



The Christian

N O V E M B E R 9, 2 0 0 9

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BIG NEWS IN THE 'LITTLE APPLE'

NOVEMBER HAPPENINGS AT FIRST CHRISTIAN:

November 15—Rev. David Webb will summarize results of our recent church survey during the church school hour, 9:00-10:00 a.m.

***November 22—Harvest Celebration Sunday!
Estimate of Giving Cards will be received during worship. Immediately after worship we'll join in Fellowship Hall for a Celebration Potluck!***



**THANKSGIVING
SPECIAL
OFFERING
RECEIVED
NOVEMBER 15th**





David Webb

From Parson to Person

On November 15th David Webb will be here during the Sunday school hour to talk about the survey. This survey indicates five areas of positive characteristics of our congregation. They are:

1. We excel in meeting the worshipping needs of our faith community.
2. We demonstrate a strong spirit of generosity.
3. We have an openness and tolerance of diverse views to offer the unchurched.
4. We have a strong commitment to meeting the educational needs of adults and senior adults.
5. We know how to minister to the needs of our membership through fellowship opportunities, care in the time of sickness or grief, and serving those who are homebound.

But the survey also indicated opportunities for growth. Here are a few:

1. 55% of the people taking the survey show they are actively involved in the congregation. And while this is a good percentage, the challenge is to get the other 45% involved as well.
2. While we were able to list the current identify (the five areas mentioned above) we need to make sure that the total congregation understands this, especially the leaders.
3. While a modest majority agrees on the current organizational style of the congregation, (that is how we function), the survey indicates a diversity of views on openness in communication so as to include everyone in the congregation.

These opportunities are not major problems but simply areas we can improve upon. In short, we are a healthy church with financial challenges. But as a minister with over forty years of experience, I can say without hesitation that we are a congregation ready to tackle the next step in our growth (both numerically and spiritually) as a church.

I hope to see you during the Sunday School hour on November 15th —*Ken*

Community Announcements

**HARVEST
CELEBRATION
SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 22nd!**

**During worship on
November 22 our
commitments of support
for 2010 will be received
and following worship
we will share a
Celebration Potluck in
Fellowship Hall. Bring
a dish to share.
Beverages and table
service will be provided.**

***Empowered
by God—
Responding
by Grace***



OUR CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY

***FCC recently conducted an
extensive survey of the
congregation regarding the
life, programs and mission
of our congregation. A
large number of our
members responded.***

***The results of that survey
will be summarized by
Rev. David Webb,
Church Consultant, on
Sunday, November 15
9:00 to 10:00 a.m.
in Fellowship Hall.***

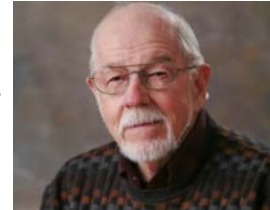
Please come!

***(Just a reminder—copies of the
survey will not be available at
the meeting, but you can
request an electronic or hard
copy from the church office.)***

Living Out Our Mission: Reaching In

KNOWING YOUR CHURCH FAMILY— Gene Ernst

Picture your prototype (stereotype, if you prefer) college professor. He is likely to be short to medium height; a little stooped (from pouring over all his works for so many years); walks with some lilt to his gait; has gray hair that is a little longer than yours; wears a tweed jacket; comfortable, loose fitting slacks; and very comfortable shoes. He also has a twinkle in his eyes that comes from a very deep place, and an engaging and mischievous grin. You probably even know this retired university professor by name. That wasn't difficult, was it? Gene Ernst fits every description above...and what a delightful man to know and what a wonderful Christian servant to worship with.



Many of you know of Gene's participation and influence in the workings of our church...and we will read more about that later. But wouldn't you like to know more about him and what he has done other than his church activities? Gene is a "home town boy" who was born and raised (as an only child) right here in Manhattan, KS. His father was a teacher and on the side, bought, restored, and remodeled homes. Gene grew up helping his father with his side business, and early on (Jr. High School) he knew that he wanted to be an architect...designing and building homes. Gene also grew up in our church and was baptized by J. David Arnold, the FCC minister at the time. After graduating from high school, Gene entered Kansas State University to become an architect. The program had a four-year curriculum in those days. Gene finished his studies in four years and also was married and started a family in his fourth year. After graduation he moved his family and took a job in Baton Rouge, Louisiana in an architecture firm where he "started at the bottom" while designing schools, buildings on the LSU campus, churches, etc. He stayed with that firm for eight years until he moved his family (wife and three boys by this time) to Kansas City, KS. He worked for the city of Kansas City as an Urban Development specialist for five years before he became the director of the agency. He enjoyed this job as a city planner, but always knew that he wanted to be an architect. One day, while attending a planning conference in Kansas City he met a professor from Kansas State who happened to mention that there was a position opening in the college of architecture (this was in 1967). With Gene's experience in an architect's office, his experience as an urban planner, and his being fairly certain that he really did not want to be involved in the business side of the architecture profession, the teaching of architecture students seemed to suit him perfectly. It must have been a good fit as he taught in the Kansas State College of Architecture for 25 years before retiring in 1992. In 1969 he took a leave of absence to attain a Masters Degree at the University of Washington in Seattle. When he returned from this absence, he was designated the Assistant Dean and performed those duties for two years.

Many of you have seen Gene's beautiful watercolor paintings. When asked how he became interested in watercolors, he states that before plans were drawn for a house or a building (this was before AutoCAD), the architect produced a rendering with pen and ink sketches, and if the client wanted to see it in color, watercolor was the way to do it. Gene also taught a few intercessions in

watercolors and over the years, Gene has tutored many young aspiring artists in the art of watercolors...even on the island of Jamaica where Gene served with our church's missionary team. Gene is also a skilled calligrapher

You may notice that Gene leaves town every year on June 15th. He has been building a cabin in Colorado, about seven miles from Crested Butte, for the past seven years. You must ask him to show you a picture of this beautiful creation of his. Be careful not to get too excited, because for some of us, beauty is on the outside. What you don't see is that there is no electricity and no furnace, and only a propane tank to service the stove and a small refrigerator. The cabin sleeps 10, but there is only one bedroom! I suspect that if we would visit and walk a few hundred yards, we may very well see Walden Pond. The cabin is nestled on the side of the mountain at 10,000 feet elevation. It is a wonderful place to be alone, to read, to meditate, to contemplate, and to get refreshed and recharged. We all should have a place like this! Gene has had help building this cabin from his three sons, Steve (who now lives in Idaho); Jack (who lives in Manhattan); and Tom (who lives in Colorado) and various friends and neighbors. You should ask Gene about son Tom who has a relationship with the CIA (but not the one you might guess). The boys and many other friends visit Gene at the cabin frequently in the summer.

Back to Gene's involvement in our church. When Gene returned to Manhattan, he was single and attended a singles Sunday School Class for about a year. After a short time, however, he began attending the Discussion Class and has continued with that class ever since. Gene has done so much for our church having been involved in the moving and remodeling of the kitchen (now the choir room) which was moved to the south side of the basement; helped redesign and remodel the sanctuary in the summer of 1979; helped in the remodeling of the current administrative offices; helped with both the most recent remodeling of the sanctuary, and the new handicap restroom. He attends the Men's Breakfast Fellowship, served on the search committee to call Pastor Neil Engle, and currently serves on the Search Committee for our new senior pastor. He has been on several nominating committees, served as a Deacon, an Elder (he is now a Life Elder), and counts the currency from our Sunday collection every Monday morning with Sonny Redding. He also purchases and provides the Bibles, which are given to our graduating seniors every May.

Gene is a seasoned traveler having taken trips to Europe (several times) and either visited or worked in France, Spain, Italy, Austria, Poland, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. Going south, he has visited Guatemala, Paraguay, and served on our Jamaica Mission team. He also is a member of the Kansas Paraguay Partners, an organization that was started by President Kennedy in the early 1960's. You should ask him about this organization. It is a fascinating story. Gene also serves on the board of the Manhattan Arts Center; an organization you can tell is near and dear to his heart. Gene's most poignant memory concerning our church emanates from the 1951 flood. He was a member of the Kansas National Guard, which provided security and rescue efforts in the downtown area. His area of responsibility was the Wareham Hotel, but he did get over to "his church" to see the water five feet above the foundation, and the basement completely flooded. Surely there is much more to this, and hopefully you all will have the opportunity to ask Gene about this story and the many other experiences listed above. We are so blessed to have this intelligent, talented and selfless servant as a member of our church. God Bless You, Gene...and thank you for all you have done for us for so many years.

Written by Don Thomson 5

Living Out Our Mission—Reaching Up

Please keep our Search Committee in your prayers: Mickey Bogart, chair: Gene Ernst, Ken Garwick, Waide Purvis, Debi Rogers, Linda Uthoff, Danielle Wanklyn



The Search Committee has entered the phase of our transition where we are examining profiles of potential candidates for the Senior Pastor position. We met with our Regional Minister, Paxton Jones, on November 2, and he presented several candidates' papers to us. During this phase it is important that we honor the confidentiality of these candidates, so the Committee will **not** be reporting numbers or names during this deliberation. As we continue the review of candidates we will be using the characteristics that came from our focus groups last spring and that were affirmed in the recent Congregational Survey. *We ask for your continued prayers for this process and for our discernment as we seek the best person for our congregation to call into leadership.*

A review of the characteristics our congregation identified is as follows:

1. Committed to Christian Education programs and goals (Discipleship Ministry Team).
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.

Living Out Our Mission: Reaching Up

Preaching Schedule for November

November 15 —Pastor Ken Preaching “Freedom From or Freedom For”

Psalm 51:6-8 Matthew 12:43-45

November 22 —Pastor Ken - “You are Far Happier Giving Than Getting”

Acts 20:32-35 Psalm 100:1-5

November 29 - Pastor Ken Preaching “Prepare the Way”

Mark 1:1-3 Isaiah 40:3-5



**Earth's crammed with heaven, and every common bush
afire with God. — Elizabeth Barrett Browning**

ADVENT IS COMING!

*Come help prepare the Sanctuary for the Advent
Season—helpers are needed for 20-30 minutes after
worship on November 15 and 22. The more hands, the
less time, and the more enjoyable as well!*

Linda Uthoff and the Worship Committee

*Special thanks to Ruth Fignitz, who is heading up ordering our
poinsettias this year.*



Living Out Our Mission: Reaching Out

November 2009: Growing Gardens of Flowers

. . . they shall flourish as a garden; they shall blossom as the vine...Hosea 14:7b

Participants in the [Global Ministries Child Sponsorship Program](#) toured sites in Israel/Palestine in early September, meeting sponsored children and visiting mission partners and historic locations. Eight trip participants joined four members of the national UCC and Global Ministries staff on this journey to Israel/Palestine. A key feature of the journey was a day visit to Rawdat El Zuhur (Garden of Flowers) School where some of the group met and interacted with their sponsored child. The school is a long-time partner of the UCC's Child Sponsorship Program. It was established in 1952 as a school for destitute girls and currently serves 233 children.

"Many of the more than 1000 sponsors in the Child Sponsorship Program dream that one day they will meet their sponsored children," says Linda Lawrence, Program Manager. "Some of our group made this dream a reality by traveling to far away lands to meet one of the 1200 children that has called them 'auntie, uncle or dear friend' in letters and drawings."

Lawrence stressed the impact of these encounters - sponsored children become bona fide people in the sponsor's life because a relationship that started with helping to provide financial support becomes a lifetime connection and bond.

Global Ministries Middle East and Europe executive, Peter Makari, led the group to many biblical sites and introduce them to the work of mission partners and mission personnel. "Everyone got a sense of the context and engaged with Global Ministries' mission partners, as well as others - Jews, Christians and Muslims - in the land often called holy," he said.

We pray today for the children of Rawdat El Zuhur, and for their US sponsors sending them love and support. Child sponsorship costs just \$25 or \$30 per month. There are 15 sponsoring sites to choose from. Information can be found on <http://globalministries.org/get-involved/child-sponsorship/>

If you would like to read the daily blog of the photo journalist, Gregg Brekke go to: <http://community.ucc.org/gregg/blog>

For More Information:

Peter Makari, 1700 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Phone: 866-822-8224 ext. 3227 makarip@ucc.org

Living Out Our Mission: Reaching Out

KANSAS CHRISTIAN HOME IS GRATEFUL

Kansas Christian Home cares for all the seniors who need our services regardless of their financial resources. We depend not only on insurance programs but on the generous hearts of people like you who are committed to this ministry. Your recent donation of items for the Annual Auxiliary Bazaar and the residents is much appreciated. It can be so easy to just toss away items or to even give them away locally. Thank you for thinking of us instead, and to Pastor Ken Finley for going that extra mile to deliver them.

Blessings, Linda Hill, Director of Development

The Manhattan Emergency Shelter at 416 S. 4th Street needs:

ALL PURPOSE CLEANER /409

Bleach, Dish Soap

Paper towels

Diapers size 3,4,5

Trash Bags 13 gallon

Box dinners (Hamburger Helper, Mac & Cheese, ect..)



FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY IS DECEMBER 6th

Please bring all you can to help folks who just don't have enough to feed their family. Any and all donations welcome!



Rev. Paxton Jones, Regional Minister
Rev. Steve Martin, Associate Regional Minister, SE District, Outdoor & Youth
Rev. Renee Bridwell, Associate Regional Minister South Central District
Rev. Ken Marston, Associate Regional Minister for Central and High Plains

Doug Gray, Moderator

1.02 BILLION

Our regional minister/president, Paxton Jones met with the G-20 Religious Leaders Summit in Pittsburg this past September. At that meeting it was reported that there are 1.02 billion hungry people on this earth. And it is not because there is not enough food. As we all know lack of food to some people comes because of political unrest, or dictatorial and corrupt governments, and an unethical distribution of wealth. We can't solve the problem by ourselves but we do support the Week of Compassion offering. Even though these are uncertain times, we are all certain about one thing: our hearts are with those 1.02 billion hungry people in the world to whom we are accountable.

Our congregation gives 15% of our income to outreach. This means we are doing our part, but we must make sure that we can continue to do so. We have financial needs here but in order to make a difference we must be faithful in our support to the Kansas Region and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The region is hurting just like everyone else have had to cut back 25% of their program distributions for the current fiscal year.

So, please be in prayer about our stewardship commitment.

Pastor Ken





Community



THANK YOU!

Thank you for the generous gift of \$500. It will help cover my living expenses until I can go back to work.

Sincerely, Nina Moss



Many thanks to my church family for their prayers and support, for the cards and calls, and to the special for their lovely 'new home' gifts!

Love, Jeanne Powell

Many thanks to the Gallaghers for their Week of Ministry gift.

Love, Christy & Ken

OUR SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to Virginia Wesley at the death of her cousin, Ada Kuglin, who died on October 29th in Holton.

Deepest sympathy to Dorothy and Craig Kennedy at the death of their husband and father, Charles, on November 8th.

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

READY FOR PICK-UP



Pans and baskets from Pumpkin Patch are ready to be claimed. You'll find them on the counter in Fellowship Hall kitchen, under the southwest windows. Thanks again to all you bakers!



TO:

Virginia Field, Linda Gallagher, Cindy Garwick, Nancy Goulden, Betty Slemen and Virginia Wesley,

FOR:

volunteering in the church office while I was on vacation.

You're the best!

Love, Marian

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

Non-Profit Organization
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Manhattan, KS 66502
Permit No. 575

First Christian Church, 5th & Humboldt	church@fccmanhattan.org	785.776.8790
Interim Senior Pastor: Ken Finley	ken@fccmanhattan.org	620.326.1051
Associate Pastor: Christy E. Dew	christy@fccmanhattan.org	785.236.0342
Church Treasurer: Don Foster	treasurer@fccmanhattan.org	785.776.8790
Financial Secretary: Sonny Redding	treasurer@fccmanhattan.org	785.776.8790
Church Secretary: Marian Fuller	marian@fccmanhattan.org	785.776.8790
Custodian: Nancy Holmes	custodian@fccmanhattan.org	
Campus Minister: David A. Jones, 1021 Denison	dajones@ksu.edu	785.539.4281