



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

August 1, 2011

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A **Congregation Meeting** is scheduled for August 14, 2011 at 9:30 am to vote on the new governance model.

Back to School = Back to Youth Programs

Kings Kids will meet Wednesday, August 17th through Wednesday, October 26th from 6:45 to 7:45 pm. This is a Vacation Bible School style program for grades 1 through 5 where we enjoy music, Bible stories, crafts, snacks and games. Please contact Shawna Rapstine with any questions (erapst@aol.com or 816.320.3732).

Youth (grades 6-12) Back to School Pool Party is scheduled for Friday, August 12th. More details to come so watch your bulletin and email.

Youth Wednesday night gatherings resume on August 24, 7-8 pm.

Sunday School Teacher Appreciation And Promotion Sunday

Please join us for Sunday School Teacher Appreciation on Sunday, August 21st at 9:30 am for donuts, juice and coffee.

August 21st is also Promotion Sunday and children entering 2nd grade will receive a Bible. Please contact the church office if you have a child entering 2nd grade.

Pastor's Notes

One of my devotions today began with an excellent question: "How far have you progressed on the path of Christian discipleship?" It continues:

Discipleship implies increasing love, growing trust, and greater obedience to the Master who keeps your faith strong and meaningful. Be assured He will lead you in ever more wonderful ways ... as His presence in your heart becomes an ever greater reality in your daily life. Discipleship implies continuous growth in Christ until He becomes the greatest motivating force in your life. Then you will discover you can do nothing without Him and all things with Him. This is the pure joy of discipleship.

This summer, we have experienced again some of this "pure joy of discipleship." Whether it was walking in *Relay for Life* or going to church camp, whether it was going on Mission Trip or helping with VBS, whether it was spending quality time with family/friends or inviting a new neighbor to join you for a cookout, anytime God's love is shared we grow as disciples and experience Christ's joy. As Andrew Murray writes, "Christ expects believers to be filled with the consciousness that they are in Him and united with others." "In Him and united with each other," that's a pretty good definition of pure joy.

Our new governance model will make it much easier for us to share Christ's love throughout our community. Copies have been mailed, emailed, are on the website, and available from the church office. Please join us for a discussion of this new model at 9:30 am either July 31 or August 7th. We will vote on the model at 9:30 am, August 14, at the congregational meeting.

Yours in Christ's love and 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 Sunday, August 14th at 5:30 pm. If you can't attend the workshop but would like to complete an inventory, please contact your Shepherd or Abigail Conley at rev.abigail.conley@gmail.com or 816.628.5583.

From Your Church Leadership:

At the July board meeting, your church leadership:

- Approved providing a weekly meeting space for Classical Conversations, a home school group
- Approved the new governance model and sent it for congregational approval; a congregational meeting is set for August 14 at 9:30 am.

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 August they will begin reading [Fearless](#) by Max Lucado.

New Class: Adult study group meeting in classroom B
This group is working through the book [Wild About You](#), based on Psalm 139 (where we learn how wild God is about us). This is the perfect way to take adults deeper into the Bible to learn on a more mature level the same lessons that the children explored during Vacation Bible School. It will meet through August 14th during the Sunday School hour.

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 is currently studying wacky Bible stories with Abigail.

Children: Preschool-3rd grade: classroom C, 4th & 5th grades: area just outside classroom C.
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.

Mission Trip Lunch

The Mission Trip team invites you to lunch on Sunday, August 7th, following 10:45 worship, to share our work and experiences with you.

An Update from Global Ministries: Bearing Good Fruits

By this God is glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples. John 15:8

When school is in session there is a church service on Sunday mornings for the boarding students. About once a month or so students lead the service and this month our Scripture Union group led the order of worship and hymn-singing, offered prayers, read the scripture, received the offering, and shared a message during the sermon time.

The scripture the students chose was the story of the birth of Jesus in Matthew 1:18-25. Mphonyana and Bokang both spoke on these verses. Their names are quite appropriate for the text as they mean "Small Gift" and "Praise! Give thanks!" respectively. As God was with both Joseph and Mary during their difficult time, so God is with us even today in the problems we face. Mphonyana, in particular, could testify to this as she was hospitalized after falling and suffering burns from hot water she was carrying. She has made a full recovery and although small in stature, she has a big heart for Jesus!

Later that afternoon our SU meeting was blessed by the presence of Mr. Waza. Ntate Waza is the high school coordinator for Scripture Union in Lesotho and he was spending a week visiting schools in the southern part of the country. He organized and led the SU Camp in December and is greatly loved by the SU kids. The group members were delighted to see him again and he will be leading a training session here for student leaders at the end of the month. He has borne much fruit through his labors in reaching out to the young people of Lesotho.

Jesus says in the remaining words of John 15:8 that by bearing fruit you will be "showing yourselves to be my disciples." While telling others we are disciples is well and good, I'm always mindful of that old adage, "Actions speak louder than words." Even better, we could remember that old grade school tradition of "Show and Tell"!

Mark Behle is a missionary with the Lesotho Evangelical Church. He is a mathematics teacher at Masitise High School, Lesotho, Africa.

Gospel Concerts:



7 pm Saturday, August 6



The Blackwood Brothers Quartet
7 pm Saturday, August 27

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

I want to thank everyone in the church for the graduation gift card and book! I feel blessed for all the messages and well wishes that I continued to receive through college from everyone. Hopefully someday soon I'll be able to say I'm a successful artist supporting myself with a career I am so passionate about. I can say that I wouldn't be the person I am today without this church family being such a large part of my life. Thank you all so much.

~Allison Bennett

Thank you to Pat Gallinger and First Christian Church for hosting a blood drive for the American Red Cross. Fifteen units of blood were collected. Again, thank you for your contribution and ongoing support of this important community program.

~Sonya Jones, American Red Cross

A HUGE thank you to our congregation! We had more volunteers than ever for Vacation Bible School (VBS) & because of this everything ran smoothly. We have very talented people in our congregation & I appreciate each one! Whether you led a station or a crew, donated items, helped decorate, invited children, or prayed for VBS, you made a difference! What a blessing our church was to the kids of Kearney/Holt & the surrounding areas during VBS week.

~GiGi Leighr

Religions of the World Small Group Study

Come join us as we study Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism. The group will be using *Christianity and the Religions of the World* material by Rev. Adam Hamilton, Senior Minister of The Unity Methodist Church of the Resurrection. In addition, the group will attend a service for each religion then have follow up discussion the next week.

The group will be facilitated by Pastor Abigail Conley and hosted by George & Shelly Handy at their home. Meeting times are:

Tuesday, September 20th @ 7pm (Judaism)

Friday, September 23rd @ 5:30pm attend service at Congregation Beth Shalom 5:30 orientation 6:00 service BethShalomkc.org

Tuesday, September 27th @ 7pm Judaism-follow up discussion

Tuesday, October 4th @ 7pm (Islam)

Friday, October 7th @ 6pm attend service at Islamic Society of Greater KC 6:00 tour 6:53 prayer isgkc.org

Tuesday, October 11 @ 7pm Islam-follow up discussion

Tuesday, October 18th @ 7pm (Hinduism)

Friday, October 21st @ 8pm attend service at Hindu Temple

Tuesday, October 25th @ 7pm Hinduism-follow up discussion

Tuesday, November 1st @ 7pm (Buddhism)

Sunday, November 6th @ 10:30am attend service at The Rime Buddhist Center

Tuesday, November 8th @ 7pm Buddhism-follow up discussion

Visit fcckearney.org to register or contact George or Shelly Handy at 392-9908

August Birthdays

8/2 Samantha Singleton

8/5 Jason Yeager

8/6 Adrian Collins
Todd Gustafson

8/7 Susan Parks

8/8 Kyle Kane
Mila Kane

8/9 Justin Cobb
Monte Griffey

8/11 Helen Griffey

8/13 Jessie Griffey

8/14 Margaret Pfeiffer
Marleen Schooler

8/15 Larry Butcher

8/18 Abigail Conley

8/20 Karen Wells

8/23 Larry Booth

8/24 Tanner Minder

8/27 Tyler Minder

8/28 Lauren Bates
Phillip Pulley

8/29 Sami Kane
Pam Praiswater

If your birthday is missing, please contact the church office.

Congratulations...

...to Jack and Debbie Birnbaum on the birth of their new granddaughter. Adrienne Elizabeth Howe was born June 30th to Matt & Malia Howe and big sister Jillian. She weighed 8# 11oz and was 20" 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:

- Helen Bates
(Chris Wood's grandmother)

Directory Update:

Glen & Mary Eddings
1709 Rockwater
Kearney, MO 64060

August 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		9:30 am Quilting	7 am Men's Prayer Group (McDonald's)			7 pm Concert: Dixie Melody Boys
	Vacation: Abigail					
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:30 am Reading/discussion of governance model Following Late Service Dedication of Eleanor Haire Rose Garden Noon Mission Trip Lunch		9:30 am Quilting 6:30 pm Education Meeting Board Report info deadline	7 am Men's Prayer Group (McDonald's)		Youth Back to School Pool Party	8 am Men's Breakfast
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:30 am Congregational meeting 1 pm Fellowship hall (Spencer) 5:30 pm Spiritual Gifts Workshop 5:30 pm Internal Ministries mtg. 6:30 pm Board meeting		9:30 am Quilting	7 am Men's Prayer Group (McDonald's) 6:30 pm Implementation Team meeting 6:45 pm Kings Kids			8 am – 1:30 pm Fellowship hall (Classical Conversations)
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Promotion Sunday		9:30 am Quilting	7 am Men's Prayer Group (McDonald's) 6:45 pm Kings Kids 7 pm Youth Group Newsletter deadline		6 pm Fellowship hall (Bates)	7 pm Concert: Blackwood Brothers Quartet
28	29	30	31	Committee night (8/31/11) 5 pm 8:15 Worship committee meeting 6 pm Evangelism committee meeting 6:30 pm all other committee meetings 7:30 pm Elders' meeting		
		9 am Newsletter Folding 9:30 am Quilting	7 am Men's Prayer Group (McDonald's) 6:45 pm Kings Kids 7 pm Youth Group Committee Night (see info at right)			

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 back to school pool party on Friday, August 12th. You'll get more info soon.

Youth & 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!

Vacation Bible School (VBS) 2012

Tentative date for next year's VBS is July 8 – 12 and the theme is:



Rebuilding in Tulsa

You're only getting one perspective on the trip to Tulsa in this newsletter, but please plan to come to the Mission Trip dinner on Sunday, August 7th following 10:45 worship to hear even more from more voices. (And it's Abigail's perspective that you're getting, so you might *really* want some others!)

The nuts and bolts of the trip are pretty standard: we went to Tulsa and worked with Rebuilding Together, a national organization that repairs homes of elderly and disabled people, focusing on safety, security and weatherproofing. We primarily worked on Ms. Pitts' home, repairing and replacing siding, then painting her home.

Yes, the home looked quite different than when we began. And we looked a bit different, too—a few bruises, a few scrapes, not quite as much paint on us as the house. But, as is often the case, the things really worth seeing aren't in the visible work.

It's really worth seeing the youngest member of the trip work just as hard as anyone else, no complaining. It's even more fun to celebrate with her that fact that she's old enough now to be able to share in work, helping someone else. Most parents would probably be a bit surprised at how much and how consistent other youth groupers on the trip worked.

It's really worth seeing new leaders emerge, from those cleaning up the kitchen for the first time to our brand new trip leader, Tara Brown.

Yes, there were certainly a few bumps along the way. But mostly, it was an awesome experience of God's abundance in our lives. You're even lucky enough to get the same story we shared in devotions one night:

We had this giant pot of unending spaghetti. Actually, it started out as two giant pots, and then was condensed to one. *It never ended.* Seriously. We threw out the last remains before we left. Even though it was our meal on Monday evening, we ate the leftovers the rest of the week. Some packed it for lunch. Others had it as a snack when we returned from the jobsite in the afternoon. Still others ate it for supper when they preferred it to the night's planned meal.

It should have been gone long before it was. The amount prepared was only intended to serve one evening meal and provide leftovers for two people the following night. Some choked down a few more bites of it, trying to finish off the leftovers. All of us laughed a lot about the fact there was still spaghetti.

But the truth is, that kind of laughable, absurd abundance is a very real part of the Gospel. When Jesus performed his first miracle at the wedding in Cana, it was changing water into wine. Six jars total. Twenty or thirty gallons each. One hundred twenty to one hundred eighty gallons of wine total. There's a party! Or in this case, there was way more than enough to keep the party going for a few more days, as many day wedding celebrations were part of the custom.

The what-on-earth-do-we-do-with-this-much? kind of abundance is all too often a forgotten part of the Gospel. But it was a very real part of our trip—in spaghetti, in work, and in the presence of the Holy Spirit.



**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.

Retreat concludes around 2:00 Sept. 10th

**If you have questions about registration
call Karen Yount**

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 before August 9th	Registration for LLC (New Facility):	\$70.00 _____
After August 9th	Registration for LLC (New Facility):	\$65.00 _____
Early Bird before August 9th	Registration for Cabins:	\$60.00 _____
After August 9th	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
pastorgilpin@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
Eastep, Darren Epperson, Merrill & Pat Fairley, Allen
Gilliland, Bill Goeke, Helen Griffey, Alice Hall, Gerri
Hall, Rhonda Heverstick, Evan & Jeanne Hoit, 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.

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