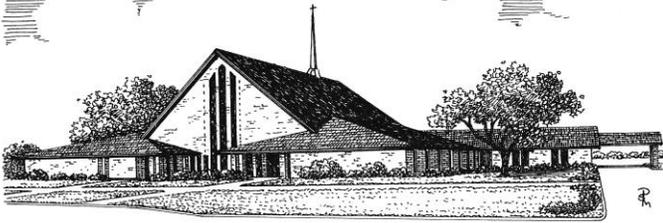




FORETHOUGHTS

May 2014



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

1500 S 29th St. • Parsons KS 67357

620-421-4790

website: www.fccparsons.org

e-mail: fcc_main@sbcglobal.net



American Red Cross

I would like to take this opportunity to challenge area residents to respond to the call for blood donations when the American Red Cross Bloodmobile comes to Parsons. Whether it is a pint of blood or an hour of your time that you donate, you will "Make a Difference" by accepting this challenge. Do you have what it takes to be the Best? I sincerely believe that you do!

The blood drive will be held at the First Christian Church on **Thursday, April 24th from noon to 6:00 pm and on Friday, April 25th from 8:00 am to noon.** The highlight of the drive is that we will be celebrating the recent new plateau reach by Bob Brewer of 27 gallons of blood donated. Bob has been a pillar of strength in our community for many years, and I know we have been blessed by his presence and friendship. During the years, Bob has donated 216 units of blood and knowing that each unit has the potential of helping or saving three individuals, it is an amazing feat to know that Bob has provided help to 648 individuals in need of blood. We all take pride in congratulating Bob and hope you will be able to drop by the celebration.

Together we can build a strong community that helps in times of need. Being a blood donor is one important way you can help our community, as you never know when you or a loved one may need blood. To make an appointment, call 1-800-GIVELIFE or go to www.redcross.org. Please make plans to be a part of this lifesaving event. - Erlene Cares, Parsons Blood Drive Coordinator, American Red Cross, 1921 Crawford, Parsons, KS 421-4150 **Together, we can save a life.**



Welcome

Jonathan Brink!

WELCOME!

Our new Associate Pastor for Children, Youth and Families will begin his work here at the church on Thursday, May 1st. Let's all welcome Jonathan with open hearts and arms!

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God."

We are excited and blessed to announce that the following young people have entered the church community with their baptism on April 20, 2014:



Welcome to God's Family

Logan Duroi, Luke Duroi, A.J. Fearmonti, Alissa Fearmonti, Thea Hetlinger, Emily Langston and Matthew Ray. They join Chase Langston who was baptized into the church on January 19, 2014. We hope that you,

their friends, family and community, will welcome them into the church family and guide them through their religious journey.

GRADUATION 2014

Congratulations, John Ray

We would like to honor our graduates on May 18th. If you know of a member of the congregation who is graduating from High School or College this spring, please contact the church office and their names will be added to the list.



WELCOME! We welcome Jaunita Shephard as a member of our congregation. She has transferred her membership from First Christian Church, McCune.



John's Place

What a full and beautiful day we had on Resurrection Sunday, 2014. It started with a gentle Sunrise service at the picnic shelter. On cue, the turkeys, the purple martins and all of creation joined with our human voices to proclaim, "My Lord, What a Morning!" as the sun poked up over the horizon to illuminate the empty cross.

A wonderful variety of food was offered between services, and a rich time of fellowship was held as folks greeted one another to the new day. Laughter overcame much of our tiredness as we enjoyed one another's company. The food just didn't seem to want to disappear because of the abundant generosity of everyone who provided.

Then came the highlight of proclaiming the resurrection during our 9:30 worship service when seven young people entered the waters of our baptistry to take on the way of Christ. At the conclusion of the baptism/sermon it was very moving to hear the united voices in the congregation rattle the rafters with the thunderous acclamation "HE IS RISEN INDEED!".

We felt something very special going on Sunday. Even the gleeful laughter of the children hunting for Easter eggs after services filled us with joy and awe. There was a sense of wonder and delight as they discovered each egg, proclaiming to us observers life and hope.

It was a joyous day, it was an exhausting day, but now what? Monday comes and the ever day world returns. The memory of a wonderful day has already begun to fade. Oh, we will continue to tell stories, but in the end, do we truly respond to the ultimate, transformative message of the day? Do we remember that the day is all about the proclamation of God's power to do a new thing? That in all the stories, all the memories, that we are a new creation called to live out resurrection hope with all that we are and all that we have in a Good Friday world?

We remember this day as the most significant in our faith tradition. Resurrection is a once and for all time event that invites us to not only be aware that new creation happened but continues to happen

around us and ought to happen through us. It is living out our baptismal promise to be an extension of the resurrected Christ's hope and love to a troubled world.

May we strive to live daily the message of resurrection, seeing joy around us and celebrating, seeing sorrow encompassing many and bringing hope to them. Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!!!

John

Thank you to all women and men that provided food for the Holy Week breakfast and the Easter brunch. The contributions of egg casseroles, fresh fruit, muffins, rolls, breads, doughnuts, meats, cheeses and juice created a wonderful menu for both meals. No one should have left hungry! It is truly a blessing to have such generosity in our congregation.
The Fellowship & Worship Departments



Disciple women May Service Project

Safe Haven Outreach Mission is the Disciple Women's service project for May. We are taking a cash offering because we feel that they can use that to their best advantage. They have bills to pay and while they have material needs, those change from day to day and money can be used where needed. While in the home, residents are helped to find jobs, have responsibilities in the home, are encouraged to get an education, and be able to get back into a productive stream of life. Please give generously!

Join us for a Chicken Noodle Dinner to support the Children's Ministry. Dinner will be held on Sunday, May 4th from 11:00 to 12:30 pm, dine in or carry out is available. Menu includes salad, homemade chicken and noodles, mashed potatoes, green beans, dessert and tea or coffee. A Free Will offering will be accepted to support this worthwhile ministry. Thank you for your support!



Church Office Hours

The church office will be closed Monday, May 26th in observance of Memorial Day. Regular office hours are 8 am to noon and 1 pm to 4 pm. The front (West) doors remain open during business hours and the back (South) door is locked for security reasons.

**On May 4th, following the Chicken Noodle dinner,
we will “POUND” our new Associate Minister,
Jonathan Brink!**

1. Giving a pounding is an old-fashioned way to help someone by stocking their pantry with non-perishables foods or cleaning supplies. Usually a pounding is given to a bride and groom or family who just built or moved into a new home.



2. Prepare to have people ask you what a pounding is. In addition to describing what a pounding is, remind them that they don't need to buy anything else, but just to give something they have extra. For instance, if they have 3 cans of green beans, they can give 1 can. The original term came from....giving a pound...a pound of corn, a pound of meal, oats, etc. Kind of catchy term....and real original don't you think?

3. Decorate grocery bags or boxes. . Set the bags or boxes in a place that is convenient for the guests. Under the gift table is generally not a good idea, as the grocery bags or boxes can get in the way.

4. After the guest of honor has opened the other gifts, announce that they are being blessed with one more gift. Point out the groceries and explain that they are being pounded.

Jonathan tries to eat healthy, but, as always, there are lots of things needed to set up a new house. Items needed are: salt, pepper, shortening, cooking oil, baking soda, baking powder, oregano, Tony Cachere's, basil, flour, vanilla, pasta noodles (all kinds), almonds, pecans, thyme, cinnamon, peanut butter, jelly, crackers, Triscuits, tuna, corn, green beans, asparagus, tomatoes, mac and cheese (shells), artichoke hearts, carrots, plastic wrap, baggies, aluminum foil and, of course, the ever popular toilet paper.

Gift ideas can include:

- Gift cards are always welcome and can be used for just about anything!
- Fill a trash can with cleaning supplies or a laundry basket with soap and supplies. Don't forget a broom and dustpan or mop!
- A first aid kit and fire extinguishers are always needed and very useful! Bandages are always good for the handy man around the house!
- For the men, tool kits for around the house can include screwdrivers, pliers, wrenches, socket sets and an assortment of nuts, bolts and screws and nails.
- Get several people together and give a group gift! You would be surprised at how fast it can add up!

Pastoral Relations Committee Meeting

The Pastoral Relations Committee will Tuesday, May 27th at 7:00 pm. This committee meets every other month on the last Tuesday evening of the month. The next meeting will be Tuesday, July 29th at 7:00 pm. If you have any joys, concerns or comments that you would like shared or discussed at this meeting, please call one of these committee members prior to the meeting date.

Dean Cramer 421-4252

Dori Howerter 421-9218

Lori Ray 778-4047

Jack Smith 421-1004

Sharon Ryan 421-6729

Wilma Zink 421-5165

Disciple Women Quadrennial Assembly

The 15th Quadrennial Assembly for Disciple Women will be held June 25-June 29 in Atlanta, Georgia. The Theme is "I See You". The Quadrennial inspirational speakers are:

Rev. Dr. Sharon E. Watkins - "I See You" through the eyes of Grace (Wednesday).

Rev. Nohemi Pagan - "I See You" through the voice of Compassion (Thursday)

Rev. April Lewton - "I See You" with hands of justice (Friday).

Rev. Penny Ziemer - "I See You" with a heart of Joy (Saturday).

Rev. Dr. Cynthia Hale - "I See You" Whole (Sunday).

Registration fee is \$400 through June 19, 2014 and \$425 at Quadrennial. Registration forms can be found at www.quadrennial.org either online or a paper copy.

DINNER ON 17TH STREET

FCC is serving Dinner on 17th Street at the First Baptist Church on **May 8th**. You are invited to come eat, too, anytime. It is free, but if you feel you should give a little, there is always a basket for such gifts. That money provides coffee, plates and such serving needs. So, come. You'll probably meet some long time friends who are regulars and you might meet some new folks.

If you would like to contribute financially just drop it in the offering in an envelope marked Supper on 17th. This meal is a service to the community which we share in ecumenically. Help spread community and the love of Christ in Parsons.

*He who kneels before God
can stand before anyone.*

Church Women United of Parsons Reorganize

Church Women United of Parsons wants to make plans to resume its position in the community. This group is just what the name says: ALL WOMEN OF ALL CHURCHES working together in the name of Christ. CWU is world-wide. They have sponsored many projects here in Parsons, such as an after-school tutoring program and a summer playground especially for kids at the housing project known as Mendota Creek, as well as planning four yearly meetings to provide guidance and fellowship for all. The project they now sponsor is the Summer Bookmobile supported by several community agencies.

Each church is being asked to provide two women to act as an organizing group to arrange a get-together of revival.

Requirements needed: a strong relationship with Christ, ideas of ways to work in the community, the ability to speak your mind in a group and the commitment of some time.

Perhaps you see needs of children or the elderly, ways to help community projects, ideas for creating community among residents in Parsons. Women have power; maybe you can be the impetus.

You do not need to be an active member of the Disciples Women. If you have an interest in serving or want more info, please call Pastor John at 421-4790 or Wilma Zink 421-5165.

Sunbeams Preschool is taking enrollments for the 2014-2015 school year. If you know of a child ages 3-5 who could benefit from the preschool experience, please have them contact the church office at 421-4790 or Jean Reeves.



Thank you to our April Coffee Workers, Chris and Jonna Gabbert. Our May Coffee Hostesses will be Peggy Cramer and Lillian Smith.

Our Cookie Sunday hostesses for May will be the Ruth Group. Thank you to Chris and Jonna Gabbert and Don and Janie Barcus for hosting April's Cookie Sunday!



NALC Food Drive

In 2013, the annual food drive of the **National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC)** collected more than **74 million pounds of food** to help restock food banks, pantries and shelters around the country. This year, the NALC will be collecting food donations on Saturday, May 10th. Bring your donations to the church office by Friday, May 9th and our local carrier can pick up donations there. Thank you for your generosity!

The Last Supper Quilt is coming to our church

We are privileged to host a showing of the "The Supper" Quilt on Wednesday evening, June 18th for the local quilt guilds and will be open to the public on Thursday, June 19th from 10 am to 4 pm. This magnificent quilt has been shown all around the world. It was made in 1998 by Dr. Don Locke of Waxahachie, Texas and took over two and a half years to complete.

- There are 51,816 pieces of fabric. Each piece measures 1/2 inch (1.25cm) on edge.
- There are over 350 different fabrics used. Many were hand dyed by Don to obtain the correct color.
- The entire quilt is 67 inches (5.6ft, 170cm) high and 183 inches (15.25ft, 465cm) wide.
- While working full time as a dentist, Don took 2.5 years to sew the pieces together. He estimates that there are 1200 hours of work in this effort.
- Number of people that wanted to give up quilting after finding out that a man, in only his second quilt did this : A few
- Number of times he told his children that they would have to finish it : too many to count
- Number of times he told his grandchildren that they would have to finish it : more than a few
- Number of people that have been deeply moved by the viewing experience : GROWING
- Number of quilters copying Don's method - at least one.

Check out "thesupper.net" for more information.

There will be a free will offering taken to cover the travel expenses but there is no charge to host the quilt itself.



Attendance & Financial Report April Ave: 140 Total: \$14,149.69

April 6	86	\$4,184.69
April 13	156	\$2,481.00
April 20	178	\$7,484.00

2014 Budget: \$196,159.00
(monthly \$16,346.59; weekly \$3,772.29)



SERVING SCHEDULE for MAY

Elders: Please check your schedules and check for updates on Sunday mornings.

Sunday, May 4

Elder/Sacraments: Janie Barcus
Elder/Offering: Marian Johnson
Deacons: Team 2
Acolytes: AJ Fearmonti, Wyatt Warstler
Worship Leader: Steve Fincher
Nursing Home Devotions: Marian Johnson,
 Don Barcus

Sunday, May 18 - BOARD MEETING

Elder/Sacraments: Lori Ray
Elder/Offering: Don Barcus
Deacons: Team 1
Acolytes: Brea Warstler, Wyatt Warstler
Worship Leader: Jewell Reed
Board Devotion: Janie Barcus

Sunday, May 11

Elder/Sacraments: Steve Fincher
Elder/Offering: Dean Cramer
Deacons: Team 3
Acolytes: Samuel Brewer, Jessalyn Overall
Worship Leader: Sammi Ford
Home Communion: Lori Ray, Jewell Reed,
 Dean Cramer, Team 1 Deacons

Sunday, May 25

Elder/Sacraments: Jewell Reed
Elder/Offering: Janie Barcus
Deacons: Team 2
Acolytes: Emily Langston, Chase Langston
Worship Leader: Betty Thomas

ALL Elders and Deacons are asked to meet in the parlor at 9:15 am for prayer.

If you are unable to serve on your scheduled Sunday, please exchange with someone and inform your team captain and the church office. (421-4790 or fcc_main@sbcglobal.net)



03 James Hardman, Jr.
 07 John Rexwinkle
 08 Kathryn Lindeman
 13 Carol Hoyt
 14 Wesley Brown
 14 Mallory Mattis
 14 Becky Shipley
 14 Nora Winslow
 16 Karen Bulkley
 16 Chris Callstrom
 17 Kent Drummond

18 Lois Parker
 19 Elma Ramey
 21 Angela Pearson
 23 Andrea Hetlinger
 23 Jacquelyn Lansdowne
 24 Leo Janssen
 25 Willard Garrett
 26 Ron Little
 27 Gregory Brewer
 30 Sandra Ford
 30 Amy Smith
 31 Mary Mabery

Surrounding in prayer



Please Pray For

Our nation's leaders and military
Cody Nading (nephew of Janet Brewer)
Cody Page
Andrew Shipps (Iona's grandson)

Care Homes/Homebound

Doris Brenner	Jimmy Dodds
Naida Harper	Rutheen Hammack
George Mattox	Anona Mosse
Nina Schiefelbusch	Myrtle Shue
Joyce Tanner	Martha Tredway
Francis Whinery	Tom Woolfolk

Health Concerns:

Bryleigh Beardmore	Erlene Cares
Sherrie Coltrain	Kyla Daetwiler
Doris Drummond	Frank Drummond
Carol Fincher	Jerry Gartner
Julia Gerdes	Carol Hoyt
Anne Maloney	June Miller
Nancy Miller	Joe Nance
Colleen Payne	Martha Railsback
Kay Shields	Jack Smith
Lee Wegner	Ann Wilkinson
Barbara Wills	Mary Zwink

Our friends with continuing concerns:

Judy Beal (Warren Townsend's cousin)
Jenny Clemons (friend of Joyce Austin)
Debbie Daetwiler Depew
Tim Fox, friend of Gene & Janet Rexwinkle
Dicy Janssen (Don's mother)
Jackie Kelley
Jud Lackey
Betty McMillan
Jerry Millis (friend of Sherrie Coltrain)
Ed Nance (son of Joe & Sandy)
Jackie Nash
Evelyn Pekerel, (friend of Sherrie Coltrain)
Terry Reeves (Jean's brother-in-law)
Erv Ringle (friend of Jonna Gabbert)
Gerald Shafer family (Barbara Robbins; friend)
Charles Smith
Freddie Townsend (cousin of Warren)
Doris Stice, (Sherrie Coltrain's friend)
Mike Walters, (Sandy Nance's nephew)
Ron Walters (Sandy Nance's brother)
Andrea Ward (cousin of Warren Townsend)
McKenzie Wegner,
Roger Wegner

FORE THOUGHTS

First Christian Church
1500 S 29th St.
Parsons KS 67357
(620) 421-4790 (Church Office)

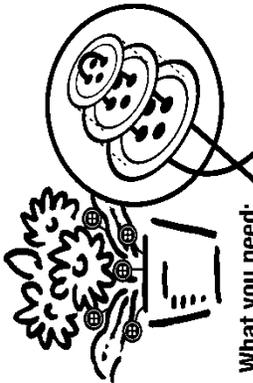


Non-Profit Organization
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Parsons KS 67357

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Blooming Buttons Flowers

For Mother's Day, add a special touch to any houseplant with this easy craft.



What you need:

- A small houseplant with leaves
- Colorful buttons of various sizes
- Green 26-gauge floral wire
- Wire cutters

What you do:

1. Stack three buttons from largest to smallest, with the smallest on top. Align the button holes.
2. Cut 8 inches of wire. Thread it up through one hole of the stacked buttons and back down through another hole.
3. Twist the wire just below the bottom side of the button stack to secure it.
4. Insert the "flower" in the plant's soil and repeat the process.
5. Present this to Mom and wish her a happy Mother's Day!