



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Picture Gallery of Advent Event & Sunday School Play

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Reflections

As the season of Advent draws to a close, we find ourselves in awe at the wonder of the coming of the Christ child. Our preparations have kept us busy—we've decorated, wrapped presents, prepared favorite recipes, and shared in the joy of worship and attending Christmas programs. We look forward to family gatherings and opening presents. Perhaps the best time of all have been moments of quiet when we reflect on all that God has done this past year.

It has been a true joy to share in church traditions for the first time this year. What a delight it has been this Advent season to see the sanctuary light up with lights, banners, trees, and other festive decorations. What a gift it has been to be in the midst of the young and the old and in between making ornaments, cookies, and Advent chains together.

Now, it is time to look to the future of what God has in store for us. Although we cannot predict what will happen, we **can** know that God is with us. In the coming Christmas season and beyond, God lives in us, not only in the form of the tiny babe whom shepherds and kings bowed before and honored, but in the One whom we trust will lead us to a more holy, just, and spiritual way.

For a child has been born for us,
 a son given to us;
 authority rests upon his shoulders;
 and he is named
 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
 His authority shall grow continually,
 and there shall be endless peace
 for the throne of David and his kingdom.
 He will establish and uphold it
 with justice and with righteousness
 from this time onwards and for evermore.
 The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.
 --Isaiah 9:6-7

Merry Christmas with love and the promise of shalom,

Pastor Lorraine



Upcoming Serving Schedule

December 24, 2017

- Candlelighter** ~ Nicole Dalton
- Children's Message** ~ Laurie Kurzen
- Diaconate** ~ Carl* & Rita Headrick
Tammie McDiffett, Joy Frevert
- Elder** ~ Jean Miller
- Greeters** ~ (N) Joe & Bonnie Denson
~ (S) Sonya Ihde
- Nursery** ~ John Lexow & Cindy Lexow
- Worship Leader** ~ Marie Harding
- Children's Church** ~ Jennifer Dalton

December 31, 2017

- Candlelighter** ~ Kelsey Shull
- Children's Message** ~ Sandy Heller
- Diaconate** ~ Jake Dalton*, John Lexow
Betty & Alan Richardson
- Elder** ~ LeRoy Garnett
- Greeters** ~ (N) Dorothy Matile & Lola Walker
(S) Wanda Davis & Marilyn Dalton
- Nursery** ~ Kat Dorcas & Rita Headrick
- Worship Leader** ~ Cameron Moore
- Children's Church** ~ Sonya Ihde

January 7, 2018

- Candlelighter** ~ Mikinzi Simmons
- Children's Message** ~ Marie Harding
- Diaconate** ~ Larry Gamblian*, Joy Wonser
Cameron Moore, Carol Rhoades
- Elder** ~ Vel Lukert
- Greeters** ~ (N) Carl & Rita Headrick
~ (S) Janet Lostutter
- Nursery** ~ Nikki Simmons & Mikinzi Simmons
- Worship Leader** ~ Robert Chatham
- Children's Church** ~ Faith Coleman

January 14, 2018

- Candlelighter** ~ Faith Idhe
- Children's Message** ~ Barb Gimple
- Diaconate** ~ Nikki Simmons*, Elizabeth Brown
Joe & Bonnie Denson
- Elder** ~ Anita Imhoff
- Greeters** ~ (N) Carl & Lana Richardson
~ (S) Barb Gimple
- Nursery** ~ Marilyn Dalton & Jen Dalton
- Worship Leader** ~ Jean Miller
- Children's Church** ~ Faith Coleman

So far in December (after just two weeks) we helped **32 families** consisting of **78 people** with **36 bags** of food plus some candy, hot chocolate and cookies. Of these 32 families, **12 were new** to us. Many have been sent from the Salvation Army and others heard of us by word of mouth from friends in the same apartment complex.



Voices of the people you have helped this month—"Thank you for sharing the information of other places to get help."

Don Allen, Lonnie Atchison (*cancer*); **Tom Bell; Chandler Bolen** (*health issues*); **Denise Calvert** (*broken leg*); **Joyce Cress** (*cancer & recovery*); **Diane** (*sister of Joyce Cress, breast cancer*); **Amy Hossfeld, Luella Hush, Bonnie Iverson** (*health issues*); **Jim Johnson** (*Jean Miller's nephew*); **Brad Jones** (*son of Jan Jones, heart problems*); **Wes Jones** (*health issues*); **Gale Kelley** (*hospice*); **Joyce Kellison** (*health issues*); **Carolyn Kuhn** (*health issues*); **Steve** (*broken neck*) & **Ramona Langley** (*brother-in-law and sister of Betty Richardson*); **Gary Logan**, (*brother-in-law of Janece Bacon*); **Vel Lukert** (*health issues*); **Janice Miller** (*knee replacement*); **Pam Scheve** (*daughter Jan Weeks, health issues*); **Becky Shannon** (*daughter of Sharon Shannon, health issues*); **Jim Siebert** (*son of Janice Miller, back pain*); and **Elizabeth Wells** (*cancer & recovery*).



Eric MacGregor (*Military*)



We will be using various translations of the Bible in our Worship Service making us more aware of the differences available, while still delivering the same message.

CHRISTMAS EVE



Attendance and Giving Record

ATTENDANCE & GIVING RECORD

December 10, 2017 SS 60 (Program)/ Worship 70

December 17, 2017 SS 15 / Worship 50

GIVING RECORD

Dec. 10, 2017 ~ Offering \$2,131.60 / Building \$92.00

Dec. 17, 2017 ~ Offering \$1,249.00 / Building \$10.00



January Anniversaries

28 Larry & Glenna Gamblian

December Birthdays

- 17 Justin Richardson
- 18 Cindy Lexow
- 20 Sheila Steinkuhler
- 24 Lougene Marsh
- 25 Barbara Gimple
- 30 Traeger Garnett



January Birthdays

- 01 Ruth Ford
- 01 Bonnie Schaefer
- 04 Robert Hossfeld
- 05 Quentin Coffman
- 09 Travis Milner
- 09 Ted Williams
- 10 Nancy Mayer
- 11 Kindra Garnett
- 12 Suzanne West
- 12 Danielle Dougherty
- 15 Colter Richardson
- 15 Treva Stuck
- 16 Dona Jones
- 18 John Lexow
- 21 Brenda Hall
- 22 Charles Wilhite
- 26 Marie Kelley (1921)
- 26 Curtis Rhoades
- 26 Tyler Tilton
- 28 Sadj Davis
- 29 Ed Mercer, Jr.
- 29 Stanley Smith
- 29 Joe Witten
- 30 Robert White
- 31 Tim Norton
- 31 Kerry (Thornton) Willoughby



Mark these Dates

- Friday's 3-6 pm—Clothes Closet & Household Hut open
- Saturday's from 9—Noon—Clothes Closet and Household Hut
- Sun. Dec. 24—2:00 p.m. Presbyterian Manor Service
- Sun. Dec. 24—Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 8:00 pm
- Mon., Dec. 25—Office Closed
- Sun. Dec. 31—3:00 p.m. Holiday Resort Service
- Monday, Jan. 1, 2018—Office Closed
- Mon., Jan. 1—Newsletter Deadline
- Wed. Jan. 3—DWF Night Group meets at 6:15 pm
- Thur. Jan. 4—Youth Choir at 5:30 pm
- Sun. Jan. 7—Fruit & Vegetables collection for Food Panty



Children's Message Sunday, December 10, 2017



Thoughts to Ponder

Be a voice, not an echo.
Be the hammer, not the nail.



Lectionary
Readings

Lectionary Schedule

December 24 – January 28, 2018

December 24, 2017

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
 Luke 1:46b-55 or
 Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
 Romans 16:25-27
 Luke 1:26-38

December 31, 2017

Isaiah 61:10-62:3
 Psalm 148
 Galatians 4:4-7
 Luke 2:22-40

January 7, 2018

Genesis 1:1-5
 Psalm 29
 Acts 19:1-7
 Mark 1:4-11

January 14, 2018

1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)
 Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18
 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
 John 1:43-51

January 21, 2018

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
 Psalm 62:5-12
 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

January 28, 2018

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
 Psalm 111
 1 Corinthians 8:1-13



Who
Me?

Who Me, An Elder?

Information for this article came from Your Calling as an Elder by Gary Straub, p.11-12. Here is Straub's continued brief interpretive summary of the biblical qualifications for elder leadership:

3. **Just (Upright).** **Titus 1:8** Straub emphasizes the church's legacy to be a "living parable of Isaiah's peaceable kingdom and Amos' might river of justice flowing down" as that quality of fair-mindedness for which to be striven. An elder should not compromise on matters of human treatment or dignity, but be able to speak of the vision of God's justice and mercy and "give witness to the reason for their faith" (1 Peter 3:15).
4. **Holy (Devout).** **Titus 1:8** "An elder is someone who takes seriously and submits to the inner process of personal sanctification, without falling into the trap of perfectionism or spiritual narcissism. There is a deep connection here with the concept and practice of surrender, yielding as much of ourselves as we can command to as much of Christ's spirit as we can understand. Health, wholeness, and well-being are integrally related as we grow toward God's shalom in our own soul, with the goal being conformity to the sufferings and power of Christ" (Philemon 3:4-11).

Who Me, A Deacon?

Information for this article came from *Your Calling as a Deacon* by Gary Straub and James Trader II, pp. 23-25. The following is part 2 of Straub and Trader's interpretation of 1 Timothy 3:8. They are responding to arguments for excluding people from serving as deacons in the church.

1 Timothy 3:8 *"Deacons likewise must be serious, not double-tongued, not indulging in much wine, not greedy for money."*

Not greedy: Straub and Trader remind us that serving others and wanting everything for yourself are "about as incompatible as it gets." Recognition and honors could be stumbling blocks for some. "This type of greed most often gets in the way of the servant's tasks. It may not be obvious, but for the servant who fulfills duties to God and church, the service is the reward."

Not double-tongued: Deacons need to try to avoid "speaking ill of others, repeating gossip, and not telling the whole truth . . . Refusing to participate in such activities takes strength and courage, but the end result is usually respect."

"God has gifted us all, and we are all called to respond to the grace of those gifts by using them in service to God through serving the people of God."



Cast of "Christmas Hope", play production of First Christian Church Sunday School Program 12/10/17.



Pictures from Christian Ed's Family Advent Activity 12/3/17



First Christian Church
Lorraine W. Bailey,
Transitional Minister

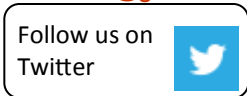


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“The mission of First Christian Church is to inspire each other to reach out to the un-churched and to serve and share with our community by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.
Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Office Hours
8 a.m. until Noon, Monday through Friday.
Pastor Lorraine—9:00 am to Noon, Tuesday through Friday. Afternoons by appointment.



Next Newsletter Deadline
Jan. 1 & 15, 2018



December 2017

17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9:30am Sunday School ● 10:30am Worship Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Newsletter Deadline ● Time Sheets Due ● 7pm Boy Scouts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 6pm Choir Practice ● 6:15pm Sertoma Board Meeting 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 3pm Clothes Closet & Household 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am Clothes Closet & Household
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Christmas Eve <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9:30am Sunday School ● 10:30am Worship Service 2:00pm Presby Manor 3:00pm Candle Light Christmas Eve Service 	Christmas Day NO USD 253 Office Closed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 7pm Boy Scouts 	NO USD 253 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 6pm Choir Practice ● 6:30pm Chi Rho Mission Club 	NO USD 253 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 5:30pm Facilities Meeting 	NO USD 253 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 6pm Girl Scouts 	NO USD 253 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 3pm Clothes Closet & Household 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am Clothes Closet & Household
31	Jan 1	2	3	4	5	6
New Year's Eve <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9:30am Sunday School ● 10:30am Worship Service ● 3pm Holiday Resort Service 	New Year's Day—Office Closed Newsletter Deadline—Time Sheets NO USD 253 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Boy Scouts 	NO USD 253 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 6pm Choir Practice 	NO USD 253 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 10:30am Lyon Co. Ministerial ● 6:15pm DWF Night Group 	NO USD 253 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 5:30pm Youth Choir 	NO USD 253 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 3pm Clothes Closet & Household 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am Clothes Closet & Household

Spotlight on Disciples

Higher Education

Information for this article came from *Journey in Faith* by Lester G. McAllister and William E. Tucker, pp. 161-165.

The founders of the Disciples, Barton W. Stone, Thomas Campbell, Alexander Campbell, and Walter Scott, were men of considerable formal education and “recognized the importance of education and were soon zealous for the establishment of educational institutions.” The colleges that were established filled a need for higher education in the West. The first Disciples related college was Bacon College at Georgetown, Kentucky (1837). “It sought to exemplify the spirit of empirical and rational inquiry prominently expressed in Disciples thought.” Walter Scott was the first president. Eventually, the college united with Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky.

Bethany College opened in 1841 with Alexander Campbell as president. “With the successful establishment of Bethany College and the general approval given to higher education by Alexander Campbell, it was only a matter of time until there would be other colleges and institutions. Franklin College followed near Nashville, Tennessee.

Today, Disciples colleges, universities, and seminaries continue to provide leaders for both church and society:

Barton College (Wilson, NC), **Bethany College** (Bethany, WV), **Chapman University** (Orange, CA), **Christian Theological Seminary** (Indianapolis, Indiana), **Columbia College** (Columbia, MO), **Culver-Stockton College** (Canton, MO), **Disciples Divinity House** (University of Chicago), **Disciples Divinity House** (Vanderbilt University), **Disciples Seminary Foundation** (Claremont Theological School), **Drury University**, (Springfield, MO), **Eureka College** (Eureka, IL), **Hiram College** (Hiram, OH), **Jarvis Christian College** (Hawkins, TX), **Lexington Theological Seminary** (Lexington, KY), **Lynchburg College** (Lynchburg, VA), **Midway University** (Midway, KY), **Phillips Theological Seminary** (Tulsa, Oklahoma), **Texas Christian University/Brite Divinity School** (Fort Worth, TX), **Transylvania University** (Lexington, KY), **William Woods University** (Fulton, MO).