



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

October 2011

In this edition:

2

Pastor's Notes, Church Leadership, Sunday Study Groups

3

Missions & Outreach News

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

Pumpkin roll order form, YouthFriends and upcoming events

Fall Activities:

Pastor Appreciation Potluck Lunch

Sunday, October 9 at noon

Bring your favorite dish to share and enjoy the fellowship with your pastors and the congregation.

Saturday Night Live at Looper Farms

Saturday, October 15

4:30 – 6 pm Pumpkin Patch Activities

(inflatables, pumpkin picking, train, etc.)

6 – 8 pm Hot Dog Roast

Admission is \$5 per person. Please let Shawna Rapstine (816.320.3732) know if you are coming to the hotdog roast so you can sign up to bring food items.

Looper Farms is located at 21020 NE 172nd ST, Holt.

Trunk or Treat: Don't forget your costume!

Sunday, October 23

2:30 pm Children's Activities

(inflatables, hay ride, snack, craft, petting zoo, games)

4:30 pm Trunk or Treat

5 pm Chili/hot dog supper for everyone

As a service project we are collecting can goods to donate to a local food pantry.

Holy Pumpkin Rollers!

Join us every Monday evening (excluding the 31st) from 4 – 9 pm in the church kitchen to make pumpkin rolls which will be available to sell. If you have any questions, please contact Tammy Ball (816.903.2255).



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

Pastor's Notes

It is an awesome vision. It is a God-sized vision. It is a vision that excites and inspires.

- Passionate worship.
- A place where anyone and everyone can connect with God.
- Growing in our communication/fellowship with God and each other.
- Knowing our faith stories well enough that we are confident and willing to share them.
- Each of us taking responsibility for our own spiritual growth.
- Loving and serving each other and our community as we are gifted.
- Sustainable growth in our children and youth ministries.
- Embracing change without compromising our core values.
- Focusing less on control and more on ministry (both inside and outside the church).
- Discovering the joy of that comes with generosity and simplicity.

As someone has said, "The problem with most dreams today is they are way too small." Personally, I agree. I am tired of dreams so small I can fulfill them alone. I am also tired of dreams so small that we can do them alone as a congregation. But I am excited about a dream that is bigger than you or me or FCC – a dream so big we can do it only in the power of the Holy Spirit. Do you want to be part of such a dream? ... If so, I encourage you to ask God (pray) about your role in "God's Plan for Our Future." If you still have yet to read the plan, copies are available. If you still have questions, ask them. If you have yet to discover your spiritual gifts, take the inventory. If you know your gifts but have yet to put them to work, let us help you fulfill God's purpose for your life. There is no greater joy than loving God and each other to the point that we actually "die" to ourselves. Jesus says, "I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. ... Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." (John 12:24; Matthew 10:39)

Your partner in God's dream,
Doug

From Your Church Leadership:

At the September board meeting, your church leadership:

- Approved a bid for \$9,500 for repairs to the parsonage at the Prospect location
- Discussed plans for implementing the new governance model

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
The group continues to read Max Lucado's Fearless in October.

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 continues studying stories from the Bible using the God Up Close curriculum. Teresa Brent will continue to lead their class.

Children: classroom C
In October, we're going to be trying something different with kid's Sunday study time. We'll still be hearing Bible stories and having fun together. Come see what's going on!

The Harvest Sale Quilt is on display in the sanctuary. Raffle tickets are available. They are \$1.50 for one or \$6 for seven. Please contact Susan Mick (antttutu1@aol.com) with questions.



Kansas City Rescue Mission (KCRM)

We are serving a full meal at KCRM on Saturday, October 29. Anyone wanting to serve and/or make meatballs should contact Pat Gallinger (816.985.8301).

An Update from Global Ministries: *Living and Learning in a Troubled World*

by Alison Stendahl

Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. John 14:1

Uskudar American Academy in Uskudar, Turkey is an historic mission school founded by missionaries in 1873 during the Ottoman Empire. Today it is a secular private school that strives to prepare students for a rapidly changing multicultural, multilingual, and religiously diverse world. Missionary Alison Stendahl has been working with the school for a number of years. She reflects: any school is a subset of its surrounding world, where its diverse community members learn to understand one another even in the face of conflict and disagreement. When a community truly and sincerely cares for its members, it can be a nurturing place where one should feel safe. Turkey borders a region caught up in strong social and political forces. The more the region destabilizes, the greater the effects on Turkey as it braces itself for an influx of refugees. We are particularly aware of how immense social pressure can eventually focus people on their differences rather than their commonalities. We focus on those who strive to build bridges of understanding rather than to construct walls of fear.

Uskudar American Academy has one of the most respected Model United Nations conferences where 500 high school students from various countries come together in a forum to seriously examine the major issues facing this geographic region. Dedicated to preparing students for an increasingly intertwined and complex world, Uskudar American has a strong vision for the future and is also a supportive and caring community. Though the vast number of teachers and students are Muslim, several are also from Christian and Jewish backgrounds. Together this diverse community models how a common vision can give its members energy to strive for a better and more positive future.

We pray for students, who through social service projects, do what they can to help those who have needs beyond their imagining. We pray for teachers who work with the youth, as they explore what it truly means to be a global citizen in today's world.

Alison Stendahl serves the Near East Mission in Istanbul. She works as academic dean and math teacher at Uskudar American Academy.

Walk for Life, a fundraiser which helps sustain the operational expenses of Liberty Women's Clinic, is October 8. The Clinic is looking for sponsored walkers from our church that will each raise \$200 in pledges. The clinic will collect the money for you! The Walk is not an athletic event—everyone can participate (and actually even 'non-participate' by driving or walking another date). Register by calling the clinic at 816.415.5111 or online at www.Strides4Life.com. Please contact Jerre Gallinger (816.985.6589 or jgalli1172@aol.com) with any questions.

Food Pantry Program

The Backpack Program, as we have known it, no longer exists in the Kearney community. Harvesters is now providing the weekly backpacks for kindergarten through 6th grade. Our new role is to support our local food pantry. We will do this with the funds that have been designated for the backpack program. We have been supporting the backpack program with approximately \$100 per month which will now be sent to the local food pantry. By funneling our \$100 each month to the local food pantry not only are we continuing the benefit of the backpack program but we will have the opportunity to touch more lives by supporting the families of students younger than kindergarten and older than 6th grade. We also have the added opportunity to provide volunteers to work at the local food pantry which is located at Radiant of Life Church, 704 N Jefferson. Anyone wanting to contribute to the pantry can place a check in the offering and label the memo line "food pantry". Please contact Mary Gaull, coordinator (marygaull@yahoo.com, 816.628.4169 or 816.797.8645) for volunteer opportunities.

Missions & Outreach (continued)

Mission Trip to Honduras

Helen Edde, a member of our church, is going to Honduras on November 5-11th to serve our Lord. She will be part of a seven member multi-church team. They will spend five days ministering in a rural community outside of San Pedro Sula in Honduras. While the community has a church, this will be a first time mission outreach to them. Many areas in Honduras, including this community, have very primitive living conditions with no electricity or running water. The purpose of this trip is to build relationships with the community and to assess their needs for future mission trips. They will be working with the youth, helping the elderly with small repair projects, and teaching basic first aid. Helen is very excited to part of this new ministry and to be serving God! The team is gathering supplies to take with them including Christian children's books, Bibles and small first aid kits. Please keep this Mission Team in your prayers.

Donations for this ministry can be made to the First Christian Church with a notation that it is for the Honduras Mission Trip. If you have any questions, contact Helen at 816.635.4192 or her son-in-law, Brian, at 816.550.0414 or blsnodderly@aol.com.

Gospel Concert:



Woody & Vonnie Wright & Stephen Hill
Saturday, October 22 at 7 pm

Operation Christmas Child kick off is Sunday, October 30. Dalton Boggs, a student at Kearney High School, will share his own experiences of volunteering for Operation Christmas Child that morning.

Thanks to the Church Family

Thank you so much for the flowers, visits, cards and calls during my recent hospitalization and since returning home. Thank you to the *Do Nothing Club* for the wonderful meal that was delivered. Our church pastors and congregation are so great! Thanks again. ~Pat Fairley

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, calls and visits while I was in the hospital. A special thank you to Therssa Gilpin. ~Norman Billups

Thank you for all that you and your church have done to help me and my family in our time of need. ~Local Missions Fund Recipient

I just wanted to thank you for all the cards and prayers. I miss Meredith so much. I know I always will. It sure does help to know you never forgot us. I will never forget your kindness. ~Doris Darlington

October Birthdays

10/3	Hannah Breece
10/5	Emelyn Kane Amy Looper
10/6	Gracie Bultmann Pam Bultmann Alison Schultz
10/7	Jeanne Hinnenkamp Patricia Peterman
10/8	Lauren Hinnenkamp
10/9	Art Haney
10/10	Frances Quinn Kathy Wells
10/12	Stacey Milligan
10/13	Ethan Jewell
10/17	Betty Bailey Jerry Bloss Ryan Woltkamp
10/19	Kevin Novak Sherry Templeton
10/20	Abi White
10/21	Kim Romine
10/23	Pam Miller Winston Robinette
10/24	Pat Gallinger
10/25	Jim Jurado
10/26	Carrie Norman
10/27	Larry Worley
10/28	Bobbie Jamison
10/30	Wade Maupin
10/31	Doug Gilpin

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

You are invited...

...to Phil & Iletta Pulley's 50th wedding anniversary celebration on Saturday, October 15 from 2 – 4 pm in the fellowship hall. No gifts, please.

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:

- Dana Ball Family
(relative of Ron & Tammy Ball)
- Gloria Hertherington Family
(relative of Chris Mick & Christi Woods)

October 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
Sunday Service Times 8:15 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday Morning Study Groups 10:45 am Worship						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Reconciliation Offering 2 pm Skating	4 pm Holy Pumpkin Rollers	9:30 am Quilting 7 pm Religions of the World 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 Board Report deadline	7 pm Living Fully, Dying Well Small Group Study	6 pm Religions of the World Small Group Study @ Islamic Society of Greater KC	8 am Men's Breakfast Noon Fellowship hall reserved-McEntire/Palmer wedding
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Noon Pastor Appreciation Potluck Lunch 6:30 pm Board meeting	Columbus Day 4 pm Holy Pumpkin Rollers	9:30 am Quilting 7 pm Religions of the World 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	7 pm Living Fully, Dying Well Small Group Study 7 pm Baby shower for Mary		4:30 pm Saturday Night Live 2 pm Pulley's 50 th wedding anniversary
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	4 pm Holy Pumpkin Rollers	9:30 am Quilting 7 pm Religions of the World 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	7 pm Living Fully, Dying Well Small Group Study	8 pm Religions of the World Small Group Study @ Hindu Temple	7 pm Gospel Concert: Woody & Vonnie Wright & Stephen Hill
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Trunk or Treat 2:30 pm children's activities 4:30 pm Trunk or Treat 5 pm Chili Dinner	4 pm Holy Pumpkin Rollers Newsletter deadline	9:30 am Quilting 7 pm Religions of the World 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 Meal & Meeting Night (see info below)	7 pm Living Fully, Dying Well Small Group Study		8 am Work day Kansas City Rescue Mission (full meal)
30	31					
Operation Christmas Child Kick Off	Halloween	Committee night (10/26/11) 5 pm 8:15 Worship committee meeting 6 pm Evangelism committee meeting 6 pm Meal 6:30 pm all other committee meetings				

Youth

Youth Group life continues! Teresa Brent will continue to lead the Sunday morning study time. Wednesday evening fellowship continues each Wednesday evening from 7 - 8 pm.

We're planning a pre-football party in October-keep watch in church announcements for specifics!

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!

Kids

We are going skating on Sunday, October 2 from 2 – 4 pm at Northland Rolladium Skate Center, 1020 Kent ST, Liberty. The cost is \$3 per skater. Skate rental and a small drink are included. We need 10 skaters to qualify for the group discount so please let Shawna Rapstine (816.320.3732) know if you plan on attending.

Parents: Mark your calendar now! Christmas Program Practice will start Wednesday, November 2nd at 4 pm for kindergarten through 5th grade. More details to come.

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.

This Thing Called Hospitality

As we've been naming our spiritual gifts and celebrating them within the congregation, the gift of hospitality has been named several times. In worship one Sunday, I named the fact that hospitality was once considered a necessary Christian virtue. Like prayer or reading Scripture, offering hospitality was one of those things that Christians just did. Believers often traveled with letters of recommendation from fellow Christians so that as they traveled, they would be able to acquire food and shelter along the way.

Some of the gestures of hospitality arose out of necessity. There weren't restaurants or hotels, yet, at least not in the parts of the world where there were Christians. Our Jewish ancestors in faith also gave us a great history of offering hospitality and a deep conviction that welcoming and caring for the stranger was commanded by God. Jesus himself said that welcoming a stranger was the same as welcoming him.

You've already heard me offer this quote about why we are Christian: "We are Christian because somehow in Christ—through the sacraments, through prayer, through our suffering, through the words of our neighbors, or through the encounter of strangers—we have, in Christ's name, been touched and even transformed by God."

In my own life, those gestures of hospitality have been incredibly transformative. There are many ways to elaborate on why exactly those gestures have been transformative. Mostly, though, it's because offering hospitality is that space where God's economy and our vulnerability meet.

Let me explain.

In God's economy, somehow, there is always enough. Actually, in God's economy, there is abundance, especially when there should be scarcity. The oil and flour don't run out. The fish and loaves multiply. Whenever it looks like there shouldn't be enough, there ends up being more than enough.

At the same time, hospitality means inviting people into our space, whether our homes or our cars or our place of worship. That invitation means revealing a great deal about ourselves, which may not be especially comfortable. Our homes might not be as nice as we would like. My home is never as clean as I would like, nor is my car for that matter. It's perhaps a little too close for comfort. Yet, when I think of the greatest gestures of hospitality I have ever been offered, they were offered by people whose homes seemed too small to welcome people into. Somehow, though, they always seem to say, "There's room for one more." Being cramped and crowded never mattered. The conversation always mattered more than the food.

What would it be like to live more fully in that space of Christian hospitality—that space where the invitation is always open and whatever we have to offer is enough?



Pumpkin Roll Order Form

Let the Holy Pumpkin Rollers make your giving easy with a donation of \$10 or more per pumpkin roll.

We all have many people that we are thankful for (mail man, school teacher, bus driver, co-workers, neighbors, care giver, child care provider, veterinarian, mechanic, etc.). Let them know! Or maybe you need a dessert for a holiday dinner.

Whatever your need, let us help! Please use the form below to place your order for pumpkin rolls. Return the completed form to the church office.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Thanksgiving orders (pick up date 11/20)**

with nuts: _____

without nuts: _____

Christmas orders (pick up date 12/11)**

with nuts: _____

without nuts: _____

Thank you for supporting the Holy Pumpkin Rollers for Kearney First Christian Church. If you have any questions, please contact Tammy Ball (r1tlball@hotmail.com or 816.903.2255).

Amount donated: \$

**If you need a different pick up date, just let Tammy know.

Join Youthfriends at Southview

Southview Elementary is starting a program called YouthFriends and they need volunteers to be mentors to students.

What is YouthFriends? From the YouthFriends website: "YouthFriends is a nationally recognized and rapidly growing school-based mentoring network involving more than 70 school districts across the states of Missouri and Kansas. The mission is to connect students, teachers and schools with inspiring mentors and real-world learning experiences to promote success, encourage healthy behaviors and build stronger communities."

If you are interested in making a difference in a child's life please visit www.youthfriends.org and sign up as a volunteer and enter Southview as the school you want to volunteer at. You will be matched with a student who you will visit on a regular basis. Before working with the student you will need to attend a training session. If you have any questions, please contact GiGi Leighr (leighrg@kearney.k12.mo.us or 816.628.1951)

Congratulations...

...to Pat Holmstrom who was selected by the Kearney High School Student Council as the Grand Marshall for the Kearney homecoming parade on Friday, October 7.

Directory Update:

Ron & Tammy Ball
Email: r1tlball@hotmail.com

Mark your calendar

November 6: Baptism at 10:45 service

November 12: Harvest Sale

November 27: Hanging of the Greens service

November 28: Benefit concert for the church

Watch your bulletin and November newsletter for more details.

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, Jean Bonwell, Helen Booth, Louise Eastep, Darren Epperson, Robbie Gallinger, Helen Griffey, Alice Hall, Gerri Hall, Jim Hutchens, Nick King, Martha Marengo, Ava Martinez & family, Gary Martin, Allen Mattison, Richard May, Kate Pence, Doug Rawdon, Tim Reardon, Virginia Roach, Ellen Smith, Opal Wisely, unspoken requests, our troops (Josh Bettis, Chris Brown, Shawn Lind, Ben Neth, Doyle Riley & Brady Willis), Global Mission Partners, our country, our church programs, our world.

To:

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