

# The Herald

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



November 2008

Pastor: Katherine Bryant Graves

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November 14-16, 2008  
CCIW Regional Assembly  
Crowne Plaza Hotel – Springfield IL

*Facing Frontiers Faithfully*

The registration form is posted on the Regional website at: <http://www.cciwdisciples.org/CCIWNNews/RA08RegistrationForm.pdf>

Assembly Speakers  
The Rev. Dr. Sharon E. Watkins  
7th General Minister and President  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

The Rev. Dr. Richard H. Lowery  
Interim Dean & Vice President  
Academic Affairs at Lexington  
Theological Seminary

## Congregational Meeting



On Sunday, November 16th, there will be a Congregational Meeting following the Thanksgiving Potluck. We hope you can attend, as there will be important decisions made on how your church will operate during 2009. At the meeting, the congregation will hear reports about the 2009 Stewardship Campaign, the Nominating Committee, and the 2009 Budget. At the conclusion of the meeting, you will be asked to approve the slate of officers, the 2009 budget, and a Memorandum of Understanding to the Minister's contract.

We all know that the financial problems around the world are affecting everything. The cost of food, gas, utilities, and many other things are rising. It is not any different at our church. Tough decisions will need to be made. What is it that we, as First Christian Church in Carbondale, are called to do? What does God want from us? Are we willing to risk what we have, to do the work Christ has called us to do?

We will need to decide if we are willing to support yet another budget with fewer dollars than have been pledged. We will need to decide if the saints of the church have left legacies to the church to save, or to help the church to continue moving forward. Please prayerfully consider the above questions and plan on attending the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 16th.

## December Events

Mark your calendars- Saturday, December 13th, is the date of our fourteenth annual Cookie Walk at First Christian! As usual, we will be depending on all of our wonderful bakers to supply us with lots of cookies and other treats, so that none of our eager customers goes away empty-handed. Look for more information in the December Herald.

On December 6th is the Lights Fantastic Parade. We will need volunteers and help for this event. The last two years have been very successful. We look forward to this year's event





## God's Earth - Our Home

Faithful stewardship = recycling what we can't reuse, re-using what we can, and conserving our resources! Help us cut down on expenses and garbage. Bring a mug for your coffee, tea or hot drink and hang on our mug racks in our Friendship Hall.

Other ideas for going Green at FCC:

- Replacing paper products with lightweight reusable dishware.
- Purchasing Fair Trade Coffee
- Unplugging computers and other electronics at night
- Installing insulation panels in windows in educational building
- Your idea?

## The Climate Project



The guest speaker for the October 15, Wednesday Night Live was Aur Beck, official presenter for the Climate Project. He delighted the 30 people in attendance with humor and up to date facts and suggestions on how to lower your energy expenses and reduce green house gas emissions. Aur Beck started his presentation with the statement that he could "disconnect your household from the energy grid for \$100. For \$100 I will come to your house and disconnect your electric meter and you will be off the grid." Using that kind of humor Mr. Beck proceeded to explain many substantial and achievable ways to reduce your household energy consumption. If you did not able to attend this event, it is suggested you visit a web site authored by Aur Beck that details the many suggestions he explained.

<http://www.advancedenergysolution.com/addict.htm>

For more information you can also visit The Climate Project web site

<http://www.theclimateproject.org/>

## Angel Food Ministry

Angels appear in our lives in the most unexpected ways and forms... one of these Angels is in the form of food through the Angel Food Ministry. In 1994, Pastors Joe and Linda Wingo saw a need to help their neighbors in Monroe, Georgia, by providing food at low cost to 34 neighbors who were out of work and out of luck. From this, Angel Food Ministry developed. Now 500,000 people in 35 states are fed by this ministry. Food "boxes" containing \$65-\$75 worth of high quality food are sold at \$30.00 per box. Approximately 60% of the boxes are purchased by senior citizens and single parent families.

Angel Food Ministry purchases in bulk at discounted prices from established food producers such as Tyson, General Mills, Pilgrim Pride and Nestle at better prices so that

the savings is passed on to those purchasing the food boxes. NO DONATED FOOD IS EVER SOLD...but is transported without charge to food banks or shelters around the country.

The money from the \$30.00 purchase goes to purchase additional food; to maintain the warehouse space for storing and sorting food; for the trucks and transportation needed to get the food to the 35 states and the hundreds of sites within the states. \$1.00 from each \$30.00 box of food sold goes to the "host church or facility"... According to Dee Ann, head of Angel Food Ministry at First United Presbyterian Church in Mt. Vernon, the \$1.00 a box they receive for being the host church goes to purchase additional boxes of food which are given to those in need in the Mt Vernon community or their own church.

In Carbondale, Grand Avenue Christian Church is a host site for

Angel Food Ministry. They have a staff of volunteers who donate many hours each month taking food orders, placing these orders with the national office, accepting delivery of the food and sorting it into the orders needed etc. Anyone, regardless of age, income or circumstance is free to purchase food at \$30.00 box. This is not a service intended for the indigent or welfare recipients...it is not a food bank. Several people in FCC Congregation use this service and are pleased with the products they receive. There will be order forms for November in the narthex if you would like to check this out.

**Do we have someone in our congregation who would take orders at FCC and take them to Grand Ave and then pick up the boxes and bring them to our church? Let Marge know if you feel you can serve in this way.**

## Trick-or-Treating for Unicef

This year, 11 of our Young Disciples participated in Trick-or-Treat for Unicef and they raised \$152! They all looked great in their costumes, and they had a fun time at FCC's pre-trick-or-treat Halloween party where they played a trick or treat game, had a mummy-wrapping contest with toilet paper, played pumpkin bowling, and had a Halloween cupcake walk. It was a great time that raised funds for a great cause that helps children around the world with basic necessities such as nutritious foods and clean water and educational and medical supplies.



## Outreach

I will tell you the honest truth. Evangelism has never been my kind of thing. The very word brings visions of loud, dramatic ministers, yelling at me to repent, or as one of the many who grace our satellite stations likes to shout, "DIE SINNER, DIE!"

I find myself less than responsive to this line of inspiration. Yet, hope seems to be at an all-time low these days. Bleak economic times have forced us as a nation to cut back, re-evaluate our budgets and spending, and for some of us, consider and worry over dwindling retirement savings. What's to be done in the face of this? Politicians are trying, and we hear pretty words, but honestly, do they really know how to bring us out? Add to this the stress of a looming presidential election, which has emotions high and people more divided than ever, and one might wonder if we'll ever stand together again. CEO's are coming out smelling like roses while the rest of us ponder our fate. It just doesn't quite seem fair.

So, let me bring you back to evangelism. This is a time when people are looking for something to cling to, some sense of hope, of something meaningful and positive in their lives. This is a moment for our churches to shine, to reach out. Yet, even some of our churches are losing their way in the political fray, as denominations grapple with how their congregants should vote, if they are really the Christians they say they are. Where is the sense of hope in that? Doesn't that divide us even more? How can we reach out with a message of hope while we are in the midst of such conflict?

I believe the answer is probably more simplistic than any of us would

guess. In fact, First Christian Church is in an ideal position to address this issue. We are a denomination that encourages thinking, yet all the while embracing the diversity that makes each of us who we are. I know there are people in our congregation who are polar opposite of me in terms of what I believe is best for our country. Yet, I am able to put this aside. Why? It's simple, really. Politics has no place. We are all united in the body of Christ, and this is a relationship that supercedes all else. What a wonderful thing to be able to offer to people who don't really know where to turn right now! Now, does this mean that we go out and yell from street corners, evangelizing all we have to offer? It's true that people are looking for hope in this stressful time, something more to look forward to than a slight rise in the stock market or the fact that they might be allowed to work another day.

Yesterday, I wish all of Carbondale could have heard Katherine's message about the hope we can still have during dark times by simply trusting in the Lord and His plan for us. It was a message I surely needed to hear given how discouraged I've felt as of late. So, how do we share this with everyone outside of our church doors? We are a shining example of our unity in diversity.

Many times I have invited people to our church and wished that I had some type of information to give them so that they might remember what our church stands for and what might attract them to attend. With some of your input, and ideas from our leadership, I will be working on something that can be given out to people. Stay tuned. I'll be asking for your opinions soon.

Blessings~Debra Whitley (co-chair, Outreach)

## Fall Fest

During Fall Fest we sold 6 batches of donuts by 9:30 a.m.!! People seemed to linger longer enjoying the music from the Unitarian Folk Band and the great fellowship. The beautiful fall weather was an added treat.

28 of Al Parr's gorgeous pictorial calendars were sold! Many other items sold as well! Many of our church members came to volunteer an hour or two of their valuable time throughout the day.

We fed 90 people at our Chicken & Dumpling Dinner! It was delicious and more was sold Sunday!

Marleen said we had many, many children who participated in the activities from 5 to 7 p.m. She and Debra report the kids and the parents had a great time!

40 people attended the concert. The artists raved about the experience (they were treated to chicken & dumplings too) and enjoyed playing for an hour and half! Their musical artistry and stage presence were truly top rate!

As it looks now, over \$1200.00 of income was raised (after expenses)!

**On Sunday, Nov. 2,** all parents, grandparents and others interested in Christian education are invited to discuss possible children's Advent activities such as the Advent Dinner play, the Lights Fantastic Parade, and caroling. We will also discuss the on-going improvements to the educational building and assess how the changes to the Sunday School curriculum are working. If you cannot attend this meeting but have thoughts you'd like to share, please let me know.

### **Sunday School this month**

Join us each week at 9:45 a.m. for Sunday School! Throughout October, children continued visiting ancient Egypt and they helped to tell the amazing story of the Israelites' escape from Egypt. All learned the 10 Commandments For Kids and how to live faithful lives, finishing with Jesus' Greatest Commandment. In November we will focus on Jesus' teachings in Matthew 23 & 25, including "the greatest among you will be your servant," the parable of the 10 bridesmaids, the parable of the talents, and "the least of these."

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

### **Bible Presentation to third-graders**

– Sunday, Nov. 23  
Third-graders will be presented with First Christian gift Bibles on Thanksgiving Sunday, Nov. 23, which begins National Bible Week. If there is a third-grader in your life that you would like a Bible presented to, please let me know.

### **Advent Dinner and Christmas Play**

– Sunday, Dec. 14  
This month children will begin preparing for the children's annual Advent Dinner presentation. Please let me know if your child would like to participate so that we can plan a part and costuming for each of them.

### **Youth Group**

Youth Group continues to meet 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.

### **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. 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.

In Christian Love,  
Marleen Shepherd  
Christian Education Coordinator

## Important Dates

**Sunday, November 2** – Christian Ed Meeting follows worship

**Sunday, November 23** – Bible presentation to third-graders

**Sunday, November 30** – Hanging of the Greens – Advent Begins

**Saturday, December 6** – Lights Fantastic Parade and open house at FCC

**Saturday, December 13**  
Cookie Walk

**Sunday, December 14**  
– Advent Dinner and Christmas Play

**Sunday, December 21** – Christmas Sunday – Choral Christmas Service

**Wednesday, December 24**  
– Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

## *First Christian Church November Birthdays and Anniversaries*

### *Birthdays*

11/2 Susan Heck  
11/3 Tristan Workman  
11/4 Greg Legan  
11/7 Harold Halterman  
11/9 Michael Deutsch  
11/9 James Rayfield  
11/9 Teresa Ullman  
11/12 Will Hunter  
11/13 Mary Jane Zimmer  
11/13 Michael Heck  
11/15 Christian Beck  
11/21 Daniella Marchal

11/23 Alta North  
11/24 Geoffrey Heck  
11/26 Mark Thomas Lenzini  
11/27 Martha Ellert  
11/27 Tom Kilpatrick  
11/28 Barbara Parrish  
11/29 Cierra Nance

### *Anniversaries*

11/5 Greg & Peggy Legan  
11/11 Jim & Sherie Pope



## Contacts

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### **Children's Ed. Marleen Shepherd**

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# Calendar

## NOVEMBER 2008

**Elder of the Month: Rachael Nelson**

**Deacon of the Month: Toby Nelson**

**Worship Coordinator: Debra Whitledge**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 8:30 a Elders 9:30 a Choir & Christian Ed 10:30 a Worship 12 Ed. Meets 1-3 Marchal Baby Shower 5-7 p Youth Group	3 Office Closed Pastor's Sabbath	4 5-7 p Tuesday Tools Study	5 11 -1 Staff Meeting  5:30 p Soup for the Soul 6:00 p Table Talk 6:45 Choir	6	7	8
9 9:30 a Choir & Christian Ed 10:30 a Worship  5-7 p Youth Group	10 Office Closed Pastor's Sabbath	11 <b>Veterans Day</b> 10 - 3 Southern Cluster Pastors Meet @ Rend Lake  5-7 p Tuesday Tools Study	12 11 -1 Staff Meeting  4:30 p Knitting 5:30 p Supper 6:00 p Table Talk 6:45 Choir	13  7 p Mary & Martha	14  <b>Regional Assembly</b>  6:30 - 9 p Scrapbooking	15  <b>Regional Assembly</b>
16 9:30 a Choir & Christian Ed 10:30 a Worship <b>12 p Congregation Meeting &amp; Potluck</b> 5-7 p Youth Group	17 Office Closed Pastor's Sabbath	18 5-7 p Tuesday Tools Study	19 11 -1 Staff Meeting  5:30 p Supper 6:00 p Richard Peterson "Reading Baseball" 6:45 Choir	20  6 - 9 p Girl Scouts 7:30 p Charlie Brown	21  7:30 p Charlie Brown	22  3:30 p Baby Shower for LeAndra Young  7:30 p Charlie Brown
23 9:30 a Choir & Christian Ed 10:30 a Worship 5 - 7 p Youth Group	24 Office Closed Pastor's Sabbath	25 5-7 p Tuesday Tools Study	26 11 -1 Staff Meeting  <b>No Wednesday Program</b>	27 <b>THANKSGIVING</b>  <b>Office Closed</b>	28 <b>Office Closed</b>	29 <b>9 a to 12 Hanging of the Green Work Party</b>
30 9:30 a Choir & Christian Ed <b>10:30 a Hanging of the Green Worship</b> 5 - 7 p Youth Group						