



The Marshall Christian



LIX

NO. VIII

Mid-December/ January, 2017

Elder/Deacon Serving Schedule

December 24th

Elders:

Buddy Hannaford
Wayne Buck

Deacons:

Tyler Clemens
Jean Dowell
Hope Richards
Shirley Schultz
Makenzie Thomason

December 31st & Jan. 7th

Elders:

Paul Crews
Kris Milliron

Deacons:

Cindy Brandt
Vince Buck
Linda Crews
Chris Layton
Lori Layton

January 14th & 21st

Elders:

Ken Bryant
Virginia Bryant

Deacons:

Carolyn Buck
Brenda Coffman
Georganne DeMoss
Roberta Reed
Amber VanDyke

January 28th & February 4th

Elders:

TBA
Wayne Buck

Deacons:

Butch Ash
Nancy Jackson
Ginger McGraw
John McGraw
Jeff Wise

Outside Communion:

December 24

Buddy Hannaford
Wayne Buck

“Living A Wonderful Life”

Since the first time I saw “It’s a Wonderful Life” as a young boy, it has been one of my favorite movies. Although the movie was released in early January of 1947, it is timeless, and I can’t go through a Christmas season without watching it at least once. The story it tells of George Bailey, played by Jimmy Stewart, is a story of a common man with dreams for his life and a dedication to serve others.

Here’s my short review of the movie as I see it. During his life George dreams of traveling to far-away places, but he continually sacrifices those dreams to allow his brother to go to college, to save his father’s business after his father’s death, and to help the people of his community live better lives. Through no fault of his own, his savings and loan business misplaces thousands of dollars and he is suspected of embezzling the money. He searches for answers and prays to God for help. He thinks about the ways he has wasted away his life, never fulfilling his dreams. Just as he contemplates suicide, so that his large family might collect on an insurance policy, God answers his prayer by sending Clarence, an angel – third class. Clarence devises a plan to give George a wonderful gift – the gift of seeing what the world would have been like without his contributions.

There is a happy ending with my favorite line given by George’s brother Harry, “Here’s to George Bailey, the richest man in town!” Now by normal society standards, George is far from being rich financially. That title of “the richest man in town” would literally belong to Mr. Potter, the protagonist of the plot. But due to his kindness and his friendships with so many people, George is greatly blessed beyond any joy that money might bring.

Frank Capra’s film reminds me of the more important things in life like making the most of the opportunities we are given to make a difference in the lives of those we meet and in the world. Success is better measured by one’s reputation, relationships and happiness rather than in finances, titles or positions. Although the film came out two weeks after Christmas, the majority of the movie is set in the days leading to Christmas, and it provides a view of the perfect attitude to take with us through the Christmas season.



God’s gift of Jesus to the world for our salvation brings us riches we could never earn on our own. Our lives can be wonderful if we live them in alignment with God’s will for us. Through the busy days leading to the celebration of the birth of the Christ Child, may we be reminded that we are given the opportunity to live wonderful lives because of the gift of the most wonderful life.

In God’s Grip,
Loy

Invitation to Anniversary Celebration

Pastor Loy and Rhonda Hoskins invite you to join us as we celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary on Saturday, December 23rd. There will be a come and go reception in the church fellowship hall from Noon to 2:00. Our sons Mickey (from Kansas) and Jimmy (from Colorado), along with their families, will be there for you to meet. We ask for no gifts, but simply your presence as our church family.



January Anniversaries & Birthdays

- 1- Ann Rea
- 2- Amber VanDyke
- 3- Don Kennedy
- 4- Jared Amary
- 5- Emily McDonald
- 7- Larry Phillips
Larry Wright
- 8- Jim Jackson
- 9- Doris Ash
- 10- Tim Clemens
- 11- Michelle Alspach
- 12- Sandra Miller
Karla Seigfreid
Evelyn Wenzel
- 13- Thomas Phillips
Owen Schroeder
Doug Swinger
Oleta Wilson
- 15- DoraLee Shannon
- 16- Kathryn Jones
- 19- Darlene Arnett



- 19- Charlot Thornton
Brad Richards
- 20- Jessica Parker
- 21- Megan Phillips
- 22- Roger Barnes
Adrienne Layton
- 24- Vince Buck
Madelyn Cox
- 25- Judy Frerking
Parilee Jackson
- 27- Jonathan Alspach
- 30- Linda Clark
George Porter
- 31- Missier Kreisel

Anniversaries

- 1- Ed & Mona Baker
- 2- Chris & Lori Layton
- 20- Jim & Sue Ann Crawford
- 21- Richard & Lois Pontius
- 28- Butch & Doris Ash

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

This year our Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service will be held on a Sunday 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. This is a service for the entire family and glow sticks will be available for children who are too young for candles.



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.

Single Ladies Group

The Single Ladies Group enjoyed a wonderful Christmas luncheon with 11 ladies present. Kathryn Jones was hostess in her home. Everyone was served good food and had fun talking about past Christmas's with family and friends. Thank you Kathryn for opening your home to us this holiday season. Our next meeting will be January 4th, with a pot luck lunch at 11:30 in the Fellowship Hall.



Our next **Fellowship Dinner** will be on January 21st. Soup, Chili and Sandwiches will be served. Those attending are asked to bring a salad or desert to share.



Hats off to everyone who helped make this year's **Chili Supper and Silent Auction** a huge success! \$11,000 was raised to help our community. Way to go! A special thank you to Ginger McGraw for her continued leadership and dedication.

What's the Scoop?

Our Library needs New Books!



Please help us fill the shelves with fresh, new books!

It would be great if you'd purchase a new book or the cost of a new book that might capture your interest and donate it to First Christian Church Library.

You may drop your gifts and name/address at the Church office.

Looking Back at Our History...

Looking Back at Our History

As we continue to celebrate the 175th anniversary of our congregation this year, we have this final look back at our history in the years 1990 - present:

A major milestone for the congregation was completed in the early 1990's when the church purchased the areas on our block formerly housing homes, a small church, the Ford dealership and other small businesses east of the church and a two story building south of the church owned by the city which including a youth recreation area, the Ford dealership. With ownership of the entire block, the parking lot east of the church building and the lawn area south of the building were created. Then the main entrance to the church was extended, giving us the nice sun room as an entrance area and the brick church signs on the south corners of the block were set. The four concrete panels depicting four visions of the life of Christ were then added. Memorial benches have since been added near entrances.



For 18 years the church sponsored Noah's Ark preschool in the education wing. The preschool had an enrollment of 90 children at one time and served hundreds of families in the community and employed dozens of workers over the years. The church also housed the Missouri Valley College preschool in its first year, 2013-2014. In 2010 the 60th annual and final production of the Christmas 'Pageant of the Nativity' was presented.

In 2005, Marie Boedeker retired as the Director of Music, completing 53 years of service. Rev. Shelly Garrison served as Associate Minister until 1993. Eldon Drinnon was then the Youth Director from 1994 – 1999. Angie Hays became the Youth Director in 2000 and served until 2002. In 2003 Zane Whorton joined the staff as Youth Director and served until 2006. Cindy Ferris then served in this position 2006-2010 and was followed by Eric Kirkwood, 2010- 2011. Kris Milliron has been our Youth Director since 2011.

Senior ministers during these years include: Rev. Dr. Robert Sweeten, 1979 – 1997; Rev. Colby Smith, 1998 – 2003; Rev. Mike Brown, 2004 – 2010; and Rev. Dr. Loy Hoskins, 2013 – present. In addition to these, there have been many interim ministers as well as faithful staff members who have served as custodians (including Ron and Carol Schupp – 1992 to present), church secretaries and office administrators (including Hope Richards – 2009 to present), musicians (Donna Smith, Kay Wise and Judy Morris), directors of music (Hope Richards – 2009 – present), financial secretary (Rosie Bentley from 1970 – 2000 and Ken Bryant – 2000 to present), nursery attendants, and more over the years. In addition to the various committee members and chairs; board members and chairs; trustees; deacons; elders; choir and praise band members; Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and children's church teachers; presenters of special music and children sermons; we have had people serve this congregation in so many ways without any titles over our 175 years.

As we complete this 175th year as a congregation, we look to our past with gratitude, we continue to serve and worship in the present with faith, and we look forward to our future with hope.

Upcoming Sermons

Dec. 24	"Is Mary's Song...Our Song?" (<i>Christmas Sunday</i>)	Luke 1:47-55
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service at 7:00 p.m.	
Dec. 31	Rev Jim West to preach while Pastor Loy is on vacation	
Jan. 7	"The King, the Hiders, and the Seekers" (<i>Epiphany of the Lord</i>)	Matthew 2:1-12
Jan. 14	"Preparations are Still being Made" (<i>Baptism of the Lord Sunday</i>)	Mark 1:4-7
Jan. 21	"Are You Ready to Tingle?" (<i>Second Sunday after Epiphany</i>)	1 Samuel 3:1-20
Jan. 28	"Oops..." (<i>Third Sunday after Epiphany</i>)	1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Youth News



As 2017 winds to an end, I would like to express my appreciation to the congregation, board, families, children and youth for your support and dedication to the youth ministry program. It is my honor and privilege to serve in this capacity, and to walk alongside the youth in their spiritual development and journeys.

My number one priority is to provide ALL children and youth a safe and secure space to be themselves and to feel welcome. Unfortunately, due to the unpredictability and continued increase of violence in our world, those spaces are becoming scarce. Therefore, the combined

youth program of FCC and Covenant Presbyterian Churches will be implementing new policies and procedures, beginning in 2018.

Youth group meetings will continue to meet at the same days, times and locations. All youth are asked to enter and exit through the northeast door (lower parking lot) of FCC, and the southeast door (by the kitchen) of Covenant. These doors will be unlocked for 15 minutes prior to and after youth group begins, then locked. There will be a doorbell for late-comers.

During outings or trips, all youth

must remain in sight of an adult chaperone, unless otherwise specified (then a buddy system will be implemented). Also, no adult will be placed in a situation where they are alone with a child or youth, at any time.

I do apologize for any inconvenience these policies may cause; however, our priority continues to be the safety and security of all children, youth, and adults alike.

Wishing you a blessed holiday season, and looking forward to a Christ-centered and joyful 2018.

Grateful,
Kris Milliron

January Youth Calendar Events

Wednesday, 1/3

Elementary youth group, 5-6:30pm at Covenant
Jr. high youth group, 7-8:30pm at Covenant
Sr. high youth group, 7-8:30pm at FCC

Sunday, 1/7

Wednesday, 1/10

Elementary youth group, 5-6:30pm at Covenant
Jr. high youth group, 7-8:30pm at Covenant

Sat.-Mon., 1/13-15

High School Winter Retreat

Sunday, 1/14

NO YOUTH GROUP – Winter Retreat

Wednesday, 1/17

Elementary youth group, 5-6:30pm at Covenant
Jr. high youth group, 7-8:30pm at Covenant

Sunday, 1/21

Sr. high youth group, 7-8:30pm at FCC (**Kind Campaign**)

Wednesday, 1/24

Elementary youth group, 5-6:30pm at Covenant
Jr. high youth group, 7-8:30pm at Covenant (**Kind Campaign**)

Sunday, 1/28

Jr. & Sr. high ice skating in Kansas City

Wednesday, 1/31

Elementary youth group, 5-6:30pm at Covenant
Jr. high youth group, 7-8:30pm at Covenant

Silent Night...

Slow down!! When this newsletter reaches you, we will have mere days before Christmas morning! I am sure most of you have hung your lights, decked your trees, tinsel your presents and baked your goodies. Me? Maybe half of each listed. It is not that I am a procrastinator. In fact, quite the opposite. I started on my holiday buying, decorating and shopping in the first part of November. The problem is simple...never enough time! With so many things to do, what would a good Christmas Elf do? You got it...drive to Kansas City and look at all the decorations at Union Station. Ahhh, a place where everything was in its place. Not a single bulb dared not twinkle. Each ornament turned to an exact position so that it could capture a ray of light. I know what you're thinking— stay home and get your own things accomplished! But trust me, after the long few weeks I had, I just needed to take in a little Christmas cheer of my own. And boy was there cheer!

The line to see Santa was at least 300 deep. The line to ride the train seemed small in comparison, probably a mere 75 children waiting to squeal with delight as they rode through a Christmas Tree forest. As adults, we would wait for however long it took to let our children do these things. I mean, gifts, shopping, Santa, riding trains...isn't this what Christmas is really about? I had almost begun to believe it was. I always lose myself in the glitter, the bows, the music, the stores, the smells and the gifts. And as I won-



dered around, twirling in every direction so that I dare not miss one Christmas display, God decided to help me remember the true meaning.

It didn't happen in Union Station. God let me finish my childlike abandonment as I took pictures of all the festivities. Everything seen, we headed to the KC Trolley. We had parked at City Market and taken the trolley to Union Station so that we could enjoy the surroundings instead of driving. This trolley is a welcome addition to downtown shoppers, and today was no exception. Each stop had new passengers eager reach their next destination. They chatted, laughed and smiled together as they held tightly to their already purchased treasures.

At the third stop on our journey, things changed. A homeless man entered the trolley. He found an empty seat beside a woman. She made no effort to address him. Who could blame her, right? I mean, take the "homeless" part out of the picture. This man was still a stranger. But, the longer he rode, and the longer I watched, I realized other "strangers" would enter, and people would greet them, or smile at them. Maybe even share a laugh as they shared horror stories of Christmas bargain hunting. But, not this man. He sat alone. He looked around, almost nervously, as he remained silent. I watched him, and I prayed that he would look my way. I thought maybe a smile, or even just eye contact, would make him feel less alone. But, he never looked my

way. I sat diagonally across from him...and he never looked. My husband was sitting beside me. I turned to him and asked, "How long do you think it has been since someone spoke to him, touched him, or even looked at him?". This man, because of whatever life had thrown at him...was invisible.

I watched people exit the trolley—when going by others they would move out of the way or say "Merry Christmas" as they let them slip by. When this man left, people intentionally, turned away from him. There was no contact, no "excuse me", and no Merry Christmas. He got off of the trolley, looked both ways, undecided which journey to take for the day, and finally went to the right.

In that moment, I felt as if I had not done all I could...all that God wanted from me. Another day would go by when this man was completely alone. Even today, I cannot rest my heart. I lost the moment to make someone know they mattered, that they had value and that someone saw them...they were not invisible.

I wish this story had a different ending, but the truth is...the trolley pulled away. I can't change that moment. Trust me, if I could I would. But, I can make sure the next time I don't let the moment pass me by.

Please, love each other as God asks us to. Be kind to each other. Love more than you should. Give more than you should. Be grateful you mean something to someone. And if an opportunity comes your way this Christmas, or any other time of the year, look someone in the eye, smile or shake their hand, and tell them God loves them too. Merry Christmas.

Learning and
Leaning,



Hope

Worship Leaders for Mid December—January 2018

December 24— Wayne Buck

December 31— Paul Crews

January 7— Kris Milliron

January 14— Ken Bryant

January 21— Virginia Bryant

January 28— Wayne Buck

First Christian Church
130 North Jefferson Avenue
Marshall, MO 65340

Return Service Requested

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**Visit our
Church Website!**

Stop by our 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.

We're on the Web!
fccmarshallmo.org

Contact Information:
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Church Staff

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