

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
April 1, 2009

Address Correction Requested

The Christian Visitor

Moments with Janet

I go to workshops, take copious notes, file them away, and often never refer to them again. I believe I'm accomplishing something when my time might be better spent walking on a beach, feeling God's breath touch my skin.

Last week, while looking for something else in my files, I came across notes I made at a workshop during Minister's Week at Brite Divinity School, just before I left Fort Worth to move to Festus. The topic was managing change in the local congregation, presented by author, columnist, coach, consultant Anthony D. Robinson. Reading over my notes, I realize they mean more to me now than when I first wrote them. Here are some of the ideas. They are pertinent to where and who we are right now at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Festus. Thanks, Tony, for your wisdom, that I'm only now drawing on!

First observation: our culture has moved from the modern into the post-modern. Here are some of the movements. From reliance on reason alone to including intuition. From unlimited optimism to some skepticism. From the universal to the local/particular. From being objective to contextual. From one big narrative stressing progress, to many stories stressing plurality. From leadership determined by position held -- to leadership as a function shared by many.

We are in a time when we seek to recover (as if for the first time) the spirituality of letting God be God, instead of us thinking we are God. We seek to have our lives transformed by God. We gather to meet God who will transform us. We don't have to have all the answers. We can take risks that might change hearts and minds.

A first step is to examine myths about who we are as a church. One myth that has been spoken so often around here that some think it's true -- "*We're just a small, poor church.*" Maybe then, but not now. We're holding our own and have more energy and enthusiasm around here than I've felt for a while. We're healthy and growing. Check out the next meeting of the General Board. Ask for copies of the Treasurer's reports.

Here's another myth. "*We talk a lot but nothing ever happens.*" But have you been noticing? Our architect for the *Opening New Doors for the Future* building campaign is completing final drawings and specs to request bids in the near future. We're received enough gifts and pledges to move forward with the project.

Yet another myth. "*We have too few children and young families.*" Yes, we've talked a lot about needing more young families and children. Now more are coming! New families and children. And you might also notice we're growing the church "*one new baby at a time!*" Not enough rooms or teachers for all the kids on some Sundays. Can't tell me that's all talk and no action.

Another question is "*Why are we here?*" Some possibilities:

- Church is a club or clan to satisfy its members. Visual: a recliner
- Church is a charismatic organization. Followers satisfy the Leader. Visual: a guided missile
- Church is a corporation to satisfy its shareholders. Organization with a plan. Results measurable and objective. Visual: factory
- Church is a Community of Transformation. Changes hearts and minds. Disciples are being formed. Open to what God is doing. Visual: Aspen grove with connected root systems.

We're called together to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ. To grow people in their faith, people who participate in God's work in the world. To know and serve God. To be a community where Spirit and Service come together.

I'm proud to be part of all of this. I hope you are, too.

Grace and Peace,
Janet

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

Evangelism

Just remember we are all evangelists. Tell your family, tell your friends, tell all about our church and about Jesus.

Letitia Fanger, Chairperson

Parish Nurse

This month, I wanted to discuss the topic of financial health with you. April 15 isn't a liturgical feast, but tax day is a logical time to focus on stewardship of our treasures, and what we can do to more fully live a peaceful and fulfilling life. I pray you will be blessed abundantly as you seek God's will for your family. This is a very important area in all of our lives and left to its own, it has a tendency to harm health in other areas of our lives. Jesus, our great physician, encourages us with these words, "***Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.***"

(Matthew 6:21)

If I can be of any help to you or your family on this or any other health related topic. Please contact me.

Letitia Fanger, Parish Nurse

Ways and Means

The *Cabinet* has agreed to be the *Ways and Means Committee*, since a formal committee was not formed this year. This may prove to be the way to go for the operation of *Ways and Means*.

The *Chicken and Dumpling Dinner* has been moved from April 18th to Saturday, April 25, 2009. I figured that no one would want to hang around Easter Sunday and roll dumplings, so pushing it back a week seemed to make the most sense. Please look for the sign up sheets on the bulletin board and sign up early to help out. There are so many things that need to be done and the more helping hands the better.

There has been interest in doing more than one Trivia Night per year, so we are going to have another one before the end of the year. You now can start looking for your winning table early. See you there.

Schwan's Truck-To make sure everything that is ordered or is wanted is on the truck on April 25, we are doing preorders, the catalogs and order forms are in the narthex, these preorders (*order sheets only, no money*) need to be turned in the me no later than April 12, 2009 at church. A total will be ready for who ever orders on April 25, this will include taxes.

Chris Brewer, Co-Chairperson

Membership Committee.

Again, it has been a blessed and busy month for the Membership Committee. We have prepared or organized weekly luncheons and a supper for the *TCAMA Lenten service* at our church. We are also discussing starting an ongoing grief and loss support group, and with the Evangelism Committee, a singles fellowship and support group.

The free and joyful outpouring of help from the congregation and even from members of other churches has got me thinking about what it means to be a member of a "*godly*" group, a redemptive community. Even though we may recognize that others may in ways be different from us, there is no "*us against them.*" We are not a clique; we do not have to be alike. Each person is a unique gift to the other. "*Now there are a variety of gifts, but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.*"

(1st Corinthians 12:4-6). How fortunate we are to receive these gifts.

Tom Schmidt, Chairperson

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World Outreach *Easter Special Offering*

This congregation was blessed to receive a visit recently with Jim and Jayantha Wilson, missionaries with Global Missions. Jim is temporarily serving as our Interim Regional Minister. I would like to share with you a letter we received from Jim recently.

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

As our congregations prepare for the coming of the Lenten season and Easter, we are presented yet another opportunity to share the Good News of a Risen Lord--who replaces death and despair with life and hope. This is an especially important message in these times of economic uncertainty.

Among the many activities of this season is the Easter Offering for the Disciple Mission Fund, which enables us to be involved in the community, the church, and with our global neighbors.

The gifts collected by the local Church, when joined with the efforts of other churches throughout the Region as well as North America, accomplish what no individual can do alone.

Shared between 16 general ministries that serve the Church and the world, it supports countless "nuts-and-bolts" ministries used to strengthen congregational life. For example, Church Extension uses a portion of its monies to help local churches with capital campaigns and loans to build, repair and improve our buildings; Disciple Home Mission uses a portion of its funds to support Women's Ministries and justice issues; and the stories continue . . .

Why should our churches participate? Because through Christ Jesus, we can make a difference. I am writing to encourage your church family to generously support the Easter Offering and Christ's vision for the world.

God bless, Jim Wilson, Interim Regional Minister

The Easter Special Offering will be received on Sundays, April 5 and 12. Please give generously and be a part of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ throughout the world.

Karen Stoll, Chairperson

HOLY WEEK

<p>Maundy Thursday April 9, 2009 7:00 PM Service</p>	<p>Good Friday April 10, 2009 Office Closed</p>	
<p>Noon-Main Street Procession from 1st Baptist to 1st Methodist</p>		
<p><u>EASTER SUNDAY April 12, 2009</u></p>		
<p>Easter Sunrise Service 8:00 AM</p>	<p>Continental Breakfast 9:00 AM-9:30 AM</p>	<p>Easter Worship 10:45 AM</p>

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Time to Order-Easter Lilies

It's that time again. This year the Easter lilies will be **\$10.00** each. These are full, healthy, plants and may be taken home after the Easter service. Place your order on form below. The deadline for ordering is **March 29, 2009**. We need your orders as soon as possible. The florist needs to get an early count so don't wait. **Order today!!!**

Make your check payable to **First Christian Church** & in the memo part of the check mark **Lilies**. Then place the form in the offering plate, mail to the church office or leave on secretary's desk. Clearly write the name(s) that these lilies are **In Memory of; In Honor of; or just JOYS of The Resurrection**.

Easter Lilies @ \$10.00 _____ Total enclosed _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

In JOYS of the Resurrection _____

Given By: _____

2009 JOINT COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES

Sponsored by: THE TWIN CITY AREA MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE

Palm Sunday, April 5-5:00 PM

Festus United Pentecostal Church-1020 Central Avenue

Rev. Randy Starkey, Victory Church

Good Friday, April 10-NOON

Main Street Processional from First Baptist Church of Festus/CC to First United Methodist Church of Festus/CC

Rev. Terry Simpkins, Festus Church of the Nazarene

SEGA 2009 Camp Dates

May 23-25	Family Camp
June 7-13	Gulf Coast Mission Trip (grade 6-adult)
June 28-July 2	Chi Rho Camp (grade 6-8)
June 28-July 2	CYF Camp (grade 9-12)
July 12-19	MAD Camp (grade 6-12)
July 19-23	JYF Camp (grade 3-5)
July 21-24	Regional CRY Festival (grade 9-12)
August 3-7	Float Trip (grade 7-11)

*Early Bird Fees (before May 8)
for more information see bulletin board.*



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CWF Project

Each year the CWF compiles health kits for the Festival of Sharing in October. These kits contain basic hygiene items and are distributed worldwide to disaster areas.

After compiling 68 health kits in September for the Festival of Sharing the CWF has depleted our supply of hygiene items needed for the health kits. We collect these items throughout the year and appreciate donations from the congregation. Below is a list of items needed for the health kits. Please donate only the items listed in the size requested. We no longer collect toothpaste as it has an expiration date on it and it is placed in the kit immediately prior to shipping to the final destination. Items can be placed on the table in Wiles Fellowship Hall by the piano.

Health Kit Items

Lightweight hand towels
Metal nail file or clippers

Lightweight washcloths
Bath size bars of soap

Band-Aids

Combs

Toothbrushes

Betty Aders & Margaret Wiles, CWF Service Officers

CWF (Christian Women's Fellowship)

CWF Circles met March 5th for their quarterly joint luncheon with Sarah circle serving as hostess. The project for the month was Pony Bird. Betty Aders reported during the business meeting that our "Keep Warm" project was a great success with many blankets, coats and other warm clothing donated. After the business meeting an Easter season program and worship was enjoyed.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 2, 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 Angels of Mercy. Also Habitat for Humanity will be postponed until May.

Barbara Buxton, President

CMF (Christian Men's Fellowship)

CMF will meet on Saturday, April 11, 2009 at 8:00 AM-Delicious breakfast is always provided. All men of the church are welcome. You are all members.

Warren Reilmann, President

From the secretary

New phone directory is ready. They are on the table by the entrance to the sanctuary or stop by the church office.

We are now enlarging the bulletins for those who need larger print. They are on the table at the entrance to the sanctuary.

To all Committee Chair leaders, please check your mail boxes outside the church office. There are important material and time sensitive material left in them, so please check them on a weekly basis.

Kathy Cage

Choir Practice

First & Third Wednesday-7:00 PM-Everyone welcome.

Membership Mtg

Tuesday, April 7, 2009-6:00 PM

General Board Mtg

Thursday, April 16, 2009-7:00 PM-NOTE DATE CHANGE

Newsletter Articles Due

Monday, April 20, 2009-9:00AM



Christian Education Mtg
Monday, April 13, 2009-7:00 PM



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Prayer Concerns

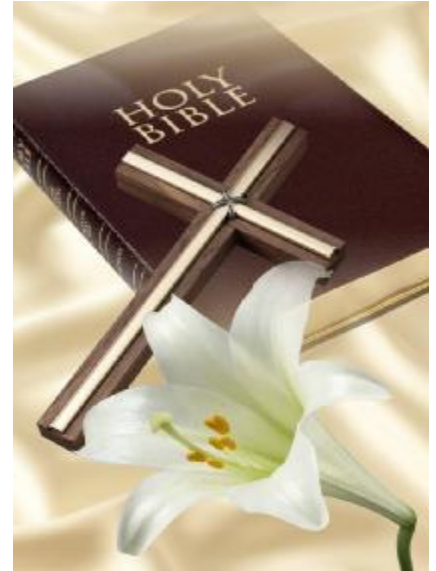
Opening New Doors for the Future Building Campaign

Members

Dan Aders	John Baynes	Jewell Crouch	Buna & Les Dreiman	Letetia Fanger
Randy Faries	Lee Howard	Elise Humble	Carole Jackson	Scott Kimberlin
Bob Roberts	Charles Staley	Alice Staley	Brian Stoll	Jennifer Sickbert

Family & Friends

Jerry Cornish Dale Ray Adams Hertha Taylor
Brad McMahon-(in Iraq-son of Buna Dreiman)
Matt Wilson-(friend of Jack-e Merseal)
Kim Avery-(daughter of Dan Avery)
Sherry Worley-(friend & co-worker of Brenda Baynes)
Dave Cramer-(son-in-law of Letetia Fanger)
Carla Hunt-(friend of Jeff Obermeyer)
Shannon Hall-(friend of Jack-e Merseal)
Emily Biehle-(friend of Warren Reilmann)



Worship & Sermon Focus

April 5	Palm Sunday
First Reading	Psalm 118: 2, 19-29
Sermon Reading	Mark 11: 1-11
Worship Focus	Triumphal Entry: Political Satire
April 9	Maundy Thursday Service-Office of Tenebrae
April 12	Easter Sunday
Sunrise Service	8:00 AM
Worship	10:45 AM
First Reading	Isaiah 25: 6-9
Sermon Reading	John 20: 10-18
Worship Focus	The Worst Things are Never the Last things
April 19	Second Sunday of Easter
First Reading	Psalm 133
Sermon Reading	Acts 4: 32-35
Worship Focus	This side of Easter
April 26	Third Sunday of Easter-Earth Stewardship Sunday
First Reading	
Sermon Reading	
Worship Focus	Lisa Grace to preach

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APRIL 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>HAPPY EASTER</p>			1 6:15 PM Elders 7:00 PM Choir Practice	2 9:30 AM Ruth Circle 1:30 PM Sarah Circle	3	4
5 Palm Sunday 10:45 AM <i>The Sounds of Joy</i> 10:45 AM Worship <i>Special Easter Offering Collected</i> 5:00 PM TCAMA Lenten Service 	6	7 6:00 PM Membership Mtg	8 6:15 PM Elders	9 Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM Worship Service <i>Kathy vacation day</i>	10 Good Friday <i>Noon</i> <i>Main St Procession from 1st. Baptist-Methodist</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	11 8:00 AM CMF Mtg-breakfast provided
12 Easter Sunday 8:00 AM Sunrise Service 9:00-9:30 AM Continental Breakfast 10:45 AM Worship <i>Special Easter Offering Collected</i>	13 7:00 PM Christian Education Mtg	14	15 6:15 PM Elders 7:00 PM Choir Practice	16 7:00 PM General Board Mtg	17	18
19 Noon Builders Luncheon/ Mtg	20 9:00 AM Newsletter Articles Due	21	22 Earth Day 6:15 PM Elders	23	24	25 Schwan's Truck Parking Lot 11:00 AM-5:00 PM <i>Or as long as supplies last</i> Chicken & Dumpling Dinner
26 <i>Earth Stewardship Sunday</i>	27	28	29 6:15 PM Elders	30	SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2009 	

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Elders Schedule

April 5-Palm Sunday

Lisa Reilmann-Invocation
Margaret Means-Scripture
Carma Howard-Homebound
Study-Letetia Fanger-April 8

April 12-Easter

Doyle Taylor-Invocation
Janet Taylor-Scripture
Warren Reilmann-Homebound
Study-Carma Howard-April 15

April 19

Barb Buxton-Invocation
Steve Cornish-Scripture
Margaret Means-Homebound
Study-Margaret Means-April 22

April 26

Warren Reilmann-Invocation
Letetia Fanger-Scripture
Carma Howard-Homebound
Study-Doyle Taylor-April 29

Diaconate Schedule

April 5-Palm Sunday

Betty Aders-Prep & Server
Karen Stoll-HB & Server
Glenda Skinner & Andrea Skinner-Greet & Server

April 12-Easter

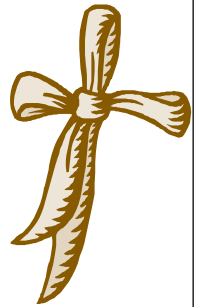
Joe Combs-Prep & Server
Breanne Taylor-HB & Server
Brenda Baynes & Jocelyn Baynes-Greet & Server

April 19

Amber Brewer-Prep & Server
Chris Brewer-HB & Server
Dan & Tammi Casey-Greet & Server

April 26

Dave Crump-Prep & Server
Londa Crump-HB & Server
Lauren Cornish & Carole Jackson-Greet & Server



Thank you

Thank you to everyone for their prayers and words of concern for my sister, Paula Naucke, after her heart attack. She is doing better and is back to work part time.

Thank you again, Kathy Cage

First Christian Church Family-

The church was such an important part of Mom & Dad's life and they enjoyed all of you as their family & friends. The thoughtfulness and beauty of the plant and flowers was greatly appreciated. The trays of food were wonderful and enjoyed by all.

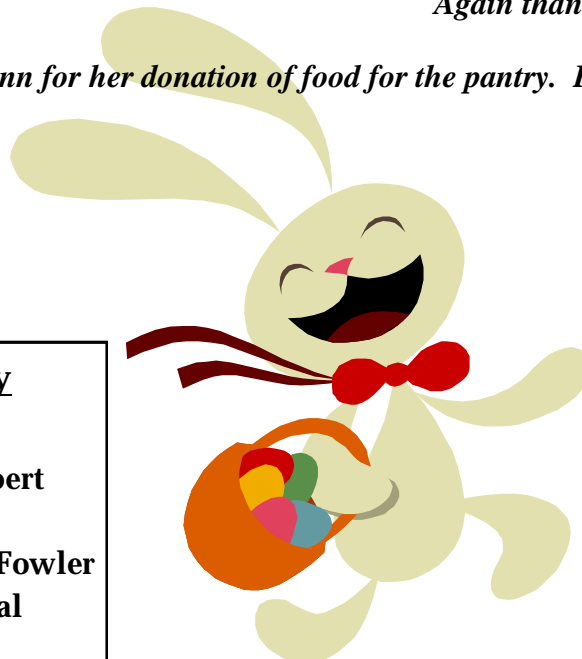
Again thank you, Gary & Ginny Lou Haeusler

Thank you to Christina Reilmann for her donation of food for the pantry. It was greatly appreciated.

Londa Crump, chairperson

April Anniversary

02 Tom & Sue Carlisle
02 Doug & Jennifer Sickbert
21 Les & Buna Dreiman
21 Tom Schmidt & Janet Fowler
24 Randy & Diana Merseal



April Birthdays

03 Joan Williams
08 Jana Renshaw
16 Elnora Moring
19 Amber Brewer
21 Tammy Robinson
21 Katie Zimpfer
22 Chase Sickbert
30 Brenda Blocher



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Schwan's Fundraising Gift Certificates

Gift Certificate Overview:

Schwan's gift certificates are now available to enhance your options for supporting First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) participating in a Schwan's Fundraising Truckload Sale on April 25, 2009.

You can purchase gift certificates now to support this organization and have a Schwan's Customer Service Manager deliver products to you at a later time that fits your schedule.

- o Support this organization without worrying about your freezer space
- o Help them raise funds without having to travel to the Truckload Sale
- o Send your family and friends gift certificates for Schwan's and support our **Building Campaign** Help raise funds without having to re-arrange your schedule.

Gift Certificate Ordering Procedure:

Schwan's offers a simple gift certificate ordering process with many options for your convenience. It's as easy as 1 - 2 - 3!

Call 1-888-413-0003 and select option 2 prior to April 25, 2009.

Call center hours are as follows:

- a. Monday - Friday 7 am to 10 pm CST
- b. Saturday - 8 am to 7 pm CST
- c. Sunday - 11 am to 7 pm CST
- d. Inform the Schwan's representative that you would like to place a gift certificate order to support First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) fundraiser. Note: please provide the fundraising event's number 10446-(5 digit #).

Select the denomination(s) and amount you would like to purchase. Gift certificates are available in \$5; \$10 and \$20 denominations. Note: the only payment option is Visa, MasterCard, or Discover credit card or sponsored debit card.

Gift certificates will be mailed to the address of your choice, making them ideal for gift giving. Gift certificates will have a standard message thanking you for supporting your favorite organization.



*Old fashioned homemade
"All You Can Eat"*

CHICKEN & DUMPLING DINNER

Served with green beans and coleslaw -And your choice of dessert

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2009

11:00 AM-5:00 PM

DINE IN OR CARRY OUT

(Free local deliveries)

Adults-\$7.00 Seniors 65 & older-\$6.00
Children-\$4.00 (age 4-12) FREE-(3 & under)



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WORSHIP

There's a new spirit moving in our worship services! Can you feel it? The choir is back with some great choral music, and "The Sounds of Joy" children's choir, the Way Station men's trio, and several soloists and small ensembles are adding to the variety and excitement. New cordless microphones are due to be delivered any day now, so hopefully our wandering minister will not have to wrestle with the hot spots and static of the old lavalier mic. And we are exploring possible updates to the technology to recording worship services for the shut-ins.

Keep an eye out too for some new visual art to be used in the sanctuary to enhance our spiritual experiences. A recent trip to Affton Christian Church to view their fine collection of banners has given the worship committee a lot of new ideas, and we'll be hoping that you help us as these ideas take shape into fresh religious art.

Keith Osterberg, Chairperson

Christian Education

There will be a Christian Education meeting on Monday, April 13th at 7:00pm in the nursery. Everyone is invited to attend. One of our main topics is to discuss and address the urgent need for volunteers in the nursery and for Children's Sunday School. It is a blessing to be having the "problem" of how to address staffing our church to accommodate the needs of a growing children's program! We love the growing numbers of children and are avidly searching for people capable of filling in as assistants and possibly lead teachers. Spread the word that First Christian Church of Festus is growing and we welcome new people all the time!



We are in the planning stages of a project for the children to create a *flower/prayer garden* on the south side of the building. If anyone is interested in helping with this project, please feel free to contact me.

Also, if anyone would like to purchase any of the flowers as part of our fundraiser and are interesting in donating some of them to this project, we will gladly accept any flowers/bulbs/or plants that people can spare. We are also looking into adding a Shepard's hook with a bird feeder. We will be on the lookout for anyone interested in helping with the creation of this garden, and for anyone interested in helping us with the upkeep of this garden. Spring is here and we are ready to show our beauty and growth both inside and out!



LeAnna Obermeyer, Chairperson

Sounds of Joy

Just as a reminder, the *Sounds of Joy Choir* will be performing on Palm Sunday, April 5th. If there is anyone that would like more information about the choir, please feel free to contact me. We have been practicing during children's church. Special practices are called as needed. Invite everyone to come on Palm Sunday to see this group perform!



If there are any youth interested in singing, please contact me. We have some upcoming performances, but are interested in expanding our group to the older youth members. If you can work out your activity and work schedules, let me know. Thanks

LeAnna Obermeyer, Sounds of Joy Choir Director

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