



From the Pastor's Pencil

One of our church members suggested that we include my sermon *A White X on a Red Cup* in the *Caller* to share again with the congregation a little of the history and beliefs of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Good idea, but the sermon's a lot longer than my usual *Pastor's Pencil*, so we'll break the sermon into two parts and print Part II in the next *Caller*.

Here's Part I:

Kids ask some hard questions! Over the years, kids have asked me, "Who were God's parents?" "When was God born?" "Are God and Jesus the same thing?"

"Is the Holy Spirit a ghost?" "Was Jesus a Christian?"

"Do our pets get to be with us in heaven?" "Do you get to do anything in heaven or do you just sit there?"

Good questions! And another one was, "What is that red cup thing with the white X on it on our church sign?"

This morning I'd like to talk with you for a little while about that red cup with the white X on it and the denomination our congregation belongs to—the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Here are the *Top Ten Things to Know about the Disciples*:

Number 10: That red cup with the white X is a chalice with a St. Andrew's cross on it. The chalice symbolizes the importance of the Lord's Supper in the life and worship of Disciples.

The color red signifies vitality, spirit, and sacrifice.

The white cross that looks like an X is the national cross of Scotland. It's shaped like the cross on which Jesus' disciple Andrew was crucified. Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland.

So, what's the connection between our denomination and Scotland? There aren't even any Disciples churches in Scotland!

That's number 9 on our top ten list: The founding fathers of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) were Presbyterian ministers from Scotland: Barton W. Stone and Thomas and Alexander Campbell.



November Budget Corner (through 11/23)

General Budget needed per month	\$23,860.25
General Budget received in November	\$21,407.00
Building Accounts received in November	\$1,065.00

Our denomination was formed out of two separate movements seeking Christian unity in the early 1800s. In western Pennsylvania, Thomas and Alexander Campbell rebelled against strict Presbyterian doctrine that forbade Christians of different denominations from receiving Holy Communion together.

The Campbells called their movement *the Disciples*.

At the same time, in Kentucky, another Scotch Presbyterian minister, Barton W. Stone, rebelled against the use of formal creeds such as the Apostles Creed from the 6th century as tests or articles of faith that Christians had to agree to in order to become church members and to receive Holy Communion.

Stone called his movement *the Christians*.

The aims and practices of Campbells' *Disciples* and Stone's *Christians* were so similar that the two movements united by a handshake agreement in Lexington, Kentucky, in 1832, and became the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The Stone-Campbell Movement hoped to restore Christian unity by returning to the faith and practices of the New Testament.

"No creed but Christ" was one of their mottoes.

That brings us to number eight on our Top Ten List: the beliefs of our denomination's founding fathers. First, "No creed but Christ." Affirming that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, was the only requirement for church membership.

Second, Scripture was the only rule of faith: They said, "Where the Scriptures speak, we speak; where the Scriptures are silent, we are silent."

Third, Christian unity: They said, "The church of Christ upon earth is essentially, intentionally, and constitutionally one."

The founding fathers of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) didn't want to just add one more denomination to a Christianity that was already too divided.

The first Disciples saw themselves not as a denomination but as a movement for Christian unity.

And fourth, open-mindedness and freedom of belief. They said, "In essentials, unity; in nonessentials, liberty; in all things, charity."

In other words, Disciples believe in the essential tenet of our faith that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God.

Each Disciple is free to have his or her own interpretation of the nonessentials of the faith, when that understanding is based on a diligent and prayerful study of Scripture.

We don't all have to believe exactly the same things to be a Disciple.

And in all things, love—even when we disagree. That's a hard one to practice. In all things, love—even when we disagree.

Number seven in our Top Ten List of important things to know about the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ): Today's Disciples remain committed to those ideas of our founding fathers.

Our denomination's vision is "to be a faithful, growing church that demonstrates true community, deep Christian spirituality and a passion for justice."

Our mission is "To be and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, witnessing, loving and serving from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth."

The world has changed a lot since the 1800s, but today's Disciples remain committed to the Bible, to freedom of thought, to unity, and to love.

We'll end Part I there and pick up where we left off in the next *Caller*.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

Nursery is provided during the Worship Service for our infants through four year olds. Barbara Thompson is our wonderful and dedicated Nursery staff person!

- December 7 Amy Mitchell
- December 14 Jane Bartlett
- December 21 Blaire Cartwright
- December 28 Janie Burke

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP TIME

Each Sunday, children (3 years old through 5th grade) are invited to come to the Children's wing for a time of worship, prayer and Bible Exploration following the Children's Moment. Each Sunday will focus around the mystery of Christmas.

- December 7 The Prophets
- December 14 Preparing for the Mystery of Christmas
- December 21 The Shepherds
- December 28 The Wise Men and Christmas

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT: PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS



Saturday, December 13 1:00-4:00 pm
Cost: \$2.00 RSVP by Wed. Dec. 10
Ages: 12 months through fifth grade

Parents, do you need a time for shopping, decorating, cleaning or just some alone time with each other? Here's your chance! Leave your child(ren) for the whole time or part of the afternoon!

Afternoon activities include baking cookies for parents and children to take to local agencies, shut-ins or someone who you know needs their day brighten up. Christmas crafts, devotion and game time will also be a part of the activities.

Adults and youth will assist in the activities and in the Nursery. A light snack will be provided.

Each child needs a current Children's and Youth Permission Form. If you need more then what was in your letter, contact MJ.

Spread the word to other parents, particularly those who are looking for a church home. RSVP by Wednesday, December 10 by either calling MJ 615-542-4094 or email maryjanefcc@bellsouth.net.

A Night in Bethlehem, First Baptist Church, Tullahoma

December 21, 22 & 23 at 6:30 pm

First Baptist Church tells the story of A Night in Bethlehem and provides the Tullahoma and Middle Tennessee area with a wonderful Christmas tradition. Nightly entertainment, free refreshments, exotic animals and much, much more await the Christmas seeker at "A Night In Bethlehem" December 21 through December 23, 6:30 -9:00 p.m. at the corner of Washington and Grundy St.

Walk thru Bethlehem at

Woodmont Christian Church, Nashville

Sunday, December 14, 2014 1:00-7:00 pm

Have you ever wondered what it was like in Bethlehem during the first century when Jesus was born? It's a representation of what first century Bethlehem may have been like during the time of the census. They have a cast of hundreds dressed in costume, including Roman soldiers and centurions and so much more. If interested, see MJ. This is both outdoor but mostly indoor and lot of walking with lots of folks!

Amazing experience!

GOOD SAMARITAN



A Thank You note from the Youth!

Our peoples response to suggestions for food items for Good Sam has been Great! Hundreds of items were collected for Good Sam.

The High School food drive and several other drives have filled the shelves at Good Sam...for now. Sadly, the food won't last very long so after the first of the year, we will be making our plea again.

In December, there are so many opportunities to help others that we will skip December for food and concentrate on other opportunities to help others. However, monetary gifts to Good Sam are always welcome! Thank you again for your support!

WEDNESDAY ON MADISON

We continue our Wednesday on Madison Bible Study on Wednesday evenings at 6 o'clock. The class run through December 17, the Wednesday before Christmas Sunday.

Rev. Tom is leading the class's study and discussion on the *Gospel According to Luke*. We'll begin each class by listening to some music, sharing our prayer requests, and praying together.

Prayer and Bible study are central to the life a church! We hope to see you in the Cross & Chalice room at FCC!

CHILDREN: 4 year olds through 5th Grade 6:00-7:00 pm
Time of exploring God's Word, playing and sharing.
Meet MJ In Room 4 for Children's Time together. on November 5, 12 & 19.

WORSHIP IN MOTION meets Wednesday nights at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Call Shana Pitts or Amy Philippott for more information. We welcome new members! No dance skills required.

Nursery will be provided.

YOUTH NEWS

December 7	Youth Group 5-7 pm
December 14	Youth Group 5-7 pm
December 21	3-7 pm Caroling & Christmas Party
December 28	NO YOUTH GROUP

BABY JESUS VISITS



Where is Baby Jesus? Once again, Baby Jesus will journey through the congregation beginning Sunday, November 30th during our morning Worship Service.

Members of the congregation will host Baby Jesus for 24 hours during Advent before delivering Him to another household. The host member will choose the next household to receive Baby Jesus.

Each household is encouraged to record their thoughts, feelings and experiences in a journal that goes with Baby Jesus.

Our hope is for Baby Jesus to visit many homes and not only homes with children.

A list will be provided with previous years hosts.

Whoever has Baby Jesus on Christmas Eve will bring Baby Jesus to our Christmas Eve service.

Please call Mary Jane Heuer if you have any questions and to let her know where Baby Jesus is spending the night. 615-542-4094 or email her at maryjanefcc@bellsouth.net.



- ☺ Our Youth Leaders for six years of commitment, service and sharing God's love with our youth
- ☺ Preparing for Advent fellowship and seeing the generations creating new Advent traditions together
- ☺ Parent's P.M. Out: Great time of cooking, playing and sharing devotion together-thanks to all who participated
- ☺ Operation Christmas Child-11 boxes taken to the drop off center this week...thank you to each who made it possible
- ☺ To our Sunday School teachers and their commitment

Advent Enrichment Opportunities

Advent Prayer Stations in Worship and Wonder Room

Spend some time and experience the various Advent Prayer Stations in the Worship and Wonder Room. The stations are set up around the room to enrich your Advent experience. Open to all ages, but families with young children should assist their child. Thursday mornings CBS meets in the room so please pick another time to come to the prayer stations.

First Baptist Church, Shelbyville Living Christmas Tree December 5, 6, 7, 8

Several of our members will be a part of this musical offering to the community. A wonderful evening of the message of love and hope!



Opportunity of serving :

Children's ministry is offering a Parents PM Out on December 13, and we could use your assistance. Cookies are going to be made so parents and children can deliver them to their choice of local agencies, shut-ins or someone who needs a special "thinking of you".

Here's where YOU come in!

- ☺ Baked home made sugar cookies and gingerbread cookies to decorate by the children
- ☺ Need home made cookie dough that need to be rolled so children can roll and bake them
- ☺ New Christmas tins
- ☺ Come and be a greeter, assist in kitchen, assist in Nursery and with younger children.

Let MJ know how you will be serving. If just want to come-COME and give your gift of presence

615-542-4094 or maryjanefcc@bellsouth.net.

Disciples Women (CWF)

The Women's Group next meeting will not be meeting in December. Meetings will resume in January under the leadership of our new president, Rhoda Gunter.

Beginning at 9:30 am with Helping Hands

11:00 am Fellowship

11:30 am Light lunch - provided

12:00 pm Program:

Men's Group (CMF)

The Men's Group will not meet in December.

Board Meets

There will be a brief called Board meeting on December 21 following Worship to vote on the 2015 budget.

Elders Meet

The Elders will meet Sunday, December 21, at 8:00 am.

Circles Meet

Circle I - Tuesday, December 9, at 1:00 pm at Gerrell Haynes. Light refreshments.

Circle III - Will meet for its Christmas potluck get together Tuesday, December 16, at 6:00 pm at the home of Laurie Bierovic.

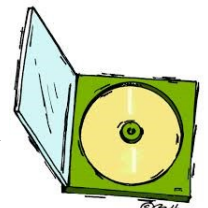
Circle IV - TBA

MUSIC CD SIGNING

First Christian Church will host a CD release and signing party for singer/songwriter Kati O'Grady on Sunday evening, December 7, from 6-8 pm .

Kati, accompanied by Jim and Inge Wood, will perform songs from Kati's new CD, "Love Lifted Me." Jim and Inge will also perform several songs from their own rich repertoire. Kati will also perform two of her songs in worship on December 7.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend both the worship service and the CD party.



BLANKET SUNDAYS



Need a gift for someone who has everything? For the price of a video game (\$25.00), you can provide warm blankets to a family of five struggling to stay warm.

When disaster strikes overseas or here at home, Church World Service (CWS) blankets provide warmth, comfort and, most importantly, the feeling that someone cares in a time of trouble. A CWS blanket not only provides needed protection, it brings a ray of hope to people when they need it most and reminds them they are not alone.

The Outreach Committee will be heading up the blanket drive during the Advent season. You may purchase a CWS blanket in honor or in memory of a loved one on Dec. 7 and 14 for \$5.00 each. The blanket table will be set up in the Gathering Area.

LESSONS IN CAROLS

Please join us for Worship on December 14 at 10:00 am when the First Christian Church Sanctuary Choir, along with special guests musicians, presents "A Garland of Carols."

BOOK SIGNING

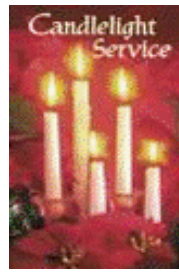
Mary Jo Graham, author of *WHEN HE SENDS REDBIRDS*, will be at First Christian Church on Sunday, December 21, for her first book signing. *WHEN HE SENDS REDBIRDS* is her testimony of how God stretched, healed, comforted and brought joy to her life in unexpected ways while caregiving for her parents Rhoda and Billy Gunter. Book signing will be from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm.



ANNUAL BAKE SALE

Our annual Bake and Craft sale on Saturday, November 8, 2014, was a huge success. Over \$3,200 was raised for local outreach projects! Thank you to everyone who decorated, baked, brought crafts & treasures as well as to those who bought our various sale items.

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE



Please make plans to attend our annual Candlelight Christmas Eve service on December 24 at 11:00 pm. You will enjoy scripture readings, sing Christmas carols, and experience music of the season. As always, the service will culminate with the lighting of candles to celebrate Christ's birth. We are also planning a family Christmas Eve service at 6:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The Deacons & Elders serving for the month of December are asked to attend to serve as greeters and at the Communion table.

There are still "Sharing Our Table" cook books for sale. They make great Christmas gifts for friends and family. The cost is \$20. Stop by the church office anytime or pick one up on Sunday mornings before or after Worship!



ANGEL TREE

"Healthy Family" is the theme of this year's Angel Tree. The Center for Family Development offers support for parents and their newborns. This in-home family support program helps parents adjust to their new and demanding challenges of parenthood by providing education on parenting skills, understanding developmental stage and information on child health care, nutrition and safety need.

Take a red angel home, which lists the age and item requested, sign your name on the green angel, and leave it in the basket next to the tree.

You are encouraged to get educational toys, books and games that families can interact with together.

Please return gift with red tag in a gift bag by Monday, December 15, before noon.

Thank you for all your help! It is greatly appreciated.

Remembering Bo Melson

Our dear friend, Bo Melson, passed away on November 15. In tribute to Bo, here's part of the eulogy Rev. Tom spoke at Bo's funeral service:

I've been thinking these past few days about Bo's legacy to our community. Bo will be remembered for his friendliness, his good humor, his strong Christian faith, and so many other fine qualities.

Perhaps Bo will be best remembered for the thousands of photographs he took for the *Shelbyville-Times Gazette*. A photograph, after all, is a memory. We take photographs to help us remember the past—especially the good things, the happy things that enrich our lives and make us proud.

Bo was a chronicler of our good memories. Most of his photographs were of ourselves, our parents, our children, and our grandchildren when we were young and strong, fast and hopeful—on the football field, on the baseball diamond, on the basketball court, on the track—with our whole lives still in front of us.

Those were good times, and Bo was always there, regardless of the weather, taking pictures to help us remember the days when we had some of the best times of our lives.

If you have a photograph of a loved one playing ball or running track that you or a family member didn't take, odds are good that Bo Melson took that picture and gave you that memory to keep forever.

Thanks for the memories, Bo!

We Mourn the Loss of Bo Melson

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Sue Arnold

Charles & Mary Baker
Frank & Janelle Douglas
Charles & Karen Sue McDonald
Buddy & Ellen Taylor

In Memory of Bo Melson

Bob & Sally Bellar
The Boggs: David, Chris, Beth & families
Ruth Cartwright
Rose Marie Clark
Evelyn Coffey
Becky Cortner

Prayer Concerns of the Church



In Nursing Homes or Assisted Living

Celebration Way
Alpha Philpott

Carriage House Inn
Rose Marie Clark
Melba Henry
Mary Lynn Prince

Christian Care Center
Mildred Bobo

Glenn Oaks
Albert Smithson

At Home

Leland Arnold
Charlie Coffey
Mai Coffey
Sandy Craig
Terry Craig
Brenda Hancock
Buddy & Virginia Ann Haynes
Bucker Huffman
Miles McCullough
Curtis Morton
Larry Price
Susan Price
Ted York

In Memory of Bo Melson cont'd

George & Kay Dennis
William & Katherine Faulk
Marvin & Cheryl McBee
Anne McMahan
Ted & Lita York

In Memory of Naomi Milner

Rose Marie Clark
Buddy & Virginia Ann Haynes

In Memory of Earlene Stallings

Connie Brown
Alton & Ruth Cartwright
Rose Marie Clark
Billie Crowell
Anne McMahan
Annette Palmer
Carlena Potts
Buddy & Ellen Taylor
Mattie Ray Wiser
Ted & Lita York

December 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 6 pm W.O.M. Bible Study Worship in Motion Children with MJ 7:15 pm Choir	4	5	6
7 11:15 am Staff meets 6-8 pm Kati O'Grady music CD signing	8	9 1 pm Circle I at Gerrell Haynes home	10 6 pm W.O.M. Bible Study Worship in Motion Children with MJ 7:15 pm Choir	11	12	13 11 am-4pm Parents Afternoon Out
14 Blanket Sunday Lessons in Carols	15	16 6 pm Circle III at Laurie Bierovic's home	17 6 pm W.O.M. Bible Study Worship in Motion Children with MJ	18	19	20
21 Blanket Sunday 8 am Elders meet 11:15 am called Board meeting 11:30 am—2:00 pm Mary Jo Graham book signing	22	23	24 6 pm Family service 11 pm Christmas Eve Service Office closing at noon	25 CHRISTMAS OFFICE CLOSED	26	27
28	29	30	31			

happy birthday
wishing you
love
happiness
peace

December Birthdays

3 Jimmy Simmons
5 Margaret Eakin
7 Roxanna Francesconi
Ashley Reed
10 Wilma Beam
11 Jason Philpott
12 Frank Douglas
13 Laurie Bierovic
21 Albert Smithson
22 Edna King

Bette Vannatta
29 Amanda O'Neal
Alpha Philpott
Tripp Womble

December Elders

Johnny Reed
Shana Pitts

December Deacons December 21, 24 & 28 only

Amanda O'Neal
Daryl O'Neal

December Deacons

Kyle Dennis
Eric Richardson
David Williams
Theresa Williams