

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)
215 West Elm Street
Canton IL 61520-2496



Pastor Bob Rueter will be preaching on:

"Love God and Neighbor"

Scripture: Psalm 146

Text: Mark 12:28-34

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

Church office (309) 647-1363
www.cantonfirstchristian.org
Fax: (309) 647-4870

Volume 53, Issue 22
October 27, 2009

JOIN US THIS SUNDAY

November 1, 2009

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:00 Coffee Fellowship

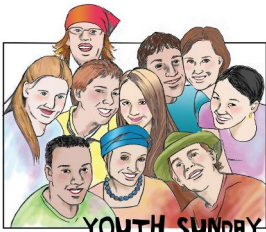
10:30 Sunday School

The Ruler



"Words to measure life"

Youth Sunday Sunday, November 1



YOUTH SUNDAY

Plan on being here for Worship this Sunday, November 1. We will be honoring our youth, and they will be serving in various ways during our Worship Service.

Men's Night Out (The ladies are cooking!!) Friday, November 13



Men, we have a sign-up sheet for you to join us for a fun night of good food served by the women of the church. Ladies, if you can help and haven't signed up to do so, please notify Maralee Casper, Marty Hasty, Vinnie Cufaude, or Betty Conrad.

More details to come!!

"Nativity Walk" Saturday, December 5 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Our Evangelism Committee is asking church members bring their Nativity Scenes. We plan to have them displayed throughout the church for folks to enjoy during a walk-through.

There will be music and refreshments. Please plan to join us!



More details to come!!

Operation Christmas Child in Full Swing!!

There are just a few shoeboxes left upstairs in the Narthex, so there is still time for you to take one to fill!

If you have one at home, please make a note to return it to the church no later than Sunday, November 22. The boxes will be delivered to the next gathering point on Monday, November 23.

Robert W. Rueter, Pastor

John Davis, Dir. of Music

Carol Harmon, Office Coordinator and Organist

Bev Rueter, Dir. Christian Education

Rickie Coulter, Church Custodian

Serving this week

(November 1, 2009)

	9:00 a.m.
Greeters	Mikayla Osborne Gabby Taylor
Ushers	Nicholas Gregory Joel Harris
Acolytes	Trinity Baldry Hannah Malmgren
Scr Reader	Cyndi Bell
Ch. Moment	Mallory Meade
Meditation	Bruce Edwards
Elders	Paul Wright Bill Leitze
Deacons	Derek Schrodtt Stephen Snowman Jake Snowman Cydni Bell
Music	Chancel Choir
Counting	Bruce Edwards Paul Wright
Shut-ins	Bill Leitze Sherry Lindzey
Preparation	Wanda Carmack
Jr. Deacon	Eric Jarvis
Coffee F'ship	Susan Walters
Nursery	Lauren Snowman Lydia Smith

Serving next week

(November 8, 2009)

	9:00 a.m.
Greeters	Carolyn Woods
Ushers	Liz and Norm Pollitt
Acolytes	Nicholas Gregory Joel Harris
Scr Reader	Orville Clark
Ch. Moment	Janet Krulac
Meditation	Don Heller
Elders	Daryle Coleman Chuck Taylor
Deacons	Jan Taylor Dennis Doubet Dee Doubet Sherry Lindzey
Music	Chancel Choir
Counting	Don Heller Alan Coleman
Shut-ins	Chuck Taylor Janet Krulac
Preparation	Nancy Cluts
Jr. Deacon	Lauren Snowman
Coffee F'ship	Judy Kemper
Nursery	Cyndi Bell

Hurrah! Hurrah!

I'm excited about the new Sunday School Classes! We now have 5 new members in the New Adult Class taught by Rhonda Morgan and meeting in the room by the elevator. There is room for you! They have started by studying more about the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and will, as a class, decide what next they want to study. The children's classes have also been increasing. Joan Bankes in the Preschool, Bev Rueter in the K-4th grade and Kara Fitzjerald in the 5-8th grade would love to have you join their classes as we together learn more about the Bible stories and being Jesus' friend.

This is **YOUR INVITATION** to join us!!!



At Graham Hosp.-210 W. Walnut
Bill McCamey

In the Hospital

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

At Care Center of Abingdon
Dottie Stevens 801 W. Martin
Abingdon, 61410

At Clayberg Nursing Center
Violet Marshall 625 E. Monroe
Cuba, 61427

At Heartland: - 2081 N. Main
Eunice McCario Jim Paul

At Red Oak Estates: 435 N. 16
Eleanor Berry Betty Moore
Norma Pinder

At Renaissance: 1675 E. Ash
Linnie Murphy

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 Nursing Facilities

Jack Andrews (father of Karen Meade); Hobart Ault; Ron Bankes; Laurie Bankroff (neice of Marge Danner); Lucille Bowton; Bret Beam; Sandi Blodgett (sister of Jeannie Arndt); Lori Bremer; Doug Brignell (cousin of Brenda Dilts); Bobby Burkhead (brother of Johnnie); Benjamin Church (nephew of SueEllen Stephenson); Sam Coffey; Dave Cope; Millicent Cox; Marge Danner; Pat Danner, Betty Dye (sister of Barb Armstrong); Howard Dye; Laura Fisher (sister-in-law of Bruce); Ora Jarvis; Jack Johnson; Gloria Kaler (sister of Norm Pollitt); Rita King; Cindy LaSalle; Freida Lewis; Shirley List (aunt of Susan Walters); Cody Krulac; Vurla McPherson; Irrie McWhorter; Debbie Meacham; David Mobley (father of SueEllen Stephenson); Teresa Morgan (sister of Kevin); Cody Osborne (nephew of Liz Pollitt); Elaine Ostiguy (daughter of Elgin Cook); Ron Parrish; Dennis Robinson; John Schleich; Russell Schrodt; Martha Sepich; Eleanor Stenger; Ron Taylor; Linda Vandermeer; Gregory Williams (great-grandson of Betty Conrad); Marvin White (father of Cindy LaSalle); Margaret Wright



Ladies, mark your calendars for the November meeting of Christian Women's Fellowship. The meeting is at 12:00 noon on Thursday, November 5, and this will be a Taco Luncheon!

Ron Rupe will be presenting the program. Marty Hasty will be the Leader, the Devotion will be by Betty Conrad, and the committee will serve as hostesses.



This next weekend brings our fall time-change. Don't forget to catch that extra hour of sleep this coming Saturday night, October 31!



*We extend our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of **Anna Mae Maple**, upon her death a week ago Saturday. Services were conducted by Pastor Bob. We also extend our sincere sympathy to **Doris***

***Taylor** and family at the recent loss of her step-mother, **Esther Main**, of Macomb. We would also like to extend our sympathy to **Nancy Cluts** and family at the death this past week of her brother, **Carl Sheets**, of Springfield, Ohio.*

	10-18-09	Year-to-date
October Budget per week	\$ 4,351.42	\$ 182,759.64
Received	\$ 4,283.03	\$ 187,259.72

“Ruler” Schedule

The next newsletter (The Ruler) will be emailed and mailed in two weeks, on Tuesday, November 10, 2009. 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, November 09.



PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

I have finished compiling the statistics from the survey that you took during worship a month ago. Received 100 surveys, about 1/3 of the active congregation. But, I feel that it represents the congregation as a whole with a few exceptions. The survey was done by 53 women and 47 men. Better balanced than I had expected. Out of this group we had 4 that were single, 4 divorced, 8 who were widowed and 78 that were married. This group had 225 children or 2.3 children per person.

According to the survey the average member has attended First Christian 28.7 years. This would seem to indicate that many of you have attended all of your lives. You spend about 5.6 hours on average of work and study a month in congregational things other than worship. You share with an average of 4+ friends of yours, who are members or attendees of the congregation.

You say the primary reason that you attend worship is as follows:

- 8% say they need to receive Communion
- 16% need to hear the word of God
- 29% enjoy meditating and communicating with God
- 12% enjoy taking part in the worship service itself
- 16% enjoy being with other people in our congregation
- 8% are here because they want provide values for their children
- 3% because they want to please someone else
- 6% because it's a habit

You also said that you have an average of 2.2 family members that are attending First Christian. 94% of you say that worship is important or very important in your life. 86% say they attend worship every Sunday, 39% attend Sunday School each Sunday and 20% say they attend Bible Study or prayer groups.

The group as a whole has a feeling of being close to God. 26% of you say that this occurs often, 51% say they have had feelings of being close to God several times in their lives, 26% say that it has occurred once or twice and 15% have never had the experience.

The education level in this congregation is exceptionally high even for a Disciples congregation who are the most highly educated the religious groups in the United States. Everyone responding had completed high-school.

- High School grads – 25.5%
- Attended college – 27.1%
- Tech School grad or 2 year degree – 4.4%
- College grads – 24.2%
- Attended graduate school – 2.2%
- Graduate degrees – 14.3%

The average age for someone in this congregation is 63.5 years of age. It breaks down as follows:

- 30-39 yrs old – 3 %
- 40-49 yrs old – 9%
- 50-65 yrs old – 42%
- 65-79 yrs old – 31%
- 80+ - 11%

This average age is weighted a little heavy because no one under 30 in the congregation were counted on the day that it was taken.

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For those of us who are statistical nuts try this one:

19.6% of you are declared liberals

56% of you are moderates

43,4% of you are conservatives.

There is definitely a pattern of moderation that is not surprising in this congregation.

One figure that did surprise me was the number of people who were born in Canton/Fulton County. This is surprising because of the number of professional people who have returned after receiving college degrees.

52.2% of you were born in Canton/Fulton County

36.6% were born in Illinois

11.6% of you were born outside of Illinois.

Economic wise this is definitely a middle to upper class congregation as compared to others I have served:

\$100,000 + - 18%

80,000-99,999 - 15%

65,000-79,999 - 17.8%

50,000-64,999 - 16.5%

35,000-49,999 - 22%

20,000-34,999 - 11%

10,000-19,999 - 8%

10,000- 3%\

I will leave you to draw your own conclusions, though in the future I may use some of these items for further writing. The surveys will be turned over to the Search Committee for further study and information.



From **Amy and Tyson Smith and**

Family: *Thank you very much for the cards, food, flowers, visits, memorials and prayers. You have been a great support for us during our sudden loss. We appreciate everything you have done to help us cope.*

From **Sherry Lindzey:** *I thank each one of you from the very bottom of my heart for your prayers, food and cards that were so comforting in this time of sadness. Special thanks to Pastor Bob, Carol and John for the special service in memory of Bruce.*

From **Mark Gregory:** *I would like to say thank you for the cookies and the treats. I really appreciate you guys thinking about us college students that are out and about. Things are going really good for me right now at WIU and I am really enjoying the Elementary Education Program. I am having a good time and working hard. Thank you and God bless!*

From **Taylor Soland:** *Thank you so much for all the wonderful goodies! The cookies are so good and they will go great with the hot cocoa on a cold night. Thank you for thinking of me while I am away at school! It is always nice hearing from FCC. Thanks!*

From **Sky Pollitt:** *Thank you for the care package. It is very much appreciated. It is nice to be remembered and have your support along my journey through my college years.*

From: **Amanda (Snowman) Valentine:** *Thank you for the box of popcorn and goodies! It was all very good: Joe and I enjoyed it all! Thanks for thinking of me, and taking the time to make and send the sweets!*

From **Bob and Ginny Bowman:** *We have so many people to thank for prayers and food. During Steve's illness we had 16 people living here and we never had to cook a meal. The kindness of all the church people and other friends kept us well fed. We are truly blessed to have so many caring friends. Gaby, our German daughter-in-law was amazed at the constant support and love shown by our church family.*

From **Amy Harmon:** *Once again, thank you for the*

shoobox filled with cookies. I am in my senior year at WIU, and I have enjoyed these treats each of my 4 years! Thank you for all of your support and for remembering the college students when we are away at school.

DAILY BIBLE STUDY 10-28-2009 THROUGH 11-14-2009

Book	Monday	Tuesday	Wed'day	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Cor			6:14—7:1	7:2-16	8:1-7	8:8-15
John	18:38b-19:24	19:25-30	19:31-37	19:38-42	20:1-10	20:11-18
2 Cor	8:16-24; 9:1-15	10:1-6	10:7-18	11:1-11	11:12-15	11:16-29