

First Christian Church

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



Volume 54, Issue 1
January 05, 2010

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

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

Pastor Bob Rueter will be preaching on:

"You are my son"

Scripture: Isaiah 43:1-7
Text: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

JOIN US THIS SUNDAY

January 10, 2010

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship

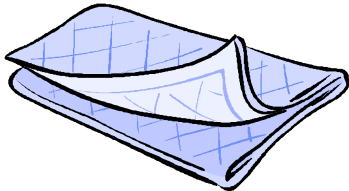
10:30 a.m. Sunday School

The Ruler



"Words to measure life"

Blanket Sunday—January 24 and 31



First Christian Church will be taking an offering for Blanket Sunday on both the 24th and 31st of January. This is an outreach that has been supported by the church for many, many years. Blanket Sunday itself has been celebrated for more than 60 years.

In case of disaster, both natural and man made, people often need the necessities of life, including blankets and much more. Contributions to Blanket+ mean that church World Service will be there to help families recover from disasters. Blankets+ is also there helping families that are struggling against poverty as they seek to develop viable and sustainable communities.

\$25 can provide 5 blankets for a family left homeless.

\$100 can enable 3 women to receive a loan, an investment in them and the future of their family.

\$200 can provide a family with a draft animal to increase food production.

\$250 can provides a sewing machine to a young mother to support her family.

Your support of Blanket+ makes possible all this and much more! Your contribution turns hope into reality for people in need the world over. Please be generous in your support of Blankets+.

Outreach Committee

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

(January 10, 2010)

	9:00 a.m.
Greeters	Nathan Bloyd, Rachael and children
Ushers	Janet and Mike Krulac
Acolytes	Mikayla Osborne Gabby Taylor
Scr. Reader	Alan Coleman
Ch. Moment	Rhonda Morgan
Meditation	Chuck Taylor
Elders	Don Heller Henry Dare
Deacons	Jan Taylor Dennis Doubet Dee Doubet Sherry Lindzey
Music	Chancel Choir
Counting	Chuck Taylor Don Heller
Shut-ins	Henry Dare Janet Krulac
Preparation	Susan Walters
Jr. Deacon	Lauren Snowman
Coffee F'ship	Rhonda and Kevin Morgan
Nursery	Cyndi Bell Lauren Snowman

Serving next week

(January 17, 2010)

9:00 a.m.

Greeters	Mindi and Zack Perez and Carter Parsons
Ushers	Derek Schrodt Tyler Smolczyk
Acolytes	Trinity Baldry Joel Harris
Scr. Reader	Kevin Coleman
Ch. Moment	Jean Edwards
Meditation	Mike Walters
Elders	Kevin Dearing Daryle Coleman
Deacons	Pat Stanko John Stanko Howard Dye Sheila Dye
Music	Chancel Choir
Counting	Mike Walters Kevin Dearing
Shut-ins	Daryle Coleman Doris Taylor
Preparation	Nancy Cluts
Jr. Deacon	Lydia Smith
Coffee F'ship	Jan Dearing
Nursery	Lauren Snowman Lydia Smith

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

**TURN IN
YOUR ARTICLES
EARLY!**

RE M I N D E R :

**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES IS**

Monday morning, January 18, 2010!

The next meeting of the CWF will be this 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.

noon
Happy Timers

Happy Timers will meet on Thursday, January 21. The menu will consist of Swiss Steak, spike O'Dell potatoes, corn, and chocolate and lemon lush.

If you aren't signed up, call Carol at 647-1363 and she will add your name to the list.

Congregational Profile - Who we are

The Search Committee has completed the Congregational Profile & wanted you to share in the content of Who we are & Where we want to go.

Ministerial Emphases- This section is the results of the survey taken by the congregation. *Realizing that each of the areas of ministry listed are important to a healthy congregation, those areas that are listed as 2's & 3's are area the congregation will need to assist in providing. It is unrealistic to expect one person to provide all these ministries. We, the congregation & the ordained staff/Minister are yoked together in ministry in Christ's name.*

Outreach & Teaching Ministries

Evangelism - Teaching - Educational Program

Mission in the Local Community - Responsibilities & Relationships with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), both Regional & General

Ecumenical & Interfaith Activities - Involvement in Mission Beyond the Local Community

Membership Development/Administrative Ministries

Administrative Leadership - Congregational Fellowship - Congregational Communication

Evaluation of Program & Staff - Planning Congregational Life - Minister's Personal Creativity & Resourcefulness

Stewardship & Commitment Program

Pastoral/Worship Ministries

Proclamation of the Word - Spiritual Development of Members - Corporate Worship

Hospital & Emergency Visitation – Counseling - Congregational Home Visitation

Congregational Goals for the next 5 years - These were identified during the Visioning Workshop with Regional Minister Beth Dobyns.

Revitalize and expand youth and children's ministries.

Provide opportunities for spiritual growth of young families.

Develop and offer an alternative worship service format that will address the spiritual needs of current and future members.

Develop ministries that will respond to the community's needs.

Personal & Professional Qualifications - The committee felt the following were qualifications that would be essential, based upon; the survey results, the discussion during the Visioning session & our collective experiences within the congregation.

Receptive to implementing various worship styles

Highly effective in delivering a sermon appropriate to the worship context.

Tuned into the needs of families and relates multi-generationally.

Works well with multiple staff

Is comfortable in utilizing a broad range of resources in spiritual leadership

Open in sharing information

Skilled at conflict resolution

In addition to the Congregational Profile, we are also developing a promotional type document that will be sent to those candidates we are interested in interviewing for our position. Once this is completed we will also share this with the congregation. Please continue to lift up the Search Committee (Marilee Casper, Daryle Coleman, Dee Doubet, Dennis Doubet & Rhonda Morgan) in your prayers, as well as the Minister God is preparing for this Congregation.

One of our Mission Projects:

First Christian Church is participating in an ongoing mission project of helping low income elderly persons have affordable housing.

Other objectives are: (1) to have ground level buildings with each apartment having an individual entrance, (2) provide some opportunities for social interaction of the tenants, (3) to provide many of the “costs of living” in the rent. The residents are limited to persons sixty-two years of age or older and with low or moderate income as defined by U.S. government guidelines. Rural Development requires accessibility for handicapped persons in several apartments. (Some disabled persons younger than 62 are accepted.)

Presently, twenty-seven single women and one single man live at East Elm Apartments. There are also three couples and two sisters in the apartments. The average age of the residents is seventy-six years old. The oldest tenant is 95 years old and thirteen residents are 80 years old or older. The average gross income is \$15,648 per living unit. Residents pay about 30% of their income, adjusted for out of pocket medical expenses and a credit for being over 62, as rent. The lowest monthly rent paid is \$153 and eleven persons pay less than \$250 per month. The rent includes electricity, heat, water, sewer, air conditioning, basic cable TV, laundry, trash removal & garbage bags, smoke alarms & CO2 detectors, and the use of the Recreation Room.

Sponsoring this mission project in Canton are five area churches. Thirty-two apartments, located in ten buildings, were constructed in 1982 and 1984 with primary funding from USDA Rural Development (Farmers Home Administration). Five Canton area churches, each receiving Ingersoll funding, provided “seed” money for start-up expenses. The churches provide continuing support for the non-profit corporation by providing officers and persons to serve as corporation members. The tenants receive lower than market rate rents provided through Rural Development. HUD is providing twenty-two apartments with Section 8 subsidies, which are used with the R.D. program, thus permitting very low income persons to be able to live in the apartments.

If you are interest in considering a change in where you live, you can contact East Elm Apartments by calling 309-647-5324 or by stopping in and talking with Joanne in Apartment B3. The email address is: eastelminc@aol.com

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 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 the Hospital

In Nursing Facilities

Others with special needs:

Gregory Williams (great-grandson of Betty Conrad);
 Lloyd Kemper



**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!!



From **Leta Krock:** *I want to thank all of the children who brought canned goods for the December 27 Children's Sermon. I had wanted to emphasize giving that day and bringing items for the Food Pantry was a good way for the children to*

participate and understand generosity. Thanks for your help!

From **Maxine Payne:** *Thanks so much for the delicious plate of cookies that the CWF ladies prepared and had delivered to me. They were wonderful and I really appreciate your thoughts and prayers!*

From **Liz and Norm Pollitt:** *Thank you so much for the use of the church for Tammy's 50th birthday party and also, thank you for allowing us to serve a funeral dinner for one of my dear friends, Marcelene Marinich when the St. Mary's Parish Hall was already in use.*

From **Bill, Jody and Toby McCamey:** *We all wish to thank the CWF for the delicious luncheon served to the family and friends of Bill McCamey. Thank you also for the lap robe delivered to Bill and for the many contributions to the First Christian Church and the Shriner's Hospital in memory of Bill. Thank you also for the many cards and phone calls we received from his church family and we are grateful for the visits from pastor Bob and Ron Rupe.*

December	12-20-09	Year-to-date
Budget per week	\$ 4,351.42	\$ 221,862.42
Received	\$ 5,433.00	\$ 229,931.72
December	End of year	Year-to-date
Budget per week	\$ 4,351.42	\$ 226,213.84
Received	\$ 2,745.10	\$ 232,676.82
January	01-03-10	Year-to-date
Budget per week	\$5,149.15	\$5,149.15
Received	\$4,721.00	\$4,721.00

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

CHRISTMAS/EPIPHANY SEASONS

Isn't it strange that with all the time of the Advent Season that Christmas is only 12 days long? December 25 through January 6th on our modern calendar. January 6th is the twelfth day of Christmas season. It is supposedly the day that the Magi [wise men] arrived in Bethlehem and honored the baby Jesus. For many of our Christian brethren of the eastern Orthodox faiths, January 6 is the main day of Christmas. [Young people enjoy it because they normally are given one present a day for the first eleven days of Christmas and receive their major gifts on January 6.] This observance is this was the culmination of the announcement to the gentiles [Magi] of the birth of the Christ child.

Also January 6th is the beginning of the Epiphany season. Epiphany lasts from January 6 until Ash Wednesday, that is February 17th in 2010. In the early church this was celebrated as the day of baptism of Jesus. Now we celebrate the first Sunday of Epiphany as the anniversary of his baptism. The Greek word for Epiphany translates as "to show to or upon; to bring to light; become visible; manifest; inspiration". In my mind the season of Epiphany is a season then that Christ was made known and started his ministry with his baptism. "This is my Son in whom I am well pleased".

I feel also that it is time when we can feel inspiration through the Holy Spirit and be led clearly into the future. This is the blessing that I wish for this congregation. May this be an inspirational Epiphany for each of you.

Pastor Bob

DAILY BIBLE STUDY 01-06-2010 THROUGH 01-23-2010

Book	Monday	Tuesday	Wed'day	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MIC			6:1-8	6:9-16	7:1-1	7:8-10
LK	6:1-19	6:20-26	6:27-31	6:32-36	6:37-38	6:39-42
MIC	7:18-20; AMOS 5:6-15	5:18-24	6:1-8	7:1-9	8:1-10	8:11-14



From the Office:

Statements for the calendar year of 2009 are being mailed out this week. Please go over yours carefully, and be certain that things are recorded as you want. If not, please call Carol at 647-1363 so that changes may be made and corrected statements can be mailed out to you.

2010 Giving Envelopes are on a table at the foot of the steps near the entry way from the parking lot. If you haven't picked up yours yet, **Please Do So.** After this Sunday, they will be removed and will be stored in the office.