

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

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# The Echo

Volume 14, Issue 2

February 2014

## We welcome our newest members!



**Carrie Frazier and Kathy New**  
Pictured with their kids: Joshua Pack, Riley Pack,  
and Alex New

575 Pleasant Valley Road, Morehead

mr.jack6@hotmail.com

606-624-6171—Carrie

606-939-1583—Kathy

Joined January 12, 2014

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### Souper Bowl Lunch

The church will have its annual Souper Bowl lunch on February 2 following church service. The deacons will provide soup and drink. Others are asked to bring salads and desserts. The cost is free, but please consider making a donation in the amount you would spend eating at a restaurant.

## NOTES FROM THE PASTOR:

Sometimes they come in needing money. Oh, occasionally there is the shyster, or someone who is looking for a quick bit of cash without any strings attached. But mostly - well, mostly the ones who come have run out of money before they've run out of month. They are the working poor. They've been sent by St Claire, or a doctor, because even the \$4 co-pay is too much.

Sometimes they come in needing help. Oh, from time to time there is an occasional person who is trying to use a minister as a free psychologist - and they disappear when they realize that seeing me doesn't count as an 'official' visit for insurance purposes. But mostly, they see the church as a place of respite, a literal sanctuary if you will. And often their questions are larger than anything that a 30 minute visit can handle: why did their brother have to die? Why can't they be happy? Where is God in all this?

Sometimes they come in needing answers. Quick, formulaic answers. They want to know why they can't hear God, and are angered when I respond that when you've not spoken to Someone in years and years, it's not that They haven't been speaking - it may be that you don't recognize Their voice. They want absolution. They want assurance that they are okay, that God has not forgotten or forsaken them.

And sometimes they just come in and sit. They look at me as if I can somehow produce a magic Eight-Ball and make it all right. Like I can somehow say or do the one thing that will change their direction, or illuminate their path, or.....I don't know, just CHANGE stuff.

You know, we do what we can. And sometimes when they come to me needing hope, I give them the last little shred I can muster; because it's no different on the other side of the pulpit. Where the difference lies, I guess, is that I have been in this Relationship long enough to know to wait; to ask when I need help; to yell if I need to; to kick chairs when necessary; to not think of myself as a failure as a person when I've made a big mistake; to see the 'they' and know that it could just as easily be me tomorrow.

So - someone in your circle is walking on thin ice. We are not called to do God's job - we are called to do God's work. Sit with someone when you can; listen without trying to respond with your own story; pray without ceasing; give without counting the cost; and whatever you do, say 'thanks. help. wow.' at least once a day to the One who loves you just the way you are, and loves you way too much to let you stay that way.

Let's be careful out there.

*Pastor Malley*



## NEWS FROM DIANA KNOLL:

The following individuals will be joining the FCC choir as interns:

Bailey Windland is a sophomore Dentistry major from Paintsville, KY. She participated in Honor Choir in High School at Johnson Central High School and has a long history of experience in church, music, and theatre. She is interested in learning how to lead a church choir and hopes to help people that are shy to find their way with music and the arts they way she has. Her goals include finishing her degree at MSU and opening a special needs theatre.

Nick Wolford is a first year Music Education major from Jackson, OH. He was in choir in high school and knew very early that he wanted to become a choir director; he hopes to inspire passion in his students and his community. He has volunteered as a music leader at his home church and is eager to find a church to call home in Morehead. He is excited to take advantage of the opportunities for leadership and experience that are a part of this job. In the future he hopes to work as a music teacher in the public schools and possibly work toward a Master's degree or possibly even a PhD!

In January, the youth discussed a lesson about the Epiphany. We talked about the gifts we have to offer in honor of Jesus and some of the gifts we discussed were self control, kindness, self worth, and compassion. We made gratitude jars for the youth to take home and use this year. The concept is to write down on a slip of paper moments throughout the year that bring you joy, blessings, when you trusted God to take control, goals you have accomplished, etc. This should be a family activity, so parents, please encourage your whole family to participate. In December, take the slips of paper out of the jar to remind your family of all the great things that happened in 2014. This is a great activity, and I'm excited about doing it in my own home. We have extra jars if anyone would like to participate.

The February meeting will take place on February 23<sup>rd</sup> immediately after service until 3:00 p.m. Thank you to Thelma Brown for providing lunch for the youth in February. We really appreciate it!

Mary Claire Williams  
Youth Group Leader



During the month of January, our church received a check for \$325.45. **The cost of healthy food rises each month—PLEASE continues to reload and use your Kroger card to continue to fund this ministry.**

### 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
- 28– Haley Banks



### *Affectionately Yours, Screwtape*

#### THE DEVIL AND C.S. LEWIS

- Did God give each person free will?
- How has the idea of a Satan changed throughout time?
- Can good truly overcome evil?

Consider these questions and more as we journey inside the mind of C.S. Lewis in this introductory review of one of the great Christian literary works of the 20th century.

*The Screwtape Letters*, a thin volume of imaginative letters between two devils, has given millions of readers insight into conquering everyday spiritual struggles.

Join us as we explore the Biblical, historical, and cultural depictions of Satan and hell and gain a deeper understanding of the nature of temptation and redemption.

Whether you're a devoted C.S. Lewis fan or just reading his work for the first time, you're sure to develop a new appreciation for *The Screwtape Letters* through this modern look at his timeless classic.

Join us on Sundays, February 9-23 at 5pm in the Conference Room. You must provide your own copy of *The Screwtape Letters*.



During the month of February, we will have our Undie Sundays. Pick up a paper heart located at either entrance to the sanctuary to select the type, size, and gender you are purchasing. If you have any questions, you may see Mike or Dayna Seelig.

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

- February 2: Micah 6: 1-8
- February 9: Matthew 5: 13-20
- February 16: 1 Corinthians 3: 1-9
- February 23: Matthew 5: 38-48



If you would like a copy of any service, see Roger Fischer. We have a plethora of blank DVD's!

### Treasurer's Report

Income for January

**6,591.22**

*The average income needed to pay the church expenses is \$10,051.15*

### February Deacons

Stacy Baker, Deb Eastwood, Paul Semisch, Mike Seelig, Dayna Seelig, and Fran Helphinstine.

### SNO-GO

In the event that inclement weather forces us to cancel events going on at the church, we will publish those closings on WKYT's Sno-Go crawl and online at <http://www.wkyt.com/closings>. We will also post a message on the website.

### Children's Church

We thank Susan Thomas for volunteering her time to facilitate Children's Church in February. If anyone would like to sign up to hold it in March or any other month, please let Ryan know.

The meditation group will meet in February on the 13th and 27th at 7pm in the sanctuary.

### Lectio Divina

As has been the case for the past couple of years, during Lent, Paul Semisch will facilitate a Lectio Divina discussion on Thursday evenings at 7pm, beginning with March 13th. The discussion will be covering the scripture for the following church service:

- March 13: John 3: 1-17
- March 20: John 4: 5-42
- March 27: John 9: 1-41
- April 3: John 11: 1-45
- April 10: Matthew 21: 1-11

REMINDER: Girl Scout troop 544 meets here weekly. They will be on hand WITH COOKIES FOR SALE during the Souper Bowl meal on Sunday. Bring your check books! Yum!

OUR ELDERS WILL MEET ON MARCH 9th, beginning at 4 pm. They will be joined by Rev. Greg Alexander, the General Minister of our Region. He will share news of our denomination, and some insights on the role of the elder in the 21st century.

LENT IS AROUND THE CORNER—Ash Wednesday is March 5th. It is our practice to join in worship with Faith Presbyterian for this special service. This year we will be meeting at their church. There will be a bean soup supper served at 6 pm (FCC members are asked to bring desserts), followed by worship at 7 pm. Pastor Molly will bring a short message, followed by the imposition of ashes. Mark your calendars now.

An ad hoc committee was formed within the Board to administer the distribution of money derived from interest of the Inez Faith Humphries fund. According to the records set up at the time of establishment, the money can be used for various needs or programs of the church, including the Operational account. The volunteers are Jim Gross, David Perkins, Joe Barrett, Catherine Rogers, Leon Smothers, Phillip Swim, and Yvonne Baldwin.

For 70 years, Week of Compassion has made a difference in the lives of people and communities around the world by pooling resources, leveraging funds and serving through partnerships. Gifts given through this special offering empower people in poverty to learn a trade, raise their own food, and grow in faith. United in Christ, we help to provide access to healthy food, good education, excellent health care, and shelter after devastating storms. Each time a gift is given a connection is made that builds a bridge or tears down walls. Each resource shared answers God's call to love our neighbor, because in Christ Jesus, we are one family. Christ's work in the world healed the sick, fed the hungry and brought hope to communities burdened by challenges. As the Church, one body in Christ, our call is to carry on in Jesus' name. For as long as one sister or brother is in need, we are all in need. We Are One. Please give generously. Week of Compassion offering will be Feb. 16-23.

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN. Hard to believe, but the Nominating Committee is getting ready to work on a slate to be presented to the Board in March, and to be voted on by the entire congregation at the annual meeting following church on May 4th. Please be in prayer for them as they do this most important work of the church. Also, please take time to be in prayer yourself, as the committee seeks suggestion from the congregation. A slip is available on page 6; there will be baskets at the doors beginning February 2nd for you to place the slips. Committee members are: Adrian Swain, Holly Pollock, Jack Whidden, Mike Seelig, Catherin Rogers, and Susan Thomas.

Our apologies for leaving off a recipient of funds from our Living Memorial Fund disbursements in last month's ECHO. A total of \$1000 was awarded to the 32nd Avenue Jubilee Center and their Deferred Action for Children Arrivals program.

We thank Claude and Oveda Messer, Fran Helphinstine, and BJ Stidom for their gifts to the Living Memorial Fund in memory of Ruby Vencill.

We thank Fran Helphinstine for her gift to the Living Memorial Fund in memory of James Reynolds.

We thank Marge and Dan Thomas for their gift to the Mack Fund in memory of Bernie Harrison.



January prayer slip burning



Fellowship at the First Sunday Lunch



Youth group on a snowy Sunday!



First Christian Church  
MOREHEAD • KENTUCKY

The FCC Nominating Committee is working on the 2014-2017 rotation of deacons and filling the role of the 2014-16 Vice President. They ask you to join them in prayer and discernment as this process unfolds. You are encouraged to complete the nomination slip below and return it in the offering plate or to the church office.

The slate will be presented to the board at the March board meeting for approval. Slate will then be published in the ECHO, the bulletin and on the website. The slate will be voted upon by the congregation at the annual meeting in May.

Suggestion(s) for Vice President: \_\_\_\_\_

Suggestion(s) for Deacon: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Only church members may be nominated.*

## February 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<p>2 9:45 Sunday school 10:45 Service Souper Bowl lunch</p>	<p>3 3-5 Girl Scout 544</p>	<p>4 5:30 Yoga 7:00 <u>Sitiches</u></p>	<p>5 5:30 Bells 7pm Choir</p>	<p>6 5:30 Yoga</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9 9:45 Sunday School 10:45 Service 5pm Sewtape Group</p>	<p>10 3-5 Girl Scouts 544 6-8 Fellowship Hall reserves</p>	<p>11 5:30 Yoga</p>	<p>12 5:30 Bells 7pm Choir</p>	<p>13 5:30 Yoga 7:00 Meditation</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16 9:45 Sunday School 10:45 Service 5pm Sewtape Group</p>	<p>17 3-5 Girl Scouts 544</p>	<p>18 5:30 Yoga</p>	<p>19 5:30 Bells 7pm Choir</p>	<p>20 5:30 Yoga</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 9:45 Sunday School 10:45 Service Noon-3pm: Youth 5pm Sewtape Group</p>	<p>24 3-5 Girl Scouts 544 6:30 Executive Board 7:00 Full Board</p>	<p>25 5:30 Yoga</p>	<p>26 5:30 Bells 7pm Choir</p>	<p>27 5:30 Yoga 7:00 Meditation</p>	<p>28</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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**Welcome ...**

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world . . . striving to become a people of grace and welcome to all God's children though differing in race, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, nationality, ethnicity, marital status, physical or mental ability, political stance or theological perspective.