



The Dialogue



**Serving on Sunday,
January 29, 2012**

DEACONS

Jim Adams	Jessica Alldredge
Taylor Baldwin	Beth Booker
Kimberly Clark	Mark Clark
Shirley Evans	Clayton Fields
Wendy Graves	Marsha McClain
Melvin Zion	

Prayer for Offering:

Ann Thorne

Prayer for Cup & Bread:

Steve Briggs

WORSHIP LEADER:

Creath Thorne

COMMUNION PREPARER:

Marion Kearnes & Betty Lampton

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP:

Rick Ezzell & Janet Pullen

January Greeters:

Sandy Hamlin & Donna Baderstadt

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!



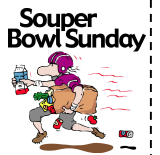
Lenten Fair - Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 18 from 9:00-12 for the Lenten Fair as we journey toward Easter. From 9-10 there will be a pancake breakfast (find out why) followed by activities from 9:30-12 for all to learn about this special, contemplative season. Learn about the significance of many familiar symbols--pretzels, hot cross buns, butterflies, eggs (color a paper egg card with pysanky symbols), We will also need volunteers to supervise the variety of activities and help cook breakfast. Call Barb Edwards, 689-5312 to volunteer or for more information.

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.

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.

An Award I Share with First Christian Church

On January 23, I was given a great honor, The Center for Multicultural Education of Missouri Western State University gave me the “Drum Major for Justice” award at its annual awards banquet. The award is given to individuals at Missouri Western and in the larger St. Joseph community who have worked for justice in the tradition of Martin Luther King, Jr. I was humbled to be one of three recipients of the award for 2012.

The award takes its name from MLK’s remarkable speech, “The Drum Major Instinct” in which he declares that we all have the desire to be out front and to be leading the band. Yet, Jesus taught us to serve others and to embody the Kingdom of God’s ideal that the least shall be the greatest. At the end of the speech, he states that at his funeral, he does not want long speakers describing his many awards. Instead, he says, “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.”

I was more than humbled to receive the award; I was a little overwhelmed, because if there is any award in our community I would ever desire to receive, it is this one. For someone to say that you are standing up for God’s vision of justice in the same tradition as MLK is not only an honor; it is also quite daunting. Any conscientious person receiving such an award would naturally think of her or his many failures to do enough for the cause of justice. I know I certainly did.

I was given the chance to share a few words when the award was given out. I declared that this great honor was one I shared with the church where I serve, First Christian Church of St. Joseph, MO. In whatever way I have been able to speak out and work on behalf of marginalized people in our community, it is only because my church has supported me doing so and has been there with me. During my first year here, I spoke up at a city council meeting in support of a new homeless shelter which faced opposition and FCC members were there with me. I have made my beliefs very public about the full inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in both church and society, but it was the membership of FCC which voted to be open to and affirming of all people, including LGBT people. By taking often unpopular stands like these in our community based on our understanding of a loving and just God, our church

has faced criticism from those outside the church and has even lost some members. Yet, it is the church’s determination to stand on principles of justice that make me proud to be its minister. So, I accepted the award, but as I did so, I stated publicly that it was First Christian’s award too.

When I spoke at the banquet, I shared a story from my father’s experience that has guided my own sense of working for God’s justice. When my father was a young minister at a small white Baptist church in Texas, an African-American family began attending. When word got out that the new young preacher was fine with African-Americans coming to his church, other such families began attending. After a time, the original family desired to join the church, but the white members insisted on a church business meeting first. Members of the church who had not darkened the doors in years showed up to vote to refuse membership to the African-American family. My father went to meet with the family and to share the news of the church’s rejection of them. They were gracious to the young minister and considered the decision to be just another example of the larger racist culture, yet my father left their home feeling that he should have spoken up and fought for their inclusion. He never forgot that feeling of regret.

To give my father credit, throughout his career as a minister he routinely worked to overcome divisions between blacks and whites. One of the last churches he served was located in a small town in southeastern Virginia which literally had a black side of the tracks and a white side of the tracks. He baptized the first African-American person in the church’s long history and did so over the objections of some church members. Even with many occasions for standing up against racism on his resume, my father never forgot about the time he failed to do so. I learned from him that any short-term discomfort, opposition or rejection you may face for standing up for the justice of God pales in comparison to the regret you will feel for not doing so.

In my ministry, I have tried to stand for God’s justice even in the face of opposition, because I know that in the end each of us must face our own conscience and our God. I am proud to serve a church that feels the same way. Together, may we at FCC continue to be “Drum Majors for Justice” and work for the dignity of all God’s children.

Grace and Peace,
Chase

“For now we see through a glass darkly; but then face to face.” 1 Cor. 13:12

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.

Prayer Study

Starting Saturday, February 25 and continuing until Saturday March 31, we will be studying a variety of prayer practices. Prayer is more than talking to God. It is also listening, walking, sitting, creating, and being in nature. We will experience a variety of ways to pray with this study. We will be using the book "Creating a Life with God: The Call of Ancient Prayer Practices" by Daniel Wolpert. You do not need the book to participate. We will meet at 9 a.m. for a light breakfast and the practice will be from 9:30-10:30. We could also use people to volunteer to provide breakfast. If you have questions, please call Mike or Barb Edwards, 816-689-5312

New Address

Diane Nicholas has a new address:



Vintage Garden Assisted Living 3310 N. Woodbine Road, Apt. 209 St. Joseph, MO 64506.



First Christian Ice Skating Party

First Christian Ice Skating Party
Bode Sports Complex
Saturday March 10 11am-12:30pm
Cost: \$2.00 per skater

The Christian Education committee is sponsoring a private party for family and friends of First Christian. You are welcome to bring your own snacks or the concession stand will be available. Everyone is welcome to join us! The smallest size skates they have available is a child's size 8.

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 29th

Sunday School 9:30am
Worship 10:45am

Monday, January 30th

Dream Seekers 5:30pm

Wednesday, February 1st

Worship & Arts 5pm

Thursday, February 2nd

Girl Scouts 5pm
Choir Practice 7pm

Sunday, February 5th

Sunday School 9:30am
Coffee Hour 10am
Worship 10:45am
FCC FIA Volunteer Meeting in board room
12:30pm

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

ATTENDANCE & OFFERING

Week of January 22, 2012

The People Came: 101
The People Gave: \$ 2,247.84

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), Tammy Hess, 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), Bob Carter (Barb Edwards' uncle), Charlotte Donaldson (Sharon Graves' sister), Laura DuBose (Marion Kearnes' niece), Jennifer Frost (Anita Meehan's daughter), Michelle Jacobs, 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), Johs Scott, Johnathan Warner, Roger Walters, Caden Wekamp (grandson of Buck Wekamp)