January 2019
Volume 65, Issue 1

Office Hours
Monday & Wednesday
8:30 a.m.-1p.m. & 1:30p.m.-4p.m.

Tuesday & Thursday
8:30 a.m.-1p.m. & 1:30p.m.-3p.m.

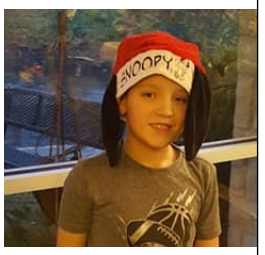
First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)
215 West Elm Street
Canton, IL 61520-2496
Church office (309) 647-1363

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
9:00 Worship & Children's Church
10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
10:30 Sunday School

Pictures from Advent 2018: More on next page.

Hanging of the Greens



Hank Anderson: Pastor

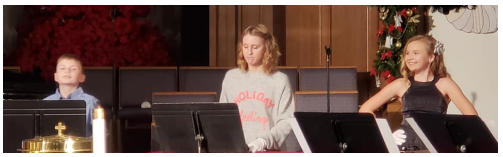
Rick Coulter: Building Supervisor
John Davis: Director of Music

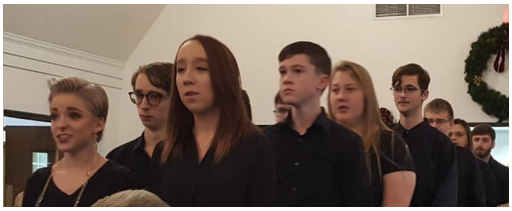
Misti Crossland: Office Coordinator
Gretchen Fuller: Organist

www.cantonfcc.org
Church Email: contact@cantonfcc.org

Chi Rho

Chime Choir





CHS Madrigals

Christmas Eve Service

The transition from one year to the next inevitably leads us to reflect on the year past and to think about the year ahead.

The year 2018 has certainly brought many changes at our church. The biggest change, of course, has been in leadership with the transition from "settled" pastors to an "interim" pastor. From all that I have learned about this congregation since I started here in August, the most impressive part of that transition was the leadership provided by the Worship Committee, Elders and others during the period between the Nestlerode's leaving and my arrival. Their leadership allowed the congregation to continue its ministry very effectively!

What I have seen in my first four and a half months has also been impressive. The response to the Get Acquainted Groups, the willingness of the board, the elders and others to do some serious reflection on the life and ministry of this congregation as well as some of the very exciting and creative ideas that are being put forth by folks have all been exciting. I also deeply appreciate the welcome and openness that you have shown to me and to Deann. I firmly believe that this congregation is in a good place as we begin to look towards the future.

There is no doubt, however, that the coming year will bring more changes. The Interim Steering Committee is hoping to finalize the list of tasks that need to be accomplished during this interim period. Finalizing that list, of course, means that the work is just beginning. I cannot tell you how long that work will take or when the formal search for a new settled pastor will begin. I can tell you, however, that the interim steering committee, the elders, and the board are and will continue to work diligently to move us forward. I, for one, am looking forward to seeing what those efforts will bring about.

In the meantime, I would ask several things of the congregation. First and foremost, pray for me and the leadership of this church asking for God's guidance and wisdom to be upon all of us. Second, be open to the thoughts and the ideas that may come forth over the coming months. Third, continue to support the church through your attendance and involvement in the ministries of the church. Fourth, continue your financial support of the church. And, fifth, pray for me and the leadership of the church some more. You can never pray for us too much!

It will be interesting to see what 2019 brings to First Christian Church!

God bless, Hank

Changes, Changes

The arrival of a new year brings a couple of schedule changes at church. Our custodian, Rick Coulter, has requested that his work hours be reduced due to changes in his personal life. The Personnel Committee discussed this with Rick at length and determined that the number of hours he works could be reduced and still allow him the time he needs to accomplish necessary tasks. As a result, beginning on January 1, Rick will work from 7:00 AM until 12 Noon Monday through Thursday as well as 7:00 AM until 1:00 PM on Sundays. The committee appreciates the hard work that Rick does and we all look forward to working with him in the years to come.

Due to the change in Rick's schedule, Misti will change the time of her lunch break. She will now take lunch from 11:00 until 11:30. This will allow someone to be in the building during regular office hours.

Join Us for a Study of Ephesians

On Sunday, January 6 the Discovery Sunday School class will begin a study of Paul's Letter to the Ephesians. Some have suggested that Paul used this letter as a kind of introduction to the Christian faith for the group of churches around the ancient city of Ephesus. As such, it raises some interesting—and sometimes controversial—topics. Hank will lead the study. The Discovery class meets at 10:30 on Sunday mornings in the second floor room that is located next to the elevator. The class is open to all who would like to attend.

Alternative Worship Service

The Worship Committee is in the process of setting up an alternative worship service that will potentially take place one Weds. a month at 6:oop.m. in the Fellowship Hall. These services will also include a meal. At this time there is no start date/month. This is something that the committee is excited to bring as a worship option, but further planning needs to happen. Please watch for the 1st service date in the future!

Disciple Women

Disciple Women will meet **Thursday, Jan. 3rd at 1p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Doris Taylor is in charge of the Program. Doreen Shaw will lead and the devotion will be given by Leta Krock. The hostess for Jan. is Bea Meeker.

Update from the Interim Steering Committee

When Hank arrived in August, an Interim Steering Committee was established to help plan what was going to happen during the interim period. Though much of its work has been behind the scenes, this group has been and continues to work diligently. One of the primary goals of this group is to establish the tasks that need to be accomplished during this interim period to help the church prepare for its future ministry. These tasks are being determined based on the information gathered during the Get Acquainted Groups that were held in late August and September, Hank's observations as well as the insights of the interim Steering Committee itself.

The Committee is currently finalizing a list of those tasks that will be taken to the church board for their review and approval. Once they are approved by the board, these tasks will serve as a kind of agenda for the remainder of the interim period.

The Interim Steering Committee consists of Daryle Coleman, Kara Fitzjarrald, Paul Grigsby, Don Heller, Tryg Meade as well as Hank. If you have questions about this process, please do not hesitate to contact any of these individuals. They certainly seek your prayers for God's wisdom and guidance as they continue their work.

News From Outreach: How Your Offering Helps Our Community

One of the community projects we support is the Buddy Bag Program. This program was started in 2012 to provide easily made snacks for children in the community on the weekends. Teachers give names of children who would benefit from the program to program coordinator Beth Kelly. The bags are packed with microwaveable macaroni and cheese, apples, peanut butter and crackers, ramen noodles, granola bars, fruit snacks, rice krispie treats and instant oatmeal. Food is purchased or donated from local grocery stores and food banks. They add a coloring book or other seasonal book at holiday time. A total of 285 bags are distributed to Westview, Eastview, Lincoln and McCall Schools. Volunteers from local churches and Fulton County Rehabilitation fill the bags every Thursday at 1:45 pm at the First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. The bags are then discreetly given to the children on Fridays. First Christian Church donates $300 annually to support the program. It was nice to see how important this service is to the community as I met the coordinator and helped fill bags. If you would like to volunteer they meet on Thursdays from 1:30-2:30.

Judy Kemper, Outreach Committee Chairperson

Children and Youth News
January 2019

Chi Rho (Middle School Youth Group)-

Any 5th-8th grader is welcome to join us! If interested, please contact Sherry Hardy, 309-657-2345. If changes occur she will update parents & can add you to the private Facebook group. This group is also encouraged to attend the Family Ministry nights.

The Family Ministry team would like to thank everyone who joined us on Dec. 15th for our "Cookies and Cards" event. We had a great time decorating & eating sugar cookies & enjoying hot cocoa with marshmallows, candy canes, whipped cream & more! The families that attended also created fun, beautiful Christmas cards that were distributed by Kevin Dearing to residents at Renaissance Care Center! Special thanks to Cindy Zaborac for donating several dozen cookies for the kids to enjoy. Thank you to all who donated items to make this another successful event. We are so blessed to have such a supportive congregation for our family events! 2018 was filled with so many fun family events, we love getting together & enjoying family & fellowship with all ages from our community. Thank you to all who have donated items, volunteered at events & joined us this year! Looking forward to more fun in 2019! If you have ideas for fun family activities, please let Amy Allard know!

All Ages Welcome- Free family fun!
Where: Canton First Christian Church
When: Sunday Jan 20th, 5-6PM

Join us at our January Family Ministry event for pancakes and fun family games. Wear your favorite comfy PJS & bring your favorite game to share! We will provide drinks and pancakes & yummy toppings.

Please sign up to donate items on the list in the Narthex. Any questions, contact Amy Allard 309-357-3493. Please RSVP to Amy or our Facebook event!

HAPPY TIMERS

January is the month for new beginnings & New Year Resolutions. Let us begin this year by "Resoluting" to join the happiest group around-Happy Timers!!!

Happy Timers will gather on Jan 17. at 12:00 p.m. The program will be presented by Employees of Cook Medical Equipment.

They will start the "New Year" with a luncheon featuring: biscuits & gravy, vegetables, hash browns, mixed fruit, and deserts.

The Outreach Committee would like to give a heartfelt thank you to our congregation for their generous support of the Angel Tree (Salvation Army) & Mitten Tree (Fulton/Mason Crisis Service). The Narthex was overflowing! Your giving helped to make Christmas special for children in our community.

Dear First Christian Church, I am just finishing up my first semester at the University of Illinois. I am enjoying every new opportunity I have been blessed with! I love my coworkers at Monical's here in Champaign, I am making new friends in all of my classes, & I am loving living in my house. I have just finished 15 credit hours this fall & have signed up for 13 hours this spring. I have participated on the U of I Equestrian Show team & in a spay/ neuter clinic hosted by the veterinary school. I am continually amazed at the experiences I've been apart of! I am very excited to see where the future takes me & the opportunities I will be presented. As always I am grateful for your continuing love & support! Thank you so much & God bless. -Mikayla Osborne

Prayer List – January 2019

Please Pray For:

Our prayers and sympathies go out to the family and friends of **Debra Moore**. Debra passed away on 12/23/18.

Oliver Stanko, father of John Stanko, is at Graham Hospital.

Please Continue to Pray For: **Richie Anderson** (Grandson of Connie Brady); **Cara Casper** (daughter of Marilee Casper); **Frank Coates** (son of Doris Svob); **Melody Davis** (friend of Daryle Coleman); **Melissa Dean** (daughter of Dwayne Bernard); **Willie Mae Dobbins** (friend of Sheila Dye); **Cindy Dodd** (sister of Dee Doubet)**; Bruce Fisher; Ulu Fong** (cousin of Barb Pollitt); **Katrina Girard** (friend of Ricky Noe); **Blaine Hardy; Jackson Harper** (3 yr. old friend of Phoebe Raker); **Lita Harris** (daughter-in-law of Jim & Judy Wickert); **LuAnn Kimbrell** (daughter of Bonnie Harn)**; David Maier** (friend of Marsha Moore)**; Nancy Moody** (friend of Sheila Dye)**; Toddler Cora Rabe** (great granddaughter of Joan Bankes)**; Pam Rabe** (daughter of Joan Bankes)**; Scott Snowman; Sarah Stanley** (cousin of Lyn Snowman); **Darren Stone** (son of Joe & Janet Stone); **Gene Taylor; Randy Weaver; Cain Wilson** (grandson of Martha Harr); **Those not named who are carrying great burdens. Our world, that where there is strife & brokenness, God's light will bring healing & wholeness.**

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS	
Chuck Jarvis	**1-Jan**
Jan Taylor	**16-Jan**
Bea Meeker	**18-Jan**
Timothy Scott	**18-Jan**
Peg Hays	**19-Jan**
Kevin Dearing	**25-Jan**
Jennifer Miller	**26-Jan**
John Stanko	**27-Jan**
Michael Walters	**31-Jan**
Vinnie Cufaude	**31-Jan**
JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES	
Don & Connie Heller	**1-Jan**
Ray & Connie Reed	**4-Jan**
Curt & Leta Krock	**16-Jan**
Bill & Doris Svob	**16-Jan**

Nursing Facilities:

At Clayberg-**Johnnie & Ruth Burkhead**
At Courtyard Estates-**Shirley Harris; Margaret Wright**
At Farmington Country Manor -**Ron Dilts**
At Graham Ext. Care-**Lois Stanko**
At Heartland-**Mildred Bollinger**
At Red Oak Estates-**Ron & Joan Bankes; Curtis Krock**
At Renaissance-**Betty Hopper**
At Rosewood C.C. (E. Peoria)-**Linda Ward**

Scriptures, Sermons, & Serving Schedules

1/6/2019	
1st Scripture	Isaiah 60:1-6
2nd Scripture	Matthew 2:1-12
Sermon	*Where is the Child? (Deann Anderson)*
Greeters	Doris Svob
Ushers	Larry & Eugenia Warden
Scripture Reader	Pat Stanko
Children's Moment	TBA
PreK/K. Church	Emily McLean & Judy Leitze
Children's Church	Jen Miller & Connie Reed
Invitation	Kara Fitzjarrald
Elder	Alan Coleman
Deacons	Shawn & Lyn Snowman, Eugenia Warden, & Emily McLean
Preparation	Shawn & Lyn Snowman
Coffee Fellowship	Daryle Coleman
Nursery	Gillian Spiva & Addy Allard
Counters	Kara Fitzjarrald & Don Heller

1/13/2019	
1st Scripture	Mark 1:9-11
2nd Scripture	Romans 6:3-5
Sermon	*Thinking Deeper: Baptism*
Greeters	Jim & Judy Wickert
Ushers	Connie Brady & Betty Tracey
Scripture Reader	Vinnie Cufaude
Children's Moment	TBA
PreK/K. Church	Jen Miller & Connie Heller
Children's Church	Deann Anderson & Michelle Spiva
Invitation	Jan Dearing
Elder	Mike Walters
Deacons	Sherry Hardy, Brandi DeRenzy, & Dennis & Dee Doubet
Preparation	Sherry Hardy & Brandi DeRenzy
Coffee Fellowship	Nancy Cluts & Sherry Lindzey
Nursery	Jessica Clore & Gillian Spiva
Counters	Bruce Edwards & Vinnie Cufaude

1/20/2019	
1st Scripture	1 Corinthians 10:14-18
2nd Scripture	1 Corinthians 11:23-26
Sermon	*Thinking Deeper: The Lord's Supper*
Greeters	Carolyn Woods
Ushers	Deann Anderson
Scripture Reader	Lori Coleman
Children's Moment	TBA
PreK/K. Church	Mike & Trygve Meade
Children's Church	Dan & Kara Fitzjarrald
Invitation	Trygve Meade
Elder	Rick Shaw
Deacons	Greg Stephenson, Mark Reneau, & Grant & Amanda Stephenson
Preparation	Greg Stephenson & Mark Reneau
Coffee Fellowship	Connie Heller & Judy Leitze
Nursery	Addy Allard & Jessica Clore
Counters	Alan Coleman & Trygve Meade

1/27/2019	
1st Scripture	Psalm 27:7-10
2nd Scripture	Matthew 6:7-13
Sermon	*Thinking Deeper: The Lord's Prayer*
Greeters	Marsha Moore
Ushers	Barb Pollitt
Scripture Reader	Tammy Weaver
Children's Moment	TBA
PreK/K. Church	Marsha Moore & Eugenia Warden
Children's Church	Jean & Bruce Edwards
Invitation	Kevin Dearing
Elder	Chuck Taylor
Deacons	Zack & Janet Krulac & Chuck & Denise Jarvis
Preparation	Zack & Janet Krulac
Coffee Fellowship	Bea Meeker, Shellie Green, & Becky Wilcoxen
Nursery	Jessica Clore & Addy Allard
Counters	Kevin Coleman & Chuck Taylor

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 **Epiphany** 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School	31	1-Jan Office & Building closed for New Year's Day	2 12:00-4:00 p.m. Office Closed-Projects	3 8:30-12:00 p.m. Office Closed-Projects 1:00 p.m. Disciple Women	4	5
6 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School	7 7:00 p.m. Elder's Meeting	8 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 5:00 p.m. Memorial Committee Meeting 6:15 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting 6:45 p.m. Bingo at Renaissance	9 10:00 a.m. D.W. Sewing 10:00 a.m. GEMS Bible Study 12:00-4:00 p.m. Office Closed-Projects 5:30-6:00 p.m. Chime Choir 6:00-7:15 p.m. Canton Sisterhood Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	10 Office Closed All Day-Projects (I will check emails/messages at the beginning of the day.) 6:00 p.m. Interim Steering Committee	11	12
13 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School	14 7:00 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting	15 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 6:45 p.m. Bingo at Renaissance	16 10:00 a.m. D.W. Sewing 10:00 a.m. GEMS Bible Study 12:00-4:00 p.m. Office Closed-Projects 5:30-6:00 p.m. Chime Choir 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	17 12 p.m. Happy Timers 1:00 p.m. Board Packet Deadline: Submit Committee Meeting Minutes	18	19
20 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School **5:00-6:00 p.m. Family Ministry Night: PJs & Pancakes**	21 6:00 p.m. CE Meeting 6:00 p.m. Outreach Meeting 7:00 p.m. Board Meeting Newsletter Deadline	22 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 6:45 p.m. Bingo at Renaissance	23 10:00 a.m. D.W. Sewing 10:00 a.m. GEMS Bible Study 5:30-6:00 p.m. Chime Choir 6:00-7:15 p.m. Canton Sisterhood Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	24 1:00 p.m. Game Day	25	26
27 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School	28 6:00 p.m. Property Meeting	29 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 6:45 p.m. Bingo at Renaissance	30 10:00 a.m. D.W. Sewing 10:00 a.m. GEMS Bible Study 5:30-6:00 p.m. Chime Choir 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	31	1-Feb	2