



Chalice Tidings

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

Volume XXVI, Issue 36

December 1, 2017

Kelly Ingersoll,
Minister

Debra Abernathy,
Administrative Assistant

Bill Froom,
Chancel Choir Director

Hannah Goodman,
Nursery Supervisor

Carol Harmon,
Organist

Paul Huff,
Custodian

Allie Hulen,
Children's Choir Director

Natasha Shallenberger,
Nursery Assistant



Festival of the Creche December 1 and 2

Advent Begins December 3, 2017

Advent Theme is Destination Bethlehem

Secret Santa Party December 8, 2017

Christmas Eve Services:

December 24, 10:30 am 6:00 pm and 11:00 pm

Kelly's Korner

Do you know where you're going to? Do you like the things that life is showing you? Where are you going to? Do you know?

Do you get what you're hoping for? When you look behind you there's no open door. What are you hoping for? Do you know?

These words were sung by Diana Ross and come from the Theme Song from Mahogany. They are actually pretty good questions for Advent. Do you know where you're going? Do you know what you are hoping for?

In early days of life, our answers might have been trucks and dolls and balls and games and fun stuff. As we entered our teens, the gifts got pricier as we became more particular. Gift cards have been lifesavers for some grandparents. Video game systems and cell phone with accessories are common Christmas gifts for teens today. And clothes, of course.

As Anne and I consider what to buy our older nieces and nephews for Christmas, we have gotten away from stuff and sought to create experiences. Some of these experiences include dinners, skiing, pottery and painting. We wish to create memories instead of accumulating easily dispensable items.

How memorable was that first Christmas? Shepherds surprised by angels were led to the manger of Jesus. Wise men followed a star to bring gifts to young Jesus. After a long and dusty trip to Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph had their first child in a barn. As Mary heard the words of the shepherds and wise men, scripture says she pondered them in her heart. To me, that means she was trying to remember this special time.

Our Advent and Christmas theme is Destination Bethlehem. We are preparing for a four week journey, a four week advent—ure if you will, that leads us directly to the manger of Jesus in Bethlehem on Christmas Eve. It is a spiritual trek that belies our culture. Christmas has been co-opted by corporations and department stores and online shopping. For Christians, we know for what we hope...we know where we are headed. Destination Bethlehem.

Peace,



Destination Bethlehem Scriptures and Sermon Titles

3—Mark 13:32-33 Destination Lost

10—Service of Music

17—Isaiah 40:1-11 Finding Our Destination

24—Luke 1:26-33 Destination Calling

Christmas Eve Services at 6:00 pm and 11:00 pm Luke 2:1-7. Sermon title is Destination Arrived

31 — Colossians 3:12-17 The To Do List— Sue Adams

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Jean Vaughn



On November 15, Sue Adams, Judy Bland and Sue Cooper completed their 50 hours of training. A service of thanksgiving with communion with Pastor Kelly brought their accomplishment to a close.

I am very proud of our Stephen Ministry Team who not only consists of Sue A., Judy and Sue C. but also Char Carden, Donna Bainter and Pauline Dunn (absent from picture). As each Stephen Minister makes her Christian caregiving visit, she will be representing First Christian Church. Stephen Ministry is an ongoing ministry of our congregation. We're reaching out to the community in ways we never did before we had Stephen Ministry. We no longer just say that we're a caring congregation—we are a caring congregation.

FESTIVAL OF THE CRECHE

Jean Vaughn

YOU ARE INVITED – Come to the “Festival of the Creche” this Friday, December 1 from 6:00-8:30 pm or Saturday, December 2 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. These scenes are brought in by members of our congregation.

You won't want to miss this time of joy, reflection and peace. Please bring your family and friends. Enjoy the fellowship and refreshments. Free admission and many blessings.



EVANGELISM

Norma Kentner



Do you ever wish you could share your faith and more easily invite friends and people who might cross your path to First Christian Church? Is this something that is not particularly easy for you to do? Plans are being made for an Evangelism Class to be held during the month of January...**beginning Sunday, January 7 at 9am in the Fellowship Hall.** The two adult Sunday School classes are joining us, so it should be a good group. We will be studying Bill Hybels, Just Walk Across the Room—four sessions on simple steps pointing people to faith.

The lessons will be presented in DVD format—you will not need to have read the sessions ahead of time. If you are out of town or cannot make all four sessions, you can join the class at any time. Coffee/something home-baked will be served! Please join us!

FCC BOOK CLUB

Norma Kentner



On Thursday, November 16, we had a very informative presentation by Ray Krey, local historian, on The Holocaust—a follow-up to our reading of Night, by Ellie Weisel. We will not be meeting in the month of December, but our next book, A Man Called Ove will be discussed on **Thursday, January 4 at noon in the Fellowship Hall.** Let Norma Kentner know if you need a copy of this book and join us—we are usually about 15 strong!

PROPERTY

Larry Loop

Basketball backboards have been received and will be installed in the next few weeks, weather permitting.

The concrete leveling project at Samaritan Well property was cancelled due to equipment break down and now is scheduled for next spring.

Shelves have been installed in the emergency pantry/old sign renovation project and will soon be ready to turn over to Outreach Committee.

A snow removal bid was accepted from Adam Elsner for this winter's parking lot and sidewalk.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who rang the bell the day after Thanksgiving. Please consider helping December 21, 22, and 23. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board outside the parlor.

COMMUNITY ACTION AND OUTREACH

Jan Rockwell for Rod Burg, Chair

FCC's **Thankful For A Home Collection** brought a record number of items delivered by our enthusiastic children to Samaritan Well. In addition to household items, very helpful cash donations were collected by the Disciples Women at the annual Thanksgiving Dinner. Nita Burg & Jan Rockwell, members of the SW Board, thank our generous congregation on behalf of Samaritan Well!

Secret Santa Special Christmas Party will be Friday, December 8, 5:30 – 7:30 pm. Everyone in the church is invited! If you want to sponsor a "special person", please take a name from the Christmas Tree and return your \$10 gift card to the church by Sunday December 3. If there are ornaments on the tree then there are guests that still need gift cards. If you'd like to help call Babs Becker at 309.255.5267 or the church office 309.837.6473. Fun is had by all!!

Rod Burg is recruiting Salvation Army Bell Ringers for December 21, 22, 23 at the heated entrance of Hy-Vee. Check your calendar and sign up for a time on the board outside the Parlor Kitchen. Many hands help many hearts Jan Rockwell.

Rod, a board member of **Loaves & Fishes**, says, thanks to an anonymous donor, Loaves & Fishes is able to continue giving the current amount in vouchers to its clients. Generous donations of more than 3,600 canned items were also recently collected by the students at Edison Grade School. The food bank exists because of the support from the community.

Thank you to Norma Kentner for continuing to lead the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Thank you, also, to Dorothy Loop for representing FCC by donating a crocheted baby blanket & cap for the MDH Auxiliary fund raiser. These are wonderful ways our church's outreach touches others!

Interfaith Alliance of Macomb, IAM, will soon be announcing details for a winter youth writing contest. Watch for more details in the January newsletter.

FCC EMERGENCY CUPBOARD

A quick response will soon be available to those in the community who suddenly find themselves hungry, in need, and with no resources. With the approval of the Church Board, FCC is converting the signage in the brickwork at the front entrance to the church into an emergency cupboard to be stocked with quick, nutritious easy meals & basic hygiene products for those in need of assistance. John Carden has removed the old liner and is putting in several shelves. By January 2018, the cupboard should be ready to function.

Anyone wishing to periodically donate items to be placed in the cupboard may bring them to church on the first Sundays of each month for the youth to collect. Items may also be left in a box in the annex of the parlor at any time. Members of the Outreach Committee will share the responsibility of stocking the shelves periodically. For more information or to volunteer to be involved, call Rod Burg, Outreach Chair.

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, Meat jerky, Bar soap Tooth brush/paste

PRAYER SHAWL

Prayer Shawl will not have a meeting at our usual time on Tuesday, December 12. Instead we will be lunching and sharing knitting/crocheting projects and ideas at **The Old Dairy at 11:45 on Wednesday, December 13**. We have some wonderful knitters and crocheters who are always willing to help and share tips. Come either learn or brush up on this rewarding hobby!

DISCIPLES WOMEN

Karen Chatterton

Around 175 people enjoyed a wonderful thanksgiving dinner. Thanks to everyone who cooked food or helped in any way to make this dinner a huge success.

Our next event will be the Christmas Tea, December 2, 10:00, in the Fellowship Hall. This year the tables will be decorated by individuals, and we hope to have some really nice themes. Before the luncheon, guests will go to the Sanctuary to view the Creches. Jean will present a power point presentation on our special Chrismons, that are featured on our Christmas tree.

HERE AT CHRISTMAS TIME AND ALWAYS, "MAY ANGELS SING AND DANCE AROUND YOU!!"

ELDERS

Calling all Current & Former Elders and their spouses!!

You are invited to the annual

College of Elders

Sunday, Dec 10, following worship in the FCC Fellowship Hall

Complimentary Chicken Dinner/ Brief presentation & Discussion

rsvp in church office by Dec, 10

CHURCH BOARD MINUTES

According to the Church Constitution, "Copies [of Board meeting minutes] will be available to the congregation within two weeks of the Church Board meeting." To make it easier for the congregation to access Board minutes, a binder will be placed on the small table located just inside the parlor from the hallway. The October minutes that were approved at the November Board meeting will be placed in the binder by December 3. Church members are welcome to review the minutes so they are aware of Board discussions and activities. We ask that the binder be kept in the parlor so that it is available to everyone.

THANK YOU

Christmas has arrived at FCC! My sincerest thanks goes out to all those who came out on Sunday afternoon and prepared our building for the true reason for the season. As you enter our doors throughout Advent, please extend a "thank you" to those who gave of their time to help us create a beautiful space for worship. Your time and talents are much appreciated by all who enter 120 North McArthur. My heart is full knowing so many care about FCC as much as I do!

DISCIPLES MEN

Dean Hansen

Disciples men will meet at The Old Dairy
December 2, at 8:00 am.

Third Thursday Men's Group will meet at
Chubby's Thursday, December 21, at 7:30 pm.

TRUSTEES

Donna Bainter

Trustees will meet Monday,
December 18, at 5:30 pm.

Church Board will meet Monday,
December 18, at 7:00 pm.

December Meetings

- 1 6:00 pm Festival of the Creche
- 2 8:00 am Disciples Men at Old Dairy
10:00 am Women's Tea
3:30 pm Festival of the Creche
- 5 7:00 pm DW Executive Board Meeting
- 6 5:30 pm Light Dinner
6:00 pm Christmas Program Rehearsal
6:00 pm Advent Study
7:00 pm Spirit Sisters at Rocky's
- 7 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
- 8 5:30 pm Secret Santa Party
- 11 1:00 pm Stephen Ministries
5:00 pm Property
6:00 pm Outreach and Action
7:00 pm Christian Education
- 12 1:30 pm Martha Shemwell
- 13 11:45 am Prayer Shawl at The Old Dairy
6:00 pm Christmas Program Rehearsal
- 14 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
- 18 5:30 pm Trustees
7:00 pm Church Board
- 19 5:00 pm Pastoral Support
- 21 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
7:00 pm Third Thursday Men's Group
@ Chubby's
2:00 pm—4:00 pm Ring bells at HyVee
- 24 10:30 am Worship Service
6:00 pm Worship Service
11:00 pm Worship Service

December Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 4 Barbara Blevins
- 9 Judy Graves
- 11 Maddie Dace
Stan and Carolee Sellers Anniversary
- 13 Emily Ann Bennett
- 14 Heather Craig-Bailey
- 16 Cindy Moon
Bob and Sheryl Donnell Anniversary
- 22 Richard Foster
- 24 Brianna Meunier
- 25 Chris and Linda Dace Anniversary
- 29 Advent Study
- 30 Teresa Bennett
Stan Sellers
Rev. Kelly and Anne Ingersoll
Anniversary



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PERIODICALS
POSTAGE PAID
Chalice Tidings

CHILDREN AND YOUTH GROUPS IN DECEMBER

Jr. JYF Pre K - 2 Grade

- 3 3:00 pm Caroling at Grand Prairie
- 6 6:00 pm-7:00 pm Christmas Program Rehearsal
- 13 6:00 pm-7:00 pm Christmas Program Rehearsal
- 17 9:00 am-10:00 am Christmas Program

JYF 3 - 5 Grade

- 3 5:00 pm Friendship
- 17 4:00 pm-6:30 pm Christmas Party

Youth 6 - 12 Grade

- 3 5:00 pm Would You Rather?
- 10 5:00 pm Struggling
- 17 4:00 pm-6:30 pm Christmas Party
- 24 Holiday, No Meetings
- 31 Holiday, No Meetings

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