



LVIII

The Marshall Christian

No. XI I



December 2015

Elder/Deacon Serving Schedule

December 6 & 13

Elders:

Buddy Hannaford
Mark Harvey

Deacons:

Chris Layton
Lori Layton
Seth Layton
Amanda McCord
Jo Wilhite

December 20 & 27

Elders:

Dan Brandt
Vickie Wise

Deacons:

Annette Bishop
Shane Bishop
Cindy Brandt
Wayne Wise
TBA

Outside Communion:

December 13

Mark Harvey
Wayne Buck

December 27

Fred Hartley
TBA

Worship Leaders

Dec. 6 Mark Harvey
Dec. 13 Wayne McReynolds
Dec. 20 Buddy Hannaford
Dev. 27 Dan Brandt



“Advent Questions”

I’ve found that Advent is a season for questions: What do you want for Christmas? Can you come to our party? Will you be at the Christmas program? Will you write a letter to Santa for me? Did you see the Christmas special on tv? Are you traveling anywhere over Christmas? Do you have family coming in for Christmas? Where can I find a mutant ninja turtle for my nephew? Are you sending out cards? The list goes on and on.

The author Max Lucado asks some interesting questions for Joseph and Mary: Joseph – Did you and Jesus ever arm wrestle? Did he ever let you win? Did you ever look up from your prayers and see Jesus listening? How do you say “Jesus” in Egyptian? Did he ever come home with a black eye? When he saw a lamb being led to the slaughter, did he act differently? Did you ever scold him? Mary – What was it like watching Jesus pray? Did he ever wake up afraid? Who was his childhood best friend? Did you ever accidentally call him Father? Did you ever try to count the stars with him...and succeed? Did he ever ask you a question about Scripture? Did you ever think, ‘That’s God eating my soup’?

Now here are some questions for you to ponder: Did you ever look closely at a nativity scene and imagine what it would be like to have been there? How would you approach the manger? What would you say? Who would you want to bring with you? Would you listen to the shepherds tell their story about the angels? Would you glance around to look for an angel? If you saw the wise men bringing their gifts, would you feel empty handed? What gift would you bring if you knew to bring one? Would you push your way to the manger to see the baby, or be content to stand behind the crowd and just be close? When was the last time you felt as though you really experienced the baby Jesus in the nativity? How did it make you feel? Have you taken the time this year to have that feeling? Advent is a season for so many questions. Thankfully Christmas is the season God chose to give us an answer – Jesus. May we make the most of this Advent season by asking the important questions and seeking the answers that really matter.



In God’s Grip, Loy



December Anniversaries & Birthdays

1– Paxton Joliff
Molly Krog
2– Jeff Wise
3– John Fletcher
Cindy McCord
6– Stacey Smith
10– Chris Layton
12– Gwen Clemens
Cyrus McCord
Bert Shannon
14– Brienne Asbury
Holly Malan
Heidi Joliff
15– Sherry Shannon
17– Bryant Eads
18– Karolyn Caldwell
19– Madison Gaba
20– Jill Buck

Meg Kissner
21– Emily Kueker
22– Leslie Coslet
Linda Dryer
23– Amanda McCord
24– Carolyn Buck
Kevin Dryer
25– Tyler Merchant
26– Ann Pannell
27– Virginia Bryant
Jeff Dryer
Jo Wilhite
Wayne Wise
28– Kevin Ash
Vic Hessel
Carl O'Dell
Tyler Smith

29– Barbara Champion
31– Abby Gass
Randall Wilson

ANNIVERSARIES

1– Justin & Abby Schroeder
10– Matthew & Jessica Green
12– Loyd & Ann Pannell
17– Paul & Michelle Scarff
18– JW & Jill Clemens
23– Dale & Lois Pontius
26– Ed & Ginger Reis
27– Paul & Linda Crews
AJ & Barbara Utlaut
David & Marlene VanHorn
28– Loy & Rhonda Hoskins



Cookies are needed for the Ministerial Alliance's Nativity Festival (see article on page 4). If you can help, please bring cookies to the Church office by December 4th.



FCC Youth Group Information

On Sunday, 12/6 the Jr. and Sr. High youth are invited to go to Kansas City for ice skating and to attend the Christmas Pageant. We will leave from FCC at 11am, returning at approx. 7pm. The youth will need money for lunch and snacks. Space is limited, please RSVP as soon as possible to save your spot.

We will have our youth Christmas Program on Sunday, 12/13 at Covenant Presbyterian Church. All three youth groups will participate in the Christmas Program. Youth should arrive at 4pm; the program will begin at 4:30. Afterwards, everyone is invited to join us in the fellowship hall for supper (bring a dish if able) and Christmas caroling. Save the date for a special evening filled with Christmas joy!!

The youth Christmas parties will be on Wednesday, 12/16 and Sunday, 12/20. In lieu of gifts, youth are asked to bring a donation for the Marshall Food Pantry.

There will be no youth groups meetings on December 23, 27, 30 or January 3rd.

It's getting to be that time of year again where the weather can be unpredictable. Just a reminder that if school is cancelled due to inclement weather, youth group also will be cancelled.



Tid-Bits...



Annual Chili Supper/ Silent Auction

Our annual Chili Supper and Silent Auction to benefit local outreach will be this coming Friday, December 4th. This event has become so important to people in our community as it has allowed FCC to contribute over \$34,000 to organizations that help people in and around Marshall. Tickets are on sale now at the Church office. Adult tickets are \$7, children 4-8 are \$3, and 3 and under are free. Come join us between 4:30 - 8:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Of course, if you are in a hurry, take-out is available! Set up for this event will be Wednesday, December 2nd at 5:30 p.m. Sandwiches will be served.



Jell-O and Pudding for Holiday Project



We are collecting boxes of jell-o and/or pudding mixes for the Saline County Community Holiday Project. You can bring your boxes to add to the pyramid that is being built in the foyer. Our goal is to collect 500 boxes by the seventh of December when we will turn them in.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Our church has been assigned Saturday, December 19 to ring the bell for the Salvation Army at the Wal-Mart doors. Pairs of volunteers will be there from 10:00 in the morning until 6:00 that evening.

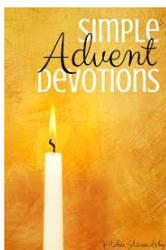
A sign-up sheet is located on the table in the sun room.



Christmas Family Adoption

The Outreach Committee is collecting for our church family whom we have adopted for Christmas. The office has a wish list of toys for three children. Please call the office to see what is still needed (so we don't get multiples of any item), then bring the wrapped or unwrapped item to the office by December 20. We are also seeking cash donations so that we can help the family pay some bills this month.

Advent Devotionals



Advent Devotional Books are available for pick-up in the parlor and sun room to assist us in preparing our hearts for the coming of the Christ Child. The daily meditations through Christmas Day offer short readings and prayers connected with Scripture. The booklets, "My Soul Magnifies the Lord," are from the Society of St. Andrew, and they are great resource for personal devotional use. Written by pastors and lay people from all walks of life, each day's devotional offers depth and meaning in our fast-paced world. There are enough devotion books for each family to take one.

Nativity Festival

The Ministerial Alliance will be hosting a Nativity Festival with the theme "Room at the Inn" on Saturday, Dec. 5 and Sunday, Dec. 6, 1-7 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church. There will be wassail and snacks served, many unique nativities to see, and entertainment. At 6:00 on Saturday, Harold Hynick (Missouri Valley College professor of theater) will present his one-man version of "A Christmas Carol". At 5:00 on Sunday, Bathsbeba Love and the Morton Sisters will perform. Saturday night there will also be a Living Nativity. If you are interested in showing your nativities please register at mma.nativity@gmail.com or call 660-287-2897. Donations will

benefit the Marshall Ministerial Alliance Transient Fund.



Poinsettias

Families wanting to remember their loved ones with a Poinsettia are welcome to bring them in to the Church office the week of December 14th.

All flowers should be brought in no later than December 17th.



More Tid-Bits...

Resources for Veterans

A Veterans Resource & Health Fair will be held at Fitzgibbon Hospital on Wednesday, December 9, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Free items such as food & refreshments, person care kits, haircuts and much more will be offered along with counseling & referrals, employment training, housing resources and health care services. For more information on this event for veterans and veterans' families, contact 660-886-7476.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

This year our Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service will be held on a Thursday night. Join us at 7:00 p.m. for a short, meaningful worship featuring scripture readings and hymns that will help us welcome the Christ Child again into our world...and into our lives. We will share together in communion and the lighting of candles.



January Newsletter

We hope to mail out the January newsletter by December 21. The deadline to have articles in will be December 15.



Inclement Weather Policy

We will again be using the call messaging system if there is a need to cancel worship services or other events or gatherings due to bad weather or dangerous road conditions. We will also be once again putting messages out

through KMMO radio, 102.9 FM.



And the Grinch,
with his Grinch-feet
ice cold in the snow,
stood puzzling and puzzling,
how could it be so?
It came without ribbons,
It came without tags,
It came without packages,
boxes or bags.
And he puzzled
and puzzled
'till his puzzler was sore.
Then the Grinch
thought of something
he hadn't before,
What if Christmas, he thought,
doesn't come from a store.
What if Christmas, perhaps,
means a little bit more.

Typography by ~ www.SamStormbornOrmandy.com
Words magically put together by ~ Dr. Seuss



The Finished Product...

So the season of Christmas is upon us, and we all know what that means...time to pull out the decorations and trees! This year, thanks to that little thing called “getting married”, I had a lot of help with the tugging and pulling of all the large boxes and containers. Brad, my amazing husband, will tell you I worked him like a Hebrew slave! But, I can tell he enjoyed every struggle of it- it was in the gleaming of his eyes where the truth lied. Oh, perhaps I mistook glistening sweat on his forehead for that gleam! Either way, the chore of bringing all the packed Christmas items out into the open was once again complete, and it was time to move on to the fun festivities of wrapping lights and hanging ornaments.

As the self-proclaimed crazy Christmas lady, I started taking stock of my fifteen trees to make sure they were in tip-top shape. We sorted and pulled the correct trees into the correct rooms of the house so that they could be decorated according to location and surrounding décor. Sounds like a lot of trouble? You would be correct! But when it is

all complete, about two weeks after the start date, it all seems worth it. Ok, don't ask Brad if it is...he may not have the same answer as I. One particular tree, the Santa tree that goes in the family room, was not going to make it this year. As a new edition to the family, and someone who still needed to earn their “Elf Certificate” (as Torey and I call it), Brad's task was to “save” the Santa tree. Two hours into the project the Santa tree found a new home...the curb outside of our house! Yep, there was no saving or fixing this eight foot treasure. Instead, we opted to bring up a spare tree- six foot tall and sparse in branches. We all surveyed it, and realized what a mess this tree was. But, it was all we had to work with. We got busy- added two type of ribbon, snowflake garland, hundreds of Santa ornaments and a topper surrounded by cotton that served as snow. With each layer we added, the tree became more beautiful. We were gentle with our touch as we placed our items on the weak branches. When we were finished, we stood back and looked in amazement, agreeing that this was one of the prettiest trees in the house. What

had started as our “last resort” had ending up being one of our greatest accomplishments.

As I lay in bed that night, or I should say morning since we decorated until 2:00 a.m., I compared myself to that rundown tree. Life had come to a point for me where I felt weary, tired and worn out. Then I started working at the Church and began building a stronger relationship with God. On this tired, weary body, God started laying layers of blessing. New friends. A place to fit in. Compassion from others. Compassion to others. More laughter. Less pain. A sense of peace. Stability. He topped it all off with generous sprinkles of love. And, like that tree that we tenderly tended , I was changed by God's gentle touch. It is amazing how caring hands can take something, that others might quickly throw aside, and turn it into a “tree” that becomes alive and vibrant. At this time of year, and all year long, remember...there are many “trees” that need a little love and care. From me, a wretch that was saved by Amazing Grace, I promise to always fluff the branches, layer on the kindness, and try to help bring back the sparkle to any “tree” in need. Will you?

Learning and Leaning, Hope

Upcoming Sermons

Nov. 29 “Preparing for ‘Those Days’” (Hanging of the Greens at 10:00) Jeremiah 33:14-16

Dec. 6 “From Fear to Peace” (Second Sunday of Advent) Luke 1:68-79

Dec. 13 “What Should We Do?” (Third Sunday of Advent) Luke 3:7-18

Dec. 20 “Days of Foolish Celebration” (Christmas Sunday) Luke 1:39-55

Dec. 27 “A Functional Family in a Dysfunctional World” (2nd Sunday of Christmas) Luke 2:41-52

First Christian Church
130 North Jefferson Avenue
Marshall, Missouri 65340

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Just a thought...



**Visit the New
Church Website!**

Stop by our new and improved church website at www.fccmarshallmo.org to check out upcoming events and activities, serving schedules, bulletins and newsletters, and information about our groups, ministries, staff, etc.

Church Staff

Senior Minister– Rev. Dr. Loy Hoskins
Music Director–Hope Richards (Miller)
Youth Director– Kris Milliron
Custodians– Ron & Carol Schupp,
Larry Smith
Financial Secretary– Ken Bryant
Secretary– Hope Richards (Miller)
Pianists– Donna Smith, Kay Wise,
Judy Morris

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We're on the Web!
fccmarshallmo.org