

The Herald

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



April 2008

Pastor: Katherine Bryant Graves

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Upcoming Events

Join us for our beautiful candle light Maundy Thursday Choral worship, April 9th 7pm

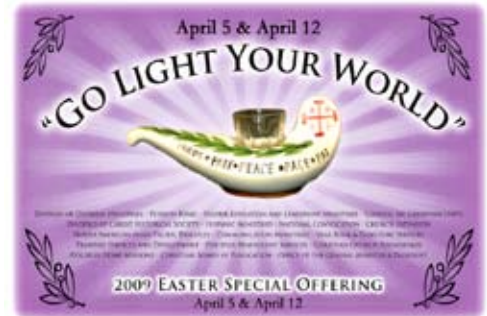
The Greek Dinner, which was previously scheduled for April 25, has been postponed.

Easter Special Offering

April 5 & April 12 is our Easter Special Offering. We are a family whose hearts are blazing; So let's raise our candles and light up the sky Praying to the Creator, in the name of Jesus Make us a beacon in darkest times*

As a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is a beacon of light in the darkest of times. The Easter offering, supports the General Ministries of the Christian Church as together, we bring the light of Christ to dark corners of the world.

Division of Overseas Ministries; Council on Christian Unity; Office of the General Minister & President;



Communication Ministries; Christian Board of Publication; Pension Fund; Disciples Home Missions; Disciples Benevolent Services; and others. Your gifts to the Easter offering are a beacon of light. Your gifts call us forward to be one family, a movement for wholeness. You are invited to give generously and faithfully, as together we GO LIGHT OUR WORLD!

*Adapted from Kathy Tracoli's "Go Light Your World"

New PA System for FCC

First Christian Church has purchased a first class portable public address (PA) system for use in the Friendship Hall and for functions outside the church. The Samson 200 watt XPL300 speaker system was purchased by the Board using Abiding Memorial funds.

The new PA system has a rechargeable battery that is capable of operating the system for up to six hours. The speaker and battery are heavy but the system has built in wheels and a handle for pulling. A Shure Performance Gear PG58 handheld wireless microphone was purchased to be used with the speaker system. The system includes a sturdy tripod for the speaker so it can project sound over an audience.

The system is capable of playing music through inputs for CD player and iPod connections at the same time the microphones are in use.

The XPL300 has already been put to good use for some recent public and church activities in the Friendship Hall.

Now we need volunteers to receive instruction on how to operate the XPL300 so there will be enough people able to use the system when needed. It is very simple to operate. It will only take a matter of minutes to instruct anyone to use the PA. Please at your convenience any Sunday morning, ask Al Parr to you give instructions.

April Showers and Resurrection

It has been raining babies at FCC! Join me in welcoming little Hannah Day, born March 27th at 8 lbs 14oz to Ryan and Vanessa Thomas! Carrie (Parr) Barthelme and Lisa (Mallett) Moore are looking forward to new additions to their families, and we have already received little Taylor, Tara, Clint, Emma Louis and Sophia since celebrating last Easter. Isn't it wonderful to be gifted with new life?! We also have new life budding in other areas of our congregational life.

- Erika Hookam, Stephanie Graves and David Schremp have been planting a youth group and are now tending anywhere from 10 to 15 youth on Sunday evenings from our community who are looking for a safe place to play, pray and learn together. It is a diverse group of highly energetic teenagers who come from a variety of situations – most of them are new to our church.

- There is new life blossoming as we welcome those in our neighborhood facing economic hardship and struggle for healthy, productive lives. Our Helping Hands Fund has been a focus and a resource for ministry and a renewed sense of purpose is emerging as a result.

- Dr. Sharon Warner, Dean of Lexington Theological Seminary planted seeds of insight with a 10 hour bible study for 20 plus members of our congregation who came to learn how bible believing people can arrive at different positions on the question of homosexuality. The seed was watered with the contribution of members who shared their own insights and struggles. There is a growing



Hannah Day, born March 27th at 8 lbs 14oz to Ryan and Vanessa Thomas!

interest in discerning where God might be calling First Christian!

- Going Green is a growing concern for folks at FCC and more people are becoming actively involved with ideas of how we might “reduce, reuse as well as recycle” in our congregational life. Have you brought in your coffee cup yet helping us reduce the need for paper cups?

These are just a few of the signs of resurrection in our congregational life. Perhaps you have noticed others.

April showers and the promise of spring flowers is something we've learned to depend upon. We look forward with eager anticipation to the season of spring having benefited before from its warming welcome and showers of color. What was seemed dead and buried doesn't stay that way for long as new life begins to push

its way up through the stubborn sod. Resurrection didn't happen once upon a time but like April showers and new birth, it is part of our experience in our journey as part of God's created order. Let's join in God's festive party! Let's frolic in the garden planting and tending new life.

Let's join the children in finding hidden treasures and be struck with wonder at the sight of tulips and daffodils. Let's put on colorful clothing and adorn our sanctuary with flowers and tenderly touch the soft down of newborn chicks and gently hold baby bunnies. Look around and see – Christ is not in our tombs – not in shrines constructed by human hands – not confined by the constraints of religion. Christ is in the joy of God's people as we celebrate resurrection again and again – wherever and whenever we celebrate new life!

CWU Hunger Sale April 17-18

It's coming! Church Women United's World Hunger Sale is a much-anticipated annual event, a time when women and men from churches all over Carbondale come together to raise funds to help the hungry. This year the giant yard sale and auction is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, April 17 and 18 at the Newman Catholic Student Center, 715 S. Washington, Carbondale. The sale will be held from 12 noon - 6 pm Friday and 8 am - 1 pm Saturday.

In addition to the yard sale, on Saturday at 10 am. there will be an auction of antiques, collectibles and much more, including some popular limestone planters. Gorgeous hanging and bedding plants from McNitt's Greenhouses are another Saturday feature. Sandwiches and baked goods will be sold both days.

The Sale has been held for over thirty years, earning over \$100,000

since 2000. Proceeds are shared with nine local and six worldwide agencies that feed hungry people. The need is greater than ever among our neighbors near and far, so please consider how you can help.

Donations of usable items of all sorts are needed. Donations of plants, baked goods, and auction items are particularly welcome. If you have something special to donate, large or small, that might be considered for the auction, call Chair Margie Parker at 549-7193 by April 8 so it can be advertised to attract high bidders!

If you like to help others and can spare some time April 15-18, please sign up with your church coordinator, Martha Ellert, or call Margie at 549-7193.

Save the dates, clean out your closets, and sign up to help us have another great Sale.

Shawnee Energy Fest

The Shawnee Energy Fest will be held on May 2nd and May 3rd (Saturday and Sunday) at Green Retreat on Chautauqua Rd. east of Route 127.

The theme of this event is "Ease your conscience locally" and it will showcase local resources (businesses, organizations, networks) that can be utilized to decrease dependence on nonrenewable energy sources. There will be more than 40 workshops, with topics including energy efficiency and renewable energy for the home, organic farming and bio-intensive home gardening, forest issues, conservation, recycling and much more. Some of the features are speakers,

tours of Green Retreat, music, food, a children's tent. The cost of the event is \$7 per day or \$10 for the entire weekend. Tickets will be available for purchase on the website ([www. ShawneeEnergyFest.com](http://www.ShawneeEnergyFest.com))

This is a car-free event. Parking will be available at the Jackson County Health Department and the SIU Arena parking lot 56, with a shuttle provided to and from the venue all day.

Hours will be Saturday, 10 AM - 6 PM and Sunday, 10 AM - 5 PM. Coordinating organizations include Southern Sustainability, Association of Professional Energy Consultants, Advanced Energy Solutions, IL Renewable Energy Association, Green Retreat, Shawnee Group Sierra Club, Missouri Coalition for the Environment, and others. For more information, contact Amy at amyp@aessolar.com.

Living with Diabetes: Staying Healthy and Whole – for Life!

(taken from Parish Nurse Perspectives, a publication of the International Parish Nurse Resource Center, vol 7, issue 4, Fall, 2008)

Did you know...

- About 10% of persons over age 65 have Type 2 diabetes and many more are at risk.
- Exercise can help prevent diabetes and can improve blood sugar levels in those who already have the disease.
- Blood tests can screen for impaired glucose tolerance which indicates a higher risk for developing Type 2 diabetes

Your Parish Nurse can help with information about Type 2 diabetes, can check your blood pressure, can do a "finger stick" to give you a blood sugar read...call her to set up a time to do these things...618-457-7125 or email at fcparishnurse@aol.com

Type 2 Diabetes Risk Factors

- Older age
- Lack of exercise
- Family history
- Impaired glucose tolerance
- High blood pressure
- High blood cholesterol

Outreach

I can take credit for very little these days, despite the flurry of activity that has become this ministry of Outreach in recent months. I have been the lucky recipient of many “pats on the back” and compliments, smiles and appreciative sentiments. Needs have arisen, and the call to service has been loudly ringing in my ear. I have tried to answer this call whenever possible, but since my last check found me severely lacking in super-hero capabilities, the need for help has become of utmost importance.

I’d like to take this space to express my appreciation for the many who have come to my aid, supporting me with some pretty major events, and offering their time and energy. If someone asked me to name a price for all of this help, it would be virtually impossible, because time is the most precious commodity of all, it has been given to me freely, and without complaint. I could give a specific list of people who have helped with outreach, but I fear I would go over my space allotment. What a wonderful thing to not be able to list all of you...the wonder of it being that this congregation has once again proven just how seriously we take our relationships with one another, as well as the work of Christ! The positive energy that has been flowing through our congregation feels like a rebirth, as we grapple with the tough issues of people in need and how we are called to serve, and also what it means to be in community with one another. I am thankful for you all. I cannot say it enough.

I would however like to take a moment to recognize a couple of businesses that helped us out with our Irish dinner, which brought in \$365! Thanks to everyone who attended, and of course the person we must all recognize as the master of corned beef and cabbage...Tom Kilpatrick. I had so much fun with Tom and the others that helped out that day, cooking, talking, decorating and laughing, always. I am deeply appreciative for Corey Loll, a manager at Carbondale Supercenter Wal-Mart who immediately responded to my request for help with dinner donations, and sent me on my way with a \$25 gift card. I am also grateful for the support of Ralph Behrens from Panera Bread, who donated the bagel pack coupons we used for door prizes, and also offered to donate bread for the event. These acts of kindness speak volumes, and if you have a moment to express your thanks upon a visit to either of these places, I’m sure they’d love to hear from you.

So, the work of Outreach continues. There are several ideas on the table right now that will help us to build up our “Helping Hands” fund, as well as encourage the community we all love and share with one another. Stay tuned...the boat regatta is coming up, another “Helping Hands” coffee hour, and other events that will help us truly understand what it means to be true servants of God. I’ll be talking to you.

Blessings-Debra Whitledge

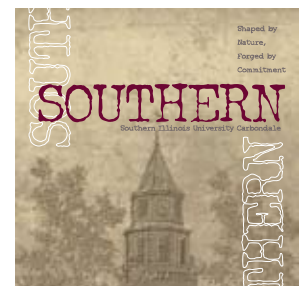
Proud Moments

WSIU had received a national My Source Award for Education from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) for two of our education projects: “Biz Kids Bash” and “Raising Readers in Southern Illinois.”

Photographed below: WSIU’s My Source Award for Education was presented to WSIU TV producer, Jak Tichenor (center), by Patricia Harrison, President and CEO of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (left), and CPB’s senior vice president of Education and Children’s Content, Dr. Susan Zelman (right), at the Council of Chief State School Officers/Public Broadcasting Executive Summit in Washington, DC on Saturday, March 7, 2009. Photo: CPB.



The Creative Service at Southern Illinois University received nine awards -- two silver and seven bronze -- in the American Advertising Federation ADDY competition, which is a tri-state competition that includes Illinois, Kentucky and Missouri. Amy Dion who is part of that department took six of the nine awards with her designs. Several of the piece that won where the new recruitment piece for SIUC Admissions. Some of those piece also won a gold award in a national education competition.



This Month in Young Disciples

The children are an important part of the church's observance of Easter and their joyous contributions will be a part of worship on both Palm Sunday, April 5, and Easter Sunday, April 12. They will wave their palms and help present the stories on these important Sundays during Children's Moments before joining together for Sunday School.

During class time, the play lot will be the center of our Easter stories and celebrations, with many fun games that will help children learn the Easter story throughout April. This includes a resurrection egg hunt during Sunday School on Easter. Older children will be hiding resurrection eggs for the Little Disciples to hunt. Once found, the older children will help teach the younger children the story of Easter by way of this fun story-telling device.

Young Disciples will gather around an Easter tree each week adding items such as butterflies and flowers as reminders of the precious gift of new life.

Children will also finish their Psalm books for Lent. I hope this keepsake will serve as a reminder of their journey through Lent and their life's journey with Jesus.

For our Sunday School offering each week, we will continue our Lenten collection to benefit Good Samaritan Ministries. We are raising funds throughout March and April, and we will be purchasing an item that will directly benefit the children who live at the homeless shelter. Please consider helping your children raise money around the house that can go to this special project.

"Crafting a Christian People"

We are inviting all to join us for a luncheon following worship on Palm Sunday, April 5. Childcare will be provided. Pastor Katherine will lead us in a meaningful dialogue around the questions, "How do we become the people God wants us to be? How do we help our children become the people God wants them to be?"

While this is an idea-gathering, hearing-each-other event, your participation will help the church as we look toward shaping our fall worship and education programs. An RSVP is not necessary but is appreciated so we can have an idea of how many to serve for lunch.

In Christian Service,
Marleen Shepherd
Christian Education Coordinator /
Ministerial Intern
mshepherd@fcc-carbondale.org
(618) 457-6817

Important Dates

April 5 - Palm Sunday
"Crafting a Christian People"
Luncheon –
follows worship

April 12 – Easter Sunday



First Christian Church Birthdays and Anniversaries

April Birthdays

4/2 Bill Ellis	4/15 Dia Parr
4/3 Sandy Kayne	4/16 Neva Isbell
4/7 John Phelps	4/19 Peggy Legan
4/8 Mark Gindlesparger, Dr. Henry Nicolaides	4/21 Taylor Joy Schremp
4/14 David Ullman	4/24 Toby Nelson
	4/29 Billy Lee Nance
	4/30 Eileen Ervin

April Anniversaries

4/3 Robert & Betty Crawshaw
4/17 Teresa & David Ullman
4/27 Tom & Alta North



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