



# The Christian Newsletter

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**SUNDAY, JANUARY 18th**

**ANNUAL MEETING  
&  
JAMAICAN MEAL!**

**Following worship on January 18th  
we will gather in Fellowship Hall  
for our Annual Meeting.**

**We will be served a  
Jamaican Meal  
by our Mission Team who will be  
serving in Jamaica January 22-30.**

**Yearbooks with 2008 Annual Reports  
and an updated church membership  
directory will be given out.**

**Be sure to be there as we ~~**

**~~ Celebrate what God has  
done over this past year  
in and through FCC**

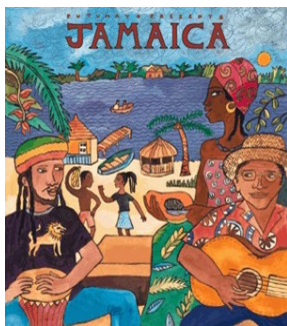
**~~ Look forward to where  
God is leading us in  
2009 and beyond.**

**~~Have a great time of  
friendship and fellowship!**

**January 2009**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**Childcare will be available**



**Church Brochures are  
available to share  
with your friends,  
family and neighbors  
as a tool to reach out  
to our community!**



*"Where people  
come together  
to share and  
serve."*

## *Reflections from Neil*

It's hard to believe that 2008 is over! As we conclude one year and begin a new one, I am drawn to the words of Joyce Rupp. "It can be beneficial to glance backward over the past year if we do not stay there and center on our incompleteness. As long as we do not base all our vision of the new year on that backward glance, we can learn from what we see. But then we must move on. January is such a good time to deliberately set our steps forward, to begin again, to give ourselves over to the promises of the future."

On January 18th we will look back and look forward as a congregation. Following our worship service, we will enjoy a Jamaican dinner and conduct our annual meeting. January 18th will be a big day for our congregation, and I am confident that you will be in attendance for worship and the annual meeting and dinner!

May God's richest blessings be with you during this coming year. I share with you a New Year's prayer from Joyce Rupp:

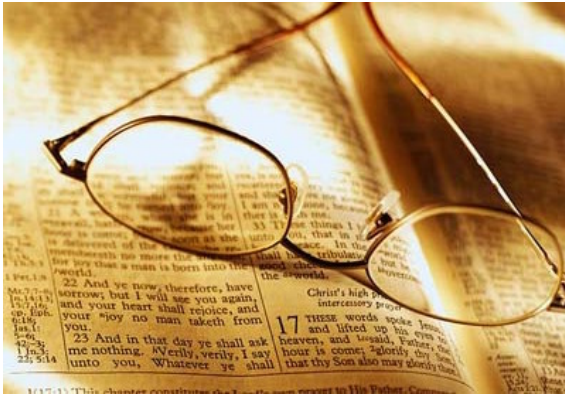
Faithful Companion,  
In this new year I pray:

to live deeply, with purpose  
to live freely, with detachment,  
to live wisely, with humility,  
to live justly, with compassion,  
to live lovingly, with fidelity,  
to live mindfully, with awareness,  
to live gratefully, with generosity,  
to live fully, with enthusiasm.

Help me to hold this vision  
And to daily renew it in my heart,  
Becoming ever more one with you,  
My truest Self.

**See you Sunday! Neil**

# Living Out Our Mission: Reaching Up



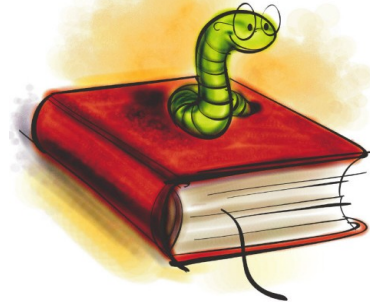
## WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Begins January 14th

**6:00 p.m. Fellowship Meal**  
**6:30 p.m. Bible Study**

**Jan. 14th** “Confusion”  
**January 21st** “Blessings & Challenges”  
**January 28th** “Sharing”  
**February 4th** “Family Ties”  
**February 11th** “Covenant”  
**February 18th** “Blessings?”  
**February 25th** Ash Wednesday

**Bring your bible, an open mind and heart and possibly a friend!**  
**Each study is independent this semester, so come for one or come for them all!**



## Spring Book Club

### The Shack

by William Paul Young

This book is one of the top selling books in “theological fiction” and is the number one paperback book on the NY Times best sellers. This book study will consist of a discussion of the story and then the theology (the study of God) and the constructive theology that Young portrays. There will be 2 discussion groups. **Jan. 11th is the start date**

**Mondays 10:30 a.m.**

in Fellowship Hall

**Tuesdays 10:30 a.m.**

in Pastor Christy’s office

*Call Marian if you want her to order you a copy of the book.*

# Living Our Mission: Reaching In



## JANUARY

- Jan. 7 Bernice Hedinger*
- Jan. 8 Elaine Hwang*
- Jan. 10 Lorene Stuteville*
- Jan. 11 Grice Sexton*
- Jan. 13 Juanita Garrett*
- Jan. 15 Kirk Pickett*
- Jan. 16 Cheryl Converse*
- Jan. 17 Zora Lou McWhorter*  
*Mike Roediger*
- Jan. 21 Phyllis Price*
- Jan. 22 Nick Uthoff*
- Jan. 24 Mackenzie Chaline*
- Jan. 25 Brittany Mathiot*
- Jan. 26 Neil Engle*
- Jan. 29 Justin Foster*  
*Jim Morris*  
*Roger Sink*

*If you know of a birthday we're missing, please call the church office, 776-8790*

### DISCIPLES MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

DMF meets monthly on the **second Tuesday at 7 a.m.** for breakfast, conversation and study at Vista Restaurant. This month's meeting will be on Jan. 13th. They welcome new participants!

### DISCIPLES WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

**Spirit Sisters** for Young Disciple Women will meet on **Thursday, January 8, 6:30 p.m.** at the church.

**Do Day** quilting group will meet on **January 14, 9:00 a.m.** Do Day is looking for more participants. And the Do Day women want to assure you that it is not necessary to know how to quilt or even how to sew in order to be productive on their work day.

**Russell Group** meets **Thursday, January 8, 7:30 p.m.** at Marilyn Masterson's, 1950 Bluestem Terrace. Co-Hostess is Kathy Huntzinger, and Study will be led by Debi Rogers.

**Morning Group** meets on **January 21, 9:30 a.m.** at the church. Hostess is Betty Slemen and Co-Hostess is Janice Krienitz. Nancy Goulden will lead Study and Worship.

**Larson Group** meets **Thursday, January 21 at 2:00 p.m.** Study and Worship will be led by Bernice Hedinger. Location and hostess will be announced later.

# Prayer Concerns

## OUR SYMPATHY

We reach out in sympathy to Sandy Snoke, at the death of her father on December 18. His memorial service will be held in mid-January.

We also sympathize with Associate Regional Minister Steve Martin, at the death of his father, Floyd, after a lengthy illness. Services are planned for January 3, at Kern Park Christian Church in Portland, Oregon. Prayers for Steve and his family, especially as they travel to and from Oregon, would be appreciated. Cards and notes may be sent to him at 3115 SW 19th Street, Topeka, 66604

*Father, grant peace to those we love,  
but see no longer. Amen*

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Nevaeh (heaven spelled backward) Leech was born on Dec. 18 to Monica Leech. Grandparents Sterling & Teresa Wright and aunts are Marilyn & Victoria Wright. Nevaeh was 7 lb 3 oz, 20 inches, and has already been to church!



## EMAIL NEWSLETTER OPPORTUNITY

*First Christian is beginning the process of sending “The Christian” via email for those who would prefer to receive it in that form. This will help us reduce use of paper and ink, and will make us a more environmentally friendly church.*

*However, if you don’t have an email address, or if you would just prefer to receive the newsletter in hard copy, we are glad to continue doing that.*

*If you would like to receive your newsletter by email, please let the church office know—and provide your current email address so that we are sure to have the correct one. Call 776-8790 or send an email to [marian@fccmanhattan.org](mailto:marian@fccmanhattan.org).*



# Living Out Our Mission: Reaching Up

## Preaching Schedule and Texts

Each month we offer you a selection of readings for each Sunday from the Revised Common Lectionary. Those texts with an \* beside them indicate the passages of scripture that will be used for the sermon.

**January 4th** Neil Preaching  
Isaiah 60:1-6 \*Psalm 148  
Matthew 2:1-12 \*Galatians 4:4-7  
*“Christmas and the Cross”*  
Children’s Sermon “Responsibility”

**January 11th** Neil Preaching  
Genesis 1:1-5 \*John 1:10-18  
\*Psalm 98 Ephesians 1:3-14  
*“Mirror and a Window”*  
Children’s Sermon “Being Yourself”

**January 18th** Neil Preaching  
\*I Samuel 3:1-20 Psalm 139  
\*John 1:43-51 I Cor. 6:12-20  
*“Hearing the Call”*  
Children’s Sermon: Jesus in Jamaica

**January 25th** Christy Preaching  
Jonah 3:1-5,10 \*Psalm 62:5-12  
Mark 1:14-20 \*I Cor. 7:29-31  
*“Understanding God”*  
Children’s Sermon: Puzzles

## Biblical Commentary:

We’ve decided to highlight a text and give you a partial commentary to help you understand some of the more complicated scriptural passages for the month. If you would like more information on the text, please contact Pastor Christy.

### Ephesians 1:3-14

The letter to the Ephesians is filled with some of the most awe-inspiring language in the New Testament. This is particularly evident in the first section of the letter as the author (possibly, but not certainly, Paul) engages in a “eulogy,” a blessing of God. This blessing (vv.3-14) is only one sentence in Greek composed of many different subordinate clauses and participles which point to the grammatical unity of this passage. The unity is further underscored by the subject of the passage, in that the author presents his audience with all the acts God has done for “us” throughout time. By emphasizing the atemporal nature of God’s activity, the author is able to use this eulogy as parenesis, exhorting his audience to believe in the God who has been working on their behalf before the world even existed (v.4), and who will continue even through the “fullness of time” (v.10). Since God has always chosen “us,” we should be encouraged to respond in belief and blessing to the praise of his glorious grace. In this doxology, God’s works done for “us,” the community, are described essentially in three different ways: God the Father’s work from the beginning, the redemption and consummation in Christ and the down payment or the pledge of our final inheritance, the promised Holy Spirit, who works in “you” today.

# Living Out Our Mission: Reaching Out

## Local and Global Ministries Team: *Our Focus on Social Justice*

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a national hero and civil rights leader who inspired Americans to love, forgive and walk in peace. He dedicated his life to service and fought for racial justice and equality for African-Americans. Dr. King captivated America with his charismatic speeches and peaceful movements. He believed that people's worth should not be measured by color, culture or class, but rather by a commitment to making a better life for all. During his lifetime,

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. forged common ground on which people from all walks of life could join together as equals to address important community issues.



**MLK Commemoration service**  
*Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup> 2009 7:00 p.m.*  
Manhattan Christian Fellowship Church  
523 S. 17<sup>th</sup> (17<sup>th</sup> & Yuma)

**MLK Celebration**  
*Saturday January 17<sup>th</sup> 6:30 p.m.*  
Manhattan High East Campus Auditorium  
9<sup>th</sup> & Poyntz  
Music, Presentations  
Keynote Speaker: Taylor Fields  
Southern Christian leadership Conference,  
Kansas City Missouri  
Candlelight Walk to the First UMC

**Prayer Breakfast**  
*Monday-January 19<sup>th</sup> 8:00 a.m.*  
Clarion Hotel  
Speaker Dr. Al Brinson, longtime friend  
Buffet \$10.00

**King Holiday Activities at Manhattan  
Town Center Mall**  
*Monday January 19<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am – 4 p.m.*  
Music, Entertainment, Dance, Church and  
School Choirs, Presentations, Vendors,  
Dispatch of Day of Service Volunteers  
MLK Art and Writing Contest Award  
Winners and Display

**Art Exhibit: Beech Museum of Art**  
*Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup> 10-12 noon*  
Personal identity Art Exhibit  
Children's art activities & Reading Center

For more information, please call the  
church office or go online:  
[www.mlkcommittee.org](http://www.mlkcommittee.org)

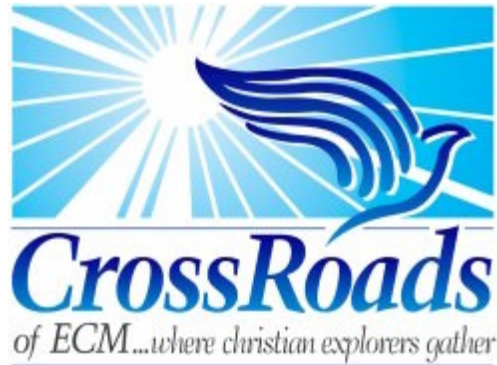
# Living Out Our Mission: Reaching Out

## **Jamaica Mission Trip:**

There will be six people from FCC and four from UMC serving in January that will join the more than 30 people sharing in mission work in Jamaica Jan. 22nd through 31st. The committee is excited to report that they have made contact with our Disciples missionaries in that region on this trip to support the Global Ministries projects in that region.

We have been asked to help provide the following items for one of the local elementary schools in Falmouth, Jamaica, which has limited access to supplies. If you wish to help with this special request, you can leave items at the church office through Sunday, January 11th. Or, any financial donations can be made out to FCC - Attn: Jamaica Fund.

- Large jumbo markers**
- Crayons (smaller boxes)**
- White chalk**
- Soccer balls**
- Small glue bottles**
- Watercolor paint sets**
- Storybooks (small books for ages 5-7)**



On behalf of everyone at the Ecumenical Campus Ministry at Kansas State University, I wanted to thank you for your recent contribution of \$2,250 to the ministry! As you know, we depend on gifts from our friends who believe in the importance of our work with students and our involvement in the life of the university. Your financial assistance is valued and will go a long way to support ongoing work at CrossRoads of ECM. We appreciate the ongoing support you give to this ministry!

*David Jones, Campus Pastor*

## **FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY IS JANUARY 4**

Please bring non-perishable food items to help families in financial stress! Everything you bring is useful and is a blessing.



We cannot stress enough the need during these times. It is hard for the pantries to keep their shelves stocked to meet the nutritional needs of low income families.



Rev. Paxton Jones, Regional Minister

Doug Gray, Moderator

Rev. Steve Martin, Associate Regional Minister, SE District, Outdoor & Youth

Rev. Renee Bridwell, Associate Regional Minister South Central District

Rev. Ken Marston, Acting Associate Regional Minister for Central and High Plains

The Christian Church in Kansas has 99 congregations in five districts: High Plains, Central, Northeast, Southeast and South Central. The districts provide opportunities for fellowship between the congregations, educational events, and a matrix for youth work in addition to men's and women's ministries. The districts become the "bridge" between the local and regional church. In the districts, there are structures to support a variety of programs. Each district has its own model for doing ministry.

DISCOVER THE DISCIPLES



## OUR GOALS

**TO HELP ONE ANOTHER**  
with our spiritual growth,  
development & direction

**TO LISTEN TO ONE ANOTHER**  
as we journey  
in the faith

**TO HELP ONE ANOTHER**  
build relationships & to  
develop leadership in order  
to work together effectively

**TO ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER**  
to faithful stewardship  
of all our resources

**TO ANSWER THE CALL**  
to discipleship & to fulfill  
the Great Commission

**TO CELEBRATE TOGETHER**  
in worship &  
at the Lord's Supper

JANUARY 1, 2009

Written by Doug and Elizabeth Searles



*I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, thankful for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. Philippians 1: 3-5*

We have much to be thankful for this year, write Doug and Liz Searles, missionaries to Poland; as we walk with the church in Lodz and in ten other cities in Poland. We are giving thanks for all of you. It is you who have gifted us with work that we feel uniquely called to do.

We are newly arrived and it is great to be where worship matters – really matters. Attending worship in the past had been a political and sometimes very dangerous act. Even now it can be difficult. The Evangelical Reformed Church is a marginalized denomination in a country where less than 4% are Protestant. This means that those who worship other than in the Catholic Church may have their patriotism questioned. Protestant youth are treated differently in school. Therefore, church camps, youth events and music (!) are crucial to the future of the Evangelical-Reformed church in Poland.

Individual U.S. churches are beginning to gift us with bells, choir music, Sunday School materials, "karaoke" CDs of back-up for gospel and other Christian music, and more for the tiny new church starts in the Polish cities. We ask you most importantly, for your prayers. Please pray:

- for continued tenacity and energy for language study—challenging for both of us;
- for doors to open as we walk with the church, seeking to serve their desire to become a more missional and inviting denomination in a very challenging environment;
- for positive and nurturing mutual connections to develop with our partners in ministry in the U.S. in Poland, and worldwide.
- for our children in the U.S., Mackenzie (20) and McCleary (16) and for the challenges our work in Poland brings to our relations as a family.
- And may God's Peace and Joy be yours this New Year no matter what your circumstances may be!!
- 

*Doug and Elizabeth Searles serve with the Evangelical Reformed Church in Poland as mission workers for church growth and outreach*



*Dear First Christian,*

*Thank you so much for all the expressions of love and support extended to us during the holidays. Holly and I deeply appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity. We have enjoyed the cards, delicious goodies, and gifts. We also are grateful for the Manhattan Town Center gift card we received from the congregation. I continue to consider it a privilege to serve as one of your pastors.*

*With much love and appreciation,  
Neil*

*Blessed friends of FCC,*

*Your kindness and thoughtfulness have deeply touched my heart this year. It is such a blessing to be a part of this congregation whose generosity and love is so amazing. Thank you for the hospitality and courage you embody as we walk this faith journey together. I continue to thank God for being able to serve as one of your pastors.*

*Grace and Peace,  
~Christy* 11

*Thank you all for your support during Gail's long illness. Your cards, prayers, and visits helped us beyond measure. We shall always remember with deep gratitude your comforting expression of sympathy. Thank you so much for the floral tribute for Gail's memorial service.*

*~ Janice Parsons & Family*

*You are the nicest, sweetest church family there could be. Thank you so much for your wonderful Christmas gift card for Manhattan Town Center! That was a huge surprise, and it could not be appreciated more.*

*~ Most gratefully, Marian*

*Thank you very much for your gift of a mall card for Christmas. It is truly a blessing to be part of the FCC Family, and I am thankful for the opportunity to serve as your treasurer.*

*~In His Love, Don Foster*

*Thank you so much for the lovely poinsettia plant which Sharon Purvis brought me from my church family. It is lovely, and I am very grateful for it, and for all you wonderful church folks.*

*~~Katherine Mulanax*

*Once again we thank you for the privilege of meeting at First Christian Church. We are always so grateful to have such a nice place to meet.*

*~Sincerely, Wednesday Night Al Anon*

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
(Disciples of Christ)  
115 Courthouse Plaza  
Manhattan, KS 66502**

**Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Manhattan, KS 66502  
Permit No. 575**

**Return Service Requested**

**JANUARY 1, 2009**  
[www.fccmanhattan.org](http://www.fccmanhattan.org)

First Christian Church, 5th & Humboldt	<u><a href="mailto:church@fccmanhattan.org">church@fccmanhattan.org</a></u>	785.776.8790
Senior Pastor: Neil Engle	<u><a href="mailto:neil@fccmanhattan.org">neil@fccmanhattan.org</a></u>	785.410.0200
Associate Pastor: Christy E. Dew	<u><a href="mailto:christy@fccmanhattan.org">christy@fccmanhattan.org</a></u>	785.236.0342
Church Secretary: Marian Fuller	<u><a href="mailto:marian@fccmanhattan.org">marian@fccmanhattan.org</a></u>	785.776.8790
Youth Intern and Choir Director: Amanda Jolly	<u><a href="mailto:amanda@fccmanhattan.org">amanda@fccmanhattan.org</a></u>	
Church Treasurer: Don Foster	<u><a href="mailto:treasurer@fccmanhattan.org">treasurer@fccmanhattan.org</a></u>	785.776.8790
Financial Secretary: Sonny Redding		
Custodian: Treasa Wright	<u><a href="mailto:custodian@fccmanhattan.org">custodian@fccmanhattan.org</a></u>	
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