

## First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

215 West Elm Street  
Canton IL 61520-2496



Office hours  
8:00-noon, 1:00-3:30  
Monday-Friday

Church office (309) 647-1363  
[www.cantonfirstchristian.org](http://www.cantonfirstchristian.org)  
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Volume 53, Issue 08  
April 14, 2009

Rev. Robert W. Rueter  
will be preaching.  
Scripture: I John 1:-2:2  
Text: John 20:19-31  
Acts 4:32-35

JOIN US THIS SUNDAY  
April 19, 2009  
8:30 a.m. Worship  
9:30 Coffee Fellowship  
10:00 Sunday School  
11:00 Worship

# The Ruler



*“Words to measure life”*

For those of you who missed out, here is a re-cap of last week’s activities.



*Alleluia!*  
*Christ is risen!*

On Palm Sunday, in the presence of 209 worshippers, five people came forward. Hannah Malmgren, Trinity Baldry and Mark Baldry made confessions of faith, and Jack Koehler and Paula Grigsby joined our congregation through transfer of membership. The Chancel choir sang at the 8:30 service, the New Faith Bells and God’s Kids Choir performed both at 8:30 and 11:00. Our message was brought to us beautifully by Bill Leitze, in Pastor Bob absence due to illness.

Thursday evening, we celebrated Maundy Thursday with 68 people attending a Seder in Fellowship Hall. People brought dishes to share, and elements of the Seder were included. All of us were blessed in seeing how Christ included our communion service in the Last Supper.

Friday evening, our Service of Shadows or Tenebrae Service was held at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Thank you to our readers, Kevin Morgan, Ron Rupe, Marilyn Taylor, Gene Taylor, Rhonda Morgan, Marge Saville and Dennis Crawford for presenting the narration, and to the Chancel Choir under the direction of John Davis, who performed six numbers. Pastor Bob and John Davis put together a very impressive service.

Easter Sunday—we had 232 people in worship!! We enjoyed celebrating the Christian Baptism of Hannah Malmgren, Trinity Baldry, and her father, Mark Baldry. The music was bold and uplifting, the paraments made by Lori Coleman were beautiful, and our message from Pastor Bob was exceptional! We welcomed our newest church members during coffee fellowship with a special cake made by Suzanne Freeman. Special thanks to Bud Cluts and Kim Schrodt for helping the baptismal candidates with all the wet towels and gowns!

This has been a wonderful week here at First Christian. If you missed out on some of the activities or services, please plan to join with us in worship. We welcome all!!

**Robert W. Rueter, Pastor**  
**John Davis, Dir. of Music**  
**Bev Rueter, Dir. Christian Education**  
**Carol Harmon, Office Coordinator and Organist**

## Serving this week

(April 19, 2009)

	8:30	11:00
<b>Greeters</b>	Connie and Ray Reed	Terri Osborne, Mikayla & John
<b>Ushers</b>	Elgin Cook Dorothy Eskridge	Kathy Burton
<b>Acolytes</b>	Evie Taylor Shelby Taylor	
<b>Scr Reader</b>	Jan Dearing	
<b>Ch. Moment</b>	Mindi Parsons	Mindi Parsons
<b>Meditation</b>	Mike Walters	Mike Walters
<b>Elders</b>	Bill Leitze Rhonda Morgan	Bill Leitze
<b>Deacons</b>	Susan Walters Denise Carmack Chuck Jarvis Kevin Dearing	Mindi Parsons Linda Woods
<b>Music</b>	Chancel Choir	
<b>Counting</b>	Mike Walters Bill Leitze	Mike Walters Bill Leitze
<b>Shut-ins</b>	Rhonda Morgan Doris Taylor	
<b>Preparation</b>	Susan Walters	Doris Taylor
<b>Jr. Deacon</b>	Mallory Meade	
<b>Coffee F'ship</b>	Dee and Dennis Doubet	
<b>Nursery</b>	Cyndi Bell Lauren Snowman	Cyndi Bell Lauren Snowman

## Serving next week

(April 26, 2009)

	8:30	11:00
<b>Greeters</b>	Emily & Mark Baldry Family	Sherry Lindzey, Amy Smith, Jake & Katie
<b>Ushers</b>	Bonnie and Charlie Harn	Carol and John Harmon
<b>Acolytes</b>	Trinity Baldry Mackenzie Stockham	
<b>Scr Reader</b>	Dennis Crawford	
<b>Ch. Moment</b>	Alan Coleman	Alan Coleman
<b>Meditation</b>	Alan Coleman	Alan Coleman
<b>Elders</b>	Chuck Taylor Henry Dare	Chuck Taylor
<b>Deacons</b>	Bud Cluts Darryl Schrod Kim Schrod Jennifer Miller	John Harmon Carl Fisher
<b>Counting</b>	Alan Coleman Chuck Taylor	Alan Coleman Chuck Taylor
<b>Shut-ins</b>	Henry Dare Mike Meade	
<b>Preparation</b>	Nancy Cluts	Jean Edwards
<b>Jr. Deacon</b>	Lauren Snowman	
<b>Coffee F'ship</b>	Dorothy Eskridge	
<b>Nursery</b>	Carl Fisher Lydia Smith	Carl Fisher Lydia Smith

### **DAILY BIBLE STUDY 04-15-2009 THROUGH 05-02-2009**

Book	Monday	Tuesday	Wed'day	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Isaiah			63:7-9	63:16-64:8	65:17-25	66:10-14
Mark	15:1-32	15:33-41	15:42-47	16:1-13	16:14-20	JN 1:1-5
Jeremiah	1:4-19; 2:1-13	2:14-32	2:33-37	3:11-20	3:21-25	4:1-4

### **“Ruler” Schedule**

The next newsletter (The Ruler) will be emailed and mailed in two weeks, on Tuesday, April 28. If you have something you would like us to include in that newsletter, please be sure to have it in the office by Monday morning, April 27.



### THANK YOU

Bev and I wish to thank all of you for your expressions of sympathy and condolence for the death of my sister, Patricia Wolcott. We were informed today that one of the groups with which she worked has named a scholarship in her honor. It will be given each semester in her honor.

Pastor Bob

# Announcements Announcements Announcements

## SUMMER IS COMING!

**We are preparing for it. Are you ready?**

1. **Camps** are a good way to spend some of your summer leisure time. Check out the posters to pick the one you want to attend and then get the inside scoop from **Becky Grace** when she shares about camping with the S.S. classes.
2. **VBS** is fast approaching as it is from 5:30 to 8:00pm the week of June 7-13. **Jennifer Miller** has accepted the awesome job of serving as VBS Director. Not only do we want all of the children in the church to enjoy this special event but now is the time to be making a list of all the children who are neighbors, friends, or relatives and then invite them to join us! And remember it takes the help of all you adults to make the event happen! Say YES when you are asked to help or even better yet VOLUNTEER!

## HAPPY TIMERS

Don't miss out on the Happy Timers luncheon this week.

Date: Thursday, April 16

Time: noon

Place: Fellowship Hall

Menu: Individual meat loaves, scalloped potatoes, lima beans, lemon/chocolate lush

We'll be sure to have a great time!!



Ladies, please mark your calendars now for the May 7, 2009 CWF Meeting. This will be a spring breakfast, meeting at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Devotions will be presented by Marilyn Taylor and the Hostesses for the day will be Margaret Wright and Peg McWhorter.

Please note the change in time, invite a friend and plan to come!

**At Graham Hosp.-**210 W. Walnut  
Richard Sedgwick

**At Graham Ext.-**210 W. Walnut  
Alan McPherson  
Dorothy Reneau

**At Heartland: -** 2081 N. Main  
Eunice McCario Norma Pinder

**At Kelly Home:** 344 W. Chestnut  
Barbara Bruniga Linnie Murphy  
Hazel Swan

**At Prairie View:** 175 Sycamore  
Dottie Stevens Lewistown, 61542

**At Red Oak Estates:** 435 N. 16  
Eleanor Berry

**At Renaissance:**  
Ruth Wong

**At Sunset:** 129 S. First  
Helen Grose Delores Spiva

**At Veterans:** Carl Bushard  
Rm 162, 1707 N. 12, Markword 1,  
Quincy, Il 62301

**At Westminster Village:**  
Marlyn Mahannah Eva Williams  
2025 E. Lincoln, Bloomington, Il 61701

### *In the Hospital*

### *In Nursing Facilities*



## REQUESTS FOR PRAYER

Jack Andrews (father of Karen Meade); Hobart Ault; Ron Bankes; Rex Barton (brother-in-law of Marty Hasty); Bret Beam; Sandi Blodgett (sister of Jeannie Arndt); Steve Bowman; Doug Brignell (cousin of Brenda Dilts); Sam Coffey; Marge Danner; Linda Duchardt; Betty Dye (sister of Barb Armstrong); Larry Eskridge; Laura Fisher (sister-in-law of Bruce); Ora Jarvis; Jack Johnson; Cindy LaSalle; Shirley List (aunt of Susan Walters); Allen Lovell (son-in-law of Johnnie and Ruth Burkhead); Violet Marshall; Vurla McPherson; Debbie Meacham; Inez Morelli; David Mobley (father of SueEllen Stephenson); Teresa Morgan (sister of Kevin); Sandra Pasley; Tim Scott; John Schleich; Martha Sepich; Ron Taylor; Tim Taylor; Rhonda Tipton (niece of Doris Taylor); Gregory Williams (great-grandson of Betty Conrad)



*We extend our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of **Ruth Sprecher** upon her death this past week. Ruth was a long-time member here at First Christian. Services were held here in the church on Tuesday.*

## **Band of Brothers**

The next meeting of the Band of Brothers will be on Thursday evening, April 16, at 7:30 p.m. All interested men are encouraged to attend!!

April	<b>04-05-09</b>	<b>Year-to-date</b>
Budget per week	\$ 4,351.42	\$ 60,919.88
Received	\$ 6,851.32	\$ 64,323.79
April	<b>04-12-09</b>	<b>Year-to-date</b>
Budget per week	\$ 4,351.42	\$ 65,271.30
Received	\$ 3,614.00	\$ 67,937.79

# *PASTOR'S PONDERINGS*

Holy Week and the Easter celebrations contain the entire gospel of salvation. The First Service of Easter, whether celebrated Easter Eve as the vigil or on Easter in the early morning, is both the source and the summit of the entire Christian Year. Here we are overwhelmed by God's victory and by the vastness of the divine mercy and love. We proclaim Christ crucified, dead, and buried, risen and exalted as the head of the church—the Savior of humanity and the Lord of all things. The whole faith of the church now comes into focus in the continuing life of union with Christ. That faith lives in expectant hope of the kingdom in its fullness. Whatever life we have is a reflection of the life of God manifest in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. Hence, cross-resurrection theology can never be separated from the exaltation of Christ and the sending forth of his truth and life in the Holy Spirit of God.

The burst of praise and the resurrection joy of Easter permeates the entire period from Easter morning through Pentecost. This is known as the Great Fifty Days. While Easter is the Sunday of all Sundays, gathering up and transfiguring the narrative of Holy Week, and indeed the whole history of God's mighty works, the resurrection courses through the days and weeks of the Easter Season as a never-ending day—a prolonged and sustained Lord's Day. The paschal candle, symbolizing the morning star that never sets, should be visible and lighted for every gathering for worship during these days of the Easter-Pentecost Season.

Our celebration of the paschal feast does not end with Easter Day, however. Easter Day initiates the time that transforms the passion of Holy Week; the world of the first creation, subject to sin and death, is becoming the new creation. Easter is the Eighth Day which ushers in the end time, promising the never-ending light of eternal life. Special events may take place this week, particularly in connection with those who have been initiated through baptism, whether as infants or adults, and with those confirmed. Family worship and devotions may emphasize the Easter appearances of Jesus with the apostles and others, as recorded in the scriptures. We rejoice as the disciples witness to the experience of the glorified Lord. The whole week and the whole of the fifty days should echo the song of victory. "For we know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. . . . So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 6:9-11). The Easter "Alleluias" should resound throughout this whole season which unfolds the reality of life in the Spirit. It comes to full consciousness when the whole church celebrates the feast of the new age of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. On that day we make explicit again the fact that the gospel is proclaimed in every tongue, in every place, unto all the world.

The contrasts between Lent and Easter-Pentecost are dramatic. Lent is sober, reflective, and watchful. This quality is reflected in the ancient practice of omitting "Alleluias" and "Glorias." On the other hand, Easter is exuberant. This should be expressed visually and musically as well. Leaders of worship should be aware of such contrasts and enable the congregation to participate fully in them.

In planning worship for the Easter-Pentecost Season, we must bear in mind the intimate connection between resurrection, the exaltation of the Lord, and the sending of the Holy Spirit which characterizes the Great Fifty Days in the witness of Scripture and in praise.

—"*The New Handbook of the Christian Year*" by Hoyt L. Hickman, Don E. Saliers, Laurence Hull Stookey, and James F. White