

The Richmond Christian Courier



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Our Motto: "Christ First Makes a Difference"

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January 20, 2009
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THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY January 25, 2009

8:40 a.m. Worship
"A Church of People"
Rev. Owen Chandler
Scripture: Acts 15:1-11

9:40 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages

10:40 a.m. Worship
"A Church of People"
Rev. Owen Chandler
Scripture: Acts 15:1-11

Youth Announcements

Youth Group—5:30 p.m., we eat; 6:00 p.m. -
7:00 p.m., we get our group on.

2/1 Youth Super Bowl Sub Sale (all youth
be here by 8:00am to make all the needed
Subs)

2/7 Chi Rho and CYF Ski Trip to Perfect North
Slopes for skiing, snowboarding and snow tubing

2/21 Local Mission Day

SYMPATHY

The church extends its sympathy to Darnetta
Congleton on the death of her sister, Doris
Patton, last week. Please keep Darnetta and
her family in your prayers.

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY February 1, 2009

8:40 a.m. Worship
"Finding God Along the Way"
Dr. Glenn Birkett
Scripture: Jeremiah 29:11-14

9:40 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages

10:40 a.m. Worship
"Finding God Along the Way"
Dr. Glenn Birkett
Scripture: Jeremiah 29:11-14

GREETERS WELCOME!

If you were not a Greeter on Sunday morning in 2008
and would be willing to serve as one (10:15-10:45
a.m.) anytime this year, please call Sharleen Power
(623-6916) and choose a date suitable with your
schedule. Thanks.

APPLICATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

If you are interested in applying for the position of
Administrative Secretary at FCC, or know
someone who is, applications and the job
description can be picked up and returned to the
church office.

KNICKKNACKS FROM KNANCY

Diana Botner has graciously agreed to continue serving as the Chairperson of the Christian Education Ministry Team, and we've met to brainstorm ideas for this team. If you're looking for an opportunity to serve, please consider choosing to work with us. What do we do? So often we see Christian Education as Sunday School. While that is a very important part of our ministry team, it's not the only thing. We can "teach and learn" at times other than Sunday morning. Our task is to provide quality educational opportunities to people both in our congregation and outside the church as well. So put on your thinking caps and dream along with us. What if there were no monetary restrictions and no facility shortcomings at First Christian Church? What would you like to see happen here as far as education is concerned? What kind of creative programs do you envision our offering? What kind of topics or studies would help you in your day-to-day life as you try to live according to God's will? I encourage you to think about those things and as ideas come to you, share them with Diana or me. This is your church, so we ask for your input and your help as we try to provide every possible opportunity for you to grow in your relationship with God, as you struggle to exist in this uncertain, always changing world that we live in. Please spend time in prayer and also time just listening for input from God, and pass along your discoveries. —Nancy

A Few Things Considered....

Currently, I am reading a history book from the Oxford Series of American History, *What Hath God Wrought*. The volume covers our country's history from early 1800 until the mid-1840s. A few nights ago, I was reintroduced to a character from history, William Lloyd Garrison, a preacher and abolitionist. Speaking during a revival, where it was commonplace to preach for several hours, he told a Southern Christian audience, "I am in earnest - I will not equivocate - I will not excuse - I will not retreat a single inch - and I will be heard! Enslave the liberty of but one human being and the liberties of the world are put in peril." This admonishment of the enslavement of African Americans was not received well. As passionate and driving as his words that evening were his horse's footsteps racing out of that community were just as driving and passionate.

On Tuesday, twenty-two members of our congregation, young and old, will witness the Inauguration of our country's first African American President, Barack Obama. Along the journey to Tuesday, they will explore, among the great buildings of Washington DC, the Christian Traditions struggle with racial equality. This trip is a continuation of several others our church already traveled (The King Center in Atlanta and the Civil Rights Museum in Memphis). This trip is also a continuation of a struggle of equality encountered in Galatians— "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus"—heard in the proclamations of Garrison, the writings of Fredrick Douglas, the mind of Paul Tillich, the movement of Martin Luther King, and the musings of William Sloane Coffin. When our group stands, frozen yet together, we do so, not making a political statement—some show of solidarity for an incoming Administration—but rather as witnesses with the knowledge that this moment did not come without the struggles of a bold Christian tradition willing to speak Truth to Power. And as President Obama speaks those first earnest, unequivocal words, maybe one of our church members will hear the distant laughs of an old Abolitionist minister, riding away in the dusk; and he or she will realize that history is a torch passed on to those who carry on the struggle. And maybe, just maybe, in the middle of a bitter world, the warmth of that torch will be carried back to Richmond.

. -Owen

IN THE INTERIM

Mossie (Allman) Wyker, my mentor and close friend, grew up in this congregation in the 1910s and 1920s. She was encouraged to consider ministry by the pastor at that time when it was thought "women can't be ministers." Yet, she went to Transylvania University and the College of the Bible and felt called to be a minister, alongside her husband, Jim. She was ordained in 1928 and became President of the 9,000,000 members of Church Women United International; Acting President of our denomination in 1954; Vice-President of the National Council of Churches; and was called to be "pastor-to-pastors" to Disciples of Christ ministers during the civil unrest in south in the 1960s.

Mossie is looking over the ramparts this week at her "home" congregation and is filled with more joy than ever before because it is doing two very special things. First, is that you have a group that every year on or around Martin Luther King's birthday makes a trip focused upon civil rights issues. This year 22 youth, children and adults are going to Washington, D. C., to witness the Inauguration of Barack Obama and see such things as the Holocaust Museum and other places of significance in our Capital City. The second reason for her pride, and mine, too, is that the Search Committee and the Board have not flinched over unanimously voting to recommend a woman candidate as your next Senior Minister. This is "progressive Christianity" at work.

Thanks to those who have volunteered to work in the office during our time of being without an administrative secretary. So far we've had: Dottie Renfro, Julia Ramey, Jane Noland, June Nordgulen, Darnetta Congleton, and Pat Dawson, Sandy Clark.

Probably by the time you receive this Courier, Jayne and I will be on our way to what we hope is sunny and warm Florida. We will be gone for a week and then return on January 30.

You are a great congregation and I am thrilled to have been called to be your interim.

GAB

Dr. Glenn Birkett, Interim Senior Minister

Rev. Nancy Long, Minister of Education
John Stegner, Director of Music
Brenda Young, Custodian

Rev. Owen Chandler, Associate Minister
Linda Hensley, Organist

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
P.O. BOX 216
RICHMOND, KY 40476-0216

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SERVING SCHEDULE AT 8:40 a.m. WORSHIP

January 25, Elders	Steve Gamble, Bud Lee
Diaconate	Ann Jones, Rick Jones
February 1, Elders	John McKinney, Reid Singleton
Diaconate	Eddie Pullins, Bodie Snell
February 8, Elders	John Davidson, Jimmy Cornelison
Diaconate	Eddie Pullins, Bodie Snell
February 15, Elders	Mike Gordon, Sharla Davidson
Diaconate	Eddie Pullins, Bodie Snell
February 22, Elders	Jim Harris, Lolly Harris
Diaconate:	Eddie Pullins, Bodie Snell

SCHEDULE FOR ELDERS at 10:40 a.m. WORSHIP

January 25	Jim Harris, Lolly Harris
February 1	Bobby Robinson, Jan Tunnell
February 8	Bruce Begley, Scott Browder
February 15	John Davidson, Steve Gamble
February 22	Paul Hale, Bud Lee

JANUARY & FEBRUARY WORSHIP LEADERS

January 25	Bobby Robinson
February 1	Mike Gordon
February 8	Youth TBD
February 15	Skip Daugherty
February 22	Scott Browder

DIACONATE SERVING IN JANUARY 2009

DIACONATE SERVING IN FEBRUARY 2009

Kathy Congleton	Rob Congleton	Charles Curtis	Larry Agee	Melissa Agee	Betsy Burch
Vicki Daugherty	Jillian Fichetola	Jane Gordon	Connie Byers	Carey Christian	Martha Cobb
Betsy Grise	Brent Horn	Carla Horn	Richie Cobb	Pam Grant	Lori Howard
Laura Weitkamp	Jo Luxon	Graham Nichols	Mary Ann McKinney		Sheila Miller
Jami Nichols	Leslie Stapp	Mike Stapp	Corrie Rice	Joe Rice	Tina Stegemoller
Mary Tipton			John Tudor		Joanne Whitlock

Diaconate Team Leaders: January Leslie Stapp, Mike Stapp, and Jane Gordon
 February Pam Grant, Martha Cobb, Richie Cobb

Communion Preparers: January: Sheila Miller and Pat Hesselberth,
 February: June Nordgulon, Helen-Louise Snyder

Bus Drivers: January: Gary Westerfield, 623-8151 and Tommy Congleton, 369-5175
 February: Rick Congleton, 369-3707 and Rob Congleton, 369-7989

January 11, Worship Attendance:	8:40 a.m. - 47	10:40 a.m. - 155
January 18, Worship Attendance:	8:40 a.m. - 37	10:40 a.m. - 115

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEXT COURIER

The next Courier will be mailed on February 3, 2009. Deadline for articles is 12 noon on Friday, January 30. Thank you for your cooperation, please note the deadline is on Friday and not Monday.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO CLEAN NURSERY

Volunteers are needed to help clean our nursery to maintain a healthy environment for our little ones. We prefer the cleaning be done around the middle of the month to keep it close to a four week schedule. It takes approximately two hours to clean. Guidelines for cleaning and supplies are available in the nursery. If you can help our little ones by volunteering to help clean, please call Darnetta Congleton at 369-5175, 200-7801, or the church office.

GOD'S OUTREACH FOOD BANK

We have 3 dedicated teams that have been bagging non-perishable food items on the 2nd, 3rd, and last Thursday evening of each month. We are in need of a couple of replacements for the teams that bag on the 2nd and 3rd Thursdays. Please contact Bobby Herbst at 625-9036 if you could spare one Thursday evening a month for about two hours. This is a wonderful ministry that we provide.

MINISTRY CHAIRPERSONS FOR 2009

The following people have agreed to chair these important ministry teams in the Church. Please contact them if you would like to participate on their ministry team. Thanks much to each person for their dedicated service to the Church.

Evangelism	Reid Singleton
Worship	Anna Land and Kathy Congleton
Christian Education	Diana Botner
Stewardship	Skip Daugherty
Membership	Mary Ann McKinney
Youth	Craig Combs
Publicity	Richard Bendure
By-Laws/Policy	Dale Byers
Property	Bobby Robinson
Personnel	Skip Daugherty
Outreach	Sandy Hunter

WE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBER

Pam Powell transferred her church membership from another Kentucky Disciples congregation on Sunday, January 11, 2009. She is a retired school teacher and lives at 161 Prewitt Drive, 624-2044. Please introduce yourself to Pam and make her feel welcomed.

2009 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Please pick up a packet of 2009 Offering Envelopes in the foyer at the Information Desk

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday Everyone!

Maggie Sizemore	February 2	Andrew Gamble	February 15
Andrew Jones	February 3	Charles Hacker	February 15
Bodie Snell	February 3	Clint Wimberly	February 15
Julia Hudson	February 4	Joyce Davis	February 16
Frank Brown	February 5	Drew Hale	February 16
George R. Herbst	February 5	Jacob Agee	February 17
Fanny Rice	February 5	Jayne Birkett	February 17
Danny Noland	February 6	Samuel Bucknam	February 17
Sara Cornelison	February 7	Craig Combs	February 17
Brittany Porter	February 7	Victoria Nichols	February 17
Mary Roberts	February 8	John M. Davidson	February 18
Kenneth Tunnell	February 8	Debora Hale	February 19
P.J. Bishop	February 9	Robert Luxon, Jr.	February 19
Joe Roberts	February 9	Misha Owens	February 19
Katie Brandenburg	February 10	Raglena Samons	February 19
Pat Dawson	February 10	Woodrow Cotton	February 20
Jean Hamilton	February 10	Bizzy Robards	February 20
Melanie Stearns	February 10	Ruth W. Tutt	February 20
William Adams	February 11	Glenn Birkett	February 21
Mike Land	February 11	Wesley Byers	February 22
Joshua Nunley	February 12	Linda Wimberly	February 22
Anna Sizemore	February 12	Debbie Jones	February 23
Jay Chanley	February 13	Ray Coy	February 25
David Gore	February 13	Tommy Goucher	February 25
Roger McKinney	February 13	Janet Walters	February 26
Libby Upchurch	February 13	Chastity Ross	February 27
Kathie Bettler	February 14	Jamie Worley	February 27
Daniel DeCoste	February 14	Pearl Biggin	February 28
Lolly Harris	February 14	Jane Sallee	February 28
Jackie Collier	February 15	Nicole Estes	February 29

We have made every effort to include everyone who has a birthday in February. If you or a family member were not listed please let us know via the church office so we can enter the date in our computer and be sure and not miss it again. We will add all additions to the February 3rd Courier.

FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

From time to time I plan to highlight a couple of items from the administrative board meetings. We had excellent attendance at the 1/5 board meeting. The board approved me to assign an Adhoc task force to study and recommend what we need to do to attract and retain more young adults. Based upon a request from John Stegner in December I instructed the Property committee to have a small platform removed in the chancel area of the sanctuary. This will allow movement of the piano and make it much easier to use this area of the sanctuary for items such as playing the bells. Microphone and power will be retained. No other changes will be made. Please plan to attend our February 2nd board meeting. It is important to be involved.

Bobby Herbst, Chairman of Administrative Board

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Following both services on January 25th we will have Congregational Meetings to vote on calling Dr. Betsy Goehrig as our next Senior Minister.

BIRTHS

Congratulations to the following families:

Carey & Todd Christian upon the birth of Natalie Leone Christian born January 7th, the proud grandparents, Jane & Mike Gordon, and proud great grandparents are Ruth Tutt, and Margaret & Cecil Gordon, she joins her sister Caroline at home.

Elizabeth Bertera on Sunday morning 1/18. She will be welcomed home by her mother and father Jeff and Christy Bertera in Tallahassee Fl. Her proud Grandmother is Betsy Goehrig.

MEMBERSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

Membership Ministry Team meeting is scheduled for Tuesday January 27 at 7pm.

YOUNG ADULTS (Post-College, but Pre-Midlife Crisis)

- 1/29 Young Adult Bible Study, 6:30pm, Bodie and Amber Snell's Home
- 2/13 2nd Friday Happy Hour at the home of Daniel and Lori Howard, 6:30pm
- 2/26 Young Adult Bible Study, Location TBA, 6:30pm

GOD 101: COLLEGE MINISTRY

2008-2009 College Students' Group Calendars are available outside of Owen's office and will be available online, soon. Please regularly check your Facebook accounts. There will be a Richmond college student lunch coming up in the next couple of weeks. For you Lexington people, I will be up the same week.

THANK YOU!

A big "THANK YOU!" goes out to Randi & Joey Herbst for creating the bulletin board in the Coffee Room area. Randi has been busy taking pictures for the past couple of weeks, so be sure to stop by and see if she captured you on film!