

First Christian Church

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



Pastor Bob Rueter will be preaching on:
"Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved!"

Scripture: Luke 13:1-8
Text: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

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

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

JOIN US THIS SUNDAY

March 07, 2010

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship

10:30 a.m. Sunday School

Volume 54, Issue 5
March 02, 2010

The Ruler



"Words to measure life"

Lenten Soup Suppers



Lent is starting the week of February 17. We are again going to have Stone Soup Suppers. Several people will be sharing in the lessons this year. The schedule is as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Soup</u>	<u>Lesson</u>
Mar. 03	Vegetable Soup	Vinnie Cufaude—"Woman Healed"
Mar. 10	Cheese/Vegetable Soup	Henry Dare—"Nicodemus"
Mar. 17	Chicken Noodle Soup	Daryle Coleman—"Adulterous Woman"
Mar. 24	Sausage/Bean Soup	Jack Koehler—"John"

(Recipe will be available.)

Bring your soup at 5:15, and a short lesson will be given while it is being heated. Soup will be served at 6:00 p.m.

-Membership 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

(March 07, 2010)

	9:00 a.m.
Greeters	Jean and Bruce Edwards
Ushers	Sherry Lindzey Amy Smith
Acolytes	Mikayla Osborne Gabby Taylor
Scr. Reader	Marty Hasty
Ch. Moment	Connie Reed
Meditation	Paul Wright
Elders	Bill Leitze Bruce Edwards
Deacons	Nathan Bloyd Mike Meade Mallory Meade Lauren Snowman
Music	Chancel Choir
Counting	Paul Wright Bill Leitze
Shut-ins	Bruce Edwards Janet Krulac
Preparation	Doris Taylor
Jr. Deacon	Lauren Snowman
Coffee F'ship	Mindi Perez
Nursery	Cyndi Bell Lydia Smith

Serving next week

(March 14, 2010)

	9:00 a.m.
Greeters	Amy Smith and Family
Ushers	Marla and Mark Reneau
Acolytes	Avery Dean Joel Harris
Scr. Reader	Kevin Morgan
Ch. Moment	Bev Rueter
Meditation	Daryle Coleman
Elders	Chuck Taylor Don Heller
Deacons	Barb Pollitt Jean Edwards Marty Hasty Carl Fisher
Music	Chancel Choir
Counting	Chuck Taylor Alan Coleman
Shut-ins	Don Heller Doris Taylor
Preparation	Dee Doubet
Jr. Deacon	Lydia Smith
Coffee F'ship	Chantel Goforth
Nursery	Carl Fisher Lauren Snowman

Happy Timers
noon

Happy Timers will meet Thursday, March 18, at noon. The menu will consist of pork loin, sauerkraut, parsley potatoes, carrots, and cookies.

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

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

**TURN IN
YOUR ARTICLES
EARLY!**

R E M I N D E R :

**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES IS**

Monday morning, March 15, 2010.

Be watching.....

Be watching for information about the Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday!!



Are you able to help out?

We have lost a couple of our office volunteers recently and are looking for two or three more. Special skills needed are a willingness to help your church, the ability to enjoy one another's company, and about 1 hour of your time every week or so. If you would like to join our group of fun-loving volunteers, please call the office at 647-1363.

February	02-21-10	Year-to-date
Budget per week	\$ 5,149.15	\$ 41,193.20
Received	\$ 3,108.35	\$ 32,220.25
February	02-28-10	Year-to-date
Budget per week	\$ 5,149.15	\$ 46,342.35
Received	\$ 4,194.86	\$ 36,415.11

WORDS FROM WILL

I just wanted to take a moment to thank everyone at the church for welcoming me with open arms into your faith community over the last several months. My experience thus far has been one filled with many blessings. In the short time I have been with you I have learned and grown as a leader and as a follower of Christ. I look forward to the months to come. I pray that God continues to work through each of us as we minister to each other and to the youth of our community. BLESSINGS TO ALL

YOUTH UPDATE



Over the past months I have had the privilege of getting to know several of the youth from the congregation. We are having weekly bible studies and bi-weekly activities. Two weeks ago we had a game day where we ate subs and played giant jenga. We have shared meals together, studied together and had some fun together. I look forward to spending time with these students each week and hope that more youth will continue to join us in the future.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday March 7 and 14th no bible study, I will be out of town visiting family over spring break.

Sunday March 21: 10:30 A.M. Bible study followed by lunch and bowling.

Sunday March 28: 10:30 A.M. Bible study.

“DON’T LET ANYBODY LOOK DOWN ON YOU BECAUSE YOU ARE YOUNG, BUT SET AN EXAMPLE FOR OTHER BELIEVERS IN SPEECH, IN LIFE, IN LOVE, IN FAITH AND IN PURITY.” (1 TIMOTHY 4:12)

SEARCH UPDATE

We want to update you on the progress God has given to the Search Committee;

January 26, 2010 – we received 12 packets for 10 ministries. This means there were 2 clergy couples in the batch. This is not a “Senior/Associate” ministry, but a “Co-Pastorate”, where the couple split the responsibilities of the ministry.

- 1 was not currently available as they were in negotiations with a congregation
- 1 indicated we were not geographically where they needed to be
- 1 of the couples was not available to reply

This left us with 8 candidates (7 ministries) to review when we met Feb. 1st. We identified our top 4 candidates.

February 3, 2010 – We sent out our profile & promotional packet to those four candidates & invited them into the search process for this congregation. Additionally we requested sermon samples from them for our review.

- 1 candidate removed themselves from our search process upon receipt of our congregational profile & promotional packet as they did not believe God was calling them to this ministry.

February 11, 2010 – We received our first sermon sample back & subsequently scheduled a telephone interview with that ministry on February 27th.

As of this last week we were informed that another of the top four is currently in the interview phase with two other congregations & will therefore not proceed with us at this time. One is prayerfully considering if Canton is where they are being led by God. The fourth ministry engaged in the previously scheduled telephone interview with the committee yesterday. This was a spiritually uplifting experience. We are all prayerfully proceeding & the committee is cautiously optimistic. While we cannot share much, if anything, at this time please continue to pray for God’s direction in this process.

NEEDS TO BE SAID

It seems in some ways you are slipping back into your old ways. Before we had our first stewardship campaign in November, 2008, it was common for certain people to give their entire offering to specified things such as scholarship, missions, the bus fund, etc.. After the campaign during 2009 we actually exceeded the 2009 budget. But once again we are slipping behind on the general budget, 8,000 so far this year, while the specified giving is exceeding previous giving. This can happen for several reasons but primarily for one, people are unhappy with or do not feel included in what is happening in the congregation.

During the service Sunday we went over lack of communication by having Mrs. Morgan give a report on the Search Committee and their status. They are in the stage where they are interviewing their first candidate. Kevin Morgan gave an update of where property is and what is going on. Property is finishing up the work on Fellowship Hall and should have it completed in two weeks. They are starting the remodel in the office and should have it accomplished by the third week in April. He explained that these were necessary because of several reasons. First, fire codes now require us to move all materials out of areas with furnaces in them. Two, Fellowship Hall was becoming shabby looking and needed a sprucing up. Three, the office has not been updated since the 1970’s and the electrical system is out of date and could not pass a fire inspection if one was held. Also with our communications system it is necessary to have the proper system in place. So we not only get basic new infrastructure but new cosmetics and acoustic work as well.

Also it was presented that the budget is not what many had thought it was. First, the Ingersoll fund for the year is only going to be 4,000 short not the 20,000 that had been rumored, due to stock market crash. The Finance Committee and the board approved getting a line of credit to do the remodel construction that will become a loan at the conclusion. Presently we have spent 10,000 on Fellowship Hall. All of the other items that make this budget larger than last year are one time items, Search Committee expenses, new minister moving expenses, etc...

If your problem has been having an Interim Minister or Pastor Bob in particular that was also handled during the service, see Pastor’s Ponderings.

As I have stressed since I got here., your stewardship covenant with God should go to the general fund where the board can apportion it in the best way. Any designated offerings should be “above and beyond giving.”

Remember the breakdown that my friend Rev. James Price came up with: 10% to the general fund, 10% to alms [above and beyond giving], 10% to savings, and blow the rest of it on yourself.

Meddled enough. But think about what you are doing.

Pastor Bob

At Graham Hosp.— 210 W. Walnut
Gail Bernard Elaine Pollitt

At Graham Ext.-210 W. Walnut *In the Hospital*
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 *In Nursing Facilities*
Linnie Murphy

At Sunset: 129 S. First
Dorothy Eskridge Helen Grose Delores Spiva

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

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

Others with special needs:

Steve Anthony (brother of Jean Edwards); Cody Armstrong (nephew of Marty Hasty, in Afghanistan until June); Ron Bankes; Laurie Bankroff (niece of Marge Danner); Brett Beam; Bob Bowman; Millicent Cox; Mary Cox Fidler; Judy Lawrence (sister of Mark Reneau); Ron Parrish; Martha Sepich (sister of Mark Reneau); Gregory Williams (great-grandson of Betty Conrad); 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!!

Pastor's Class

The class for the new members will convene this Saturday, March 6 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 102. It will also meet on March 13th and 27th. This is a class for those who would like to become new members of the congregation. It will cover Disciples theology, history and ethics. All of this in preparation for Palm Sunday and Easter.

Young Adults News

We are "getting the band back together" on Sunday, March 21 at 4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. We'll be ordering pizza and enjoying a relaxed evening with families and friends.

Watch for it on the church web site and on facebook.



*We extend our sincere sympathy to John Burkhead and family, at the death of his brother, **Bobby Burkhead**; and to the friends and family of long-time member **Sarabelle Rigg**, who passed away last Monday morning. We also extend our sincere sympathy to Doreen Shaw and her family at the sudden death of her sister, **Elaine Beldin** Monday morning.*

Next CWF Meeting



The next meeting of the CWF will be this Thursday, March 4, 2010, at noon. This will be a salad luncheon, and all women are encouraged to bring a salad to share.

The Leader is Vinnie Cufaude, the devotions will be provided by Vinnie Cufaude, and the hostesses will be Doris Svob and Peg McWhorter.



PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

February 26, 2010

First Christian Church
215 W. Elm St.
Canton, IL 61520

Dear Congregation:

It is with very mixed feelings that I write this letter of resignation. After much discussion and debate with both my wife and cardiologist we have reached a date that is acceptable to all of us. My last day will be April 30, 2010. This is in accordance with our covenant which allows me to resign with sixty days notice. This also allows us to get through the Lenten season and Easter with a couple of extra Sundays for leave taking.

First it is not fair to any congregation to leave them during any major season; Lenten/Easter, Christmas are examples. Second after the way your last two ministries have ended in unhappy leave takings, it is important that you see that a ministerial leave taking can be a celebration. This is important that we do this last thing together.

You have come a long way in the last 19 months. You have re-established yourselves. Most of the interim work is completed. Congratulations.

The region is aware of my decision and approves of it on the basis that I have given. They are also preparing alternatives for you to complete the interim time.

Blessings,

Pastor Bob

Rev. R.W. Rueter

P.S. This does not mean that I will stop my interim ministry or work I see that needs doing during the remainder of my time with you.

DAILY BIBLE STUDY 03-03-2010 THROUGH 03-20-2010

Book	Monday	Tuesday	Wed'day	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MAL			3:8-18	HEB 1:1-14	2:1-4	2:5-13
LUKE	9:57-62	10:1-6	10:7-12	10:13-20	10:21-24	10:25-37
HEB	2:14-18; 3:1-11	3:12-19	4:1-11	4:12-16	5:1-10	5:11—6:8