

# CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWS



## First Christian Church

*(Disciples of Christ)*

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### **Our Mission**

*God calls us...  
And the Holy Spirit  
empowers us to:*

- *Share the Good News of Jesus Christ with all ages*
- *Explore and express a growing faith*
- *Equip believers for ministries which expand the Kingdom of God.*



### **Come to Worship.**

All Are Invited.

8:30 Praise Service

10:40 Traditional  
Service

Sermon for Sunday

“It’s a Birthday!  
Celebrate!”

1<sup>st</sup> Scripture Reading

John 1:1-14

Sermon Scripture

Luke 2:1-20

49ers Celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

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There will not be a newsletter published the week of Christmas. The office will be closed December 23, 24 and 25.

*Merry Christmas!*



Chapter Seven of “A Handbook for Today’s Disciples” is entitled “Disciples and Church Structure.” The first part of the chapter is called “The Ministry.”

The early church developed communities of believers who were urged to appoint leaders for a “noble task.” Those appointed were ordinary folk chosen from among the early first-century Christians, and they were given various titles including elder, deacon, and bishop. Character was the emphasis here.

Over the course of that first century, the evolving church gradually replaced its informal ministry with a formalized order of clergy. For many years the function of professional clergy was all very uniform and systematized. However, things changed greatly during and after the Reformation. After things shook out, there were four categories of ministerial responsibilities that became the standards:

- a.) Preaching and teaching
- b.) Leading worship and administering sacraments
- c.) Offering Pastoral care to individuals
- d.) Administering the work of the church

The priority of one over another varies from congregation to congregation.

#### Disciples’ Traditions

Founders of the Disciples’ movement developed their notions of ministry out of their disdain for formal clergy, their distrust of authority, and their firm belief in the concept of congregational freedom. Each congregation was empowered to ordain and employ persons for pastoral leadership.

With the passing decades the need for responsible clergy prompted the gradual development of a professional Disciples ministry that had satisfied the requirements of a specialized theological education and a specific set of qualifications for ordination. Regions authorize ordination and certify the standing of ministers, while congregations retain the right to call their ministers and assume the responsibility to sustain them in faithfulness and honor. The covenant between pastor and congregation is still the conclusive and confirming factor for ministry.

#### Disciples’ Affirmations

The fundamental ministry within the church is that of Jesus Christ...By virtue of membership in the church, every Christian enters into the corporate ministry of God’s people...In addition, the church recognizes an order of the ministry, set apart or ordained, under God, to equip the whole people to fulfill their corporate ministry.

Next week we will look at how the laity fits into and is such a vital part of the Disciple’s ministry in the world.

*Blessings!*

*Pastor Jerry*

**Congregational Meeting  
December 20, after the Praise Service and after  
the 10:40 Worship Service.**

#### December 13 Attendance

Praise Service: 53  
Sunday School: 60  
10:40 Worship: 153

## Youth News!

*6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> Grades*  
December Calendar

20-4:00 p.m.-Youth and Family Christmas  
Caroling

27-NO YOUTH

6-12<sup>th</sup> graders-We need a definite count for Branson's Young Christians Weekend on March 26-28, 2010, and a \$20 deposit is due by December 30. Total cost is \$75 per person and fundraisers will offset this cost. Balance is due by February 15, 2010.

Johnson County Community Health Services  
Flu Clinic is for Everyone  
December 23, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Children's Christmas Program**  
**Sunday, December 20, 10:40 a.m.**  
*(during worship service)*

We will also be having the Joyful  
Noise Collection during this time.  
So have your change ready!

### Looking Ahead...

Celebration of Rev. Dr. Alex  
Wales' Ministry

Rev. Wales' is ending his 22 plus years as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Warrensburg. Please plan on attending the celebration in their church sanctuary on Sunday, January 10, at 2:00 p.m.

## CHRONICLES: THE WAY WE WERE

### 25 years ago in December, 1984

Members of CYF presented a Christmas play called, "The Holiday," which was written by **Rev. Jack Kurtz** of First Presbyterian Church. **Joyce Miller** and **Anita Grigsby** were co-directors. Following the Christmas play member of Chi Rho led the congregation in a candle lighting service called *The Pathway to Bethlehem*, written by **Linda Weston**. . . . THROUGH THE EYES OF GOLIATH (the church mouse) excerpt from the newsletter: *I sneaked over to **Scott & Margaret Roland's** house for the Ad-Eva Christmas party Sunday night. I don't want to miss any of those goodies and they sure had sum scrumpdillicious ones. Then **Nellie Jones** told us all about different Christmas customs. She said there's an old story that says the first one to bring evergreen into the house at Christmas gets to be the boss the next year. Well, I want you to know that preecher went right out first thing Monday and went home with an Advent Wreath with -- you guessed it -- evergreen. Wonder if it'll work?*

### Christmas Special Offering

Across the Regions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) there are exciting stories of new congregations being established, existing congregations being renewed and transformed, and leaders equipped for ministry. Great things are taking place as we join God in God's mission for the sake of the world.

With your Christmas Offering, you support your Region's ministry to enlist Disciples as members of a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.

This offering will be received on December 20 and 27, 2009.

### **Poinsettias**

**If you purchased a poinsettia and would like to take it home with you, you may do so after the worship services on December 27.**



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*The Christian Church News is  
 Published Weekly.*

**Come to Worship!**  
**Everyone is Welcome!**

Coffee House in CLC: 8:00 a.m.  
 Praise Service: 8:30 a.m.  
 Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. All Ages  
 Worship: 10:40 a.m.  
 Coffee Fellowship: 12 noon in Parlor

Non-Profit Organization  
 US Postage Paid  
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 Warrensburg, MO  
 64093

Return Service Requested



Throughout this week, we invite you to pray for these and others announced in worship.

**Name**

Louise Kendrick  
 Pam Black (Louise & Don's daughter)  
 Peggy Dudley  
 Family of Guy Spear  
 Our Law Enforcement  
 Our Military who are deployed

*Merry Christmas*



*Peace*

# December Celebrations

**Happy Birthday!**

*December*

1-Evan Stuck	15-Ella Smith	28-Mary C. Handly
1-John Sellman	15-Grace Smith	30-Kristal Dougherty
3-Mary Frances Hall	16-Kathy DeFoe	31-Robin Russell
7-Anita Gosney	17-Nancy Seigfreid	
8-Kenneth Martin	17-Ryan Wiss	
9-Helen Simon	20-Nita Good	
9-Larry Elliott	24-Ben Huff	
10-Jo Sterling	26-Stacey Burton	

**Happy Anniversary**

11-Mary & Bruce Howey	22-Shirley & Noel Dougherty
16-Tammie & Lee Crabtree	27-Joyce & Jerry Miller
16-Karla & Travis Seigfreid	28-Betty & Scott Wilson
17-Sherin & John Sellman	