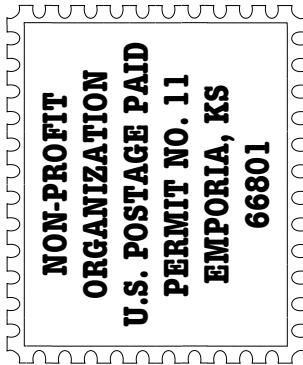


**First Christian Church**  
202 East 12th Avenue / Emporia, KS 66801-5009  
(620) 342-1582 (Church Office)  
(620) 342-8585 (Fax)  
Web Page: [www.fcemporiam.org](http://www.fcemporiam.org)

**Sunday School ~ 9:30 a.m.**

**Worship ~ 10:30 a.m.**



**First Christian Church**  
**(Disciples of Christ) Newsletter**  
Volume 57 - No. 18 - September 22, 2008

**REFLECTIONS**

People have all kinds of images of God. I suppose there are still people who think of God as a vindictive king or judge who loves to punish human beings for things they've done wrong. Regrettably, I think preachers have contributed to promoting this image of God as one who relishes the thought of throwing the book at wrongdoers. God is not like that at all. In fact, God is just the opposite.

We can say that God pursues us— not to harm us but to do us good. God is more a lover, or a liberator, even a servant. God is so unique, so different, so matchless and over the top. God doesn't fit any of our stereotypes. Can you imagine President Bush serving us lunch and cleaning up the dishes? Can you imagine the Pope waiting, personally, to meet us at the Vatican, running up to meet us as our car passes the gates? Can you imagine the President of your bank balancing your checkbook?

God is much different. God, Luke says, "...came to seek and to save what was lost." (Luke 19:10)

God took the form of a servant, one who looks after, cares about, seeks and gives to. Some of us are uncomfortable with the thought of God as a hunter, actively pursuing us. But that is a fairly accurate picture of God. God continually and consistently seeks us to make us His. Francis Thompson's notable poem, "The Hound of Heaven," speaks of God "hunting" us.

I fled him, down the nights and down the days;  
I fled him down the arches of the years...  
I hid from him...up vistaed hopes I sped...  
From those strong Feet that followed, followed after...  
The Voice is round me like a bursting sea...  
"Lo, all things fly thee, for thou fliest me."

Jesus said it better. "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.'

Luke 15:4-7 NIV

That's God hunting us. I like that kind of hunting.

BLESSINGS, Pastor Bob

## MUSINGS FROM THE MODERATOR...

### PASTOR'S HOURS & CONTACT INFORMATION

M-W-TH 9-11 a.m. & 2-4 p.m.

Fridays & Saturdays are by appointment

620-342-1582 (Church) / 620-757-6298 (Cell)

1-877-941-2828 (Toll Free-Bob, KC)

944 Whittier-Emporia / E-Mail: [bobcolerick@yahoo.com](mailto:bobcolerick@yahoo.com)

### OFFICE HOURS:

Monday thru Thursday ~ 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. / Friday - 8 a.m. to Noon

### NEWSLETTER INFO & DEADLINES

The First Christian Church Newsletter is published bi-monthly (except for one in December). PLEASE submit your items (in the church office or by e-mail to [ttltpit@yahoo.com](mailto:ttltpit@yahoo.com)) to be published in the newsletter **NO LATER** than the following Monday's:

**OCTOBER 6TH & OCTOBER 20TH**

Thanks! ~ Christy

### NEWS ON LINE

Check out our Web Page at [www.fccemporia.org](http://www.fccemporia.org).

If you would be willing to read your copy on our website you could save the church some paper and postage! Let me know at 342-1582 or [ttltpit@yahoo.com](mailto:ttltpit@yahoo.com) if I can take your name off my list for a mailed copy. Thanks!

### DISCIPLE WORLD MAGAZINE

If you would like a subscription to Disciple World, contact Christy in the church office. A 1-year subscription is \$31.00. This magazine is also available in the library and keeps us informed of news, opinions, and missions on a national level.

### SHOP AT STAPLES?

You can still help the church by giving the good people at Staple's our phone number (620-342-1582) and your purchases will help us by giving us credit on the Rewards Program. So while at Staple's give them our number! **THANKS!**

If you weren't in church on September 21<sup>st</sup>, you missed a great sermon! Pastor Bob titled his sermon, "From Grumbling to Grace", which was about letting go of our grumbling, griping, grouching and in so doing becoming aware of God's truly amazing grace. The scripture for this sermon was Exodus 16:1-18...the "murmuring" of the Israelites against Moses and Aaron.

The Old Testament Israelites didn't have exclusive rights to 'murmuring'.... we certainly continue to do our fair share of 'murmuring' today! That's just human nature! I mention this because I've seen such a contrast to 'grumbling, griping, grouching' as we've gone through the New Beginnings process. By the time you read this, the Cottage Meetings phase of the process will be complete. It has truly been a living example of God's grace to participate in these meetings, and listen as others share their heart-felt beliefs, visions and concerns.

What is God's plan for First Christian Church, Emporia, for the next five, ten, twenty years? I don't think any one of us has the exact plan. I do think, in fact know, that with prayerful efforts, discernment will happen. The diversity of opinions is great. One person's thoughts and ideas become a seed and lead to variations, morphing into greater clarity of our mission. The sharing of ideas, without any one claiming to be "the" know-it-all (or even, know-it-*almost*-all!), has been inspiring. The honesty, and the willingness to list concerns have been great, too. Why did we ever believe that voicing legitimate concerns was "murmuring"?

If you participate in an adult Sunday School class that uses the quarterly material, you also studied the Beatitudes on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Our class heard a translation from The Messenger Bible, which I think also describes what we're doing in the New Beginnings process: Setting "us" aside—whether it's our own personal opinions, our small group's favorites, or even 'us' as the entire First Christian Emporia church family—and becoming aware of God. Let me share these verses from Matthew 5:4-5, and see if you agree:

You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you.

Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

You're blessed when you're content with just who you are – no more, no less. That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought. [The Messenger translation]

So, as we attempt to discern how God best wants to use our congregation, in both the near and distant future, give thanks!! We **are** God's children, we know his commandments and the Great Commission He has given us. As changes occur, they will be His plan, put into action by us, his faithful servants. God Bless!

~ Cindy Lexow

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 2008 REGIONAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

**OCTOBER 17-18, 2008** / Manhattan Clarion Hotel

“Blessed Be The Labyrinth That Binds”

A Labyrinth of opportunities awaits you at the Regional Assembly this year! Workshops, Book sales, displays of our shared ministries, and unique worship will be available to all who attend.

Register today ~ **DON'T MISS IT!** Registration forms and information available at [www.kansasdisciples.org](http://www.kansasdisciples.org) or for more information, see Pastor Bob.

### WNPT RESUMES!

Wednesday Night Prime Time resumes on Wednesday, **OCTOBER 1ST**. Watch for more details!

## PLEASE PRAY FOR...

### Locally...

Brandon Ayers, Bill Bowles, Will Calvert,  
Doris Douglas, Fran Grisell, Jason Hart,  
Becky Lauxman, Elmaleda McMinn, June Meyer, Terry Ott,  
Freed Paasch, Violet Pauler, Helen Price, Jim Resch (*friend of Sandy Heller*), Mary Schaefer, Elizabeth Wells, Don White

### Nationally & Globally...

Pray for those defending our nation: missionaries; and victims of war, hunger, disease and natural disasters. Pray for those suffering and in need around the world! Also, pray for our city & those affected by the layoffs at Tyson Foods.

### IN THE HOSPITAL?

If you are a “friend in the hospital” and would like a visit or to be on our prayer list, call the church office and let us know! Also, if you do **NOT** want your name published in our church newsletter, but would like to be remembered in prayer, let us know that too!

### NEED A RIDE?

If you would like a ride to church on Sunday, please call the church office at 342-1582 by Noon on Friday.

## HURRICANE IKE

The impact of Hurricane Ike has been tremendous. Week of Compassion is now making contact with area ministers in the Southwest Region and with local pastors and congregational leaders. Reports indicate damage to First CC, Texas City; First CC, Port Arthur, and Northwood CC, Beaumont. the city of Galveston bore the brunt of the storm, and there are two Disciples churches (Central and Second) on the island. Orange, TX took several feet of water and heavy winds as well. first CC, Lake Charles, LA, reports 50% of its membership may have water damage, and there are sure to be numerous other congregations with members affected. Several million people are without power, damage in the greater Houston area is extensive and the recovery will take years.

Regional offices in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan have been contacted concerning the impact of rains and winds from both Ike and Tropical Storm Lowell.

Ike's impact in the Caribbean, especially in Haiti, has been deadly and very destructive. Church World Service has issued a major appeal to its member communions for a shipment of kits, blankets and other material aid to support church partners' recovery efforts. WOC is responding on behalf of the Disciples. WOC has also provided emergency grants directly to several local church partners for immediate assistance.

Altogether, WOC has provided just under \$100,000 to congregations and church partners in response to Hurricanes Dolly, Fay, Gustav and Ike, requests are anticipated over the next several weeks to exceed this amount significantly as assessments are received from congregations, Church World Service and local recovery partners.

Your help is needed. Designated contributions for hurricane relief and recovery are urgently needed and will be used in their entirety as directed. gifts can be sent to WOC, attn: Elaine Cleveland, P.O. box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206 or made online at [www.woc.org](http://www.woc.org) Also, CWS has issued an urgent appeal to congregations of its member communions for hygiene kits, baby kits, clean up buckets and blankets.

## WALK AEROBICS

There is a new Walk Aerobics class being held at the Church on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:05 p.m. followed by a brown bag lunch. Come join us!

## PRAYER CHAIN

We care about you! If you or anyone you know would like to be added to our existing DWF prayer chain, please call Jeanice Miller at 343-9592 or Luella Hush at 342-2493.

### **October Anniversaries**

22 ~ Bill & Gail Coburn (1988)  
26 ~ Carl & Rita Headrick (1973)

### **October Birthdays**

01 ~ Richard Becker	15 ~ Mike Calvert
02 ~ Kathy Harris	15 ~ Torchy Duncan
04 ~ Mary Ellen Phipps	17 ~ Mildred Steeves
05 ~ Julia Giger	20 ~ Karen Garnett
08 ~ Debra Peck	21 ~ Ardie Lauxman
09 ~ Naomi Rose	23 ~ Kourtney Hopkins
10 ~ Kelley Giger	23 ~ Virginia Kelley
11 ~ Dennis Douglas	24 ~ Steve Coffman
14 ~ Morgan Goad	26 ~ Mabel Henry
14 ~ Harold (Hal) Lewis	29 ~ Mary Ginavan

### **SEPTEMBER MUSIC**

During September & October, I will be playing the following hymns from our Chalice Hymnal for the offertories each Sunday.

September 28 ~ "Sweet, Sweet Spirit" (Pg. 261)  
October 5 ~ "Water, River, Spirit, Grace" (Pg. 366)  
October 12 ~ "Spirit" (Pg. 249)

I hope you will enjoy the as much as I do. ~ Sandy Heller

### **PLEASE SUPPORT OUR PANTRY**

We appreciate all your recent donations for our food pantry but the need is still great! We have had several people visit the pantry this last week, so we are in need of more donations. We would appreciate anything you can bring in to help those less fortunate.

~ Betty & Marjorie

### **THANKS**

I wish to thank everyone for their cards, prayers, and concern during my illness. Thanks to Pastor Bob for his calls. All this was a blessing from a caring and loving congregation.

In Christian Love, Bernice Rider

### **PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

The Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) is a communication link between the church congregation and the Minister to effectively serve the Lord. If you have "praises" or "concerns" about your Minister, please feel free to contact one of following people on the committee:

LeRoy Garnett @ 342-4585 / Dean Grisell @ 620-342-9341  
Kathy Harris @ 342-5350 / Bea Stine @ 620-412-2198  
Robert Wells @ 620-342-7164

### **FROM THE LIBRARY**

The following memorial books have been placed in the library this month:

**"The Reaper's Song"** by Lauren Snelling in memory of Rosalie Stanley from DWF.

**"Untamed Land"** by Lauren Snelling in memory of Polly Hicks from DWF.

**"A Land To Call Home"** by Lauren Snelling  
in memory of Margy Gibson from DWF.

**"Twenty Wishes"** by Debbie McComber in memory of Dixie Beal from her funds.

~ The Library Staff

### **FROM THE PRESCHOOL...**

Thanks to all who came to our Ice Cream Social ~ it was a great time of fellowship with old and new friends!

### **Upcoming Fundraiser / Social Events:**

**FAMILY PORTRAIT FUNDRAISER** ~ We need a minimum of 18 interested families in order to book a date. Anyone from the preschool, church or community is welcome to participate. Let me know ASAP (342-1409) if you are interested!

**2ND ANNUAL LCP PANCAKE BREAKFAST** ~ Last year we raised \$1500 towards our playground remodeling project with the help of many dedicated volunteers! If you would be willing to help with this year's pancake breakfast, please let me know. The breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, October 25th. Ticket sales will begin in the next couple of weeks!

**USBORNE BOOK FAIR** ~ Usborne books make great gifts for children of all ages. In the past, LCP was able to receive \$500 in free books because of the amazing participation in the book fair. Books will be displayed at the preschool and also at the Pancake breakfast. If you're thinking of Christmas or birthday gifts for the children in your life ~ you can't go wrong with Usborne books!

Thanks for all the support and help!

~ Suzanne West

## **OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM REPORT**

The Outreach team receives 10% of all offering monies each month and has the responsibility to disperse those funds to appropriate outreach needs in the local community, the state, the nation or the world. For the first quarter of this fiscal year those funds have been dispersed as follows:

**June 2008** ~ \$1,000.00 to Basic Mission Finance  
\$302.07 to The Salvation Army in Emporia

**July 2008** ~ \$1,000.00 to Basic Mission Finance

**August 2008** ~ \$1,000.00 to Basic Mission Finance  
\$112.40 to Prison Fellowship National Angel Tree Project  
(Our donation was doubled through a matching grant program)  
\$124.80 to The Salvation Army in Emporia

The church has recently received a \$20,000.00 donation, so in keeping with our commitment to tithe 10%, the Outreach Ministry will receive \$2,000.00 and we will be determining how best to disperse those funds over the next several months. With this substantial amount we have a unique opportunity to do some special projects to the glory of God and we welcome any ideas anyone would care to share.

The Outreach Ministry also administers six special offerings throughout the year, those being: Reconciliation (Sept/Oct), Thanksgiving (Nov), Christmas (Dec), Week of Compassion (Feb), Easter (Mar), and Pentecost (May). Reconciliation offering is scheduled to for September 28th and October 5th and the theme is, "Come to the Table". A short video and "Minute for Mission" will be presented on those dates and we ask that you please support generously this special offering as our general and regional churches work hard to teach and lead us on the path to reconciliation.

Respectfully, George Arnett ~ Chair

## **ATTENDANCE & GIVING**

### **Attendance**

September 14, 2008 ~ SS - 36 / Worship - 95

September 21, 2008 ~ SS - 38 / Worship - 88

### **Stewardship Report**

September 14, 2008 ~ Offering - \$1,675.50 / Capital - \$248.00

September 21, 2008 ~ Offering - \$1,959.03 / Capital - \$280.00

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE** ~ [www.fccemporia.org](http://www.fccemporia.org)

## **UPCOMING SERVERS**

### **September 28, 2008**

Candlelighter - Abby Griffith

Children's Message - Ardie Lauxman

Diaconate ~ Tim Norton, Larry Breshears, Joyce Cress,  
Bonnie Denson, George Ford, Dean Grisell

Elder - LeRoy Garnett

Greeters - (N) Richard Becker & Robert Chatham  
(S) Fred & Ilda Kline

Nursery - Kathy Harris / Organist - Sandy Heller  
Worship Leader - Bill Coburn

### **October 5, 2008**

Candlelighter - Janelle Norton

Children's Message - Debbie Peck

Diaconate ~ Carl Headrick, Rita Headrick, Lola Farr,  
Dianna Lewis, Hal Lewis, Ardie Lauxman

Elder - Jaylene Arnett

Greeters - (N) Joe & Bonnie Denson

(S) Alberta Brinkman & Norma Leonard

Nursery - John Lexow / Organist - Sandy Heller  
Worship Leader - Gail Coburn

### **October 12, 2008**

Candlelighter - Briana Becker

Children's Message - LeRoy Garnett

Diaconate ~ Karen Garnett, Alan Richardson, Betty Richardson,  
George Arnett, Becky Lauxman, Larry Gamblian

Diaconate ~ Carl Headrick, Rita Headrick, Lola Farr,  
Dianna Lewis, Hal Lewis, Ardie Lauxman

Elder - Jaylene Arnett

Greeters - (N) Joe & Bonnie Denson

(S) Alberta Brinkman & Norma Leonard

Nursery - John Lexow / Organist - Sandy Heller  
Worship Leader - Gail Coburn

## **JUST A REMINDER!**

Please remember that if you are unable to fulfill your turn as a greeter, nursery volunteer, worship leader, children's message giver, server, etc., please find your own replacement and let the church office know. Thanks!