

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



The Echo

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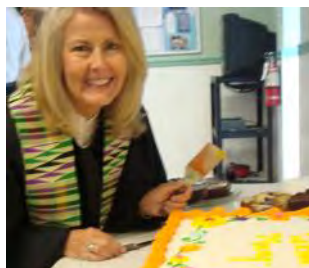
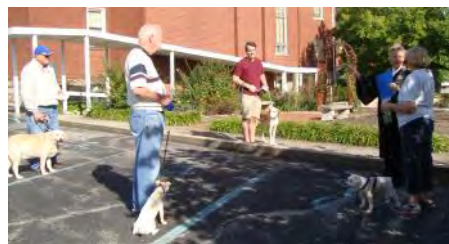
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January 2016

Thanks for a great 2015!

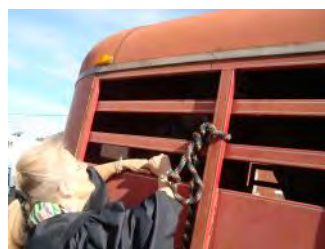


We know that
all things work
together for
good to them
that love God.



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Many hands make
light work.



MERRYMENTS

Happy Newness! Many of us have new gifts from under the Christmas tree. Perhaps we've met some new family members or friends who have come into the circle of our lives since last year. Maybe we are anticipating or starting new jobs professionally, new semesters, or new relationships. Some of us might be making new resolutions for exercising more, eating healthier, being more prompt, keeping a lid on our frustrations or tempers, finding new ways to resist the old temptations that plague our lives and hamper our lifestyles, the list is endless. In the meantime, we will all have the challenge of correctly writing the new date this New Year ushers in: 2016.

2016. 2016. 2016. Even as I practice typing it, it still looks odd. It will take some getting used to. While we are generally prepared for this annual calendar challenge, are we as prepared for the challenge of newness in our religious and spiritual journeys which await us in 2016? Such an awareness can also seem odd or take some time getting used to, or maybe we haven't even thought about it in those terms, but each new year, indeed, each new day, brings with it new gifts of life, new ways to make a difference, new goals to reach, new blessings to give and receive.

For unto us, a new gift of love has been given to us in the child which has been born, bringing a glorious hope to ponder in our hearts: that this year, this day, this hour, what we do and who we are can be changed. God's saving grace has come anew into our lives. The effects of this holy revelation will certainly take some getting used to and even be a challenge to pay attention to, but through faith, if we have eyes and ears to see and hear, just might bring true and everlasting changes to our lives.

Happy Newness in 2016!

Rev. Merry Jones

MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Congregational Profile was completed and submitted to Regional Minister, Greg Alexander, before Christmas. He complimented the committee on the depth and of the self-study and the overall quality of the document. He also complimented FCC on the strength and vision of its outreach and other ongoing programs. He will meet with the Committee on January 12 and share portfolios of current candidates. Although the size of the candidate pool varies and is currently lower than demand, he is confident FCC can attract several viable candidates. As always, the Committee asks the continuing prayers of the congregation as we move through this important process.

Yvonne Baldwin, Chairperson

YOUTH GROUP

The FCC Youth were very busy in December. They provided a beautiful Advent Service for the congregation. A special thanks to Mark Etherton who wrote the service and helped with rehearsals. Thank you to Jack and Susan Whidden and Catherine Rogers for their help with the props, and Jackie Bailey for her help with costumes. Also, thank you to all the parents for making arrangements for rehearsals and practicing with the youth at home. The service had a beautiful message that we all have gifts to offer for the glory of God.

During December, the Youth enjoyed a show at the Morehead State University Star Theater. We watched "Seasons of Light" which educates the audience about the origins of different holiday traditions followed by a Christmas laser light show. Thank you to Molly and Leon Smothers for the donation of the gift certificate before they left this summer. We had a great time!

On December 22nd, the Youth went caroling to Cave Run Manor and homebound elders. We started this tradition a couple of years ago, and it is always a very special day to spread love and Christmas cheer. Thank you to Etta Jane McCarty for providing a delicious meal, and thank you to Abby Hammond for helping with transportation.

The January meeting will take place on Sunday, January 24th immediately after the service. If you would like to help provide the meal for January, please contact Mary Claire or Chris. We also need volunteers to teach Children's Church in the New Year. Thank you for all of your support to the FCC Youth. We look forward to another great year of growth through service and discipleship.

Peace and Blessings, **Mary Claire Williams and Chris Prichard** FCC Co-Youth Directors

CHOIR and BELL CHOIR NOTES

The choir and bell choir would like to thank everyone for your support through the holiday season. We are looking forward to continuing to bring music for worship in the new year. Planning for the upcoming months has begun and we are excited as we begin the new year with new music. Regular practice will resume on January 6th.

Happy New Year everyone!

Genny Jenkins, Choir Director

Choir

Leeann Akers	Donna Graves	Catherine Rogers
Jeff Brown	Genny Jenkins	Alana Scott
Sarah Chaney	Chas Jenkins	Reagan Stamper
Ira Creasman	Jorian Johnson	Lalah Ware
Charlie Day	Natalie Mineer	Mitch Wilson
Ashlynn Denney	Chris Prichard	

Bell Choir Members

Sarah Chaney, Leader
Jeff Brown
Alicia Carter
Ethan Jenkins
Genny Jenkins, Piano
Connie Kibbey
Elizabeth Reffitt
Alana Scott

Thank You From FCC

Thank you to **Kathy New and Roger Fischer** for editing of our worship services. The DVDs they create are broadcast on Sunday mornings on Time Warner Cable, Chanel 5 at 9:02am. Thank you to **Leeann Akers** who is our new Facebook guru. Check out the page at facebook.com/fccmorehead.

Thank you to **Mike Seelig and Paul Semisch** for meeting with Shayla Menville for the Faith Today article in The Morehead News in October.

Thank You From Merry

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the very unexpected Christmas gift I received in the mail from the congregation. Your thoughtfulness and generosity are overwhelming. I appreciate not only the gift itself, but the spirit it was "wrapped in" and the unconditional love it represented. The patience and forbearance the church has shown during my "leave of absence" has been amazing. It has been a pleasure and a joy to watch, from the distance of my "confinement," the many ministries and missions you so beautifully and successfully shared throughout the holidays. With your understanding, and the doctors instructions, I have had the time to heal and begin the process of an expected full recovery. At this point, the plan is for me to rejoin you, starting Monday on Jan. 4th. It goes without saying, I have been waiting for this day for almost two months. See you then!

Thank you all for the food, flowers, and cards. There is no way to express our grief at the loss of our grandbaby, but the kindness and love from our church family made it more bearable.
Steven and Donna Graves

Lectionary Schedule (The Disciples of Christ lectionary schedule is being used.)

Jan. 3: John 1: (1-9) 10-18
Jan. 10: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Jan. 17: John 2: 1-11
Jan. 24: Luke 4: 14-21
Jan. 31: Luke 4: 21-30



Treasurer's Report

Income for
December
is
\$8,015.00

The average income needed to pay the church expenses is
\$10,295.73

January Deacons

Phillip Swim
Carmen Swim
Connie Kibbey
Kathy New
Carrie Frazier
Matt Nutter

Thanksgiving & Christmas Outreach

Reflecting on all the efforts that have gone into the Thanksgiving and Christmas Outreach, there are several groups of people that we wish to thank which include children; youth leaders; donors; buyers of clothing, toys, food, and household goods; those who made copies and lists for the buyers; those who prepared and served food for the MSU women's basketball team who wrapped and packaged gifts; those who sorted and bagged for distribution to the families; and those who personally delivered gifts. Thank you also to the Family Resource Center Directors who identified families in need. Finally it takes a whole church working together to meet the needs of the families. Thank you for your participation. Dayna and Mike Seelig

MACK FUND

In Memory of

Jack Bizzel, Harry Mayhew, & Peggy Reynolds

Ron and Di Walke

YOUTH THANK YOU

The youth would like to thank everyone in the FCC family for their support this year. We have had a great year full of fun, service, and growth. We appreciate all the love and support.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the FCC Youth Group!

FCC Youth Group Members

Keyairah Bailey, Brian Carter, Draven Hall, Meghan Hammond, Chaz Jenkins, Ethan Jenkins, Jon Jenkins, Annabelle McNeal, Lilah McNeal, Alex New, Josh Pack, Riley Pack, Makayla Reynolds, Sam Rogers, Olivia Skaggs, Wiley Tanner, Ellie Williams.

When you shop at AmazonSmile, a donation of 0.5% of the purchase price is made to First Christian Church. Bookmark the

link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/61-0865444>

and

support us every time you shop.



January Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1- Wilma Grote | 23- Mark Etherton |
| 2- Steven Graves | 24- Holly Pollock |
| 4- Jane Holbrook | 25- Tommy Griffith |
| 5- Frank Bradford | 26- Don Blair |
| 6- Nelson Grote | 27- Ginny Etherton |
| 7- Anita McNeal | 27- Riley Pack |
| 14- Jean Battson | 27- Mickey Reffitt |
| 16- Glenn Johnston | |



January Elders

Jan. 3 Alana Scott and Susan Thomas

Jan. 10 Alana Scott and Yvonne Baldwin

Jan. 17 Paul Semisch and Jami Hornbuckle

Jan. 24 Yvonne Baldwin and Alana Scott

Jan. 31 Jami Hornbuckle and Larry Fannin

We Have Moved

Gail & Charlie Tingle
1408 Clubhouse Lane
Mount Sterling, KY 40353

Adult Sunday School Resumes

On January 3

Please join the Alana Scott at 9:45am (upstairs) with the Amy-Jill Levine series on the Old



Testament. Twenty-four



Amy-Hill Levine

lectures are included with titles such as "Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar", "Covenant and the Law", and "Babylonian Exile". The Old Testament, or Tanakh, was written in ancient Israel over 1,000 years by many authors. What can this book teach us about the ancient Israelites? What does our faith find in new scholarly understanding? As scripture or as the most influential piece of literature ever written, this book is a source of constant wonder and intrigue.

COMING UP IN 2016

Sunday, January 3—9:45am Adult Sunday School—*The Old Testament*.

10:45am Worship Service—Paul Semisch will deliver the message "One Little Light." First Sunday Brunch. Please bring your favorite breakfast dishes. Hosted by Connie Kibbey & Chris Prichard.

Tuesdays/Thursdays—5:30pm. Yoga

Wednesday, January 6—5:30/7pm. Bell Choir and Choir rehearsal resumes.

Tuesday, January 12—4:45pm. Search Committee meeting.

Wednesday, January 13—10am: Morehead Ministerial Association

Sunday, January 24—12-3pm: Youth Meeting

Monday, January 25—6:15/7pm: Executive/Full Boards.

Sundays in February. Undie Sundays for Family Resource Centers.

Sunday, February 7—12-2pm. First Sunday Lunch Souper Bowl hosted by Deacons.

Wednesday, February 10—Ash Wednesday.



Bell Choir—Grange City Christian —11.29.15



MSU Women's Basketball Team 12.9.15



Bell Choir—US Bank—12.5.15



MSU Women's Basketball Team 12.9.15



Thanksgiving Outreach



Youth Deliver Thanksgiving Baskets 11.22.15



Youth Sunday
12.13.15



Youth Caroling 12.22.15



Christmas Outreach 12.9.15



If you have not signed up to support our church, enter this number 11559, (FCC, Morehead). A portion of your purchases will be donated to FCC for outreach programs. Thank you! Go to www.kroger/communityrewards.com to refresh your membership or to sign up.



Thanksgiving Shopping Trip

First Christian Church - January 2016 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Office Hours Monday-Thursday	8:30-1:00 pm					
					1 Happy New Year	2
3 9:45 Adult Sunday School. 10:45 Worship Service. First Sunday Lunch	4 Merry's back in the office.	5 5:30 Yoga	6 Season of Epiphany Begins 5:30 Bells 7:00 Choir	7 5:30 Yoga	8 Office closed	9
10 9:45 Adult Sunday School 10:45 Worship Service	11	12 4:45 Search Committee Meeting 5:30 Yoga	13 5:30 Bells 7:00 Choir	14 5:30 Yoga	15 Office closed	16
17 9:45 Adult Sunday School 10:45 Worship Service	18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	19 5:30 Yoga	20 5:30 Bells 7:00 Choir	21 5:30 Yoga	22 Office closed	23
24 9:45 Adult Sunday School 10:45 Worship Service 12-3:00 Youth Meeting	25 6:15 Executive Board Meeting 7pm Full Board	26 5:30 Yoga	27 5:30 Bells 7:00 Choir	28 5:30 Yoga	29 Office closed	30
31 9:45 Adult Sunday School 10:45 Worship Service						

Electronic giving doesn't take vacations. If you can't make it to church due to travel or other commitments, we encourage you to automate your regular donations. The church relies on the consistent financial support of the congregation and electronic giving offers an easy way to give on a recurring basis. To have a form mailed, please contact the church office.



First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

Merry Jones, Interim Minister

Genny Jenkins, Choir
Mary Claire Williams and
Chris Prichard, Youth
Barbara Marsh, Secretary
Chialing Hsieh, Organist
Sarah Chaney, Bell Choir
Kaitlyn Rhoden, Nursery
Darrin Roe, Custodian

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Thank You from

Gateway Homeless Coalition, Inc.

Thank you for the wonderful Thanksgiving food baskets provided by your church! Special thanks to the youth who assembled the baskets and delivered them to the shelter!

This is a time of the year in which we pause and give thanks for the gifts, both big and small, in our lives. We are grateful for all those who give so generously of their time and resources to ensure that we can continue to do our work here at Gateway House.

Thank you so much for your incredible generosity and concern for those we serve. Your kindness is not taken for granted.

Peace,

Marilyn Smith, Executive Director