTON JONES**

Dear Bob & Members of FCC,

In the midst of the significant economic and societal changes taking place today, we are all struggling to be faithful to the larger vision of what it means to be the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). So I want you and

your congregation to know that you have been and remain in my thoughts and prayers, especially during this Holy Week. I also thank you for your prayers on behalf of our whole church and for your continued support of the Disciples Mission Fund. We are truly grateful for your generosity in 2008 when your total contributions to DMF were \$11,780.00.

Whenever I learn that someone has joined a congregation in the Northeast District, it is my practice to send them a letter welcoming them into the Disciples and the Kansas Region. Something I say to each is that "The regional church is only as strong and as faithful as the local congregations which comprise this region." I tell them this because it is true!

Your gifts to DMF make possible the programs and ministries of the regional church ~ such as our outdoor ministries programs in which over 700 young people and over 130 leaders share together in biblical studies and develop a deeper understanding of faithful living. Your funding also makes possible support given to congregations in transition or in crisis, delivery of The Kansas Messenger into nearly 7,000 homes, and leader development events such as the recent Spiritual Retreat. All of these ministries and many more take place because of your dedication to Christ and the mission of the Church. Thank you!

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**CALLING ALL GARDENERS!!**

I love springtime! Everything around us speaks of hope—the strength of the new plant sprouting out of the soil is a symbol of growth, hope, perseverance!

We, as a church, are called to be “gardeners”. We’ve spent a lot of time, energy and prayer this past year in the New Beginnings process. The process was very intentional about hearing the voices and suggestions directly from members. We’ve done that—and the clear direction was to focus on our community, not quite so much on ourselves. That doesn’t mean we won’t continue to do the things we’re currently doing: offering a wonderful, Biblical service of worship, Sunday School opportunities for all ages, home-bound contacts, prayer services, etc., etc. However, we have already begun intentional, ongoing outreach efforts to the community.

Why, “Calling All Gardeners”? I think much of what we’ve done in the past few months is similar to the planning stages for your garden: Will I have a garden? Where will I till the soil? What shall I grow? How serious am I about producing fruit/flowers? Am

gardening just for the pleasure of pattering in the sun and the soil, or do I truly want to harvest something? Although we were asking these questions about our very existence as a church, these are actually the type of issues we looked at and decided in the past few months.

Now, we’re putting into action the decisions we’ve made. We have decided to continue as First Christian Church, and not to simply take care of each other. We exist because of God’s grace and we are working to fulfill the Great Commission. We want to be part of sharing the Good News to many, many others. So we’re doing some things differently! It’s been commented that we’ve spent much of the past year in reflection, decision-making and planning. Now, it’s time to get to work with the “doing”!

If you don’t participate in a Sunday School class, you’re missing some great fellowship and study. I attend the Discovery class, which uses *The Present Word* curriculum, a Disciples of Church curriculum. Sunday’s lesson was such a perfect fit for where our congregation is. On page 72 of the Spring, 2009 series, (titled “New Creation in Christ”), it states, “Sometimes we become so enamored of celebrating the gift of God’s

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**JUNE ANNIVERSARIES**

- 01 J.R. (Bill) & Jeanie Fosdick (1985)
- 03 Harold & Dorothy Woods (1947)
- 07 Todd & Lisa Osborn (1994)
- 11 Gale & Marie Kelley (1950)
- 14 Rick & Joy Frevert
- 15 David & Kathy Harris (1974)
- 15 Glendon & Bonnie Iverson
- 16 Robert & Janet Wells (1963)
- 17 Joe & Bonnie Denson (1956)
- 17 Kenny & Jeanice Miller
- 20 Loren & Novella Merry (1942)
- 20 Jim & Joyce Cress (1965)
- 21 Carl & Lana Richardson (1975)
- 29 John & Marie Harding (1962)
- 30 Charles & Nadine Hopper (1940)
- 30 Joe & Dana Witten

- 19 Michael Lexow
- 19 Leta Moore
- 20 Teresa Knight
- 20 Mary Ann Law
- 22 Carol Rohling
- 23 Becky Lauxman
- 23 Forrest Steeves
- 23 Nada Woodworth
- 24 Bill Imhoff
- 24 Cody Kuhn
- 24 Andrea Williams
- 26 Morgan Lauxman
- 28 Larry Breshears
- 28 Jake Dalton
- 29 June Rochat
- 30 Mary Alice Magathan

**June Birthdays**

- 01 Shelly Knight
- 02 Roy Schaefer
- 03 Kurt Steinkuhler
- 04 Gary Lukert
- 04 Harold Stevenson
- 07 Brendy Allison
- 07 Bob Colerick
- 08 Neil Kelley
- 10 Bonnie Denson
- 11 Helen Coffman
- 11 Tony Milner
- 12 Mary Morriss
- 13 Tyson Frevert
- 13 Jim Tilton
- 14 Sarah Richardson
- 17 Brent Wagner
- 18 Norman Brady
- 18 Mary Schaefer

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

I need any information for the next newsletter **NO LATER THAN MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2009.** ~ Christy

**NEWSLETTER ON LINE**

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

**May 24, 2009**

- Candlelighter ~ Emily & Morgan Lauxman
- Children's Message ~ LeRoy Garnett
- Diaconate ~ Karen Garnett, Alan Richardson, Betty Richardson, George Arnett, Becky Lauxman, Larry Gamblian
- Elder - Cindy Lexow
- Greeters - (N) Carl & Rita Headrick / (S) George & Ruth Ford
- Nursery - Betty Richardson / Organist - Sandy Heller
- Worship Leader - Nancy LeClear

**May 31, 2009**

- Candlelighter ~ Abby Griffith
- Children's Message ~ Debbie Peck
- Diaconate ~ Richard Becker, Carl Headrick, Rita Headrick, Debbie Peck, Glenn Boyce, Nancy LeClear
- Elder - Donna Breshears
- Greeters - (N) Tim & Janelle Norton / (S) Fred & Ilda Kline
- Nursery - Barb Gimple / Organist - Sandy Heller
- Worship Leader - Nancy LeClear

**June 7, 2009**

- Candlelighter ~ Emily Lauxman
- Children's Message ~ LeRoy Garnett
- Diaconate ~ Tim Norton, Larry Breshears, Joyce Cress, Bonnie Denson, George Ford, Dean Grisell
- Elder - LeRoy Garnett
- Greeters - (N) Glenn & Dorothy Boyce / (S) Alberta Brinkman & Norma Leonard
- Nursery - Janelle Norton / Organist - Sandy Heller
- Worship Leader - Barb Gimple

**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!

