



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

## December 2011

### In this edition:

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### We need cookies...

...for the cookie reception following the children's Christmas program on December 11. Please visit the information center or call the church office if you can help.

### Celebrating Christmas

#### Christmas Caroling

Join us on Sunday, December 4 for caroling. Everyone is invited join the fun. We will meet at the church at 5 pm and load the bus – no additional drivers needed.

#### Children's Christmas Program

The children have been busy practicing for the Christmas program. Come watch them in *The Best Place to Celebrate Christmas – A Musical Tour Around the World* on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm. There will be a cookie reception following the program, as well as a visit from Santa.

#### Youth Christmas Party

The youth group will have a Christmas party on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. We're going to do a progressive dinner, walking from house to house for a different course. Put on your hats and gloves! Here are the details:

- Kids should be dropped off at the Leighrs' (608 E 15<sup>th</sup> St., Kearney) at 4:30 pm.
- Pick-up is at church at approximately 9:30 pm.
- We'll be headed to the Harrises', then to the Breece's.
- Abigail will be traveling around with the kids.
- If you're coming, it's really helpful to let us know!  
[Rev.Abigail.Conley@gmail.com](mailto:Rev.Abigail.Conley@gmail.com)

**Christmas Eve Service** is at 5 pm.

#### Christmas Day

There will only be one worship service on Christmas day at 10:45 am.

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

## Pastor's Notes

The Season of Advent is here. During this Season, God wants to rekindle our hope, heal our brokenness, trump conflict with peace, and replace our frustration with "the joy of the Lord" (which is our strength). The question is: Will we allow God do this for us?

- Paul says that Christ in us is our HOPE of glory. (Colossians 1)
- Through the Prophet, God says, "For those who revere My Name the sun of righteousness shall arise with HEALING in its wings." (Malachi 4:2)
- The Psalmist writes, "The Lord gives strength to His people; the Lord blesses His people with PEACE." (Psalm 29:11)
- And the angel announced to the shepherds, "Fear not, I bring you good news of GREAT JOY that will be for all people. Today in the city of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord."

You are invited to come rediscover (or maybe discover for the first time) the true Reason for the Season.

Your fellow traveler to Bethlehem,  
Doug

## From Your Church Leadership:

At the November board meeting, your church leadership:

- Reported that all funds transferred from special project accounts to cover general fund expenses have been repaid.
- Reviewed the 2012 budget and approved it to be presented to the congregation.

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.

At the Congregational meeting on November 20th the leaders for the Executive Council and the budget both passed by an overwhelming majority. Fifty ballots were returned. The budget passed with 43 votes approving the budget and 7 voting against the budget. The Executive Council was approved with 44 votes of yes, 5 no and 1 abstention.

## Thanks to the Church Family

I would like to thank everyone for the cards and good wishes on my 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. You made it one of the best ever. God bless you all.  
~Julie Cargill

Thank you to all who filled shoeboxes. We delivered 127 shoeboxes to the drop off center. These boxes are now on their journey to a child who needs just what was in your box. Continue to pray for your shoebox!  
~Jan Worley and Missions & Outreach Committee

## You are invited...

...to a dinner to celebrate Nic Brent's graduation from Northwest Missouri State University with a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education-English. His family will host a dinner on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 8:30 pm at the Reece & Nichols Real Estate Office (downstairs meeting room), 307 S Jefferson ST, Kearney, MO.

## Ongoing Sunday Morning Study Groups

**Mixed Nuts:** Adult study group meeting in classroom A  
*The group continues to study Max Lucado's Fearless in December.*

**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 6<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> meet in the Barr Youth Center  
*This group continues studying Scary, Gross & Weird Stories from the Bible with Amanda and Jamie Davidson.*

**Children:** Preschool – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade: Classroom C  
4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grades: Classroom B  
*In December the children will be hearing Bible stories and having fun together. Come see what's going on! Please note: These locations are where children begin the rotation each week, not where they finish.*

Youth & children's Sunday school will not meet on Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>. Any youth or kids who show up should meet Abigail in Classroom C for some fun.

## Youth

**Youth Group** will meet December 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, then will be on a break until after New Year's.

## Kids

**Christmas program practice schedule:**

Wednesday, December 7 at 4 pm  
Saturday, December 3 & 10 at 10 am  
Sunday, December 11 at 9:30 am

## Update from Global Ministries:

### The Gifts of Sharing Ideas by Nicholas Green

*As we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. II Corinthians 1: 5*

I awaited the arrival of the group with excitement - it seemed a little like the anticipation of gifts at Christmas time! I always enjoy accompanying the groups that come to visit the Salvadoran Lutheran Church. When a group comes, there are many gifts, like the friendships that grow into *hermandad*, a Spanish word that means "partnership", but that doesn't catch the whole sense. Think of partnership, brotherhood, and sisterhood all mixed up in the same pupusa, a traditional Salvadoran food. In the same way that the pupusa contains beans, cheese, and ground pork all mashed together into a corn tortilla, *hermandad* contains different cultures, lifestyles, languages, and backgrounds all mashed together in a common faith and hope.

A few weeks ago I was awaiting the arrival of some of the friends I had made in the Iglesia Misión Cristiana of Nicaragua. They were coming to meet with church leaders involved in similar mission projects. In both countries, as economic struggles rise, access to basic needs becomes more and more difficult, and the ability for families to provide their own food becomes more and more necessary. Churches in both countries have programs which aim to feed families in several communities by helping them grow their own food. The more each group shared with the other, the greater their excitement grew, and the more they helped solve their own challenges. At the end of the visit both groups had learned so much from each other. They committed to getting together again next year to advance and deepen their work, and *hermandad*.

We pray that *hermandad* grows in our congregations as well as the inspiration of sharing in God's love.

*Nicholas Green serves in El Salvador as a long-term volunteer with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of El Salvador. He supports National Youth, with the Family and Gender Program of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of El Salvador, and also assists the Communications Program.*

## Harvesters Trip

Twenty-six kids, youth and adults went to Harvesters last month. We sorted and bagged carrots and grapefruit. Our two hour shift flew by. Everyone seemed to have a great time and another trip is coming soon. Watch your future bulletins and newsletters for details.

Harvesters provides food to food pantries in a twenty county area including the one here in Kearney. Volunteers like us provide the equivalent of 80 full time staff.

## Hillcrest Transitional Housing Adopted Family

Thank you for helping create a memorable Christmas for our Hillcrest family. All **unwrapped** gifts & gift tags need to be returned to the church by Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Natalie Benner (816.769.2385) or Pat Gallinger (816.985.8301) with any questions.

### From the Hillcrest Transitional Housing website:

*Hillcrest Transitional Housing offers displaced families a disciplined educational program within a caring Christian environment. Unlike many organizations whose focus is immediate or emergency care, Hillcrest's objective is to move families from homelessness to self-sufficiency within 90 days by addressing the total live situation of the homeless families they serve.*

*In exchange for rent/utility-free housing, residents are required by written agreement to work full time, obey program guidelines and attend volunteer-taught classes in life skills, employment, community living and budgeting. Hillcrest also provides the following through a network of community support: auto repair/donation, food pantry, medical assistance, dental work, GED classes, haircuts, glasses, school clothes, work uniforms, etc.*

*Hillcrest is a non-profit 501c3 with four affiliate locations in the greater Kansas City Metro area – Platte, Clay, Eastern Jackson Counties and Kansas – supported by the local community and community service volunteers.*

## Religions of the World Small Group Update

*I have been greatly blessed and amazed sharing in the Handys' small group over the last few weeks. Because I wanted to celebrate that with the larger church, for the next couple of months, I have invited participants in that group to share a reflection of that time together in the space my writing usually occupies.*

~Abigail

Our small group recently had the opportunity to visit a Hindu temple and a Tibetan Buddhist temple. These visits allowed us to see and experience firsthand the beliefs and practices of different faiths.

We visited the Hindu Temple and Cultural Center of Kansas City in Shawnee, KS, which serves all Hindus in the greater Kansas City area. During our visit, we sat down with a leader from the temple for more than an hour as he described the basic beliefs and practices of Hinduism. After this presentation we removed our shoes and observed a short prayer/worship service. The worship was comprised of singing, chanting, walking around the statues of deities, ringing bells, and leaving offerings. The members of the temple at this service were all from India, so we not only learned about another religion. We were learned how Hinduism and the Indian culture are closely linked together.

The final outing during our study of world religions was to the Rime Buddhist Center near downtown Kansas City. Unlike our other trips, during this visit we attended a typical weekly worship service similar to our Sunday services. The worship area of the temple was filled with cushions for worshippers to sit on crossed leg (like a meditative position), and a few chairs in the back for less nimble visitors. The service combined reading by the leader, readings by the entire congregation, singing choruses, and three meditation sessions each ten minutes long. A Tibetan monk who was visiting gave a short Dharma talk about letting go of desires and concentrating on helping others. In contrast to the other places we had visited, the culture of the people worshipping at the Buddhist Center was very American.

This study in world religions was very rewarding, and I would encourage everyone to participate in a similar class if you have the opportunity.

~Chris Wood

## Handys' Winter Small Group

After studying different religions last time, the group realized we would like to know more about our Christian brothers and sisters of different denominations. We'll be meeting for that study on Tuesday evenings, 7 pm, from January 10 through February 21. George and Shelly Handy will be hosting and Abigail will lead the study. Let Shelly know if you plan to attend: 816.392.9908 or shellyh@kcbbank.com.

## December Birthdays

12/1	Ali Collins
12/2	Dean Boettcher Georgia Hutchens
12/4	Annie Wood Katie Wood
12/6	Dawn Yeager
12/10	Marshall Bailey
12/12	Jane Dainty Aggie Davis Geddy Romine Pauline Schooler
12/14	Rebecca Harris Mary Lou Jurado
12/15	Cheryl Clark
12/18	Gerry Barr Laura Billups
12/20	Michael Bates
12/21	Dylan DePrenger Alberta Smith
12/24	Brenda Adkins Janice Roberts
12/26	Lois Haney
12/28	Brock Harris
12/30	George Handy Shawna Rapstine Todd Reynolds Kenan Roach Alan Schooler

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



Memorial Poinsettias are available for purchase. They are \$7.25 each. Please visit the information center to place your order or contact the church office.

# December 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Sunday Service Times</b> 8:15 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday Morning Study Groups 10:45 am Worship  <b>Committee night (12/28/11)</b> 5 pm 8:15 Worship committee meeting 6 pm Evangelism committee meeting 6:30 pm all other committee meetings				1	2	3
				6:30 pm Education Committee meeting	6:30 pm Girl Scouts (Breece)	10 am Christmas program practice
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
5pm Caroling  Hillcrest Ministries gifts due back		9:30 am Quilting  <b>Board report deadline</b>	7 am Men's Prayer Group (McDonald's)  4 pm Christmas program practice  7 pm Youth Group			8 am Men's Breakfast  10 am Christmas program practice
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Christmas Offering 9:30 am Christmas program practice 4 pm Christmas program 6:30 pm Board meeting		9:30 am Quilting	7 am Men's Prayer Group (McDonald's)  7 pm Youth Group		7 pm Guardian Angel's Christmas program	4:30 pm Youth Christmas Party
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Christmas Offering		9:30 am Quilting  <b>Newsletter deadline</b>	7 am Men's Prayer Group (McDonald's)			Christmas Eve  5 pm Christmas Eve Service
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Christmas		9:30 am Quilting	7 am Men's Prayer Group (McDonald's)  7 pm Youth Group Committee night (see info above)			New Year's Eve

## Your Church Staff

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Abigail Conley, Administrative Pastor  
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Pam Novak, Secretary  
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The church office is open Monday  
through Friday, from 9 am to 2 pm.

## Prayer Concerns

Jennifer Anton, Ellen Banks, Jean Bonwell, Debbie Colvert family, Louise Eastep, Darren Epperson, Merrill & Pat Fairley, Robbie Gallinger, Helen Griffey, Alice Hall, Gerri Hall, Jim Hutchens, Lisa Irwin, Mary Lou Jurado, Nick King, Martha Marengo, Ava Martinez & family, Gary Martin, Allen Mattison family, Misty Mick, Kate Pence, Allen Pendleton, Iletta Pulley, Doug Rawdon, Tim Reardon, David Roach, Mark Sexton, 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.

(Return Service Requested)

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