

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

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**Contents**

Pg. 2 Pastor Molly  
Pg. 3 Mary Claire Williams  
Diana Knoll  
Pg. 4 Announcements  
Pg. 5 Thank yous  
Pg. 6 Pictures  
Pg. 7 Calendar



# The Echo

Volume 14, Issue 1

January 2013

## Happening in January...

Our First Sunday Lunch will start back on January 5th. See page 4 for more information.

The prayer committee will be burning prayer slips on January 5th after the church service. The burning will be in the labyrinth garden.

Each year we have a tradition of giving out "Epiphany stars." These are simply paper stars with different words written on them, all from a list of Spirit gifts found in Scripture. These words are to give us something to think about – journey with – throughout the year and see how God uses them in our lives. You might find that the star you receive is a trait or gift that is already exhibited in your life, or it may be a brand new or unfamiliar gift. The stars are located at each entrance to the sanctuary.

Yoga will end their December hiatus and will begin meeting again on Thursday, January 2.

The meditation group will start back up beginning with Thursday, January 9 at 7pm.

Pastor Molly will be facilitating a book study on Tuesday, January 14, 21, and 28 at 7pm. It will be covering the book Stitches: A Handbook on Meaning, Hope and Despair. All 18 and older are welcome.

## NOTES FROM THE PASTOR:

First of all, thank you.

Thank you to our wonderful group of musicians who kept us in the Advent spirit with their gifts. Unfortunately, the choir was not able to share all of their prepared music with us due to dangerous weather, and the bell choir also missed a chance to play at another church. But the work was there, and is appreciated.

Thank you to our youth, and the adults who lead them. The young people were quite active over the last four or five weeks: they shopped for the Thanksgiving baskets, led us in an entire worship service, and caroled to many of our folks who can't always get out in cold weather. How great is that?

Thank you to our Decorator Elf Yvonne Baldwin for our lovely sanctuary!

Thank you to our elves – too many to name. As always, the outreach crew goes into overdrive this time of year. So hats off to Mike and Dayna Seelig, Marge Thomas, Sarah Chaney and all the shoppers, wrappers, collators, delivers, and cooks!

Thank you our staff. We are a small but mighty bunch, and when times are tight, it's good to know we've got each other's backs: Ryan, Sarah, Chia-ling, Diana, Darrin, Mary Claire, Michael, Katie and Lindsey.

Thanks to our board, especially the executive board, for all their hard work this and every month.

And finally, a personal thank you to each of you. Leon and I were so touched by the Christmas gift given by the members, not to mention a few very yummy donations to our family (we have the BEST cooks ever in this church).

And second of all.....we are already in the midst of planning a new year. There are Bible studies, meditation and Feldenkrais groups, book discussions, Pastor's class, music to learn for Lent, and a few folks who have already indicated their desire to join us officially in the year 2014.

Proud to be serving with you,

*Pastor Mally* 

It was a year ago this month that Board President, Jami Hornbuckle, approached me about working with the youth at FCC. It was a decision that did not take much thought on my part, because, little did Jami know, I had been praying about it for a very long time. I love working with children of all ages, and I feel very strongly that is where God wants me to be. This was supposed to be temporary position, until we figured out a more permanent solution for the youth program. By May, I knew without even being told that this would no longer be temporary. It was permanent, and I'm so thankful for the opportunity to work with the youth. I am so blessed to have each one of them in my life. Whether it is getting a hug on Sunday, leading us in worship, or receiving a sweet note from one of them, they bring so much joy to my life. They bring so much joy to ALL of our lives. I would like to thank all of the parents, grandparents, and the entire congregation for all of their help and support. I am excited to see how the youth program will continue to grow in love in 2014

We will continue to meet on the last Sunday of each month beginning on January 26<sup>th</sup>. We will meet immediately after the service until 3:00 p.m. Thank you to Chris Prichard for providing us with lunch.

—Mary Claire Williams

As we move out of December and into the new year, Pastor Molly reminds us to keep Christmas with us all through the year. —Diana Knoll

"Keep Christmas With You"  
from "Christmas Eve on Sesame Street"

When Christmas time is over and presents put away, don't be sad  
There'll be so much to treasure about this Christmas day and the fun we've had  
So may happy feelings to celebrate with you  
And, oh, the good times hurry by so fast,  
But even when it's over there's something you can do to make Christmas last  
Keep Christmas with you  
All through the year,  
When Christmas is over,  
You can keep it near.  
Think of this Christmas day  
When Christmas is far away.  
Keep Christmas with you  
All through the year,  
When Christmas is over,  
Save some Christmas cheer.  
These precious moments,  
Hold them very dear  
And keep Christmas with you  
All through the year.  
Christmas means the spirit of giving  
Peace and joy to you,  
The goodness of loving,  
The gladness of living;  
These are Christmas too.  
So, keep Christmas with you  
All through the year,  
When Christmas is over,  
Save some Christmas cheer.  
These precious moments,  
Hold them very dear  
And keep Christmas with you  
All through the year.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uiPI5c1KPx4>



During the month of December, our church received a check for \$256. **The cost of healthy food rises each month—PLEASE continues to reload and use your Kroger card to continue to fund this ministry.**

### January Birthdays

- 1– Wilma Grote
- 4– Jane Holbrook
- 5– Frank Bradford
- 6– Nelson Grote
- 7– Anita McNeal
- 8– Harry Mayhew
- 14– Jean Battson
- 16– Glenn Johnston
- 23– Mark Etherton
- 24– Holly Pollock
- 25– Tommy Griffith
- 26– Don Blair
- 27– Ginny Etherton
- 27– Mickey Reffitt



In 1979, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) established a fund to raise capital, through memorial gifts and donations, which would generate interest to be used for outreach and service. In the last ten years alone, over \$160,000 has been distributed to aid organizations and ministries through the Living Memorial Fund.

The committee, charged with allocation of funds for the end of calendar year 2013, met in November. We are pleased that the following charitable organizations will receive discernments in the first quarter of 2014:

- FCC Choir for new chairs: \$1000
- Remote Area Medical: \$2500
- People's Clinic: \$2500
- South Baldwin Christian Church (DOC): \$1100
- Christian Social Services: \$2,000
- Luther Luckett Christian Church (DOC): \$1500
- Gateway Homeless Shelter: \$3000
- MSU Corps/Build-a-Bed: \$3000
- Community Soup Kitchen: \$3500
- FCC Human Concerns: \$2000

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

- January 5: Paul Semisch preaching
- January 12: Matthew 3: 13-17
- January 19: John 1: 29-42
- January 26: Matthew 4: 12-23



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 the first four Sunday's in December

**\$9,341.75**

*The average income needed to pay the church expenses is \$10,021.50*

***Note that church did not meet on December 8th.***

### January Deacons

Mary Claire Williams, Joe Barrett, Susan Thomas, Carmen Swim, Phillip Swim, and Holly Pollock.

### 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 Jackie Bailey for volunteering her time to facilitate Children's Church in January. If anyone would like to sign up to hold it in February or any other month, please let Ryan know.

We will resume our **First Sunday Lunch** schedule on January 5. The MSU golf team will not be here to set out the tables, so we will need volunteers. The church will provide fried chicken and drinks, everyone else is asked to bring a salad, dessert, or vegetable. We will also be burning prayer slips in the labyrinth garden.

Pastor Molly will be taking some time off after the first of the year. She will be back in the office on January 8. Thanks to Paul Semisch for preaching in her stead on January 5.

I wanted to thank everyone for the wonderful outpouring of Thanksgiving baskets that you and your congregation supplied for the annual drive. We ended up with 127 baskets. The distribution day was rainy and dreary, but the people in our community, who received the baskets, weathered the day with sunny smiles and were very thankful and appreciative of the much-needed food. Please thank your congregation for their continued support of such a blessing to the needy in our community.

Bev Gilliam (Christian Social Services)

Members of First Christian Church,

On behalf of the Gateway Homeless Coalition, I would like to thank you so much for your donation of \$3,000 to our shelter from the Living Memorial Fund! We are preparing for the holidays here at GHC---decorating the shelter, preparing for our annual Christmas dinner for shelter residents and making sure our residents know that they have a safe, warm and dry place to spend the holidays. Thank you for everything you do to help make our ministry possible---your generosity is very much appreciated! We wish you peace, joy, and lots of wonderful time spent with loved ones during the Christmas season!

With gratitude,  
Marilyn Smith  
Executive Director

**New Contact Info:**  
Jean Hoff  
917 Churchill Circle  
Charleston, WV 25314  
304-982-5779

To my church family,

I want to thank you for such a wonderful Christmas present. As my wife, Jessica, and I gear up for the arrival of little Leland, it is nice to know that we are loved by so many people. The Kroger gift card will be so useful in purchasing items we need for our baby.

Thanks, again!

Ryan Brown

### **Mack Building Fund**

Ron and Dianna Walke gave in memory of the following: Sarah Esther Allen, Troy Burgess, and Paul Ousley.

Glen and Anne Buckner donated in memory of the following: Paul J and Mabel Reynolds, Otto and Sara Carr, Mrs. Anna C. Clay, and Mrs. Troy Burgess.

### **Living Memorial Fund**

Fran Helphinstine gave in memory of:

Sarah Chaney's Aunt May  
Ewell & Ed Scott's Father  
Bernard Harrison

Dr. Mark Holbrook gave in memory of:  
Agnes Williams

Glenn & Eva Johnston gave in memory of:  
Bernard Harrison

David & Darlene Perkins gave in memory of:  
Bernard Harrison

# 'Tis the Season...



...to Be Jolly!

## January 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>5 9:45 Sunday school 10:45 Service First Sunday Lunch Burning of Prayer Slips</p>	<p>6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pastor Molly Gone</p>	<p>7 5:30 Yoga</p>	<p>8 5:30 Bells 6:45 Choir</p>	<p>9 5:30 Yoga 7:00 Meditation</p>	<p>10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pastor Molly Gone</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 9:45 Sunday School 10:45 Service</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 5:30 Yoga 7:00 "Stitches"</p>	<p>15 5:30 Bells 6:45pm Choir</p>	<p>16 5:30 Yoga</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 9:45 Sunday School 10:45 Service</p>	<p>20 OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>21 5:30 Yoga 7:00 "Stitches"</p>	<p>22 5:30 Bells 6:45pm Choir</p>	<p>23 5:30 Yoga 7:00 Meditation</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 9:45 Sunday School 10:45 Service Noon-3pm: Youth</p>	<p>27 6:30 Executive Board 7:00 Full Board</p>	<p>28 5:30 Yoga 7:00 "Stitches"</p>	<p>29 5:30 Bells 6:45pm Choir</p>	<p>30 5:30 Yoga</p>	<p>31</p>	

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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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The FCC Youth after their Advent service on December 15th.