

First Christian Church

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



Pastor Bob Rueter will be preaching on:
"Blessed....among women"
Scripture: Luke 1:39-45
Text: Micah 5:2-5a

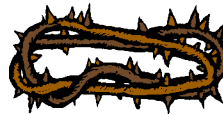
Office hours
8:00-noon, 1:00-3:30
Monday-Friday

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

Volume 53, Issue 25
December 15, 2009

JOIN US THIS SUNDAY
December 20, 2009
9:00 a.m. Worship
10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
10:30 a.m. Sunday School
3:00 p.m. Christmas Vespers Concert

The Ruler



"Words to measure life"



Vespers

Sunday, December 20, 2009

3:00 p.m.

This Sunday, December 20, our Chancel Choir will join with the the adult choir from Trinity Lutheran Church of Canton, to present a 3:00 p.m. Vespers program under the direction of John Davis.

The two choirs have been working hard individually on the music for this event for some time now, and have rehearsed together a couple of times as well. This will be a wonderful, inspirational program for our Advent/Christmas season.

The Membership Committee will serve refreshments afterwards in Fellowship Hall, and, as in years past, we are all asked to bring our favorite Christmas cookies and/or treats. Simply drop them

off in Fellowship Hall before the program, and then join together following the Vespers to fellowship and welcome the people from the Trinity Lutheran Church!

Special
MUSIC

*Christmas Eve
Candle Light Service*



Thursday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m.

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

(December 20, 2009)

4th Sunday in Advent

9:00 a.m.

Greeters	Norma and Tom Snowman
Ushers	Sherry and Bruce Fisher
Acolytes	Hannah Malmgren Mackenzie Stockham
Scr Reader	Amanda Reneau
Ch. Moment	Leta Krock
Meditation	Pastor Bob
Elders	Mike Walters Don Heller
Deacons	Shawn Snowman Lyn Snowman John Stanko Pat Stanko
Music	God's Kids
Counting	Mike Walters Don Heller
Shut-ins	Ron Rupe Doreen Shaw
Preparation	Judy Leitze
Jr. Deacon	Jake Snowman
Coffee F'ship	Rhonda and Kevin Morgan
Nursery	Carl Fisher Lydia Smith

Serving in 2 weeks

(December 27, 2009)

9:00 a.m.

Greeters	Chantel and Trent Goforth
Ushers	Nancy and Bud Cluts
Acolytes	Trinity Baldry Hannah Malmgren
Scr Reader	Cyndni Bell
Ch. Moment	Amy Smith
Meditation	Henry Dare
Elders	Jan Dearing Rhonda Morgan
Deacons	Nathan Bloyd Jan Taylor Mike Meade Mallory Meade
Counting	Jan Dearing Rhonda Morgan
Shut-ins	Rhonda Morgan Sherry Lindzey
Preparation	Kandy Wright
Jr. Deacon	Eric Jarvis
Coffee F'ship	Diane Schrodt
Nursery	Cyndni Bell Carl Fisher

Serving next week

(December 24, 2009)

(Christmas Eve)

7:00 p.m.

Greeters	Bruce Fisher and Family
Ushers	Daryle and Alan Coleman
Acolytes	Avery Dean Nicholas Gregory
Advent Lighters	Connie and Don Heller Cole and Derek Schrodt Cydni Bell and Doris Taylor Dee and Dennis Doubet Lisa Grace
Ch. Moment	Pastor Bob
Meditation	Jan Dearing
Elders	Kevin Dearing tba
Deacons	College Students
Music	Chancel Choir, God's Kids, and New Faith Bells
Preparation	Marty Hasty

Serving in 3 weeks

(January 03, 2010)

9:00 a.m.

Greeters	Vinnie Cufaude Shirley Rockhold
Ushers	Char and Dick VanRossem
Acolytes	Joel Harris Avery Dean
Scr Reader	Vinnie Cufaude
Ch. Moment	Judy Kemper
Meditation	Bill Leitze
Elders	Bruce Edwards Paul Wright
Deacons	John Harmon Kandy Wright Amy Smith Mandy Reneau
Counting	Bill Leitze Bruce Edwards
Shut-ins	Paul Wright Sherry Lindzey
Preparation	Wanda Carmack
Jr. Deacon	Eric Jarvis
Coffee F'ship	Wanda Carmack
Nursery	Carl Fisher Lydia Smith



The next meeting of the CWF will be on Thursday, January 7, 2010, at noon. This will be for a soup luncheon.

The lesson will be given by Brenda Dilts, the Leader is Betty Conrad, and the Hostesses are Cheryl Dare, Marty Hasty, and Marilee Casper



From the office:

Please stop and pick up your giving envelopes for 2010 from the tables at the foot of the stairs near the foyer. If you want numbered envelopes and there are none for you there, call Carol at the office at 647-1363.

This is also the time of year for you to examine your financial records. If there are more contributions you wish to make for the calendar year of 2009, it is time to take care of that so that these gifts are deposited and entered into our records.

The church office is “basically” closed between Christmas and New Years, but I will be collecting mail, making deposits and working on a couple of year-end projects during that week.

We have some Sunday School curriculum in the church office for the last quarter of 2009.

If you know of a church or study group that could use these materials, please stop in and ask Bev to show them to you!

A note from Paula Crawford:

Thank you to all who joined in the effort to make a difference in children's lives around the world. The children not only received a shoebox filled with fun and exciting things but also Christian literature in their own language.

The total number of boxes we picked up from this area was 621, and the people at First Christian gave 105. Together, we brought smiles to many faces.

God bless you!

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

**TURN IN
YOUR ARTICLES
EARLY!**

R E M I N D E R :

**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES IS**

Monday morning, January 04, 2010!



Special thanks to the Worship Committee and volunteers who have made our church beautiful with our Christmas decorations! It's a big job, and we thank you!!



**50th Anniversary
Charles & Bonnie Harn
Please join us for lunch!**

Date: Saturday, January 2, 2010

Time: 11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

*Location: The Donaldson Center
Wallace Park
Canton, Il*

Please R.S.V.P. to 309-647-8049

or

kimscha@sbcglobal.net

*Gifts of food for the Food Pantry
Would be appreciated!*

Senior Sunday Club At Graham Hospital's Cornerstone Café

Sunday, January 3
From 11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Menu

Vegetable Soup

Pork Chops or Mushroom Steak

Mashed Potatoes and Gravy

Or Creamed Potatoes

Whole Baby Carrots or Green Beans

1 Trip to the Salad Bar

Dessert, Roll and a Beverage

The Gift shop will be open
from 11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

At Graham Hosp.-210 W. Walnut *In the Hospital*
Pat Danner

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
Bill McCamey Eunice McCario
Jim Paul

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

At Renaissance: 1675 E. Ash
Linnie Murphy

At Sunset: 129 S. First
Dorothy Eskridge 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*

Others with special needs:

Freida Lewis; Gregory Williams (great-grandson of Betty Conrad); Jack Andrews (father of Karen Meade); Hobart Ault; Kevin Bankes; Ron Bankes; Laurie Bankroff (niece of Marge Danner); Bret Beam; Sandi Blodgett (sister of Jeannie Arndt); Lori Bremer; Bobby Burkhead (brother of Johnnie); Benjamin Church (nephew of SueEllen Stephenson); Dan (friend of Paula Crawford); Millicent Cox; Marge Danner; Pat Danner; Laura Fisher (sister-in-law of Bruce); Ken Fuller (friend of Ron & Brenda Dilts); Betty Garstka (friend of Margaret Wright); Ruby Haberlin (friend of Greg & Barb Pollitt); Ora Jarvis; Jack Johnson; Rita King; Cindy LaSalle; Shirley List (aunt of Susan Walters); Cody Krulac; Vurla McPherson; 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; Irene Robinson; John Schleich; Russell Schrodt; Martha Sepich; Eleanor Stenger; Ron Taylor; Linda Vandermeer; Marvin White (father of Cindy LaSalle); Margaret Wright



**REQUESTS
FOR
PRAYER**

Please note: *In an effort to keep our prayer list current, names will remain on the list for 4 weeks. At that time, they will be removed unless you have called the office to ask that a name remain on the list. Thanks for your help!!*



We extend our sympathies to the family and friends of Sam Coffey; and to Brenda Dilts & family at the loss of her cousin, Doug Brignell.



From **Freida Lewis:** *Thanks so much to the ladies of the CWF for the delicious cookies! It's nice to be remembered, and I enjoyed them all!*

From **Howard and Sheila Dye:** *We would like to thank our church family for all of their prayers and concern shown to us during Howard's surgery and recovery and mother's illness and passing. Special thanks to Pastor Bob and Ron Rupe for the hospital visits.*

From **Bill and Toby McCamey:** *Thank you very much for the delicious cookies delivered to our home. We truly enjoyed the treats and the thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated!*

December	12-06-09	Year-to-date
Budget per week	\$ 4,351.42	\$ 213,219.58
Received	\$ 4,062.50	\$ 220,234.21
December	12-13-09	Year-to-date
Budget per week	\$ 4,351.42	\$ 217,511.00
Received	\$ 4,264.51	\$ 224,498.72

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

THE OTHER WISEMAN

Henry Van Dyke tells the story of the other Wiseman who had a most interesting life. It seems that the wise men had determined when the star appeared to lead them to the new king of Judea, they would assemble at a central point to travel together. This wise man was attending to business at one of his properties in the far reaches of the kingdom when the star appeared. He had sold most of his properties and purchased three large rare jewels to give as a present to this new baby.

Knowing that his friends would have the caravan assembled and everything he would need would be there, he rode to meet them at the designated point and designated hour. As he was approaching that point with little time to spare, he found a stranger, a Hebrew, in the dark of the night. Torn by his need to help but also by the appointed time and place to meet, he decided to help the one who was dying. He gave medicine to the man, revived him, and helped him. The man informed him of the prophecy that new king would be born in Bethlehem.

He rode the rest of the night trying to reach the assembly point. When he did, the caravan was gone, except for a note telling him to catch up as soon as possible by crossing the desert. This meant that he had to go back and equip his own caravan to follow.

As quickly as he could he followed and went directly to Bethlehem, sacrificing the sapphire to equip himself and those who traveled with him. His friends, the other Magi, had arrived three days previously and presented their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Because they were warned by a dream they left by another way.

He looked for the child and was told that the father and mother had fled to Egypt the same night after being warned by a dream. The young mother who said this offered him food. As they were eating there was an uproar in the street and shouts of, "they are killing our children!" He went to the door and met the Roman captain in charge, whom he bribed with the ruby, that there was not a child in the house. In return, he received the blessing of the young mother.

He went on to Egypt and followed the clues but never found the child for which he was looking. And as he traveled in Egypt and throughout the places that the Diaspora were scatted he practiced his medicine, he fed the hungry, clothed the needy and visited the sick and imprisoned. He continued year after year searching, always traveling, looking for a young man of the poor who could be called the 'Great King.'

Thirty three years later he was in Jerusalem for Passover, hoping to find the one. There was a strange thing happening and he inquired why the town was so quiet during a Passover. He was told of an execution of two well known criminals and a young man whom Pilate had labeled "King of the Jews". As he walked out toward Golgotha, he came by the court where a young lady was weeping and being prepared for prison by the guards. "What", he asked? "My father was in debt and I am being imprisoned for his debts", she said. He reached to his bosom and took the great pearl he had left and gave it to her to pay her debts.

Just then an earthquake, a tile fell from a roof and struck the magi's head. As he lay there a voice came to him, "as you have done it for the least of these, you have done it for me".

His journey was ended. His treasures accepted. The other Wise man had found the King.

Pastor Bob

DAILY BIBLE STUDY 12-16-2009 THROUGH 01-09-2010

Book	Monday	Tuesday	Wed'day	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
LK			3:15-38	4:1-4	4:5-8	4:9-13
HOS	11:1-11; 14:4-9	JOEL 2:12-17a	2:21-27	2:28-32	MIC 2:1-11	3:1-8
LK	4:14-44	5:1-11	5:12-16	5:17-26	5:27-32	5:33-39
MIC	4:1-5; 5:1-6	5:7-9	6:1-8	6:9-16	7:1-1	7:8-10