

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

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Volume 15 Issue 5

The Echo

May 2015

Welcome New Members

April 12, 2015



Vicki and Rodney Gould

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Joined April 2015
March 20 (Vicki); March 11 (Rodney)

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CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MAY 3

Immediately after church this Sunday, there will be a vote on the slate of officers and new deacons for the year 2015-2016, with installation to follow on June 28.

Officers for 2015-2016

President: Paul Semisch; Vice President: Alana Scott;
Secretary: Fran Helphinstine; Treasurer: Joe Barrett

Diaconate Class of 2015-2018

Returning: Fran Helphinstine,
Maggie Miles, Mary Claire Williams
New: Leeann Akers, Chase Barnett, Carrie Frazier, Donna Graves, Steven Graves, Kathy New, Chris Prichard

NOTES FROM THE PASTOR:

Several folks have asked that I provide a list of favorite authors/books that I've discovered so far along my journey.

Of course, any reading program needs to include daily Scripture reading. I am not a fan of 'starting at the beginning'; all 66 books were not written in the order they are placed. Start with the Gospels (Mark, then Luke, then Matthew, then John). BUT, please read all 66.

+Marcus Borg: Almost anything by him is well written, but The Heart of Christianity remains his best (in my opinion). I would start with that.

+Frederick Buechner: Not a surprise to anyone who knows me! In his eighties now, this Presbyterian minister has a long list of publications, both fiction and non-fiction. I've not read any of his fiction, though it is remarkably well received and reviewed. Include in your reading A Room Called Remember and Wishful Thinking.

+Anne Lamott: Again, not a surprise. Beware, her language is sometimes not G-rated, but her insights and thoughts are well worth the time. She has also written both fiction and non-fiction – I've read everything she's produced and learned from it all. Start with Traveling Mercies and Small Victories. Her book Bird by Bird is a wonderful help for writers.

+Eugene Peterson: Just read everything you can get your hands on. Especially Eat This Book and Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places.

+Kathleen Norris, CS Lewis, Parker Palmer, Dorothy Bass, Ann Weems, Leslie Weatherhead, Elaine Pagels, Fred Craddock, Thomas Merton, William Sloane Coffin, Thich Nhat Hanh, Henri Nouwen, Nora Gallagher, Margaret N Ralph, and about 150 more.

And for those who would like to try a different devotional book or two:

A Year with Jesus and Living The Message Eugene Peterson

Going Through the Year Thomas Merton

Listening To Your Life Frederick Buechner

Strength for the Journey Peter Gomes

I also subscribe to several blogs that offer daily/weekly food for thought, but remember to be 'as wise as serpents and as gentle as doves' (as Jesus reminds us in Matthew) when perusing them.



YOUTH DIRECTORS

The youth meeting on April 26th was spent planning and preparing for our upcoming Youth Sunday service. A very special thanks to Marge Thomas and Susan Alden for providing a delicious pasta meal for the youth at our meeting!

Also another big “thank you” to our church family who helped the youth raise over \$400 with our noisy offering for S.T.A.R!

Youth Sunday will take place on May 17th. Everyone please come out and support our youth as they lead us in this very special service!

Peace and Blessings,

Chris Prichard & Mary Claire Williams

Co-Directors of Youth

CHOIR NOTES

This month’s column is very difficult to write. I have only been with FCC for a little over a year, but I feel the loss of Molly and Leon Smothers as if we’d been friends since the cradle. Pastor Molly is not only an amazing pastor, but she’s an amazing musician. That makes my job just about as wonderful as it can be – she’s not only been my leader, but also my partner as we’ve put together the worship experiences for this past year. And Leon is the picture of the ideal church choir member. He comes on time, works hard, is dependable, and brings not only his talent, but his energy and wisdom to our group. And somewhere in there I made some true friends for life. Not just people I work with, but people I have come to love, respect, and admire.

I know that we will be fine, life goes on, change is inevitable, and God has a plan – and I believe those statements to be true and I trust in that. But along with all of those statements comes the hard truth that it’s hard. And we will miss them so terribly.

Shalom, my friends.

Genny Jenkins, Choir Director

We are now receiving money from Kroger on a quarterly basis. And **thank you** for your continued use of your **Kroger** card for First Christian Church. The previous quarter's amount is \$421.21.



May 3: John 15: 1-8
 May 10: John 15: 9-17
 May 17: Youth Sunday
 May 24: Acts 2: 1-11
 May 31: Matthew 25: 34-45



May Birthdays

3 Sarah Chaney
 4 Keyairah Bailey
 8 Deb Eastwood
 11 Mike Seelig
 11 Dianna Fischer
 11 Tim Thornberry
 12 Kathy New
 16 Diana Walke



20 Beth Ousley
 21 Toni Hobbs
 23 Curt Hammond
 26 Ned Breschel
 29 Faith Fannin
 29 Dennis McKay
 29 Charlene Bradford
 31 Al Evans

Treasurer's Report

Income for March is
\$10,666.18.

The average income needed to pay the church expenses is \$10,215.02.

May Deacons

Connie Kibbey, Dayna Seelig, Mike Seelig, Mitch Wilson, Phillip Swim, and Catherine Rogers.

COMING UP IN 2015

May 3—Congregational Meeting, First Sunday Lunch, and reception honoring Pastor Molly and Leon. Please bring a salad or vegetable. The church will provide the meat and dessert.

May 10—Graduation slips due.

May 17—Youth Sunday/honoring graduates.

May 24—Pentecost. Please wear **red**.

May 25—Bake Sale at 10am.

May 31—Pastor Molly's last Sunday.

Prayer Ministry is a group of church members who've made the commitment to be intentional about praying for others, our church, and specific concerns that are placed in the Prayer Chalice. All requests are confidential. All requests are kept private and confidential. If you feel God is nudging you toward exploring a deeper life of prayer, and you need a flexible program to participate more intentionally in church life, talk with Maggie Miles in person or by text (606-776-4769), or any member of the Prayer Ministry team.

When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to First Christian Church. Bookmark the link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/61-0865444> and support us every



Mack Fund

A donation memory of

Elizabeth Anderson

was made by Joyce Hart.

Donation

A donation in memory of

Peggie Reynolds

was made by Margaret Scott.

Graduate Honor Form

Name _____ School Attended _____

Degree/Achievement Earned _____ Future plans (if known) _____

How graduate is connected with FCC _____

*Please hand this slip into the office by May 10th. Graduates will be honored during the church service of May 17th. We honor those graduating from high school, college, graduate, and technical school.

Dear Members of the FCC Family

We are beginning a period of transition here at FCC. As we prepare to say goodbye to Pastor Molly, we are also beginning the process of moving forward in the search for a new pastor. Times of transition can be exciting and filled with new possibilities, but they can also be times of uncertainty and anxiety about the future. We want to keep you as informed as possible as we begin and move through the transition process.

We will have a celebration meal during our May First Sunday lunch to honor both Pastor Molly and Leon after the worship on Sunday, May 3rd. Pastor Molly's letter to the congregation indicated that her last Sunday in the pulpit will be May 31st. We plan to honor her and Leon during that worship service as well.

We are in the process of forming a Search Committee (or Pulpit Committee) in accordance with our church's bylaws. We have asked our deacons and elders to pray and select among themselves representatives who will serve on the committee. We have also asked representatives of other committees, e.g., Worship Committee, Executive Committee to participate since they will be working closely with both the interim and permanent pastors. Our bylaws state that we are limited to five to seven members on the Search Committee, and the membership of this committee will need to be approved by the full Board before they begin their work.

Rev. Dr. Greg Alexander, Regional Minister of the Disciples of Christ for churches in Kentucky, will meet with our Search Committee in early May to begin discussion on the appointment of an interim pastor and the process for searching for a new pastor. The Search Committee will be in conversation with Rev. Alexander throughout this process as he will be providing guidance and direction. We anticipate that an interim pastor will be ready to serve FCC immediately after Pastor Molly's departure.

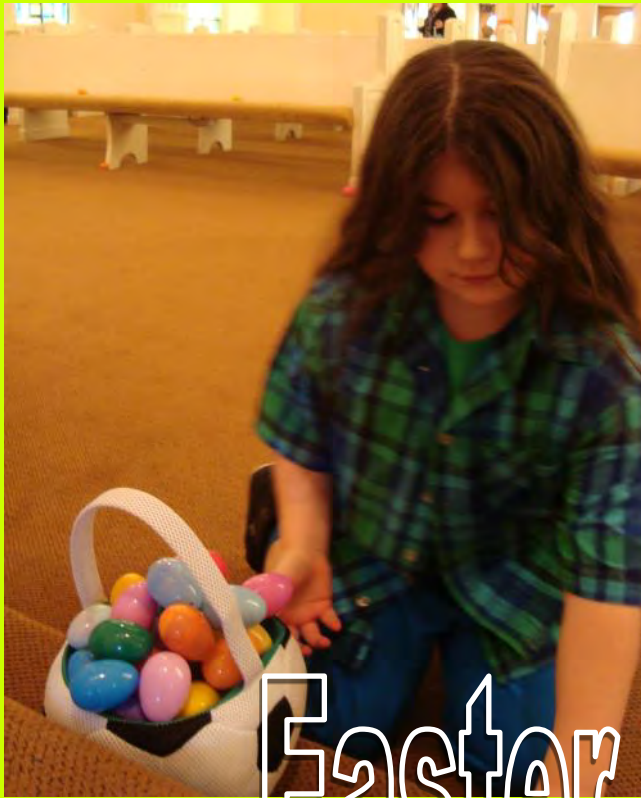
We humbly request your prayers and patience. We are asking every member of our congregation to be very intentional about entering into prayer and remaining in prayer throughout this process---for our church family, for the Search Committee, for our interim minister, for our future pastor, and for Pastor Molly and Leon. We ask, too, for your patience as this process unfolds. Our goal is to remain open to the Spirit's guidance and to ensure that every discussion and decision is made in a prayerful and reflective manner. We trust that we can work through any problems or challenges which may be encountered.

We will continue to communicate with you as events unfold.

Peace,

Sarah Chaney, President
Paul Semisch, Vice-President

April 23, 2015



Easter Egg Hunt



BAKE SALE

The church will once again hold a bake sale during the Memorial day parade Monday, May 25th, beginning at 10am.

Please donate baked items (priced) or water to sell— then stay to see the parade and visit with folks!



May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:45 Sunday School 10:45 Service Congregational Mtg. First Sunday Lunch Reception honoring the Smothers	4	5 5:30 Yoga	6 5:30 Bells 7:00 Choir	7 5:30 Yoga	8	9
10 9:45 Sunday School 10:45 Service Graduation slips due	11	12 5:30 Yoga	13 5:30 Bells 7:00 Choir	14 5:30 Yoga 7:00 Meditation	15	16
17 9:45 Sunday School 10:45 Youth Sunday/ Honor Graduates	18	19 5:30 Yoga	20 5:30 Bells 7:00 Choir	21 5:30 Yoga	22	23
24 9:45 Sunday 10:45 Service	25 10am Bake Sale 6:30/7:00 Executive/Full Boards	26 5:30 Yoga	27 5:30 Bells 7:00 Choir	28 5:30 Yoga	29	30
31 9:45 Sunday 10:45 Service Special Service for Pastor Molly's last Sunday						

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

Rev. Molly Smothers, Minister
Genny Jenkins, Choir
Mary Claire Williams and
Chris Prichard, Youth
Barbara Marsh, Secretary
Chialing Hsieh, Organist
Sarah Chaney, Bell Choir
Ashley Morris, Nursery
Bethenny Glahn, Nursery
Darrin Roe, Custodian

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[www.facebook.com/
fccmorehead](http://www.facebook.com/fccmorehead)

Disciples of Christ
Identity Statement

We are disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.



The Rev. Molly Smothers has submitted her resignation from the church. Her last day will be May 31, 2015. A reception in honor of Pastor Molly and Leon will be held during First Sunday Lunch on May 3, immediately following worship service. Make plans to join the congregation as they wish them Godspeed.