

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

Address Correction Requested

E-mail: fccfestus@sbcglobal.net
Website: firstchristianchurchoffestus.org

CWF Health Kits

The CWF will once again be making **health kits** for our September project. If anyone in the congregation would like to contribute supplies, here is the list of what is needed:

Lightweight hand towels	Toothbrushes with individual covers	Bath size bars of soap
Metal nail files or clippers	Combs	Band-Aids

(the items can be left on the table next to the piano in the Wiles Fellowship Hall).

We have plenty washcloths and no longer put toothpaste in the kits when we assemble them here. Toothpaste is added prior to shipping due to expiration dates.

The **health kits** are shipped around the world wherever there is a disaster such as tornadoes, hurricanes or earthquakes and provide basic hygiene items to people in need.

Thank you all for your support of this worthy project!

CWF Service Officers: Betty Aders & Margaret Wiles

Thank You...

Thank you...
We're not in Kansas anymore, Toto. Well truth is by the time you are reading this, the Gosik family will be in Kansas. Man has it been a busy year. While I was going through the process of ordination one of the people on the Commission on Ministry voiced a concern that I was taking on too many things and wondered if I could handle everyday monotony. That was about a year ago. I wonder what he would say about this last 6 months. It has been busy and exciting, but I wouldn't change it for the world. Yeah it has been busy and at times I thought it might be too much and that maybe I should have listened to the people that said starting my final semester of seminary with a 4 day old baby and a toddler was not going to be possible. But guess what, I did it. And why? Well not just to prove them wrong, though that helped, but because of the wonderful support of my family. My extended family: First Christian Church in Festus. Could I have made it without all the kind words, hugs, and otherwise encouraging things? Maybe, but I certainly don't think it would have been as fun. So here we go. On the next step of the journey. First Christian Church in Holton, Kansas. Thank you all for your well wishes, your, "you can do it," and other affirmations. I know that God is working through me and I was so glad that I was able to preach for you all again. I am not going to say "one last time," because who knows, maybe I can be a guest speaker someday. You will be hearing from us as I will keep you updated about how things are.

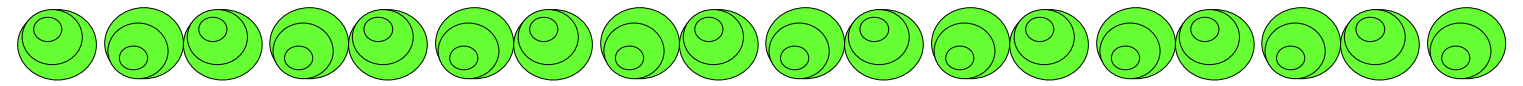
*Peace and Love,
Reverend Mandy Gosik*

Sincere Thanks

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our church family for the prayers and support you have shown to us during Dan's illness. We are so thankful that he has received good reports on his last few CAT scans. His next CAT scan will be in three months in October. We pray that he will receive a good report on those scans as well. We ask that you continue to keep us in your prayers.

*Thank you,
Dan & Betty Aders*

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



The Christian Visitor

Sunday Schedule:
9:00 AM-Coffee Fellowship
9:30 AM-Sunday School
10:45 AM-Worship

August 1, 2009

Moments with Janet – August 2009

We Walk Because They Walk, Jefferson County CROP Hunger Walk

Did you know that in the first quarter of 2009, the number of people world wide who go to bed hungry every night reached \$2 billion for the first time. Did you know that millions walk miles for food every day, only to find no food or water at the end of their walk? In response to information like this the Twin City Area Ministerial Alliance is partnering with Church World Service to hold the first Jefferson County CROP Hunger Walk this fall.

CROP stands for **Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty**, and our Walk will engage a broad cross-section of the community in service to the neediest of the world. It is an ecumenical, interfaith, community-oriented event that (1) raises funds to help hungry people, (2) raises awareness of hunger as an issue, (3) engages and trains volunteers for community service, and (4) brings together persons of many ages and backgrounds in a common endeavor.

When you support CROP Hunger Walks, you're

- Supporting long-term development in some 80 countries
- Helping meet the special needs of refugees
- Assisting in disasters and famines
- Fostering community service
- Getting some exercise, too!



CROP Hunger Walks Make a Difference

- 5,487,307 CROP Hunger Walkers over the past 20 years
- 35,527 CROP Hunger Walks in the past two decades
- Food banks, pantries, and other local hunger-fighting initiatives received checks from CROP Hunger Walks in Fall 2005-Spring 2006 totaling some \$3.6 million
- Upwards of 200 corporations match employee gifts and/or volunteer hours to the CROP Hunger Walk
- \$264,859,614 raised by CROP Hunger Walkers over the past 20 years.

Our event

The Jefferson County CROP Hunger Walk will be on **Saturday, September 26, 2009**, at **West City Park in Festus, registration at 1 pm, Step-off at 2 pm**. One and three mile walks will be available. Three local food pantries have been designated to share in the 25% of the total raised that will be granted back to the local community: **Jefferson County Rescue Mission, First United Methodist Church of Festus Crystal City, and First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Festus.**

We need your help for the walk. There are many jobs to be done. If you want to help, contact **Karen Stoll**, CROP Educational Coordinator (**636**) **937-6593**, or me, CROP Hunger Walk Coordinator, (**636-524-2771**).

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Janet

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Membership

The *Membership Committee* would like to know what small group activities members and friends of First Christian might like to join others in. These groups would meet once or a few times a month, as the members wished, to do a variety of things. They can serve to bring a greater sense of belonging and support to our community, as well as to provide a source of spiritual development, fun, and education. So that they not become solidified and therefore isolating they should be fluid, having new participants or lasting only for a limited time, with the members moving on to another group. They could meet whenever is convenient and appropriate for the activity.

Why not meet for outings, bible or church history study, book clubs, meditation and spiritual practices, musical practice, Ti Chi, card games, current event discussions, sewing and craft bees, gardening, home repairs, life passages support, habitat construction, or any other worthy adventure? Already some are talking about a pottery group, and several members got together for an afternoon to go see the musical, *Oliver*. The Membership Committee will facilitate each group's starting by finding an organizer and drumming up participation, share contact lists of interested people.

We will be distributing a questioner in next month's Newsletter. In the meantime, be thinking what you might like to do. It will be fun and great fellowship.

Tom Schmidt, chairperson

Worship

Summer worship is something like a potluck dinner. Bits of this and that, a thing or two that has been in the back of the refrigerator or on the back burner. And you don't know how many people are going to be pulling a chair up to the buffet. But in the midst of the last-minute menu planning and the scattering of paper plates on the table, sometimes the best meals of all are created. Jesus and his disciples were able to create a banquet with just a few loaves and fish, and not a lot of preplanning.

That being said, there are still things that need doing for our summer worship to flourish. First of all, I'd like to once again thank everyone who has helped with special music while the choir is on hiatus. But remember, the summer is only half over. We need more volunteers to share their musical talent, so please sign up on the calendar in the hallway by the office to sing or play special music for worship. I know there are talented people out there because I heard you in the congregational sing-a-long July 19. Even though we were few in number, we sounded great together.

Also, for those of you, who are using offering envelopes from the pews to contribute your offering, please make sure that the numbers on the envelopes are scratched out. We recycle used envelopes and we try to black them out before we put them in the pews, but sometimes they slip through, and the numbers on the envelopes can make it confusing for recordkeeping purposes. We want to make sure everything is properly accounted for with your giving. See you in church!

Keith Osterberg, chairperson

Diaconate

There are more rolls in the freezer. Thanks for the donations of grape juice. Everyone make sure that when donating grape juice it is the real stuff, no lite or healthy that contains splenda or aspartame. **We don't want anyone to have an allergic reaction from the juice.**

Please make sure that the candles on the communion table are on the cloth. Everything on the table should be on it. There have been a few close calls with elders almost knocking them off the table. The offering trays should be separated, 2 on each side.

Keep up the good work with picking up the sanctuary after the service, **Kathy** and **Janet** appreciate it. Please make sure all doors are locked when you leave. We have placed a copy of the song *Change My Heart, O God*, in the pew racks.

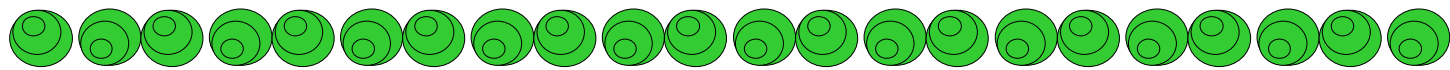
Chris Brewer, Chief Diaconate

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

August 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday Schedule: 9:00 AM-Coffee Fellowship 9:30 AM-Sunday School 10:45 AM-Worship						1 General Assembly
2 General Assembly 9:00 AM Fellowship 9:30 AM Christianity & Islam Class 10:45 AM Worship	3	4	5 6:15 PM Elders	6	7	8
9 9:00 AM Fellowship 9:30 AM Christianity & Islam Class 10:45 AM Worship	10	11 Kathy off	12 6:15 PM Elders	13 7:00 PM General Board Mtg	14	15 9:00 AM CMF-breakfast provided Note Date Change
16 9:00 AM Fellowship 9:30 AM Christianity & Islam Class 10:45 AM Worship Noon-Builder's Luncheon Mtg	17 9:00 AM Newsletter Articles Due	18	19 6:15 PM Elders	20 2:00 PM Orchard Crest Task Force Mtg	21	22
23 9:00 AM Fellowship 9:30 AM Christianity & Islam Class 10:45 AM Worship	24	25	26 6:15 PM Elders	27	28	29
30 9:00 AM Fellowship 9:30 AM Christianity & Islam Class 10:45 AM Worship	31	CROP Hunger Walk West City Park-Festus September 26, 2009 Registration 1:00 PM Step Off 2:00PM		TRIVIA NIGHT Saturday, October 17, 2009 6:30 PM First Christian Church, Festus <i>Proceeds go to:</i> Opening New Doors Building Campaign. Any question contact: Chris Brewer 314-614-6552		

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Few More Moments with Janet

We Have a Prayer: Interfaith Relations in Difficult Times

There is one God of all. We are all, Jew, Muslim, Christian, made precious in God's image. We are all called by our covenants with God to stop oppression, hunger, and poverty. We have so much more that brings us together than keeps us apart. For us all, God is the great source of our own love for humanity. When we bring God into the room, we are not asking for answers but to help us find pathways to come together.

Solving the problems in and around Gaza is just too great for any of us to try it alone. The role of all religions is to advocate for us all.

Prayer focuses on God and moves us beyond ourselves. We live into God's future by prayer. Since God is at the center, the closer we get to God the closer we get to one another. Only prayer can change destiny.

These were some of the opening remarks at the **We Have a Prayer: Interfaith Relations in Difficult Times** event held on July 13, 2009, at the Aquinas Institute of Theology at St. Louis University. The speakers were **Rabbi Steve Gutow**, Executive Director, The Jewish Council for Public Affairs; **Rev. Dr. Michael Kinnamon**, General Secretary, National Council of Churches; **Dr. Sayyid M. Syeed**, National Director, Islamic Society of North America.

Here is their unified prayer

The three of us come from different religions and have different views regarding how best to solve the problems faced in the confrontation between Israel and Hamas. In many arenas we have found ways to work together but not yet in this situation. We look to the power that is greater than any of us can even contemplate and ask that power to help us find peace among the nations. Below is our unified prayer.

Dear Lover of humanity and all creation, we come to you because we trust in your power and take comfort in your compassion.

Our world is in chaos.

Your children suffer greatly in Afghanistan and Darfur, in Burma, the Congo and Sri Lanka, and the Middle East is a place of soul-wrenching strife.

With no end in sight and no reason for easy hope, You are the One to whom we turn.

Strengthen us, Merciful God,

to act and to know that our acting matters:

raising awareness at home of suffering in distant places,

advocating for peace instead of violence,

bringing together those who have been estranged,

trying, ourselves, to see the world as others see it.

Fill us, we pray, with vision

Of a time when children are not killed in war,

And in which neighbor's wellbeing is a first priority.

We have not always agreed on decisions involving war and peace; but we do agree that you are on the side of those who suffer, and that peacemaking is our ultimate vocation.

We pray in different ways and languages; but we each long to hear your voice and to discern the way You wish us to travel.

Blessed are you, Holy One!

May your will for peace prevail!

Amen.

May this prayer become part of your prayer life!

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Janet



FROM HOME to ROME and BACK

Thank you to everyone who made this year's **Family Bible Camp** a wonderful experience. There were 35 to 40 people each night, of wide ranging ages, who put \$37 mostly in coins in the Roman Fountain (an actual fountain!) for Foreign Missions.

Those who came visited with **Paul** while he was under house arrest and listened to him explain God's love for us and how we must share this love with others. We also met ladies in an **Underground Church** who taught us how the early Christians had to meet in such secret places and to use an *ichthys* sign to recognize a follower of Christ.

After those visits we got to play a lot of **games** and figure out how to work together to get a task done. Sometimes it took all of us to make it work! Especially the viaduct!

Then we visited the Marketplace and found:

A **Grammaticus School** where a special **Slave** taught us to write & count with Roman Numerals and to do arithmetic using an abacus! We're glad we have calculators today!

A shop to make **prayer mats** and colorful **tile plaques!** We also made laurel head **wreaths** of leaves and ribbon and then wore them!

One shop had a **potter with a wheel**; she showed us how to make a pot and everyone made one. No 2 alike! It was such good & messy fun!

Each day in Rome began and ended with **Extolo music** & songs & actions; then **Family time** to talk about & review each day's bible points; **treats/snacks** were enjoyed by all!

A very hearty thank you to **Kathy Cage** for creating awesome extras for everyone to enjoy and help remember **FBC 2009**. Your creativity & willing work is so appreciated.

Travels in the *Holy Land* for **Family Bible Camp** have taken us to Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Galilee and this year, to Rome; plan to travel with us next year too.

Family Bible Camp Staff

Parish Nurse

This month, our health ministry has focused on knowing peace in our all of our days by walking hand in hand with the Prince of Peace. If I can be of any assistance to you in living with more peace and wholeness, please contact me. May we all be able to live these precious words of St. Paul, *do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God, and the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.* Phil 4:6-7

Letitia Fanger, Parish Nurse

Time to Start Planning for 2010!

It's hard to believe, but fall is almost upon us. And that means we start thinking about next year while still enjoying the beauty and joy around us as we wrap up this year.

On **Tuesday, September 8, 2009, 6:30**, we'll have a *Cabinet Meeting* to plan the last quarter of the year, including Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas, and begin the Estimates of Needs for next year. Bring your calendars, 2009 Estimate of Needs, and current expenses for 2009

August Birthdays

Oops! Accidentally left off Jeff Obermeyer on July 16

- 03 Karen Stoll
- 07 Terry Howard
- 08 Mindy Easter
- 11 Breanne Taylor, Christina Reilmann, Dave Crump
- 12 Belinda Cornish
- 13 Betty Combs
- 14 Erica Hankins
- 15 Jeff Cresswell, Elise Humble
- 21 LeAnna Obermeyer, Tom Carlisle
- 23 Lee Howard
- 24 Pat Willson
- 26 Jack-e Merseal
- 30 Caroline Woodruff

August Anniversary

- 10 Ed & Martha Boyer
- 12 John & Karen Stoll
- 16 Howard & Pat Willson
- 19 Bob & Tina Roberts

Oops!

In the new pictorial directory
Belinda & Steve Cornish's
cell-phone numbers are wrong.
Belinda's 314-609-3616
Steve's 314-609-5159

**Acolyte-August
Marissa Casey**

DIACONATE SCHEDULE

- Aug 2**
Prep Tina Roberts
Homebound Karen Stoll
Greeter & Server Bob Roberts-Breanne Taylor
- Aug 9**
Prep Diana Merseal
Homebound Lemmy Merseal
Greeter & Server Jack-e Merseal-Chris Brewer
- Aug 16**
Prep Glenda Skinner
Homebound Jennifer Sickbert
Greeter & Server-Andrea Skinner-Doug Sickbert
- Aug 23**
Prep Jocelyn Baynes
Homebound Brenda Baynes
Greeter & Server Chris Brewer-Amber Brewer
- Aug 30**
Prep Betty Aders
Homebound Joe Combs
Greeter & Server Dan & Tammy Casey

ELDERS SCHEDULE

- Aug 2**
Invocation-Warren Reilmann
Scripture-Janet Taylor
Homebound-Barbara Buxton
- Aug 9**
Invocation-
Scripture-Letitia Fanger
Homebound-Doyle Taylor
- Aug 16**
Invocation-Lisa Reilmann
Scripture-Margaret Means
Homebound-Steve Cornish
- Aug 23**
Invocation-Barbara Buxton
Scripture-Lisa Reilmann
Homebound-Warren Reilmann
- Aug 30**
Invocation-Janet Taylor
Scripture-Steve Cornish
Homebound-Margaret Means



Jalin Kolafa

Alicia & Brian Kolafa are the proud parents of a new daughter, Jalin, born July 9th. She was welcomed home by her older sister, Cheyenne, proud grandparents Doyle & Janet Taylor, proud aunts & uncle, Breanne Taylor & Jennifer & Doug Sickbert and a cousin, Chase Sickbert.

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

Special thanks to Family Bible Camp workers

Heartfelt thanks go to the following people for taking a role in Family Bible Camp 2009. Each of you showed and shared God's great love for 51 souls who attended FBC. Tina Roberts, Director

- | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Craft Projects | Diana Merseal | Decorating | Warren Reilmann |
| Games | Jennifer Sickbert & Doyle Taylor | Extolo Music | Janet Taylor |
| Grammaticus School | Bob Roberts | Missionary Paul | Steve Cornish |
| Guard Brutus | Phil Manns & Jeromy Crump | Pottery | Cathy Hankins |
| Pompeii's Family | Lisa Reilmann | Registration | Jewell Crouch |
| Servius Family | Londa Crump | Drummer | Tom Schmidt |
| | Snack foods | Sue Carlisle & Brenda Baynes | |
| | Underground Church | Barb Buxton & Margaret Means | |

FUN TIME AT FBC



Paul in prison

Wreath making

Pottery

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