



The Dialogue



Serving on Sunday,
January 22, 2012

DEACONS

Taylor Baldwin	Bill Byous
Kimberly Clark	Mark Clark
Shirley Evans	Rick Ezzell
Clayton Fields	Wendy Graves
Carol Hollan	Suzanne Shay
Kim Tullis	Sheryl Webb
Kristin White	Matthew White
Carolyn York	Melvin Zion

Prayer for Offering:

Jane Frick

Prayer for Cup & Bread:

Ken Hamlin

WORSHIP LEADER:

Charles Anctil

COMMUNION PREPARER:

Bernard & Marilyn McMillen

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP:

Richard & Carolyn York

January Greeters:

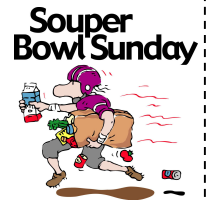
Sandy Hamlin & Donna Beaderstadt

Buddhist and Christian Spirituality

On Sunday mornings in February, FCC's own David Kratz-Matthies will be leading a study of the connections between Buddhist and Christian Spirituality. David teaches philosophy of religion and comparative religions at Missouri Western. The study will take place at 9:30 AM in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to come and learn!

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

The upcoming NFL Super Bowl is a big event for sports fans, but InterServ and St. Joseph churches have an even bigger event planned! Churches throughout St. Joseph are planning food drives to support InterServ's Calvin Center Food Pantry. Our church goal is **\$500 in cash and 500 food items.**



Although FCC collects food every Sunday all year long for the Calvin Center, we want to make an extra push coinciding with the SOUPER Bowl. If you've been meaning to donate food items but haven't done so, Feb. 5th is the time to do it! Here are the kinds of items most needed: **dry cereal, oatmeal packets, spaghetti and sauce, pasta-type dinners (e.g. macaroni and cheese), and canned meats (tuna, salmon, chicken, etc.).** Cash donations will also be accepted on this day. With money donations, the Calvin Center can buy food as needed through Second Harvest for around 19 cents a pound.

This fundraising event helps provide low income and financially strapped individuals and families with food to help them stretch their precious food dollars. InterServ's Food Pantry has seen a drastic increase in the number of clients needing emergency assistance during the past twelve months.

“For now we see through a glass darkly; but then face to face.” 1 Cor. 13:12**The Domestication of MLK, Jr.**

I've been listening to the Republican candidates jockeying for their party's nomination. I've been reading about the Obama campaign ramping up for this year's election. I have channel surfed the talking heads and pundits. I heard the reporters talking about poll numbers. Although I have encountered discussion of the problems faced by our culture, those problems are always framed in terms of who will win the political horse race rather than in terms of justice, especially not the type of justice spoken of by the Hebrew prophets, the early church and Jesus.

On this week of commemoration of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life, we need his prophetic take on God's justice more than ever. We, as a nation, need to hear not the MLK of sound bites or platitudes, but the MLK who inspired people to risk their lives for justice. We have domesticated MLK and made him into as inoffensive as a greeting card. We have lost the man who not only fought against Jim Crow but risked the support of his own African American base speaking out against the Vietnam War. He was assassinated in Memphis working for higher wages and safety standards for sanitation workers—both Caucasian and African American. When even his own people wanted him to play it safe, he chose to heed the demands of justice.

What would MLK say about the “War on Terror” and our nation's militarism? Read the words from his speech about the Vietnam War and see if they are relevant today:

“Even when pressed by the demands of inner truth, men do not easily assume the task of opposing their government's policy, especially in time of war. Nor does the human spirit move without great difficulty against all the apathy of conformist thought within one's own bosom and in the surrounding world. Moreover, when the issues at hand seem as perplexed as they often do in the case of this dreadful conflict, we are always on the verge of being mesmerized by uncertainty; but we must move on. . . A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death. . . There is nothing except a tragic death wish to prevent us from reordering our priorities so that the pursuit of peace will take precedence over the pursuit of war.”

What would MLK say about the ever-widening gap between the wealthy and everyone else? Read his words from the same speech:

“I am convinced that if we are to get on the right side of the world revolution, we as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values. We must rapidly begin the shift from a thing-oriented society to a person-oriented society. When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights, are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism, and militarism are incapable of being conquered. . . A true revolution of values will soon cause us to question the fairness and justice of many of our past and present policies. On the one hand, we are called to play the Good Samaritan on life's roadside, but that will be only an initial act. One day we must come to see that the whole Jericho Road must be transformed so

that men and women will not be constantly beaten and robbed as they make their journey on life's highway. True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar. It comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring.”

What would MLK say about the rhetorical and legislative attacks upon Latino immigrants (documented and undocumented) and upon lesbian and gay people so prevalent today? Read his words about racism against African Americans and ask yourself if they are not just as relevant regarding the oppression other minority groups today:

“If a man asserts that another man, because of his race, is not good enough to have a job equal to his, or to eat at a lunch counter next to him, or to have access to certain hotels, or to attend school with him, or to live next door to him, he is by implication affirming that that man does not deserve to exist. He does not deserve to exist because his existence is corrupt and defective. . . Racism is a philosophy based on a contempt for life. . . Racism is total estrangement. It separates not only bodies, but minds and spirits. Inevitably it descends to inflicting spiritual or physical homicide upon the out-group.”

What should we say about MLK today? He told us what he wanted said about him in his incredible sermon “The Drum Major Instinct.” (This was misquoted on the MLK, Jr. monument in Washington, D.C. and will soon be corrected.) In it, he described the human tendency to be like a drum major—being out front, getting all the attention, leading the band, etc. He declared that Jesus taught a different way of humility and service. Then he declared how he wanted people to think about him after his death:

“If any of you are around when I have to meet my day, I don't want a long funeral. And if you get somebody to deliver the eulogy, tell them not to talk too long. . . Tell them not to mention that I have a Nobel Peace Prize—that isn't important. Tell them not to mention that I have three or four hundred other awards—that's not important. Tell them not to mention where I went to school. I'd like somebody to mention that day that Martin Luther King, Jr., tried to give his life serving others. I'd like for somebody to say that day that Martin Luther King, Jr., tried to love somebody. I want you to say that day that I tried to be right on the war question. I want you to be able to say that day that I did try to feed the hungry. And I want you to be able to say that day that I did try in my life to clothe those who were naked. I want you to say on that day that I did try in my life to visit those who were in prison. I want you to say that I tried to love and serve humanity. Yes, if you want to say that I was a drum major, say that I was a drum major for justice. Say that I was a drum major for peace. I was a drum major for righteousness. And all of the other shallow things will not matter.”

God save us from domesticating Martin Luther King, Jr. Help us to hear his words anew today.

Grace and Peace,

Chase

FCC Marketing Update

The Advent 2011 portion of our marketing campaign concluded prior to Christmas, but we have heard many good comments from people in the community about our radio and TV spots along with the post-card sent to thousands of homes in St. Joseph. Prior to Easter, additional ads and postcards will happen.

- ◆ On Christmas Eve, over 70 non-members attended with many of them having no previous connection with First Christian.
- ◆ Over the last few weeks, we have seen numerous first-time visitors in Sunday worship who came because they saw one or more parts of the marketing campaign.
- ◆ Since the first of the year, 25-30 non-members have been present in worship each Sunday.

Pray that many of these visitors will return to FCC and make sure you are prepared to offer them a warm welcome.

Faith In Action Annual Meeting

FCC is a part of Faith In Action (FIA), a coalition of churches working together to match church volunteers with unmet needs in the community. FCC has contributed to FIA financially and through church members volunteering to do things like paint a low-income family's garage and drive low-income seniors to doctor visits. You are invited to learn more about FIA by attending their annual meeting, 2-3 PM Sunday, January 29 at McCarthy Baptist Church located at 2710 South Belt Highway. The worship service and meeting will include accounts of what churches in our community are doing to care for people who often fall through the cracks of society.

ATTENTION FIA VOLUNTEERS: Melissa Miles, our church's FIA team leader, needs your help. During the FIA meeting each church team will bring to the altar a symbol of their church's service to the community. Melissa would like ideas from FIA volunteers about what this symbol should be. Please e-mail her at mmiles32934@earthlink.net with your thoughts by Sunday, Jan. 22.

WEATHER POLICY FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP

In case of inclement weather in the winter months, please be aware of the church policy on Sunday Worship. We will attempt to have worship on Sunday mornings except in the most extreme cases. If worship is cancelled, the pastor will contact KQ2 so that the cancellation will be broadcast on television that morning. Also the pastor will contact the elders of the church, who will in turn contact the members assigned to them (their "sheep") to make sure the word of cancellation can be spread as widely as possible. Finally, the church web site will be updated and a notice of the cancellation will be on the home page (www.fccstjo.org).

Although we will have worship except in the most extreme cases, members are asked to use good judgment and proceed with caution when deciding whether or not to attend worship on icy or snowy days. Far better for you to miss a worship service than to risk an accident or injury. If you feel it is too risky to come to church, then the risk probably is too great. God will under-



First Christian Church has a new Facebook Page



First Christian has a new "public" Facebook page that will provide information about our church's ministries and events. If you are on Facebook, please take the time to "Like" this page and recommend it to others. This is one of the best ways we can raise awareness about the church! We will continue to have our "private" Facebook group in order to share information, ask questions, etc. without the posts being shared with the anyone and everyone. Anyone can join the private FCC group on Facebook by making a request.

Calendar of Events

Sunday, January 22nd

Sunday School 9:30am
Worship 10:45am

Wednesday, January 25th

Board Meeting 7pm

Thursday, January 26th

Girl Scouts 5pm
NO CHOIR PRACTICE

Sunday, January 29th

Sunday School 9:30am
Worship 10:45am

The FCC calendar is available at any time on the church web site:
www.fccstjo.org

ATTENDANCE & OFFERING

Week of January 15, 2012

The People Came: 109
The People Gave: \$ 3,303.27

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
927 FARAON STREET
ST. JOSEPH, MO 64501



SUNDAY WORSHIP: 10:45 AM
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:
MON-FRI 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

PHONE: 816-233-2556
FAX: 816-233-0247
EMAIL: FCCSTJO@STJOELIVE.COM
WWW.FCCSTJO.ORG

REV. CHASE PEEPLES, MINISTER
CELL: 816-383-1829
CHEYENNE NIGHTINGALE,
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
REV. SUZANNE SHAY, DIR.
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
ANDREW KAR, DIR. YOUTH MINISTRY
AMBER WELTER, DIR. OF MUSIC
JEREMY GREGOIRE, ORGANIST
BUCK WEKAMP, CUSTODIAN
KELLY MEDSKER, AND KLECI
PARMER, NURSERY
RAY BLILEY, SOUND TECHNICIAN

HOSPITAL/LONG-TERM CARE/HOSPICE/CONDOLENCES/PRAYER LIST

Sharing joys and concerns among the congregation and friends of the church. To add information to this page please contact the church office at 233-2556, Rev. Chase Peeples, or one of the Elders. In order to manage the size of the prayer list, names will remain the list for one month and then removed. Church members are asked to update the church office if they would like a name to remain on the list longer than four weeks.

HOSPITAL/REHAB: Emma Jean Neudorff LC S207

LONG TERM CARE: Leona Swope-Arbor View RM 100,

HOSPICE: Kathleen Bartley (Jane Frick's mother), Betty Darnell (Kelly Kibirige's mother), Louise Wilcox

CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF: Pete Guardado, Richard Medsker (Ashley Medsker's father), Bill Simon (Emma Jean Neudorff's brother)

PRAYER LIST

CHURCH MEMBERS— Nancy Alldredge, Greg Butchart, Bill & Jeanie Byous (on Jamaica mission trip), Brenda Hines, Kem Hines, Herschel Stone, Buck Wekamp

FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF CHURCH MEMBERS— Anonymous (friend of the church with a breast cancer diagnosis), Pual Adams (Jim Adams father), Patty Adams (Jim Adams' step-mother), Atchison Police Department, Bob Carter (Barb Edwards' uncle), Charlotte Donaldson (Sharon Graves' sister), Laura DuBose (Marion Kearnes' niece), Jennifer Frost (Anita Meehan's daughter), Jennifer Jennings (Jesse Jennings' sister), Amy Johnson (Mike Edward's neice), Mervin Johnson (Mike Edwards' father), Jennifer Kar (Andrew Kar's sister), Vicky Masterson (John Welter's mother), Joshua Mayberry (Amber Walter's nephew), Keith McMillen (Bernard McMillen's brother), Wayne Osbourne (Tammy Mort's brother), Gene Rizer (cousin of Susan Zion), David Scott (soloist Josh Scott's father), Johnathan Warner, Roger Walters, Caden Wekamp (grandson of Buck Wekamp)