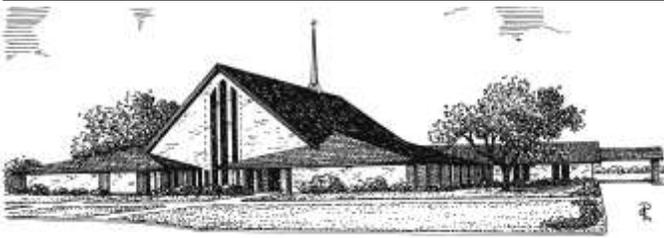




# FORETHOUGHTS

August 2014



## First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

1500 S 29<sup>th</sup> St. • Parsons KS 67357

620-421-4790

website: [www.fccparsons.org](http://www.fccparsons.org)

e-mail: [fcc\\_main@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fcc_main@sbcglobal.net)



### Bethany Village

### Vacation Bible School

**July 28 - July 31 from 5:30 - 8:00 pm.**

If you would like to help out with the program, crafts, music, snacks or transportation, please let Jonathan know.

Thank you for all your help!

**Kitchen Items needed:** Squeeze bottles honey (10 needed), bread, jelly or jam (homemade if possible), butter, grape juice, pretzels, pre-made pizza or bread dough for individual play, blocks of cheese, crackers, apple juice Sprite/7-UP/lemon lime soda and ice trays (8 needed).

**Science & Crafts:** Toothpicks, lemon juice, play sand, old jewelry, smooth rocks (river rocks), fine tip sharpies, (12), red & white tissue paper, decoupage glue, white vinegar.



**American RedCross**

The "100 days of Summer, 100 days of Hope" community Blood Drive will be held Tuesday, August 26 from noon to 6:00 pm and Wednesday, August 27 from 8:00 am to noon here at the church.

Summer will soon be coming to an end and school and fall activities will begin to fill our daily schedules. Most of us have enjoyed the beautiful and relaxing 100 days of summer, but there are those who have serious health problems that require blood and blood products to maintain a stable quality of life. These individuals have spent the 100 days of summer in hope that all eligible donors will take time out of their busy schedules to share their good health by attending the upcoming drive and donating this precious commodity.

Please take time to make your appointment now to Choose Your Time to Give!! Appointments may be scheduled online at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) or you may call 1-800-REDCROSS. At various times during the drive, a large turnout of donors may increase the wait time. If your schedule is flexible, usually the wait time is less on the second day of the drive (8:00 to noon). Let's join together to give those in need of HOPE for tomorrow.

Erlene Cares, Parsons Blood Drive Coordinator, American Red Cross, 1921 Crawford, Parsons, KS 421-4150

## What is it to Live Forever?

For the early Hebrews, living forever meant having progeny -- bearing children so that your name would "not depart from the earth." Eternal life was through your "seed."

Subsequent to the exile in Babylon, they adopted a notion of the soul and came to believe that the soul could live on after death and some believed in the possibility of resurrection, where not only the soul would live on but the body as well would enter into some kind of afterlife.

We typically don't speculate much about afterlife, whether we are on the great wheel of karma, or whether we meet Peter at the pearly gate, or whether our children are our way to live on. The Apostle Paul considered it a mystery and a blessed hope. And many of us simply side with those who understand that the gospel is much more about "Thy Kingdom come, on earth . . ." than trying to get into some afterlife eternal real estate.

That being said, one very practical and gospel way to live on is through legacy giving. A legacy gift continues our influence, our intentions, our goals and our values even after we have crossed over into the mystery. It funds "Thy Kingdom come on earth . . ." Even after we pass on, we live on.

Legacy giving churches allow those churches to offer ministries that "non-legacy giving churches" can only imagine -- youth programs, lecture series, mission trips, facility upgrades and repairs.

Let's be aware of the gifts from so many faithful people before us who sacrificed and gave and passed to us this amazing church. As we receive this gift, let's be willing to match their faithfulness and generosity so that folks fifty years from now will be blessed by the generous faithfulness of our time in the life of the church.

Legacy giving is one faithful way of living on.



**A very special thank you to Sophia Zetmeir, Teresa Hayes and Tim Price from Grandview Products for the wonderful new desk.**

We had a mish-mash of desks, all at different heights, and one desk was even held up by a one by twelve! Nobody could sit at it, as it wasn't safe. We had hoped to be able to just get a counter top to go over the tops of the desk to even out the work surface. Instead, we received a whole new L-shaped desk, complete with new drawer stations. The desk was installed Thursday evening and it looks fantastic! It is so nice to have a level work surface, and even nicer to have a whole new desk! Words fail us in the face of your continued generosity to this community and its people. Thank you again for all you have done for us and everyone around you.



# John's Place

I am beginning to think the world has gone mad and is in a pretty volatile place right now. The news from this morning was very sad and disconcerting. The horrific shooting down of a Malaysian airliner in the rebel-held Ukraine has brought us to a place of shock, dismay and much finger pointing. The conflict between Israel and Hamas in the Middle East has escalated once again to a place of heightened bloodshed and despair, with many innocents caught in the middle, again with accusations flying back and forth about who is responsible for this most recent onslaught. The situation on our own border with Mexico and the thousands of unaccompanied children from Central America who are arriving there, trying to escape the dangerous situations of their native countries and the frozen politics of our country has infected many with fear and hate.

I heard this all this morning on CBS This Morning as they took a look at the world in 90 seconds. I turned off the television, hoping to escape any more bad news and went online. The first article on my news feed on Facebook was about yet another city cracking down on homelessness in a far less than compassionate way by banning them. That remote, desert island is looking better every day!

As I reflect on many of the world's crises, I am mindful of a quote that is often attributed to the great theologian Karl Barth, "A Christian should hold the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other." While there is no record that Barth actually said this, the implications are important for all who are followers of Christ and Barth himself insisted on the primacy of the Bible itself, without neglecting what is actually going on around us. We are to live fully in the world, with the realization that we are called to the more excellent way of Christ in the here and now. Barth often talked about how important the Bible was in informing how we should respond to the world in a compassionate, sacrificial way and the news shows us what we are to respond to.

So what are we to do, in this current global climate of violence, hate and fear mongering? There are many comforting and challenging scriptures that would help us faithfully deal with the present angst, but I would like to suggest one particular scripture that I have been reflecting on lately. Matthew 25:31-46 is the last parable in Matthew's gospel. It is about the separation of sheep and goats, of those who, when they saw needs and

responded appropriately, were welcomed joyfully into the kingdom rest. Those who did not, well, it doesn't go so well for them.

We are called to pay attention to what is going on around us, around the world and respond as Christ would. We are called to be on the path the sheep took in this challenging story of Jesus:

***'Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'* Matthew 25:27-40**

## John

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New adventures are very exciting to plan and look forward to until you realize you are leaving family. We want to say to you, our church family, that we so very much appreciate your love and friendship. Thanks for all your kindnesses and prayers. We will miss you! Ann & Don Wilkinson



Thank you to my church family and especially Pastor John for all the visits, well wishes and prayers during my recent illness. Jean Boss

### **Labette County Emergency Assistance Center is again asking for help to provide school supplies to all area schools.**



The annual "Stuff the Bus" campaign continues through **August 15<sup>th</sup>**. Supplies needed are: Backpacks, binders, pocket folders, wide-rule and college-ruled spiral notebooks, loose leaf paper, blue, black and red ink pens, #2 pencils, washable markers, highlighters, pink erasers, safety and pointed scissors, 3"x5" index cards, rulers, calculators, crayons, colored pencils, glue sticks and bottled glue, Kleenex and hand sanitizers. Monetary donations are also being accepted to help fill in the gaps. Donations can be left in the box in the narthex.



Please keep clipping and saving the UPC code symbols from **Campbell, Swanson, Post**, and other products. There are collection baskets for these labels on the top shelf of the narthex cabinet. This is a joint project of the Disciples Women and Sunbeams Preschool.



They say that once you hit a certain point in life, you've got to learn how to dream again. Like me, I'm sure many of you have

discovered dreaming is not as easy as it was when we were kids. Dreams can sometimes be frightening, like a nightmare, or set us up for failure. As we have aged, we've had many dreams crushed or left us sleepless in the middle of a night. Some of us have really lost joyful dreaming because of the hardships of life.

Truthfully, if I were to be honest with myself, I would give anything to dream like I did when I was a kid; dreams were vibrant, vivid, joyful, and magnanimous. I still dream, but I either don't let the dream be anything significant or brush it off. But, perhaps dreams are meant to push us out of our boxes. If we let our best dreams drive our ambitions, just imagine what we could do! There are so many things that God has called us to do in those dreams. It can be one of the best tools God uses to speak to us. Our hearts can speak the loudest in a dream after being drowned out during busy days.

But we don't always want to do that, do we? We would rather not think about what God has called us to do. After all, what God has called us to do might be more difficult or may ask us to step out of our comfort zones. We might have to sacrifice or, worse, dare to believe in our dreams. I invite us all to dream big. Dream with God. Be still in moments and allow God to show you a dream or two. You never know, you could be called to do something you never thought you would go do.

### **August:**

**1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>:** Youth Road Challenge Retreat

**3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>:** 7pm Family Movie Night

**6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>:** 10am-Noon "Who Let the Kids Out Wednesdays"

**10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>:** 4pm Youth Group

**16<sup>th</sup>:** End of Summer Party Bash (TBD)

**The Southeast KS Area Agency on Aging is sponsoring "Stepping On," strength, balance and fall prevention classes.** The candidates must be 60 years of age or older and reside in their own home or apartment. This program is available in Parsons at no charge to the participants and will be held at the Red Cross, 1921 Crawford. To enroll, call 1-800-794-2440 and ask for Stacy or Cindy. Classes will be held on Tuesdays for seven weeks starting August 12 through September 23. Call early as class size is limited.

## **Willing to sacrifice**



Robert Coleman, in *Written in Blood* (Fleming H. Revell), tells of a boy whose sister needed a blood transfusion. The boy was the ideal donor because the two children had the same rare blood type. When the doctor asked, "Would you give your blood to your sister?" the boy hesitated. Finally, with a trembling lip, he said, "Sure, I'd do it for her." Soon a nurse inserted a needle into the boy's arm. As he watched his blood flow out, his voice shook. He asked, "Doctor, when do I die?" The doctor then realized the gravity of the boy's decision. He'd thought giving his blood to his sister meant giving up his own life.

The boy's love for his sister mirrored Jesus' love for all. Fortunately for us, Jesus loved us so deeply that he was willing to die so we might live.

Published in: [September 2013 Newsletter Newsletter](#)

## **The marks of a leader**



Leaders should aspire to look like small boys in August. If you raise children or grandchildren, you know that by the end of August, they've been running around all summer in their shorts, sneakers and T-shirts. You also know that their knees and their elbows are always skinned, their shins always black and blue and that they have the marks of the summer's fracas on their faces. A 6-year-old boy at the end of summer is my picture of a leader.

I got that picture from David Hubbard, president of Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena. Many years ago he told me that leaders need to learn not to inflict pain, but to bear pain. It seems to me that if you're bearing pain properly as a leader, whether you're a preacher, a college professor, a parent or a teacher, you ought to have the marks of the struggle. One ought to have bruised shins and skinned knees. Max DePree in *Leadership Jazz*

Published in: [August 1997 Newsletter Newsletter](#)

## **Thinking about stewardship**

Christians give to the Lord because they are grateful. The giving of themselves in totality - body, mind, spirit, talents, time and material resources - is the Christian way of expressing their thankfulness to God for all that they have. Responding to the immeasurable love and grace of God, dedicated Christians open their hearts and hands toward God in a spirit of appreciation and love. Published in: [January 2000 Newsletter Newsletter](#)



**There will not be a Disciples Women's project for August**, but let's keep bringing food items for Labette Emergency Assistance Center (LEAC). The need there goes on, and we hope the entire congregation will participate in this cause. Watch the newsletter and bulletins for service information for the fall.



**Disciple Women's Fall Retreat** will be "Walking with God". The midweek retreat is October 8-10 and the weekend retreat is October

10-12. The retreat will be at Camp Tawakoni. Full retreat registration is \$75 which includes 2 nights/5 meals and program materials.

The Key Note speaker is Marilyn Fiddmont, who was born and raised in Kansas. She has been on the staff of the Christian Church Foundation. The book study will be on "The Invention of Wings" by Sue Monk Kidd.

New this year is the Children's Retreat Package for two years old through fifth grade. The cost is \$25 for the first child and \$10 for each additional child. Supervision is provided. Children stay in the same cabin as their mother and eat in the dining room with their mother.

New workshop – "Paint Therapy." Supplies and instruction will be provided. Cost is \$25.

Returning workshop is "Prayerful Yoga".

Registration forms are available on the website or from your group leader.



**Service Men & Women** – If you have served in the military, or know someone in the congregation who has

served, regardless of which branch, please let the office know. Thank you for your service and support!

**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 July Coffee workers, Shirley Degenhart and Elaine Harris. Our August Coffee hostesses are Betty Thomas and Dori Howerter.



Our Cookie Sunday hostesses for August will be Betty Thomas, Jean Boss and Dori Howerter. Thank you to the Deborah group for hosting our July Cookie Sunday.

## Church Office Hours

The church office is open 8 a.m.-noon and 1 p.m.-4 p.m. The back (South) door will remain locked during the day as a safety precaution. *When groups will be meeting, please call ahead if you want to use the back door.* The front (West) door is open during office hours daily.

**PLEASE** be courteous and let the Office Administrator know you are in the building and again when you leave. That will help alleviate any "surprises"! Thanks for your help!

**If you need a place to cool off or to get a little exercise, you are welcome to come and walk the halls or just find a cool place to sit and read or relax.**

## Sea of circumstances

Amid the ebb and flow of challenges and changes, it can be difficult to keep our footing. We can get so caught up in daily concerns that we lose our balance. When anxiety replaces peace, we may realize something isn't right with us spiritually but not know how to fix it.



According to Samuel Rutherford, the problem is our perspective. "Trust God's Word and his power more than you trust your own feelings and experiences," he said. "Remember, your Rock is Christ, and it is the sea that ebbs and flows with the tides, not him."

**Quit telling God how big your storm is and tell your storm how big your God is**



**Thank you for recycling! Please remember to rinse all bottles and bag all paper! This makes transportation a breeze!**



### Attendance & Financial Report

July Average:	91	Total:	\$7,149.00
July 6	86		\$3,767.00
July 13	103		\$1,560.00
July 20	85		\$1,822.00

2014 Budget: \$196,159.00  
(monthly \$16,346.59; weekly \$3,772.22)



## SERVING SCHEDULE for AUGUST

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

### Sunday, August 3

**Elder/Sacraments:** Don Barcus  
**Elder/Offering:** Dean Cramer  
**Deacons:** Team 3  
**Acolyte:** A.J. Fearmonti, Wyatt Warstler  
**Worship Leader:** Warren Townsend  
**Nursing Home Devotions:** Dean Cramer, Janie Barcus

### Sunday, August 10

**Elder/Sacraments:** Lori Ray  
**Elder/Offering:** Jewell Reed  
**Deacons:** Team 1  
**Acolyte:** Samuel Brewer, Jessalyn Overall  
**Worship Leader:** Jonna Gabbert  
**Home Communion:** Lori Ray, Janie Barcus, Steve Fincher, Team 2 Deacons

### Sunday, August 17 – BOARD MEETING

**Elder/Sacraments:** Marian Johnson  
**Elder/Offering:** Steve Fincher  
**Deacons:** Team 2  
**Acolyte:** Brea Warstler, Wyatt Warstler  
**Worship Leader:** Ruby Johns  
**Board Devotion:** Lori Ray

### Sunday, August 24

**Elder/Sacraments:** Dean Cramer  
**Elder/Offering:** Don Barcus  
**Deacons:** Team 3  
**Acolyte:** Emily Langston, Chase Langston  
**Worship Leader:** to be announced

### Sunday, August 31

**Elder/Sacraments:** Jewell Reed  
**Elder/Offering:** Janie Barcus  
**Deacons:** Team 1  
**Acolyte:** Brooke Duroni, Logan Duroni  
**Worship Leader:** to be announced

**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](mailto:fcc_main@sbcglobal.net))**

01 Mary Shue  
 03 Claude Brownell  
 04 Bert Sparks Dean  
 05 Danni Bain, Janet Flores  
 05 Aaron Shouse,  
 05 Betty Thomas  
 06 Charles Cramer  
 09 Peggy Cramer, Vicky Roberts  
 10 Janie Barcus, Mark Boring  
 10 Ineva Fitzgerald  
 10 Elaine Harris  
 11 David Brown, Robert Burnett  
 11 Kelly Giager  
 12 Hailey Bush, Kyla Daetwiler  
 12 William Mosse  
 13 Kerri Beardmore



14 Cheryl Brees  
 15 Janet Rexwinkle, Barbara Wills  
 16 Janel Baker, Connie Blackburn  
 17 Judy Barney, Michael Bolt  
 17 Patricia Callahan  
 20 Mike Giager  
 21 Griffin Masters  
 22 John Kelley, Anne Maloney  
 23 JoAnn Mattox  
 24 Wilma Boss, Jerry Janssen  
 24 David Lindeman  
 26 James Hill, Helen Janssen  
 27 Francis Whinery  
 29 Shelley Angle  
 29 Iona Shipps  
 29 Wilma Zink

*Surrounding in prayer*



Our nation's leaders and military  
 Church Ministers & Staff  
 Regional Church Staff  
 Cody Nading (nephew of Janet Brewer)  
 Cody Page  
 Andrew Shipp (Iona's grandson)  
 John Ray

Family and Friends of Ilene Berndt

**Care Homes/Homebound**

Doris Brenner	Jimmy Dodds
Naida Harper	Rutheen Hammack
George Mattox	June Miller
Anona Mosse	Bill Mosse
Lois Parker	Nina Schiefelbusch
Myrtle Shue	Joyce Tanner
Martha Tredway	Francis Whinery
Wilma Zink	Tom Woolfolk

**Our friends with continuing concerns:**

Judy Beal (Warren Townsend's cousin)  
 Regina Bone (Wilma Zink's friend)  
 Priscilla Bowman (Jean Reeves's friend)  
 Jenny Clemons (Joyce Austin's friend)  
 Tim Fox (friend of Gene & Janet Rexwinkle)  
 Jackie Kelley  
 Jud Lackey  
 Jerry Millis (Sherrie Coltrain's friend)  
 Ed Nance (Joe & Sandy's son)  
 Erv Ringle (Jonna Gabbert's friend)  
 Ingrid Schneickert (Jonna Gabbert family member)  
 Doris Stice (Sherrie Coltrain's friend)  
 Mike Walters (Sandy Nance's nephew)  
 McKenzie Wegner  
 Roger Wegner

**Health Concerns:**

Don Barcus	Bryleigh Beardmore
Jean Boss	Whitney Bush
Erlene Cares	Sherrie Coltrain
Kyla Daetwiler	Doris Drummond
Frank Drummond	Carol Fincher
Julia Gerdes	Dori Howerter
Carol Hoyt	Nancy Miller
Joe Nance	Colleen Payne
Kay Shields	Jack Smith
Lee Wegner	Ann Wilkinson
Barbara Wills	Wilma Zink
Mary Zwink	

ELDERS PRAYER LIST

*As part of their commitment to pray for each member of FCC, the Elders are remembering these members and their families in prayer during each week (and invite you to join them):*

July 28 – August 3

Barbara Wills	Betty Willis
Gordon Winkler	Nora Winslow
Matt Womeldorff	Mike & Sandy Womeldorff

August 4 – August 10

David Womeldorff	Stuart & Tracy Woodruff
Thomas & Fern Woolfolk	Paul & Dana Yanez
Kevin & Tiffany Yarnell	Maureen Yates
Wilma Zink	Mary Zwink

August 11 – August 17

Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Adams	Mike & Tammy Alexander
Dale & Kay Alexander	Darren Alexander
Nadine Allen	Rob & Shelley Angle

August 18 – August 24

John Arabia	Mary Lea Ashcraft
John & Ronni Bain	Brent & Robyn Baker
Mary Baker	Rodney & Susan Baker



August 25 – August 31

Sherrie Baker	Bob Baldwin	Monte & Luann Baldwin
Don & Janie Barcus	Judy Barney	Brad Bayless

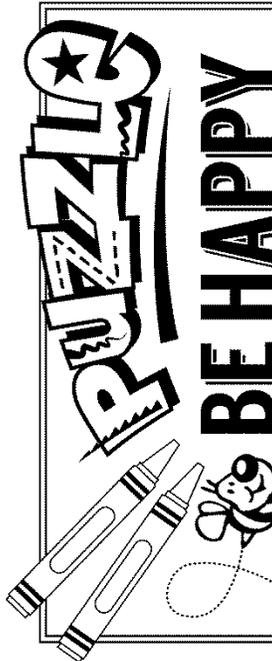
# FORE THOUGHTS

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



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## BE HAPPY

In Matthew 5:3-10, Jesus begins his teaching with the Beatitudes. They give us many reasons to be happy. The Greek word for blessed, *makarios*, also means happy!

Directions: Complete the Beatitudes by matching the blanks in each "Happy" phrase on the left with the bold word(s) on the right.

<b>1.</b> "Happy are the <b>P O O R</b> <b>I N S P I R I T</b>	<b>hunger and thirst</b> for righteousness, for they will be filled."
<b>2.</b> "Happy are those who _____	<b>pure in heart</b> , for they will see God."
<b>3.</b> "Happy are the _____	<b>peacemakers</b> , for they will be called the children of God."
<b>4.</b> "Happy are those who _____	<b>persecuted</b> because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."
<b>5.</b> "Happy are the _____	<b>poor in spirit</b> , for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."
<b>6.</b> "Happy are the _____	<b>merciful</b> , for they will be shown mercy."
<b>7.</b> "Happy are the _____	<b>meeek</b> , for they will inherit the earth."
<b>8.</b> "Happy are those who are _____	<b>mourn</b> , for they will be comforted."