

The Herald

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



October 2008

Pastor: Katherine Bryant Graves

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The 6:00 o'clock Wednesday evening, October 15 meal program will feature Aur Beck. Beck was trained by Al Gore as a presenter of the Climate Project detailing issues around global warming. The Climate Project is reaching out to faith groups to assist them in forming their reaction to concerns about global warming. The web site for The Climate Project is: <http://www.theclimateproject.org>

FCC's Fall Fest

On Saturday, October 18th, the tradition of Fall Fest continues at First Christian. On the terrace from 9:00 until noon, enjoy hot cider, coffee and homemade doughnuts from our Donut Queen Martha Beck. The Unitarian Folk Orchestra will provide live music throughout the morning. The Boutique will offer plants, unique handcrafted items and collectibles, as well as a variety of other homemade baked goods and preserves. Silent auction items will be available for bidding.

From 5:00 to 7:00 PM, in the Fellowship Hall, an old-fashioned chicken & dumplings dinner will be served, at a cost of \$10 per person, \$25 for a family (parents and children). The menu will include chicken and dumplings, mashed potatoes, green beans, red apples and a variety of desserts. Takeouts will be available, as will sale items from morning activities.

Supervised children's activities will be available during the dinner (5 until 7), including apple bobbing, pumpkin painting and other fun and games for little ones.

Dinner tickets will be available in the narthex, or you may call the church office or e-mail Martha Ellert at msellert@aol.com for reservations. Proceeds from the events will benefit the "Feed My Sheep" community soup kitchen, which takes place from noon to 1 p.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at Bethel AME church in Carbondale. In addition to serving local community members, the soup kitchen also delivers meals to more than 45 elderly and sick people throughout the area.

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Is the Herald making a difference for you?

In this overly stimulating, competitive, informationally driven culture in which we live, communication is becoming more and more challenging. The church staff, volunteer leaders and editor, Amy Dion labor over the purpose, content and production of our monthly Herald, wondering if the Herald is making a difference. What type of information is valuable enough to warrant the expense and time commitment required to produce a church newsletter? It takes many concentrated hours from various folks to produce our Herald, most of whom are volunteers, but staff also works to craft articles, calendars, and coordinate schedules for the Herald. Time is money but in addition there is the cost of paper, postage, and copying. Before posting the Herald on the Internet, the production and mailing of the Herald was costing in excess of \$1,600 a year. We've managed to significantly reduce that expense by putting the Herald "online" but has it reduced our effectiveness in communication?

How do we efficiently discover what is being read or appreciated by our members and friends? Is the purpose of the Herald to inform and educate? What subjects are of interest to our readership? Is the Herald a useful tool to invite and invigorate participation in worship, program or stewardship? Is it useful for bringing new members to our church? What does the Herald "say" to a new worship attendee who receives a color copy in the mail with their welcome letter? Do people READ the Herald from cover to cover or just look at the pictures? What, if anything, do members need from the Pastor in the monthly Herald? Is the Pastor's article an appropriate venue for theological, biblical or denominational study? Or would that space be more valuable for printing of the Board Minutes or a report regarding the "state of the church."

We now produce a weekly announcement and schedule sheet available only to Sunday attendees which will soon be attached to our daily Hotline on Fridays. Is a shorter, weekly communication better suited to the needs of a busy congregation, with a Herald that is sent out once every two months with articles and reports?

These are some of the questions that haunt us as we continue to evaluate and respond to a changing environment. Please help us by responding to the upcoming survey asking for your input regarding our joint efforts!

Peace, Katherine

FCC's Fall Fest Continued

The evening will conclude with a concert in the sanctuary, beginning at 7:30 PM, and featuring Wil Maring and Robert Bolin. Wil is a highly acclaimed songwriter, a previous winner of the prestigious Chris Austin Songwriting Contest, and has appeared on the Grand Ole Opry with her original music, in addition to touring extensively in Europe and Japan. She honed her songwriting skills playing music professionally in Europe with her group Shady Mix. Robert, a two-time National Fingerpicking and Flatpicking Guitar contest winner, has been a band member with legendary artists like Bill Monroe, Maura O'Connell, Kathy Mattea, the Osborne Brothers, and many more. Admission to the concert is included in the price of a dinner ticket; concert admission only is \$5.00.

Please look for signup sheets in the narthex, or contact Martha Ellert to volunteer your help. We will need donations of food for the dinner, craft and collectible items to sell, special items for the silent auction, baked goods and preserves, as well as helpers to set up the day before and throughout the day of Fall Fest.

Full color 2009 calendars featuring award winning photographs by Al Parr titled "Celebrating the Wildlife & Landscape of Campus Lake SIUC" will be available all through Fall Fest. Al Parr has put over 70 of his best photographs in this calendar on heavy, keepsake, semi-gloss stock. These calendars are a delight for your eyes and will make wonderful gifts.

The Knitting Ministry will again be selling pink scarves at Fall Fest, to benefit breast cancer research.

Martha

10 Good Reasons to get your Flu/Pneumonia Shot

10. You have nothing better to do on October 16, 2008, from 4:30pm until 6:00 pm

9. The nurses from Jackson County Health Department are very nice and this is an activity sponsored by Health Ministry at FCC.

8. You can visit with many friends who are there from FCC and the community invited to participate.

7. It is true that the flu shot or pneumonia shot may not keep you from getting the flu or pneumonia but studies have shown that taking the shot increases your chances of staying healthy and if you do get sick in most instances your illness is shorter lived and less severe than it is for those who remained unprotected.

6. The cost of the flu shot (\$30.00) and the one time pneumonia shot (\$45.00) is paid for by Medicare and the State of Illinois Insurance.

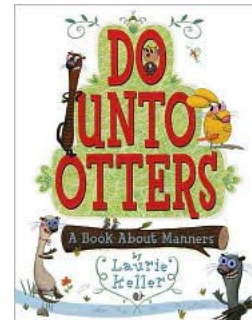
5. The health department will bill Medicare and the State of Illinois Insurance for you.

4. If you are over 65 or have any illness which compromises your immune system you should take this vaccine...this includes anyone with diabetes and/or heart conditions

3. If you work in the health field or care for small children you should take the flu shot.

2. If your child goes to day care they should receive the vaccine.

1. As Martha Stewart says, "it's a good thing to do"!



Three New Picture Books for
Ages 4-8
(also, for the Young at Heart)

***Stella, Unleashed* Written by
Linda Ashman, Illustrated by
Paul Meisel**

Stella, Unleashed tells the story in poetic form of a very friendly dog. From the day she met her family to the services she performs for her family, Stella lets the reader or listener know what it is like to be a dog. Find out what Stella thinks about being dressed for a tea party, what she wishes she could do that the family cat can do, why she would not want to be a fish, and many more opinions about her life. This is a great read aloud book that both children and parents will enjoy sharing.

***Do Unto Otters (A Book About Manners)* Written and Illustrated
by Laurie Keller**

When Rabbit has new neighbors move in next to his house, he is worried that he won't be able to get along with them. You see, they are otters and he doesn't know anything about otters. So he seeks the advice of the wisest

of all animals, an owl. The owl shows him how following the golden rule will help him get along with his new neighbors. This book is a great teaching tool to help children learn how to treat each other. The illustrations are creative and new things will be noticed each time the book is read. And just for fun, there is also a bonus. Words such as "please" and "thank you" are given in 4 other languages plus pig Latin.

***The Secret Life of Walter Kitty* Written by Barbara Jean Hicks,
Illustrated by Dan Santat**

Walter Kitty is not your ordinary house cat. And his name is not "Walter". It's really "Fang". Or at least he says that's his name. Walter dreams of being a super hero, a pirate, and even "Indiana Jones", but his owners continue to call him "Walter", "Wally", and even "Baby". Children will enjoy seeing and hearing about Walter's adventures as much as cat lovers will enjoy seeing Walter's everyday life. This is a very cute book about the life of a house cat.

Outreach



Have you ever heard people say that necessity is the mother of all invention? This happens to be one of my favorite phrases, because more often than not, I find myself in need of something, with few resources to support the need, and an idea is born! I find a way to do something with what I already possess, or find an alternative that although different, will still meet the need and fit within my limited budget. And honestly, some of my best ideas are born this way. Take the old church table we bought from FCC last year.....with new, lighter tables arriving to fill the hall, the old cumbersome wooden-topped tables, with heavy metal legs, simply didn't have a home in our church anymore. It found a home in mine! For a year, the table languished in the garage, a holding place for the junk that garages tend to breed. Then, one day a thought came to me. Wouldn't it be nice to have a craft table on

my screen porch, to draw and sew perhaps? But, tables are expensive, especially large ones, and with two children in school and a mortgage payment I'm sometimes scared to look at, I knew I couldn't afford to buy a new table. So, taking a new look at the table in the garage, after clearing it of the clutter, I thought, I can make this work! \$18 worth of 12x12 faux travertine linoleum tiles resurfaced the top into an interesting mosaic pattern, and an old sheer palm tree shower curtain made the ideal skirt to hide the rusty metal legs. It's now a favorite piece of mine, a reminder that anything can be accomplished with a little creativity and effort.

Today's column is short. I want to share with you another idea born out of necessity, limited resources, and the desire for change. Our Noah's Ark mural is coming along, thanks to the help of many volunteers who came to the painting party, and most

importantly, to my mom and dad who gave of themselves during their vacation, to help with this project. Take a look at the ark....a gift to our church from my dad. He drew it, and he and mom outlined it in a matter of two days.

As a small congregation, we might not have as much in the way of our resources as larger churches, but what we do have is an energy and enthusiasm. Throw that in with a good dose of necessity, and beautiful things are happening. Stay tuned for upcoming ways you can help with the project, either through painting, or monetary donation. We'll have a place set up just for this.

Blessings-Debra Whitledge (co-chair of outreach)

Youth Group

Youth Group is now meeting regularly here from 5 to 7 p.m. Sundays with Stephanie Graves and David Schremp leading. Twelves & teens and friends are most welcome to join us at First Christian each week for faith and fun.

Fall Fest is here!

As always, we will have lots of fun fall activities and games for children from 5 to 7 p.m. during our famous Fall Fest Chicken & Dumppling Dinner. This year, our activities will be classic fall games such as bobbing for apples and a haystack maze.

Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF

I invite all children (and any brave adults) to come to church in costume Sunday, Oct. 26. We will have a Halloween lunch after worship for kids and adults participating in Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF. We will go out in groups after lunch to solicit donations for this worthy cause. Last year, First Christian kids raised the second highest amount of participating churches. I always say it, but it's true: we're small but mighty!

Sunday School Notes

Join us each week at 9:45 a.m. for Sunday School! Last month children visited Egypt and they helped to tell the amazing story of the Israelites' escape from Egypt. In October, children will continue learning the 10 Commandments For Kids and how to live faithful lives, finishing with Jesus' Greatest Commandment. Those who can remember any of the 10 Commandments get a prize each week and they will have a copy they can take home and hang in their rooms. Check the FCC Weekly each week to see what we're up to each Sunday. Adult Sunday School also occurs at the same time on the same themes, so families are

engaging the same texts each week. Talk with your children about the lessons you and they are learning in class.

Wednesday Night Live!

Our Wednesday Night Live dinner and discussion group continues to meet from 5:30 to 7 p.m. each Wednesday night and child care is provided. Join us for thoughtful roundtable discussions on important issues in the church and our world. Also, we have some special speakers scheduled. On October 15, Aur Beck will present the "Global Climate Change Project." Beck was trained by Al Gore to present this updated "Inconvenient Truth" seminar. Discussion on how faith informs environment issues will follow. On November 19, we will welcome Richard "Pete" Peterson, NPR host of "Reading Baseball" and author of "Growing Up With Clemente" and "Extra Innings - Writing on Baseball" to talk about his work and faith.

Ch-Ch-Ch-Changes

If you haven't visited our second-floor classrooms and seen the transformations made possible by so many of our dedicated families, please have a look. All I can say is, "Wow!" And thanks to all the people who are continuing to give so much to improve the facilities for our children, even in these troubled economic times. What a

commitment! Please prayerfully consider gifting us with a donation or buying from our Target nursery registration online. Just go to Target.com and click gift registries. We are listed under Baby Registry as first name "First Christian" and last name "Church."

In Christian Love,
Marleen Shepherd
Christian Education Coordinator

Important Dates

Wednesday, October 15 – Aur Beck "Global Climate Change Project" for Wednesday Night Live

Saturday, October 18 – Fall Fest Games, Activities, Fall Fun during the Chicken & Dumplings Dinner, 5-7 p.m.

Sunday, October 26 – Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF follows worship. Children come to church in costume and stay after for a luncheon Halloween party, followed by trick-or-treating!



Riding for a Cause

Phillip B. Lenzini and wife Shelley, of Peoria, IL were riders of one of the one hundred Harley Davidson motorcycles which on Sept. 18, 2008 participated in the fund raising event of St. Jude Ride from Peoria to Memphis. It was a 3 day event to benefit the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis as well as the St. Jude Midwest affiliate located in Peoria, IL.

The group were escorted by the IL State Police on Route 51. While in Memphis the group spent their time there meeting Marlo Thomas, having a tour of the hospital and visits with patients and doctors. No child will be turned away for care for an inability to pay. Treatment is FREE OF CHARGE. To date more than \$250,000 has been contributed by this group.

Phillip is the son of Anita S. Lenzini and is a Library Law Attorney in Peoria who represents many libraries in Illinois. He was one of the graduates in the first graduating class of the SIUC School of Law. Shelly is owner of the Rhythm Kitchen Music Cafe on SW Water Street in Peoria. This is an annual event for St. Jude.



Board Approves Names & Terms for Nominating Committee

The following persons have agreed to serve on this year's nominating committee for the following terms, were approved by the Board to prayerfully discern with spiritual guidance and church resources provided by our Pastor, those persons gifted for the positions of Trustee, Elder & Deacon.

2008 – Rachael Nelson & Imogene Reese

2008 & 2009 – Tom Kilpatrick & Tamara Workman

2008, 2009 & 2010 – Brice Dion & Al Parr

Alternative Gift Fair is Seeking Organizers

For three years the Alternative Gift Fair has helped participants to experience the joy of giving to a good cause on behalf of a loved one, or in purchasing a gift knowing that the money would directly benefit those who produced it. Mary Sullivan has been the primary inspiration and organizer for this wonderful alternative to commercial gift-giving. After a successful first year in Good Shepherd's fellowship hall, the Fair has experienced even greater success for two years at the Civic Center.

Faith groups and other organizations are invited to cosponsor the event with donations of \$25-50 and/or providing a volunteer to help organize the sale and/or promises to promote the sale. Volunteers are particularly needed to help with publicity and decorating. Contact Margie Parker at 549-7193 to cosponsor or volunteer.

Thank You!

Dorothy Sprehe, who has been hospitalized and in ReHab at Helia ReHab for 3 months, wishes to send thanks to all her friends at First Christian Church. I want to thank Pastor Katherine, Marge Schulhof, and Martha Beck for their visits and prayers, also the lovely plant I received. I have received many cards and notes, all with prayers, and I hope when I am able to go back to my condo, I will be able to read them all again.

My macular degeneration in my eyes, strains me to see and my hearing has not been good most of the time, thus I requested no visitors. My sister, Anita Lenzini, my nephews, Joe Lenzini and Greg Sprehe and my care giver, Pat, have given me excellent care and love along with all my other nieces and nephews. The nurses and therapist at Helia ReHab have all been wonderful.

So again, thanks for your love and prayers. I hope to be able to join you once again some day.

Blessings and Peace to all.....Dorothy Sprehe

First Christian Church October Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

10/1 Clayton Workman
10/2 Richard Chancey
10/3 Amy Dion
Derek Hamblin
10/4 Danny Damian
10/6 Dylan Mallett
10/7 Alex Kayne
10/10 Gayle Pesavento
10/11 Isaiah Shepherd
10/12 Charles Mallett
Jak Tichenor
10/17 Donna Waller

10/19 Mona Miller
James Swalek
10/24 Marleen Shepherd
10/26 Sherri Pope
10/30 Betty Crawshaw



Anniversaries

10/1 Dr. & Mrs. Drexel Rankin
Jim & Margaret Ellerbrook
10/5 Bob & Marge Schulhof
10/12 Tim Damian &
Juli Claussen
10/17 Jak & Monica Tichenor
10/24 Mike & Sharon Williams
10/28 Jerry & Sherri Nance

Contacts

Pastor Katherine Graves

Cell: 924-2129

pastorkatherine@fcc-carbondale.org

Church Office - Mary Burnam

mburnam@fcc-carbondale.org

Children's Ed. Marleen Shepherd

marleen@fcc-carbondale.org

Marge Schulhof, Parish Nurse

fcparishnurse@aol.com

Derek Hamblin, Music Min. Dir.

derek_hamblin@yahoo.com

Board Chair

Dia Parr

dialparr2@mac.com

Vice Chair

Jak Tichenor

Congregational Care

Sandy Lowell

Outreach

Debra Whitledge

debrawhitledge@yahoo.com

Monica Tichenor

Facility & Finance

Greg Whitledge

Treasurer

Juli Claussen

Herald Editor

Amy Dion

amymdion@gmail.com

Office Hours:

Office Closed Monday

9-12/1-3 Tue - Fri

email:

office@fcc-carbondale.org

Phone: 457-6817

306 W. Monroe St,

Carbondale, IL 62901

Website

www.geocities.com/cdalefcc