

# The Christian Chronicle

Rev. Darrell Vandervort, Pastor  
Lisa Lombardo, Music Director

## Pastor's Corner

Two hundred years ago in the panhandle of what was to become West Virginia, a minister and his congregation prepared a statement to their denominational leadership explaining their vision for ministry in this frontier region of the nation.

The minister's son, newly arrived from overseas, read and endorsed his father's words. On August 17, 1809 the congregation in Buffalo, VA declared their intention to form a new religious association composed of people from various denominations centered upon the priesthood of all believers, the practice of believer's baptism and the open and free Table of the Lord. They called the document the Declaration and Address. It is one of our founding documents.

One hundred years ago in Pittsburg, PA, about an hour from Bethany, WV (formerly known as Buffalo, VA), Disciples gathered from all around the country to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this document. On July 29-Aug. 2, Disciples will gather from around the world in Indianapolis, IN to mark not only the General Assembly of our denomination, but also to celebrate 200 years of our history since the Declaration and Address was read.

In those early days, the first Disciples of Christ wanted to celebrate and worship together without all the divisions that existed for Christians of different faith backgrounds. In a world where education played second string to forging a life on the frontier in order to survive, necessity dictated less distinction between those who were educated and those who were not and our founders believed in educating people so that they could better understand and read the Bible for themselves and thus become better Christians as citizens of this nation. They welcomed all believers to the table and even though they practiced baptism

by immersion, they did not demean any other form of baptism. They strove for simplicity in the practice of the faith so that more people would feel welcome. All of this was built around the centrality of Communion open to everybody without tests or requirements.

Was the world simpler then? Were there fewer complications and distractions then? Why do we seem to get so caught up in the demands and pressures of our world that we build walls for our own protection and in the process push others away?

Surely, with all the threats faced by those living on America's frontiers, they knew fear from threats to life and health. They knew people who were dangerous and strange. Yet the call of our church founders was for welcome, acceptance, and sharing of the promises they had discovered in the life of a Disciple of Christ. I grant that they had some problems with acceptance of African Americans as equals, and Native peoples as potential friends rather than savages, but the words that have passed through time to each of us need to speak anew and afresh in our hearts and minds. We need to apply them to our decisions and our fears. We need to trust that God's word is indeed for everyone and that God's love is also to be shared with everyone.

We are called to be witnesses to the love of God that knows no boundaries. A love that is visible in the weekly practice of communion. A love that is offered instead of judgment and the assessment of guilt. In Christ we have been set free and challenged to show that freedom to others and invite them to discover it for themselves and rejoice. It isn't rocket science; it is love poured out for all who seek to receive it. Come to the table, taste, and see how Great God is.

Shalom, *Darrell*



## Feed My Sheep

We gave about 632 pounds of food to the local food pantry in 2008. We have given 74 lbs. so far in 2009. The Food pantry serves about 90 families in our area every week.



May 3, 2009

Scripture: 1 John 3:16-24  
Sermon: Sharing God's Love

May 10, 2009

Scripture: John 15:1-8  
Sermon: No Soloists

May 17, 2009

Scripture: John 15:9-17  
Sermon: The Power of Love

May 24, 2009

Scripture: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26  
Sermon: The Path to Fame and Fortune

May 31, 2009

Scripture: Romans 8:22-27  
Sermon: To See the Invisible



*Prayer Requests*

Grace & Howard Jordan  
Irv & Sonia Shaw  
Novy & Mary Ellen Foland  
Chris Bedgood & family  
Steven, Christina & Baby Jade Baxter

## MAY ELDERS & DEACONS

The Elders and Deacons scheduled to serve in May are: Elders – Denny & Brenda McReynolds and Deacons – Evelyn Carroll, Melissa Hebenstreit, Mitchell Thompson and Fran Rutherford.



## CMF BREAKFAST



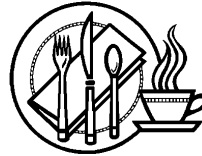
The CMF will meet on Sat., May 9<sup>th</sup>. All men are invited to come and enjoy a delicious breakfast prepared by Ann and David Von

Almen. Then plan to stay and help with some outside cleanup.

## MAY NURSERY WORKERS

May 3	Jo Smith
May 10	Mike Hurlbert
May 17	Ruth Griffith
May 24	Nicole Crofutt
May 31	Juliet Nolde

## LUNCH BUNCH NEWS



The Lunch Bunch met on April 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 at Ole' Times Country Buffet. Those in attendance were: Carl Shaw, David Von Almen, Lois Crawford, Lonnie & Margaret Hicks, and Curtis & Nadine Scaggs. The next gathering will be at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at Ole Times Country Buffet.

## CHURCH PANTRY NEEDS



- Paper towels
- 8 oz. Styrofoam coffee cups
- White napkins
- Paper towels
- Bathroom tissue
- Dessert plates
- Coffee
- Sugar
- 39 Gallon trash bags
- Bagged Ice



## WEDDING SHOWER

The Service/Fellowship committee will be hosting a church wide wedding shower for *Kristyn Embrey* and her fiancée *James Harmon* on Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. This will be a luncheon shower immediately after church service. Please mark your calendars to come and help us celebrate with this special young couple. *Kristyn* and *James* will be married July 12<sup>th</sup> in Charleston, SC. They are registered at Target and Bed Bath & Beyond. For our newer members: *Kristyn* is *Jerri Bosarge's* daughter who we had the blessing of watching grow up at FCC before going off to college!



On Easter Sunday Dalton, Dakota & Haley Crofutt were baptised. They are

the wonderful children of Jimmy & Nicole Crofutt. They have been coming to First Christian Church their whole lives. Dalton & Dakota are 11 ½ years old, in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade and are fraternal twins. Dalton is the oldest (by 15 min.) and loves to draw, play his Nintendo DS and watch TV. He has a mild form of Autism but that doesn't slow him down, yet makes him unique! He will begin taking Taekwondo lessons soon. Dakota loves baseball. He has been catcher for the last three seasons and hopes this year to get to pitch some of the time. He also plays football in the fall. Dakota loves sports and has a heart of gold. Haley is 10 years old. She loves puppies and babies and plays softball. She is in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. All the kids attend Centerville Elementary. The Crofutt kids love Pastor D & First Christian Church!. We all love to go fishing together and we hope to do lots of it this summer.



### CWF GRACE GROUP

CWF Grace Group met on April 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00.. There were eleven ladies attending. After the business meeting, Lois Crawford gave the worship/study lesson titled Enemies Become Neighbors. The Nominating Committee for new officers consisting of Winona Smith, Phyllis Fitzpatrick & Sharon-Kay Duncan, will give a report at the next meeting. Winona Smith was our hostess with refreshments. Our next meeting will be on Thurs., May 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00.

April 4<sup>th</sup> our church hosted the CWF Spring Conference. Approximately 54 ladies from two districts attended. The M&M Group and the Grace Group did an outstanding job of providing a delicious salad luncheon.



### CWF M&M GROUP

The M&M Group met on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00. They are doing a new Bible study called The Friendships of Women: The Beauty and Power of God's Plan for Us by Dee Brestin. All women are welcome to join them on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 7:00.



This year on Palm Sunday we had a Jerusalem Marketplace during Sunday School for the children. We had foods from the Holy Land including figs, dates, mitzvah, macaroons, and lemonade. Also, we had crafts for the kids including carving blocks, flip flop wood tops, and leather bracelets which they purchased by paying with gold coins.

We had a triumphal entrance into worship with the choir, a man portraying Jesus, and the children and congregation waving palms. Our church had a wonderful opening to Holy Week with the Palm Sunday celebration, which prompted us to think of the week ahead and the sacrifice Jesus made for all of us.



On Easter Sunday there was an Easter Egg Hunt for the children. Before the egg hunt there were approximately 30 children & adults who attended a Continental Breakfast. The youth had hidden the eggs before breakfast. The youngest of the egg hunters was Hunter Hicks, and he found the prize egg for his age group. We would like to thank everyone who helped from bringing food to hiding the eggs. Thank you! The Sunday School Dept.

### Thank You!

A big "Thank You" to the following people who came to help on Clean Up Day. It was a rainy day so outdoor work did not get done, but a lot of inside work did get done. The people who attended the breakfast and stayed to help are: David & Ann Von Almen, Randy & Beth Bickley, Mike & Gidget Hurlbert, Curtis & Nadine Scaggs, Denny & Brenda McReynolds, Scott & Juliet Nolde & two children, Ted & Laurie Cook & three children, Irv Shaw, Sharon-Kay Duncan, Phil & Jerri Bosarge, Margaret Hicks, Jack Daviss and Darrell Vandervort.



### SAFE HOUSE NEEDS

- Umbrellas
- Face Towels
- Bath Towels
- Sanitary napkins
- Paper Plates

# May 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <i>Debbie &amp; Dwight Davis</i>	2
3 ChiRho/CYF 4:00	4 Cab/Board Meeting 6:45 & 7:30	5 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House Bible Study 7:00	6 Choir Practice 7:00	7 <i>Sarah Cook</i>	8 <i>Ruth Griffith</i>	9 <b>8:00 Men's Breakfast</b>
10 <i>Janice Fentem</i> ChiRho/CYF 4:00	11 <i>Nadine Scaggs</i>	12 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House Bible Study 7:00 Model Club 7:00	13 <i>Howard Jordan</i> <b>Lunch Bunch Meet 2:00</b> Choir Practice 7:00	14 <i>Terry &amp; Steve Harper</i>	15 <i>Ruth Ann &amp; Mike Fitzpatrick</i>	16 <i>Tyler Hurlbert</i>
17 <b>Fellowship Dinner 6:00</b> ChiRho/CYF 4:00	18	19 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House Bible Study 7:00	20 Choir Practice 7:00	21 <b>CWF Grace Group 7:00</b>	22	23 <i>Beth Bickley</i>
24 ChiRho/CYF 4:00	25	26 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House Bible Study 7:00	27 Choir Practice 7:00 Facilities Mtg. 7:00	28 <b>CWF M&amp;M Group 7:00</b>	29	30 <i>Greg Holmes</i>
31 ChiRho/CYF 4:00 <b>Wedding Shower and luncheon</b> <i>Marsha &amp; Darrell V.</i>						

## Attitude

There once was a woman who woke up one morning, looked in the mirror, and noticed she had only three hairs on her head. "Well", she said, "I think I'll braid my hair today." So she did and she had a wonderful day.

The next day she woke up, and looked in the mirror and saw that she had only two hairs on her head. "Hmmm", she said, "I think I'll part my hair down the middle today." So she did and she had a grand day.

The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror and noticed that she had only one hair on her head. "Well", she said, "today I'm going to wear my hair in a pony tail." So she did and she had a fun, fun day.

The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror and noticed that there wasn't a single hair on her head. "YEA!" she exclaimed, "I don't have to fix my hair today!"

Attitude is everything. Be kinder than necessary, for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle.

Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass. It's about learning to dance in the rain.

**Live simply, Love generously, Care deeply, Speak Kindly.... Leave the rest to God.**

**First Christian Church**  
*(Disciples of Christ)*  
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