

Connecting with God

by J. Gottman

This week in the news there have been two high profile church incidents.

Hartford, Connecticut - Connecticut has a new bill in the works that has the potential to turn the Catholic church upside down. Sen. Andrew McDonald of Stamford and Rep. Michael Lawlor of East Haven introduced the bill Thursday, which would force an extreme reorganization of the legal, financial and administrative structure of Catholic churches. The bill was introduced after a priest in Darien was convicted of stealing up to \$1.4 million from lay donations. There is a similar investigation taking place in Greenwich. This whole process began when angry church members approached the legislature for help.

Maryville, Illinois - A pastor shot and killed during his Sunday sermon deflected the first of the gunman's four rounds with a Bible, spraying a confetti of paper into the air during a horrifying scene that congregants initially thought was a skit ... Two church members were also injured in the attack.

An unfortunate reality is that churches are not immune to the problems that face the rest of the world. Embezzlement happens in the corporate sector and it happens in faith communities. Disgruntled employees and customers have taken out their anger on workers in numerous businesses. Now the church also finds itself having to be more and more cautious during church activities. Although I cringe when I hear people talk of church as a business, there are certain aspects of ministry that must be run like any other corporation to help us ward off similar situations. I am thankful that we have a finance committee, trustees, and a board that work together to oversee the financial resources that fund our ministry. This type of oversight helps us to significantly reduce our risk for one person to steal money.

On a related note, First Christian must take a serious look at our safety procedures across the whole spectrum of our ministry ranging from our preschool program to our Sunday morning activities. Our total mission should not only include bringing people to Christ and sharing the Good News of the gospel, but also to create a safe environment for all God's children.

I'm sharing this so that all of us can work together to insulate us from potential dangers. If you ever have any thoughts on how to improve what we do please be sure to share them with one of our board members. Similarly, if you ever have a question regarding why we do things a certain way, don't hesitate to ask.

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

Missed a Sunday?

Sermons are available online at
fccpaducah.org

Annual Camp Kum-Ba-Ya Workday Scheduled

The workday, sponsored by the Far Western Kentucky Disciples Men's Fellowship, will be held Friday and Saturday, May 15 & 16. We'll begin with a campfire on Friday at 7 p.m., breakfast will be cooked at 6 p.m. and served at 7 p.m. the next morning. We plan to work from 8 a.m. to noon, break for lunch and work from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. Projects include roofing, painting, cleaning up trails, cleaning up ice storm damage and getting the camp ready for the 2009 campers. This is a family event, so plan to bring your wife and kids. If you want to spend Friday night, bring your sleeping gear and use one of the cabins or sleep in the lodge. This is a great opportunity to visit our Disciples Camp on beautiful Kentucky Lake. For more information contact **Dan McKeel** at 293-6801 or dan@mckeelequipment.com.

In Our Prayers

Weekly Health Concerns

Jack Chapman, Jackson Oaks

Pat Cownie, 7040 Contest Rd.

Nan Russell, 200 Myrna Dr.

Ann Borgia, 650 College Ave. Apt. 69

Brenda Murphy, 4300 Westchester Ln.

Take a Stand Against Child Abuse

The Hot Topics Sunday school class is coordinating participation in the "Take a Stand Against Child Abuse" event on March 28, 2009. The event will be from 10 a.m. to noon in front of the Kmart store on Lone Oak Rd. Information brochures and sponsor logs to contribute financially are available on the table at the church's front entrance. You may also give your donation to Larry Furmann. Contact Larry at 575-9075 or LRFurmann@msn.com.

Memorial Gifts

In memory of Juanita Phillips

Joy Eckeberger, Bette Whitlow, Ann Denton, Ivan Doane

In memory of Oval Crenshaw

Bea Chester, Ann Denton

In memory of Louise Beasley

Ralph & Katherine Borchelt

In memory of Ethel Wyatt

Nettie Bingham, Bea Chester

Lay School of Theology

March 28, — 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

(Rescheduled from Jan. 31st)

"And God Said What?"

Instructor: Dr. Margaret Ralph

Call the church office to register.

"Camp Edge" Vacation Bible School

The Christian Ed Committee is planning Vacation Bible School for June 14 through June 18, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Look for more information in The Tower soon.

The Week Ahead

Sunday, March 15

9:30 a.m.—Sunday School

10:45 a.m.—Worship & Communion

Monday, March 16

6:30 p.m.—Christian Ed Committee Mtg.

Conference Room

Tuesday, March 17

10:00 a.m.—Dist. 1 Ministers Mtg. at FCC

6:30 p.m.—Patti Turok CWF Group Mtg.

Home of Bobbie Allen

Wednesday, March 18

9:30 a.m.—WKCTC Seniors Board

Conference Room

4:00 p.m.—K-5 Kids Groups

5:30 p.m.—6-12 Gr. Youth Groups

5:30 p.m.—Handbell Practice

Thursday, March 19

6:30 p.m.—Choir Practice

7:00 p.m.—District Men at Maxon CC

Friday, March 20

6:30 p.m.—Couples Enrichment Group

Materials are available in the church office

Easter Egg Helpers Needed

FCC's annual Easter Egg hunt will be held **Saturday, April 11th** from 10 a.m. until noon. Please bring pre-filled plastic Easter eggs in preparation for the hunt to the church office. Volunteers are also needed to assist with the activities and to hide the eggs. Contact **Miranda Peterson** for more information at mirandabees@gmail.com

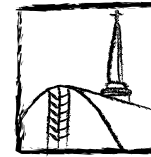
FCC's Vital Statistics

Worship Attendance—March 8, 2009

Sunday School	72
Worship	151

Financial Report—Jan 1, - March 13, 2009

Income to date	\$65,101
Expenses to date	\$76,482
Deficit	\$11,381



THE TOWER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH • PADUCAH, KENTUCKY

Come. See. Discover.

This Sunday at FCC

9:30 a.m.

Sunday School

10:45 a.m.

Worship & Communion

Sermon Series:

The Disciples Next Door

Sermon:

“Matthew & Simon”

New Tower to Premiere in April

In an effort to better utilize our resources—both personnel and supplies—we will be mailing a new, improved Tower on a monthly basis, starting with the March 27th issue. The new Tower will have more photos, more articles, and more information for our members and friends. In addition to the monthly newsletter, we will be sending weekly updates on postcards with prayer concerns, serving schedules, and reminders about weekly events such as church suppers. If you choose to receive the weekly updates via 2-mails (Jae’s “this Week at FCC”) you can let Stephanie know to take you off the mailing list, and make sure you are on the e-mail list. In the future we will be offering The Tower as an e-mail attachment for those who choose to receive it that way as well.

Contact **Kathy McHaney** (534-0537) for more information.

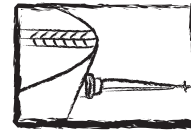
Another Grounds Workday Planned

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Grounds Workday last Saturday. It was a great success and we accomplished a lot, but there is still quite a bit to do.



We will meet again this **Saturday, March 14**, from 9 a.m. to noon to finish cleaning up the downed limbs between the parking lot and Sunset and around the church building. Please remember to bring your yard tools.

Ben Peterson



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

Members Serving March 15

Elders: Alan Boyd & Bill Cownie
Deacons: Bill & Carolyn Payne, Dudley & Gail Wagner, Judy Shoulders, Sherry Wadlington, Joe Wallace, Georgia Boyd
Liturgist: Sandy Wallace
Ushers: Ivan Doane & Carlyle Phillips
Greeters: Jack & Mimmie Roddy
Acolyte: Jarrett Mauk
Communion Preparation & Flowers: Nettie Bingham & Barbara Murphy
Communion Clean-Up: The Shoulders Family
Reach Out Communion: Beverly Craig & Erin Morehead, Don & Judy Alvey
Time for Children: Kent Price
Pew Pad Pick-Up (Mar.): Erin Gottman
Elders on Call Mar. 15-21: Ann Denton & W. R. Sanders
Sunday School Rotation: Ben Morehead

Guests in Worship Mar. 8

Michael Myrick, Kelsey Bell, Jenny Edwards, Teresa Shimerda, Becky Becker, Lynn Fewell, Brent, Marybeth & Abe Taylor, *and others who worship with us regularly.*

PCM Pantry Report

We are collecting peanut butter this month. Our goal is 500 units. To date we have 60. Please remember to bring your peanut butter donations to worship with you Sunday.

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

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

Non-Profit Org
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PAID
Paducah, KY 42001
Permit No. 261

Sunday School—9:30 a.m.
fccpaducah.org

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