

## Connecting With God . . .by J. Gottman (will return next week)

Last night, about 11 of us - adults and children - attended the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Service at Greater Love Missionary Baptist Church. The Rev. Dr. W. G. Harvey shared with the congregation the scripture from Genesis 37:5 "Once Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more." As I write it is Tuesday morning, January 20. In just a few hours Barack Obama will be sworn into office as the 44th President of the United States. Tomorrow the Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins will be offering the sermon at the National Prayer Service where I am sure her message will focus on God's power to work through all people for an optimistic future.

Time and again the word 'hope' seems to emerge from the lips of those who prayerfully look to the future. Obama's message throughout his campaign was all about promising change and hope. Dr. King's message and legacy was about change and hope. Our message from the gospel is about change and hope. With it being the New Year coupled with a change in government leadership it is easier for us to be hopeful that wide scale change can happen that will benefit all Americans.

How does change happen in a way that creates sustained hope? It takes hard work. It takes dedication to a cause. It takes personal responsibility. It takes altruism. It takes sacrifice. More to the point it takes a majority working together and placing politics, race, gender, and petty differences aside. The kind of change that many Americans are clamoring for will also take resolve and determined fortitude once the "roll your sleeves up" work begins and the glamour and excitement of the "new" wears off.

Do you have that kind of resolve? Do you have what it takes to sacrifice in the short term to achieve lasting reforms for future generations? Obama's opportunity to be president started over 140 years ago with the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by Abraham Lincoln. It took Dr. King's leadership over 40 years ago along with hundreds of thousands of people to face segregation head on and establish a civil rights movement to help our nation moving forward. There have been many determined attempts to bring about equitable health care for every American. There have been many determined attempts to end poverty, hunger and homelessness within our borders. There have been many determined attempts to bring people together in a grassroots network that crosses socio-economic and racial divides.

Will this be our time as a nation to turn these determined attempts into realities? Can this be our time to fulfill national dreams that serve us well in 2009 and beyond? Who knows? What I do know is that if everyone goes back to their life as it was and expects one person to fix it all—our dreams will be deferred yet again. We can look at the example of Jesus' earlier followers to see that for any movement to have sustained excellence there must be committed individuals willing to pick up the cause, convince others that the cause is important, and dare to dream of a better world. What's your dream?

See you this Sunday and invite your friends!  
Blessings and Peace,

**Missed a Sunday?**  
**Sermons are available online at**  
**fccpaducah.org**

### 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 (we are encouraging older adults whose children are grown) 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. Sign up sheets for adults and for parents to sign up their children (3 yrs. and up) are available on the main hallway bulletin board.

### Finger Food & Fellowship

Join us Saturday, Jan. 24, at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for the Nurturing Committee's Finger Food & Fellowship event. This is your opportunity to get to know others in our congregation better.

The committee has planned games and fun for all ages. Childcare will be provided. Please bring your favorite finger foods to share with the group.

### 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.  
**Mike Webber** (Interim Minister FCC Benton)

#### Other Prayer Concerns

**Barack Obama**, our 44th President  
**Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins**, General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) (preached at the National Prayer Service).  
**Congregation of FCC Mayfield, KY** (as the community deals with the death of 3 young men on Kentucky Lake)

### Bell Ringers' Buzz

By Larry Furmann

What a fantastic experience I had this Christmas Season! Before this past year, the only bells I had ever rung were **doorbells!** The only music I had played was on the **radio!** Now, thanks to the direction and guidance of Jim Patton and the support and encouragement of my fellow Disciple Ding-A-Lings, I can say I am a musician.



Not only have I actually become a musician, I have helped enhance worshiping God for myself and my church family. "Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth" is truly an uplifting experience and one I plan to continue during Holy Week and Easter Sunday! Once we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus, we will continue practicing for either a Mother's Day celebration or a Memorial Day celebration or perhaps both.

If YOU can count to 4 and have a white shirt or blouse, you too can become a Disciple Ding-A-Ling! With only a commitment of one hour a week for the next couple of months, you can enjoy the satisfaction that comes from praising God in music. You do NOT have to be able to read music. You do NOT have to carry a tune! You do NOT have to miss prime time television! We practice Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

We have an **urgent** need for at least 2 bell ringers for the Easter Season. Please call the church office today if you are interested.

### Weekly Calendar

#### Saturday, Jan. 24

6:00 p.m.—Finger Food & Fellowship (see pg. 2)

#### Sunday, Jan. 25

9:30 a.m.—Sunday School

10:45 a.m.—Worship & Communion

#### Monday, Jan. 26

7:00 p.m.—Elders Mtg.—Conference Room

#### Wednesday, Jan. 28

4:00 p.m.—K-5 Kids Groups

6:00 p.m.—All Church Dinner

7:00 p.m.—Prayer Service

#### Thursday, Jan. 29

6:30 p.m.—Choir Practice

#### Saturday, Jan. 31

8:30 p.m.—LTS Lay School of Theology

### Fellowship of Prayer

As part of our observance of the season of Lent, we will be ordering devotionals entitled **Fellowship of Prayer—Lent 2009**. Written by Christian and Amy Piatt, this devotional will provide you with a wonderful resource for your Lenten journey. Each day of Lent, a scripture reading, meditation and prayer will open your mind and heart as we continue to learn and grow through the challenges that sometimes come in our faith life.

We will take orders through Sunday, February 8th. The cost is \$3.50 (which includes shipping). See Mariann Lankton if you have questions or would like to see a sample of the devotional.

### Dear Church family:

Thank you for the cards when I was in the hospital!

**Patrick McHaney**

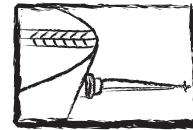
### FCC's Vital Statistics

#### Worship Attendance—January 18, 2009

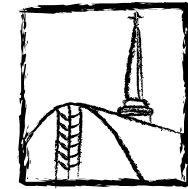
Sunday School	76
Worship	165

#### Financial Report—Jan 1, - Jan 23, 2009

Income to date	\$21,785
Expenses to date	\$20,923



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 25

**Elders:** Kent Price & Beverly Craig  
**Deacons:** Ben & Miranda Peterson, Glen Denton, Erin Gottman, Sunni Mauk, Pat Menaugh, Glenda Montgomery, Ed Silvey  
**Liturgist:** Ben Henry  
**Ushers:** Kenny & Mary Boaz  
**Greeters:** Joe & Betty Wallace  
**Acolyte:** Alex Wadlington  
**Communion Preparation & Flowers:** Ken & Robin Bradshaw  
**Communion Clean-Up:** The Peterson family  
**Reach Out Communion:** Don Alvey & Chris Wadlington, Marj Heyduck & Cathy Warmack  
**Time for Children:** Julie Price  
**Pew Pad Pick-Up (Jan.):** Erin Gottman  
**Elders on Call Jan 25-31:** Kathy McHaney & Kent Price  
**Sunday School Rotation:** Sunni Mauk, Judy Shoulders, Betty Sanders, Jamie Hagood

### This Sunday at FCC

9:30 a.m.—Sunday School

10:45 a.m.

Worship & Communion

#### Sermon Series:

God? Conversations with an Atheist

#### Sermon:

“God & Suffering”

### All-Church Dinner

Wednesday, January 28, - 6 p.m.

Sign up at the narthex table to bring a meat, vegetable, salad or dessert

**Hosts:** Patti Turok Group

**Program:** Evangelism Committee

**Clean Up Crew:** Evangelism Committee

### Monthly Prayer Service

Wednesday, Jan. 28, - 7 p.m.

Following the Dinner

This month we lift up in prayer our committees and committee chairs. Each committee plays an important part in the ministry of First Christian Church. We are thankful for the hard work they do to help us serve God. We will be praying for God’s guidance for each of them.

If you have someone you want to add to our prayer list please contact Mariann Lankton, (575-9810) providing her with the person’s name, address and concern or joy. Each person included will receive a letter letting them know they were lifted up in our prayers. Please join us.

[mlankton@fccpaducah.org](mailto:mlankton@fccpaducah.org)

### FCC Children Buy Livestock

Because of the generous gifts from the children in our Sunday school and other FCC members, we were able to purchase **a sheep and a hive of bees** for families in need through Heifer International. Thank you to all who gave!

### 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 245 Mac & Cheese units.

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

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

### Guests in Worship Jan. 18

Teresa Shimerda, Thomas Hardy, Missy Cochran, Amy Mehrn, Janet Graves, Elaine Graves and others who worship with us regularly.

The Tower is a publication of  
First Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
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Web site: [fccpaducah.org](http://fccpaducah.org)

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

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