

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 Website: www.fcclawrence.org

Sunday Worship—

Traditional Service 9:00 am

Sunday School Classes 10:10-10:50 am

Contemporary Service 11:00 am

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“Why am I here?” she asked.

All the turmoil of life...

...the hurt of her past...

...the need for assurance that

there is purpose to her life.

She needed real answers, an understanding of why God would even care for someone such as her. She had been struggling with the idea of God calling. Struggling with finding meaning in her life. Struggling to understand how to know what God would want.

She’s not alone. Throughout the ages, person after person has had to work through these very struggles. And yet, in the midst of the struggle, a voice begins to drown out the noise. Purpose is revealed. Love is embraced. A future has begun.

Has God called you? Join us for 4 weeks as we walk with those who have faced these struggles and answered God’s call.

Are you willing to answer the call?

- January 1—What’s my purpose in life?
- January 8—Will God audibly tell me what to do?
- January 15—What if I’m not capable of doing what I feel called to do?
- January 22—What roadblocks are impeding my path?



Monthly Newsletter
January 2012

January FCC Events

January 1	New Years Day 9 & 11 am Worship Brunch next Sunday!
January 2	Office Closed
January 3	Office Hours—9 am-4 pm Worship Team Practice Lydia Ladies Ruth CWF
January 4	Women’s Bible Study
January 5	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
January 6	Berean Bible Study
January 7	Un-Hanging of the Greens
January 8	FCC serves LINK First Sundays Brunch
January 10	Worship Team Practice
January 11	Middle Youth Group
January 12	Women’s Bible Study JOY (Just Older Youth) Chancel Choir Rehearsal
January 13	Lydia Ladies Card Project
January 14	CLI-Church Leadership Initiative
January 15	Senior High Youth Group
January 16	Trustees Meeting
January 17	Worship Team Practice Leadership Board Meeting
January 18	Warm Hearts Middle Youth Group Children’s Programs
January 19	Women’s Bible Study Open Food Pantry Chancel Choir Rehearsal Youth Ministry Team
January 20	Berean Bible Study New Women’s Fellowship
January 21	CLI-Church Leadership Initiative
January 22	Senior High Youth Group
January 24	Worship Team Practice
January 25	Children’s Programs
January 26	CWF Board Meeting Women’s Bible Study Chancel Choir Rehearsal
January 28	CLI-Church Leadership Initiative
January 29	Senior High Youth Group
January 31	Worship Team Practice

FIRST SUNDAYS BRUNCH

January 8th

(It is the second Sunday!)

10 am

Fellowship Hall

Everyone Welcome!



Looking Back Joy.



That one word I think can summarize how many feel about life at FCC in 2011. Whether it is the joy of new babies that have arrived; the joy of new life in Christ and the baptisms that have followed; the worship services that move and inspire us to be God's people; the gathering of prayer circles and small groups; all these and more just hint at the joy that has engulfed First Christian.

And yet in the midst of the joy that has engulfed our church, we have not held it in! We continue to serve hundreds of people a month through the Food Pantry; we continue to see the lives of families transformed through Family Promise; the new playground soon to be filled with joyous laughter of children at play; a new Helping Hands Closet; a mission trip full of teens eager to make a difference; a VBS hosting over 100 children to learn about our God- this year, we have seen our joy spill out into our community!

As a Pastor, I also have the honor of seeing new marriages sprout and celebrate the lives of the saints who God has used to make our world a bit more like the one he desires. I have the honor of hearing the stories of your life and how God continues to intersect your path and pull you close to him. This year, I have had the honor of watching an idea, "Be a Blessing," take root and sprout all over the place! In fact, I know your joy for I see it every Sunday in the smiles, the hugs, and the ways that you care for each other.

2011. A year that we have had the distinct privilege of see God move among us. My hope is that we pause, look back on this year, and give God thanks for what He has done! For God's Spirit is moving through you and through this place so let's pray for 2012 and the many ways that God will continue to amaze us with His work!

Pastor David Rivers

A Prayer for Leaders

This year, we celebrate the leaders who have helped us discern and follow God's call to us! These faithful servants have given countless hours to prayer, conversations, and meetings to ensure that we remain centered in God's will for FCC. They have carried the torch of leadership for many years and now we have the opportunity to celebrate what they have done and to thank them! Therefore, if you see any of these leaders who have been so faithful and now have a season of rest, will you join me in thanking them? They are Glenda Brenton, Peggy Burnett, Barb Copple, Jane Garvin, Ron Garvin, Rob Lundmark, Lori Myrick, Christie Ogunnowo, Marylee Southard, Kalene Sanders, Tim Sanders, Katie Studebaker, and Randy van Foeken. As we welcome our newest leaders and those returning, my hope is that we can spend the month of January praying this prayer together! Then, for the rest of the year, I hope you will remember them in your prayers as they seek to bring continuity to our leadership and vision to our path.

Our Father, you have called these leaders to lead our church for this season. We pray that you would give them the discernment to understand your hopes and desires for First Christian. We also pray that you would equip them with every gift they will need while they carry the torch of leadership. In the moments that they feel inadequate or unprepared, be their strength. Remind them daily that you walk closely with them and in you we find our strength and courage. Thank you for blessing our church with them and we pray that you would bless their leadership as we continue to seek Your will for our church. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

The new leaders are Debbie Dame, Derk Landes, Lori Myrick*, Steve Myrick, Jane Phelps, Glenn Prescott*, Lisa Rundell, Wes Ryan, Carol Ryan, Kalene Sanders*, Hyacinth Self, David Segura, Jim Schilling, Audrey Schilling, Marylee Southard*, Greg Swart, Mikayla Swart, Dale Willey, and Michele van Foeken, Those returning to leadership are Donna Carlson, Jim Congrove, Shawn Henderson, Larry McElwain, Gary Moulton, Leonard Ortiz, Judy Pinegar, Bob Powell, Calvin Reed, Paul Studebaker, and Jim Self .

*New leadership role within the church.

Childrens Happenings:



Happy New Year! 2012 brings some exciting transformations to the Children's Ministry! Last month I gave you a sneak peak of what to expect on Sundays. Starting on January 15th, we'll be introducing two new Sunday morning opportunities- [Noah's Park](#) and [The ARK](#).

We will launch [Noah's Park](#) for our 3 year olds—Kindergarteners. You will be able to drop your child off in [Noah's Park](#) before church or after the children's moment. We ask that a parent drops them off and picks them up.

For our 1st through 5th graders, we will be launching [The ARK](#)! We have been busy remodeling the rooms to prepare for this exciting learning space. Each month, students will rotate between "Animal Theatre," "Noah's Art," "Monkey-n-round", and "The Galley." For pick-up after worship, the rotation schedule will be in the bulletin and on signage in the Foyer and atrium by the stairs.

Starting on January 18th, the Children's Ministry will be launching a Children's Choir and a Hand Bell Choir! Through the use of music and fun, the children will continue to learn our faith story as they sing and ring about it! Children ages 4 years—5th grade are invited to participate in choir. Children ages 1st-5th grade are invited to participate in the Hand Bell Choir.

The Hand Bell Choir will be led by Gretchen Reed. Gretchen has led our adult hand bell choir and is passionate about music and children. The Children's Choir will be led by a KU School of Music graduate, Katie Staton. She has been interning under Sara Bonner at Deerfield Elementary and is excited to help our children find joy in singing! The Children's Choir and Hand Bell Choir will perform 3 times a year in our worship services.

On another note, The Children's Ministry would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have put in countless hours volunteering with the children of FCC. To all those who have volunteered one hour to a thousand hours- THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!! Our children's program would be nothing without your help and support. The children of FCC are blessed to have such great volunteers! We are gearing up for some exciting changes in January! If you would like to be a part of an amazing ministry while planting seeds in children's lives, please contact Katie Rivers at 843-0679 for more information!

FCC Youth A Year in Review



You know God is doing something amazing in student's lives, when the size of your missions' team doubles in one year. There is nothing like the promise of a 2 day trip in a stinky van crammed full of teenagers and their stuff to make students flock to sign up! And yet, they did and I believe that that in itself is a testimony to the work that God has been doing in our student's lives. It is hard enough for an adult to be selfless let alone a teenager, but we have a group of students at FCC who love to serve others. FCC's Youth Ministry has more than doubled in size over the last year in its weekly attendance and along with that we have also doubled the amount of students involved in our missions trip experience and summer camp this year. Genee Figuietas used her passions and talents to allow students to use their gifts in music, dancing, drama and tech to bless our community. On a weekly basis the Youth Group has been learning about the start of the early church as well as learning what their role is today as present day members of the church.

Over the last year I have been blessed to teach and walk alongside the students of FCC's Youth Ministry. I get to watch our students grow and mature in their faith daily, to see the way their life changes when they "get it" and to watch them invite their friends along to Youth Group so that they can share the good news with them too. I also have the privilege to walk alongside students and their families through the hard things that life brings such as death, sickness, divorce and the many other transitions that are a part of our students and their families' lives.

God's spirit is on the move, he is using me, he is using you and he is using our students! I am looking forward with eager expectation to what God is going to do among the Youth of our church next year!

Pastor Tiffany Lemons