



Chalice Tidings

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

Volume XXVI, Issue 24

December 1, 2016

Kelly Ingersoll,
Minister

Debra Abernathy,
Administrative Assistant

Sarah Anderson,
Children/Youth Choir Director

Bill Froom,
Chancel Choir Director

Tad Goldner,
Children's Minister

Hannah Goodman,
Nursery Supervisor

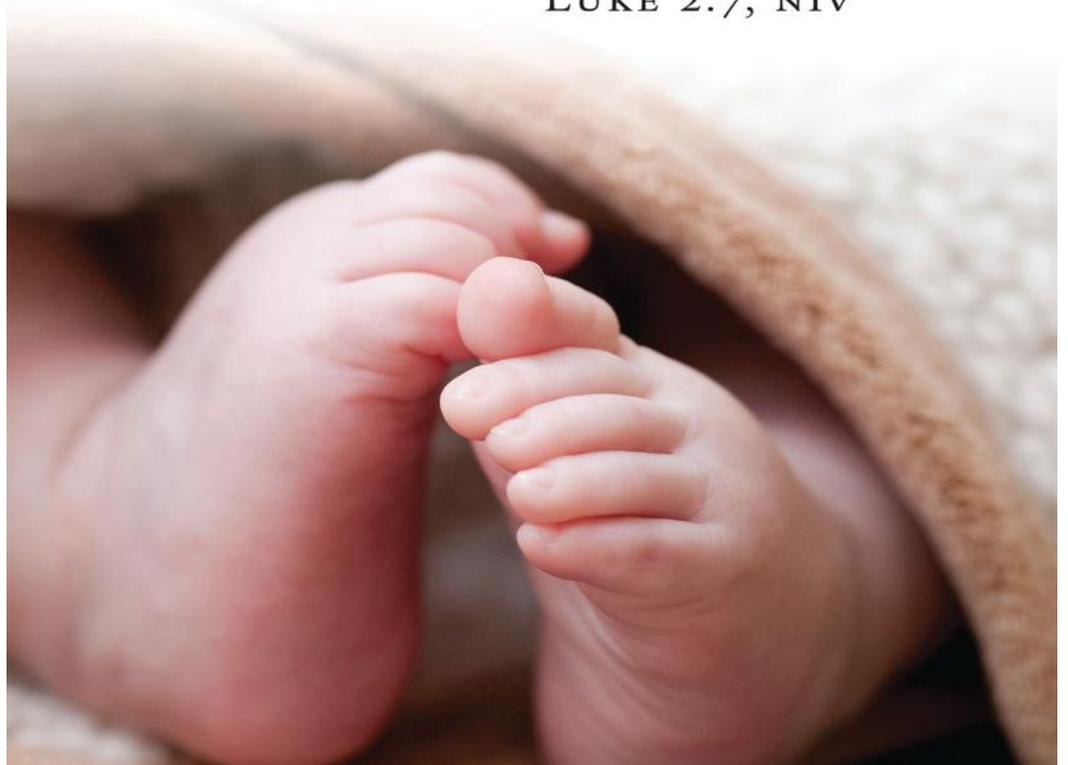
Carol Harmon,
Organist

Paul Huff,
Custodian

Natasha Shallenberger,
Nursery Assistant

*She wrapped him
in cloths and placed
him in a manger...*

LUKE 2:7, NIV



*And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth,
and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.*

Kelly's Korner

The world waits for a miracle, The heart longs for a little bit of hope, Oh come, Oh come Emmanuel. The child prays for peace on earth And she's calling out from a sea of hurt, Oh come, Oh come Emmanuel. And can you hear the angels singing, Glory to the light of the world, Glory the light of the world is here!

You shone upon the earth but who will understand? You came unto Your own but who will recognize? Your birth was prophesied, for You were the Messiah Who came and walked upon the Earth. Your glory we have seen, the one and only King And now You're living in our hearts. Light of the world, light of the world, Light of the world, You shine upon us!

Light of the world you step down into darkness, Opened my eyes let me see Beauty that makes this heart adore You, Hope of a life spent with You...

These words from the songs of Lauren Daigle, Matt Redman and Tim Hughes help remind us what Advent is all about. We wait for the miracle of hope. We wait for the birth of the one prophesied. We wait for light to enter the darkness. The one for whom we wait is the light of the world.

Advent 2016 will focus on the Light of the World. Jesus is our light. We are preparing and waiting, patiently and breathlessly, yet again. Celebrating his birth renews our spirit and makes our souls joyful. As we approach Christmas morning, may we be consumed with giving the gift of light to the world. In receiving Christ once more, we remember the good gifts of hope and joy and peace and love. Sharing these gifts brings light to a dark world. Sharing these gifts brings us back to the light. May the Light of the World find us this year!

Peace,



Advent Scriptures and Sermon Titles

November 27—Isaiah 2:1-5 Walking in the Light

December 4—Matthew 3:1-12 Fire Light

December 11— Service of Music

December 18—Matthew 1:18-25 Angel's Light

Christmas Eve—Matthew 2:1-12 Star Light

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Jean Vaughn



As in the past, the Stephen Ministers, Stephen Leaders and spouses will come together in December for a time of eating pizza. Then for January, February and March, because of the cold and winter weather, those in Stephen Ministry will meet once a month after Worship Service. This will bring us to April 2017 when it is time to consider going to the Leader's Training Course in St. Louis. The date is April 23-29 with early registration deadline March 15. There is still time to consider and pray about being a Stephen Leader; however, time does pass quickly. If you have an interest in attending this training, please contact Pauline Dunn 837-2058, Rev. Ingersoll 837-6473 or Jean Vaughn 837-4406.

"Festival of the Creche"

YOU ARE INVITED – Come to the "Festival of the Creche" this Friday, December 2nd from 6:00-8:30 pm or Saturday, December 3rd from 3:30-6:00 pm! Come see beautiful scenes of the birth of Christ on that first Christmas night. Each scene has its own uniqueness displayed in our beautifully decorated sanctuary. You won't want to miss this time of joy, reflection and peace. Please bring your family and friends. Enjoy the fellowship, refreshments, free admission and numerous blessings.

FCC Book Club & Prayer Shawl

Norma Kentner

FCC Book Club will not meet in December. Next meeting will be Thursday, January 5th at noon (Change in time). We will be reading Cold Sassy Tree by Olive Burns. This information is to newcomers interested in joining. Prayer Shawl will not meet in December. The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 10th at 1 pm.

Thanksgiving Dinner - A great big THANK YOU for all who helped with the FCC Thanksgiving Dinner on November 13th. In fear of leaving out a thank you to some of the workers, I am just going to say the food, decorations, donations, clean up and friendly conversation warmed everyone's heart and tummy. I know some were there most of the day. Many, many thanks!



YOUTH MINISTRY

Tad Goldner

December Youth Group:

4th - So Who You Looking At?

11th - Dual Personality

18th - Christmas Program & Party (4:00 - 7:00)

OUTREACH AND ACTION

Jan Rockwell

Chris Baker Touched Many! Thanks for your Support!

Within 26 hours in 8 presentations Chris Baker spoke to approximately 225 people. He made each speech with the same God-inspired energy. All who made it to the presentations by Chris Baker would agree that Chris has a powerful message and very engaging presentation. Chris is a very REAL person who was a pleasure to hang out with.

With his more faith-filled story, we had over 70 at our church. Besides FCC members there were a couple of youth groups, a group from Wesley, various interested people and a tattoo artist who connected with Chris for a return training on removing tattoos. Kelly was able to hand Chris a check from FCC's Outreach's budget for \$400. The special offering brought in around \$600! Considering he does around \$4000 worth of tattoo removals a month, we may have helped cover a week's worth of ministry expenses. It's amazing that in 5 years, they have been able to remove 3,400 tattoos!

Thanks for supporting this social justice event! Thanks also to all you cookie bakers. The yummy leftovers were devoured by hungry West Prairie High School students.

Thanks to Anne Ingersoll for finding the bracelet bands from the Disciples Assembly. Kids at the schools were excited to get those as well.

Samaritan Well – Thankful for a Home

Thanks to the generosity of our friends and church family, Thankful for a Home and the good will offering from the Disciples Women Thanksgiving Dinner raised close to \$200 and numerous needed supplies for the Men's and Women's Shelters. If you missed the opportunity and would still like to donate, bedding for twin, full & queen size beds also needed. These don't need to be new but must be freshly laundered and place in plastic bags.

Special Olympics Secret Santa Party

This is the 4th year for FCC hosting the most fun Christmas Party in Macomb. Please consider taking a name from the Angel Tree in the Parlor and buying a \$10 gift card for one of our special friends. The cards (or money to purchase a card) should be left with one of the Outreach Committee members beginning Sunday Nov 20 – Dec 4th. If you miss those dates and still would like to help, you are welcome to leave a gift of cash with the office. Because of the great joy experienced last year, once again students from WIU's nutrition class, taught by Dr. Emily Shupe, will be joining us to throw the party. Santa will be here to help Bob Chatterton, Sue Adams and the members of the Outreach Committee make this a special evening for all who attend. If you know a special needs person, invite them to contact Jan Rockwell (309-331-4783) to make their reservation so a gift can be guaranteed. ALL ARE WELCOME to join in preparing or partying!!

TRUSTEES

Patti Jones

There will be a Congregational Meeting immediately following morning worship on December 4, 2016. The purpose of the meeting is to elect the leadership of the church for the next calendar year and to approve the budget for 2017. Please plan to attend. This is an important function of our church calendar year.

As is the custom of our congregation, each year we accept monetary gifts to be shared among our church staff. We will collect contributions from Dec. 4 until Dec. 18. Please see Patti Jones or Jack McKinnon if you wish to participate. Thank you for your generosity.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Jonelle Schauble

As I sit in Jeanna's hospital room in Peoria, I am reminded that we will soon be celebrating the Advent season. The year 2016 is almost over and so many things have happened in the world this year. The biggest was probably the Chicago Cubs winning the World Series after 108 years. Who knew Donald Trump becoming President would cause the issues it has? We all know we are a country divided. Perhaps we all need to work on bringing the country together. Advent and what it leads to are my favorite times of the year (oh, alright, the Cubs winning the Series might be up there this year). Advent and Christ's birth are like new beginnings. It is a time to reflect on how you have lived your life the last year and a time to celebrate that God conceived Jesus for us so we could know his love. This past year as Christian Education Department chair has been challenging and fulfilling. We have seen a growth in our nursery with the addition of Clay and Caitlin and one on the way. We have hosted many events for Summer Fun Days: Camp Wonderland, Summer Camp, Movies in the Parking Lot, and bi-monthly homemade donuts. Our committee mission for the year was families and I hope we have been successful in hosting events that are directed to the families of our church and our community.

We will have a Special Children's Worship Service December 18 at 9:00 am in the Sanctuary.



Christian Education would like to invite everyone to a New Years Eve party to be held in the Fellowship Hall from 5 pm to 8 pm, December 31st. Please join us in counting down the New Year. There will be food, drinks, games, and lots of noise and fun. Transportation will be provided if needed. There will be a signup sheet on the bulletin board outside the kitchen parlor. On behalf of the committee, we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a blessed 2017.

EVANGELISM

Anne Ingersoll

You may have noticed that we are offering TWO services on Christmas Eve this year. That means we will need your help in inviting new faces to our 11 o'clock service. Many people growing up recall attending a midnight service on Christmas Eve. This is their chance to attend it once again at FCC! This gives everyone a chance to not only enjoy a little family time on Christmas Eve but also a time prepare our hearts and minds for Christmas Day. Please help us spread the word! In addition, we have the opportunity to share the other events happening in December such as Advent Study, Festival of the Creche, and Christmas Music Service. All are welcome to attend!

DISCIPLES WOMEN

Karen Chatterton

December is a very busy month for Disciples Women. The 3rd is our salad luncheon and "Tour of the Creches". We have invited nine churches to enjoy this special event. Our "all church candy sale" is the 11th at 10 am and after church. The Itoko Maeda Group will take poinsettias and candy to shut-ins and celebrate Christmas with a party at Magnolia's. Martha Shemwell Group will help with candy sales, visit shut-ins and make Christmas special for a needy family. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all The Disciples Women.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT!

The Devil whispered in my ear, "Your not strong enough to withstand the storm." Today I whispered in the Devil's ear, "I am the storm."

DISCIPLES MEN

Dean Hansen

Disciples Men will meet December 3 at The Old Dairy at 8:00 am. Third Thursday Group will not meet in December.

Fellowship Time

It's that time again to sign up for Fellowship Time for January, February and March. There is a sign up sheet across from the parlor kitchen.

ELDERS
Myrna Osborn

CHRISTMAS MEMORIES



December brings memories of long ago Christmases, and some of those memories seem as real as if they were now happening today. As children, how we looked forward to the holiday time. Going out in the cold wind and snow to cut down a Christmas tree was as exciting as getting the wrapped gifts found under it. For some of us it meant spending evenings in front of the cook stove, stringing popcorn and cranberries. These along with paper made decorations gave us the best decorated tree ever. At our country schools, there were programs being held showing off our talents of singing, playing wise men, and angels. Finally, the night would arrive for the program, and we would get so excited we would forget our lines as we saw all the people sitting there watching us. With the teacher giving us cues, we made it through the program and bowed over and over at all the applause and whistling of parents and friends. Afterward, we were rewarded with a brown bag that held oh such delicious oranges (remember back then, oranges were a special treat), nuts and hard candy. Of course, we wanted to eat them right away, but Mom said “no, wait until tomorrow.” But, there was hot chocolate and a mountain of cookies to work our way through, as “we were the stars of the stage that evening.” On Christmas Eve our little churches held Christmas Eve Services with the children once again playing the parts of wise men, angels, and of course, Mary and Joseph. My doll was given the role of Baby Jesus, and the hours I spent wrapping that doll just so in cloths to portray swaddling clothes. I wasn’t even sure what swaddling clothes were, but following instructions and explanations of those in higher places made it seem simple. We sang Christmas carols, recited scripture, and listened to the story of Christ’s birth from the book of Luke; Chapter 2, 1-20. That same story today still provides awe and wonder to all who hear it. That’s what Christmas is really about, a small baby born in a manger many, many years ago. A baby who was to become the center of our lives; and show us his love, peace, joy, and hope through our faith. Let us stop and reflect on the story from the book of Luke, as we celebrate Christmas with family and friends. I am sure you will have certain memories of Christmas’s past that always come to mind during the holiday season. Cherish them, and share them with your family. Remind them to always put Christ first in all things, and their lives will be much richer by far. Have a Blessed Holiday and a Merry Christmas from the Elders of First Christian Church DOC.

Thank you

Debbie and I want to express our heartfelt thanks to all who are praying on our behalf. Our Lord God has truly blessed us with good outcomes and peace. Truly God hears us when we pray in one accord. We feel much loved by our church family and can’t thank everyone enough for all the prayers, cards, calls, inquiries and well wishes. We also thank the prayer shawl ministry for the comforting prayer shawls. They are so beautiful and soft. We treasure them. We praise God for bringing me safely through a successful brain surgery, the best possible diagnosis, and radiation treatment, without any serious side effects. We pray for no long term side effects from the radiation treatment and for minimal side effects from the chemo therapy which will last about a year (12 cycles) beginning after Thanksgiving. Thank you sincerely for your continued prayers. In Christian love, Stan and Debbie Mercer.

The family of Andy Taylor wishes to express our sincere appreciation for the prayer shawl that you gave us. It is a source of great comfort for us. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely, Margaret, Griffin & Drew

Thank You

Thank You! Those two words will never be enough to say how very truly thankful we are to be a part of such an amazing church. The cards you have sent Jeanna thus far have brightened her days. She loves church and all of you. Recently there have been a lot of downs, then cards will arrive and brighten things up. Jeanna has a long uphill battle yet, one she knows she is not alone in. There will be good and bad days, but she knows through it all--she has prayers flowing up. Each member of this amazing church is a blessing. Char and John Carden, those two words of Thank You, seem like not enough to say to you both. From day one there has never not been a text on my phone with encouraging words and positive thoughts, you are always there to just let me cry or to vent. John gathered an amazing group of men and built a deck for Jeanna to be able to come home to from Chicago and get into the house. There will never be any way we can repay John and that group of men. Having you two in our life has been a true blessing and you both are shining examples of how a true Christian should live. Marissa, Jeanna wants you to know just how much the texts asking about her, the cards you hand made, and the tears you shed meant to her. You are a wonderful caring young woman. Sharvell, for the smiles and hugs. Pastor Kelly, thank you for being there, for the visit and for prayers. As we continue this battle, we would like to take the opportunity to say God Bless and thank you all.

Jonelle, Jim & Jeanna

A LOOK AHEAD AT DECEMBER:

- 2 Festival of the Creche 3:30 - 6:00 pm
- 3 8:00 am Disciples Men (Old Dairy)
10:00 am Christmas Tea
Festival of the Creche 3:30 - 6:00 pm
- 5 7:00 pm Spirit Sisters
- 6 7:00 pm DW Executive Board Meeting
- 7 6:00 Choir Rehearsal
7:00 pm Advent Study
- 9 Special Olympics Secret Santa 5:30 pm
- 12 5:30 pm Outreach & Action
6:00 pm Christian Education
6:00 pm Stephen Ministry
6:30 pm Property
- 13 1:30 pm Martha Shemwell
6:00 pm Itoko Maeda
7:15 pm Itoko Maeda Meeting
- 14 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
- 19 5:30 pm Trustees
7:00 pm Church Board
- 20 5:00 pm Pastoral Support
- 21 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
- 24 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Service
11:00 pm Candlelight Service
- 25 Christmas Day No Service
- 31 Family Fun Night, New Year's Eve



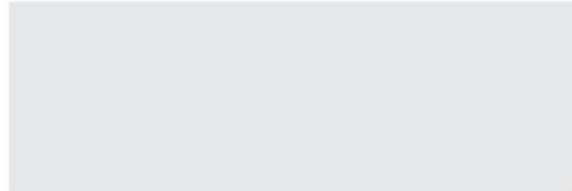
- 2. Brianna Cangro
- 3. Eric Reed
- 4. Norma Kimler
- 5. Matthew Sparks
- 9. Alyssa Lester
- 10. Albert Cameron
- 11. Bernice Magin
- 12. Dorothea Wagner
- 15. Donna Weinberg
- 16. Myrna Osborn
- 20. Rod Burg
- 28. Dan & Nancy Reed Anniversary
- 30. Charles Becker
- 31. Jeff Bennett



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PERIODICALS
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Chalice Tidings



First Saturday of the month at 8 am, Disciples Men at Old Dairy. Please join us for a morning of fun fellowship.

First Monday of the month. Calling all women of the church! Spirit Sisters is one of our church social groups. We meet at 7 pm at Diamond Dave's for refreshments and chips, and you are welcome to eat dinner there as well. We chat about a given topic in a safe environment, share our experiences, and learn a bit more about each other. You are always welcome to bring a friend! Come join us!

First Thursday of the month, FCC Book Club at 11:30 am. Please come join us for a morning of fun.

Second Tuesday of the month, Prayer Shawl at 1 pm. Come join us for a lovely social hour.

Fourth Tuesday Disciples Clergy at 9:30 am.

Last Tuesday of the month, Martha Shemwell group meeting at 1:30 pm, Itoko Maeda dinner at 6:00 pm followed by a meeting at 7:15pm.

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