

“Growing God’s Family To Share God’s Word”

First Christian Church



Visitor

Volume 62, Number 27

March 16, 2005

PALM SUNDAY – MARCH 20TH

Children and youth are invited to the back of the sanctuary before worship to process in with palm branches.

MAUNDY THURSDAY – MARCH 24TH

6:00 P.M. we will have a Seder Meal as part of our remembrance of the last supper of Christ. Call the church office to reserve your place at the table.

GOOD FRIDAY – MARCH 25TH

11:00 A.M. – Lunch at the Church of God.

12:00 Noon – Community Worship at the Church of God
(College Drive)

7:00 P.M. – Tenebrae Worship at First Christian
(Service of Darkness)

Hear the last words of Christ from Scripture

SATURDAY – MARCH 26TH – CHILDREN’S EASTER PARTY

10:30 – 11:30 A.M. Bring your basket to hunt eggs, stay for crafts, snacks, stories and songs.

EASTER SUNDAY – MARCH 27TH

6:00 A.M. – Sunrise Service at Rose Hill Cemetery
First Christian & Trinity United Methodist – Breakfast
@ Trinity

9:30 A.M. – Easter Worship – Baptisms, Holy Communion, Music,
Scripture and Sermon

10:35 A.M. – Sunday School for all ages!

“LET THE BLESSINGS FLOW”

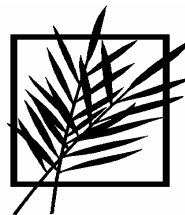
“Let the Blessings Flow” is the theme of the Easter Offering this year. For more than 170 years, General Units of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) have been the hands, eyes, hearts and feet on the ground eradicating human injustice and abuse of God’s people everywhere. Disciples General Ministries build ministries of love, care and nurture for the human family; and make disciples for Jesus Christ here at home and around the world. Your support of the Easter Special Offering ensures that the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will continue to be and share the Good News of Jesus Christ from your doorsteps to the ends of the earth in the year 2020 and beyond. Together we are building a world of hope. Together, we are building a church with a vision. Together we are extending God’s abundance. God give more than enough. The recipients are nine General Units of the church including: Christian Church Foundation, Church Extension, Church Finance Council, Council on Christian Unity, Disciples Home Missions, Disciples of Christ Historical Society, Division of Overseas Ministries, Higher Education and Leadership Ministries, and Pension Fund of the Christian Church. The Easter Offering also supports a variety of other projects and the Office of General Minister and President, Christmount Christian Assembly, National City Christian Church Foundation and The World Convention.

BEAN DAY IS COMING! MARCH 30TH!

Invite your friends and bring your family to Bean Day!

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Final plans are being made for our first Seder Meal at FCC. The meal will be held on Maundy Thursday, March 24th. You can go ahead and make reservations by calling the church office. You don’t want to miss this impressive dinner.

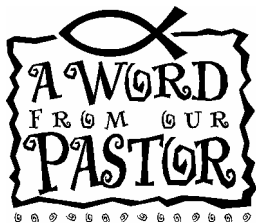


PALM SUNDAY MEN’S BREAKFAST

First Christian Church of Allendale is hosting a Palm Sunday Men’s Breakfast at 6:30 A.M. on March 20th. Men of all ages are invited to attend. Shane Whetstone will bring a short message and special music will be provided.



Eleanor Smith
% Wabash Christian Retirement Center
216 College Blvd.
Carmi, IL 62821



Dear Everybody,
I want to thank you all for the nice Birthday Cards and wishes that everyone has sent to me. All the other Chaplains and the Chaplains Assistants are really jealous. Even the Postal Squadron keeps wishing me a Happy Birthday. All is going well here.

We are always busy just like back home. I am glad to hear that Billy Cotner made it home safe and sound. I look forward to talking with him when I get back. It is hard to believe that by the time you all read this letter in the Visitor that I will only have a month and a half until I will be home with all of you. Everything here is going well. I have grown as a person and a pastor over here. I have much more confidence and for better or worse I am much more direct than I used to be before my trip here. In short I guess I turned into an officer over here. I am still the same old Jim you used to know with a few improvements. We had a dry spell here and the ground turned into a fine dust. The spring rains have started and we are back to walking in the mud. Iraq is really shaping up and I am pleased with what I see and hear. Once again thank you all for allowing me to come here. Your prayers and support have been a big blessing to me. I will write you all again soon. Keep praying and also know that I am safe and doing well.

God Bless You All,
Jim

MEMBERS IN THE MILITARY

Sgt. Zach Street, Capt. Tom Waters, Spc. Michael Gayso, Danny Randolph, Keith Michels, CPL William Cotner, SPC Matthew Buchanan, Troy Street, LCPL Jon E. Arnold, Chaplain Major Jim Summers, SPC 4 Mark Homan, Jonathan Smith, Joe Swift, Bill Raney, Sarah Beauchamp, Jim Ed Hicks, Spc. Sam Shehorn, Spc. Marvin Bailey III, and Jacob Shaw



OPERATION PRAYER SHIELD



Please keep all those in service whose pictures are on display in our lobby in your prayers.

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

Become a part of the Membership Committee and you will have the opportunity to serve your church family in a variety of ways. Call Rosanna Peterson at 262-5473 or 263-8973 to express your willingness to serve.

SERVING IN MARCH

Diaconate: Ray Street, Paula Street, Harold Mobley, Jay Griggs, Bonnie Griggs and Elizabeth Snow
Custodial Deacon: Jon Mayhue
Communion Preparers: Alice Jeanne McGuire & Dana Tate
Camera Person: Clint Seybold
Elder on Call: Larry Peterson
Sanctuary Straightener: The Seybold's
Greeters: Betty Winternheimer & Betty John

ELDERS SERVING

March 20, 2005: Gayle Conrady & Kurt Keneipp

GATHERING FOR WOMEN 2005

“Global Positioning – Search for God’s Direction” is the theme. We will go on Saturday, April 2nd, to the Holiday Inn at Mt. Vernon, IL. The cost before March 28 is \$22.00. See the church office for registration forms. This is a nice day out for women to relax, think about your faith and how you practice your faith. All women of the church and friends are welcome.



Those listed: Barbara Pingleton, Evelyn Schrader, Charlie Brewer, Philip Fischer, Mary Lou Owen, Gordon Kirkman, Russell Peterson, Alberta Sawyer, Orlando E., Trudy Lewis, Margaret Brookheart, Gladys Pope, Dave Duell, Frances Wood, Jeff Ankenbrand, Harold Meadows, Julie Wahler Girten, Eleanor Smith, Patty Sutton, Ray Farrar, Don McClane, Jake Raibley, Nell Kinney, Bonnie Burns, Alice Warmoth, Bea Alka, Phyllis Crow, Dwight Hughey, Edythe Randolph, our country, its leaders and all service men and women.

ELDER AND DEACON WORKSHOP

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 23rd. This is for all Elders and Deacons and will be held in Olney. Please watch The Visitor for more details after Easter.

GOSPEL SING

There will be a Gospel Sing at the Brubeck Auditorium at Wabash Valley College at 1:30 P.M. on Sunday, March 20th. Make plans to attend this special concert. Our own Jackie Summers, Alison Mayhue and Amanda Gill will be performing.

COMMUNITY CHOIR

We will be forming a community choir to sing at the Good Friday Service on March 25th. This is a community noon service at the First Church of God with lunch, starting at 11:00 A.M. If you are in town and available to sing, please plan on joining us. Rehearsal will be on Thursday, March 24th at noon at the Church of God and Friday before the service @ 11:30 A.M.

JOYS/BIRTHDAYS/BLESSINGS

The Worship Committee invites you to share your birthday, anniversary or any joy or blessing with the church family. Each Sunday during announcements you may come forward to share your joy. You are invited to put a small offering in the basket, but it is not necessary. The blessing money will later be designated by the Worship Committee to be given to help others.

CANDY & EGGS NEEDED

We need small candy, animal crackers and golfish crackers for our annual Children's Easter Party. Please bring all donations by this Sunday, March 20th.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY

Jackie,

I want to thank you and the church for being here in my time of need. You all have become very special and important to me. Being part of this church is a true blessing. Love, Diania Bailey

CAMERA OPERATORS

March – Clint Seybold
April – Mike Hays
May – Ben Benedict
June – Jon Mayhue
July – Doug Lathrop
August – Chelsea Gidcumb
September – Jay Griggs
October – Gary Bellessa
November – David Foshee
December – John Bellessa

Based on the names of people who volunteered to work with the television ministry of FCC. The Worship Committee has developed this list. If you cannot serve in this way, please contact the church office. If you need to find a replacement for a Sunday, please trade with someone else on the list. Thank you!

EASTER PARTY

All children through 5th grade are invited to the FCC Easter Party. It is Saturday, March 26th at 10:30 – 11:30 A.M. Bring your basket for an egg hunt, we'll also enjoy crafts, snacks, songs and the Easter Story. Family and friends are welcome to help or watch.

OPEN HOUSE

Grove Park Christian Church,
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
In North Carolina
&
Vision Builders! Construction
Invite you to the Dedication
Of the
New Grove Park Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Sunday, April 10, 2005 – 4:00 P.M.
1000 JP Harrison Boulevard
Kinston, North Carolina 28501

NEWS FROM PARK MANOR CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The fire at 8330 S. King Drive, which occurred on Thursday evening, February 10, 2005, left us momentarily devastated. On that fateful evening, our members stood in the cold and watched the firemen pour water on our hopes and our dreams. But by Sunday, February 13, the membership had rallied and we celebrated with Praise for what the Lord had done for us! We were indeed thankful that no lives were lost and that no firemen were injured. We thank all of the ministers and congregations from all over the city, all over the state of Illinois, all over the country and yes, all over the world for your words of encouragement and constant prayers. The phone calls and the special notes which let us know that we are not alone have been a source of strength for us. We will continue to give praise to God for His many blessings.

STOP, LOOK AND LISTEN

Why should we observe Lent? We observe Lent because it causes us to STOP. Lent says, "Stop and rest awhile." Lent says, "Stop doing wrong." We observe Lent because it tells us to LOOK. Look inward for an honest self-examination. Look upward to see the cross of Christ with healing and love. Look forward to the hope of the Resurrection. We observe Lent because it tells us to LISTEN. Listen to the words of Christ. Listen to the voice of God. Listen to the winds of the Spirit of God. Stop, look and listen. These three words are important for our safety in travel, but they may also be helpful for our journey through the days of Lent.

What an entrance!

Many years ago the actress, Gertrude Lawrence, was the star of a play in London. Before the drama began, the Queen entered the Royal Box with great dignity. Immediately the entire audience rose and applauded Her Majesty.

Observing from the wings, the actress uttered, "What an entrance!"

The playwright, Noel Coward, was standing nearby and responded, "What a part!"

As Jesus entered Jerusalem on that day we call Palm Sunday, the people cheered him shouting "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" (Matthew 21:9, NRSV).

It was a cry of adoration and acclamation. Jesus handled the adulation with dignity and poise. The Son of God entered the capital city humbly but courageously. He knew that danger – even death – awaited him. He went anyway and memorably.

It was a victory day for him, a week before the greatest Victory of all – his resurrection.

No wonder we remember Palm Sunday with joy. It was a glorious day for Christ and for us.

Let us wave palms, a symbol of peace. Let us shout, "Hosanna in the highest heaven!" The Savior has come. What an entrance! What a part!



Hosanna!

**JIM SUMMERS
JACKIE MEECE SUMMERS
CO-PASTORS
PARSONAGE PHONE (618)263-0714
CHURCH (618)262-7331 & (618)262-7344 FAX: (618)262-5774
jfccmc@mtcarmelonline.com – Pastors Email
fccmc@shawneelink.net – Office Email
www.geocities.com/fcc_doc_mc - Website
www.afnews.af.mil/iraq/balad.htm - Balad AFB Website**

SUNDAY SERVICE – March 20th

Sermon: "Hosanna"
Rev. Jackie Summers
Scripture: Matthew 21:1-11

Choir Rehearsal	8:30 AM
Morning Worship	9:30 AM
Pastor's Class	10:35 AM
Sunday School	10:35 AM

OFFERING – March 13th

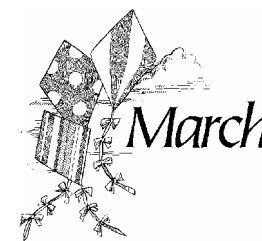
General	\$2700.89
Church School	15.30
TOTAL-General Offering:	\$2716.99
Fellowship Time	50.66
Kitchen Fund	100.00
Easter Flowers	70.00
Relay For Life	1.00
Blessing Basket	36.11
Souper Bowl	148.39
Memorial Fund	90.00
Elevator	10.00
TOTAL-Special Offering:	506.16
Grand Total Offering:	\$3222.35

WATCHING OUR FIGURES

Sunday Worship
3/13 151

CHURCH SCHOOL

<u>Date</u>	<u>Tea</u>	<u>Pupils</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Offering</u>
3/13	13	66	79	\$15.30



**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
803 Market Street
Mt. Carmel, IL 62863-1499**

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