

Christian Church News

July 27, 2009
Volume 58 ~ No. 13

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

AUGUST BIBLE READINGS:

August 2

2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a
Psalm 51:1-12
Ephesians 4:1-16
John 6:24-35

August 9

2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33
Psalm 130
Ephesians 4:25-5:2
John 6:35, 41-51

August 16

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14
Psalm 111
Ephesians 5:15-20
John 6:51-58

August 23

1 Kings 8:1-11, 22-30, 41-43
Psalm 84
Ephesians 6:10-20
John 6:56-69

August 30

Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9
James 1:17-27
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 12TH (Saturday)

Great American Market in Downtown Emporia

SEPTEMBER 20TH (Sunday)

All-Church Family Picnic

SEPTEMBER 27TH (Sunday)

Calvary Echoes in concert at First Christian

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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."*



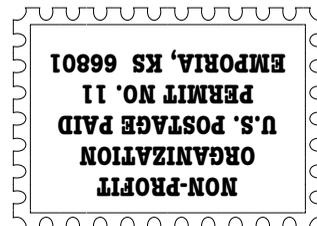
Monday thru Thursday
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Closed Fridays



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



Jesus' Sermon on the Mount is beloved and treasured by millions of people who are fed daily by the wise, compassionate and true words Jesus spoke. We marvel at Jesus' insight and His ability to extract the "meat" surrounding the words of faith.

Matthew 5:13 is a case in point. Who of us can fail to understand immediately what Jesus meant by His words: **"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men."**

We all are familiar with the characteristics of salt. Salt as a...preservative can keep food from spoiling, and so we are to be salt in a spoiling, dying culture as we affect the lives of others, keeping them from spoiling and going bad; ...substance that creates thirst means that we, through our interaction with others create a thirst for that which has true value; ...flavor enhancer illustrates that we can be like salt making bland food tastier and helping to transform bland lives into delightful, fulfilling, satisfying experiences.

A Global Ministries missionary, Mark Behle, teaches math in Alwynskop, Lesotho, Africa. He also teaches some Bible courses to high school students. One day, using the Matthew 5:13 salt scripture, Mark asked his students what useful qualities does salt

have? He got the traditional answers but one answer intrigued him. It was an answer he had never heard before. "Salt," one high school girl said, "Can melt ice."

The girl's answer was not on any answer page Mark had seen before, yet, there was wisdom in what she said. Later, Mark, reflecting on the answer, began to think about her words. He thought of how salt doesn't melt ice immediately, but gradually and imperceptibly—and inevitably. He thought of how many hearts in this world have been hardened by hatred, abuse, injustice and so many other terrible experiences. Hardened hearts are not changed overnight, but can, he thought, be softened with daily doses of the salt of love, patience, understanding, caring, empathy and compassion.

What a wonderful message for you and me. Just as "Rome wasn't conquered in a day," neither are bitter, cynical, case-hardened hearts. Our job is to stay at it and not give up. I think Paul's words to the Colossians in Colossians 4:5-6 speak to us as we explore this novel way to be salt:

Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. 6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Blessings, Pastor Bob



**OUTREACH MINISTRY
TEAM REPORT**

Five months have slipped by since my last report; however, the Outreach team has continued to meet and to dispense funds. We have attempted to support Basic Mission Finance with the lion's share of our giving and to lend support to local mission needs as well. The available funds for the past five months have been dispersed as follows:

February 2009

Basic Mission Finance	\$ 825.54
Abundant Harvest	\$ 100.00
Prison Fellowship	\$ 106.74
TOTAL	\$ 826.74

March 2009

Basic Mission Finance	\$ 1,000.00
Abundant Harvest	\$ 360.25
TOTAL	\$ 1,360.25

April 2009

Basic Mission Finance	\$ 767.00
Abundant Harvest	\$ 256.35
TOTAL	\$ 1,023.35

May 2009

Basic Mission Finance	\$ 820.00
Corner House	\$ 274.30
TOTAL	\$ 1,094.30

June 2009

Basic Mission Finance	\$ 910.55
Salvation Army	\$ 150.00
Corner House	\$ 150.00
TOTAL	\$ 1,210.55

For the year our giving breaks down as follows:

Basic Mission Finance	\$ 10,722.65
Emporia Salvation Army	\$ 1,189.45
Abundant Harvest	\$ 716.60
Church World Service	\$ 488.00
Corner House	\$ 424.00
Prison Fellowship Ministries	\$ 319.14
TOTAL	\$ 13,860.14

We attempted to be responsible and timely with our giving. One of the donations to Prison Fellowship was given when matching funds were available, doubling our gift, another went to the Angel Tree program for children of prison inmates to receive Christmas gifts. The Salvation Army experienced greater need this year because of the economic situation locally and we tried to support that need. The donations to Church World Service were to purchase pairs of goats and rabbits to feed people in remote areas of third world countries.

Abundant Harvest was soliciting to meet a challenge to raise \$40,000 in order to receive a matching grant. We helped them reach their goal! Corner House used our first donation to help graduates of their program get established back into society. The second donation will go to their building fund as they plan to build a facility for women and children. First Christian Church of Emporia has been a blessing to countless lives locally, nationally and globally – we are proud of the Outreach mission that has been accomplished this year and look forward to doing even more in the year to come.

Respectfully, George Arnett, Chair

PRAYER REQUESTS

LOCALLY

Nicholas Bacon (Army Reserve in Baghdad), Penny Boese, Marlene Bowman (niece of Elizabeth Willard), Cheryl Dunning, Wanda Gibbs, Jason Hart, Nadine & Hopper Family, Reba Oliver, Robert Taylor, 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 AND 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.



Our heartfelt sympathy goes to the family and friends of DR. CHARLES HOPPER who went to be with the Lord on Thursday, July 16, 2009. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Also, our sympathy goes to the family and friends of EARL BOGLE who went to be with the Lord on Saturday, July 18, 2009 and to the family & friends of EDITH ROWLANDS, who went to be with the Lord on Thursday, July 23, 2009. Our prayers are with you.

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Effective immediately, attendance pads are no longer being used. The Membership Committee is using a different process to keep up-to-date attendance records. If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Peck.

NEW MEMBER!

New Member!
WELCOME to new member Allyson Lindsay Lauxman, who was baptized Sunday, July 19th. Allyson recently completed the Mentor course at FCC. Debbie Peck was her mentor. Allyson, who is an honor roll student will be a 6th grader at Lowther Intermediate School. Her interests are singing and playing the violin. She will play saxophone in the 6th grade band this coming year. Please keep Allyson in your prayers as she continues to grow as a new Christian.



Our food pantry is getting very low on supplies. Any donations would be appreciated. If giving cash, please give to Christy in the office. The following are some suggestions: canned tuna or chicken, macaroni and cheese, canned vegetables (no green beans), canned fruits, any soups, macaroni & spaghetti, spaghetti sauces, jelly (we have some peanut butter), ready to eat pudding/jell-o and toilet paper. Thanks for your help!
~ Dorothy Boyce



Monday thru Thursday
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Friday
Closed

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

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 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

ATTENDANCE RECORD

July 5, 2009
SS - 26 / Worship - 87
July 12, 2009
SS - 23 / Worship - 87
July 19, 2009
SS - 26 / Worship - 79
July 26, 2009
SS - 31 / Worship - 99

GIVING RECORD

July 5, 2009
Offering - \$3,195.75 / Capital - \$1,101.25
July 12, 2009
Offering - \$1,517.75 / Capital - \$919.25
July 19, 2009
Offering - \$2,520.25 / Capital - \$282.25
July 26, 2009
Offering - \$2,580.25 / Capital - \$1,425.25

SECRET PLACE DEVOTIONALS

THE NEW FALL devotionals have just arrived! Also, past copies are still available in the church office for \$1.00 per copy.

~ Christy

LIBRARY NEWS

This year, July 2008-2009 ~ 36 women read 635 books. Five men read 28 books. Two children read 10 books for a total of 43 people reading 673 books. We have 20 DWF members getting reading certificates. Eleven "superior" who have read 22 or more books. Three "qualified" readers reading 12 or more books. Six

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DWF NEWS

Disciples Mission Fund Giving ~ From Bonnie Gearlds, Office of Disciple Women, we received the following report: Through June of this year, Kansas women remain fifth in total giving, and percentage of total regional giving. We are 6th in Blessing Box giving. **YOU GO GIRLS!**

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.

SERVING SCHEDULE**August 2, 2009**

Candlelighter ~ Emily Lauzman

Children's Message ~ Judy Moore

Diaconate ~ Carl Headrick, Rita Headrick, Nikki Simmons, Debbie Peck

Elder ~ Jaylene Arnett

Greeters ~ (N) Richard Becker & Robert Chatham / (S) George & Ruth Ford

Music ~ Sarah Richardson

Nursery ~ Richard Becker / Organist ~ Sandy Heller

Speaker ~ Cameron Moore / Worship Leader ~ Vicky Allen

August 9, 2009

Candlelighters ~ Brianna Becker

Children's Message ~ Tim Norton

Diaconate ~ Nancy LeClear, Guy Bacon, Janece Bacon, Jake Dalton

Elder ~ Fred Miller

Greeters ~ (N) Joe & Bonnie Denson / (S) Alberta Brinkman & Norma Leonard

Nursery ~ Janelle Norton

Organist - Sandy Heller

Worship Leader ~ Cindy Lexow



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**VISITING ROME IN
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

On July 11th, First Christian Church was transformed into the site of a Roman Adventure for persons young and old attending Vacation Bible School. The themes of the day were "God's Love Is A Gift" and "God Saves Us". Roman families enjoyed lots of joyous singing and dancing praising God.

The marketplace offered time for leather working, woodworking, metalworking, carpentry and other crafts. A thief in the marketplace found forgiveness from a shopkeeper. Roman families visited Paul in prison. He shared the story of his persecution because he was a Christian and how God had helped him. His Guard, Brutus, became a believer.

Families visited Lucia and Marcus in the underground church for Christians who met in a cave. They learned how the sign of the fish was used to identify early Christians. It was dangerous to be a Christian back when Paul lived in Rome.

A former Olympian visited the Roman families when they were playing Roman games. Roman snacks refreshed everyone. The Roman families had time to meet in their special place to discuss their adventures and to plan how to live out the themes of God's Love Is A Gift and God Saves Us. All were encouraged to leave the event sharing God's love with everyone whether in Rome or right back in Emporia. Discipleship Ministry thanks everyone who assisted with the event.

~Submitted by Jaylene Arnett

**THANK YOU!**

I would like to thank everyone for the flowers, cards, phone calls, food, prayers and all the love and concern for me after my recent surgery. What a wonderful church family we have! Thanks so much to all of you ~ Luella Hush

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 07 Bob & Margi Colerick (1970)
 15 Don & Vicky Allen
 20 Curtis & Winona Rhoades
 22 Dave & Krista Harding (1992)
 31 Dave & Carolyn Meierhoff

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Jamie Ayers
 02 Michelle Holland
 04 Nadine Lexow
 05 Carl Headrick
 05 Ilda Kline
 05 Matthew Lexow
 05 Lana Richardson
 07 Jean Miller
 08 Violet Pauler
 09 Wanda Gibbs
 11 Brandon Ayers
 12 Dee Ann Holmes
 14 Jared Harris
 14 Wade Miller
 15 Novella Merry
 16 Carol Hopkins
 20 Ed Dalton
 23 Doris Baird
 24 Lola Farr
 24 Corrine Headrick
 25 John David Harris
 25 Aloha Preston
 26 Don Allen
 26 Marilyn Dalton
 26 Marie Wood
 27 Carl Richardson
 28 Betty Wright
 29 Josie Witten

**NEWSLETTER ON LINE**

Our Web Page is at www.fccemporium.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!

NEW NEWSLETTER DEADLINE!!

The new newsletter deadline is the third
 Monday of the month. **So for the
 September newsletter, I need your
 information by August 17th! Thanks for
 your cooperation!**

~ Christy

**REMEMBER THE CHANGE TO
 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

When selecting items to be included in the
 newsletter, please keep in mind **ALL**
 activities for the coming month need to
 be submitted. This will allow our
 members ample time for planning.

~ Newsletter Team

TO OUR DEAR CHURCH FAMILY

Words cannot adequately express our
 gratitude for all the cards, thoughts and
 prayers. We are so lucky to have such a
 wonderful, caring and supportive church
 family. We truly treasure your
 friendship.

Love, Nadine and the Hopper Family

August 16, 2009

Candlelighter ~ Allyson Lauxman
Children's Message ~ Sandy Heller
Diaconate ~ Carl Richardson, Lana Richardson, George Arnett, Joyce Cress
Elder ~ John Lexow
Greeters ~ (N) Carl & Rita Headrick / (S) Leta Moore & Joan Shumate
Nursery ~ Nikki Simmons / Organist ~ Sandy Heller
Worship Leader ~ Carl Richardson

August 23, 2009

Candlelighter ~ Morgan Lauxman
Children's Message ~ Marie Harding
Diaconate ~ Tim Norton, Janelle Norton, George Ford, Joan Shumate
Elder ~ Judy Moore
Greeters ~ (N) Tim & Janelle Norton / (S) Wanda Davis & Betty Wright
Nursery ~ Rita Headrick / Organist ~ Sandy Heller
Worship Leader ~ George Arnett

August 30, 2009

Candlelighter ~ Cindy Lexow
Children's Message ~ Cameron Moore
Diaconate ~ Richard Becker, Joe Denson, Bonnie Denson, Marie Harding
Elder ~ Marlene Hanson
Greeters ~ (N) Glenn & Dorothy Boyce / (S) LeRoy & Karen Garnett
Nursery ~ Tim Norton / Organist ~ Sandy Heller
Worship Leader ~ Robert Wells

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!





Were you one of the fortunate individuals who attended Rev. Paxton Jones' presentation on the mission trip to the Dominican Republic and Haiti? If so, you saw photographs, and heard stories that will continue to impress you for years to come. You'll recall that one of the emphases of our New Beginning process was that we need to continue to look beyond the walls of our church and to reach others beyond our current church family. It was heart-breaking to see the brief glimpse into the deep poverty of the Dominican Republic/Haiti.

There were several regional ministers who took this trip together. A couple of sisters, young girls approx. 8-12 years old, had spent a day or two in the company of our regional ministers. Although I have no doubt that God's love was truly evident in the behavior of our ministers, it was still shocking to hear what the girls told the ministers. "Our mother has told us it's ok for you to take us home with you." Can you begin to imagine the depths of despair and poverty which would make a loving mother believe it's better to send her children with strangers? Can you begin to imagine the fear the children have, knowing their mother doesn't have faith in her ability to provide for them?

Our country is certainly going through a major economic challenge, and many of our own members are feeling pinched in

various ways. However, even in our deepest financial need, we have "wealth" compared to what many people face every day. One of the resolutions in front of the General Assembly this month is about becoming a Global Mission Church. I hope we as a congregation think seriously about this. And, whether or not we become a designated Global Mission Church, let us continue to praise God for the bounty he has bestowed upon us; and, let us be generous, faithful stewards in sharing that with others.

As John and I have travelled this past week, we saw some scenes of severe poverty and dysfunction in Memphis. The crime rates, the rates of drug addiction and poverty are high also. Our faith is deepened through most of our experiences if we are open to hearing God in the midst of our journeys. God is clearly saying, as was written so long ago, "Feed my sheep." We must care for one another, and I am looking forward to another exciting year of service and ministry at First Christian, Emporia, as we make decisions on ministry and service. God Bless! ~ Cindy Lexow, Moderator



... For the Healing of the Nations ...

2009 General Assembly
 Wednesday, July 29 -
 Sunday, August 2
 Indiana Convention
 Center
 Indianapolis, Indiana



Disciples from all walks of life will gather in Indianapolis from Wednesday, July 29 to Sunday, August 2, 2009 for the church's biennial Assembly to experience dynamic preaching, inspiring music, and an opportunity to praise God alongside thousands of other Disciples! They will come from around the world to worship, learn, fellowship and discuss the future of our Church.

The theme and logo is simply ... *for the healing of the nations* ... and was designed by a disciples layperson depicting dozens of hands representing the many leaves of the tree. The hands are intentional, to represent hands raised in prayer, hands poised for work, and hands used for healing.

Even though many of us may not be able to attend this year's General Assembly, 2 ladies of DWF joined in a project to make Stoles of Hands to adorn 300 people who will lead the 2009 General Assembly in worship. **Judy Moore and Barb Gimple made 25 stoles, with help from other DWF ladies in the church.** This labor of love will add both color and honor to the worship leaders.

Pastor Bob Colerick, Fred Miller and LeRoy Garnett will be attending General Assembly this year, and will deliver the stoles. These men will represent First Christian Church of Emporia as all those who attend seek to affirm and declare the gospel with faith, energy, and commitment.

You are encouraged to *'pray now and without ceasing'* for God's leading in this momentous gathering of Disciples. Pray for Pastor Bob, Fred and LeRoy as they travel to and from the General Assembly, and as they hear the Good News of God's redemptive love.



(continued from page 3)

"participating" readers reading at least 6 or more books. Sixteen have read 1-4 books and we hope they will increase their reading next year.

Our top readers this year were: Jeanice Miller (61), Carol Rohling (60), and Betty Hilton with 58 books.

A small gift was given to the readers along with their reading certificates. We've added 48 new books from memorials and other giving. This is the library's 50th year so come join us anytime and check out a good book to read. ~ Luella Hush