

The Pittsfield Christian



First Christian Church of Pittsfield, Illinois

Volume 58 Issue 29

December 21, 2016

Coming Events

- 12/25 9:00 am Christmas Service
12/26 8:00 pm AI Anon Meeting
12/27 4:00 pm Basketball Practice
12/28 8:30 am Unmet Needs Meeting
12/29 7:00 pm Sermon Study
12/31 youth@first lock-in
1/1 9:00 am Youth Sunday & Installation
1/2 8:00 pm AI Anon Meeting
1/3 6:00 pm Girl Scout Meeting
1/4 7:00 pm Choir Practice
1/5 8:00 am Dining Room Rental
7:00 pm Sermon Study
1/6 6:00 pm Girl Scout Meeting
6:00 pm Pike County Youth League
1/7 10:00 am Pike County Youth League
1/8 8:00, 9:15, 10:30 Worship
8:00, 9:15 Sunday School
5:00 pm youth@first
1/9 1:00 pm Interagency Meeting
6:30 pm Circle I Meeting
8:00 pm AI Anon Meeting
1/10 10:00 JBS United Meeting
6:00 pm Church Board Meeting
1/11 8:30 am Unmet Needs Meeting
7:00 pm Choir Practice
1/12 9:30 am Circle IV Meeting
7:00 pm Sermon Study

Looking for a way to lose the winter blahs? Why not come to Crossroads and play ping pong! Contact David Koltveit if you are interested and let him know what day and time works best for you. What a fun way to fellowship! 217.370.2041 or dkoltveit@gmail.com

Our communion to shut-in ministry is an important service to our church family. We need a few more volunteers to serve on the 2017 schedule. Please contact the office asap if you would like to help or for more information.

December Happenings

Saturday, Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Service at 9:00pm in the sanctuary. The nursery will not be staffed.

Sunday, Dec 25 - We will have one worship service in the sanctuary at 9:00am with no Sunday School and the nursery will not be staffed. The service will not be streamed.

Sunday, Jan 1 - We will have one Worship service in the GYM at 9:00am led by our youth. Thomas Hull will give the message, Maddie Palmer will lead music and other seniors will oversee other aspects of the service. There will be no youth Sunday School classes. Also per our by-laws, we will have installation of our officers and other elected officials during the service for everyone elected to positions at the November Congregational Meeting. Those who will be installed include David Koltveit, Gary Mendenhall, Libby Boren, Bethany Dunham, Tim Belford, Helen Earls, Judy Ferguson, Matt Saxe, Jeremy Schoenherr, Sonya Bishop, Zack Boren, Michelle Hart, Kevin Hittner, Burdette Irwin, Brenda Kramer, Debbie Robinson, Tom Robinson, Taylor Sweeting, Kate Waterman, Cherise Anderson, Lauren Saxe and Lainey Ten Eyck.

Last week's **youth@first Basket Auction** was a huge success! Thanks to the -very- generous bidders, the folks who gave awesome baskets, and families that gave monetary donations, we were able to raise just over \$2,000 that will go towards youth events and outreach opportunities! From the bottom of our hearts, THANK YOU to Rick Curfman for lending us his auctioneering talents, to Jenny and Hamer Tate, Judy and Dana Ferguson, Karen Goodwin, and Kate Waterman for their tremendous work in the kitchen and cleaning up after the event, and to those who took their time to brave the cold and raise some money for our students!

We would like to open Crossroads for walking starting in January, Monday thru Thursday, 8-10a.m. but we need volunteers to open/close and supervise in the gym office for those 2 hours. Let the office know if you would like to be on the volunteer schedule.

The church office will be closed Monday, **Dec 26**.

Choir practice will resume Wednesday, **Jan 4**, at 7pm.

The next Church Board meeting will be Tuesday, **Jan 10**, at 6pm.

The ladies of CWF collect greeting card fronts and send them to a children's home in Nevada where they are recycled into new cards. The collection box is on top of the coat rack outside the church building office area or feel free to bring your cards to the admin building.

The next newsletter will be printed the week of Jan 2.

**Mississippi Valley Christian Service Camp
All Camper Winter Warm Up Skate Party
Wednesday, Dec 28, 6-8pm**

Pittsfield Roller Rink

The camp will pay for the rink and the skates. The snack bar will be open so people can bring money for food and games. Ski Ball, Air Hockey, etc. All staff, faculty, campers and parents are welcome.

The Cardinal Inn will host a free Christmas meal to all who are going to be home alone or cannot afford a Christmas meal on Christmas day. Everyone will be served together at about 12:00 noon. If you would like to come or know someone who would, or would like to volunteer your time to provide transportation, please call Luetta at 285.1448. Reservations are not necessary but will help to know how much food to prepare. They can also arrange for you to have a ride or for your meal to be delivered.

January Birthdays & Anniversaries - 1 Kirk Speckhart, Casey Rule; 2 Becky Maxwell, Shanna Tharp, Roger & Charlotte Dunham; 5 Ruth Poyner, Kurtis Johnson, Sami Johnson; 6 Richard Stauffer, Don & Barbara Fosco, Mary Wombles, Jack & Kathy Hull, John Birch, Phil & Georgia Sandidge; 9 Hamer Tate; 10 Tammy Lind; 11 Evelyn Ransom, Missy Borrowman; 12 Burdette & Becky Irwin, Matt Sealock, Laura Chamberlain, Ronnie Goewey; 13 Thomas Hull; 14 Hilda Dunham; 15 Cameron Herring; 16 Mary Lou Chamberlain; 17 Evert & Ruth Poyner; 19 Charles Gates, Cheyenne Allred; 20 Harold Loyd; 21 Bryn Fine; 22 Millie Wendorff; 23 Tyler Grimsley; 24 Bobby & Chris Smith, Robin Carr, Kaden Ferguson; 26 Jeanne Howard, David & Julie Myers; 28 Keith Elledge, D.J. Wintjen; 29 Nicholas Gouran; 31 Dave & Sandy Herring.

The outreach Ministry of the church has decided to begin supporting the Snack Pack program at South School. This is an important local outreach that helps students in need by making sure they have enough food at home on the weekends. The Outreach Ministry will be supporting the Snack Pack regularly, but if you would like to also make donations, you can mark "Snack Pack" on your offering envelope.

Prayer Concerns

Ann Bagent
Vickie Butler
Mary Chamberlain
Bill Hammitt
Lura Hammitt
Amanda Haskins
Elaine Hoaglin
Brenda Kramer
Kierstin Patterson (Kevin Tharp's daughter)
Debbie Robinson
Howard Staffy
Richard Stauffer
Chris Sydney
Andrew Westmaas
*We express our sympathy to the families of the following who recently passed away:
Charles Hendricker - Kathy Hull's father;
Steven L. Smith - Marie Awbrey's nephew;
Alma Harshman.*

Congratulations Helen Earls on being awarded Vesper Choir Director Emeritus at the conclusion of the Cantata for 31 years of faithful service as Choir Director!

*To the FCC Church Family,
The Sealock family would like you to know how much we appreciate the thoughtful words, kind acts and Christian friendship that has been extended to us through this very difficult time. Our mother and grandmother, Bettie Harrison, enjoyed coming to FCC's special events, especially Christmas Vespers. Chad and Matthew's dad, Steve Sealock of K.C., MO, visited church services occasionally and always felt welcome. We were grateful to have the cheese and veggie trays at the funeral home for family and friends. Our wonderful pastor and family have helped in so many ways the past weeks. Pastor Michael has been very supportive and offered to do anything we needed... including loaning his pants!! Pastor Chaz has also come to our aid in several different ways over the past weeks. Thank you very much. Kay, Chad/Callie/Reegan/Griffin, and Matthew Sealock.*

During a conversation with some dear friends, the topic of Christmas came up. We all lamented about how it feels like Christ is being squeezed out of Christmastime due to continuing secularization of our society, rampant busying of schedules, and over-commercialization.

In our discussion, the question was posed as to how we were going to be intentional in our efforts to focus on Christ throughout the remainder of the Advent season. Each person came up with a few good ideas, but we all felt that the ideas presented were somewhat systematic and impersonal.

We finally arrived at a simple idea. Though it seemed rather remedial, the more we pondered it, the more we felt a witness deep within our hearts and spirit. Invite Him in...

The more I consider the Christmas story, the more I see this at the heart of those who encountered the living Christ and those who missed it.

Certainly there were those who were seeking Christ, but for the wrong motives. Among these are individuals such as King Herod. Although they seemed to seek Christ, their motives were actually those of selfishness and control. One could argue that resources were even expended in their search for Christ, but the willingness to yield their heart and their own throne to the King of Kings was lacking. To them, the search for Christ was fruitless because there was no room for Christ's Lordship in their life.

The Innkeeper was another who had the opportunity to encounter Christ, yet being consumed with the business at hand of giving hospitality, there was no room in his life for the inconvenience of a Christ encounter.

Then there were those who merely were open to the leadings of the Holy Spirit to draw them to a Divine encounter. Among these were the Shepherds and the Magi. It should be noted that perhaps their greatest attribute was simply willingness to respond to the prompting all around them. Through Daniel's teaching of prophecies handed down throughout the ages, the Magi were keeping an eye out for the signs to be revealed. They were looking for something to be revealed. Unlike them, the shepherds were immersed in the quiet stillness of the night, focused on their lambs, but like the Magi they were willing to respond to the signs revealed leading to a Christ encounter.

For all of us journeying together this Advent, may our hearts be open and our spirit be attentive to the signs around us that will lead to our Christ encounter. May we embrace the reflective nature of the shepherds, the anticipation of the Magi, and the willingness of both to follow in faith.

My prayer for all of my Church Family this year is that we encounter the living Christ. This encounter will be unique to each one of us, but I am confident that if we are willing yield to the Holy Spirit, God will draw us close.

Loving you all,

Michael

For those who watched the cantata on live stream or were unable to attend, we have included Helen's letter that printed in the cantata bulletin.

When I started to work on this cantata a year ago, I knew I wanted to do a compilation of my favorite songs from the 30 cantatas I had directed. I had no idea how hard it was going to be to narrow it down. It was so much fun going through all the music and reflecting on each and every year and reliving memories of the people who participated throughout the years.

I cannot even begin to put into words how much directing this choir has blessed my life!

When I was a young girl, my father told me that God had given me my talents and that I should give them back by using them for the glory of God. I have tried to do that though I feel I have always gotten so much more out of it than I could ever give. For me, worship through music, really touches my soul!

I want to express my gratitude to the many people throughout the years who have loved me, supported me, and prayed for me. Many of those people are no longer with us but they are very much in my heart tonight. Many of my current choir members have been with me a long time, some have actually watched me grow up! Several of them, I have watched grow up from birth. Several of them have been in all 31 cantatas! Whether they have been with me a few years or many years, they have all been my extended family. We have shared joys and concerns. We have prayed together, made music together, and praised God together! It has been such a joy to watch all of them use their talents for the glory of God! I love them all, they are my family, and will always have a special place in my heart!

I also want to thank my wonderful family for supporting me, encouraging me, and putting up with crazy schedules throughout the years. I want to especially thank my daughter, Julie, for helping put this together and for flying back and forth from Atlanta so many times to practice with us, and for sharing her amazing gifts with our church family.

As to the program tonight, I have chosen many of my favorites but certainly not all because I have enjoyed every single year and every cantata. There is a lot of classical music in the program tonight along with a lot of traditional Christmas music because I love it! There are several Mary songs and Mary and Joseph duets that I love. We are doing several because I love the message! That God could do such a miraculous thing as send His son to earth as a baby for our salvation is amazing enough but to think He chose a teenage girl and an ordinary man to be His son's earthly parents gives us so much hope! I love that message! God can and does use each and every one of us in spite of our sins and our human frailties.

Tonight is not about me! It is about the "Greatest Gift of All" and the opportunity to bring that message in and through music which He has so richly blessed us with.

I wanted to end the program with "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" because it has been my life's song.

"Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed Thy hand hath provided; Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me! He'll bring pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, His glorious presence will cheer and will guide; Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside! Great Is Thy Faithfulness!"

I have found this to be true every day of my life. To God Be the Glory!

Love you all and thanks for the wonderful years!

-Helen



Dear Ministry Partner,

Our prayer is that this letter finds you well, and living fully in His light. One great blessing of serving at MVCSC is watching campers grow in Christ. Over the last 7 decades countless people have come through our gates seeking fulfillment of one great need. That need is new life in Jesus Christ.

Please take a moment to remember your time at MVCSC. Whether you were here as a camper or as one of the many people who make each camp season possible, God brought you here for a reason. People leave here better equipped to serve God in their own generation. In fact, if we allow Him, God works miracles in hearts and lives at MVCSC.

Please allow me to share a few examples; first, the sheer number of people who have heard the Good News proclaimed at MVCSC. We might next include the countless numbers of Christian Ministers who grew in grace and influence as they ministered to our children. We could thirdly speak of each young person raised in your Churches who chose a life of Christian service during a week at camp. Each of us definitely remembers the worship, fellowship and learning we had at MVCSC.

Proverbs 6 encourages us to do all we can to rid ourselves of debt. *...save yourself like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter, like a bird from the hand of the fowler.* We are writing today to inform you of a need, and to ask that you would prayerfully consider helping MVCSC.

We, the board of MVCSC greatly desire to follow God's command to retire the debt held on the girl's dorm and game room. This building increases our capacity and gives the campers a safe place to weather bad storms. When we began the debt was over \$143,000. The current debt (Oct 2016) is \$108,316. Please take some time and prayerfully consider what God is calling you to share with MVCSC.

Yours in Christ, 

PS, Thanks in advance for prayerfully considering a gift to MVCSC to help pay off the dorm!

"To give life meaning by challenging each camper to consecrate themselves to Christ and the Christian Life; to provide each camper with wholesome recreation and fellowship; to proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and to take His Word into the world."

First Christian Church of Pittsfield, Illinois

Church Building: 225 N. Memorial Street
 Crossroads Center: 125 W. Jefferson Street
 Administrative Building: 201 N. Mississippi, PO Box 306
 Phone (217) 285-4129
 Fax (217) 285-9649
 Crossroads (217) 285-6171
 E-mail: info@fccpittsfield.org

Staff:

Michael Ten Eyck, Pastor
 Chaz Waterman, Associate/Youth Pastor
 Helen Earls, Music & Christian Ed
 Rebecca Rhodes, Administrative Secretary
 Gina Bryant, Custodian

Office Hours: 9:00am–4:00pm M-TH, 9:00am–12:00pm F

Worship Times: Every Sunday 8:00am, 9:15am, 10:30am

Sunday School: 8:00am, 9:15am

Stewardship (Offering Only)	12/11	12/18
Operational	\$8,267.30	\$9,191.01
Property Improvement	53.00	3.00
New Building Construction	0.00	160.00
Outreach-Missionaries	70.00	120.00
DHF	80.00	80.00
Outreach-General	25.00	703.00
Adopt-A-Family	150.00	400.00
Choir	0.00	100.00
youth@first	0.00	100.00
Unmet Needs	0.00	525.00
Children First	<u>70.00</u>	<u>320.00</u>
Total	\$8,715.30	\$11,702.01

Operating Receipts (Offering, Rentals, etc.)

Received Last 7 Days	\$8,715.30	\$9,847.02
Estimate Needed Each Week to Meet Budget	\$9,634	

	12/11	12/18
Worship Attendance		
8:00 AM	63	45
9:15 AM	86	82
10:30 AM	<u>81</u>	<u>88</u>
Total	230	215
Christian Education		
Age 3-PK	4	0
K-1st	6	4
2nd-3rd	8	6
4th-5th	8	12
6th-8th	0	2
Sr High	4	6
Disciples	11	6
New Beginnings	5	5
Select to Connect	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>
Total	53	48

Lectionary

12/25: Isa 62:6-12; Ps 97; Tit 3:4-7; Luke 2:8-20
 12/26: Ps 148; Acts 7:59-8:8
 12/27: Ps 148; Proverbs 8:22-31; 1 John 5:1-12
 12/28: Ps 148; Isa 49:13-23; Matt 18:1-14
 12/29: Ps 20; Jer 31:15-22; Luke 19:41-44
 12/30: Ps 20; Isa 26:1-9; 2 Cor 4:16-18
 12/31: Ps 20; 1 Kings 3:5-14; John 8:12-19
 1/1: Isa 63:7-9; Ps 148; Heb 2:10-18; Matt 2:13-23
 1/2: Ps 20; Gen 12:1-7; Heb 11:1-12
 1/3: Ps 72; Gen 28:10-22; Heb 11:13-22
 1/4: Ps 72; Exodus 3:1-5; Heb 11:23-31
 1/5: Ps 72; Joshua 1:1-9; Heb 11:32-12:2
 1/6: Ps 20; Isa 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-7, 10-14; Eph 3:1-12; Matt 2:1-12
 1/7: Ps 29; 1 Sam 7:3-17; Acts 9:19b-31

Serving Schedule

December 25, 2016

Elder: N.D. Harrison, Jim Dain
Sound System: Matt Sealock
Shut-ins: Charlie & Mary Gates, Hamer & Jenny Tate

January 1, 2017

Elder: TBA
Diaconate: Youth Sunday
Communion: TBA
Nursery: Katie Cox, Emma Saxe
Scripture Reader: Youth Sunday
Sound System: Matt Sealock
Shut-ins: TBA

Wishes & Wants

For Sale: King size Sleep Number bed. With headboard & storage under. Bedding goes with it. Judy Dunham 285.2738