First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

227 East Main Street Morehead, KY 40351 606-784-4836 fccmky@gmail.com www.fccmorehead.org



The Echo

Volume 13, Issue 4

April 2013

New Directory Photos!

Doug Hoff will be available after church on April 7 during our First Sunday Lunch to take photos for the new 2013-2014 FCC Directory! This will also be a good opportunity to update any outdated contact info for you and your family members.

Congregational Meeting

Our annual Congregational Meeting will take place on Sunday, May 5, immediately after church. It will be at this time that we vote on the new members of the diaconate, as well as our executive board members. The nomination list will be made available in the April 21 and 28 bulletins, the May ECHO, and on the church website.

Women's Retreat

The ladies who have been participating in the <u>Power of a Focused Heart</u> study group will take a retreat on April 5-6 to Carter Caves State Park. Anyone interested can contact Sarah Chaney or Dayna Seelig

While the pastor's away...

During Pastor Molly's sabbatical, we have a wonderful lineup of individuals to serve in the pulpit. Roger Fischer will serve on April 7 in character as the Apostle Thomas. Rev. Erin Cash from Lexington Theological Seminary will join us on April 14. And Paul Semisch will deliver the message on both April 21 and the 28. We thank these wonderful people for the service they will be doing for our church!

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NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

By the time you read this, I will have started my month long sabbatical. When I was hired, my contract included a one month sabbatical to be taken at the end of each three years of service. We've not held to that too strictly, because of circumstances and things going on here at church; this is my second sabbatical and I am coming up on 8 years here at the end of April.

Eight years. In some ways, it seems like Leon and I have always been a part of the church family; in other ways, it feels like no time at all. So much has changed here at First: the building, the Faith Garden and labyrinth, the Fellowship Hall, the redecorated sanctuary, the electronic presence, to name a few. Our family has changed as well: we've lost some dear saints, and gained so many new and special members. There has been a true outpouring of Spirit and love throughout this place, and it has spread so many places to so many others. We are still self defined as a church with a heart for outreach and inclusion; I believe that has expanded to include a church that also has a heart for prayer, discipleship, and a slowing down of our lives to hear and wait upon God.

My time away is much needed, and I have built in several occasions for study, prayer, meditation, and guidance. When I was ordained, a dear friend gave me a plaque that read: *If the shepherd is not fed, she starts eating the sheep.* I cannot give away what I do not have, and with hope I will return renewed and refreshed. My darling husband deserves this time as well; he has been so very understanding and wonderful about vacations cut short due to church deaths, late night calls, and a tired wife. This will be a time for both of us to reflect and look at our future.

You are left, of course, in capable hands. Too many people to thank, but I would be remiss in not mentioning Jami Hornbuckle, Marge Thomas, Sarah Chaney, Diana Knoll, Mary Claire Williams, and Ryan Brown. Behave while we are away one from another, and remember you are loved. You will be in my prayers, as I hope we will be in yours.



The FCC Youth had a great trip to the Life Care Center on St. Patrick's Day. We had ten youth and three adults that went to the nursing home to pass out St. Patrick's Day cards. I know it was a great experience for everyone. The residents really enjoyed seeing us. A couple of them said, "look at these beautiful children" as we walked through the halls. I think it really brightened their day to see the smiling faces of the FCC youth. Thank you to Jackie Bailey, Etta Jane McCarty, and Connie Kibbey for providing food for the meeting, helping chaperone the trip to the Life Care Center, and all the other help you provided like cleaning up and helping with charades.

The April meetings will take place on April the 14th. The younger youth will meet immediately after church until 3:00 p.m. Thank you to Diana and Roger Fischer for providing the food for this meeting. The older youth (middle/high) will meet from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. This will be a very important meeting because we will be planning, preparing, and rehearsing for Youth Sunday, which will be May the 12th. I am very excited about Youth Sunday. You won't want to miss it!

Please let me know if you would be willing to provide dinner for the older youth meeting. It would be for 5 to 7 people.

Thank you!

Mary Claire Williams FCC Youth Group Leader

JOY!

I was recently invited to serve as a guest conductor for a high school honor choir in West Virginia. If we could have had a theme for the day, it would have been joy. We talked about never letting anyone steal your joy or make you feel silly for having it (and showing it), often it is only because deep down they wish that they had the courage to do the same. When people have joy unashamedly it is contagious; others can't help but have joy as well! Throughout the day we continued to return to this idea. When it was time for the concert and we were in the auditorium watching the middle school honor choir perform there was one student in the choir that was....well, he stood out. He had come up with motions that went along with the words to all of the songs and you could tell that he had probably been told not to do them, but it was like his body could not contain itself. The high school girls behind me started giggling and I turned around (with my sternest teacher face on) to scold them, but I was immediately humbled by what I saw. They had tears streaming down their faces and were laughing with delight, they said "Ms. Knoll, he has joy!". I smiled, and said "yes, and it gives you joy too, doesn't it?" As we sing for Easter, "Joy to the World", let us remember what it is to have raw joy and that in living openly with joy we share and give it to others in everything we do.

Mack Building Fund

In memory of Paul Ousley
Jim and Emma Lou Gross
Joyce Hart
Fran Helphinstine
Jack and Scharline Whidden
Sandy and John Gullett
In memory of Glenn and Betty Walke
Ron and Dianna Walke
In memory of Oran and Evelyn Teater
Ron and Dianna Walke

Living Memorial Fund

In memory of Agnes Williams

Mrs. J. Roger Caudill

Burl and Linda Hogge

Roger and Jackie Russell

Whitaker Bank

Fran Helphinstine

Etta Jane McCarty

Glenn and Eva Johnston

In memory of Tommy Griffiths' Mother

Tommy & Neva Griffith Glenn & Eva Johnston In memory of Paul Oulsey Glenn & Eva Johnston Etta Jane McCarty

April Birthdays

8-Sam Rogers

12- Julia Hawkins

15- Jasarae McKinney

17– Phillip Swim

22- Dan Thomas

23– Blake Fannin

23- Emily Tingle Settles

25- Joe Barrett

28- Maggie Alden

28- Erin Wehr



DEACONS: PLEASE remember to stop by the bulletin board downstairs, and see if there is a time you can volunteer to serve during the months of May, June, and July. Thanks

April Deacons

Guy Griffin, Debbie Griffin, Fran Helphinstine, Stacy Baker, Catherine Rogers, Josh Akers.

Looking to give someone a birthday of anniversary gift? Why not send a kid to camp in honor of that person or persons? Cards to send to the recipient are available in the church office and the donations are \$25 each.

BOARD MEETING April 22, 2013 (the fourth Monday)

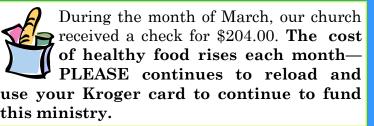
Executive Board @ 6:30pm Full Board @7:00pm

Food Pantry

Until further notice, we will only be donating cereal to the food pantry.

For those who enjoy reading the sermon Bible passages for the month, they are as follows:

April 7: John 20: 19-31 (Roger Fischer) April 14: Acts 9: 1-20 (Rev. Erin Cash) April 21: John 10: 22-30 (Paul Semisch) April 28: John 13: 31-35 (Paul Semisch)



Treasurer's Report

Income for the first four Sunday's in March \$9432.00

The average monthly income needed to pay the church expenses is \$8392.84

Join us for our First Sunday Lunch on April 7. There is no cost, but you may make a donation if so led. PIZZA AND SALAD—yum!!



Our next One Pot Topic will take place at 5pm on Sunday, April 28 in the Conference Room. Alana Scott will lead a discussion on the philosophical context of the New Testament.

People's Clinic Lunch

It is time once again for FCC to provide lunch for the staff of the People's Clinic. A signup sheet is located on the church bulletin board for individuals to take a Tuesday to provide food. It is suggested that you pair up or get into groups. For more information, you can see Dayna Seelig before or after church.

Elders on Duty

During the month of April Pastor Molly will be on sabbatical. This is a time for her to rest, study, and refresh herself spiritually. We are pleased for her to have this opportunity. While she is gone, if there are any concerns or joys you would like to share please contact the church office and speak with Ryan or you may call Marge Thomas anytime. Each week the two elders serving at the table will be on call that week--you may also contact one of them. If you have any questions or concerns just let us know.

Elders on call:

April 7-13: Jack Whidden and Yvonne Baldwin April 14-20: Sarah Chaney and Anne Buckner April 21-27: Alana Scott and Yvonne Baldwin April 28-May 4: David and Darlene Perkins

Meditation Group

Our bi-weekly meditation group continues to meet in the month of April. If you are interested, please contact Paul Semisch at pauljsemisch@hotmail.com or 356-4324. The days that meditation will meet in March are Thursday, April 4, and Thursday, April 18, both at 7pm.

Make our garden grow...

We will have garden work days on April 12 and 13. If you wish to help serve in this capacity, please contact Yvonne Baldwin.

Special Offerings

We have many opportunities for Special Offerings this coming month. On March 31 and April 7 will be Easter offerings. Then on April 14, we will have our 5th Sunday Offering to Christian Care Communities due to the fact that Easter fell on a fifth Sunday.

There will be no Feldenkrais in the month of April. Stay tuned to hear about more opportunities to participate in this group in the future.

Dead Sea Scrolls trip

Alana Scott will be taking a group to Cincinnati on Saturday, April 13 to view a display of the Dead Sea Scrolls. If you are interested in accompanying her on this trip please contact her at alanacainscott?@moreheadstate.edu. It promises to be a fun and educational trip.

Children's Church

If you would like to facilitate children's church in May, please see Ryan at church or call the church office. We have wonderful curriculum that the kids seem to really enjoy, and the adults have enjoyed teaching!

Church Work Day

Our spring church work day will take place Saturday, April 27th from 9am to noon. Coffee, juice, and donuts provided. Please bring your buckets, cleaners, rags, and anything else needed to help make the church building sparkle!

So many of us love our First Sunday Lunches—they are a great time to meet, fellowship, and make a little extra money for the coffers. BUT, we need folks to be thinking ahead: can you and some others plan a month's lunch? AND, will you be one of the great ones who stay and clean up??? Extra credit in our hearts, beloved..



The kids had a great time hunting

















April 2013

9:45 Sunday School 10:45 Service: Paul Semisch preaching 5pm One Pot Topic with	9:45 Sunday School 10:45 Service: Paul Semisch preaching	14 5th Sunday Offering 9:45 Sunday School 10:45 Service: Erin Cash preaching Nominating Committee Noon: Younger Youth 4pm: Older Youth	7 Easter Offering 9:45 Sunday school 10:45 Service: Roger Fischer preaching Noon: First Sunday Lunch 2-5pm Fellowship Hall reserved		Sun
29 BOARD MEET- INGS: 6:30 Executive 7:00 Full Board	22 5:30 Feldenkrais	15 5:30 Feldenkrais	∞	1 OFFICE CLOSED	Mon
30 5:30 Yoga	23 5:30 Yoga	16 5:30 Yoga	9 5:30 Yoga	2 5:30 Yoga 7pm Nomi- nating Com- mittee	Tue
	24 5:30 Bells 7pm Choir	17 5:30 Bells 7:00 Choir 7:00 Fellowship Hall reserved	10 5:30 Bells 7pm Choir	3 5:30 Bells 7pm Choir	Wed
	25 5:30 Yoga	18 5:30 Yoga 7pm Meditation	11 5:30 Yoga	4 5:30 Yoga 7pm Meditation	Thu
	26	19	12 Garden Work Days	5 Women's retreat at Carter Caves	Fri
	27 9am to noon Church work day	20	13 Trip to Cincinnati— Dead Sea Scrolls	6	Sat

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Rev. Molly Smothers, Minister
Diana Knoll, Choir
Mary Claire Williams, Youth
Ryan Brown, Secretary
Chia-Ling Hsieh, Organist
Michael Young, Pianist
Sarah Chaney, Bell Choir
Lindsey Morris, Nursery
Katie Messer, Nursery
Darrin Roe, Custodian

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