



First Christian Church  
 (Disciples of Christ)  
 Kearney, MO  
 816.628.5583  
 2151 S. Jefferson St.  
[www.fcckearney.org](http://www.fcckearney.org)  
[fcckearney@aol.com](mailto:fcckearney@aol.com)

# The Christian

April 1, 2011

## In this edition:

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- 3** Missions & Outreach updates: Read about ways that our congregation is active in the local community, the region and our world.
- 4** Church Family News, Birthdays, thank you notes and other news from our congregational life
- 5** Church Calendar
- 6** News for kids, youth and their families.
- 7** Vacation Bible School volunteer opportunities.

VBS registration is now available on the church website! [fcckearney.org](http://fcckearney.org)

## Our Journey Toward Easter Continues

For many centuries, Christians have set aside the forty days before Easter as a time of spiritual preparation, usually through the spiritual disciplines of prayer and fasting. This year, many of you have already joined other members of our congregation in preparing together in an intentional way. We continue until Palm Sunday with Bread & Broth each Wednesday evening during Lent. A soup dinner is served at 6:15—though you're welcome to come later—and we share a time of reflection and devotion together for about half an hour beginning at 7. Kids and youth are invited to share supper before Kingz Kids and Youth Group, and to join any of the other services and events. Join us on:

	4/6	Bread & Broth	6:15	Soup Supper
			7:00	Devotions
	4/13	Bread & Broth		
			6:15	Soup Supper
			7:00	Devotions
	4/21	Maundy Thursday service: The Last Supper, 7 pm		
	4/22	Good Friday service, 7 pm		
	4/24	Easter, services 8:15 & 10:45 am, brunch at 9 am		

## A Note About Maundy Thursday

Volunteers from the 8:15 and 10:45 services will present "The Last Supper" on Maundy Thursday. This service is based on the Leonardo de Vinci's painting of the Last Supper. In the service the twelve apostles each come forward to tell about themselves, how they met Jesus and became an apostle. Then they go behind a curtain. After hearing from the twelve apostles, the curtain is opened and the audience sees Jesus and the twelve around the table, frozen as in the scene depicted de Vinci's painting. Volunteers from both services will provide music periodically during the service.

Sunday Worship: 8:15 am, 10:45 am Sunday Study Groups: 9:30 am

## Pastor's Notes

While I realize worship this past month has been an emotional rollercoaster for some of you, I must confess it has been liberating for me. For me (and Abigail) to have the freedom to experiment with worship for four Sundays in a row has been revitalizing in itself. Not that everything we tried worked (because some things obviously didn't), but how can we know what works and doesn't unless we try?

The next step is discussion in both worship committees. The committees need to hear from you. What did you like? ... What didn't you like? ... What would you like for us to try again with some tweaking? ... What tweaks do you suggest? ... Below are the folks you may contact. They welcome your feedback.

8:15 Committee: Betty Bailey (628.5474), Maxine Hiel (903-3437), Pam Miller (628.4965), Rod Will (903-3701), Deanna Whitford (628.6943), Shelly Handy (392.9908), Rue Lovett (628.5650)

10:45 Committee: Iletta Pulley (580-3610), Lucky Bloss (628.5529), Therrsa Gilpin (628.4683), Cathy Judy (628.3897), Virginia Roach (628.6986)

Also, if you would like to attend or join either of these committees, please contact the committee chair.

As we continue our journey toward Easter, the anticipation builds. Come and worship the God of life, death, and life eternal.

Yours in Christ—Doug

## Capital Campaign Commitment Sunday, April 10

As committed members and friends make their last pledge payments to the 2009 Capital Campaign on Sunday, April 3, the Capital Campaign Committee is planning to launch a new capital campaign with **Commitment Sunday** on **April 10**. The funds raised from these capital campaigns are used to make our monthly mortgage payment. Funds given beyond the amount required to pay the mortgage are used to make additional payments toward the principle of the mortgage.

As of February 28, 2011, the **mortgage loan balance** was **\$1,132,155.32**. The committee's goal is to reduce this balance below \$1M during the next 24 month period. In order to do this, everyone's pledge is needed. This task seems overwhelming, but then again, so does eating an elephant! And if you haven't heard, the way to eat an elephant is one bite at a time. Likewise, we'll retire our debt one pledge at a time.

Let's breakdown what we need to accomplish! The monthly mortgage payment is \$6,200. That means that over the course of two years, (\$6,200 x 24), we'll need \$148,800 or \$150K. Of the \$150K we pay the bank over the next 24 months, \$100K will pay the interest for 24 months and \$50K go to principal. This will reduce our principal balance to \$1,082,000, leaving us with an additional \$82K needed in pledges to get the balance below \$1M.

We hope that you can join us in worship on Commitment Sunday, April 10, as we bless the pledges received. If you cannot attend one of the worship services but would like to have your pledge included in the blessing, please forward your pledge card that you received in the mail to the church office or place it in the offering tray during one of the services prior to April 10 and it will be included in the blessing.

(Continued on page 6)

## The Implementation Team at Work!

We hope you're noticing the updates on our progress so far—as well as our progress! It will only become more and more apparent as time goes by. We'll have even more to share following our April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, but you should know that **25 people** have completed Spiritual Gifts inventories and have been entered into the database. Wouldn't you like to add your name to the list? There's a workshop on Wednesday, April 13, at 7:30 pm.

## Have You Considered Using Online Bill Pay for Giving?

Online bill pay is becoming more popular as fewer people are using checks to pay their monthly bills. Several people at Kearney First Christian Church already use online bill pay for their giving; if you would like to use that option, here's the process:

1. Set up Kearney First Christian Church as a vendor in your Bill Pay Service.  
PO Box 576, Kearney, MO 64060  
816.628.5583
2. In the account number field, put "General Fund" or "Building Fund." This will determine how the Financial Secretary posts the funds to your giving history at the church. (*Please send separate checks for General Fund offering and Building Fund pledges.*)
3. All checks received in the mail are given to the Financial Secretary to enter into the system and deposit into the Church's account.
4. On Sundays, participate in the worship life of the church: you'll find the tear-off portion of the bulletin now allows you to indicate your electronic gift.

Using online bill pay provides you the convenience of not having to write checks (or remember your checkbook!) and the flexibility to schedule the date the check is sent. In addition, you also are able to participate in the act of giving, by placing the registration card in the offering plate, during offering time in worship. If you have any questions, please direct them to our Financial Secretary, Carrie Norman.

## 40 Days and 40 Ways... 2011 Easter Offering (April 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>)

The Easter Offering is your opportunity to support the General and Racial/Ethnic Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. The gifts that you share support vital mission and ministry from the doorsteps of your congregation to the ends of the earth. Incredible mission and ministry happens every day. For example, when the earthquake struck Haiti, Week of Compassion was able to distribute funds through global mission partners related to the Division of Overseas Ministries. David Vargas, DOM President said, "We were in Haiti before the earthquake and we'll be there long after the earthquake." Your gifts to the Easter Offering help us to be "there" wherever that might be, every day.

Your witness does not stop there. For the last 40 days, you have had an opportunity to learn more about our shared witness by receiving daily devotions, stories and prayers from your ministry partners. You learned that among many other things, gifts to the Easter Offering:

- help train leaders
- fund specialized ministries for women, men, children and youth
- ensure our historic ecumenical and interfaith witness
- provide supplemental pensions for clergy whose ministry did not adequately provide for their Retirement

The list goes on and on – well beyond 40 Days of Witness and 40 Ways of Serving! You can learn more about the General Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) by visiting [www.disciples.org](http://www.disciples.org) and by downloading the Lenten devotions at [www.disciplesmissionfund.org](http://www.disciplesmissionfund.org).

## ***A story from your Global Ministries: Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. (Isaiah 55:2-3)***

Recently, I joined a Christian environmental group on a field trip to one of Hong Kong's most mysterious destinations – a public dump. Global Ministries missionary Judy Chan reports, a group from our Kowloon Union Church, decided it was important to visit the not-so-beautiful places in the city to understand how our lifestyles impact Hong Kong's environment.

As we approached the landfill area, we saw large garbage trucks coming and going. Entering, we noticed off in the distance what looked like a wide open valley of plots of dirt. Much of it was covered by sea green plastic sheeting. Other areas were covered with grass and trees. We drove in our van (windows closed!) to see the landfill. To my surprise, the grassy spots were 'restored' areas, meaning my family's garbage was buried underneath, covered by layers of heavy plastic, deodorizer and a few feet of soil and now greenery. The areas covered by sea green sheeting were being prepared as areas for garbage to be dumped in the future.

It is clear that the real problem is Hong Kong people produce too much garbage! It is one of the sins of an affluent society. Despite environmental education campaigns (recycle, reduce, reuse), it appears that people really need to learn the 4<sup>th</sup> "R" – repent! The only thing that has worked so far is making people pay. Plastic bag usage has dropped dramatically since stores began charging 10 cents per bag.

Our chairwoman, is a shining example of simple living. She makes a point of shopping infrequently, and tries to create no rubbish on Sundays. Most importantly, she believes, we must look within and ask ourselves why we need to buy, own and use so much stuff. Our Christian green group doesn't have any easy solutions, but we are working on it. For you see, the environmental crisis is at heart a spiritual matter.

*Global Ministries missionary, Judy Chan is responsible for communications, the ecumenical radio broadcasting ministry, English publications and ecumenical partnerships with the Hong Kong Christian Council.*

## Ongoing Sunday Morning Study Groups

**Mixed Nuts:** Adult study group meeting in classroom A  
*Beginning March 13, this group is using a Lenten Bible study focusing on the biblical texts from the Revised Common Lectionary.*

**Young at Heart:** Senior adult study group meeting in the classroom off the sanctuary  
*This group uses The Present Word, a series for adults. During April, they will be studying "Ancient Words of Praise" from a variety of biblical texts.*

**A Chronological Study of the Bible:** Adult study group meeting in the pastor's office  
*This group is using The Chronological Study Bible, reading their way through the Bible. They're reading quite carefully and you're welcome to join them.*

**Youth Group:** Kids in grades 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> meet in the Barr Youth Center  
*This group is currently studying the teen study based on The Me I Want to Be by John Ortberg.*

### Children:

Preschool through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade: Classroom C

4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grades: Classroom B

*The kids study the Bible in a variety of ways, rotating through story, science, snack and more. For a month, they study the same story or person in all those different ways. Some begin their time of study with music; others with a more in-depth study time. Please note: These locations are where children begin the rotation each week, not where they finish.*

## Thanks to the Church Family

I would like to thank my church family for the love felt through the prayers, calls, visits, flowers and all other assistance during my hospitalization after suffering a stroke. I ask for your continued prayers as I begin outpatient therapy. I also thank my family for their care.

~Pat Fairley

Pastor Doug,

Thank you very much for letting God use you and your church. I could not have made it without you. I'm excited to share that God has put me back in my line of work and back on my financial feet. Thank you again so very much for being there for me.

~Linda

## Gospel Concert Series

### THE MARK TRAMMEL QUARTET

FROM GADSDEN, AL

Whenever a quartet delivers what the congregation feels is a perfect concert you want them back, right? This was the case with **THE MARK TRAMMEL QUARTET** last year and we are blessed to get them to come back so soon. They are magnificent!

**FRIDAY APRIL 8, 2011 7:00 PM**

**First Christian Church  
2151 S. Jefferson Street  
Kearney, MO 64060**

## April Birthdays

4/01	Marcus Harris Debbie Sale Noel Scott, Sr.
4/02	Rachel Burr-Terrill Martha Goeke
4/06	Brett Benner Stella DePrenger
4/07	Norman Billups Michael Clark Kyra Richardson
4/08	Charlotte Barr Bryson McClung Lana Wisely
4/10	Deanne Weber
4/14	Brandon Butcher
4/16	Dale McClung Susan Mick
4/17	Kurt Wells
4/18	Crystal Ziffer
4/19	Sydnee Moore Kylee Moore
4/25	Iletta Pulley
4/28	Mason Barr Jerry Stufflebean
4/30	Noel (N.E. Scotty) Scott

If your birthday is missing, please contact the church office at [fcckearney@aol.com](mailto:fcckearney@aol.com) or 628.5583.

## Come celebrate...

...Noel Scott's birthday on Thursday, March 31, 2 pm at Liberty Terrace: 2201 Glenn Hendren Dr, Liberty. No gifts, please, but cards are certainly welcome.

## Praying with...

...those who grieve. Over the last weeks, several members of our congregation lost people who were dear to them. Please continue to hold the families of these people in your prayers:

- Loren Croskey
- Meredith Darlington
- Mary Ruth Denny (Gerri Hall's Sister-in-law)
- R. J. (Jim) Hall
- Hershel Taylor (Doug's Uncle)

# April 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Committee Meeting Night (4/27/11)</b> 5 pm, 8:15 Worship Committee 6 pm, Evangelism Committee 6 pm, Committee night meal 6:30 pm, all other committee meetings 7:30 pm, Elders Meeting					1	2
					2 pm Birthday party for Noel Scott at Liberty Terrace  6:30 pm Girl Scouts (Barr YC)	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2-4 pm Rollerskating	7 pm Small Group Study (Handys' Home)	9:30 am Quilting 6:30 pm Cap. Campaign meeting 7:15 pm Women's Bible Study (Teresa Brent's home)	7 am Men's Prayer (McDonald's) 6:15 pm Bread & Broth 6:45 pm Kingz Kids 7 pm Youth Group	6:30 pm Education Committee 6:30 pm Governance Meeting	6:30 pm Brownie Troop (Barr YC) 7 pm Gospel Concert: Mark Trammell Quartet	8 am Men's Breakfast 9 am Work Day
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Capital Campaign pledges received  5:30 pm Int. Ministries Meeting 6:30 pm Board Meeting	6:30 pm Implementation Team Meeting 7 pm Small Group Study (Handys' Home)	9:30 am Quilting 6:30 pm Cap. Campaign meeting 7:15 pm Women's Bible Study (Teresa Brent's home)	7 am Men's Prayer (McDonald's) 6:15 pm Bread & Broth 6:45 pm Kingz Kids 7 pm Youth Group		6:30 pm Girl Scouts (Barr YC)	10 am Easter egg hunt
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Easter Offering  12 pm Camp forms notarized	Newsletter Deadline 7 pm Small Group Study (Handys' Home)	9:30 am Quilting 7:15 pm Women's Bible Study (Teresa Brent's home)	7 am Men's Prayer (McDonald's) 6:15 pm Bread & Broth 6:45 pm Kingz Kids 7 pm Youth Group	7 pm Maundy Thursday Service	7 pm Good Friday Service  <b>Church Office                      Closed</b>	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Easter Sunday  Easter Offering  9 am Brunch		9:30 am Quilting	7 am Men's Prayer (McDonald's) 6:15 pm Bread & Broth 6:45 pm Kingz Kids 7 pm Youth Group  Committee Night (see above)			

## Youth Group!

The Youth Group continues to meet regularly. Youth families, mark your calendars for these tentative plans for the youth group:

Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup>: End of school lock-in  
Wednesday, June 8: Worlds of Fun trip

Also, Youth age 12 and up are invited to go on this year's Mission Trip! We're heading to Tulsa, Oklahoma the week of July 17<sup>th</sup> to help with home repairs for elderly and disabled people. It's sure to be lots of fun—not to mention living out Jesus' command to serve those in need!

## Just for Kids!

**Rollerskating** at Northland Rolladium in Liberty on Sunday, April 3, from 2-4 pm. The cost is \$3 per skater, including skate rental and a drink. Please RSVP to Shawna Rapstine (320-3732) or the church office (628-5583).

**Kingz Kids** continues to meet on Wednesday evenings at 6:45 pm. It's a VBS style program for kids 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grades. Everyone is welcome! We will not meet on Ash Wednesday (March 9<sup>th</sup>).

**The Easter Egg Hunt** will be on Saturday, April 16 at 10 am. Kids meet in the sanctuary; weather permitting, we'll be hunting outside this year!

**Camp Sunday** is April 17 immediately following 10:45 service. Julie Butcher will be available to notarize camp forms. Camp forms are available at [fcckearney.org](http://fcckearney.org). If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

**Vacation Bible School** begins Sunday, July 10 and continues through Thursday, July 14. It's from 5:45-8:30 p.m.; ages 4 years-completed 5th grade are invited. We will serve nightly family meals from 5:00-5:30. You can register kids any time by visiting [fcckearney.org](http://fcckearney.org). We are always looking for volunteers so feel free to register too. We hope you'll be able to join us at **PandaMania**—Where God is Wild About You! Invite friends and neighbors!

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During the week before Commitment Sunday, we also invite you to join with us in prayer about this Capital Campaign. Over the next days, you'll receive a postcard in the mail inviting you to pray over certain Scriptures with your church. Also, please join in prayer on April 3 by committing with the congregation to twelve hours of prayer—fifteen minutes at a time from 7 am to 7 pm. You can commit to a time slot on the sign-up sheet at the church.

In 2 Corinthians 8:12, Paul writes to the church at Corinth, reminding them that *it doesn't matter how much you have but how much you give of what you have*. As a faithful, committed Christ follower, please prayerfully consider an amount that you can pledge toward the 2011 Capital Campaign.

Blessings,

Capital Campaign Committee

Members: Jack Barr, Shelly Handy, Carrie Norman, Iletta Pulley, Laurie Wood, Kurt Harris, Julie Butcher, Tara Brown

## From Abigail: Journeying Together

As I've shared with some of you already, many of my conversations take place only in cyberspace. It seems the face-to-face conversations are getting fewer and farther between with many people who are dear to me. One particularly heated debate that erupted a few days ago was over whether a person could be a Christian apart from some sort of religious community, a local congregation or otherwise. The debate was well argued on both sides and I won't venture to name a winner. In the end, all had to concede that boundaries about who is and who isn't a Christian aren't visible to human eyes.

What we did establish, though, was that community matters. A lot. The person arguing most vehemently that a Christian doesn't need a church was one of the few people who witnessed my baptism. We prayed together often during a certain period in our lives.

Over the last weeks during Bread and Broth, there have been many of us in this congregation who have shared in that community in a way that is different than we normally do. We've eaten together. We've prayed together. We've read the Bible together. I have cherished the experience of being with many of you in ways I had not before had the opportunity.

And even though we've only gathered a few times so far, it's already evident that there's something about this *together* thing. We see each other a little bit differently. We're a little more comfortable with each other. And it's better, even, when we look at our faith together.

Together, we wonder why Peter had a sword that he used to cut off a slave's ear. We wonder why Judas' thirty pieces of silver don't appear in John's Gospel. We wonder...and are content not to receive answers. Instead, we pray before we leave, trusting that the questions point us to Christ as surely as answers do. Together, it seems, we see a bit more clearly.

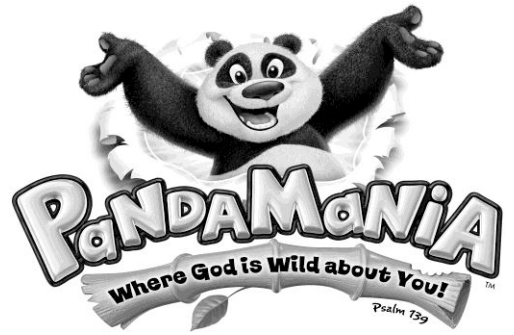
And that is, after all, one of the many purposes of this community. There's nothing groundbreaking about saying how good it is when our lives complement each other. Paul wrote many years ago about the goodness of one body in Christ, celebrating all our different members and gifts, but still bound to each other.

During this season, though, it is especially comforting to share the journey of Lent, having multiple reminders each week that we are not alone. Even if we do not see our Savior, we are privileged to journey alongside others who help reveal Christ to us. And yes, it is very good. *Together*.

## Volunteer for PandaMania VBS!

Join our team to help create an excellent PandaMania for children the week of July 10-14, 2011 from 5:45-8:30 p.m.! Return this form *or sign up online at [fcckearney.org](http://fcckearney.org).*

If you are willing to share your time, energy, and resources, we have a place for you to serve using your God-given gifts and talents to make a difference in the lives of the children in the community. Will you prayerfully consider filling one of the following positions for our PandaMania staff?



- \_\_\_\_\_ Crew Leader-Attends a leader training meeting, attends PandaMania daily; participates in fun activities while shepherding a group of five-eight elementary age children (30 needed).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Assistant Crew Leader-Attends training; assists crew leader with above activities-this position is for youth who have completed 6<sup>th</sup> grade.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Panda Pre-School Crew Leader- Attends a leader training meeting, attends PandaMania daily; participates in fun activities while shepherding a group of four pre-school age children(10 needed).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Panda Pre-School Assistant Crew Leader- Attends training; assists crew leader with above activities- this position is for youth who have completed 6<sup>th</sup> grade.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Registration Workers-Assists with registrations of children coming to PandaMania (4 needed).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Nursery Workers-Cares for the children (age 3 and under) of the workers at PandaMania (2 people needed).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Decorations Assistants-Assists the decorator with the decorating (5-8 people needed).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Publicity Coordinator-Works to coordinate efforts to promote PandaMania .
- \_\_\_\_\_ Meal/Snack Assistants-Prepares, serves, and cleans up the nightly meal/snack (4 needed).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Timer-Works nightly to coordinate pagers to keep PandaMania running smoothly.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Spotlight Drama-Takes pictures daily and puts them into a Powerpoint presentation. You must have digital camera and Powerpoint computer knowledge for this position.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Prayer Partner-Intercedes daily for all PandaMania volunteers as they are recruited.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Yes! I will volunteer my time, energy, and resources to serve!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address(es): \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want a T-shirt (cost is \$10)? YES / NO Size: \_\_\_\_\_



## Your Church Staff

Doug Gilpin, Pastor  
pastorgiplin@aol.com  
816.903.5583

Abigail Conley, Administrative Pastor  
Rev.Abigail.Conley@gmail.com  
816.628.5583

Pam Novak, Secretary  
fcckearney@aol.com  
816.628.5583

The church office is open Monday  
through Friday, from 9 am to 2 pm.

## Prayer Concerns

Dana Ball, Angela Bennett & family, Gloria Bolton (Deanna Whitford's mother), Louise Eastep, Merrill & Fairley, Allen Gilliland, Bill Goeke, Helen Griffey, Gerri Hall, Rhonda Heverstick, Evan & Jean Hoit, Cecil Lovett, Ava Martinez & family, Gary Martin, Richard May, Nancy Mooney, Kate Pence, Doug Rawdon, Noel & Gwendean Scott, Ellen Smith, , Alvin & Irma Willis, Opal Wisely, our troops (Steven Davis, Corey Hughes, Tim Johnson, Shaun Lind, & Brady Willis), Global Mission Partners, our country, our church programs, our world.

To:

(Return Service Requested)

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2151 S. Jefferson St. - PO Box 576  
Kearney, MO 64060

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