



## Chalice Tidings

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
120 North McArthur Street, Macomb, IL 61455-2101

Volume XXVI, Issue 37

January 1, 2018

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**Happy New Year  
2018**

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# Kelly's Korner

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.— Isaiah 43:19

The prophet Isaiah is often quoted by Christians to point to the coming of Jesus. We believe that Jesus was the Messiah. Jews would disagree, of course. Both religions share common scriptures. These prophecies shape the way we comprehend faith and live in the world. Passages in Isaiah foretelling the coming of the Messiah are important to both faiths—and unusually important to Christians around this time of the year.

The birth of Jesus has just occurred. Many of us may find ourselves wondering: *What now? Where do I go from here? Is my life supposed to be changed somehow?* In this time when there is much pressure to make resolutions for the coming year, to set goals to better our lives, to try something new to get out of a rut, Christmas may seem to have little impact. Gave some gifts. Got some gifts. Exchanged some gifts. What now?

Isaiah 43 reminds us that through God's work, a new thing is about to happen. The more connected we are to God, the more we will understand. God's redemptive work will do impossible things like making ways in the wilderness and creating rivers in the desert. Too often, we live in difficult places like the wilderness or the desert.

My Christian friends, Jesus' birth is to bring something new in your life. That part of your life that seemed hopeless is not without hope. Joy can find you—while not replacing your sadness completely, the joy of Christ can relieve you. And, maybe, miraculously, eventually, joy can be yours again. Peace does not just have to mean that politics and religion were avoided during recent holiday gatherings. Now that Jesus has been born yet again, peace can be yours daily. As a follower of the one whose birth we celebrate, we can bring his peace to the world...and the world needs peace. The greatest of God's gifts is love. God loves you. And me. And all of creation.

The gifts of Advent and Christmas can usher in a new year like no other. We can find God's improbable and seemingly impossible gifts in our lives if we stay focused. Paths can be made in the wilderness and rivers will spring up in the desert if we receive and share God's gifts in real ways. Therefore I suggest a new word, a new resolution, a new way of life: peacehopejoylove. Make a hashtag out of it: #peacehopejoylove. Write this new word in prominent places (like bathroom mirrors or computer screens) that you might see it daily—peacehopejoylove. Remember the peacehopejoylove God has for you. Share peacehopejoylove with everyone you meet. Be changed by Christmas this year, in small and big ways. Be the people who proclaim peacehopejoylove. Merry Christmas! Happy New Year! PEACEHOPEJOYLOVE!!





## STEPHEN MINISTRY

*Jean Vaughn*



OOPS, WHERE IS TIM? Oh yeah, he's taking the picture. Eleven Stephen Ministers, family and friends gathered for their annual Christmas pizza party on December 11. The food was wonderful, the fellowship was great and we had a terrific waiter.

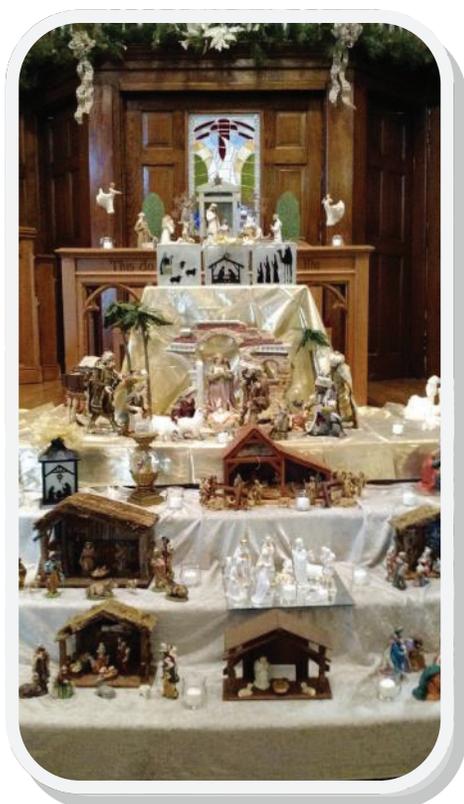
The next meeting for Stephen Ministry will be Monday, January 8 at 1:00 p.m. for Continuing Education and Supervision. If you have a friend, neighbor or know of someone who needs a listener (doesn't have to be a member of the congregation) let me know.

Thanks, Jean Vaughn 309.255.6525

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## FESTIVAL OF THE CRECHE

*Jean Vaughn*



Another successful year for the "Festival of the Creche". I want to thank everyone who helped make this event possible. So many hands and such team work made the event an awesome sight. I want to thank everyone of YOU who brought in the 220 nativities to be displayed.

There were so many good comments on the nativities and Christmas decorations. Again the PowerPoint of nativities and chrismons we're beautiful thanks to Bill Froom. Thanks to Judy, Sharon and Ron for helping me take things down and put things back in place. Thanks again.

Jean Vaughn

## **EVANGELISM**

*Norma Kentner*

### **Evangelism**

Mark on your calendar the starting date of our four-week Evangelism Class: Bill Hybel's Just a Walk Across the Room. The class will start Sunday, January 7, promptly at 9 am in the Fellowship Hall. Bill Hybel gives good, usable tips to help us become better Disciples—how to receive and share God's love. The class will be in DVD format with study questions to follow-up. If you are unable to attend all of the classes, you can join the group at any time. Two other Sunday School classes will be joining the group and coffee/something baked will be available; so come early, get a chair and settle in for a good DVD and discussion.

### **FCC Book Club**

On Thursday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, at noon FCC Book Club will discuss A Man Called Ove in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a brown bag lunch; decaf coffee and water. Something sweet will be provided.

Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, at noon, Susan Van Kirk, a Monmouth author of mystery novels, will be our speaker previewing our next book, Three May Keep a Secret, which will be discussed on Thursday, Mar. 1.

Our group is continuing to grow. Let Norma Kentner know if you need a copy of Three May Keep a Secret. We always have a good, thoughtful discussion and seem to be growing in numbers. Hooray!

## **COMMUNITY ACTION AND OUTREACH**

*Jan Rockwell for Rod Burg, Chair*

### **FCC Emergency Cupboard Is Open for Serving**

Unlike the lines at Dunkin Donuts, we are starting small to make a quick response available to those in the community who suddenly find themselves hungry, in need, and with no resources. With the converted signage in the brickwork at the front entrance to the church, nutritious easy meals & basic hygiene products will be available at all hours for those in need of assistance. John Carden has installed several shelves. By the time you read this article, the cupboard should be ready to function. Anyone wishing to periodically donate items for the cupboard may bring them to church on the first Sundays of each month for the youth to collect. Your donations may also be left in a box on the ground floor elevator entrance at any time. Members of the Outreach Committee will share the responsibility of stocking the shelves. For more information or to be involved you may call the church.

*Things that **could be donated** & will **not be harmed by freezing**:* boxed meals; i.e. macaroni & cheese, spaghetti, dried soups, dried fruit, breakfast/nutrition bars, nuts, dried meat jerky, bar soap, tooth brush/paste, etc.

### **Secret Santa Special Party Thank YOU!**

Thank you to all our generous secret santa's in the church who contributed towards a WONDERFUL night! Thank you, Babs Becker, for making it our best yet!

### **Salvation Army Bell Ringing Thank YOU!**

On behalf of the many people helped by the donations to Salvation Army, a hearty, warm thank you is extended by Rod Burg! Thank you for those who gave their time to ring bells!

### **January FCC Day of Service**

Martin Luther King birthday observance Monday, January 15, will be an intergenerational work day at FCC from 9:00 – noon (lunch provided). Jobs to be tackled include general church maintenance work, tearing out

cabinets at the Men's Shelter, and possibly in-home help for some of our members. It will be a good morning of service and fellowship.

### **Interfaith Alliance of Macomb – Peace: Prose & Poetry Youth Contest**

IAM is sponsoring a writing contest about PEACE for young people residing within the Macomb School District in grades 1 – 12. Six cash prizes will be awarded to one student in each of the 2 grade categories such as 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>, etc. Teachers will distribute information to students before Martin Luther King's birthday with the deadline for turning in their one page entries the Thursday before Presidents Day. All participants will be recognized by IAM with winning entries read at the WIU International Bazaar on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. See Jan Rockwell or Patti Jones if you want more information.

### **Intergenerational Mission Trip to Indianapolis - March 11-16**

Plan ahead now if you are interested in being part of the group going to inner-city Indianapolis to serve over Spring break. Stay tuned for more details.

### **Prayer Shawl**

Next meeting will be Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to Norma Kentner as she passes the leadership torch to Roselyn Chown!

### **January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month**

Though it doesn't get much media coverage right now, human trafficking is still prevalent in our society. In 2007 the US Senate declared Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> as the National Day of Awareness Day. If you suspect trafficking, call **the National Hotline #, 888/373-7888** or our local police.

## **DISCIPLES WOMEN**

*Karen Chatterton*

The Disciples Women Executive Board does not meet December through March. The women have been very busy. On December 2, we had the Salad luncheon with seventy-six women attending. The beautiful tables were decorated in Christmas themes by different women of the church and enjoyed by all. The food was outstanding!

The Itoka Maeda Group gathered at the Church to put together homemade cookie and candy boxes for shut-ins and church staff. On December 15, nine Itoka Maeda women took the Church van and traveled to Monmouth and enjoyed fine dining at "Cerar's Barnstormer". It was a wonderful time of Christmas carols, fellowship and good food.



The Martha Shemwell group donated \$50.00 to the "At Risk Program". They visited three shut ins and took them a crocheted star. They went to Norma Kenter's home for the Christmas party and had a great time with the white elephant gift exchange.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT: MAKE GOOD MEMORIES.  
IT WILL KEEP YOU TOO BUSY TO MAKE BAD ENEMIES!

Please welcome Kathy Fischer to First Christian Church .



Kathy is a registered nurse and former Professor at WIU. She taught Health Sciences and is now retired. She enjoys volunteering for the Humane Society. She also enjoys spending time with her grand children and reading.

Please welcome Stanley Hopping to First Christian Church.



Stan has been a visitor for quite sometime and has now joined the church.

REMINDER: January 7th at 1:30 pm will be the day we will be Un-decorating from Christmas. Everyone is invited to come and help! Refreshments will also be served!

It's that time again to sign up for Fellowship Time for January, February and March. The sign-up sheet is located outside the parlor kitchen on the bulletin board. Thank you!

*The Staff of First Christian Church wishes to extend our deepest gratitude to the congregation for their generous Christmas bonuses. It is so rewarding to know the congregation appreciates the staff and what each and everyone does. What a wonderful place to be! Happy New Year!!!*

*Sincerely,*

*Kelly, Bill, Carol, Paul, Debbie, Hannah, Natasha, Allie and Madison*

**DISCIPLES MEN**

**Dean Hansen**

Disciples men will meet at The Old Dairy  
Saturday, January 6 at 8:00 am.

Third Thursday Men's Group will meet at  
Chubby's Thursday, January 18 at 7:30 pm.

**TRUSTEES**

**Donna Bainter**

Trustees will meet Monday,  
January 15 at 5:30 pm.

Church Board will meet Monday,  
January 15 at 7:00 pm.



***January Meetings***

- 2 7:00 pm DW Executive Board Meeting
- 3 7:00 pm Spirit Sisters at Rocky's
- 4 12:00 pm FCC Book Club
- 6 8:00 am Disciples Men at Old Dairy
- 8 1:00 pm Stephen Ministries  
5:00 pm Property  
6:00 pm Outreach and Action  
7:00 pm Christian Education
- 9 1:00 pm Prayer Shawl
- 15 5:30 pm Trustees  
7:00 pm Church Board
- 16 5:00 pm Pastoral Support
- 18 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal  
7:00 pm Third Thursday Men's Group  
@ Chubby's
- 22 5:00 pm Evangelism  
7:00 pm Elders
- 23 9:30 am Disciples Clergy  
11:30 am Itoko Maeda

***January Birthdays and Anniversaries***

- 8 Jim Schauble
- 9 Norma Sims
- 11 John Carden  
Anne Ingersoll
- 12 Betty Landis
- 17 Dan Reed  
Marilyn Robinson  
Kolette & Krista Rutledge
- 23 Tweed Mummert
- 24 Aaron Meunier
- 25 Rev. Kelly Ingersoll
- 29 Brixton Call



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**PERIODICALS  
POSTAGE PAID  
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## YOUTH GROUPS IN JANUARY

### JYF 3 - 5 Grade

- 7 5:00 pm Youth—New Beginnings
- 15 Intergenerational Mission Project
- 21 State of the Church Address. No meeting

### Youth 6 - 12 Grade

- 7 5:00 pm Youth meeting
- 14 5:00 pm Youth meeting
- 15 Intergenerational Mission Project
- 21 State of the Church Address. No meeting
- 28 5:00 pm Youth meeting

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