

The Herald

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



August 2008

Pastor: Katherine Bryant Graves

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Birthdays/
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The Annual Stewardship Campaign will be conducted in September. Alan Benson is chairing the Stewardship Committee. Please watch for more information about how you can be part of the Stewardship of First Christian Church.



Mission Yard Sale

The annual Mission Yard Sale at First Christian will be held on Friday, August 15 from 8:00 AM until 5:00 PM and Saturday, August 16 from 8:00 AM until 2:00 PM.

The Fellowship Hall has been prepared to receive donations as of July 27; donors are asked to place their items in the clearly marked receiving areas, so they can be appropriately sorted. On August 10th, help will be needed to carry down items from the third floor, and finish setting up the Hall for the sale.

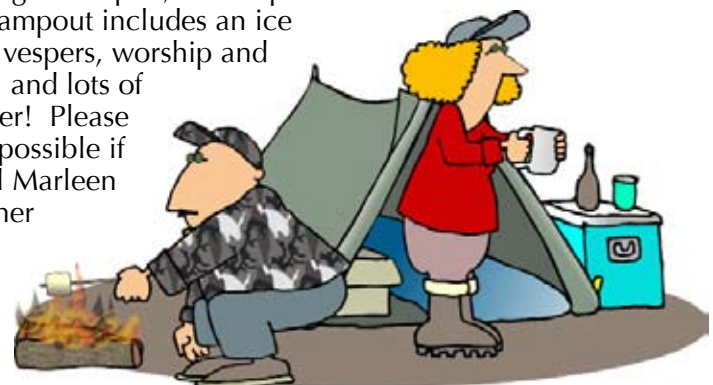
As always, we depend on our entire church family to make the Yard Sale a success. Look for sign-up sheets in the narthex and

volunteer to help sort and organize on August 11th through the 14th, and/or to bring donations for the Bake Sale. If you are bringing items to sell, it will really help our workers if like items are boxed or bagged together, and if items including several pieces are taped or pinned together, or placed in a clearly marked bag or box. And of course, we can only sell items that are clean and in good repair.

Please call Martha Ellert (521-0613) if you have any questions about the Sale.

Labor Day Campout

First Christian will join other regional Disciples churches on Labor Day weekend, Aug. 29-Sept 1, at Camp Walter Scott. The Labor Day Campout includes an ice cream social, campfire vespers, worship and communion, a potluck, and lots of free time to play together! Please let us know as soon as possible if you plan to attend. Call Marleen at the church or email her at mshepherd@fcc-carbondale.org.



Disciple, people of the book

When I was on vacation, Mary tells me she received a call from a person who was inquiring about our church. The caller asked what kind of church we were, what beliefs or creeds we held, and if Mary could describe our worship. Mary reported the caller showed interest until Mary was asked the hour of our adult Sunday School and was told we did not have an adult summer Sunday School program. The caller abruptly said thankyou and hung-up.

I have a framed certificate on my wall from the American Bible Society which I received when I graduated from Phillips Theological Seminary in 1998, for creativity and excellence in biblical teaching, which holds up the following excerpt from Romans 15:4 “And the Scriptures were written to teach and encourage us by giving us hope.”

To which “scriptures” was Paul referring just 30 years after Jesus was crucified? It is fair to assume he was not talking about the Gospels, which had yet to be written. Most likely he was pointing those earliest disciples to the ancient Hebrew texts to which Jesus also referred. Yet, Christians more often look to the Gospels and Epistles in the Greek Testament, if we look to the Bible at all. I wonder what our caller was looking for in a Sunday morning Bible Study that could not be discovered in Christian worship?

Why should anyone WANT to spend precious energy struggling with those ancient, difficult texts especially on Sunday morning when you could be sleeping in or reading the Sunday paper while enjoying a relaxing cup of coffee?

Here are three possible reasons:

1. Study Scripture to learn what the biblical text says, and what the theological issues, are so you might be liberated through the witness of faith and no bound by culture.
2. Study Scripture to discern God’s passion, that you might be transformed by God’s com-passion and be encouraged by hope.
3. Study Scripture listening even to those with whom you might disagree with respect that you might reach a broader understanding, learn humility and the way of peace.

What might your reasons be?

Katherine



Third Annual Campus Ministry Sunday

August 17

Campus Ministry Sunday recognizes campus ministries throughout Illinois and gives Christians an opportunity to financially support those ministries. Most public universities in Illinois have a “Disciple” campus ministry supervised by the Illinois United Ministries in Higher Education (IUMHE). Traditional funding from the budgets of supporting denominations (Christian Church DoC, United Church of Christ, and Church of the Brethren) has been growing smaller each year. The IUMHE Board instituted Campus Ministry Sunday to go directly to churches in Illinois to ask their members to each give a dollar to support their Campus Ministries.

As a member of the IUMHE board, Al Parr is asking members of First Christian Church to support Illinois Campus Ministries on August 17 by giving \$1 or more. As you leave worship Sunday, August 17, Al will be collecting donations to support Campus Ministries in Illinois.

Blood Drive



Suzanne Gorrell prepares to give her blood as part of this drive.

FCC Red Cross Blood Drive on July 14th was a success. Thanks to the 11 church members and 6 community members who came to the drive. Of the 17 who presented, we were able to realize 15 units of blood. Thanks also to all church members who came and helped clear out tables on Sun evening, who worked at the drive on Monday and to those who helped load after the drive and to restore the Fellowship Hall to usable form for the next day. Red Cross Blood drives are just one of the ways our Church through Health Ministry reaches out to the community in service.

Again a BIG THANK YOU to all who made this blood drive a success.

Miners Baseball Outing

There were twenty- eight fans at the First Christian Church of Carbondale night at the ball park Friday, July 25th. It is said the baseball appeals to all ages. Our group showed that adage to be true. We looked like a big multi-generational family reunion sitting in the box seats behind home plate. Everyone had a wonderful time, especially Dawson Schremp who attended his first baseball game.



New Organist Joins FCC



Paula Melton joins Organist Mona Miller at First Christian. She and Mona will be splitting the time during Sunday morning worship each month. Paula performs and teaches the violin professionally. She is the Executive Director of the SIUC Egyptian Suzuki School at Southern Illinois University. She is also the Executive/Musical Director of the John Thomas String Program and a community activist for children and the arts.

Although she is an accomplished pianist, playing the organ is a new experience for her. Mona is helping Paula adjust to the nuances of a new instrument. First Christian is very fortunate to have found someone brave enough to tackle a new instrument (and Mona's 30+ years experience) during our worship services.

Music up to the Minute!

Even tho the choir is taking some time to gear up for the fall, I have been working hard to promote not only music at FCC, but music within the Southern Illinois community. Months of preparation have been spent on stage and musical directing a production for ARTSTART in Marion, and I am proud to say that the kids of ARTSTARTS have worked really hard on their last production of A CHORUS LINE. Many of those kids were able to sing for the FCC congregation one Sunday, and were really excited about coming back to sing again! I also took a week long trip with ARTSTARTS, a group of 42 kids and parents) to the Big APPLE! While in NYC, I not only helped as a guide/chaperon, but got to know these kids outside of the rehearsal stage. It was amazing! I saw 6 shows(Gypsy, A Chorus Line, Spring Awakening, Mary Poppins, Legally Blonde, and CHICAGO) as well as do the usual touring aspects of the city! SO MUCH FUN!

As for music at FCC, the choir is resting! Coming in the fall, I am planning on having FCC's first Choral Extravagaza Nov. 1! Anyone is welcome to attend and I mean ANYONE! Love to sing and you're in! It will be open to all of the southern illinois area. The workshop will take place on the same saturday, Nov 1. A joint choir/choral workshop will take place all day, consisting of rehearsals for an evening concert to the public! A registration fee is required, but that includes your music, breakfast, and lunch! So, I hope that anyone that loves to sing will come out and rejoice! More information about this event will be available throughout august and september...keep your ears open!

Derek Matthew Hamblin

"We can't take any credit for our talents. It's how we use them that counts."-Madeleine L'Engle'

Do you have a talent to share? Ever been afraid to share it because you worry that someone won't like the job you're doing and might say something about it? It's a thing that often tempts us to stick our heads in the sand, thinking,"Don't ask ME to do anything important!" The church can certainly be a place where this happens, its sacredness not a protector against people getting their feelings hurt. It's a sad truth that we have to face when we understand that the church is not immune to judgmental attitudes, self-serving agendas, or the ability to hurt one another. And so, because of this, people often don't want to offer their talent, for fear that someone will not be happy with the job that is done.

So, in light of this, how can the FCC community be explained? Our church is certainly not a group of "head in the sand" types of people! There must be something that helps us go beyond our comfort zones, and helps us to face the challenges of collaborating with such a diverse and talented bunch, where the constructive criticism flies openly and freely! I reflect back to the call I received from Katherine one evening last year, approaching me once again about helping with outreach. I had initially hesitated, feeling the task too large to tackle on my own. Monica's cheerful voice came over the line, letting me know she also felt the task too large to handle on her own, but perhaps together we could make it work? I remember the initial fear I felt, an almost animal like instinct telling me to go stick my head in the sand. Swallowing, I said to both Katherine and Monica, "Let me think about it." Of course, you all know the end of the story, and how it all worked out, given the fact that I'm writing to you here today as co-chair of the outreach committee. So, let me share with you how I came to this place I am in today.

Fear is a powerful motivator, and most of us won't argue against that fact. Yet, God is also a powerful motivator. He calls us above the very humanness that makes us want to hide from our talents. He gives us peace and comfort when we feel like we've come under fire, or someone has been unfair to us. He leads us to touch lives, go beyond our comfort zones, and reach out. God called me that night I said I'd think about it first, and my heart knew where to go. I won't lie and say that I still didn't have reservations about accepting the call. I also won't say that doing this has been a walk in the park, despite the wonderful co-leadership of Monica. But, knowing that I have God's unconditional love and acceptance, and His approval of the job I'm doing....well, it helps me to face the rough patches.

Do you have a talent to share? The Mission Yard Sale is fast approaching for August, and Fall is a busy time in the life of our church. Listen for the call-it could be me on the line, or perhaps the Almighty! But no matter whose voice you hear, glory in God's plan for your life, and do not be afraid to accept and offer your talent if called upon. Let's talk soon, ok?

Blessings-Debra Whitley - Outreach co-chair

Big Fall Changes

Fall means big changes for Young Disciples and we need your help to make it a success!

Starting on Homecoming Sunday, Sunday School will start at 9:45 a.m. before worship and all children will be invited to stay in worship during the service.

If you haven't already done so, please let me know if your children or grandchildren plan to attend Sunday School at the earlier time this fall and how regularly you expect they will come. We need this information to plan the age groups of classes and what volunteer resources are needed.

Worship will change slightly to accommodate our kids, involving them more when and where we can and making use of more visual and high-tech tools whenever possible. And we will try to have enough activities available to keep younger children occupied during the service.

We are trying this change because so many of you have asked for it! You've let me and others in church leadership know that you want your kids to be a part of worship on a regular basis.

Thanks for helping out with VBS & Camp

I want to give a special thanks to all who helped out at VBS & Camp. A.P. Benson, Garret Grandstaff, October Marchal, Isaiah Shepherd, Emerald Smelcher, and Katy and Emily Whitledge enjoyed Marketplace Vacation Bible School where they learned about Moses and the 10 Commandments by "visiting" an ancient Egyptian city, play-acting and crafting. FCC adults Toby Nelson, Debra Whitledge and I helped to make the week a big success!

Pastor Katherine commissioned our Logos campers before they headed off Sunday, July 13 and Peggy Stockdale & Debra Whitledge led all Young Disciples in fun, church camp-related activities that day. Our campers this year were Louisa Arseneau, Geoffrey & Susan Heck, October Marchal, Emerald Smelcher, and Clay & Tristan Workman.

Summer Fun Sunday

The second Sunday of the month, Aug. 10, is our next Summer Fun Sunday. Young Disciples will be cooling off with some fun water activities. Dress your kids to get wet!

Yours in Christ, Marleen Shepherd
Christian Education Coordinator

Important Dates

Aug. 10 –
Summer Fun Sunday –
Wet & Wild. Dress your child to get wet!

Aug. 29-Sept 1 –
Labor Day Campout

Sept. 7 –
Homecoming Sunday



Pictured are our Logos campers Toby Marshel, Emerald Schmelcher, Tristian and Clayton Workman, Geoffrey and Susan Heck and Louisa Arseneau.



June 15th was Taylor Joy Schremp's dedication.

August Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
8:30 a Elders Gathering 9:45 Refreshments 10:30 a Worship 11:45 Stewardship Meeting	Office Closed Katherine's Sabbath	Katherine at Southern Cluster Mtg in Benton				
9:45 Refreshments 10:30 a Worship & Summer Fun Sunday for kids Derek taking vacation Sunday	Office Closed Katherine's Sabbath	Mary on vacation	Mary on vacation		Mission Yard Sale	Mission Yard Sale
Higher Education Sunday 9:45 Refreshments 10:30 a Worship 11:45 a Congregational Care	Office Closed Katherine's Sabbath					
9:45 Refreshments 10:30 a Worship 11:45 a Facilities & Finance	Office Closed Katherine's Sabbath				29TH & Sept 1 Family camp at Camp Walter Scott	29TH & Sept 1 Family camp at Camp Walter Scott
9:45 Refreshments 10:30 Labor Day Sunday Worship						

FCC Does Meals on Wheels

_____ Prepare for yard sale _____

Elder of the Month - Imogene Huffman
Deacon of the Month - Tom Kilpatrick
Worship Coordinator - Jo Clifton

August 3rd

Greeter/Narthex Super: Jason Arnold
Worship Leader: Katherine Graves
Bread Elder: Al Parr
Cup Elder: Imogene Huffman
Deacon Team: #2 Stephanie Graves, Tom Kilpatrick, Monica Tichenor, Debra Whitledge

August 10th

Greeter/Narthex Super: Tim Damian
Worship Leader: Tamara Workman
Bread Elder: Dia Parr
Cup Elder: Tamara Workman
Deacon Team: #3 Kathy Deutsch, Brice Dion, Nancy Mallett, Ron Graves

August 17th - Higher Education Sunday

Greeter/Narthex Super: Brice Dion
Worship Leader: Al Parr
Bread Elder: Al Parr
Cup Elder: TBA
Deacon Team: #1 Juli Claussen, Tim Damian, Toby Nelson, Donna Waller

August 24th

Greeter/Narthex Super: Joel Thoman
Worship Leader: Dia Parr
Bread Elder: Dia Parr
Cup Elder: Grace Hussey
Deacon Team: #2 Stephanie Graves, Tom Kilpatrick, Monica Tichenor, Debra Whitledge

August 31st - Labor Day Sunday

Greeter/Narthex Super: Donna Waller
Worship Leader: Rachael Nelson
Bread Elder: Martha Beck
Cup Elder: Rachael Nelson
Deacon Team: #3 Kathy Deutsch, Brice Dion, Nancy Mallett, Ron Graves

First Christian Church August Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 8/5 Savannah Ramsey
- 8/6 Brice Dion
- 8/9 Stephanie Graves
Kathy Deutsch
Daryl Waller
- 8/11 Mary Ellen Fozzard
- 8/17 Dorothy Parson
- 8/21 Al Parr
- 8/24 Imogene Reese
- 8/27 Adam Parr
Amanda Raymond
Emily Whitledge



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