

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
415 N. Mill Street-Festus, MO 63028
636-937-3416
fccfestus@sbcglobal.net
Rev. Janet Fowler
Kathy Cage, secretary

January 1, 2009

Address Correction Requested

The Christian Visitor

Moments with Janet

As we move from one year to the next, I want to say thanks to all of you for being part of the wonderful community of our church. During the past year together we have worshiped, celebrated, eaten, played, laughed, and cried together. I can think of no better way to move into our future than through the words of a poet.

Selections from "Amazing Peace" by Dr. Maya Angelou

Snow falls upon snow, falls upon snow to avalanche
Over unprotected villages.

The sky slips low and grey and threatening..

Into this climate of fear and apprehension, Christmas enters,
Streaming lights of joy, ringing bells of hope
And singing carols of forgiveness high up in the bright air.
The world is encouraged to come away from rancor,
Come the way of friendship.

It is the Glad Season.

Thunder ebbs to silence and lightning sleeps quietly in the corner.
Flood waters recede into memory.

Snow becomes a yielding cushion to aid us
As we make our way to higher ground.

Hope is born again in the faces of children.

It rides on the shoulders of our aged as they walk into their sunsets.
Hope spreads around the earth. Brightening all things,
Even hate which crouches breeding in dark corridors.

We hear a sweetness.

The word in Peace.

It is loud now. It is louder.

Louder than the explosion of bombs.

Peace.

Come and fill us and our world with your majesty.

It is Christmas time, a halting of hate time.

On this platform of peace, we can create a language
To translate ourselves to ourselves and to each other.
Peace. We look at our world and speak the word aloud.

Peace. We look at each other, then into ourselves.

And we say without shyness or apology or hesitation.

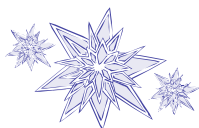
Peace, My Brother.

Peace, My Sister.

Peace, My Soul.

Amen,

Janet



To be a faithful, growing church, that demonstrates true community, deep Christian spirituality and a passion for justice.

World Outreach

Thanks to everyone who participated in this year's Alternative Gift Market. Members and friends purchased \$1,233 worth of Alternative Gifts from Church World Service. These gifts will enhance the lives of many people in need throughout the world.

Karen Stoll, Chairperson

Evangelism

We are going into our ninth week of our twelve week 3D program. It is going well. I am planning on doing another session in the spring. If you are interested, let me or the church office know. Remember we are all evangelists.

Letetia Fanger, Chairperson

Parish Nurse

This week our health ministry focuses on whole person health from the perspective of our faith. If you have any questions or concerns about whole person health, please see me. I would be honored to know more about your situation and be your health advisor. I have access to many resources that may be helpful to you. I pray that you may enjoy good health. Be well, and know peace.

Letetia Fanger, Parish Nurse

Membership Committee

As 2008 draws to a close, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to the members of the Membership Committee for the dedication you have exemplified throughout the year. Our Committee was tasked with numerous projects and each of you showed your love for the Church and Congregation through the hard work you displayed to accomplish what was asked of you.

I also want to thank the members of the Congregation for willingly stepping in to help make the Membership Committee's job easier. When asked to prepare food for special occasions, many of you were there ready to assist in any way you could. On numerous occasions many members helped clean up Wiles Fellowship Hall and wash dishes after meals. It is this dedication and love toward your fellow Church members that makes me proud to call this Church my home.

As I relinquish my responsibility as Chairman of the Membership Committee to our new Chairman, Tom Schmidt, I wish him a fruitful 2009 as he brings in new leadership and ideas. Thank all of you for being there when needed.

Doyle Taylor, Chairperson

Sounds of Joy (Children/Youth Choir)

The "Sounds of Joy" choir performed their very first Christmas concert on Sunday, December 14th. I want to thank the members of the choir and their families for all of their help along the way. A special thanks to Keith Osterberg for helping us with the music. The children sounded wonderful! I was very proud and I'm sure many of you felt the same way. We will be having performances throughout the year. Anyone interested, please feel free to call me at 937-7454 any time. You are

also welcome to show up at one of our practices. We will not be having choir practice on Sunday nights for the remainder of December. Hopefully, we will have everyone well, and we'll start off the new year running. Have a wonderful holiday! Practice begins January 4, 2009-4:30-6:00 PM

LeAnna Obermeyer, Director Children/Youth Choir

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SINGERS & MUSICIANS NEEDED

Individuals who are willing to sing or play special music for our Sunday worship services during January-March 2009 are needed. Please sign your name on the calendar outside the church office on the date in which you can perform, or contact the office (937-3416). Thank you



CMF (Christian Men's Fellowship)

CMF will meet on Saturday, January 10, 2009 at 8:00 AM-Delicious breakfast is always provided. All men of the church are welcome. You are all members.

Warren Reilmann, President

CWF (Christian Women's Fellowship)

The Circles will be meeting on Thursday, January 8, 2009. Ruth Circle will meet at 9:30 AM and the Sarah Circle will meet at 1:30 PM. The service project for the month will be Safe House(Money and other items needed.)

Barbara Buxton, President

Prayer Concerns

Opening New Doors for the Future- (Building Campaign)
Church Food Pantry

Members Prayer Concerns

Dan Aders	John Baynes	Les Dreiman	Letetia Fanger
Randy Faries	Lee Howard	Elise Humble	Carole Jackson
Ben Robinson	Charles Staley	Brian Stoll	Chase Sickbert
Jennifer Sickbert	Violet & Richard Hochthurn		Dorothy White
Clarine Clayton & family on the loss of her husband J. C. Clayton in December.		The Obermeyer family	

Prayer Concerns for Family & Friends

Don Faries Jerry Cornish Ron Williams
Brad McMahon-(in Iraq-son of Buna Dreiman)
Matt Wilson-(friend of Jack-e Merseal)

Douglas Osterberg-(father of Keith Osterberg & Karen Stoll)

Debbie Barnes, Lexi Cheney-(Frank Barnes)

Ann Becker-(friend of Tish Fanger)

Norman Hensley-(father of Carolyn Osterberg)

Robin Jordan-(daughter in law of Tina Roberts)

Kim Avery-(daughter of Dan Avery)

Roger Sweet, Kim Cheney-(Frank Barnes)

Brian Wehner-(friend of Dave & Londa Crump)



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Average Attendance & Offering-December 7, 2008-December 21, 2008

Date	Sunday School	Worship	Sunday Evening	General Fund Income
Sunday, Dec 7	28	61		\$2,369.50
Sunday, Dec 14	28	63		\$878.50
Taizé Prayer Service Sunday, Dec 14			5	
Sunday, Dec 21	13	49		\$628.50
Sunday, Dec 21 Blue Christmas Service			15	
Average Attendance/ Total	23	58	5-Taize Prayer Service 15- Blue Christmas	\$3,876.50

Worship & Sermon Focus

January 4	<i>2nd Sunday after Christmas</i>
First Reading	Jeremiah 31: 7-14
Sermon Reading	John 1: 1-9, 10-18
Focus	Believing and Seeing
January 11	<i>1st Sunday after the Epiphany</i>
First Reading	Genesis 1: 1-5
Sermon Reading	Mark 1: 4-11
Focus	The Now and Not Yet Reality

January 18	<i>2nd Sunday after the Epiphany</i>
January 19	<i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i>
First Reading	Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18
Sermon Reading	John 1: 43-51
Focus	Who Is He? Who are We?
January 25	<i>3rd Sunday after the Epiphany</i>
First Reading	Psalm 62: 5-12
Sermon Reading	Mark 1: 14-20
Focus	A New Sense of Time

Thank you

Dear Church Family,

Thank you all so much for your expressions of sympathy and help with the memorial Service for Colin. The love and support of this congregation gave strength to us as a very difficult time for us. Your prayers and love will continue to bring us strength in the coming days. Special thanks to those who personally helped with the Memorial and the dinner. We appreciate your love and prayers.

Sincerely, The Osterberg family

Thank you to the Reilmann family for the Christmas cookies. They were great, Don & I enjoyed them. Also thank you to Judy Hughey for the candy and the snowman figurine.

Don & Kathy Cage

Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Lucille Johnson, who passed away on September 1, 2008.

Our sympathy to the family & friends of Barb Medley who passed away. Barb was the secretary of Herculaneum Baptist Church.

Our deepest sympathy to Clarine Clayton family & friends on the passing of Clarine's husband J. C. Clayton on December 19, 2008.

Deacons

The first meeting for all members of the Diaconate will be on Sunday, January 4, 2009, 8:30 a.m., Wiles Fellowship Hall. DONUTS AND COFFEE WILL BE SERVED!

All members are strongly urged to be present as we discuss important plans for the New Year.

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Elders

Jan 4

Lisa Reilmann-Invocation
 Steve Cornish-Scripture
 Warren Reilmann-Homebound
 Bible Study-Barbara Buxton-Jan 7

Jan 11

Doyle Taylor-Invocation
 Janet Taylor-Scripture
 -Homebound
 Bible Study-Margaret Means-Jan 14

Jan 18

Barbara Buxton-Invocation
 Lisa Reilmann-Scripture
 Margaret Means-Homebound
 Bible Study-Lisa Reilmann-Jan 21

Jan 25

Warren Reilmann-Invocation
 -Scripture
 Doyle Taylor-Homebound
 Bible Study-Warren Reilmann-Jan 28

Diaconate

Jan 4

-Prep & Server
 -HB & Server
 -Greet & Server

Jan 11

-Prep & Server
 -HB & Server
 -Greet & Server

Jan 18

-Prep & Server
 -HB & Server
 -Greet & Server

Jan 25

-Prep & Server
 -HB & Server
 -Greet & Server

January Birthdays

03 Tamara Anderson
 03 Emily Reilmann
 11 Margaret Wiles
 15 Randy Merseal
 16 Aaron Stoll
 17 Sally Klinginsmith
 19 Brian Baynes
 20 Sue Carlisle
 25 Ben Robinson
 31 Dorothy Moore



JAM LEADERS

04 No JAM
 11
 18
 25



"Poinsettias"

Special thank you to all who purchased Poinsettia for the

In Memory of

Audrey & Grant Althausen
 Darrell & Sharon Flieg
 John & Brenda Blocher

Herbert Flieg
 Darrell & Sharon Flieg
 John & Brenda Blocher

Karl & Bertha Lodholz
 Mary Ann Lodholz- (Parents)

Michael Avery
 Dan Avery

Anna Louise Baynes
 John & Brenda Baynes & Family
 John W. & Perly Baynes & Family
 Elnora Moring & Family
 Jan & J. C. Robinson & Family

J. L. Moring
 John & Brenda Baynes & Family
 John W. & Perly Baynes & Family
 Elnora Moring & Family
 Jan & J. C. Robinson & Family

The Parents of John & Barb Buxton
 John & Barb Buxton

Aaliyah Mayes
 Jeff & LeAnna Obermeyer & family

Orville Crouch & Georgia Hook
 Jewell Crouch

Heuby & Carol Moore
 Dorothy Moore

Orville Taylor
 Doyle & Janet Taylor & family

George Sundstrom
 Doyle & Janet Taylor & family

Donna Dreiman
 Lester & Buna Dreiman

In Honor of

Brenda & John Blocher
 Judy Hughey

Brad McMahon
 Lester & Buna Dreiman

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Stewardship – A New Year, A New Resolution

The New Year, 2009, is upon us. The traditional activity is to make a list of New Year's resolutions. You know, that list of things we intend to do, but most of us rarely follow through to completion.

How is your list coming along? Is it full of the usual things like eating a more healthy diet, losing weight, exercising more, saving more/spending less, calling your mother more often, going back to school for that advanced degree, giving more to charities, and so on? How many are the same ones you made last year and just *haven't gotten around to it*?

All of those things on the list are worthwhile and, in all reality, should be pursued with honest and diligent effort.

As Christians, we may also want to add things like reading the Bible daily, attending church every Sunday, witnessing for Christ more often, volunteering for a committee, and so on.

Many of us are already doing these things (both the Christian and secular ones), but just putting them down on paper and keeping the list where we can view it daily will improve our chances of success in the pursuit of keeping and achieving the goals/resolutions we have set.

By this point, you may be wondering what this commentary on resolutions has to do with stewardship. It has everything to do with stewardship. All of the things I listed as examples for our lists (Christian and secular) are really stewardship activities. Remember that being a good steward is properly caring for, and making use of, the property of the owner. If we do the things I listed, are we not taking care of all things that are the Lord's and making good use of them? Aren't all things of and from Him?

Making a written list of New Year's resolutions and diligently working to accomplish them is not just a trifle activity, but it is our plan, our roadmap of sorts, to being good stewards of God's property and the precious gifts He has given us.

Steve Riggle, Chairperson



Vacation Time & Holidays

Janet will be on vacation starting Dec. 25, 2008-Jan. 3, 2009.

Kathy will be off Dec. 30, 2008 thru Jan. 2, 2009.

Office Closed-Dec. 31, 2008 & Jan. 1, 2009.

Mark Your Calendars

Deacons Mtg-January 4, 2009-8:30 AM

The Sounds of Joy Practice-January 4, 2009-4:30 PM

Cabinet Meeting-January 6, 2009-6:30 PM

CWF Mtg-January 8, 2009-Ruth 9:30 AM-Sarah Circles-1:30 PM

General Board Mtg-January 8, 2009-7:00 PM

CMF Mtg-January 10, 2009-8:00 AM

Pastor's Class-Family and Candidate Orientation-January 11, 2009-4:00 PM

Newsletter Articles Due-January 19, 2009-9:00 AM

Martin Luther King Jr. Day-Kathy Off for the holiday-January 19, 2009

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Cabinet Meeting

The Church Cabinet will hold its first meeting of the New Year on Tuesday, January 6, 2009, 6:30 p.m. in Wiles Fellowship Hall. You will all receive a New Year's Gift, the 2009 Annual Planning Guide and Calendar!



The Cabinet is composed of the Minister, all Elected Officers, President of Christian Women's Fellowship, Christian Men's Fellowship, Christian Youth Fellowship, the Chair Person of the Elders, the Diaconate, and all Committees 2009.

According to our constitution, the purpose of the Cabinet is to interpret and correlate the church's mission and ministry as planned by the committees and serve in an advisory capacity to the Minister, the General Board, and other organizations of the church. The Cabinet isn't a legislative body and can not make final decisions on policy.

The responsibilities of the Cabinet are

To study the needs of the congregation, evaluating its present activities, discussing proposed programs, and deferring specific items to the appropriate committee or to the General Board for study and implementation.

To correlate plans and activities of the committees and various groups for the purpose of achieving an effective program for the church.

To encourage the fulfillment of objectives set by the various groups and committees.

As you can see, that's a lot of responsibilities. Please come to the meeting with ideas and dates for 2009.

We are working on the 2009 Yearbook and Directory. Please review the Purpose and Responsibilities information for your committee or group and bring changes to the meeting.

I hope to see everybody at this very important meeting.

Thanks,
Janet

Pastor's Class to Begin

We have several children and young adults in our church who are nearing the age to consider being baptized. This very important step is not to be taken lightly and without guidance. Usually when enough are at this stage, the minister holds a "Pastor's Class," to lead the candidates and their families through the process before the candidate makes a decision.



For some this process can take longer than for others. There is no requirement other than accepting Jesus as the Christ and your personal savior. But that statement needs to be unpacked and understood before baptism. Our baptism then becomes something we all develop into as we continue to grow in our faith and in the church.

If you or a member of your family is considering being baptized, please come to a *Family and Candidate Orientation* on Sunday, January 11, at 4 p.m. in Wiles Fellowship Hall. Rev. Fowler will present the purpose and methods to be used in the Pastor's Class. And a time for the class to meet will be set. Baptisms usually are done on Easter Sunday, symbolic of the death of one's old life and taking on a new one in Christ.

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) recognizes baptisms from other denominational traditions. Baptizing is done by God. The church is only the agent. If you have been baptized but would like to learn more about your baptism, you are welcome to attend the Pastor's Class.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Janet at the office or call 636-524-2771.

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JANUARY 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <i>New Years Day</i>  Office Closed	2 Kathy off	3
4 8:30 AM Diaconate Mtg 2:00 PM 3D Program 4:30 PM The Sounds of Joy Practice	5	6 6:30 PM Cabinet Mtg 	7 6:15 PM Elders	8 <i>CWF Meeting</i> 9:30 AM Ruth Circle 1:30 PM Sarah Circle 7:00 PM General Board Mtg	9	10 8:00 AM CMF Meeting- breakfast provided 
11 4:00 PM Pastor's Class- Family & Candidate Orientation 4:30 PM The Sounds of Joy Practice	12	13	14 6:15 PM Elders	15	16	17
18 Noon Builder Luncheon/ Mtg 4:30 PM The Sounds of Joy Practice	19 <i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i> 9:00 AM Newsletter Articles Due Kathy Off 	20	21 6:15 PM Elders	22 1:30 PM JOY Class Mtg	23	24
25 4:30 PM The Sounds of Joy Practice	26	27	28 6:15 PM Elders	29	30	31

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