

Connecting with God by Phil Justice

First Christian Church of Paducah is a lively place to be. What a year we have seen! We have come from a bone-chilling, never-ending winter into one of the wettest springs on record. Now we are enjoying blistering temperatures with no end in sight.

We have experienced other changes, too. Have you noticed the new entrance to the church from the street? The city did a terrific job in changing things around. New curbs and gutters for Audubon Drive and a complete resurfacing of the surrounding streets are great improvements.

Other improvements are complete or in process here at the church:

- The church bell tower has been repaired
- A new energy efficient boiler was installed earlier this year
- New doors have been installed and more are scheduled to be installed in the very near future
- The parking lot has been repaired, sealed and striped.
- Our custodian is working hard to strip and wax the floors

The above are just a few of the more visible changes taking place. Additionally, lots of people are involved in making FCC a more spiritual place to be. Jim Patton & Co. (choir) are creating some memorable music during the traditional service. And, if you would like to experience some wonderful, upbeat music of a different genre, check out the contemporary service on Sunday evenings at 5:30.

There are 168 hours in a week. Most of us are here 1-2 hours during that week. What we do those other hours can really make a difference in the lives of others. Make your relationship with Christ count. Remember: You are the only Bible some people ever read!

God Bless,
Phil



STAFF PROFILES

I came to FCC in December 2005 and continue to feel the blessings of this Congregation each Sunday. I formerly served First United Methodist Church/Benton for 24 years and St Peter's Episcopal Church for 15 years....concurrently! I had an average of 17 minutes to get from church to church, and only had to outrun the police once!

I am a native of Champaign, Ill and began studying piano when I was 3 1/2. My Mother's family was very musical, and somehow, someone saw an aptitude for music at that young age and started me with lessons. I studied at the University of Illinois during High School, which was the springboard for a successful transition to Murray State University, where I was lucky enough to receive a full scholarship.

When I am not being musical, my other career is a Development Leader of Field Support Services at LYNXServices located in the Information Age Park.....and am a partner with Kevin Linder in KDL Designs, a Design/ Special Events firm here in Paducah.

I enjoy travel, reading, cooking, cars, and our two Wirehaired Dachshunds~ Pearl and Pea.

If you ever have feedback, comments, or feel the call to be a part of the Fine Arts Dept at FCC, I can be reached at jnatpat@comcast.net, or my cell number is 270.564.9093. I would love to hear from you and see you get involved!

--Jim Patton

Potluck & Prayer

You are invited to join us for the monthly potluck & prayer service **Wednesday, August 24**. The meal begins at 6 p.m. followed by the prayer service in Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite potluck dish to share with the group. The Membership & Evangelism Committee will present a program honoring all of those born during the month of August.

During prayer time, we unite as the body of Christ lifting our prayers of concern and joy to God. In this joining of our hearts in prayer, we seek the opportunity to feel God's comforting presence and love encompass us as we pray for God to also encompass those we lift up in prayer.

Each person that is included in our prayers receives a letter letting them know that they were and will continue to be in our prayers. If you have someone you would like to add to the prayer list contact Mariann Lankton. Please provide her with the person's name, address, and prayer concern or joy.

Jackson Oaks Communion Service

Our monthly communion service will be held at the Jackson Oaks Community on **August 28th at 2:00 P.M.** This service is open to all Jackson Oaks Residents and their friends. It is led by elders Don Pepper and Carlyle Phillips, who reside at Jackson Oaks. If anyone would like to attend or assist with the service see Mariann Lankton for details.

Coming in September

Sunday, September 11th marks the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on this country. As a way of observing this day and in remembering the day that changed our country, we will honor all those who put their lives on the line every day to protect and keep us safe. We have invited our local law enforcement, fire and rescue workers to join us for one of our worship services to say "thank you" for all their dedication and service. We will also be hosting a dinner after each service to continue to show our appreciation. If you would like to help in anyway, please contact Mariann Lankton

Mariann's phone number is 559-0012
E-mail Mariann at: mlankton@fccpaducah.org

August Children & Youth News

On **Sunday, August 7th** at both services, we will have our Blessing of the Backpacks. This is a Sunday set aside to bless all of our children as they get ready to start a new school year. We are asking that children bring their backpacks with them to church so that we may have a time of prayer and blessing for them. We will also be blessing all of the backpacks that will be going to Merryman House Shelter and Paducah Cooperative Ministry. During Sunday school, our children will be putting the backpacks together with your donations of school supplies.

~Mariann Lankton

Wow!! Summer has flown by! It's time to get together again. Our **Youth Kick-Off is Saturday August 20th** with details to come as soon as I have everything finalized. Our first meeting will be Sunday, August 21st with the Middle School Group meeting at 4:30-5:30 pm and the High School Group will meet from 6:30 until 8:00 pm.

If you are new to Middle School or High School or have not been involved with the Youth Group, please contact Stephanie in the church office to get my contact information. I do a lot of emails and text messages to the group to keep everyone up to date and I don't want to miss anyone. Make sure to send me an e-mail if anyone's contact information has changed so I can update my list

I will be looking for volunteers to help with the Middle School Group. Last year it was rather large and that age group is sometimes hard to control alone.

Looking forward to a great year with your youth!

~Rachel Whitaker



First Christian Preschool is beginning classes the week of August 15th. The open house date for Toddlers-N-Training (1 yr. old) is Wednesday, August 11th. Open house for all preschoolers ages 2-5 will be held Thursday, August 12th with the following schedule:

4 year old classes at 9:00 a.m.; 2 year old classes at 9:30 a.m.; 3 year old classes at 10:30 a.m. Open house days are a chance for parents and children to meet teachers and explore their rooms for the coming

year. **Interested in preschool for your child or grandchild?** Please go to fccpaducah.org and click the preschool tab, or call the preschool line and leave a voice message (270) 443-0513.

CWF School Supply Collection Continues

CWF began collecting school supplies for disadvantaged children in Paducah in July. **They will continue through the first week of August** so that supplies may be distributed to the children at the beginning of school.

Items needed are: backpacks, pencils, folders, notebooks, paper, spiral notebooks, crayons, glue and scissors. CWF would also like to provide backpacks filled with supplies to the children living at the PCM Homeless Shelter and the Merryman House Shelter. Backpacks will be blessed during worship on August 7th at our annual *Blessing of the Backpacks*.

Our CWF continues to save box tops from *General Mills* foods, labels from *Campbell's* food products, *Betty Crocker* coupons and metal tabs from aluminum cans. These items are given to several charitable causes for fund raising. We are also saving *Super Valu* receipts for the FCC Preschool which also begins in August.

Please leave all donations on the table in the narthex.



Congratulations

... to **Chad Rogers** and **Brandi Smith** who were married on July 1st. Chad is the son of Judy Shoulders and Brandi is the daughter of Ted and Julie Smith.

PCM Pantry

During August we are collecting **mac & cheese** for PCM

Memorial Gifts

In memory of Harold Gilbert

Gorman & Beverly Bradley, William D. Shidal, Jerry & Sara Page, Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Hines, Carlyle Phillips, David & Kathy Schell, Susan Johnston, Howard & Janett Kennedy, Mary & Brad Renfro, John & Maggie Bailey, Betty & Paul Feldsien, Frank & Sue Fletcher, Rupert & Dottie Stivers, Bill Wood, Pam & Tom Whittemore, JoAnn Longton, James & Brenda Brown, Cindy Shelbourne, Joyce Allbritten, Juliette & Paul Grumley, Gary Gay, Gary & Lupe McMillan, John & Vicky Cecil, Ann & David Denton, Tina Shidal.

In memory of Raymond Rudd

Wilbur & Peggy Dunker, Jerry & Sara Page, Joe & Betty Wallace, Betty & WR Sanders, S. Copeland, Mr. & Mrs. David Dalton Rudd, Peggy Buford, Jerry & Angela Watkins, Mike & Barbara Livingston, Kelly & Mary Lee Nuckols, Ed & Barbara Hough, David & Ann Denton, Ivan Doane, Bill Wood, Rupert & Dottie Stivers, Frank & Sue Fletcher, Barbara Penix.

In memory of Ed Nuckols

Ann & David Denton, Ivan Doane, Frank & Sue Fletcher, S. Copeland, Bill Wood, WR & Betty Sanders, Toni Monroe, Patti Turok Group.

In memory of Dorothy Henry

Frank & Sue Fletcher, Bill Wood, David & Ann Denton, Jo James, Barbara Penix

In memory of Martha Murphy

Bill Wood, David & Ann Denton

In memory of Charles Russell

Bill Wood, Ivan Doane, Ann & David Denton.

Anniversary Celebration Invitation

Everyone is invited to a reception in honor of **Don & Judy Alvey** on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary on **Saturday, September 3**, from 2-4 pm in Fellowship Hall. The reception is being given by family friends and their son, Ronnie Alvey.

Attendance

Date	10:45 a.m.	5:30 p.m.	Total
6/26	71	58	129
7/3	82	23	105
7/10	110	55	165
7/17	93	41	134
7/24	91	50	141

**Join us for worship
on Sunday!**

- Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
- Traditional Worship & Communion - 10:45 a.m.
- Contemporary Worship & Communion - 5:30 p.m.
- Or listen to our radio Broadcast on 1560 WPAD AM and 99.5 FM

FCC Fellowship Groups

The Cancer Support Group will not meet during the summer months. Contact Don Alvey or the church office if you have concerns and wish to meet.

The Super Seniors are meeting for lunch **Wednesday, Aug. 3**, at McAlister's Deli near the mall. If you wish to join us please meet there at 11:30 a.m. All are welcome to be with us for food, fun, and fellowship!



**The Men
Are Cooking**

2nd Saturday Breakfast
August 13, 8 -- 10 a.m.

Invite your friends to enjoy a great meal! The cost is a donation and all proceeds will be used for building projects.

Give the Gift of Life!

Red Cross
Blood Drive
Monday, **Aug. 1st**
Noon to 6 p.m.



Cub Scout Pack 470, sponsored by First Christian Church, will be hosting a 5th Wednesday dinner on Wednesday, **August 31**, starting at 5:30 p.m. The boys will be serving spaghetti, salad, bread and drink. Donations will be accepted for the meal. Proceeds will go toward financially supporting the pack. For more information contact **Jason McHaney** at (270) 703-2496.



The Tower

First Christian Church * Paducah, Kentucky

Come. See. Discover. Discover the Disciples!

Listening to God

We are very excited about the Listening to God (L2G) small groups forming again. As each of us grows in our Christian journey, our individual faith stories continue to develop and so does the story of church as well. L2G small groups provide us with a way of continuing to know each other better and they help us get to know people that we may not know at all.

Consider signing up for a small group. Even if you have been through the L2G process before. Someone may get to know you better and you will get to know others on a deeper level. We want everyone be a part of a group.

In addition, please prayerfully consider being a group leader. Being a group leader does not require that you be a Bible expert. All you have to be is a gracious host and help facilitate the group and keep the members on task. If you don't want to do it alone ask a friend to co-lead with you.

Groups will begin on August 14th. There are several different days and hours available to meet your schedule.

Registration forms are available at the foyer table, and as in insert in the Sunday bulletin.

See **Mariann Lankton** for more information.



Your Vision Committee at Work

The Vision Committee began its task of re-evaluating the congregational Mission and Vision Statements in May, 2011. Its first assignment was to revise the previous Vision Committee Charter to reflect the current needs of the congregation. This revised charter was approved on July 18, 2011 by the Administrative Board. Your committee members are: Kenny Boaz; Whitney Cassity-Caywood; Larry Furmann (Chairperson); Patt Lynch; Kathy McHaney; Caylan Torbett; Rachel Whitaker. J Gottman is our ministerial liaison. During his Sabbatical, Mariann Lankton is filling that role.

As a first step in re-evaluating the congregational Mission and Vision Statements, the committee identified 5 characteristics that we believe define our congregation. These characteristics are:

- WE ARE... Welcoming to all people
- WE ENDORSE...No Creed but Christ
- WE ARE...Accepting of diversity in the people of God
- WE SEEK...Positive Spiritual Experiences
- WE ARE...Open minded and independent thinkers

The revised charter states: "The Committee will facilitate creation and regular re-evaluation of a congregational mission statement and implementing goals, **SEEKING AND UTILIZING INPUT FROM THE CONGREGATION.**" Please review these characteristics and let any member of the committee know if there are characteristics that might be considered for inclusion or if there are any questions about these characteristics or any questions concerning the function of the committee. We will need these **no later than** August 12, 2011.

This is YOUR Congregation and thus your committee; we are simply here to serve as advisors in fulfilling our mission as a Christian Church and as Disciples of Christ.

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First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
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