



The Marshall Christian

LIX No. 1

January 2016

Elder/Deacon Serving Schedule

January 3rd & 10th

Elders:

Ken Bryant
Virginia Bryant

Deacons:

Darlene Arnett
Dane Branson
Missy Kreisel
Ginger McGraw
John McGraw

January 17th & 24th

Elders:

Vickie Wise
Wayne Buck

Deacons:

Gwen Clemens
Jean Dowell
Kevin Dryer
Katie Shannon
Jeff Wise

Outside Communion:

January 10th

Ken Bryant
Virginia Bryant

January 24th

Madelyn Cox
Kris Milliron

Worship Leaders

Jan. 3- Ken Bryant
Jan. 10- Wayne McReynolds
Jan. 17- Virginia Bryant
Jan. 24- Tim Clemens
Jan. 31- Greg Scxhultz



“The Story Continues After Christmas”

What a wonderful Advent season we have enjoyed! From the meaningful Hanging of the Greens service to the sounds of the bell choir, praise band, chancel choir and more. We had a very successful Chili Supper and Silent Auction. Parties and celebrations have been held by the ladies’ groups and the children and youth. The youth put on a wonderful Christmas program at Covenant Presbyterian Church. The seasonal decorations in the church look great. We have been blessed!

As this newsletter is being prepared to be distributed we have two more gatherings of the season – Christmas Sunday on the 20th and the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. I hope we can all make every effort to be here for those, so that as a church family we can again stand at the manger and behold God’s love for us in human flesh.

But in the words of the late, great television salesman Billy Mayes, “But wait! There’s more!” Billy and other salespeople use this line to tell you that no matter how great the deal is that they just offered you, there are still more amazing bonuses that can be yours. Within the church we should view the weeks following Christmas the same. Although the beautiful and moving visions and joys of the days leading up to Christmas Day will soon be behind us, the mission and celebrations of the church continue just as the Good News of Christ with us continues. The Christmas season begins when

Advent ends on Christmas Day. We will experience Epiphany with the magi and spend some time with Christ at his baptism on Baptism of the Lord Sunday.



January is a great time to make resolutions, commit ourselves anew, and make promises to ourselves and others that will result in positive outcomes in our lives. The cold days of winter following Christmas Day are not a time for the church or for church members to rest and relax with soothing memories of the season that has passed. These are the days for us to look ahead to further great things God has planned for us. I invite you to be part of these exciting days in January. Join us in worship, in ministry, in service, and in fellowship in the weeks to come.

In God’s Grip, Loy

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.



January Anniversaries & Birthdays

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1– Ann Rea | 16– Kathryn Jones |
| 2– Amber Van Dyke | 19– Darlene Arnett
Charlot Thornton
Brad Richards |
| 3– Don Kennedy | 20– Jessica Parker |
| 4– Jared Amary | 21– Megan Phillips |
| 5– Emily McDonald | 22– Roger Barnes
Adrienne Layton |
| 7– Larry Phillips
Larry Wright | 24– Vince Buck
Madelyn Cox |
| 8– Jimmy Jackson | 25– Judy Frerking
Parilee Jackson |
| 9– Doris Ash | 27– Jonathan Alspach |
| 10– Tim Clemens | 30– Linda Clark
George Porter |
| 11– Michelle Alspach | 31– Missie Kreisel |
| 12– Sandra Miller
Karla Seigfreid
Evelyn Wenzel | |
| 13– Thomas Phillips
Owen Schroeder
Doug Swinger
Oleta Wilson | |

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1– Ed & Mona Baker
2– Chris & Lori Layton
4– Bob & Jean Blalock
15– William & Amy Heuman
20– Jim & Sue Ann Crawford
21– Richard & Lois Mencl
28– Butch & Doris Ash



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Youth Dates & Info

- Sun. Jan. 3 No meeting
Wed. Jan. 6 Elem youth 5-6:30 pm
Jr. high youth, 7-8:30 pm
Sun. Jan. 10 Sr. high Leadership Team, 6-7 pm
Sr. high youth group 7-8:30 pm
Wed. Jan. 13 Elem youth, 5-6:30 pm
Jr. high youth, 7-8:30 pm
Sun. Jan. 17 Sr. high youth, 7-8:30 pm
Wed. Jan. 20 Elem youth, 5-6:30 pm
Jr. high youth, 7-8:30 pm
Sun. Jan. 24 Winter Jam concert @ KC Sprint Center; leave 11am, return late
NO YOUTH
Wed., Jan. 27 Elementary youth, 5-6:30 pm
Jr. high youth, 7-8:30 pm
Sun., Jan. 31 Sr. high youth, 7-8:30 pm
Young Christian's Weekend sign-up deadline

On Sunday, Jan. 24th the jr. and sr. high youth are invited to go to the Winter Jam concert at the Kansas City Sprint Center. This is a big annual event, with 10 popular Christian bands. We will leave from FCC at 11:00am, returning LATE (last year was 1:00am; please keep this in mind since this is a school night). Cost is \$10 for admission, plus two meals and souvenirs. Save your spot for this trip by contacting Kris Milliron by Jan. 20th. All attendees are required to bring heavy winter coat, gloves and hat, as we will be outside prior to the concert. Check out www.jamtour.com for more info.

The jr. and sr. high youth will again be going to Silver Dollar City Young Christian's Weekend this year; the dates are April 1-3, 2016. This weekend is one of our most popular events of the year, so check your calendars to plan accordingly. The cost is \$30 per youth (plus meals and souvenirs), and is due by January 31st to save a spot. Tickets will be ordered in early February, so no late sign-ups will be accepted.

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.

Congregational Meetings on December 27

Congregational meetings will be held after both worship services on December 27 to approve next year's budget. All members should plan to attend one of these meetings.

It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas...

Whew! As you read this article, I am proud to announce...all the decorating for Christmas at my house is done! Umm, ok, I didn't make it to the outside of the house, even after purchasing new lights to adorn garland that would hang around the railings on the front porch. In my mind it looks really good! But this year, that is as far as the outside decorating is going to make it...in my mind! I decided there had to be a stopping point—a time to sit and enjoy the beauty of the twinkling lights rather than rushing around trying to add more. So, that's what I did...I started enjoying instead of working!

I work long days, and it is usually after 10:00 p.m. before I get home in the evenings. I have but one request for when I finally make it home...please have all the Christmas lights turned on. I love pulling up in front of the house and seeing dancing lights peeking out of frosted windows. As I walk into my home, I am greeted in the foyer by a Christmas Village and the Snowman Trees. To the left is the Fireman tree, a new tree that came as a package deal with my husband. I walk into the kitchen, family room, dining room, and yes even the bathroom, and each room greets me with glistening décor that is theme-filled—each room different than the other. Then, I go into the living room. This is the last tree put up, the family tree. It is the only real tree in the house, and each year we

seek out the “perfect tree” (which means the biggest and tallest) to hang our family ornaments on. This tree is always a bit of a struggle—Is it straight in the stand? Are the branches sturdy? Does it fit in the area? Will it shed thousands of needles? The other trees, all artificial, are so simple to put up and take down. But not this one...it is a chore! As I sat in the living room, looking at this tree, I realized how much different it is than the others. All of my trees, not counting this one, have a specific theme—Santa tree, Snowman tree, Kitchen tree, Poinsettia Tree, Angel tree, Rustic tree, ...you get the picture. But this tree is a hodge-podge, a mess really if you compare this tree's ornaments to all the others. There's no theme, no special designs, no color scheme. There is merely a box of mismatched ornaments, one-of-a-kind school made decorations, colored lights, white lights, and different ribbon that all go on this one special tree. As I sat looking at the lights flicker, I recalled the conversation as we decorated the tree last week. We laughed about every other tree in the house, ever other decoration, being so beautifully done that they could easily be in a store window, and this one was such an eye-sore! Why was the tree that is the most important so badly put together? At the time, when we talked about this, I didn't know the

answer. In fact, all I could do was laugh at how nothing went together. Then I realized.

This was our family tree, a tree filled with ornaments and treasures that represented different periods in our lives. These ornaments were as different as we were, and each one had its own personality. Some are whimsical, some sentimental. There are some for “Baby's First Christmas”, 2nd Christmas, 3rd Christmas, and incredibly silly ones that my girls would pick out each year to add. Sometimes their yearly added ornament were Strawberry Shortcake, or my all-time favorite... Incredible Hulk! I am still wondering what made Torey pick that one! But the thing is, when I sat there, reflecting on the memories each ornament brought, and looking at the overall “picture”, this tree WAS beautiful. Different? Yes. But when these crazy and quirky treasures are all mixed together, it made something miraculous. It truly was a family tree, and like those ornaments on display, we are all unique, different, and even in a bit tattered and old (some of us that is!). Apart, we aren't much to look at. But together, we thrive, we shine, and we are amazing! New ornaments and new memories will always be added. Old ornaments, and old memories will remain constant. Together, they will create a tree that provides, beauty, light...and lots of love. Merry Christmas!

Learning and Leaning, Hope



Upcoming Sermons

Dec. 20	“Days of Foolish Celebration” (<i>Christmas Sunday</i>)	Luke 1:39-55
Dec. 27	“A Functional Family in a Dysfunctional World” (<i>2nd Sunday of Christmas</i>)	Luke 2:41-52
Jan. 3	“Our Epiphany Today” (<i>Epiphany</i>)	Isaiah 60:1-6
Jan. 10	“What Jesus' Baptism Asks of Us” (<i>Baptism of the Lord Sunday</i>)	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Jan. 17	“Cana-Grace”	John 2:1-11
Jan. 24	“Table Talk”	Luke 14:1, 7-14
Jan. 31	“Fulfilling the Scripture Today”	Luke 4:14-21

First Christian Church
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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