

## General Minister and President Sharon E. Watkins Selected to Deliver Sermon at National Prayer Service

The Presidential Inaugural Committee announced on January 11th, that General Minister and President Dr. Sharon E. Watkins of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has been selected to give the sermon at the National Prayer Service on Wednesday, January 21, at the National Cathedral. Reverend Watkins will be the first woman to deliver the sermon at this traditional Inaugural event.

Linda Douglas, the chief spokeswoman for the Inaugural Committee said, "Her appeal is that she delivers a message of unity and inclusivity and tolerance and hope—and those are all central themes we've heard from the president-elect."

Rev. Watkins said, "We really emphasize the responsibility as well as the freedom of individuals within the church to study Scripture and prayerfully pursue their own spiritual journey. This means we end up being incredibly diverse politically, theologically and socially." "Coming out of that context, the kind of message I want to reflect on is the deeper unity we have as a human family," she said of the sermon she plans to deliver at the National Cathedral.

The sermon will be 10 to 15 minutes in length and will not be vetted by the Obama team. It is traditionally attended by the President and Vice-President; members of the Supreme Court, Congress and the diplomatic corps; and a host of clergy members and dignitaries. The National Cathedral is the seat of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, but it often serves as the church of the nation.

Rev. Sharon E. Watkins is the chief executive officer for our denomination. She is responsible for overseeing the work of the church's various structures. She is serving a six-year term that extends through 2011. Rev. Watkins has an extensive background of service both in this country and abroad. Among her many degrees are a Doctor of Ministry from Phillips Theological Seminary and a Master of Divinity from Yale Divinity School. For more about Rev. Watkins, go to [www.disciples.org](http://www.disciples.org).

### Experiencing the Heart of Christianity

Beginning January 18, the Hot Topics Sunday school class will begin a new 12-part series, "Experiencing the Heart of Christianity" based on the bestselling book by Marcus Borg. This series will include the issues that lie at the heart of Christianity today. Delving into such topics as the Bible, God, Jesus, sin, and how to live in a multi-faith pluralistic society. We invite you to join us for this special session. If you aren't a regular Hot Topics class member, and want to join us, please contact Kathy McHaney so that enough materials will be available.

### The West Area Ski Thing



for youth is Jan. 23 & 24. Don't miss out on the fun of skiing and being with youth from all over the West

Area. We will spend the night at FCC, Owensboro, and enjoy fellowship, games and worship together on Friday night. On Saturday, we leave to ski. Please be sure to let Ben know right away if you plan to attend. Phone Ben at 415-1891 or e-mail him at [benjaminmorehead@comcast.net](mailto:benjaminmorehead@comcast.net)

### Baby Congratulations

Best wishes to April & Rich Scillian of Boaz on the birth of son Christian Joseph Edwin on Jan. 11th.

**Jack & Mimmie Roddy** are proud grandparents.

### Bell Ringers Wanted!

Look for a special article on bells in the next issue!!

### In Our Prayers

#### Weekly Health Concerns

**Pam Boland** (daughter of Ed & Barbara Hough)  
**Ann Borgia**, 650 College Ave. Apt 69  
**Jack Chapman**, Jackson Oaks  
**Oval Crenshaw**, Harbor side Nursing Home  
**Pat Cownie**, 7040 Contest Rd.  
**Eric & Carla Pobst & family**

### Memorial Gifts

#### In memory of Stephen Webb

Ann & David Denton

#### In memory of Wanda Steger

Vicky & Larry Livingston, Pam & George Boland,  
 Ann & David Denton, Ed & Barbara Hough,  
 Willadene Myers, Mrs. William Switzer

#### In memory of Louise Beasley

Ann & David Denton

### Nurturing Committee News

The Nurturing Committee is sponsoring a **Secret Pal** program to build relationships between the adults and children in the church. The purpose is for the children to have role models in the church as well as for the adults to understand that they are role models for the children in the church.

Each adult will compose an introductory letter to his/her secret pal/child. This note could include some information about the adult's interests, hobbies, job, pets, etc., concealing their identity. The adults should ask the child their interests when they write back. A bulletin board will be made up in the hall to display the letters and you may also leave small gifts for your "pal" if you chose to do so.

Sign up sheets will be available this Sunday and the fun will begin February 1, and end on March 1, with a pancake breakfast.

Missed a Sunday?  
 Sermons are available online at  
[fccpaducah.org](http://fccpaducah.org)

### Weekly Calendar

#### Sunday, Jan. 18

9:30 a.m.—Sunday School  
 10:45 a.m.—Worship & Communion

#### Monday, Jan. 19

MLK Day; church office closed  
 7:00 p.m.—Annual MLK Memorial Service  
*Greater Love Missionary Baptist Church*  
 1249 N. 12th St.  
*Speaker: Rev. Dr. W. G. Harvey*

#### Tuesday, Jan. 20

10:00 a.m.—District 1 Ministers Mtg.  
 6:30 p.m.—Patti Turok Group  
*Home of Nancy Huffstutter*

#### Wednesday, Jan. 21

9:30 a.m.—WKCTC Seniors Board Mtg.  
 4:00 p.m.—K-5 Gr. Kids Groups  
 5:30 p.m.—6-12 Gr. Youth Groups  
 5:30 p.m.—Handbell Practice

#### Thursday, Jan. 22

6:45 p.m.—Choir Practice

#### Friday, Jan. 23

*West Area Ski Thing Begins*

#### Saturday, Jan. 24

*West Area Ski thing Ends*  
 6:00 p.m.—Finger Foods & Fellowship at FCC

### All-Church Dinner

**Wednesday, January 28, - 6 p.m.**

Sign up at the narthex table

**Hosts:** Patti Turok Group

**Program:** Evangelism Committee

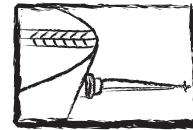
### FCC's Vital Statistics

#### Worship Attendance—January 11, 2009

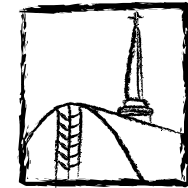
Sunday School	69
Worship	164

#### Financial Report—Jan 1, - Jan 15, 2009

Income to date	\$16,023
Expenses to date	\$13,446



First Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
415 Audubon Drive  
Paducah, KY 42001  
Return Service Requested



# THE TOWER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH • PADUCAH, KENTUCKY

## Come. See. Discover.

### Members Serving January 18

**Elders:** Alan Boyd & Bill Cownie  
**Deacons:** Ben & Erin Morehead, Dudley & Gail Wagner, Jason McHaney, Gina Floyd, Vicki Cooper, Kelly Nuckols  
**Liturgist:** Cathy Warmack  
**Ushers:** Mark & Kelly Atnip  
**Greeters:** Larry & Sandy Wallace  
**Acolyte:** Tanner Hagood  
**Communion Preparation & Flowers:** Ken & Robin Bradshaw  
**Communion Clean-Up:** The McHaney Family  
**Reach Out Communion:** Kent & Julie Price  
Beverly Craig & Sunni Mauk  
**Time for Children:** Billy Lanier  
**Pew Pad Pick-Up (Jan.):** Erin Gottman  
**Elders on Call Jan 18-24:** Rhonda Lee James  
**Sunday School Rotation:** Erin Gottman, Whitney Caywood

### This Sunday at FCC

9:30 a.m.—Sunday School

10:45 a.m.

Worship & Communion

#### Sermon Series:

God? Conversations with an Atheist

#### Sermon:

“The Problem with the Bible”

### Finger Foods & Fellowship

The Nurturing Committee will hold a fellowship night at FCC on **Saturday, Jan. 24**, beginning at **6 p.m.** We'll have games for those who enjoy them and childcare will be available. The committee stresses that this event is for **ALL** members and friends as an opportunity to get to know others in our congregation better.

Please bring a finger food or appetizer to share with others.

### West Area Ministry Lay School of Theology

First Christian Church

Saturday, January 31, 2009

*And God Said What?*

**Speaker:** Dr. Margaret Ralph

**Lexington Theological Seminary**

What did God say? Do you know what Jesus looks like? Can you tell a prophet from a pretender? You'll get the answers to these questions and more at the Lay School of Theology. It is open to everyone and the cost is just \$25 which includes lunch. Deadline for registration is January 23rd. Contact **Mariann Lankton** for more information at 559-0012.

### PCM Pantry

Paducah Cooperative Ministry has asked us to collect boxed **Mac & Cheese** during January and February. Our goal is to collect 500 units each month. To date we have 141 Mac & Cheese units.

### Guests in Worship Jan. 11

Eric Romanak, the Adams family, Aleta & Ronnie Harris, Dr. & Mrs. Monte Lackey *and others who worship with us regularly.*

*The Tower* is a publication of

**First Christian Church**

(Disciples of Christ)

415 Audubon Dr.,

Paducah, KY 42001

Phone (270) 443-8251

Web site: [fccpaducah.org](http://fccpaducah.org)

**Ministers:** The congregation along with J. Gottman, Mariann Lankton, Phil Justice

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**Sunday School—9:30 a.m.**  
[fccpaducah.org](http://fccpaducah.org)

**Worship & Communion—10:45 a.m.**  
Radio Broadcast 1560 WPAD-AM