



This Week at First Christian Church

For the week of May 26, 2013

(Note: The most current news is now found in the beginning of every newsletter. Previously published information appears at the end of each newsletter and may also be viewed online by copying and pasting this link in your browser:

http://icdisciples.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=16&Itemid=31)

+ Please remember that **June 2 is Commitment Sunday**, when we invite all members and friends of the congregation to bring their “estimate of giving” cards to worship to be presented as offerings of thanks to God. (Letter and pledge forms are found at the end of this newsletter.)

+On Sunday, **June 2** we will also be **recognizing our graduates** during worship and **celebrating Bette Klein’s ministry with a reception following worship.**

+On **Sunday, June 2 following a reception after worship for Bette Klein**, there will be a meeting in the church lounge to plan times and format for the **Pastor’s Baptism/Confirmation Class**. Persons wanting to prepare for church membership and parents encouraging the full membership of their offspring are invited to come to the meeting and/or to contact John regarding their preferences. Often this preparation involves a series of Saturday morning or Sunday afternoon classes and/or a Pastor’s Class overnight retreat where several hours of classes, meals, and worship are combined. Our congregation baptizes by immersion people joining the church by confession of their faith for the first time, and we confirm by confession of their faith the earlier baptisms of persons who were baptized as infants. Christian education is a lifelong process from which we never “graduate” but baptism and confirmation are important milestones along that lifelong journey.
Peace, John

+ **Young Families – Our next event will be a potluck at City Park on Sunday, June 2nd at 5:00 p.m.** Please join us at 5 pm and bring a dish to share. I have shelter #11 reserved from 4-8 pm. I will be there around 4:30 to set up. I will bring plates, napkins and silverware. Please bring your own drinks. We are close to a playground so that the kids can play. Please let me know if you plan to attend. Please contact **Lindsey Schluckebier at lschluck@gmail.com or 573-604-0500.**

+ As our HACAP Headstart program moves out after June 1, we’ll need to **reorganize and refurbish our classroom, furniture, educational equipment and teaching aids** before a hoped-for child care center moves in and our Sunday School/Children’s Church starts up again in the fall. Our first work day will be **Monday, June 3 beginning at 9:00 a.m.** We’ll be using one of the classrooms as a workshop and begin by repairing/painting/varnishing chairs and cabinets. Belt sanders and hand sanding blocks, brushes and rollers will be among the first tools needed. Please call the church office at 337-4181 if you’d like to lend your time and talent to the effort.

+ **FCC Vacation Bible School 2013 June 4-7, 2013 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Volunteers needed**
VBS will be an exciting exploration of Israel! Come join us for an exciting journey to Israel in Biblical times and present. Explore the animals, the culture, the geography, and the people who have lived and now live in Israel. **To volunteer and/or to make arrangements for early drop off at 7:30 a.m. or for late pick-up at 5:30 p.m., please call Bette at (319)333-8154 or email her at icdisciple.kids@gmail.com.**

+ Bill Spangler-Dunning, our Regional Minister reports that despite record rainfall in the vicinity of the Conference Center, the walls for the new cabins have been completed by volunteers and placed on trailers so they can be wheeled to the job site and assembled. On Saturday, May 25th the tennis court was full of Disciples building walls. More crews were building inside Barn/shed. Howard Street Christian Church, Colfax IA brought food for lunch and what good food it was. **"Cabin Raising" day is planned for Saturday, June 1 (depending on the weather).** Once we know the day of CABIN RAISING we will send out a note to allow people come help and/or bring a lounge chair and watch it happen.

+ **Hoi Ting Davidson, daughter of Paul Davidson and Yuk Sum Chung will present a violin recital on June 9 at 4:00 P.M. in the West Union Mennonite Church in rural Parnell.**

The West Union Mennonite Church invites you to share in a freewill offering to assist with the ongoing medical needs of Yuk Sum and Paul and help underwrite Hoi Ting's education at Eastman School of Music. Come to enjoy an afternoon of music while supporting the Chung/Davidson family. Refreshments will follow the concert. The address of West Union Mennonite Church is 3253 305th Street, Parnell. The church is located about 3 miles east of Holbrook on F52 Trail, turn south on WW Avenue, then east on 305th Street. Take Exit 225 on Interstate 80 and go south to F52 Trail.

Responding to Tornadoes in Oklahoma - from Amy Gopp at Week of Compassion

Week of Compassion is responding to the tornadoes that struck the Oklahoma City metropolitan area a little over a week ago. Our staff has been in touch with the Oklahoma Regional Office, and is currently working with them to assess needs affecting Disciples and will as always, work with our churches and Disciples Volunteering to discern the best way to contribute to the long-term recovery of affected communities across Oklahoma City and beyond.

At this point, only skilled first-responders are permitted to enter affected areas. If you would like to help out, the best thing you can do is to **Pray, Pay, and Stay**: pray for those affected, contribute to immediate needs by writing a check for Week of Compassion in the offering plate and, and stay where you are. The time for volunteers will come, (as it did for Joplin, where we are headed June 16), but it is not today! We continue to keep Moore and all areas affected by disasters in our prayers. Thank you for all of the ways you partner with us and support those in need.

+ You may have noticed a beautiful young Newfoundland dog in worship on Sunday. Her name is Osa Bella, and she is Bette Klein's Service Dog in training. A Service Dog in training is considered a Service Dog by authorities and is treated the same way. Osa is becoming a PTSD dog to assist Bette with challenges of PTSD disability. Bette's plan is to thoroughly train Osa, and then to begin to train other dogs for use by veterans who also struggle with PTSD. Your help would be greatly appreciated by the Bette/Osa team.



When approaching Bette, please always talk to Bette and ask if you may pet Osa, if you desire to pet her. Osa needs to be dismissed from work if she is going to interact with others. Otherwise, her attention needs to be directed towards Bette. Please do not allow children to poke, grab, or otherwise distract Osa. She is working. Please do not call to Osa from a distance away because this may cause her to temporarily lose focus on the service she is providing. Because she is a Service Dog, Osa is allowed

anywhere Bette goes with the exception being an operating room. So, Bette and Osa operate as a team. If you have an allergy to dogs, Bette would be happy to move her team to an area away from you so you do not suffer. It is okay to ask her to move the dog.

Bette is willing to discuss Service Dogs, training, and disabilities that Service Dogs can aid in mitigating. It is generally impolite to inquire about a disabled person's disabilities without a prior close personal relationship. We welcome Osa!

Thanks, John

- + **Sherry Child** is having surgery (laminectomy back surgery) at Mercy Hospital today to relieve pain and constrictions. Our prayers are welcomed.
- + **Vera Singleton**, currently residing at Windmill Manor in Coralville, has been at Mercy Hospital this week.

+++++++**Volunteers are needed to play games and serve food**+++++++

The Mission and Witness Department of First Christian is hosting the **May Family Night at The Spot**, where the program of the **Consultation of Religious Communities** called “**Family to Family**” holds a monthly meeting. The Family to Family program helps recently arrived families who have successfully adjusted to Iowa City, assist newer arrivals to make the same successful transition. The program supports, educates and builds community. **The Spot** is located at 1030 Crosspark Avenue in Iowa City in former warehouse space on the back side (south end) of the Pepperwood Plaza in the Broadway neighborhood – roughly speaking it is behind the Stuff, Etc, store and is best accessed off of Crosspark Avenue near the intersection with Broadway Street.

Volunteers are to **arrive by 5:45 p.m. Thursday, May 30**. We’ll be serving pizzeria pizza and drinks and ice cream bars furnished by First Christian; programs will follow. If weather permits we will have outdoor games for younger children. Older children will shoot baskets in the gym. Activities may include chalk drawing, jumping rope, and a small drum circle, for instance. **Parent Partners** (a DHS program) will present a program at Family Night in May for parents of young children that will be divided into three mini workshops. There will also be a **discussion group** for teen girls and their parents about fighting and conflict resolution since things have been pretty tense recently and are likely to get hotter once school is out. If you can help, please call Ann Brownsberger (319-665-3530) or Barb Brodersen (319-338-8042).

- + **Pat Arnold’s** employment as our HeadStart Preschool Director will end in June and she will be having a hysterectomy on June 11, so it will be a time of changes for her which we hope will prove to be liberating. Our prayers are welcomed.

+ **Reminder: The I-80/Dubuque Street intersection is open except when turning north from the eastbound I-80 exit, so you may need to change your usual route to worship this weekend as you head to worship.**

+ **Finances:** Our Annual Stewardship Campaign is now in progress. Letters were mailed last week to our members and friends and a copy has been attached to this newsletter for your easy access. **Sunday, June 2 is Commitment Sunday** – please return your completed Estimate of Giving card to the church office by or on June 2 so we can assemble a budget for the 2013-2014 program year. We’ll be bringing our cards forward during worship on June 2 to present them; extra cards are always available in the gathering space to be filled out at any time.

On Sunday, May 5 our church board accepted an offer from Brian and Sabra Fleck to buy our North Lot at the price of \$120,000. After paying fees and applying the proceeds to our mortgage, we will have reduced the remaining balance of our mortgage to about \$100,000 (down from \$1.1 million in 2002). Our monthly principal & interest payments are about \$5000. Praise God for the blessings provided to our congregation.

As we look forward to creating a budget for the 2013-2014 fiscal year, we are faced with the loss of \$21,000 in income as HACAP closes the Headstart program which we have housed. We also will have used up the \$15,000 which was carried forward from previous years and the balance from the Sunier Elderly Fund, so we need to raise another \$30,000 just to compensate for loss of those income sources. Please prayerfully consider increasing the amount of your financial contributions to the work of the congregation.

- + An ad hoc group of our members with experience and expertise in child care is actively searching **out new partners to use our facility for preschool/child care.**

+ We are seeking a new **Director of Christian Formation** to work with our children and youth and their families after Bette Klein leaves our staff in June. A job description is on our website and the Personnel Committee (Nancy Richards, Nancy Ream, and Gayle Cuppy) and some of our child/youth leaders will refine the job description, seek candidates, and interview them. Advertisements have been placed in newspapers and online.

+ **Scholarships – DUE BY JUNE 1, 2013**

It is time to apply for scholarships awarded by First Christian Church for the 2013 fall semester. Scholarships are available from two funds within the church. Requirements are as follows:

1. **Helen Gay Scholarship:** First consideration shall be given to an applicant who is a participant (student or parent) of Coralville First Christian Church and who is pursuing higher education in the medical field.
2. **Sunier Scholarship:** First consideration shall be given to an applicant who is a participant (student or parent) of Coralville First Christian Church. Applicant must enroll for at least two semester hours of credit in English Language literature or poetry as a full time student (required rhetoric or freshman English composition classes will not be considered.)

Please note that the Helen Gay Scholarship would be given first to someone in the medical field, but if there are no applicants meeting that requirement, it can be given to other applicants. The Sunier Scholarship is more limited and requires the applicant to be enrolled in a literature or poetry class, but there are a broad range of classes that would fall under that classification.

Applications are available in the church office and must be returned to the office by June 1, 2013.

If you or someone in your family will be attending a college or university in the fall, please consider applying for one of these scholarships. Anyone interested should contact the church office for more information.

+ **Attention families with children!!** This fall, we are going to try something new in Children's Church. After bringing the kids downstairs as usual for singing, a lesson, and a prayer, we'd like to try bringing them BACK upstairs for Communion with the rest of the congregation. Children will re-join their families in their respective pews and we will all enjoy Communion and close the worship service as a church family. Please do let us (Jen K., Sara R., or Laurie D.) know what you think!

+ Two small groups will begin by meeting the first week in June: **Sunday, June 2nd at 9:00 a.m.** and **Wednesday June 5th at 2:00 p.m.** to discuss the "One Thousand Gifts" by Ann VosKamp and share in the spiritual discipline of living eucharistically. Books are now available for \$13 each and optional devotional journals for \$11 each, in our gathering space. Everyone is welcome! The author has known some great sorrows and serious illness, but used the concept of *Eucharist* as the central organizing feature of her life by giving moment-by-moment attention to the countless simple blessings God gives us. First Christian Church



is a Eucharistic fellowship, so I was especially drawn to that theme. As she disciplined herself to take notice of simple and profound blessings and write about them, her attitudes about faith and living were radically changed. She has become more joyful and better equipped to assist other people to discover the joys of life. The book itself is written in a sort of poetic prose. If you might be interested please let us know by calling the office at 337-4181 or via email at [icdisciple.pastor@gmail](mailto:icdisciple.pastor@gmail.com) or simply start reading the book and come to the first meeting. Peace, John

+ **Coming Sundays:**

- June 2** - Graduate Recognition, Commitment Sunday,
Celebration of Bette Klein's Ministry follows worship
Organizational meeting for Pastor's Membership Class
- June 9** - VBS songs in worship, Dedication of Joplin Work Camp #2
- June 16**- Sesquicentennial Sunday
- June 23**- Joplin Work Camp Report

+ **On Friday, June 14, George Gay is hosting a pot luck/card party** at his home – please call George at 337-3237 to conform your participation and tell him what you'll bring to the meal.

+ The **FCC Book Club** will meet at **7 p.m. on Friday, June 21** at Eunice Welsh's house. We will discuss Suite Francaise by Irene Nemirovsky. The writer began her novel by telling about the exodus of Parisians from their city in 1940 just ahead of the Nazis. She herself died in Auschwitz two years later. Her daughters saved the manuscript of the novel, and it was finally published in 2006. Please join us to discuss this highly acclaimed book.

+ Please consider taking your unwanted items to **Stuff Etc in Coralville**. Stuff Etc is now accepting spring and summer items. Books are always a good seller. Your items can be dropped off without an appointment. Furniture can go to the basement area at anytime also. If you would like to have the proceeds of the sale of your donated items given to First Christian Church, please tell Stuff Etc you wish to give your items to our **FCC account #25144**. We'll use the funds for our special missions. Thanks to all who have been dropping it off on their own at the store.

+ We are taking responsibility for staffing the **Coralville Ecumenical Food Pantry** on the second Saturday of each month; please sign up online at <http://cefoodpantry.org/> or call Barb Brodersen to get on the schedule.

+ **Work Camp Report – Conference Center near Newton:**

There was a **blitz build over the Memorial Day weekend** to build walls for new cabins at the Christian Conference center near Newton. **Please let John know if you are interested in going.**

Joplin, Missouri Work Camp, June 16-22

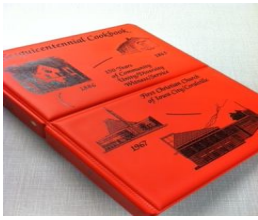
Fredena Pion will coordinate with the Ivy UCC about the menu. Healthy foods are much preferred. Claire, Laura, and Will's 13 year old brother want to work in the kitchen and around the church. We'll plan to order out for pizza (where?) on Sunday evening in Joplin. We hope to have vespers with all 4 congregations together- mixed teams each evening. We still haven't identified a "cultural activity" for a Thursday break but we are looking. There is one opening for the Joplin trip, so please let John know if you'd like to go. Those currently registered include: Bill & Fredena Pion, Megan Petersen, Tom Burns, Jake Dunsbergen - Jr. High, Will Dunsbergen - Jr. High, Aranda Woods - Jr. High, Jake Deitrick - H.S., Jayelle Woods - H.S., Austin Haney - Jr. High, Kris Pickens & Bridgette & son, Tom Klein, Caitlin Klein, Kevin Klein, Laura Kittrell Morgan Kittrell, Shirley Woolums, Mike Myer, Martha Ann Crawford, Claire Ashman, Kevin Keyser, Jeremy Lantz, John McKinstry. Please let John know of any changes. Total cost is \$75 per person for registration/lodging plus \$50 for on site food, and \$50 for travel for a grand total of \$175 per person.

Itinerary for the trip down to Joplin on Sunday, June 16: 7:00 leave Iowa City for Colfax

9:00 Breakfast in Colfax

9:30 communion in Colfax

10:00 leave Colfax for Joplin



Pick up your copy of the sesquicentennial cookbooks with modern and historic recipes, and also includes some of our congregational history.

\$15 for one or 12.50 each for 2 or more.

Thank you JoAnn Cuppy and all who contributed recipes!

+ **The following classes are held Sunday Mornings at 9:00 a.m.**

- Nursery through age 3
- Adults- **Coffee and Conversation** with Bob Welsh and Marvin Bryce in the lounge
- Adults- **1000 Gifts** with John McKinstry in the Conference Room beginning June 2 at 9 a.m. and June 5 at 2 p.m.

+ **Upcoming Activities**

- **The Hannah Circle** meets on the third Monday of the month. **The next meeting will be held in September.** It is our all purpose women's group associated with the worldwide Christian Women's fellowship of our denomination.
- **Women's Night Out** meets the third Thursday of each month for fellowship and food at a local restaurant. The next meeting is **Thursday - June 18 at 5:30 p.m. at Village Inn in Iowa City.**
- **Young Families** – If you are interested in fun, casual get-togethers with other FCC adults and families, please contact **Lindsey Schluckebier at lschluck@gmail.com or 573-604-0500. Our next event will be a potluck at City Park on Sunday, June 2nd at 5:00 p.m.**
- **First Christian Church** offers a wide variety of **service opportunities** from serving the Ecumenical Food Pantry and going on work camps (TN, IA, LA, SD, etc.) to designing our worship services, reaching out with faith to our neighbors, preparing meals for our congregation or people in need, and taking care of our gardens and woodland path. Watch this newsletter for announcements of opportunities, or call the church office and let us know what you'd like to get involved with.

+ **We continue to pray for the following people who have serious health concerns:**

Cory Coobs' parents Ed and Sandi; Suzie Oliver Summy's niece Tracy Edwards Keller; Lin Swanson's mother; Jan Jensen's mother, Yvonne, Kim Spearing; Lindsey Schluckebier's mother and Don Swanson, Sr. Our prayers are requested.

Residential Care / Homebound

- + **Kermit Allen** is at Garden Court - Windmill Manor in Coralville. **Sue Allen** lives at Coral Village.
- + **Joe Butterfield (Connie)** is at Briarwood in Iowa City.
- + **Charles Donham** is at Lone Tree.
- + **Jane Setzer and Blanche Stufflebeam** live at Walden Place.
- + **Vera Singleton** is at Windmill Manor.
- + **Don & Charlotte Wohlenberg, Becky Pearson's mom and dad,** are at Windmill Manor.
- + **Ruth Potter** is at Legacy Ridge in Iowa City.
- + **Marian Plecker** is at Atrium Village in Hills.
- + **Kay Green, Dorothy Vestal, Donna Petsel** are at Oaknoll Retirement residence.

We invite your prayers, cards or visits to those who no longer can come to FCC to feel a part of our community.

Please let us know if someone needs our attention. Call the church office (337-4181) or write down your concern and give it to the Pastor or drop it in the offering plate on Sunday. Hospitals can no longer contact us about admissions and often the patient's family is too preoccupied to call the church themselves. And

sometimes you'll be the one to notice when someone is absent from worship. So we rely on you to tell us when pastoral care should be provided. "The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God and the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:5-7

Sunday Scriptures

Sunday, June 2, 2013: 1Kings 8:22-23, 41-43, 54; Psalm 96; Acts 14:8-18; and Luke 5:12-16

Stewardship or Fundraising?

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ

May 9, 2013

As we celebrate the 150th Anniversary of our congregation, we recall our homes at Higbee Grove in rural Johnson County, on Iowa Avenue in Iowa City and now ten years on Lincolnshire Place in Coralville. It is good to take a look back at our rich history and the many varied missions and ministries in which First Christian Church has been involved. We should be enthusiastic about our past. However, it has been said that "the past should serve as a reference point and not a dwelling place." This is the time of year when the leadership of the congregation looks forward and asks each one of us to answer the question, "How do I help the church to accomplish its mission and calling?" I am certain that in each era, significant financial challenges have presented themselves; today is no different.

As we look forward to creating a budget for the 2013-2014 fiscal year, we are faced with the loss of \$21,000 in income as HACAP closes the Headstart program which we have housed. We also will have used up the \$15,000 which was carried forward from previous years and the balance from the Sunier Elderly Fund, so we need to raise another \$30,000 just to compensate for loss of those income sources.

We have accepted an offer to sell the north lot to one of our neighbors and after paying fees and applying the proceeds to our mortgage; we will have reduced the remaining balance to around \$100,000. Our monthly principal & interest payments are about \$5000. We are growing close to once again being debt free. Praise God for the blessings provided to our congregation.

Sitting to write this, I (Gail) was reminded of a 2006 DisciplesWorld article by Rev. Lois Artis, then president of the Church Finance Council, titled "Do we practice stewardship or fundraising?" She states, "A generous steward understands each thing and each person in the world as a gift from God intended for the glory of God. A Christian steward gives because he loves and cares for all of God's creation and understands his mission as freeing others to act in the same way."

To grow our programs & ministries and maintain our staff and facilities, we are projecting an expense budget that will require \$270,000 in pledges and giving in the coming year. We recognize that this financial campaign is certainly shallow when we understand that stewardship doesn't just happen in the spring but also in the summer, fall and winter but without each individual's participation in serving others through our common ministry, we fail to achieve our high calling as a congregation.

When we consider everything each of us has as a gift from God, then we understand that we are loved and blessed by God and feel the wonder and awe of the prosperity which God has given us, our families and friends. An estimate of giving/pledge form is on the reverse side and we encourage you to prayerfully consider your financial contribution for the coming year. Please bring it with you to worship on Commitment Sunday, **June 2nd**.

May God bless each of you,

Gail

Gail Crowe

Stewardship & Finance

Mark

Mark Hall

Moderator of the Board

Estimate of Giving Pledge for 2013-2014

As one of God's stewards, I intend to give my church a total of \$_____ in the coming fiscal year July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014.

Please fill in any of the blanks if you desire to specify the distribution of your Pledge:

- Of the above total, I intend to give \$_____ to the **"General Fund"**
- Of the above total, I intend to give \$_____ to the **"Building Fund"**

I understand that this voluntary "Estimate of giving" can be raised or lowered at any time by notifying the Financial Secretary of the congregation.

Name(s) _____ Date _____
Signature(s)

Printed Name(s) _____
Please print your name(s) too

Thank you for your pledge!!