

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

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The Echo

Volume 13, Issue 2

February 2013

Welcome and Thank You!

At the January board meeting, it was recommended by the executive board and unanimously passed by the full board for Mary Claire Williams to take on the role as younger youth director, as well as continuing her duties as the older youth director. We welcome her to the new position and thank her for her service.

Souper Bowl Lunch

On Sunday, February 3, we will have our annual Souper Bowl Lunch. Please see page 6 for more information concerning this luncheon.

Undie Sunday

During the month of February the Outreach committee will be collecting underwear for the Family Services of Rowan County Schools. On February 3rd and following, there will be hearts available at both doors with sizes needed for the collection. Everyone is asked to take a heart home as a reminder to pick up a donation; there will be baskets in the church on the other Sundays in February for you to place your purchased underwear. Thanks in advance!

Lenten Activities

See page 5 for more information concerning all the happenings going on during the Lenten season, including Ash Wednesday, Feldenkrais, the women's retreat, and more!

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NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

Quite a few of you have asked for a recap of the sermon from January 13th – the story of the baptism of Jesus and, most particularly, the blessing God pronounced on Jesus at that time. If you remember, we talked that Sunday about the work of Heinz Kohut (a psychologist who worked and wrote in the 1950's and 1960's) and his belief that the 'blessing' of a child was an essential component of a healthy identity.

Kohut named three parts of a blessing, which we then transposed to God's blessing on Jesus.

- 1) Kohut says that from very early on, a child needs their facial expressions and their babbling mirrored by someone else; it is a way they know they are being seen and heard. In other words: I SEE YOU.
- 2) Kohut says that a child needs several people in their life who will acknowledge and honour the possibilities and potential within them. In other words: I SEE THE POTENTIAL AND POWER OF GOD WITHIN YOU.
- 3) And most importantly, Kohut says, each child needs to feel that there is a place in this world where they are accepted and where they belong. In other words: YOU BELONG TO ME.

It was through the power of the Spirit that Jesus was able to hear and feel God's blessing. Even today – especially today – the church needs to be a place where people can hear and believe that blessing on their own life and then be able to pass it along to others. In America, February is filled with hearts and flowers and Cupids and pressure to speak love to another. Well, at First Christian we know we are to both speak and do love towards ourselves and others each day of our lives, in gratitude to God's amazing mercy and grace and in obedience to our calling as disciples of Jesus. Today, and every day, know this:

YOU ARE SEEN. YOU HAVE THE POWER OF GOD WITHIN YOU TO DO GREAT THINGS. YOU BELONG TO GOD, AND TO THIS CHURCH FAMILY.

Pass it on.....

Pastor Malley



Notes on the Youth

The **older youth** will be meeting on February 17th from 4:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner will be provided for the meeting. This month we will have guest speaker, Dr. Alana Scott. She will provide a history lesson to our group about the Dead Sea Scrolls. I promise you won't want to miss this meeting! Our group hopes to take a field trip to the Cincinnati Museum Center this spring to see the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit.

During our January meeting, we continued our discussion about our book, *Do Hard Things*. The book discusses five kinds of hard things that we talk about in our meetings. They are: 1) Doing things that are outside of your comfort zone, 2) Doing things that go beyond what is expected or required, 3) Doing things are too big to accomplish alone, 4) Doing things that don't earn an immediate payoff, 5) Doing things that challenge the cultural norm. We set goals for ourselves, and we will discuss our personal progress at the February meeting. Don't forget to read through page 85 before the next meeting. I am so proud of the "hard things" you are all doing. Keep up the "hard work" and remember we do NOT have low expectations for you at FCC!

I am very honored to be have the opportunity to work with the **younger youth** at FCC this spring. We are changing things up, and we will only be meeting once a month for a longer period of time. Our first meeting will take place on February 17th immediately after church until 3:00 p.m. We will discuss the Lenten Season and make plans for the upcoming months. Lunch will be provided.

Please let me know if you are interested in providing lunch or dinner for either youth group meeting.

— In Christ, Mary Claire Williams

From Diana Knoll, our new choir director

Well, our first month of 2013 in the choir has been a blast! We are growing, bonding, sharing musical moments, and having fun too! If you think you might like to try singing with us, we rehearse on Wednesdays at 7:00 and we meet on Sunday morning at 10:15. Our goal is to stay far enough ahead of ourselves that we have been practicing each anthem for three weeks before it is time to perform it. I also do my best to make recordings for everyone to practice with at home, they are mp3 files so you can listen on your computer, ipod, or even in the car. So, if you've been thinking about singing in the choir, **HERE'S YOUR SIGN!**

Living Memorial Fund

In memory of Jack Whidden's mother
Don and Alta Blair

Mack Building Fund

The gift that was listed in last month's ECHO in memory of Maude Clay was incorrect. The correct acknowledgement is in memory of Anna Clay.



Photo of Sam Rogers walking the Labyrinth.

February Birthdays

- 9- Peggie Reynolds
- 12- Brent Rogers
- 17- Glen Buckner
- 17- Betty Hall
- 18- Hedy Caldwell
- 18- Alicia Carter
- 20- Norm Lytle
- 24- Susan Thomas
- 26- Billie Jean Clayton
- 26- Haley Banks



Food Pantry

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

Our bi-weekly meditation group continues to meet in the month of February. If you are interested, please contact Paul Semisch at pauljsemisch@hotmail.com or 356-4324. The days that meditation will meet in February are Thursday, February 7, and Thursday, February 21, both at 7pm.

During the months of February and March, we need individuals to volunteer to facilitate children's church. If you would like to, please contact Ryan Brown at the church office.

February Deacons

Guy Griffin, Debbie Griffin, Joe Barrett, Roger Fischer, Brenda Combs, Charlene Bradford.

Looking to give someone a birthday or 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

February 25, 2013

Executive Board @ 6:30pm

Full Board @7:00pm

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

February 3 - Luke 4: 22-30

February 10- Luke 9: 28-36

February 17- **Luke 4: 1-13**

February 24- **Luke 13: 31-35**

Passages in purple denote Lenten scripture



During the month of January, our church received a check for \$256.98. Please remember to load your Kroger cards when you go to the grocery store!

Treasurer's Report

Income for the January:

\$9,831.35

*The average monthly income needed to pay the church expenses is **\$9,612.21***

Thanks to every woman, man, and child that helped with making the 2012 Advent season an success for First Christian Church.



Our next One Pot Topic will take place at 5pm on Sunday, February 24 in the Conference Room. Dr. Alana Scott will lead a discussion on the Islam religion.

Lenten Activities, Services, and Study Groups

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES will be held jointly with Faith Presbyterian at their church on February 13, 2013. Dinner will be at 6pm followed by a 7pm service. First Christian folks are asked to bring cornbread or dessert to add to Faith's meal of soup beans and salad.

Looking for a way to engage the Scriptures during Lent? Join us for *lectio divina* (literally, "divine reading") each Tuesday evening at 7pm, beginning February 12. *Lectio divina* is not a Bible study or lesson. It is a prayerful, reflective exploration and discussion of the Scriptures. We will focus on a specific Lenten Gospel text each week in order to understand how that text speaks to us and how it can be lived in our world today. Come and journey with us as we break open the Lenten Scriptures together! For more information, please contact Paul Semisch at [606-356-4324](tel:606-356-4324) or pauljsemisch@hotmail.com. The following is the schedule for scriptures to be covered:

February 12: Luke 4: 1-13
February 19: Luke 13: 31-35
February 26: Luke 13: 1-9
March 5: Luke 15: 11b-32
March 12: John 12: 1-8

We have an exciting (but not quite fleshed out) art opportunity that would be open for every single member of the church—from nursery on up. Be listening in the next couple of weeks for plans to have a Zen Doodling workshop early in March. This is a wonderful way to engage both sides of our brains in a spiritual way. Our hope is to have as many people as possible be a part of this; we will have the results hung around the church. Curious? Stay tuned for more information, coming soon.....

Feldenkrais: Be...Connect...Act
Mondays: 5:30 to 7:00pm
Feb. 4, 11, 18 March 4, 11, 18.

Are you looking for a Lenten class that will genuinely change the way you feel, think, and act? Do you want to feel more connected but less exhausted? Are you in transition and need to clarify what God is calling you to do? Maybe you simply want weekly quiet time.

If so, join us for this six-class series where we'll explore these questions together using gentle meditative movement that helps us to slow down, relax, and let go so we can more clearly listen for God in our daily lives. And then act with intention.

Please bring a box of cereal as a weekly donation. To register or ask questions, contact Maggie Miles at 776-4769 or HippieHollerFarm@gmail.com. Limit 10 people.

The Focused Heart Book Club is a group of ladies that will be studying the Beatitudes, and through reading and journaling will discuss and reflect on these sayings from Jesus. This book club will meet the following times and discuss the following pages of The Power of a Focused Heart by Mary Lou Redding:

- February 24 (at the Faith Presbyterian Church), From 12:30 to 1:30, Chapters 1 and 2
- March 10 (at First Christian Church), From 12:30 to 1:30, Chapters 3 and 4
- March 24 (at Faith Presbyterian Church) From 12:30 to 1:30, Chapters 5 and 6
- April 5 will be at Carter Caves State Park for an overnight retreat and discussion of Chapters 7 and 8.

If anyone needs a copy of the book please contact Susan Thomas at Coffee Tree Books.

Souper Bowl Lunch

Our annual Souper Bowl Lunch will be held Sunday, February 3rd, immediately after church in the fellowship hall. Deacons will provide homemade soup, drinks, and bread/crackers. You are asked to bring sandwiches, vegetable trays, side dishes or desserts.

By playing the Souper Bowl Board Game, you can support our church's presence in the community and have a chance to win door prizes: handmade artwork by Charlene Bradford, Debbie Griffin, and Melodie Hoff; and heirloom tomato plants. The grand prize is two tickets to an upcoming U.K. Men's Basketball game.

During the Epiphany season, we heard about change and heeding God's call. More than a fun event, the Souper Bowl Lunch represents a prime example of how our church has done just this. Started in 1989 as a gathering of Dan Thomas' Sunday School class, the lunch has grown and evolved over the past 24 years. The event has raised funds for various projects, including paying tuition for the mother of the family from Bosnia the church sponsored and buying a washer & dryer for a Habitat House.

Whether you are a 49'ers or Ravens fan—or don't understand football at all—join us for the great food, fellowship and fun. Play the board game to help support our church's continued mission in the community. Maybe sit with a different table than you usually do. Feel free to wear your football jerseys!



Can you imagine what it would be like to never give? Never to reach out, lend a hand, or give of oneself? Through Week of Compassion, we experience the joy of giving not only because it is a blessing, but also because our offerings literally change lives. By giving to those who suffer and are in need, we give back to God. God supplies the gifts and resources so that we can give back. After all, none of what we give is truly ours. Because all that we have—all that we have!—is God. We're simply giving back to God what God graciously gave us. God created a world where there is more than enough. In the sharing of our resources, we put our faith into action. We transform lives. We offer courageous compassion. Indeed, we are blessed with the opportunity to join with God in God's work in the world. Everyone has a gift to bring. And that gift—your gift—whatever it is, brings joy to our God.

Week of Compassion will take place February 17 and 24.

A Message from Christian Care Communities

Your church's gifts to Christian Care Communities totaling \$1,165.00 during 2012 demonstrated your concern for others. Thank you for this blessing to others! With partners like you, we anticipate the 2013 will be another great year of caring for others, the Older Adults we serve together all across Kentucky. Thank you again your support. God Bless!

There is a new address for Jean Hill:

7300 Dear Wester Dr.
Apartment 228
Kenwood, Ohio 45236

Phone: 513-745-0235

Jesus Our Savior Catholic Church will be hosting a lecture on "The Underground Railroad" on Wednesday, Feb. 6 at 7pm.

February 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>3 9:45 Sunday school 10:45 Service After service: Souper Bowl Lunch</p>	<p>4 5:30 Feldenkrais</p>	<p>5 5:30 Yoga</p>	<p>6 5:30 Bells 7pm Choir 7pm "The Underground Railroad" speaker series at JOS Catholic Church</p>	<p>7 5:30 Yoga 7pm Meditation group</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 Purchase undies to bring to Undie Sunday</p>
<p>10 9:45 Sunday School 10:45 Service</p>	<p>11 5:30 Feldenkrais</p>	<p>12 5:30 Yoga 7pm Lectio Divina</p>	<p>13 Ash Wednesday 6pm Dinner @ Faith 7pm Service @ Faith</p>	<p>14 5:30 Yoga</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 Purchase undies to bring to Undie Sunday</p>
<p>17 Lent 1—Week of Compassion 9:45 Sunday School 10:45 Service After church: Younger youth</p>	<p>18 5:30 Feldenkrais</p>	<p>19 5:30 Yoga 7pm Lectio Divina</p>	<p>20 5:30 Bells 7pm Choir</p>	<p>21 7pm Meditation group</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 Purchase undies to bring to Undie Sunday</p>
<p>24 Lent 2—Week of Compassion 9:45 Sunday School 10:45 Service 12:30 Women's book club meets at Faith Presbyterian</p>	<p>25 BOARD MEETING-INGS: 6:30 Executive 7:00 Full Board</p>	<p>26 5:30 Yoga 7pm Lectio Divina</p>	<p>27 5:30 Bells 7pm Choir</p>	<p>28 5:30 Yoga</p>		

First Christian Church
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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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Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man: a 3-year-old Lee Chaney paints the Nativity Scene used in church this year.