



# i CHURCH

The Heart

The Ligaments

The Limbs

The Soul

In the world of “i” everything, does the Church exist to support the “i’s” or is there something more? How do we reconcile a community oriented movement with the “i” driven world that we currently know? Throughout the ages of the church, individuals have been invited on a journey of discipleship—a journey of becoming like Jesus. Join us for these 4 weeks as we discover the way of a disciple amongst the community of faith.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

David & Linda Aikins

Jerry & Brenda Little

Bruce Tyner, Jr.

Lauren Douglass

Kyle, Jenna, Joie, Delilah,

Arrendondo, Angela & AJ Vann

Emily Hornsby

Logan Merritt & Natalie Pellow

Alicia Welch

Jeremy Johnson

Dan, Wendy & Anthony Simmons

First Christian Church

*Life*

Monthly Newsletter  
February 2012

# Being a Blessing

In November, we journeyed through a sermon series entitled "Be a Blessing." The basic question that we were dealing with was "What is the purpose of stewardship?" In the end, one of the prime reasons that we are graced with resources, talents, gifts and time is to be a blessing to others.

I had prayed and hoped that we would see that being a blessing was a gift and the idea would be caught. What I didn't realize was the way our church would take this idea and live it abundantly! In the last 2 months of 2011, we saw a surge in attendance as people began inviting friends to church and looking for ways to bless others. The Christmas Eve services combined the talent of our musicians from church and those outside the church to help us remember the light of the world born among us!

Financially, we finished the year meeting all of our expenses from 2011 and were able to carry over a tad to help fund a project for 2012! The change from 2010 to 2011 is remarkable! We have a positive change in giving by over \$40,000! Thank you all for blessing the church so we can continue to bless the community!

In December, we celebrated our faithful leaders who helped guide us to the place we are today and they passed on their roles to a new wave of leaders. January has been a month of exploration, learning and questioning as the new leaders of ministries, new Elders and new Trustees learn about all that is happening at FCC. Our church has been blessed with great leadership in the past and that tradition is continuing into the future with our new team of leadership!

Yet the greatest stories I hear are the little ways that so many bless others or have been blessed by someone else. Perhaps it is contagious, but when someone blesses another, it seems to compel them to do that for another. My hope is that 2012 is a year that we continue to celebrate the God who blesses us and in turn, we bless one another!



First Christian Church Members and Guests  
Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>  
Fellowship Hall

## LoveFest 2012

Spaghetti Dinner 5 pm  
served by our Youth,  
entertainment starts 5:30 pm  
also provided by our Youth,

All-Church Fellowship throughout the evening!

There is no charge, Tips are welcomed and will benefit FCC's Youth Ministry.

Childcare will be provided for those interested.

\*Reserve your seat(s) by February 8<sup>th</sup>  
signing up on the LoveFest 2012 flyer in the foyer.

# INTERNSHIP MINISTRY

"Our church is just one generation from extinction." Those words hit me like a ton of bricks the first time I heard them. If you think about it, they are true. If we don't pass on our faith, story and ways to the newest generations, then the faith that we love and the God we serve will vanish. Yet based on what is happening in our youth ministry and among the college students, I am assured that our faith is in great hands and will continue far into the future.

This January, we began an internship ministry to help individuals wrestling with a call to full time ministry! It is a joy that the first intern is one who started coming in high school. Now as a college student, he is taking a semester off to discern whether full time ministry is the path of his future. Therefore, I'd like to introduce you to Logann Merritt and learn a bit about him.

Logann is 19 years old and is currently working part time at Taco John's and helping at the church. He and his family began attending FCC in the fall of 2010 while he was a senior. He began sensing a call to ministry last fall and through much prayer and discussion with his parents, he decided to spend a semester

focused on what God would have him be. Logann is eager to learn more about the behind the scenes happenings of church and sharing his gifts with us!

## **What do you like best about Lawrence?**

I like the downtown area and the community at large because it is so different from everywhere else I have lived. Plus, it takes like five minutes to get anywhere!

## **What do you hope to learn while interning at FCC?**

Where do I start? Hmm, I think a big part is to learn how to be a good example of showing God's love to people and helping to spread that.

## **What have you learned in your first two days at FCC?**

Well, I've learned how to disassemble a mannequin while also learning that Jesus loves Chipolte! But seriously, I didn't realize how many people are actually at the church during the week. I always figured that some staff were around, but the church has a lot happening outside of Sunday.

## **What's your favorite vacation?**

We went to Florida one time and stayed at a place on the beach. It had this dock that went like 100 feet into the ocean and every morning there were dolphins and manatees at the end of it playing. It was such a cool experience.

## Ash Wednesday

I remember growing up as a child and there was this one time of year where people would be walking around with ashes on their forehead. One of my friends was Catholic and he informed me that the day was called "Ash Wednesday." Certainly, this made no sense as to why people would want to put dirty ashes on their foreheads and walk around with this sign of the cross on their head.

Now, many years later, I value and look forward to this unusual worship service. I look forward to smiling at those walking around town with ashes on their heads as we are reminded of who we are, the God who comes to us and our response of repentance. Perhaps the Ash Wednesday tradition is unknown to you. Following is a brief history of Ash Wednesday with an explanation of why we celebrate this. Join us on **February 22<sup>nd</sup>** at **6 pm** as we worship our God and are reminded of what the journey of Lent is all about.

In the Western Church, Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, the 40-day period of fasting before Easter. On Ash Wednesday, ashes are blessed, mixed with either holy oil or water, and placed upon the head with the sign of the cross, or sprinkled on the forehead. The ashes are made from burning palm branches blessed the previous year on Palm Sunday. When the ashes are imposed, he/she says either "remember man you are dust, and to dust you will return" (see Genesis 3:19), or "turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel" (Mark 1:15).

The ashes serve a dual purpose. First, as the above words imply, we are reminded of our mortality and humanity as we begin the Lenten Fast. Second, the ashes are a Biblical symbol of repentance, sorrow, and humility. There are many cases in the Scriptures of wearing ashes as a sign of penitence, often while wearing sackcloth. In 2 Samuel 13:19, Tamar puts on ashes and tears her clothes as a sign of sadness and repentance. In Esther 4:1-3, after learning of the king's decree to kill all Jews, Mordecai tears his garments, and puts on sackcloth and ashes. His fellow Jews do the same thing, as well as beginning to fast. The prophet Jeremiah (6:26) urges his readers to "gird on sackcloth and roll in ashes." In the 8th century, Ash Wednesday became a day of penitence and fasting for all members of the Church. *Adapted from churchyear.net.*

# First Christian Church

# Life

First Christian Church • 1000 Kentucky Street • Lawrence KS 66044

Church Office: 785-843-0679 Fax: 785-838-3668

Email: [office@fcclawrence.org](mailto:office@fcclawrence.org) Website: [www.fcclawrence.org](http://www.fcclawrence.org)

Sunday Worship—

Traditional Service 9:00 am

Sunday School Classes 10:10-10:50 am

Contemporary Service 11:00 am

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Non-Profit Org.**

**U. S. POSTAGE**

**PAID**

**LAWRENCE, KANSAS**

**PERMIT 192**

## STAFF EMAILS

David Rivers, Pastor	<a href="mailto:david@fcclawrence.org">david@fcclawrence.org</a>
Tiffany Lemons, Youth Pastor	<a href="mailto:tiffany@fcclawrence.org">tiffany@fcclawrence.org</a>
Katie Rivers, Children's Ministry Dir.	<a href="mailto:katie@fcclawrence.org">katie@fcclawrence.org</a>
Lisa Hoag, Finance Office	<a href="mailto:lisa@fcclawrence.org">lisa@fcclawrence.org</a>
Linda Schrock, Admin. Assistant	<a href="mailto:linda@fcclawrence.org">linda@fcclawrence.org</a>
Main Office/Debbie	<a href="mailto:office@fcclawrence.org">office@fcclawrence.org</a>
Giving Tree/Kathy & Donna	<a href="mailto:giv-&lt;br/&gt;ingtree@fcclawrence.org">giv- ingtree@fcclawrence.org</a>
Scott Pickerel, Custodial/Maint. Super.	<a href="mailto:scott@fcclawrence.org">scott@fcclawrence.org</a>

## FIRST SUNDAYS BRUNCH



February 5

10 am

Fellowship Hall

Everyone Welcome!

## February FCC Events

February 1	Family Promise Ruth CWF Junior Youth Group Children's Choirs
February 2	Family Promise Women's Bible Study GriefShare Chancel Choir Rehearsal
February 3	Family Promise Berean Bible Study Family Promise Sew n Sew
February 4	Family Promise College Group Senior High Youth Group
February 5	Worship Team Practice Lydia Ladies Children's Ministry Team
February 7	Junior Youth Group Children's Choirs Carlson Small Group
February 8	Women's Bible Study JOY (Just Older Youth) GriefShare Chancel Choir Rehearsal
February 9	<b>LoveFest 2012</b> Senior High Youth Group Elders Meeting
February 12	Worship Team Practice Warm Hearts Junior Youth Group Children's Choirs Carlson Small Group
February 14	Women's Bible Study Open Food Pantry Grief Share Chancel Choir Rehearsal
February 15	Berean Bible Study College Group Senior High Youth Group Sew n Sew
February 16	Trustees Meeting Worship Team Practice Leadership Board Meeting
February 17	Junior Youth Group Carlson Small Group Women's Bible Study CWF Board Meeting GriefShare Chancel Choir Rehearsal
February 19	Leaders CLI College Group Senior High Youth Group
February 20	Worship Team Practice Junior Youth Group Children's Choirs Carlson Small Group
February 21	Women's Bible Study CWF Board Meeting GriefShare Chancel Choir Rehearsal
February 22	Leaders CLI College Group Senior High Youth Group
February 23	Worship Team Practice Junior Youth Group Children's Choirs Carlson Small Group
February 25	
February 26	
February 28	
February 29	