



First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Kearney, MO
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The Christian

July 1, 2011

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Crew Leader Training...

... Is Wednesday, July 6th at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall. Please contact GiGi Leighr at 816.628.1951 or leighrg@kearney.k12.mo.us with any questions.



You should know by now that VBS is Sunday, July 10th through Thursday, July 14th. A few more helpers are welcome and we want as many kids as possible to pre-register so the first day is less chaotic. Visit the church website or contact the church office if you need more information.

While the PandaMania is going on...

...we'll also be hosting a hospitality house at the Barr Youth Center. Several folks from the men's group will be there, along with some refreshments and a game or two. Make sure and invite families who are bringing kids to hang around down there if they're not volunteering at VBS.



Once the PandaMania is over...

...we're having a Friday evening cookout and ice cream social. We'll start about 5:45; youth group age kids are invited to stick around later for water games and a movie. Come, relax, have fun. And take a much-needed break after a long week, whether that was VBS or work!



We need homemade ice cream! If you would be able donate a freezer of homemade ice cream for the ice cream social, please contact Julie Cargill at don-juliecargill@msn.com or 816.628.6304.



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

Pastor's Notes

Consider again the vision of "God's Plan for Our Future:"

- Passion in our worship of God.
- Christ-like compassion in our love for each other.
- People taking responsibility for their own spiritual growth.
- Discovering and using our spiritual gifts in life-changing ministries.
- Sustainable growth in our youth ministries.
- Willing to share our faith stories with confidence as God provides opportunities.
- More intentional in sharing Christ's love as we serve community needs.
- Embracing change without compromising our core values.
- A healing place where everyone is welcomed, accepted, and loved.
- Willing to risk, learn from our mistakes, and grow while still loving each other.

Now I ask you, what more could you want? ... What more could anyone want? ...

Please continue to pray for the Implementation Team and Sub-Teams as they lead the fulfillment of God's plan and our future. Also, please pray about how you can help implement the plan – such as discovering your spiritual gifts. For the next scheduled class, please check the bulletin, newsletter, website, or call the church office (628-5583). You'll be so glad you did.

Your partner in God's plan,
Doug

Do You Know Your Spiritual Gifts?

As Kearney First Christian continues to seek God's Plan for Our Future, the leaders of the church invite everyone to complete a Spiritual Gifts inventory by September of this year. As we plan for the new year, we want to choose leaders best able to serve in the ministries to which this congregation has been called. The next scheduled workshop is Tuesday, July 6th at 6:30 pm. If you can't attend the workshop but would like to complete an inventory, please contact your Shepherd or Gene Ballew at geneballew@aol.com or 816.746.1218.

From Your Church Leadership:

In the June board meeting, your church leadership:

- Accepted the recommendation that we suspend Sports 4 All grants so that more funds are directed to helping with basic needs such as rent and utility assistance. People seeking sports funding assistance will be directed to the Just 4 Fun program.

Full board meeting minutes are public and available upon request. Copies of the board report are also available each month. Please contact the church office if you would like these documents.

Please note: The July board meeting is the third Sunday of the month, July 17, in order to accommodate VBS.

Ongoing Sunday Morning Study Groups

Mixed Nuts: Adult study group meeting in classroom A
This group is working through a Bible Basics Study Pack from The Thoughtful Christian. It's not just Bible 101; it also includes a lot of things around and about the Bible—like what do we mean when we talk about Divine Inspiration?

Young at Heart: Senior adult study group meeting in the classroom off the sanctuary
This group uses The Present Word, a series for adults.

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 6th through 12th meet in the Barr Youth Center
This group is currently studying wacky Bible stories with Abigail.

Children: Preschool through 3rd grade: Classroom C
4th & 5th 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.

Welcoming as Jesus Welcomed: Family Promise

The board approved Missions & Outreach's recommendation that Kearney First Christian Church become a host church for Family Promise. The short translation of what that means is that we'll be allowing homeless families to be guests our building for four weeks out of the year. Keep reading for the longer version

Family Promise is a nationwide program that began in 1986. The program was developed because of the lack of housing for homeless families. Shelters are primarily for woman and children or men only. A woman with a fifteen year old son who was seeking shelter would have to send her son to the men's shelter while she went to the women's shelter. Married couples would be split up. For a family already struggling, those circumstances just made things worse. Faith communities, however, have space that is often unused throughout the week. So, if they all work together, then we can provide housing to families that is safe and allows families to stay together. There's little cost because the facilities already exist. Here are the basics for how we fit in:

- We're one of 13 churches in the Northland providing housing to families, so we each only take about 4 weeks a year. Those weeks aren't all at the same time, so we can work around other church events and they can work around host weeks.
- We have at least 2 support churches nearby to provide volunteers who stay overnight with the guests and help provide meals for the families.
- Families arrive at the church about 5 pm on Sunday evening. Each morning, they leave about 7 am to go to school, work, or the day center. They're packed up by the following Sunday morning.
- The day center is a central location where families can stay during the day with resources to look for work, receive mail, and work with already existing social service agencies to help them achieve lasting independence.
- The main program, Family Promise of Northland Kansas City, provides cots for the families to sleep on and arranges transportation to and from our church to the day center.
- There's no more than 14 people in a program at one time, so it's an easily managed number.

That's the summary. You may still have questions or you may just be very interested! If you do have questions, talk to someone from Missions & Outreach. Abigail also knows quite a bit about the program. But it's a very tangible way we can serve someone in need just as we would serve Jesus. We're providing food, shelter and relationships to people very much in need. Over the next months, keep watch for ways to get involved in this ministry. It really might be something as simple as being willing to talk with someone for a couple of hours!

Mission Trip

We're heading to Tulsa, Oklahoma the week of July 17th 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 the very least of these.

Gospel Concert



The Crist Family
Tuesday, July 19 at 7 pm

Tall Oaks Gala

The 2011 Tall Oaks Gala "Celebrating 50 years of Camping" will be held Friday October 28th at the Intercontinental Hotel on the Plaza. Tall Oaks is asking for one or two volunteers from each congregation to help with publicity, take reservations and accept auction donations. Please contact the church office if you are interested.

Updates from Global Ministries

Striving for Peace

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God. Mathew 5: 9

Kingston, Jamaica, was the host city for the World Council of Churches' (WCC) International Ecumenical Peace Convocation in May. The theme was "Glory to God and peace on earth". It was the culmination of the WCC's Decade to Overcome Violence, which has sought to network and bring attention to the peacemaking initiatives of its various member churches. More than 2,000 participated.

The convocation leaders took time to recognize the work done during the decade to overcome violence, and also invited churches to "renew their commitment to nonviolence, peace and just peace," through a variety of events including the planting of peace trees, a peace Sunday and a peace concert in Kingston.

Churches around the world joined convocation participants in prayers, special events and worship services including the use of a Caribbean prayer for peace which was translated into more than 20 languages, and singing the convocation theme song, "Glory to God, Peace on Earth," written by Jamaican musician Grub Cooper.

A series of consultations on a variety of peace and reconciliation-related topics took place in the years prior to the convocation, which built significant momentum. One group travelled to the United States last fall to dialogue about gun violence. Another group met with Kenyans struggling with post-election violence. The Rev Dr. Jayasiri Peiris, general secretary of the National Christian Council of Sri Lanka said the consultation visits represented the church striving "to be the living body of Christ".

The International Ecumenical Peace Convocation participants heard many stories of transformative peace efforts, but also honestly studied where differences and suffering still exist. The convocation became a milestone in ecumenical deliberations on peace and justice.

Today we pray that each one of us will be peacemakers in our world.

Searching for Identity and Citizenship

I have become a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my mother's sons. Psalm 69: 8

The Church of Christ in Thailand (CCT) was started by missionaries in the early 1800s. Now it has more than 900 churches nationwide, and 150,000 members. Global Ministries partners with CCT to minister to the 1.2 million people in Thailand who belong to ethnic minority groups, such as the Karen, Hmong (Meo), Yao (Mein), Akha (Egaw), Lahu (Musoe), and Lisu.

Many hill tribe people, although they were born in Thailand, do not have birth certificates, meaning they have no citizenship, no identification documents, and no legal identity. The lack of citizenship means that these ethnic minorities are considered illegal aliens in their own land and have little access to basic services like education and health care, employment, and the right to own land.

Searching for Identity and Citizenship for Ethnic Minorities in Thailand is a new project by CCT. Nine volunteers help villagers apply to become Thai citizens. The project expected 100-200 individuals to receive citizenship documents in the first year of the project. As of August 2010, almost 1,000 people had filed for citizenship. Of those, 210 had been granted citizenship and an additional 776 were registered and waiting.

Among the 210, Mayuree and her three younger sisters recently became Thai citizens. Their father and mother had obtained citizenship years ago but, due to the lack of education Mayuree's parents did not know how to register their children. Mayuree said "I am very happy to receive the citizenship. I am a Thai now. I am happy because I can go to school and obtain public services that other Thai people receive."

Please pray for this new project, and the impact it has on improving the lives of so many.

Global Ministries works with the Church of Christ in Thailand to fund the Citizenship project.

Thanks to the Church Family

Thank you so very much for the family dinner you provided as well as the many expressions of sympathy to our family. The thoughts and prayers, the food and paper products, the cards and calls, your presence at the visitation or funeral and generous donations are greatly appreciated.

~The family of Loren Croskey

Thank you so much for all the food you sent to the Holt Ministerial Alliance. We appreciate your help very much.

~Pat Fuller

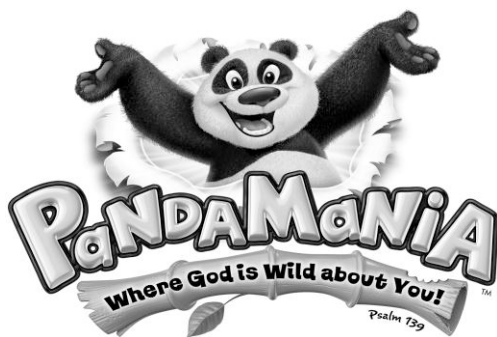
Angela's Angels Relay for Life Team raised a total of \$1,840.91. Our goal was \$1,500. Thanks for all the prayers and support.

~Susan & Misty Mick

Directory Update

Geri Hall – Room 1A
Pleasant Valley Manor Care Center
6814 Sobie RD
Pleasant Valley, MO 64068
(816) 781-5277

There is still time to volunteer for
PandaMania Vacation Bible School!



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.! **Sign up to volunteer online at fcckearney.org** or call the church office.

July Birthdays

7/1	Jinx McDougal Lana Roach
7/3	Greg Bennett
7/6	Ryan Collins
7/7	Martha Billups GiGi Leighr Les Wisely
7/8	Amy Lawrence
7/9	Steven Burr Audrie Milligan
7/11	Stacy Caraway
7/13	Eddy Watkins
7/15	Jonathan Crawford
7/16	Tessa Minder
7/17	Ellyssa Gallinger Mark Jurado
7/18	Sarah Jewell Karen Mize
7/19	Ashley Bultmann
7/20	Misty Mick Ed Mick
7/25	Teddy Armstrong
7/26	Zachary Ball
7/29	Edith Spencer Jan Worley
7/30	Byron Simpson
7/31	Louise Eastep Lorri Lawrence Jeremy Singleton

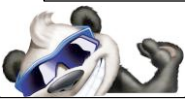
If your birthday is missing, please contact the church office at fcckearney@aol.com or 628.5583.

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:

- Robert Bauer
(Janice Doss' father)
- Patricia Jaworski
(Beth Miller's sister)
- Opal Siddens
(Stacey Milligan's great grandmother)

July 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Committee night (7/27/11) 5 pm 8:15 Worship committee meeting 6 pm Evangelism committee meeting 6:30 pm all other committee meetings 7:30 pm Elders' meeting					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Independence Day Church office closed	9:30 am Quilting	7 am Men's Prayer Group (McDonald's) 6:30 pm Spiritual Gifts Workshop 6:30 pm Crew Leader Training			8 am Men's Breakfast 4 pm VBS Pool Party @ New Hope
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
		Board Report info deadline	7 am Men's Prayer Group (McDonald's)		5:45 PM Cookout & ice cream social	
Vacation Bible School 5:45 – 8:30 pm (dinner @ 5 pm)						
						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
VBS Sunday 1pm Fellowship hall reserved (Bloss) 6:30 pm Board meeting		9:30 am Quilting 7 pm Concert: Crist Family	7 am Men's Prayer Group (McDonald's)			
Mission Trip (Tulsa, OK)						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	Newsletter deadline	9:30 am Quilting	7 am Men's Prayer Group (McDonald's) Committee Night (see info above)			
Vacation: Abigail (7/27-8/2)						
31	Vacation: Abigail (7/27-8/2)					

Youth

Don't miss Sunday morning study group! You don't know what weird thing you might miss. Come on, kings dying on toilets - that's snazzy stuff!

And you definitely don't want to miss the post-VBS water games! Following the cookout and ice cream social on Friday, July 15, youth are invited to hang around with Abigail and play water games, then watch a movie outside. You **WILL** get wet. We plan to finish around midnight.

Keeping in Touch

Making sure everyone knows what's going on is challenging at times—especially, it seems, with our Youth Groupers! After youth committee and parent discussions, we think text messaging is the best way to communicate with kids about the life of the Youth Group. Kids or families of kids who want to receive texts about Youth Group life should let Abigail or someone in the church office know. All we ask is that a kid and an adult in the kid's life both receive messages. That way, both know what's going on!

Traveling plans

Abigail will be traveling to Tulsa as part of the Mission Trip Team from July 17-22. She'll be on vacation following that, from July 27 through August 2nd.

VBS Pool Party

Join us for a VBS Pool Party prior to the start of VBS on Saturday, July 9th from 4–6 pm at New Hope Retreat, 21209 NE 188th Street, Holt, MO 64048. Contact GiGi Leighr at 816.628.1951 or leighrg@kearney.k12.mo.us with any questions.

From Abigail:

Holy Time at Tall Oaks

For some reason, I never went to camp as a kid. As an adult, though, I'm racking up the time spent at camp. Some things are just natural camp things—enforcing sunscreen application, daily showers, and clothing changes for example. Yes, I'm one of the evil counselors who makes kids shower every day *and* wear clean clothes. Tall Oaks has added archery and horseback riding to my list of anticipated camp things.

Even though camp wasn't part of my childhood religious education, it's something I imagine I will keep attending alongside kids for many years to come. Many of you have been to Tall Oaks at some point in time; they just keep making more improvements to the facility and it is one of the best camping facilities anywhere. But what Tall Oaks and places like it offer kids has little to do with great facilities and a lot more to do with things like this:

Silence. Kids leave their iPods and cell phones at home. There's no internet access. There's no other place to rush. Everything they'll see or do for a whole week is within about a two mile stretch. The younger kids even spend at least an hour a day chilling out on their bunk. It's an amazing change from their overscheduled, over-programmed, constantly stimulated lives. It's a holy thing, especially in a world that says their treasure should be all those technological and programmed things.

Worship. Camp worship is a different kind of worship for many reasons, but mostly because it happens every day we're there. It's wedged in between other things. It's something we talk about and plan for during other parts of the day. But it's part of daily life, not relegated to Sunday morning, different clothes or different people. The people you ate breakfast with and were in the next shower over this morning now sing with you tonight. All of a sudden, even if briefly, a time of worship is something that is normal and natural in your life.

Community. While camp is not diverse when it comes to age, there is a lot to be said for learning to live with each other. It brings home in a very real way the life of the first Christians who were said to share all they had in common. When you have to use your friend's towel because yours is still wet or bum a pair of jeans because you only brought shorts and you need pants to ride horses, you never forget your connectedness, your place in Christ's body.

I'll stop there. But I could easily keep going. Despite the exhaustion that comes after camp and the craziness that comes during it, it's worth it. The kids go home talking about horses and bows and arrows and s'mores, no doubt. But those other things sink in when they're thinking about the horses and bows and arrows and s'mores, even if they can't talk about them just yet. And all of those things are surely good, holy gifts to give this generation of believers.

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

Jennifer Anton, Dana Ball, Robert Baurer family, Angela Bennett & family, Debbie Colvert, Louise Eastep, Merrill & Pat Fairley, Allen Gilliland, Bill Goeke, Helen Griffey, Gerri Hall, Rhonda Heverstick, Evan & Jeanne Hoit, Jim Hutchens, Cecil Lovett, Ava Martinez & family, Gary Martin, Richard May, Kate Pence, Doug Rawdon, Noel & Gwendean Scott, Ellen Smith, , Alvin & Irma Willis, Opal Wisely, our troops (Josh Bettis, Steven Davis, Corey Hughes, Tim Johnson, Shawn Lind, Doyle Riley, Jason Tribble & Brady Willis), Global Mission Partners, our country, our church programs, our world.

To:

(Return Service Requested)

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