



A Note From Our Pastor

Every year, I encounter people in the church who want to jump right from “Now Thank We All Our God” to “Joy to the World.” In doing that, we miss the message of Advent -- prepare your hearts for God’s in-breaking in a new way. We all have our traditions and routines throughout December and at Christmas -- routines that are familiar and comfortable. There is nothing wrong with that as they give us meaning from the memories of times past.

During Advent, we light candles. We don the purple paraments in the sanctuary. We hear music that rings of hope and peace for our lives and the world. In contrast to the noise and the tacky plastic of the “Christmas shopping season,” the church embraces quiet reflection. A pastoral colleague The Rev. Carol Cavin-Dillon writes, “While the shopping malls pipe in Christmas music until our temples are pounding with silver bells and candy canes, we come to church and sing about the promise of Emmanuel, God-with-us. While the stores offer the thrill of instant gratification, we come to church and learn to wait patiently for deeper hopes to be fulfilled.”

Advent is a gift that comes to us at a time when everything around us asks us to put one more chaos producing party or event in our lives. The preparation we engage in Advent draws us away from our security habits and closer to the mystery of life which we cannot predict, manage or control. Kind of like falling in love, we open again to the outrageous possibility that there is One who loves us so much that boundaries of time and space became as nothing to this One’s desire for our joy, for our healing, for our reconciliation.

Advent is a gift -- the gift to make time to prepare for God’s presence in the flesh. Advent comes to us at the time of year when darkness is more common than light. The Church seeks to stand in direct contrast to the darkness consuming us. Lighted candles punch holes in the darkness, offering hope and peace. Relationships enfold us in joy and love ensuring us that God’s blessing is for us and for those around us.

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November Budget Corner

General Budget needed per month	\$22,522.67
General Budget received in November	\$19,942.80
Building Accounts received in November	\$ 140.00

As we enter this season of Advent, it is a good time to think about how we encounter God in the flesh at First Christian and other places in our lives. Mary opened herself to the possibilities God envisioned for her. Joseph's character to support the one he loved allowed their lives to be re-shaped by what God was doing for all of us. Opening our lives to the Spirit at work within each of us is the challenge Advent presents for us.

I'll see you Sunday.

Kyle



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, who is in her 39th year at First Christian Church!

December 6	Blaire Cartwright
December 13	Ellen Taylor
December 20	Jane Bartlette
December 27	Kay Simmons

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP TIME

Worship and Wonder: Children ages 3 years old through fifth grade are welcome to join Donnye and Bonnye Fields following the praise hymn the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month for their own special time of worship in the Worship and Wonder room and sometimes in Class Rooms 2 & 3.

Dec. 6	Worship and Wonder
Dec 20	Worship and Wonder

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We will continue to have Sunday school for adults, children & youth from ages 4 through 12th grade.

Men's Group

The Men's Group will meet December 13, at 7:30 am for breakfast. Guest speaker TBA

Disciples Women (CWF)

The Women's Group will NOT meet in December. We will begin again on January 12.

Elders Meet

The Elders will meet Sunday, December 20, at 8:00 am

Circles Meet

Circle I - Tuesday, December 15, at 1:00 pm at the home of Naomi Thompson.

Circle III - Tuesday, November 15, Potluck at 6:00 pm at the home of Wilma Beam.

Congregational Christmas Potluck Luncheon

The Membership Committee will be sponsoring our Annual Christmas Potluck Luncheon, Sunday, December 6, following Worship. Ham, chicken and drinks will be provided by the church. Please bring a side dish or dessert. Come join us for fun, fellowship and delicious food!! And as always, friends are welcome to join us for Worship and lunch.

Christmas Cantata

The Choirs of First Christian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Shelbyville will present "The Christmas Light," a cantata by Benjamin Harlan, on December 13, at 6:00 pm. Come enjoy a special evening filled with familiar holiday carols presented in fresh arrangements with voices and a string ensemble. This event is free and open to the public.



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.

We 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. 13 and 20 for \$5.00 each. The blanket table will be set up in the Gathering Area.



We will again do an Angel Tree for The Center for Family Development.. The Center 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 your gift with red Angel tag, wrapped or in a gift bag by Monday, December 16, before noon.

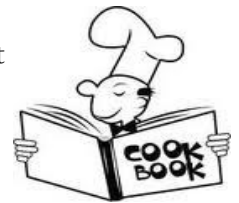
Thank you for all your help! It is greatly appreciated.



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. 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 or Sunday mornings before or after Worship!



ANNUAL BAKE SALE

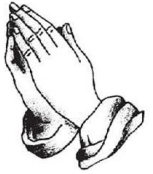
Our annual Bake and Craft sale on Saturday, November 8, 2014, was a big success. Over \$2,500 was raised for local outreach projects! Thank you to everyone who decorated, baked, brought crafts & treasures as well as to those who bought our various sale items



Please welcome our new (re-established) Choir Members, Anita, Bonnye & Donnye Fields. We are so happy to have you back and sharing your voices with the congregation! We would like to invite new members to come help our Choir grow. You will have fun and be blessed as you come forward to serve the Lord by sharing your musical talent! Practice is at 7:00 pm every Wednesday evening. However, in preparation for the Cantata, rehearsal will begin at 6:00 pm for the next 2 weeks.

Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting

The Wednesday night prayer group, facilitated by Dennis Young, will continue to meet at 6:00 pm in the Cross & Chalice Room.



A New Change for the New Year

Whereas, we are now living in the 21st Century, and an age of advanced technology, we would like to take advantage of these exciting times. After the first of the year, we will only be mailing out a small number of Callers to those who do not have computers. The Caller will be posted on the church website at: “www.firstchristianshelbyville.com” for your convenience. This will also save the church the cost of paper, printing, envelopes and postage. You will receive an email reminding you that the Caller for each month has been posted on the website and is ready for you to read.



We are in need of Deacons and Elders to help fill in a number of empty spots. In December, we only have one Elder and two Deacons. We normally have 8 Deacons for the last two weeks in December. In January, we have two Deacons and one Elder.

We are also looking for one or two people who have power washers who would be willing to clean the mold of the bricks and sidewalks around the church. Especially by the two entrances into the Gathering Area.

Prayer Concerns of the Church

In Nursing Homes, Hospitals or Assisted Living

Carriage House Inn
Rose Marie Clark
Melba Henry
Mary Lynn Prince

Glenn Oaks
Albert Smithson

Brookdale Senior Living
Cornelia Riddle

At Home

Linda Carden
Sandy Craig
Terry Craig
Brenda Hancock
Buddy Haynes
Virginia Ann Haynes
Bucker Huffman
Miles McCullough
Curtis Morton
Annette Palmer
Leighton Reed
JoAnn Smith
Ted York



Memorials

In Memory of Shirley Fuller

Joyce Boggs
Rose Marie Clark
Anne McMahan



December 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 6 pm Prayer Meeting 6 pm Choir	3 9:30 am CBS	4	5
6 11:15 am Congregational Christmas Potluck Luncheon	7	8	9 6 pm Prayer Meeting 6 pm Choir	10	11	12
13 7:30 am Men's Breakfast 6 pm Christmas Cantata	14	15	16 6 pm Prayer Meeting 7 pm Choir	17	18	19
20 8 am Elders meet	21	22	23 7 pm Choir	24 OFFICE CLOSED Christmas Eve 11 pm Candlelight Service	25	26
27	28	29	30 6 pm Prayer Meeting 7 pm Choir	31		



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
- 15 Blaire Cartwright
- 19 Austin Harris
- 21 Albert Smithson
- 22 Edna King
Bette Vannatta
- 23 Layla Hayworth
- 29 Amanda O'Neal
Tripp Womble

December Elders

Dennis Young

December Deacons

Eric Richardson
Shirley Smith