

## From the Pastor's Pencil



I hope you all enjoyed a happy and blessed Christmas, and I pray that we will all grow in our Christian faith and deepen our Christian practices in the New Year.

The next Christian holiday (or *holy day*) is the *Epiphany*, which is celebrated on January 6 every year. Epiphany commemorates three events in the life of Jesus: the visit of the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12), his baptism (Mark 1:9), and the changing of water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana (John 2:1-11).

What ties the three events together is that each one shows that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God. A suggestion for you: on January 6, read those three passages in your Bible and think about how each event reveals that Jesus is God's Son.

For example, one way the Magi's visit reveals that Jesus is the Son of God is

that even very wise men from a distant land knew that the birth of Jesus was a world-changing event and that he deserved their gifts and their worship.

The time between Christmas Day and the Epiphany used to be observed in the Church as the season of *Christmastide* or the *Twelve Days of Christmas*. I'm sure you know the song about the gifts "my true love gave to me" on the twelve days of Christmas.

Another thing you might do to celebrate Epiphany (or on January 1 if you make New Year's resolutions) is to make a list of 12 gifts you hope God will give you and 12 gifts you plan to give to God in the New Year.

For example, one of the gifts I hope God will give me in the New Year is the ability to help our church grow and prosper. One of the gifts I plan to give

God in the New Year is spending more time in prayer (although that is really another gift I hope God will give to me).

If you take time as we begin our New Year to read the three passages of Scripture I mentioned and to make your lists of 12 gifts, I hope you will stop by church or give me a call and let me know what ideas you came up with. I'm always very interested to hear what God is doing in your life and how your spiritual practices are helping you to come ever closer to Him.

A Happy and Blessed New Year to All!

Glad to be your pastor, FCC—

*Rev. Tom*

931-224-3658

(cell)

### January Scripture & Sermon Titles

1/5 -- *Seeking Grace in Every Step He Takes*, John 1:1-14

1/12 -- *With Him I Am Well Pleased*, Matthew 3:13-17

1/19 -- *How to Get Rich Quick*, 1 Corinthians 1:4-9

1/26 -- *Five Not-So-Easy Pieces*, Matthew 4:12-23



## December Budget

(5 Sundays)

General Budget needed per month	\$23,860.25
General Budget received in December	\$27,018.00
Building Accounts received in December	\$3,200.00



## WORSHIP AND WONDER

Worship and Wonder will meet the second and fourth Sundays this month. Worship and Wonder is for children ages 3 years old through fifth grade. Children will be hearing and experiencing sacred stories of the Bible and a time of worship. They will then follow Mary Jane to our worship room off the Fellowship Hall where parents can pick them up following the Worship service.



January 12 The Holy Family  
January 26 Jesus is Baptized

## Nursery Volunteers



Nursery is provided during the Worship Service for our infants through four year olds.

January 5 Janie Bartlett  
January 12 Amy Philpott  
January 19 Mitzi Crick  
January 26 Kay Simmons

## KIDS NIGHT OUT: Pizza and Games

Friday, January 10 5:30-8:00 pm

Roll up your sleeves as we make our own pizza dough and PIZZA!. Invite your friends to join our other guests for an evening of fun. Attendees may want to eat a snack before they come since dinner will be served around 6:45 pm.

Separate activities for children younger than Kindergarten will be provided. Again, we are joining forces with children, teens and adults who are part of the Relative Caregiver Program in our community. The caregivers have the responsibilities of raising grandchildren, nieces and nephews varying in age from birth through high school. RSVP by January 6.

## PRAYER CENTER



There is a Prayer Center located in the Gathering Area. Currently, the focus is *New Beginnings*. Please take a moment to visit the center.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00-9:45 am

Children's Sunday School will focus on **Following Jesus** through a variety of activities, not just sitting!. We will meet in rooms 2 & 3 for our time of exploring.

**WEDNESDAY ON MADISON** winter session will begin on January 8 and go through February 12. Rev. Tom will lead a co-ed class on the book, *Water from an Ancient Well*, by Kenneth McIntosh. This book shows how we can apply the lessons of Celtic Christian Spirituality to our daily Christian devotions and other practices. It's a beautiful and inspiring book that can enrich and deepen our relationships with the natural world, other people, and God. Please Join us! A Celtic Blessing from the book's introduction:

Deep peace of the running wave to you.  
 Deep peace of the flowing air to you.  
 Deep peace of the quiet Earth to you.  
 Deep peace of the sleeping stones to you.  
 Deep peace of the stars to you.  
 Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you.

We will have a potluck meal at 5:30 pm, followed by class at 6:00 pm. Choir rehearsal is at 7:15 pm

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: EXPLORING AND GROWING TOGETHER** Facilitator, Mary Jane Heuer  
 Brandon Byrd will assist with Handbells.

Wednesday nights are an opportunity for children 4 years old-5th grade to learn more about God and to live out their faith through worship by playing handbells, studying and games.

### THE SIGNS OF WORSHIP

"The Signs of Worship" meet each Monday from 6:00-7:00 pm. Any girl interested in participating should attend.  
 We have a good time!

### FIREPROOF

FCC's Youth Band, "Fireproof," practices on Tuesday from 4:15-5:15 pm. If you have a special song you want the band to learn or if you want to sing a special song with the band, just let a band member know.

### ANGEL TREE



The Christian Education committee would like to thank all those who participated in this year's Angel Tree project. We were blessed that all of the tree Angels were taken, which was great! Plus, all the gifts were turned in on time or early. We truly appreciate all your help in assisting these needy children and their relative caregivers by making their Christmas merry and bright. God Bless!



*Thank You* 

One of the gifts God has given to each of us as staff members is being able to serve at First Christian Church. We appreciated your prayers, kindnesses, support and the opportunity to serve with you.

THANK YOU FROM EACH OF US FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFT!

Serving God together,  
 Tom, Brandon, Mary Jane, Anne, and Barbara

## WORSHIP in MOTION

“Worship in Motion” practices from 6:00-7:30 pm every Wednesday in the sanctuary. We welcome new members. No dance skills are required. Since there is a lot of choreography, we ask that when you sign up you will make the commitment to come every Wednesday night during the Winter session of Wednesday on Madison. We are asking parents to please make the judgment call to determine if they feel their children will be able to approach this offering with the maturity needed.

“Worship in Motion” would like to borrow a coat/hat rack for one of their offerings. There is also a need to have some costumes altered. For more information, please contact Shana Pitts or Amy Philpott.



Our semi-annual Women’s Retreat is scheduled for January 31, February 1-2, at the Sisters of Mercy Convent in Nashville. As always, we have up to sixteen private rooms available at \$140 per person. Each room has its own bathroom. Our study will be “It’s Not About Me” by Max Lucado. Mark your calendars and let me know if you are coming, interested in coming or want more information. Call Wilma Beam at 684-2527.

### **Disciples Women (DWM/CWF)**

The Women’s Group will meet January 14, 2014. Helping Hands will meet at 9:30 am, DWM at 11:30 am. We will have a program “Special Women’s Day” presented by Donna Stearns Smith. Lunch will be provided.

### **Men’s Group (CMF)**

The Men’s Group will have their Men’s Breakfast, January 12, at 7:30 am. Please join us for a great meal and fellowship before you head off to Sunday School and Worship.

### **Elders Meet**

The Elders meeting this month will be a Retreat on January 25, 2014, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Newell’s lake house on Tims Ford Lake.

### **Board Meets**

The Board will meet Sunday, January 19, at 11:15 am following Worship

### **Circles Meet**

Circle I - Tuesday, January 21, at 2:00 pm at the church

Circle III - Tuesday, January 21, at 6:00 pm at the church

Circle IV - January 27, time & place TBA

## Prayer Concerns of the Church



### In Hospital, Nursing Homes or Assisted Living

*Celebration Way*  
Alpha Philpott

*Carriage House Inn*  
Milbrey Eakin

*Christian Care Center*  
Mildred Bobo

*NHC-Murfreesboro*  
Melba Henry

*Glen Oaks*  
Leo Reed

### At Home

Jim Adcock  
Charlie Coffey  
Mai Coffey  
Sandy Craig  
Terry Craig  
Rhoda Gunter  
Buddy & Virginia Ann Haynes  
Bucker Huffman  
Miles McCullough  
Bo Melson  
Curtis Morton  
Annette Palmer  
Susan Price  
Albert Smithson  
Earlene Stallings  
Ted York

## 2014

As we prepare to enter the new year, we are in need of volunteers to open and close the building on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in helping with this mission, please see Terry Craig and he will walk you through the procedure.

We also need volunteers to run sound during Worship. There are sign up sheets on the bulletin board at the Communication Table.

## ARE WE REALLY SERVANTS OF JESUS?

1. If we give our church leaders conditions, special requirements, and a list of things we're not willing to do, is that really serving?
2. If we only do what we want to do, do we really have a servant's heart?
3. If we never make a sacrifice, are we really serving?
4. When we are done serving, if we require recognition do we really have a servant heart?
5. If when not properly appreciated and our feelings are hurt, can we say, as Jesus said we should say, "We are unworthy servants who have simply done our duty" (Luke 17:10)?



# January 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 <b>WOM</b> 5:30 pm Potluck 6:00 pm classes 7:15 pm Choir	9 9:30 am CBS	10 5:30 pm Kids Night Out	11
12 7:30 am Men's Breakfast	13	14 9:30 am Helping Hands 11:30 am DWM	15 <b>WOM</b> 5:30 pm Potluck 6:00 pm classes 7:15 pm Choir	16 9:30 am CBS 9:30 am Staff Meeting	17	18
19 11:15 am Board meets	20	21 2:00 pm Circle I 6:00 pm Circle III	22 <b>WOM</b> 5:30 pm Potluck 6:00 pm classes 7:15 pm Choir	23 9:30 am CBS	24	25 10:00 am Elders Retreat at New- ell's lake house
26	27 TBA Circle IV	28	29 <b>WOM</b> 5:30 pm Potluck 6:00 pm classes 7:15 pm Choir	30 9:30 am CBS	31	

## January Birthdays, Elders, and Deacons



### January Birthdays

- 3 Harriet Melson  
Larry Morton
- 12 Bob Bellar
- 15 Isaac Caperton
- 17 JoAnn Smith
- 20 Morris Haynes
- 21 Janis Cannon
- 25 Ann Marie Morton

- 28 Bobby Newell
- 29 Shana Pitts

### January Elders

- Henry Hulan
- Charles McDonald

### January Deacons

- Iris Schumann
- JoAnn Smith
- Buddy Taylor
- Ellen Taylor