

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

February 1, 2009

Address Correction Requested



The Christian Visitor

Moments with Janet

Giving from the Heart
Opening New Doors for the Future

We've been making plans for the last few months. All the procedures are now in place. The *Opening New Doors for the Future* Building Campaign is in full swing.

The purpose of the project is to increase our church's access to the community and the community's access to our church. Hospitality and accessibility are important aspects of all our ministries - to us and to others. Currently, we have no restroom on the sanctuary level. The offices, small food pantry, classrooms, and Wiles Fellowship Hall can only be reached by going up or down stairs. We want to add Sunday school classes, but there are no more rooms that can be easily be used for classrooms. Our church building has served us well for many years. And now, in order to expand our ministries and reach out to others, we can improve the building to provide more space and make moving around the building easier - especially for those who can't go up and down stairs easily.

The planned extension into the north parking lot on the sanctuary level will include a restroom, minister's office, secretary's office, and a greatly expanded food pantry. The north parking lot will be restricted parking for those with special needs and will be one way, exiting to Mill Street. The new entrance will include an elevator lift to provide access to our three main levels.

All the rooms on the level that currently includes the offices and food pantry will be used for classrooms - the original purpose for that part of the building. The space behind the sanctuary will be a welcoming gathering and reception area.

Preliminary architectural plans are complete. The goal for the project, including construction, fees, and furnishings, is \$175,000. We have already received many lead pledges and gifts.

Now it's your turn. You will soon receive a letter with a campaign brochure and pledge form. Pledges can be made for up to ten years. Please give prayerful and thoughtful attention to your decision. A little from a lot of us will make this happen. Many hands make light the load. Together, our dream will come true!

Sunday, February 15, is Commitment and Valentine Day Sunday, with the theme of *Giving from the Heart*. The Membership Committee is hosting a Mystery Carry-In Luncheon after church (chocolate and cherry desserts encouraged). Pledges/gifts to the *Opening New Doors for the Future* Building Campaign will be received and dedicated during the luncheon. As soon as possible, we will begin the loan process from the Church Extension division of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Bidding and construction will follow. And soon, very soon, our doors will truly be opened for the future.

Thanks to all of you for your support of our wonderful and vibrant church. I hope you can feel the new and growing energy and spirit here. God is at work among us. God is leading us forward into a great future - serving God together, based on our long-held values of faith, love, hope, and service.

Grace and Peace, Janet

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

Evangelism

We have finished our *3D Program* this session. We will be starting a new program after Easter. If you or someone you know would be interested, please contact me or the church office. This is a 12 week program and is held in the sanctuary. Remember we are all Evangelists.

Letetia Fanger, Chairperson

Parish Nurse



February is recognized as *Healthy Heart Month*. In Proverbs we are reminded that a cheerful heart is good medicine and that a person's heart reflects the person.

(Proverbs 17: 22); (27: 19)

This month, our health ministry has focused on taking responsibility for our health. Health has always been more than physical, and we need to take responsibility for our emotional, relational, spiritual and intellectual health too. If I can be of any help to you, please contact me at home phone.

Letetia Fanger, Parish Nurse

Christian Education Comm.

We are in the process of evaluating many procedures and traditions in our church. The Education Committee is determining and addressing the needs of all ages in the Sunday school classrooms in regards to curriculum, space, designs, leaders and more! If you were unable to attend our invitational Education meeting, please feel free to contact me in person or by phone to let me know any ideas or suggestions you may have. If anyone is interested in volunteering as assistants for Children's Church or for Sunday school teachers, please let me know.



The children now have a Sunday school class being led by Lisa Grace, our student minister. So, a big thank you goes out to Lisa for helping us start our new goals in the education department. We are also starting up the Seekers Sunday school class again. As of the date of this submission, I have few details to give. However, by the first week of February, we should have a designated room to meet in. This class is looking for new members or old members who don't have a designated classroom yet. We are in the process of defining our groups and having a greater understanding of why we have the groups that we

do. We need to all decide how we can reach out to others in the congregation, especially in the area of making Sunday school classes inviting. While I'm fully aware that we are creatures of habit, I hope everyone can be a little flexible during our times of transition and growth in the church. We need to accommodate the needs of today, but plan for the growth of tomorrow!

Be on the lookout for signs in the church to help members and visitors to know where we belong during Sunday school!

LeAnna Obermeyer-937-7454, Education Chairperson

Ways and Means

Trivia Night, Saturday, February 21, 2009 at 6:30 PM. Come join in the fun for *Trivia for Dummies II*. Last year we had a lot more fun when we could all answer most of the questions. Sign up early so you can get a table. Sign up sheets are on the bulletin board. Like last year, bring your own snacks for your table. There will probably be some drinks available for purchase if you run out. Tables hold 8-10 people at \$10.00 per person. There will be a cash prize for the winning table of 25% of the table take in, like last year. There will also be a 50/50 drawing and several attendance prizes. Sign up and let's have some fun.

Chris Brewer, co-chairperson

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Membership

The Membership Committee has been busy, hosting three meals for friends and families of deceased members so far this year. Through the sadness we have seen much beauty as grieving people came together in loving fellowship, a fitting celebration of the lives of their loved ones. And we saw what being church is about. We are continuing planning dinners in conjunction with all church functions: the February 15th Commitment Luncheon in support of the Building Campaign, and several Lenten Luncheons at which we will discuss what it is to be a member of the Disciples of Christ denomination.

We will also be making available to the members of the congregation a leadership style inventory from which we can learn creative and loving styles of leadership and membership. Jesus' style of leadership was to serve his followers, eliciting from them their ideas and encouraging them to examine their values and strive to be more loving. He served each individual's growth, then commissioned his disciples to go out into the world and serve others, leading them to a new life. I have never seen a congregation in which that is happening more than our congregation here at First Christian. May we be mindful of that blessing.

Tom Schmidt, chairperson

CMF (Christian Men's Fellowship)

CMF will meet on Saturday, February 14, 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, February 5, 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 House of Hope (monetary gift).

Barbara Buxton, President

Sounds of Joy (Children/Youth Choir)

The *Sounds of Joy Choir* will now be a part of Children's Church. When special programs arise such as Easter, Christmas, etc. we may call an evening practice.

LeAnna Obermeyer, Director Children/Youth Choir



2ND ANNUAL MARDI GRAS SERVICE AND PANCAKE SUPPER

FEBRUARY 24, 2009

6:30 PM

EVERYONE WELCOME

Worship Service
February 25, 2009

7:00 PM



Commitment & Valentine Day Sunday

"Giving from the Heart"

February 15, 2009 NOON

Mystery Carry-In Luncheon (*chocolate and cherry desserts encouraged*)

Pledges/gifts to the *Opening New Doors for the Future* Building Campaign will be received and dedicated during the luncheon.

Mark Your Calendars

General Board Mtg-Feb. 12, 2009- 7:00 PM

Newsletter Articles Due-Feb. 16, 2009- 9:00AM

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Thanks

Thanks everyone for all your prayer's , love and support. Especially to Janet for her prayers, love, visits & consoling words and Judy Hughey for her beautiful music. Thanks you to Betty Aders and all the church members and my J.O.Y. Sunday School Class for the food & cookies brought to the funeral home and the beautiful flowers.

J.C. Clayton Family

To my Church family,

Thank you for the college care package during my stressful finals! I really appreciate all the love and encouragement to do well that I get from each and everyone of you each Sunday. I love all of you!

Jocelyn Baynes

Thank you Janet,

I just wanted to express my gratitude to the church members and you for everything you have done for our family. Your work over the last year helped transform my father and comfort us. He really enjoyed your visits and was comforted by each visit. I have been told by the people that visited dad during his battle how uplifting those visits were for everyone involved. That puts a smile on my face because that was the effect he had on my life each and every day. He was spirited, full of life and sacrificed everything for the comfort of his family. All those that were in contact with him benefited from the experience.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts, The Robinson Family

Dear Janet,

As I write this you will be on vacation and I hope you and Tom have a wonderful break. I wanted to take a moment and thank all of you at the First Christian for taking me in to participate in Advent services and the book discussion. I just finished the newsletter and am grateful for the news. Please keep me on the e-mail list. Your service for Christ is much appreciated. I look forward to meeting with you again in the future and keep you in my prayers.

Joyfully, Nancy Pippin



Sympathy

We would like to extend our deepest sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of the love ones that have passed away in January. **Richard Hotchhurn**-January 3, 2009, **Ben Robinson**-January 7, 2009, **Shari Zagar**-January 7, 2009, **Donald Crump**-January 9, 2009, & **Edward Haeusler**-January 12, 2009, & **Dorothy White**-January 23, 2009, and **Renee Lucas**-January 2009.



Baby Dedication

On Sunday, January 25, 2009, Jennifer & Doug Sickbert's son, Chase Douglas Sickbert was dedicated and welcomed into our church family.



Recovering in Hospital

Hilma Haeusler fell and broke her hip Friday, January 23, 2009. She has had surgery and is resting now in Jefferson Memorial Hospital.

2009 Church Directory

We are currently working on the **2009 directory**. Please be sure that the church office is notified of any changes in address, telephone numbers, etc. Also, the E-mail addresses which have been furnished to us will be included in the **2009 directory**. Please notify the church office (937-3416) if you **DO NOT** want your e-mail address or cell-phone numbers published.

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Diaconate

We as deacons have taken on a few more responsibilities on Sunday mornings and I want to thank you for that. After the church service everyone has jumped right in with checking the pews for trash and removing the attendance slips for the day. I think this is a big help to Janet and Kathy as they were having to do this on Monday mornings.

The Diaconate meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 22, 2009 immediately following worship. At that time any questions or concerns will be addressed and the next quarter's schedule will be handed out. This meeting will be short and sweet as I know everyone has things going on after church. Please come prepared with any questions you might have, if they don't get answered for you prior to that meeting. Chris Brewer

Diaconate Schedule

Feb 1

Diana Merseal-Prep & Server
Jack-e Merseal-HB & Server
Randy & Lemmy Merseal-Greet & Server

Feb 8

Keith Osterberg-Prep & Server
Emily Reilmann-HB & Server
Bob & Tina Roberts-Greet & Server

Feb 15

Jennifer Sickbert-Prep & Server
Doug Sickbert-HB & Server
Glenda & Andrea Skinner-Greet & Server

Feb 22

Karen Stoll-Prep & Server
Breanne Taylor-HB & Server
Betty Aders & Lauren Cornish
(Greet & Server)

Elders Schedule

Feb 1

Barbara Buxton-Invocation
Steve Cornish-Scripture
Warren Reilmann-Homebound
Bible Study-Barbara Buxton-Feb 4

Feb 8

Doyle Taylor-Invocation
Carma Howard-Scripture
Lisa Reilmann-Homebound
Bible Study-Letitia Fanger-Feb 11

Feb 15

Janet Taylor-Invocation
Warren Reilmann-Scripture
Doyle Taylor-Homebound
Bible Study-Carma Howard-Feb 18

Feb 22

Steve Cornish-Invocation
Letitia Fanger-Scripture
Margaret Means-Homebound
Bible Study-Margaret Means-Feb 25

February Birthdays

2/05 Amy Myers
2/14 Dan Aders
2/19 Herbert Frank Barnes
2/21 Lauren Robinson
2/23 Margaret Means
2/24 Tom Schmidt
2/27 Lois Reed



February Anniversaries

2/12 Don & Kathy Cage
2/26 John & Barbara Buxton

Pic-

The long-awaited Pictorial Directory should be ready by the end of February. Thanks for your patience and help.

Cabinet

We are working on the 2009 Yearbook and Directory. Please review the Purpose and Responsibilities information for your committee or group, and turn them into the office. Include names of current members.

Choir Practice

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



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Prayer Concerns

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

Members

Dan Aders John Baynes Les Dreiman Letetia Fanger
Randy Faries Lee Howard Elise Humble Carole Jackson
Charles Staley Brian Stoll Jennifer Sickbert Violet Hochthurn
Family & Friends of Richard Hochthurn, Ben Robinson, Edward Haeusler & Dorothy White who passed away in January.

Family & Friends

Don Faries Jerry Cornish Ron Williams Brad McMahon-(in Iraq-son of Buna Dreiman)
Jackie McMahon-(daughter-in-law of Buna Dreiman)
Matt Wilson-(friend of Jack-e Merseal)
Debbie Barnes, Lexi Cheney-(Frank Barnes)
Kim Avery-(daughter of Dan Avery)
Roger Sweet, Kim Cheney-(Frank Barnes)
Bert Schmidt-(brother of Tom Schmidt)
Floyd & Michele Borden-(Frank Barnes)
Robin Jordan-(daughter-in-law of Tina Roberts)
Family & Friends of Shari Zagar who passed away on Jan. 7, 2009-(Diana Merseal)
Family & Friends of Donald Crump who passed away on Jan. 9, 2009-(cousin of Dave Crump)
Family & Friends of Renee Lucas who passed away on Jan. 2009
(friends & neighbors of John & Barb Buxton)

Worship & Sermon Focus

February 1 4th Sunday after Epiphany
First Reading Psalm 111 (Nature of God, Transcendent and Immanent)
Sermon Reading Mark 1: 21-28
Focus Preaching that Transforms

February 8 5th Sunday after Epiphany
First Reading Psalm 147: 1-11, 20
Sermon Reading Isaiah 40: 21-31
Focus Theological Amnesia

February 15 6th Sunday after Epiphany
Opening New Doors-Commitment Sunday & Valentine Dinner, Giving from the Heart
First Reading Psalm 30
Sermon Reading Mark 1: 40-45
Focus Where We've Been and Where We're Going-Asking Questions

February 22 Last Sunday after Epiphany
Lisa Grace to preach, so plans might change.
First Reading Psalm 41
Sermon Reading Mark 2: 1-12
Focus Raising the Roof

February 24 6:30 PM Mardi Gras/Fat Tuesday Service & Pancake Supper

February 25 Ash Wednesday/Beginning of Lent

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World Outreach Comm.

Dear Friends,

We're going on a treasure hunt!

We won't be digging holes around the church searching for buried gold, though. Instead, we're searching for God's treasure.

One of the gifts of being God's children is that sometimes we are called to be "*treasure tenders*" for God. We tend God's treasure here in our congregation with the love and care we show each other through special meals, visiting the sick and shut-in, teaching Christian discipleship, and praying for each other. We are also invited to tend God's treasures beyond our congregation by participating in Week of Compassion.

Life can be tough at times. Hurricanes, earthquakes, cyclones, and tsunamis smash communities to bits. Wars and ethnic conflicts shatter the very foundations of life, shoving people out of their homes and transforming them into frightened refugees. Persistent hunger, drought, poverty, lack of education, and ill health shrivel the life and dry the spirit, leaving individuals to crumble from the inside out.

Through Week of Compassion, we gently, persistently, and strongly care for God's treasures. By sharing some of our earthly treasure -- our money, our time, our energy -- decisive aid can be sent when disaster strikes. Refugees receive help in the long term as they rebuild their lives. We help people help themselves through education, health care, tools, seeds, and resources to improve community infrastructure.

And the sharing is mutual. When we care for people, we can be transformed by experiencing the presence of God. Seeing what others have lost, we are reminded what matters most in life. Seeing what others live through, we are inspired to live courageously. Seeing that new life is possible, our hope rises. Relying on God for the outcome, our faith increases.

Jesus said, "*Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also*" (Matthew 6:21). May you find your treasure, and your heart, by sharing resources and changing lives with a generous gift to Week of Compassion. We will be receiving the Week of Compassion offering on Sundays February 15th and 22nd.

Yours in Christ,
Karen Stoll, Chairperson

Plans for Lent

With Easter coming later this year, we have been able to catch our breath just a little since Christmas. But not for too long! Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, is February 22. Our Ash Wednesday service will begin at 7 p.m.

For the five Sundays of March, we will be having a *Lenten Lunch and Learn* immediately following Sunday worship. Please plan to join in the fellowship and discussion in Wiles Fellowship Hall. The Lenten discussion this year will focus on our own denomination, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), its history, development, traditions, and guiding principles. The discussions will be led by Lisa Grace and Janet Fowler.

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Special World Outreach, Christian Education, and Worship Event

The Mid-America Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is hosting Jim and Jayanthi Wilson, Global Ministries missionaries to Botswana. And we here at FCC Festus are privileged that they will be joining us on Sunday morning, March 1, 2009! This will be a return visit. We hope many of you will have the opportunity to meet and talk with them.

We will have a special Sunday school session in the sanctuary that morning at 9:30 for ALL classes. Jim and Jayanthi will talk about their experiences working in Botswana and Lesotho, and about Global Ministries' work all over the world. They will also participate in our morning worship at 10:45.

Then they will join us for our first *Lenten Luncheon* after church that day. This will be an opportunity for fellowship and visiting informally with the Wilsons, also.

When so many things that cry out for attention are happening around us, it's easy to forget that we are only a small part of God's world. Opportunities such as this renew us, remind us of God's bigger picture, and keep us not only humble but also aware of our many blessings and our call to share them.

Please join in the events of this special day.

Karen Stoll, LeAnna Obermeyer, Keith Osterberg

Worship

I received about 40 returns of the Worship Questionnaire recently distributed to the congregation. After tabulating the results, some general conclusions can be reached. Results suggest that the congregation likes a mix of worship styles and content. Most are not interested in additional worship services on a weekly basis but are interested in occasional special services. Most feel our current worship is about the right length. Most are satisfied with the number of songs, with some suggestion that we use fewer verses on long or unfamiliar songs. There is difficulty hearing for some members of the congregation. There is a very strong desire for a song leader to help with congregational singing.

A copy of the summary is posted on the Bulletin Board for anyone who would like more details.

As chairperson of the Worship Committee, I would like to thank everyone for their responses. We are already beginning to implement suggestions for our services based on your expressed desires.

I would like to extend an invitation to anyone who wishes to join the Worship Committee as we seek to fine tune our services to make them more meaningful and enjoyable. Please call me at (636)931-0063 if you would like to help the committee.

Keith Osterberg, Chairperson




SINGERS & MUSICIANS NEEDED



Individuals who are willing to sing or play special music for our Sunday worship services during February-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

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FEBRUARY 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:45 AM Dedication of Maxwell Vernon Renshaw-(Jack-e Merseal's Godson)	2	3	4 6:15 PM Elders 7:00 PM Choir Practice	5 9:30 AM Ruth Circle 1:30 PM Sarah Circle	6	7
8	9 Noon PEO-Fellowship Hall in use	10	11 6:15 PM Elders	12 7:00 PM General Board Mtg	13	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i>  8:00 AM CMF Mtg breakfast provided
15 <i>Campaign Commitment & Valentine Day Sunday "Giving from the Heart"</i> Noon Mystery Carry-In Luncheon <i>Week of Compassion Offering Collected</i>	16 <i>President's Day</i> 9:00 AM Newsletter Articles Due Kathy Off	17	18 6:15 PM Elders 7:00 PM Choir Practice	19	20	21 6:30 PM <i>Trivia for Dummies II</i>
22 <i>Week of Compassion Offering Collected</i>	23 Noon PEO-Fellowship Hall in use	24 6:30 PM 2nd Annual Mardi Gras Ser- vice & Pancake Supper 	25 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 6:15 PM NO Elders 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service 	26	27	28

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