



The Echo

Volume 16 Issue 12

December 2016

**First
Christian
Church
(Disciples of Christ)**

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View

Advent & Christmas Opportunities

Saturday, December 3 - Hometown Holidays

5pm: Bell Choir at Whitaker Bank

5-7pm: Rowan County High Band at First Baptist Church

Sunday, December 4

Second Sunday of Advent - Youth Sunday

First Sunday Lunch honoring Rev. Merry Jones

Wrapped Christmas outreach gifts and food due.

2pm—"Messiah" - Morehead Community Chorus
at First Baptist Church

Wednesday, December 7

Poinsettia order slips due.

5pm: Women's Basketball Team will wrap Christmas gifts.

Sunday, December 11

Third Sunday of Advent—A Service of Lessons and Carols

After church: Christmas gifts delivered.

Sunday, December 18

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Tuesday, December 20

3pm: Youth Caroling

Saturday, December 24

10pm: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 25

10am: *A Taste of Christmas Morning*

The Deacons are hosting a special time of food and fellowship.

10:45am: Christmas Communion Service

MERRYMENTS



As we enter this time of Advent, we share in a time to preparing our hearts, our homes, our church, and our lives for the coming of the Christ. We know the birth is coming, but we intentionally observe a time of waiting: waiting with expectation for the promises of God's peace to be fulfilled; anticipating the hope of new life, not just in a baby, but in the realm of righteousness and justice for all; and seeking a future that will bring the joy of God's reconciling love into our world.



Rev. Merry Jones

In this season of Advent, FCC is experiencing a unique sense of waiting and expectation as the church continues its search for its next senior minister. The anticipation of the waiting is both exciting and difficult. Yet, in the mysterious timing of God's spirit, the efforts and discernment of the Search Committee are being matched with the discernment of some very special clergyperson who is, in this very moment, discerning a sense of calling to a new ministry in their lives as well. Waiting in hope, we continue to keep both sides of this process in our hearts and prayer.

In the meantime, my time with you is drawing to a close. Due to previous plans my husband and I have starting in January of 2017 because of his Sabbatical from Transylvania, Sunday, December 25 will be my last service with you. While the timing of my departure didn't match perfectly with a smooth transition into the hiring of your next senior minister, rest assured plans have been made for the church to move forward with ministerial assistance in the new year.

The following is my letter of resignation, which I offered to the Executive Board at their November 28 meeting. Behind the words on this page, however, my heart is full to overflowing with love for each one of you, and gratitude for the wonderful way you have welcomed me as part of your community of faith. You will always be in my thoughts and prayers, and I will eagerly be waiting and watching the progress you make as the pathway to your future journey of faith and ministry emerges. That said:

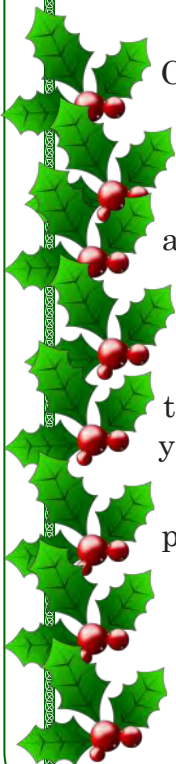
"It is with deep regret that I tender my resignation as Interim Minister at First Christian Church in Morehead. Per my conversations with the Executive Board, Christmas Sunday, December 25, 2016 will be my last official day, with the remainder of the month taken as vacation time.

Over the past 17 months, it has been my sincerest pleasure to serve the congregation and share in its witness to the community of Morehead, and beyond. It has been a true blessing getting to know, and coming to love, the members and staff of this congregation through worship, fellowship, and service.

As you continue the search for the church's next minister, it is my fervent prayer that the church will be able to find the ideal candidate whose gifts and talents will help lead you into your future.

May God bless you all and the future ministries and missions this church so profoundly believes in as their calling in service to Christ and his reconciling love.

With grateful appreciation, and "much obliged" to you all for your kind support,
Reverend Merry Jones, Interim Minister"



OUTREACH FOR THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS

Our youth went shopping for the Thanksgiving baskets last Sunday, November 20th. You may still help sponsor one of the ten baskets by putting your contributions in the offering plate or give to one of the outreach committee. Please include a note in the memo section or your check for Thanksgiving outreach. This year, we have 20 households that will receive Christmas from us. That includes coats, shoes, clothes and toys for the children, blankets, hats and scarves for the elderly as well as a food basket. Thanks to all of you who have signed up to purchase gifts.

Wrapped Christmas Outreach gifts and food are due December 4. Gifts will be delivered on December 11. Questions about FCC Outreach? Please ask one of our committee ~ Etta Jane McCarty, Cathy Hammond, Chris Prichard, Darlene Perkins, Connie Kibbey, Genny Jenkins, Matt Nutter, Alicia Carter, and Sarah Chaney. Thank you! Susan Thomas and Marge Thomas, Co-Chairs

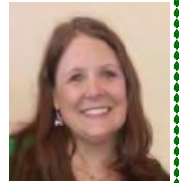


Chris Prichard

YOUTH GROUP

The youth had a great time shopping for the Thanksgiving baskets. It is very meaningful to them to be a part of our holiday outreach programs. They are very engaged and understand that there are many people in our community who appreciate our help during difficult times.

Thank you to Paul Semisch for working with us to put the baskets together at the Gateway Homeless Shelter. The ten baskets were given to families who recently transitioned out of the shelter. Thank you to Dianna Fischer, Kathryn Rogers, and Anita McNeal for driving and assisting with the youth. The Youth Christmas Program will take place on Sunday, December 4th during the Youth Sunday service. Please make plans to attend this service and support our youth. They have been working very hard to prepare. Thank you to the parents and grandparents for their assistance. A special thank you to Jackie Bailey for all of her help in preparing the service. The Youth will be caroling to some of our older members on Tuesday, December 20 at 3pm. We will send more details about this to parents through email as the date approaches. Our love and blessings to all this Christmas season. Mary Claire Williams and Chris Prichard , FCC Youth Co-Directors

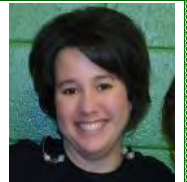


Mary Claire Williams



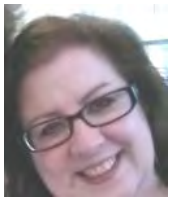
CHOIR AND BELLS

The music department is in full swing for the advent and holiday season! Please mark your calendars for Hometown Holidays on December 3rd. The Bell Choir will perform at Whitaker Bank from 5-6:00pm. There are also several students who are members of the Rowan County band programs who will be performing at First Baptist Church from 5-7pm. On December 4th, several church members and interns will be performing with the community Messiah which will take place at 2pm at First Baptist Church. On December 11th, we will have a Lessons and Carols service during our regular service time. The congregation is encouraged to make plans to attend and enjoy singing, solos, bells, and choir music during this special service. And we will have a lovely candlelight service for Christmas Eve at 10pm as well, with some guests and special music. I hope your Advent season is one of joy and peace.



Genny Jenkins

Genny Jenkins, Choir Director



Alana Scott

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Lately I have had the lyrics to Sheryl Crowe's tune "Every Day is a Winding Road" stuck in my head. You know how it is when that happens. You will be doing something else and then you want to sing a line of something. I decided to look up the lyrics to the whole song because going around singing "Every day is a winding road"—that's really the only part of I knew—was annoying me and everyone around me. Come to find out, the lyrics say (of course I'm paraphrasing) "Every day is a winding road, but I still get a little bit closer to feeling fine." As the holiday begins, we might feel like every day is a winding road but we are getting closer. Maybe we need to take a moment to stop and smell the cider and remember what the holiday is about, and that helps us get closer.

On the Journey Together (Even sometimes on the "Winding Road")

Alana Scott, President



~Thank You~



~Thank you so much for allowing the Girl's Golf Team to use the Fellowship Hall for our banquet.

Meghan Hammond, Sara Robinson, Carissa Wilson, Morgan Ensor, Sara Sheack

~Thank you to Susan Whidden for helping with the office work in Barbara's absence.

Your generosity and unselfish effort is appreciated very much.

Gratefully, FCC

~I want to thank the church and my church family for allowing Anthony, Miles and I to use the basement for our baby shower! I appreciate all the gifts, everyone that came, and everyone that was there in spirit! We are so blessed to have such an amazing church family! We cannot wait to raise Miles among such a loving and supportive congregation!

Love, Kaitlyn, Anthony and Miles Paschall

~To Joe Barrett: Thank you for all you did in shepherding and coordinating the Silent Auction this year. We appreciate your thoughtful and productive leadership.

Sincerely, FCC

Holiday Greetings

~We received kind holiday donations from Jane Holbrook & Sandy Gullett for Christmas baskets.



~We've recently received a note from Frank Bradford sending the congregation best wishes and holiday greetings. He sends his prayers and wishes to everyone.



TIME TO ORDER POINSETTIAS

We are ordering white poinsettias from the MSU Horticulture department. If you would like to make a donation or purchase a poinsettia *in memory of* or *in honor of* an individual, please give this slip to Barbara or leave in office with your order by

Wednesday, December 7.

You may use this form or call the office (606) 784-4836. Each poinsettia is \$10.

___A donation *or* ___A poinsettia

___In honor of *or* ___In memory of

For _____ Given by _____



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



1-Alta Blair
1-Eric Carter
2-Karen Ross
6-Larry Fannin
7-Jami Hornbuckle
22-Jeremy Skaggs
24-Jon Stigall
28-Kathryn Rogers
28-Kristi Skaggs

Happy Belated Birthday To Maggie Miles on November 10. FCC regrets the error.



First Christian Church has been issued a \$10.60 donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of *AmazonSmile* program activity between July 1 and September 30, 2016.

Living Memorial Fund
In Memory of
Margaret "Muff" Penix Scott
Jane Holbrook

Treasurer's Report

Income for October is **\$9,348.70**

Expenses for October are **\$11,429.30**



Adult Sunday School

Sunday School will be on hiatus during the holidays. We won't meet December 11th through January 1st. We will start back on January 8th.
Alana Scott, Leader

December Deacons

Genny Jenkins, Connie Kibbey,
Chris Prichard, DeWayne Carter, Alicia
Carter, Chase Barnett

December Elders

December 4 - Youth Sunday
December 11 - Joe Barrett & Paul Semisch
December 18 - Jami Hornbuckle & Larry Fannin
December 25 - Yvonne Baldwin

Silent Auction



Thank you to all who assisted with and participated in the silent auction. This fun event is to support general ministries.
Amount Raised: \$836



COMING UP

-Yoga will not meet again until the new year. For more information, please contact Leon Smothers.
-Adult Sunday School will be on hiatus during the holidays from Dec. 11 through Jan. 1. They will resume on Jan. 8.

Saturday, December 3—Hometown Holidays

-5-6:00pm: Bell Choir @ Whitaker Bank
-5-7:00pm: Rowan County Band @ First Baptist Church

Sunday, December 4 -Second Sunday of Advent. -Youth Sunday (The Youth will lead the worship service.) -First Sunday Lunch honoring Rev. Merry Jones. The church will provide chicken. The congregation is requested to bring sides and desserts. -Wrapped Christmas outreach gifts and food due.

Wednesday, December 7

-1:00pm: Poinsettia order slips due. (Order form page 4)
-5:00pm: Women's Basketball Team will wrap Christmas gifts.
-5:30pm: Bell Choir Rehearsal.
-7:00pm: Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, December 11. Third Sunday of Advent. A Service of Lessons and Carols

-12:00pm: Christmas gifts delivered.

Sunday, December 18. Fourth Sunday of Advent.

Tuesday, December 20. 3pm: Youth Caroling.



Saturday, December 24

10:00pm: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

Sunday, December 25 Christmas Sunday
-10:00am: *A Taste of Christmas Morning*, hosted by the Deacons, will offer a special time of food and fellowship. A festive menu of coffee, cider, coffee, and juice, along with cinnamon rolls, sausage balls, fruit and other finger foods. Please contact Alicia Carter if you can provide a beverage or a dish for this Christmas morning feast.

-10:45am: Christmas Communion Service

IN & AROUND FCC



Halloween






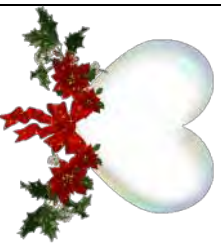
Thanksgiving



Advent



First Christian Church - December 2016

Sun	Mon							
Office Hours 8:30-1:00pm Monday-Thursday								
								
4 AVENT II Youth Sunday 9:45 Adult Sunday School 10:45 Worship Service 12:00 First Sunday Lunch -Wrapped Christmas Outreach gifts and food due	5	6		7 5:00 MSU Women's Basketball wrap gifts. 5:30 Bells 7:00 Choir	8	9 Office closed	10 Office closed	1 5-6pm Bell Choir @ Whitaker Bank. 5-7pm Rowan County Band @ First Baptist Church
11 ADVENT III No Adult Sunday School 10:45 A Service of Lessons and Carols 12pm Christmas gifts delivered	12	13		15	16 Office closed	17		
18 ADVENT IV No Adult Sunday School 10:45 Worship Service	19	20 3pm Youth Caroling 	21	22	23 Office closed	24 10pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service		
25 CHRISTMAS DAY 10:00 <i>A Taste of Christmas Morning (a special time of fellowship and food)</i> 10:45 Christmas Communion Service	26	27	28	29	30 Office closed			

Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

Merry Jones, Interim Minister
Genny Jenkins, Choir
Mary Claire Williams and
Chris Prichard, Youth
Barbara Marsh, Secretary
Sarah Chaney, Bell Choir
Kaitlyn Rhoden, Nursery
Darrin Roe, Custodian



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Our View Has Changed

Morehead State University's Adron Doran University Center renovation includes the demolition of the Enrollment Services Building next to our parking lot. ADUC will be doubled in size.

Lectionary Schedule

(Disciples of Christ)

Dec 4—Matthew 3:1-12

Dec 11—Matthew 11:2-11

Dec 18—Matthew 1:18-25

Dec 25—Luke 2:1-14

