

CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWS



First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

Pastor: Jerry Basye

101 E Gay Street, Warrensburg, Missouri 64093

Office:(660) 747-6815, Fax:(660) 747-9770

Pastor Jerry Basye:(660) 441-2728 and Pastor Basye's Email: jbasye@embarqmail.com

Email: wburgdisciples@embarqmail.com Website: fccwburg.com

March 26, 2009

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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

Sunday's Sermon:

"Sometimes There Is Suffering"

1st Scripture Reading:

John 12:20-26

Sermon Scripture

Reading:

Hebrews 5:5-10

CWF News on Ham & Bean Dinner

What a wonderful fellowship we had at the Spring Safari. God was in our midst. The food was great. It took many willing workers to carry out this event. Thanks to each and everyone. The highlight of the evening was the pie auction. Gary and Jon were good sports. The proceeds from the annual dinner were a little over \$1,661.

Holy Week Events

Saturday, April 4, 6 p.m. Ecumenical Stations of the Cross

6 p.m. - First Christian Church

6:30 p.m. - Episcopal Church

7:00 p.m. - Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church

7:30 p.m. - Community of Christ

Palm Sunday-8:30 a.m. Praise &

10:40 a.m. Traditional Worship

5:00 p.m. - Chi Rho/CYF Agape Meal in CLC

5:45 p.m. - Chi Rho/CYF Prayer Stations of the Cross

Maundy Thursday-Thursday 7 p.m.

Good Friday-6 p.m. Soup & Sandwiches in CLC

7 p.m. "Fire Proof" movie in CLC (*great for couples*)

Easter Sunday-7:30 a.m. Campbellite Breakfast

8:30 a.m. Praise Worship Led by Youth

10:40 a.m. Traditional Easter Service &

Baptismal Service



Last Sunday's sermon dealt with Eph. 2:2-10 that in v. 8 says: "For by grace you have been saved through faith." These are important words to hear. We need to take these words to heart and accept this greatest of gifts. I found the following illustration after I'd finished the sermon so I'll share it here. It more than adequately says what I want you to hear about accepting the gift. It's called: "The Matchless Pearl."

The Matchless Pearl

There was a missionary, David Morse, in India who became fast friends with a pearl diver named Rambhan. Rambhan enjoyed listening to David share the word of God and Jesus' story. But whenever David asked Rambhan to accept Jesus as his Lord and Savior, he refused saying the Christian way to heaven is too easy—that he would feel like a pauper, a beggar who had been let in out of pity. He said he had to "earn his way into heaven."

Nothing the missionary could say would change his mind. He simply could not accept this great gift Jesus had to give. As the years went by, David and Rambhan remained friends but Rambhan still wouldn't accept Jesus.

Finally, David was getting ready to come back to the states and one day Rambhan brought out a pearl that was a "perfect" pearl. There are few ever found. This particular pearl was found by Rambhan's son who was the best pearl diver ever. Unfortunately he'd been killed in the dive obtaining the perfect pearl. So for Rambhan to give this pearl was huge.

David suddenly had an idea. He said, "Let me buy this pearl. It's too valuable for you to give me." Rambhan, of course, said "No! It's a gift. No amount of money could buy this pearl!"

Suddenly, Rambhan saw this was what Christ had done—given a gift for which no amount of money could buy. He bowed his head and with tears in his eyes accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior.

Do the same if you haven't done so already.

Blessings,
Pastor Jerry

Funding the Christian Life Center

At the next board meeting held on April 1, at 7:45, we will continue discussion from last board meeting regarding funding of the Christian Life Center (CLC). Please try to attend the board meeting. If you are not able to come to this board meeting, please share your feelings on this topic with me or another individual who will be present at the meeting. We want as much input as possible (and new ideas would be appreciated) as the Board evaluates this topic to continue to have a financially secure future. Please pray for guidance from our heavenly father.

Greg

Sunday, March 22

Praise Service: 55
Sunday School: 43
Traditional Worship: 100

Cluster 1 Rickman Workday Retreat

Friday, April 24, at 6:30 p.m.--

Saturday, April 25 at 4:00 p.m.

Anyone who would like to attend the workday retreat, there are registration forms available on the table outside of the church office. Deadline for registration forms to be turned in is April 5. What a great opportunity for us to gather in God's creation as well as visit our region's retreat/camp center.

Share a Moment With Us

The exhibit will be changing in mid-April. There will not be a particular theme. So bring in any photos that you would like.

Submit 8x10 or if you bring in smaller pictures include \$1 for cost of enlargement.

We have numerous photos in the church office that have already been displayed. Please come in and pick up your photos.

CROP Walk 2009

The planning committee for the Johnson County CROP Hunger Walk for 2009 is having its first meeting on March 29 (this Sunday) at 4:00 at my home. I will be the chairperson again for the third year running. I have so much appreciation for the support First Christian Church (FCC) has provided for this event. It is truly one of the many ways we reach out to the local, regional, national and international community. I am looking for someone to coordinate efforts for the CROP Walk at FCC. The majority of the work occurs a month before the walk. Jake will be going off to college and will not be able to put up the signs the day of the walk so I would need someone also to do that. If you would like to be on the planning committee, please contact me and/or show up for the meeting at my home this Sunday at 4:00. Thank you again for your continued support of our outreach efforts through the Johnson County CROP Hunger Walk.

Greg

The **E. L. and Ruth Newton Trust** Committee invites church members who wish to earn an academic Baccalaureate college degree to apply for a 2009-2010 scholarship. Applications may be picked up in the church office. The guidelines for this scholarship are: Church membership at least three years; regular attendance at First Christian Church; good moral character; a sincere desire to secure a college or university education on the undergraduate level; a record of scholarship and activities commensurate with ability. The completed application (including latest academic transcript, letters of recommendation, and personal letter of intent) must be received in the church office by Thursday, April 30, 2009 to be considered. Scholarships will be awarded in May.

Chi Rho & CYF

March Calendar

29-5 p.m.-Games, Food, Lesson
Meal by Mary & Bruce Howey

April Calendar

4-Time TBA-Community Mission Projects

5-5 p.m.-"Agape Feast" in CLC

Meal sponsored by CWF

6 p.m.-Prayer Stations of the Cross

12- 8:30 a.m. Lead Easter Praise Service

19-5 p.m.-McFormal, meet at church, Meal by
CWF and Phyllis and Jerry Evans

24-4:00 p.m. Leave Church for Rickman Center
Work Camp in Jefferson City.

25- 7-ish Arrive back at Wburg. First Christian

No Youth on 26th!

May Calendar

3-10:40 Youth lead Worship/Honor Graduates

12 noon-Picnic at Shepherds Park-end of year!

Families welcome, bring side dishes, meat

Provided by Phyllis & Jerry Evans and CWF.

Community Gospel Extravaganza

3 p.m., Sunday, March 29, 2009
Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church
212 North Main Street, Warrensburg, MO.

You're All Invited!

*Bill & Kay Elliott will
celebrate their 50th wedding
anniversary on April 1, 2009.*

*You are invited to join in
the celebration on Sunday,
March 29, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., in
the Christian Life Center.*



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 Fax: 660-747-9770
 Email: wburgdisciples@embarqmail.com
 Pastor Basye: jbasye@embarqmail.com
 Church Website: fccwburg.com

*The Christian Church News is
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**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

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Return Service Requested



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

Name

George & Dottie Ross
 G.C. Simmons Family
 Ruby Kanoy
 Roger Hall
 Bill Elliott
 Our Law Enforcement
 Our Military who are deployed

Spring is here!!

Mowing and yard work. Reasonable rates. Call Kyle Ritchhart at 747-1872.

April Celebrations

Happy Birthday!

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 6-Sarah Haller | 11-Charles Harbit | 21-Janice Wolff |
| 7-Kit Lindsay | 11-Vicki Granger | 21-Harland Osborne |
| 8-Pat Sterling | 13-Hanna Stillwell | 21-Kaitlyn Seigfreid |
| 9-Nancy Huff | 16-Reylene Harbit | 23-Martha Smarr |
| 9-Chuck Owings | 17-Liz Shumard | 25-Jon Frandsen |
| 10-Kay Elliott | 18-Connie Baldwin | 25-Brayden Godfrey |
| 10-Sharon Cochran | 20-Sherri Ellgass | 29-Kerry Tappin |

Happy Anniversary

1-Carrie & Casey Laws
 1-Kay & Bill Elliott
 20-Pat & Duane Sterling
 28-Mary Frances & Milfred Hall