



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

September 2011

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Information on the Women's Fall Retreat at Tall Oaks

Saturday Night Live (SNL) family picnic at Tryst Falls on Saturday, September 10th from 5- 8 pm. SNL is a young (& not as young) adult group. Everyone is welcome to join us for fellowship & fun. In case of inclement weather, we'll meet at the church. Please contact Shawna Rapstine (816.320.3732) if you have questions.

Small Groups Now Forming!

Religions of the World Small Group Study

This group will meet at 7 pm on Tuesday evenings, September 20th through November 8th at the home of George & Shelly Handy and will be facilitated by Pastor Abigail Conley. Come join us as we study Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism. We will be using *Christianity and the Religions of the World* material by Rev. Adam Hamilton, Senior Minister of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection. We will also attend a service for each religion then have follow up discussion the next week. Visit fcckearney.org to register or contact George or Shelly Handy (816.392.9908).

Living Fully, Dying Well Small Group Study

Life is a gift. Young or old, rich or poor, at the peak of performance or at low ebb, life remains a precious gift. Scripture encourages us to reflect on its beauty, meaning, goodness, and eternal nature. Thoughtful consideration of every life stage opens the door to living fully, joyfully, and in complete presence – embracing all of life from beginning to end. To live fully and die well involves a deep personal faith as well as a welcoming, supportive, and nurturing faith community. You are invited to be part of such a community. You are also encouraged to bring a friend with you. This group will meet at 7 pm on Thursday evenings from September 29th – November 17th at the church in classroom A and will be led by Doug Gilpin.

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

Pastor's Notes

God's Plan for Our Future focuses on three major themes:

- Revitalizing worship – which begins not so much with the order of service as the way we order our lives. Worship renewal begins with spiritual renewal, which leads us to our second major theme.
- Improving our fellowship with God and others through bible study, prayer, Christian community, and witness/service. All four of these basic disciplines are absolutely necessary for spiritual renewal.
- Basing our ministries on our God-given gifts/abilities. This means identifying, developing, and using our gifts/abilities both inside and outside the church. It means matching our gifts/abilities with congregational, community, metro, and global needs in joyful ministries.

As we faithfully accomplish these three major themes, we will see God's glorious plan unfold in our present and our future.

If you have yet to identify your gifts/abilities for ministry, PLEASE contact the church office today. God has a wonderful purpose for each of us. Help us to help you discover yours.

Your partner in God's plan,
Doug

That New Governance Model...

By this time, you've heard about the new governance model we're implementing. This model is designed to be easily adapted to changes in the congregation and our ministries. It is especially designed to use the gifts that people have been given for the church and best put them into use. Church leaders plan to have this model fully in place in January of 2012. In the meantime, we'll be making the preparations necessary for that model to be in place, including a leadership retreat in October. That retreat will be a time of discernment and preparation for the coming year so that we can move toward what God has in store for our future together with the necessary leaders and ministry teams in place for the coming year.

From Your Church Leadership:

At the August board meeting, your church leadership:

- Celebrated the congregational acceptance of the new governance model
- Heard the Stewardship team's plans to help the congregation name and enact gifts, especially to enable the progress of the new governance model and what God has in store for us

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.

Ongoing Sunday Morning Study Groups

Mixed Nuts: Adult study group meeting in classroom A
This group is reading A Handbook for Today's Disciples which discusses the background & history of the Disciples of Christ. In September they will begin reading Fearless by Max Lucado.

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. You're welcome to join them.

Youth Group: Kids in grades 6th–12th meet in the Barr Youth Center
This group will begin studying stories from the Bible using a new curriculum God Up Close. Teresa Brent will be leading their class in September.

Children: Preschool-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, not where they finish.

An Update from Global Ministries: Seeking to Serve

God is not so unjust as to overlook your work and the love which you showed for God's sake in serving the saints, as you still do. Hebrews 6:10

Global Ministries missionary, Jeffrey Mensendiek and his family are long-time residents of Sendai, Japan. Since the devastating earthquake and tsunami Jeffrey has been ministering to the displaced, grieving and broken. Jeffrey's sister, Martha Mensendiek also a missionary who lives and works in Kyoto, has been translating Jeffrey's daily journal entries so that Global Ministries can post them on the website. This is one of Jeffrey's recent entries: I took part in a meeting attended by Buddhist and Christian religious leaders. The purpose was to organize a common ministry to serve the spiritual needs of the public in Sendai. The government and various organizations can address the material needs of the people. But there definitely is a spiritual need which only the religious community can address.

It is important that the Buddhist and Christian community join together at this time in a spirit of respect. It shows the public that we are not here to compete, but to serve. The spiritual needs are so deep. Many people are afraid of religion, and believe that religious people are aggressive and self-serving. Not so for those of us gathered on this night. Our hearts go out to those who have lost loved ones; those who cannot return to the place where they lived for fear of the memories which might return to them. Many people are still not accounted for. The suffering continues. The religious community is ready to serve at any time, but for those who have lost loved ones, the time may not yet be right. Humility is an important part of Buddhism. Waiting, listening, emptying oneself, letting go of desires are all important values. When my father first came to Sendai 60 years ago, he visited a blind man in a small fishing village near Ishinomaki. He witnessed the desperate poverty and asked; "Is there anything that I can do for you?" The man replied; "Desire is endless." There is so much to learn from the wisdom of the Buddhist tradition. On this forty-ninth day I bow my head remembering that many of my Buddhist friends are praying for peace and healing.

Let us pray for strength for the suffering and those who minister to them.

Jeffrey Mensendiek, serves the Council on Cooperative Mission. He is assigned to the Emmaus Center in Sendai, Japan, where he now works as director of recovery response.

Gospel Concerts:



The Triple L Band
7 pm Thursday, September 8



The Perrys
7 pm Thursday, September 22

Tall Oaks Gala:

The 2011 Tall Oaks Gala will be held Friday October 28th at the Intercontinental Hotel on the Plaza. If you would like more information, please contact the church office or visit talloaks.org.

Thanks to the Church Family

Thanks to all my friends & neighbors who remembered me in their prayers. Thank you for all the cards, phone calls & visits during my recent hospitalization/rehab and since returning home. A special thank you to Larry & Marie Booth for checking on me several times a day. May God's blessings be with each of you ~Helen Booth

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 final scheduled workshop is Wednesday, September 14th at 7 pm. If you can't attend the workshop but would like to complete an inventory, please contact your Shepherd, Gene Ballew (geneballew@aol.com or 816.746.1218), or Abigail Conley (rev.abigail.conley@gmail.com or 816.628.5583).

Congratulations...

...to Todd & Betsy Reynolds on the birth of their baby boy Kemper Powers Reynolds who was born on August 7th. He weighed 8 lbs. 14 oz. and was 22" long.

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:

- Mildred Elkin Family (relative of Leslie Harris)
- Stanley Schultz (Brad Schultz's father)

Women of Faith Conference

Get away with your girlfriends to laugh, cry, and recharge!



Friday, November 4th 10:00 am - 3:30 pm & 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Saturday, November 5th 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

The cost is \$89 and includes lunch for both days.

To register go to <http://gps.womenoffaith.com>

- click find a group
- enter Kearney First United Methodist
- click on the group name (underlined in blue)
- click on join group and follow the directions

Contact Shawna Rapstine (816.320.3732) with any questions.

Directory Update:

Gerri Hall
Eastwood Apartments
241 N Eastwood LN
PO Box 433
Kearney, MO 64060
816.628.4941

September Birthdays

9/1	Heather Billups-Shields
9/2	Thersa Gilpin Guy Schooler Richard Whitford Grant Woltkamp
9/3	Helen Booth Peggie Stufflebean
9/4	Gina Bates
9/6	Deanna Whitford
9/7	Zachary Crawford Joshua Snider
9/9	Don Cargill Cecelia Cascone
9/10	Pat Fairley
9/11	Jeremy Cobb
9/13	Tammy Ball Allison Bennett
9/14	Shelby Singleton
9/15	Grant Tanking
9/16	Brooke Dainty
9/21	Ron Adkins Tracy Tanking
9/22	Merrill Fairley Robin Minder Judy Pence
9/23	Opal Wisely
9/24	Wyatt Milligan
9/25	Stephanie DePrenger
9/26	Guy Gallinger Ashley Lawrence Tim Minder Caden Romine Brad Schultz
9/28	A.J. Bultmann Jim Burr Ellie Looper
9/30	Marie Booth Gwendean Scott

Please let the church office know if your birthday is missing.

September 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				6:30 pm Edu. Committee Mtg.	Pam-vacation day	
		Committee night (9/28/11) 5 pm 8:15 Worship committee meeting 6 pm Evangelism committee meeting 6:30 pm all other committee meetings 7:30 pm Elders' meeting				
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Labor Day Church office closed	9:30 am Quilting Board Report deadline	7 am Men's Prayer Group (McDonald's) 6:45 pm Kings Kids 7 pm Youth Group	7 pm Gospel Concert: The Triple L Band		8 am Men's Breakfast 5 pm Saturday Night Live Picnic at Tryst Falls
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
6:30 pm Board meeting		9:30 am Quilting	7 am Men's Prayer Group (McDonald's) 6:45 pm Kings Kids 7 pm Youth Group 7 pm Spiritual Gifts Workshop			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		9:30 am Quilting 7 pm <i>Religions of the World</i> Small Group Study 7:15 pm Women's Small Group Study	7 am Men's Prayer Group (McDonald's) 6:45 pm Kings Kids 7 pm Youth Group Newsletter deadline	7 pm Gospel Concert: The Perry's	5:30 pm <i>Religions of the World</i> Small Group Study @ Congregation Beth Shalom	6:30 pm Youth Event: Big Daddy Weave Concert at Tiger Stadium in Excelsior Springs
25	26	27	28	29	30	
		9 am Newsletter Folding 9:30 am Quilting 7 pm <i>Religions of the World</i> Small Group Study 7:15 pm Women's Small Group Study	7 am Men's Prayer Group (McDonald's) 6:45 pm Kings Kids 7 pm Youth Group Committee Night (see info above)	7 pm <i>Living Fully, Dying Well</i> Small Group Study		

Youth

Youth Group life continues! Beginning in September, Teresa Brent will be leading the Sunday morning study time. Wednesday evening fellowship continues each Wednesday evening from 7 pm to 8 pm.

Make sure to note the September 23rd concert announcement! We're planning a pre-football game party on Friday, October 7th.

Families of Youth Groupers: if you're not receiving youth group emails, please let Abigail know!
Rev.Abigail.Conley@Gmail.com

You can use that same email address if you're not receiving text message updates. Please make sure the church office knows how to get in touch with you about youth events!

Youth Concert Trip

Love Come to Life Tour featuring Big Daddy Weave with Kerrie Roberts, Shonlock & Luminare

The concert is Saturday, September 24th at Tiger Stadium in Excelsior Springs. We will eat pizza at the church at 5 pm and then head to the concert.

This is a youth event but everyone is invited to attend. Youth (grades 6-12) will receive one ticket. Ticket prices are \$12 or \$10 for groups of 15 or more.

We ask that you RSVP to the church office by Wednesday, September 14th. Please contact the church office with any questions.

The Church is Not Ours

There is something about dystopian society that intrigues me. Many of my favorite books, movies and television shows incorporate the notion of a dystopian society. If you're not familiar with the concept, think the opposite of utopia. Often, the dystopian society is a result of attempts to create a utopian society and instead creating an overly controlled society that oppresses those people living within it. I know, some of you are wondering why on earth anyone would read those things. What can I say—I love it!

It's the stuff *Firefly* (a TV show), *1984* (yes, the novel), *The Book of Eli* (a movie) and many, many others are made from. My shelves and internet TV queue are full of them. Most of them are also set at some point in the future, even if that was just from the point in time at which they were written. That kind of dystopia and the oppression it brings with it, it seems, can only be imagined as a place far removed from our own world.

What I find incredibly intriguing, though, is that religion lives on in every single one of the movies, books and television shows. It's still part of society. It might be underground or something remembered in only bits and snatches, but it's there. Mostly, it's Christianity, at least in the things I read and watch.

The fact that religion continues to exist in those worlds is a bit strange, though. Even when we imagine a world so different from our own, there, clinging to the edges remains a remnant of what God wants for the world. The strange minister, called a Shepherd, still carries a Bible much like ours. It is still ripped apart, literally, by someone trying to make it all make sense and tell only one story. The man walks across the entire country so that the Bible may be preserved. A man seeks out the rhyme about the church bells that herald the time of worship. Something still makes us place a search for and voice of God even in imaginary, broken worlds

Yes, it is surely the need for God that is written into all of humanity.

But it is also the reality that these things are not ours. It's strange to say, as we search for our future in God, that none of this is ours. The Gospel we proclaim is not ours. The Church, both the world over and just us, is not ours. And no matter what happens or doesn't happen, that will still be the case.

From the very beginning, the church was proclaimed to be someone else's and yes, even protected and sustained by someone else. For Jesus said to Peter, "...on this rock I will build my church," and also promised that the gates of Hades—the place of death—could not topple it.

The church is not ours. It is God's. May it always be so.

**Women's Fall Retreat
September 9 – 10, 2011
Tall Oaks Conference Center**



**Cathy Myers Wirt
Keynoter**

**Co-Regional Pastor, Oregon
Registration Guidelines
Tall Oaks Conference Center**

Lifelong Learning Center (New Facility):
To room with a specific person(s), mail your registrations and money in the same envelope. Call the Regional Office (913-432-1414) to make sure there is an available room.

THEME: With You Always

Cabin or Lifelong Learning Center (New Facility)—Each person must have a separate

Registration form. No refunds after Sept. 2nd but registration can be transferred to another person.

Check in: 4:00 PM Friday, Sept. 9th. (Service projects and crafts are available at 3:00 p.m.)

Horseback riding at 4:00 PM, weather permitting.

If you have questions about registration call Karen Yount

Retreat concludes around 2:00 Sept. 10th

Make checks payable to **Christian Church of Greater K.C. for Women's Retreat** at 816-322-0576

Send form and checks to: Christian Church of Greater K.C.
7600 W. 75th Street, Suite 6
Overland Park, KS 66204

Women's Fall Retreat - Tall Oaks Conference Center -Sept. 9 – 10, 2011

(Check One)

Early Bird <i>before August 9th</i>	Registration for LLC (New Facility):	\$70.00 _____
After August 9 th	Registration for LLC (New Facility):	\$65.00 _____
Early Bird <i>before August 9th</i>	Registration for Cabins:	\$60.00 _____
After August 9 th	Registration for Cabins:	\$65.00 _____

Check needs: _____ (Add \$14) Horseback Riding _____ Quiet Cabin _____ Close Cabin for disability

NAME _____ PHONE _____

STREET _____ CITY _____ STATE/ZIP _____

CHURCH _____

Each person must have separate registration form. Please make copies for your friends.

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, Angela Bennett & family,
Jean Bonwell, Helen Booth, Debbie Colvert, Louise
Eastepp, Darren Epperson, Merrill & Pat Fairley, Allen
Gilliland, Bill Goeke, Helen Griffey, Alice Hall, Gerri
Hall, Rhonda Heverstick, Jim Hutchens, Nick King, Ava
Martinez & family, Gary Martin, Allen Mattison,
Richard May, Kate Pence, Doug Rawdon, Noel &
Gwendean Scott, Ellen Smith, , Alvin & Irma Willis, Opal
Wisely, our troops (Josh Bettis, Chris Brown, Steven
Davis, Tim Johnson, Shawn Lind, Ben Neth, Doyle Riley,
Jason Tribble & Brady Willis), Global Mission Partners,
our country, our church programs, our world.

To:

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