



# The Christian

A P R I L 1, 2009

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## HOLY WEEK AT FIRST CHRISTIAN

### PALM SUNDAY, April 5

Worship, 10:15 a.m., Palm Processional



“Looking for a Savior” Christy Dew Preaching

### MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 9

A Service of Light and Shadow, 6:30 p.m.

### EASTER SUNDAY, April 12

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service,  
At new property, off Seth Childs Road

#### 9:00 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast



The food will be prepared by our Fellowship Ministry team. We are suggesting a \$3 - \$5 donation to help cover the cost of the food.

Any money over the cost of the food will be placed in our Tend My Sheep fund. Tend My Sheep is a fund established to address needs in our church family that might not qualify for any other community assistance programs. A confidential request can be made by calling or coming to the church office. The Tend My Sheep program is intended to be used for members of the congregation or those who regularly participate in our church who have an unexpected and legitimate need requiring some assistance on a temporary basis.

10:15 a.m. Worship

“Living Under a Rock” Christy Dew, Preaching



Easter Offering

Received

April 5 & April 12

## From *The Bend in the Road*

*There are only two ways to live your life.  
One is as though nothing is a miracle.  
The other is as though everything is a miracle.*

*~Albert Einstein*

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I have always been fascinated by stained glass. The artistry and the ability to take pieces of glass and create a masterpiece like the one below is just incredible. When I was about eight or nine years old, one of my aunts used to work with stained glass as a medium and each Christmas would give us ornaments. I would place those ornaments carefully in front of the lights and they would cast brilliant colors around the room; much like a crystal in the afternoon sun. I enjoy the beauty of those works of art, especially when mixed with the light of creation pouring in through the window and turning it into something even more surprising. It just takes my breath away.

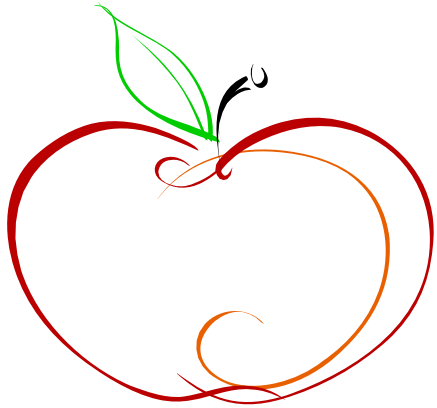
A year or two ago, I was able to meet a master stained glass artist while I was traveling. As we were talking I asked what was the greatest joy and the greatest challenge of being a stained glass artist. I was surprised by the answer. *“It’s really hard for me to break the pieces. The panes of glass are so beautiful and I know to complete the work of art that has been commissioned, many times I have to shatter the pieces. It takes a long time when I am just working with shattered bits of glass, before the window is done. There’s a great deal of time when there’s just broken bits scattered around before they take the shape of what I am attempting to finish....ah... but when it’s done, there’s something even more beautiful than I could ever imagine.”* Then I was able to see the works of this master’s hands. Wow.

As Christians, this is our story. We are a people of the resurrection. We know that in the realities of life, many of us, who are beautiful creations of God, have been broken in the circumstances of life. But God isn’t done with us yet. Through the hands, words, and compassion of others, God molds us back together into something more beautiful than we could ever realize. If you are finding yourself a bit broken and shattered during this time, come and hear the Easter story again. May we all be healed and resurrected into the promises of life abundant this year.



*~Christy*

# Community Announcements



## ALL CHURCH WOMEN

*You are cordially invited to a:*

## “Manhappenin’ Evening”

**Salad Supper**

**Wednesday, May 6th**

**6:30PM**

**In Fellowship Hall**

Program:

Karen Hibbard, Manhattan  
Convention & Visitors Bureau

What to bring: Yourself, daughter,  
daughter-in-law, mother,  
mother-in-law, good friend(s),  
A sense of fun and fellowship  
& a Salad to share

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

April 1	Laurene Pittman
April 2	Justin Schielke Andrew McReynolds
April 3	Justin Dyer Richard Thomason
April 5	Tina Manis
April 6	Debi Rogers
April 7	Susan Pickett Nancy Venburg
April 8	Mike Shilling
April 9	Miranda Bennett
April 10	Floyd Price Gene Wiley
April 11	Adam Fahrenholz
April 12	Phyllis Wiley
April 13	John Trussell
April 15	Dorothy Hyle Debbie Guillen Beverly Orr
April 16	Ken Garwick Adam Morris Larry Neipert
April 17	Sarah Doty
April 18	Kelley Sylvester
April 20	Jesse Brown
April 22	Ken Myers
April 23	Floyd Nolder
April 24	David Rogers Victoria Russell David Soper Debbie Sowell
April 25	John Dunbar
April 27	Linda Jones
April 29	John Boyer



## **Living Out Our Mission: Reaching In**

### **KNOWING YOUR CHURCH FAMILY—ALICE ROPER**



Who of you readers know where Bushton, Kansas is? You can find it on the map...if you know where to look...and if you have a magnifying glass! Look between Salina and Great Bend just off of highway 156. Now you have it! But, why is this important? Because it is the birthplace of one of our most well known, pleasant, and still active members... Alice Roper. You are going to learn more about Alice, but be aware that you will still only know about 20% of her story.

Alice was born the youngest of five siblings. She had two older brothers and two older sisters. And she was the first in her family not to attend a one-room country school. There is one hint as to why Alice displays a refinement that only the classiest ladies of her generation exhibit. After attending K-12 in Bushton, Alice attended Kansas State University, only changing her curriculum three times. She thought that KSU was a nice place to be as when she arrived she found that there were not too many girls, and a whole bunch of men to choose from. That situation did not last too long, however, as WWII was starting, and in a very short time the girls outnumbered the boys. Alice did pick out a dapper young man from Barnes, Kansas before he was shipped out to the war. His name was Vic Roper. They both thought that the other was special enough to get married before Vic went on active duty, and they did get to spend about six months together in Hattiesburg, Mississippi before he shipped off to war for three years. During the last year of his deployment he was part of the army of occupation. While Vic was serving his country, Alice applied for and received an “emergency certificate” so that she could teach and support herself. Conveniently she was able to teach in Barnes, Kansas. She also worked at the local YWCA and helped to sponsor dances with the YMCA in Anderson Hall. They called them “dime dances”. Does anyone remember those? The story is that the slow dances with the lights dimmed generated the most dimes

When Vic returned home, they both completed their degrees in 1947...Vic in accounting, and Alice in Journalism and Social Studies. Vic began employment at the First National Bank in Manhattan, and Alice became a mother and homemaker. She and Vic produced four children: Barb, who works at KSU in Long Distance Learning; Nina, who attends our church and works at food service at KSU; Dennis, who does something exciting in Jakarta; and Jim, who lives and works here in Manhattan. Alice has five grandchildren and one great grandchild.

*Cont'd on next page...*

Vic, who was a very kind, gentle, and considerate soul, was very active in our church until the time of his death on March 1, 1997. He served on every committee and held every job in the church “except custodian and preacher”. Alice has been a Sunday School teacher, CWF member and officer, Elder (one of the “pioneer” Elders); an officer on the Regional Board of CWF; a Deacon; and her real love, which she got from her mother, a staunch supporter of missions and church outreach. She is also a member of the “Morning Group” of the Disciples Women, and meets with the “Do-day ladies” when the weather is good. Vic and Alice were also youth sponsors (twice) until Alice became embarrassingly pregnant. What do you think of this?...”back then it was not appropriate for pregnant women to serve as youth sponsors!” She couldn’t hide her pregnancy, but they could generate a high attendance rate at the youth gatherings by turning the lights down and dancing to slow records. J Didn’t I tell you that this lady has many stories to tell!

Alice moved into a spacious apartment with a spectacular view at the Meadowlark Retirement Center in December of 2001. You all will want to visit Alice and find time to listen to the other 80% of her story. This is one fascinating and foxy lady! We, who know you, Alice, are very grateful that you are still providing leadership and inspiration to all of us through your service to our church.

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS    Richard & Lisa Morgan**

Richard & Lisa Morgan placed membership with our congregation on Sunday, March 22.

Lisa is a 4th grade teacher at Marlett School. Richard is a buyer for Florence Manufacturing. Richard and Lisa got married about 4 years ago and combined their families for a happy whole. Their children are Kyle (27) and his wife Mindy, Dustin (25) and his wife, Megan, Luke Stramel (22) and Anna Stramel (19). All live in the area except for Anna, a student at Baker University.

Richard and Lisa look forward to being involved in many areas of our church life—worship leader ministry, children’s messages, Chancel Choir, working in the kitchen, and participating in social and outreach ministries.

The Morgans will be featured in an upcoming “Knowing Your Church Family” Column, so stay tuned to learn more about them!



# **Living Out Our Mission: Reaching Up**

## **Report of the Search Committee**

March 23rd the Search Committee met to review candidate files for the position of Interim Minister. Robert Russell will be conducting phone interviews with two candidates recommended by the Search Committee. Following telephonic interviews, a selection recommendation will be submitted to the Elders and Coordinating Council for approval.

The Search Committee also completed the preparation of the Congregational Profile to be sent to the Regional Office which will initiate the process of acquiring names of potential permanent senior minister candidates for review by the committee. The Search Committee would like to share one section of that profile which may be of particular interest to the congregation.

### **Qualifications desired in our Senior Minister**

(They are listed in no particular order.)

1. Committed to Christian Education (Discipleship Ministry Team) programs and goals.
2. A team builder with good communication skills, who is able to delegate and work with lay leadership as well as participating in ministry with our current Associate Pastor.
3. Committed to the Disciples of Christ: philosophy and theology; Regional Assemblies participation and representation.
4. Committed to strengthened Stewardship Ministry and setting fiscally responsible goals.
5. Able to work with the wide range of ages within our congregation.
6. Committed to local and global outreach ministries.
7. A dynamic speaker in the pulpit with an outgoing personality to represent us in the local community.
8. Committed to evangelism and healthy church membership growth.

Our congregation is looking for a senior pastor to compliment and support our current ministries and staff. Our current Associate's pastoral skills include: pastoral counseling; passion for mission, education, social justice and spirituality. Our Associate Pastor currently works with our Discipleship Ministry Team to build Young Adults/Young Families Ministry and has strong commitment to equipping laity to discern their own calling, helping them develop skills to share their gifts with others. Our Associate Pastor has strong denominational ties and involvement, and currently serves as the chair of the regional committee on revitalization.

# Living Out Our Mission: Reaching Up

## Preaching Schedule for April

**April 5, Palm Sunday — Christy Dew Preaching**

**“Looking For a Savior”**

*Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 118:1-2,19-29; Mark 11:1-11*

*Children’s Message: Joy*



**April 11, Easter — Christy Dew Preaching**

**“Living Under a Rock”**

*Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; John 20:1-18*

*Children’s Message: Resurrection*



**April 19—Don Thomson Preaching**

**“What Time Is It?”**

*Psalm 31:14-15, 19; Acts 1:7*

*Children’s Message: Doing Something New*



**April 26—Randall Gowett Preaching**

**“Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”**

*Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48*

*Children’s Message: Mistakes*

### MONDAY MORNING BOOK STUDY

**Starts April 13, 10:30 a.m.**

**“Plain Truth” by Jodi Picoult**

*This novel contrast the Amish culture and the "English" and provides an interesting study of opposites while detailing much information about a way of life based on faith, humility, duty, and honesty.*



## **Living Out Our Mission: Reaching Out**

*FCC supports Shepherd's Crossing, and that Pat McReynolds is our representative. We thank her for telling us about, showing us, and encouraging us to support this important Christian Service Organization.:*

Shepherd's Crossing is an ecumenical ministry which provides assistance in the areas of rent, utilities (gas, electric and water only) and prescriptions. They offer referrals to other agencies and general budget counseling. They are funded by area churches and individual donations and operate with volunteers who serve as counselors.

To qualify for assistance you must be a resident of Riley County or St. George, KS in financial crisis. The assistance is for those individuals who have no other financial recourse and are unable to pay rent, utilities, or prescription costs. A shut off notice or an eviction notice is not required. Each case is determined on an individual basis.

The goal of Shepherd's Crossing is to offer Christ in all services they provide with compassionate and caring assistance to those in need of a listening ear and financial support. The hope is that with the help of Shepherd's Crossing and like agencies, the clients become financially self-sufficient.

At the February board meeting I received the following information:

\*December 2008 and January 2009 had 98 and 97 clients respectively served by the agency.

\*Approximately \$11000.00 each month was used to help clients (roughly \$112 each).

\*The need is still high for people in need of help.

\*A grant from the city was received in the amount of \$10000.00

\*They don't expect to receive another Compassion Kansas grant this year.

Sharing with the Shepherd fundraising was in progress.

Pat McReynolds  
Church Representative

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**JUST A  
REMINDER!**



**Food Collection Sunday is April 5th!**

# **FULFILLING OUR MISSION THROUGH STEWARDSHIP**

## **Applying Bible Principles**

As you read through the Old Testament you will find some wonderful principles which apply to present-day Christians. One example is found in Deuteronomy 8:10-18. Stated in contemporary language, it says, “When you have eaten and are full, when your cars, houses and bank accounts multiply, don’t forget where it came from: Remember the Lord your God.”

In truth, all that we have comes from God. He determines what we will receive, whether it be money, gold, silver, houses, bank accounts, stocks, bonds, IRAs, honor, power, silver spoons, etc. It all belongs to Him and He entrusts it to us.

In reality, then, there is no such thing as a self-made person. Certainly, we have to do our part. God doesn’t want us to just sit around praying and reading the Bible all day long so that what we need to survive will miraculously drop into our hands. We shouldn’t just pray for “our daily bread,” but we are also to get up each day and work for it! Remember that Paul stated very clearly, “Anyone unwilling to work should not eat” (2 Thes. 3:10). But once again, remember the amount of money and wealth which we receive is determined by God. He entrusts to each of us the amounts which He knows will be best for us.

What should be our reaction to our financial state? Some might pray, “Dear God, you must have made a mistake concerning me and my finances. I definitely need more money.” Some may go outside of God’s plan for their lives and try to gather more money through “non-conventional” or illegal avenues. Mature Christians, however, will realize God’s infinite wisdom far surpasses their limited perspective. They will accept with a thankful spirit what God has entrusted to them and seek to honor God by their living and by their giving.







# Community



## WE'RE ALL INVITED!

*Bridal shower for Amy Scharmann & Chris Dyer on Saturday, April 4th at 2 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. RSVP to Debi Rogers, debi-rogers@cox.net, 539-0207 or Elizabeth Jankord, ejankord@cox.net, 776-8776.*

## CONGRATULATIONS!

*Marriage of George & Shelley (formerly Wishon) Blau March 21st.*

## HELP WANTED

*Karra Cross is looking for a part time/ temporary babysitter for her 9 week old daughter, Lilyan. Karra or Lilyan's grandmother, Toni Cross, will have more details—537-8995.*

## MICHAEL MASTERSON IN PLAY

*Michael Masterson, son of Gregg and Marilyn, will be appearing in "Alpha Anima 9, A Plant Divided" Friday, April 3 and Saturday, April 4, 7:30 p.m. at the Manhattan Arts Center. This is a production by the Barrier-Free Theatre Company and their productions are just excellent. Admission is \$5—and it is recommended you purchase in advance to be sure of a seat.*

**April Russell Group meeting has been changed to Thursday, April 16, 7:30PM.**  
We'll be getting ready for the May 6th All Church Women Salad Supper by making posters and decorating sugar cookies.

## *Thank You. Notes*

*Thank you to everyone for your support to us, calls, cards & prayers at the death of my grandmother. The Wright family*

*I want to thank the folks who visited me while I was hospitalized—Jeanne Powell, Dale Webster, the Fullers, and thanks also for the flowers. Although living in Salina, I read every word of the Christian. Thank you again for the support. ~June Schwerdt*

## Thanks For The Memories!

*What a wonderful farewell celebration! The delicious meal, the "roasting and toasting", and the outpouring of affection (and chocolate) helped make my final Sunday an unforgettable occasion. Thank you so much for the generous love gift! We will indeed use the gift to treat ourselves to several theater productions in Kansas City during the next year. Now I have enough M & M's to last me until at least June – June of 2011! A special thanks to all who helped plan and participate in our farewell celebration. Holly and I feel truly blessed to have been part of your church family, and we will remember you, and your partnership in the gospel, with much gratitude and deep appreciation. Thank you for the incredible privilege of serving as one of your pastors.*

*With love and thanksgiving, Neil*

*Our new address: 14743 S. Symphony Dr.  
Olathe, KS 66062  
neil@hccck.org*

**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**

**April 1, 2009**

[www.fccmanhattan.org](http://www.fccmanhattan.org)

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