

The Herald

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



May 2008

Pastor: Katherine Bryant Graves

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Upcoming Events

Graduation Sunday

On Sunday, May 17 we will honor our graduates during worship. We like to recognize graduates at all age levels: Those graduating from preschool and kindergarten, 8th grade and high school, college and trade. Please let Marleen know if someone from your family will be graduating this year so that we can lift them up that Sunday.

Pentecost in the Park

Sunday, May 31st, 2009 10:30 a.m.

Shelter #4 Giant City Park - first shelter on the right just after entering the park from Carbondale on Giant City Road.

Wear red, bring a picnic for your household plus enough for one additional guest. Church will provide dessert - Strawberry Shortcake!

Join us for a wonderful tradition with worship and fellowship outdoors!



Cardboard Boat Regatta



FCC sails again at the SIUC's Cardboard Boat Regatta. The banana boat which was built by the Dions last year, sailed again this year. Stephanie Graves and Heidi Jung rowed the boat this year. A good time was had by all!

Splinters from the Board

First Christian Church Board met on Sunday, April 26, 2009 following worship. Along with the usual items of approval of minutes and receiving the Treasurer's Report, the board heard reports from each Avenue of Service and the Pastor. The following is an attempt to condense the information presented to the board and make it available to the congregation.

Treasurer's Report:
February General Operating
Income: \$7,064.00
Expenditures: \$13,278.15

March General Operating
Income: \$10,633.00
Expenditures: \$13,934.38

Congregational Care:

- Agreed to seek ways to raise money for camp scholarships due to the loss of money from the Camp Scholarship Fund.
- Agreed to hold Pentecost Services at Giant City on May 31 at 10:30AM
- Agreed to increase publicity for the 2010 Maundy Thursday Service.
- Board approved motion to form a committee to revise the First Christian Church Statement of Identity to reflect some form of an inclusive statement.

Facility and Finance:

- New doors in the office have been installed by Mike Williams and stained by Tim Damian. Tim donated his services to the church and has received a letter of receipt for his donation.
- Leaky faucet in the kitchen has been replaced.
- Toured the building with an officer from the Carbondale Police Department to identify potential security issues. A written report will be forthcoming from the Police Department.

- Authorized replacement of a broken compressor in the sanctuary building.
- Check for \$1,044.95 received from insurance company to help defray cost of the 2 laptops lost in the burglary. This covers about ½ of the replacement cost.

Outreach:

- Helping Hands Coffee Hour in April raised \$93.30 for the Helping Hands Fund.
- Young Adults BBQ to be scheduled for end of May or early June.
- Work on play area and new "Mother's Ministry and Exchange" are beginning.

Pastor's Report:

- Attended the Clergy Ethics Seminar on "Confidentiality and Legality". Katherine will be communicating more about this workshop to the congregation and Elders.
- Will be attending Continuing Educational Opportunity for Pastors workshop in Peoria, April 28-May 1.

Unfinished Business:

- Board approved Jak Tichenor as the voting delegate to the General Assembly, July 29-Aug. 2 in Indianapolis, IN
- Received a written report from Derek Hamblin about Dance4Grandma Theatricals. He is beginning work on his next production, "Grease", on June 25-27 at the Herrin Civic Center. He hopes to be able to repay the loan from the church after this production.

New Business:

- Approved the purchase of the adjustable piano bench from Abiding Memorial. The cost was a little over \$400.00.

Next scheduled board meeting: Sun. June 7, 2009 following worship

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)

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.

Health Ministry Notes...

The “silent disease” of OSTEOPOROSIS, or porous bone, begins to creep up as we age, and usually occurs without any symptoms. Between menopause and the age of 80 years, women lose about 1/3 of their bone density. Men experience bone loss also with aging but usually at a slower rate than women. However 1/3 of all hip fractures caused by osteoporosis occur in men.

This disease represents a major health threat to over 44 million Americans age 50 or older. Sometimes, the first indication of the disease is “back pain” later found to be fractures or degeneration of vertebrae in the back, or “loss of height” indicating that the

vertebrae are degenerating and allowing a shortening of the spine.

Even though osteoporosis doesn't raise its ugly head until later in life, it is important for the younger generation to be aware of the disease as many of its effects can be prevented by healthy habits in younger years... such as consuming adequate calcium and Vitamin D in the developing years; getting adequate weight bearing exercise which stimulates the growth of healthy bone; and limiting the use of alcohol, caffeine and smoking. Come and learn more...see below!!

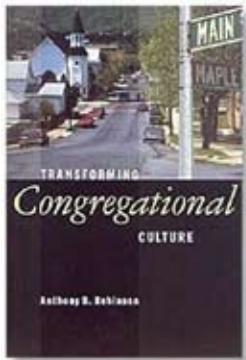
-Marge Schulhof

Find out all the facts and how to protect yourself from Osteoporosis

Wednesday, May 6th, enjoy a high calcium dinner prepared by Marge Schulhof and hear a presentation by Willa Atkins, R.N., from the Jackson County Health Department.

- Dinner at 5:30 pm
- Presentation at 6:00 pm

Library



Robinson, Anthony. *Transforming Congregational Cultures*. Eerdmans. 2003.

American culture has changed dramatically since 1950, when the church building was still the focal point of main street and the faith it represented was passed from generation to generation through regular church attendance and prayer and worship at home. Prior to 1950, Sunday was a day of worship; only essential businesses were open, and restaurants

sold no liquor. Wednesday night was church night, and no school or social organization dared compete. Today, the cultural traditions of the early 20th century have gone by the board, and with them, the faith of America, which we took for granted. Many mainline churches are struggling to understand what is happening and to adapt to the new rules, although many don't know what the new rules are. Robinson has made a valiant attempt to outline the changes that have occurred in Christianity during the last sixty years, and is spot-on in his analysis. In the last sixty years, Americans have been taught to question--history, science, government, authority, faith, and more. In the process America has reared a generation of skeptics, many of whom have failed to pass on our Christian tradition to the next generation. Our churches were oblivious to these changes until they began to see the impact on their membership and budgets. The current church congregation consists of

members whose families passed on their tradition of faith, and those people who have come to the church as a reaction to crisis or change in their lives. Robinson suggests a thought-provoking and challenging remedy to the decline in faith, recommending a proactive stance for the mainline church. Starting with Christian education, he proposes changes that take the individual and the congregation beyond education to a strong community of faith based on learning and spiritual growth. Some specific recommendations include making Bible study central to the life of the church; changing the focus on mission to local service ministries; developing small interest groups within the church; and taking fellowship one step further to include congregational hospitality. It's a new and different way of looking at things, and a daunting task for the struggling church, but if we do those things, they will come.

-Thomas Kilpatrick.

Outreach

Inside myself is a place where I live all alone, and that is where I renew my springs that never dry up. Pearl S. Buck

How long has it been my friends, since you went to that quiet place, listening to the still, small voice within that urges you to take time away to reflect and recharge? I imagine our answers are probably much the same, shaking our heads at how incredible this feat would be, to simply turn off everything around and dwell within.

Even the most outgoing of people need this time to be alone. It is an important thing to do, yet mostly, we do not judge it as a worthwhile endeavor. Fear and guilt lead the way as the number one killers of this desire to dwell within, the fear that we will be perceived as selfish, or worse yet, cold and uncaring. We say we will take time for ourselves, shake our heads knowingly when someone chides us with the fact that we are not caring for ourselves, but the reality is that need does not ever go away, and stress and deadlines are ever present. If we do establish a boundary, the notion that we will be cutting back for a time, guilt steps in and we second-guess our decision. We worry that we are being neglectful of our jobs, our loved ones, of people who have it so much worse off than we do. Before we know it, we are right back in the game, the idea of dwelling within fading into nothing more than a frivolous thought.

Consider again though, the words of Pearl S. Buck. Spoken how many years ago I do not know, but

the wisdom that is there speaks to life today. As a community of Christ, we are called to be givers, of our time and resources, our energy and ideas. As we give, we also receive—the joy of community, and a thankful heart that recognizes how the blessings given to us allow us to give some measure back. Yet, there is the other side of the coin, the side that represents the need for spiritual recharging, for restful consideration of the days ahead, and reflection. There are times when God just wants us to be still. Most of the time, we do not listen, and suddenly, we find that the spring once overflowing, has dried up to a mere trickle.

Outreach by nature is a sharing of the gifts God has given each of us. Yet, God gives us these gifts with the expectation that we nurture and tend them as carefully as we would a new baby. How is your spring looking these days? If it is a bit dry, consider how the expectations we might place on ourselves are far beyond what God might expect. It is often the case, more often than not. Do you need time to rest? A resounding “yes” is probably going to ring in my ears once this article goes to print! We are coming into a quiet time in the life of church outreach, Easter behind us, and summer sunshine and long days within reach. It is time, my friends. Go and fill your spring so that when outreach calls again, you will be ready to answer.

Blessings~Debra Whitledge

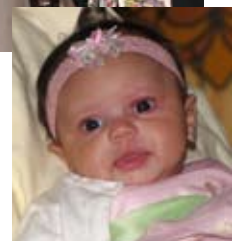


Maundy Thursday Services

were held this year on April 16. The beautiful service was a combination of readings by Katherine from Kahlil Gibran’s Jesus, the Son of Man and musical selections by the FCC Chancel choir and orchestra, and ending with communion. Adjectives of “beautiful”, “wonderful”, “very moving”, “my favorite service of the year” were heard from the attendees. We say “Thank You for attending this beautiful service” to our guests and our own FCC members who were able to be there. To those FCC members who were not able to attend this year, please mark your calendar for the 2010 service and join us for a service that will enrich your spiritual life.



Sophia Victoria Young, daughter of LeAndra and Arkeym Young was dedicated on Easter Sunday.



At **Logos Camp** (www.cciwdisciples.org) children entering grades 3-12 meet with Disciples kids throughout the region for a week of fun and faith-building. The cost is \$250. Unfortunately, First Christian no longer has the funds to help offset camp costs as we have done in the past. However, it is our hope that any child who wishes to go to camp still can. We are planning to do some fundraising for camp costs. For this, it would be helpful to know how many campers we will have. If you intend for your children to go to camp, please let me know as soon as possible. Also, registration forms are due from the church by June 9 or the cost raises to \$350, so please have your forms returned to the church by the first week of June. Registration forms will be available in the narthex and in the office and are also downloadable at <http://www.cciwdisciples.org/FellowshipGroups/Camps/09CAMPERREGISTRATION.pdf>

First Christian will team up with our neighbor First Presbyterian Church to present Marketplace Vacation Bible School, for children ages 5-12. Marketplace VBS takes children into the ancient worlds in which Biblical narratives occurred. This year's location is Bethlehem and the theme is the Christmas narrative. Food, crafts and games in the Marketplace relate to each year's themes. Children will explore Bethlehem with the help of costumed shopkeepers and Biblical characters that teach children something about their walk with God as described in the Bible and the culture in which they lived. The cost to attend is \$10 and registration forms will be available in the Narthex and in the office.

This Month in Young Disciples

In May, we look forward to many of our Young Disciples activities being outdoors in our play lot. The month will culminate at Giant City Park on May 31 with a church-wide Pentecost celebration that will include lots of fun games and activities for kids following a picnic lunch. I'll be encouraging our kids to bring any wind toys such as kites, bubbles and pinwheels.

Leading up to Pentecost, we are still in the Easter season and each week children continue to add a new Easter symbol to our Sunday School worship space. These symbols are a butterfly, a lily, an alleluia banner, a lamb, a rising sun, a sprouting seed, and an egg.

Throughout the month of May, lessons encourage the children to see Jesus in many ways: as shepherd, as vine, as friend, and as role model.

Sunday May 3, we learn to trust in Jesus as the Good Shepherd, and we will play some sheep games that help us to consider what it means to be a responsible caregiver to animals and each other.

Sunday May 10, we learn Jesus is the vine and we are all the branches, connected in God's love. Children will play games such as blob tag and make a yarn web that illustrates our connectedness.

Sunday, May 17, we hear that we are Jesus's friends and we explore what the special friendship means for all our other friendships. Children will craft a clay circle of friends and play a circle game that encourages them to identify positive traits in their peers.

Sunday, May 24, Jesus leads us to become leaders. As we move into

the book of Acts and the stories of the early church, children are asked to consider what responsible leadership looks like and how they may be called to it. They will also help create something special for the following week's outdoor Pentecost service.

Graduation Sunday

On Sunday May 17, we will honor our graduates during worship. We like to recognize graduates at all age levels: Those graduating from preschool and kindergarten, 8th grade and high school, college and trade. Please let me know if someone from your family will be graduating this year so that we can lift them up that Sunday.

In Christian Love,
Marleen Shepherd
Christian Education Coordinator /
Ministerial Intern
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(618) 457-6817

Important Dates

Sunday, May 17 – Graduation
Sunday, May 31 – Pentecost at Giant City Park

Sunday, June 7 – Camp Registration Forms due to the church. Camp is July 13-July 18

Camp & VBS – Important Updates

Mark your calendars! This year both Logos Summer Camp and Vacation Bible School run the same week, July 13 - July 18.

First Christian Church Birthdays and Anniversaries

May Birthdays

- | | |
|--|---|
| 5/5 Suzanne Gorrell,
Kyle Phelps | 5/23 Deana Hale,
Dawson Schremp |
| 5/8 Greg Whitledge | 5/24 Cheryl Nicolaides |
| 5/14 Elizabeth Deutsch,
Judy Vineyard,
Alan Benson | 5/27 Christy Christiansen,
Mike Williams |
| 5/17 Lucas Damian,
Margaret Keen | 5/28 David Schremp |

May Anniversaries

- 5/9 Jay & Carol King;
John & Barbara Parrish
- 5/14 Scott & Judy Vineyard
- 5/16 Ed & Tamara Workman
- 5/22 John & Silvia Lenzini
- 5/25 Charles & Nancy Mallett;
Marleen & Jacob Shepherd
- 5/26 Les & Mona Miller
- 5/29 John & Marcia Phelps;
Debra & Greg Whitledge



Contacts

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