



# The Christian

MARCH 1, 2010

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**Easter Offering  
2010 Received  
March 28 and  
April 4**

Your gift says "I believe in the power of the resurrection!"

## LENTEN SEASON SPECIAL SERVICES

*Several special services will be available to you in your journey through the Lenten season this year. We encourage you to participate as often as you can. Lent allows us to engage in the experience of the Passion (suffering) of Jesus. We face our humanity during Lent: we learn that sin still dwells in us, that we still carry darkness. We learn that we, like his disciples, would likely have fallen asleep as Jesus prayed for deliverance in the garden, and, also, that we would likely have denied knowing him as he silently accepted his death sentence.*



*Join Christians around the world in the Lenten pilgrimage: mourn for the darkness in our hearts; rejoice in the light of God who came into the world to save us!*

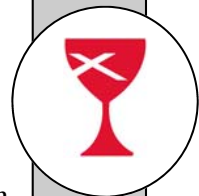
**March 28 - Palm Sunday Service** with palm processional. (Pastor Ken's last Sunday with us)

**April 1 - Maundy Thursday Service** 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Gather with us at Christ's table for a symbolic Love-feast. Bring a non-perishable food item for the Flint Hills Breadbasket as an offering.

**April 2 - Good Friday Service and Prayer Vigil** 12:15 p.m. The prayer vigil will begin at 1:00 p.m. following the Good Friday service. A mediation guideline will be available for those who wish to use one.



**April 4 - Easter**  
9:00 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast  
10:15 a.m. Celebration Service  
(Pastor Paul Allen's first Sunday with us)



## *From the Bend in the Road.....*

*“Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos into order, confusion into clarity. It turns problems into gifts, failures into success, the unexpected into perfect timing, and mistakes into important events. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow.” ~Melodie Beattie*

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The journey through the Lenten season is always an interesting one for us as a community of faith. Intentionally choosing to walk with Christ is never easy, and I am always humbled by those who willingly give themselves over to self-examination during this season of ‘wandering in the desert’.

Challenges are always a part of our life; as individuals and as a community of faith. We find challenges each day in paying the bills, communicating with our family, co-workers, friends and neighbors. We find challenges to make time for that which we have named important, however the days go by ever so quickly, and we continue to find our priorities growing cobwebs. Yet there are blessings to be found mixed in with the pain. There are things that we can continue to learn even though there are time when we wonder why we are back at the same place, encountering the same difficulty and wondering if we are “ever going to get it?” This past Sunday, an amazing group of young adults met to discuss their faith and the Christian journey and they brought up this thought ***“What if our faith journey isn’t about learning something so we don’t have to experience it again, but learning to be grateful for the experience so that we can recognize it when it occurs and hopefully learn something each time that enriches our relationship with God?”*** This is the Lenten experience. We enter into this time desert and shadow walking, not to frustrate ourselves or so that we can get to the “joy of resurrection morning” but so that we can spend some intentional time with our savior, learn something about ourselves and be enriched by the experience. There are many opportunities for each of us to grow closer to God as we walk this journey toward Easter. I am grateful to be able to share this journey of faith toward the empty tomb with you.

*~Christy*

# Community Announcements



## FAREWELL POTLUCK & GROUP HUG CARD SHOWER!

***We're having an all church potluck and card shower for Pastor Ken following worship on March 21!***

***Ken's last Sunday with us will be Palm Sunday, March 28.***

***We'll miss seeing him on Sundays and we'll also miss his stories, his laugh and all the elements that help make him such a down-to-earth person. We've been blessed by his sermons which have encouraged us to become stronger Christians as he guided us through scripture.***

***Our First Christian family knows that God will watch over and guide Ken as he is called to new opportunities. Ken, we all wish you the very***



## ***We're Going To Pound the New Preacher!***

***No, not what you're thinking! This pounding of Pastor Paul Allen will be very much appreciated .***

***The origin of the tradition of "pounding the preacher" appears to be an American tradition practiced in many denominations. It's history comes from the practice in early rural churches of filling the larder of the rectory or parsonage so the family of the new preacher would have food to get them started.***



***Early preachers, especially in the poorer rural areas, might move in from far away and were not greatly compensated. Some even had to travel a circuit and provide pastoral care for several communities. Smaller communities who had their own preacher were extremely grateful and the custom was for the congregation to give the new family a good start.***

***Members of the congregation would bring a pound of some staple such as flour, sugar, coffee, or home-canned fruits or vegetables, cleaning supplies.***

***More on this in our next newsletter!***

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

### **KNOWING YOUR CHURCH FAMILY Phyllis & Gene Wiley**

Want to meet a fun-loving couple? You are not likely to meet another couple who enjoy and get more out of life any more than Gene and Phyllis Wiley. So let's learn more about them.



Gene and Phyllis were both born (only two days apart) in Attica, Kansas. Gene was raised on a farm north of Attica, and Phyllis on a farm south of Attica. They both attended country, one-room schools, then attended Junior and Senior High Schools in Attica together.

Following High School, Gene entered Kansas State University. A year later Gene and Phyllis were married at the First Christian Church in Attica. They then moved Manhattan where Gene was first a student, then an employee in the housing department at Kansas State University, and Phyllis worked for the Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance company (this was when FBM was still located in downtown Manhattan). In 1956 Gene received his draft notice from Uncle Sam, and he and Phyllis were off on several PCS's (permanent change of station). This may have been the start of their interest in traveling (more on that later). Gene, accompanied by Phyllis, was first sent to Fort Leonard Wood (basic training), then to Ft. Bragg, North Carolina (advanced training), and finally to Ft. Sill, Oklahoma (close to home!) At Ft. Sill he served as a rocket specialist, working on the Honest John Rocket (one with a nuclear warhead!) You should ask him about this assignment and you will hear some very interesting (and some funny) stories!

Following his two years in the Army, Gene and Phyllis moved back to Manhattan and Gene once again was employed by KSU in the housing department and Farm Bureau Mutual rehired Phyllis. Gene worked for the next 38 years in the housing department, the last several years as the Director of Housing Maintenance. Phyllis worked for three more years at Farm Bureau before taking a job at KSU in the Athletic ticket office and then in the Athletic Business office, and finally retiring after working there for 20 years.

During this time, in 1961 their daughter, Krin was born. Many of you remember Krin, the beautiful girl who grew up in our church, was an excellent volleyball player, and member of the Chamber Choir and the Pops Choir at Manhattan High; and an active member of our church youth group. Krin now lives and teaches in Lawrence with her husband John (also a teacher), and their 15 year-old twins Stephen and Holly.

## **LIVING OUT OUR MISSION: REACHING IN**

Gene and Phyllis are BIG KSU fans. They not only attend all KSU football games, they occasionally travel to where the Wildcats are playing an away game. Between following the football team to various places around the country (including bowl games) and visiting many other vacation spots over the years, they have visited almost all of the 50 states...all but a few of the New England states (but there is time to get these in!). They also are season ticket holders for both the men and women's basketball programs. One should note that they are not just "fair-weather fans". They also gritted out the almost 20 year drought of mediocre basketball before Kansas State's recent surge of success.

Writing this article was somewhat nostalgic, as the writer and his family have the Wiley's to thank for bringing them to First Christian. Gene and Phyllis happened to be either the chairmen or members of the Worship Committee in 1978, and Gene was on the committee which had the task to find a choir director for FCC. The committee asked; I accepted; and our family has journeyed with FCC, the Wiley's, and many other friends for the past 32 years.

The Wiley's, however, go back much further than that. Gene joined our church in 1952 while still a student at KSU. Both became members following their marriage in 1953. As active members of our congregation, they have both served as Elders (Gene is currently a Life Elder), Deacons, Membership and Worship Committee chairs; Gene as a Trustee, Property Committee chair and choir member (for 56 years!); Phyllis with CWF (morning group, president and treasurer several times each). They currently serve on the Worship and Spiritual Life Lenten sub-team and were responsible (along with the Landis') for much of the planning for the worship opportunities being offered to our congregation during the upcoming weeks. And after almost 60 years of service, we can be certain that there were numerous other service activities and events of which they were a part of. Surely our church is indebted to Gene and Phyllis for their untiring service for many years.

In addition to traveling, Gene and Phyllis keep busy just being at home. Gene has a "small-engine" repair business (now just lawn mowers); he sings lead in the Barbershop Quartet called the Charades; and is a member of the Little Apple Barbershop Chorus. The Charades rehearse in our church each week. An earlier "Knowing Your Church Family" article highlighted the talented and highly entertaining Charades. Phyllis enjoys reading in her spare time. Together, they walk in the Town Center Mall six days a week, followed by having coffee with friends. "This is the best part of every day", says Phyllis. Gene and Phyllis have also been "care givers" for several senior citizens in our community over the years, including some from our congregation. They seem never to tire of service to others. Who wouldn't want a "family member" like the Wiley's?

We, the members of First Christian Church, are very blessed that Gene and Phyllis Wiley have helped not only to pave the way for our congregation, but that they continue to serve us in many ways. Their bright and cheery attitude toward life is a beacon for us. We are happy and privileged to have them as members of our church family!

## Living Out Our Mission—Reaching Up



### SUNDAY, MARCH 21!

The service on Sunday March 21 will again feature the music of the jazz style with special guests Zach and Isaiah Hamm playing the soprano, alto, tenor, and baritone saxophones along with the rhythm of the praise team. Music elected will include various jazz stylings on the following tunes: Praise to the Lord, Be Thou My Vision, Everything, Fairest Lord Jesus, Let us Break Bread

Together, Jesus Loves Me, and Nothing but the Blood of Jesus, among other selections. The Chancel Choir will also feature a special jazz styled piece. Please join us & invite friends!

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### GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER VIGIL

To be wakeful for a purpose is the definition of vigil. It can be done individually or in a group. FCC plans to have a 24 hour prayer vigil April 2nd. It will begin right after the Good Friday service (1:00 pm). The signup sheet is on the church office window. Time increments are every 30 minutes. If you wish to pray for one hour simply sign up for two 30 minutes time slots.

The focus of this prayer vigil is to enhance your experience in our part in the Passion (suffering) of Jesus. Can you remain focused for 30 minutes praying and in the end ask as Jesus did, not your will but God's will be done? If you chose an early morning time slot can you remain awake as Jesus did praying to God while his disciples fell asleep? Can you meet God in prayer and/or in the dark of night and focus on what Jesus did for you by going to the cross in your place?

The church building will be open from 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm Friday if you would like to use the sanctuary for your prayer place. All other times you may use whatever prayer place is most convenient for you at the time. There will be a prayer guide for anyone who would like some guidance on what to include in your vigil time. You may set the mood with candles and music. You may want a Bible, a song book, a poetry book or some other inspirational book available to you during your vigil time. Bible verses will be suggested for you to reference, several songs and a prayer or two will be listed. You are free to use any, some or none of the suggestions. The goal is to have people praying for 24 hours focusing on your relationship with God and how you relate to the action Jesus took for you in going to the cross. Praise, thankfulness, worship, asking and listening are all included in your 30 minute vigil time. Please be in prayer for a few days before signing up, asking God when he would like to have you spend the time with him. Remember however, the earlier you sign up the better chance to get your preferred time.

Prayer

# Living Out Our Mission: Reaching Up

## March Preaching Schedule

March 7 - "Seeking God's Presence in the Wilderness" - Pastor Christy  
Scripture: Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8 | Children's Message "Hide & Seek"



March 14 - "How Christianity Has Messed Up My Life" - Pastor Ken  
Scripture: Jonah 2:6-4:5; Proverbs 3:1-8 | Children's Message "Faith"



March 21 - "We Offer Praise" - Pastor Ken  
Scripture: Isaiah 43:18-21; Psalms 30:11-2 | Children's Message "Praise"

March 28 - Palm Sunday "At Jerusalem's Gate" - Pastor Ken  
Scripture: Isaiah 53:10-12; Matthew 21:1-11 | Children's Message "Palm Sunday"

We are living in a period of commercial globalization. What we really need is spiritual globalization. Sister Joan Chittister

## Pastor Ken's Ordination Anniversary March 5th!



Our Interim Senior Minister will mark the 32nd anniversary of his ordination into the ministry on March 5th. Pastor Ken's journey in the ministry actually began a decade before his official ordination. He has faithfully served congregations in Missouri, Kentucky, Illinois, and Kansas in this lifetime of ministry. He was recruited into the ministry as a young boy by his home church in Springfield, Missouri. That church continued to support and mentor Ken as he moved on through seminary. Among the strong influences that played a factor in his taking up the mantle of full time ministry were his parents, especially his mother who served as a role model and counselor. And he describes his wife, Sharon, as his best friend in the ministry, and most significant of all, his relationship with God. We have all learned the power of words in his sermons and his delight in teaching during this year of his interim ministry with us at First Christian Church, Manhattan. So we celebrate with you, Pastor Ken, this significant milestone in your faith journey in the ministry, and we thank you for the time shared here with us this year.



## Fulfilling our Mission Through Stewardship

*Empowered by God, Responding by Grace*

Many people---including Christians---sometimes end up in serious financial difficulty because they ignore a basic principle from God's Word. God wants us to know the state of our finances. Proverbs 27:23-24 instructs us, "Know well the condition of your flocks, and give attention to your herds; for riches do not last forever, nor a crown for all generations." Sometimes this difficulty can appear with respect to a church's financial statement, too.

In Old Testament times, livestock were some of the primary measures of a person's wealth. Today, a measure of your financial wealth might be reflected in your bank statement or in your possessions. Or as Proverbs 24:3-4 says in a contemporary version, "Any enterprise is built by wise planning, becomes strong through common sense, and profits wonderfully by keeping abreast of the facts." And the elected leaders of First Christian Church certainly subscribe to this philosophy.

Why is this so important? As managers, we are responsible for what God has entrusted to us. Part of that responsibility includes monitoring the status of our possessions and making wise decisions with respect to our investments.

One of the best investments we, as individuals, can make is to give to the Lord's work at First Christian Church. When we do that, we are not only exercising good stewardship, but we are also earning God's approval. There is no better return on an investment than that!

As you think about your life today, do you have a good picture of where you are financially? Are you keeping the commitments concerning giving which you have made to God?

Think about it: A dollar spent for lunch lasts about five hours. A dollar spent for a necktie lasts about five years or maybe five specific holidays. A dollar spent for an automobile lasts about five years. A dollar spent in the service of God lasts for eternity.



Local and Global Outreach Ministry is looking for additional volunteers. If you would like to be involved in the numerous outreach opportunities we have through our church, we would love to have you join us! We are involved in special offerings, mission trips, Meadowlark, Shepherd's Crossing, Second Helping, social justice issues, and advertising and much more. We meet every 3 months. Contact Linda Jones at 587-8740 or [ljones@kansas.net](mailto:ljones@kansas.net) if you are interested.

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

### **THANKS FOR THE VALENTINE!**

*God bless children and parents for remembering your love to us of older children from God with the strawberry bread. Love, Don Clagett*

*Many thanks to the person who baked the blueberry nut bread. How did you know that blueberry is my favorite? It was very intuitive of you and most generous. My thanks to Patty Duffy for delivering this very delicious Valentine surprise. We had a great visit and I appreciate her thinking of me. In Christ's Love, Betty Slemen*

*Thank you very much for the chocolate bread delived on Valentine's day. I found it to be especially yummy topped with a little Cool Whip and eaten for dessert. I appreciate being remembered by my church family. Lovingly, Carolyn White*

*The Valentine bread was delicious! The delivery mysterious—So fun to come home to—no need to be blue! Thank you to all involved! Virginia Field*

*Thanks you to the lovely people who brought a delicious Valentine treat to me. I enjoyed the strawberry bread very much and am grateful for your kindness and friendship. Janice Parsons*

*Thank you, special members , for the delicious Valentine bread. Your thoughtfulness makes me feel special. Alice Roper*

*I want to thank the church for the nice loaf of blueberry bread I received on Valentine's Day. It was very good. Thanks again, Janice Krienitz*

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### **WAYS TO HELP THROUGH RECYCLING!**

There is a box in the church office for items to help with missions. Your canceled stamps can help with the Church World Service missions in the Appalachian region. Special issues are most valuable, but we will sort them. Just clip them from the envelope with an 1/8 inch border and put them in the DWF box in the office. If you don't want to clip them, put in the whole envelope and we can do that. Also, any old envelopes with the stamps still attached are valuable for resale to collectors. We collect Campbell's labels and Best Choice labels. Put the whole label in if you wish: school children will trim them. These are sent in for rebate for school playground equipment. Greeting card fronts can be recycled; the Girls and Boys Club can use these for art projects. Please remove all personal information.



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

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***Summer Camp News! Be A Hero... Living like Jesus!***

The 2010 Summer Church Camps schedule and registration forms are now available online at FCC Manhattan's website ([www.fccmanhattan.org](http://www.fccmanhattan.org)) and The Christian Church in Kansas website ([www.kansasdisciples.org](http://www.kansasdisciples.org)). Camps are available for children of all ages as well as youth, college students, young adults and seniors. There are several specialty camps as well - "Wilderness Trail", "Grand Camp", "Mission Week", and "X-treme Challenge". Register now and save!

*(Early Bird registration deadline is April 15th.)*



DISCOVER THE DISCIPLES

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**2010 Spirit Fest**

Sponsored by Kansas Disciple Women

“Human Trafficking: Breaking the Chains of Modern-day Slavery”

Featured speaker: Vicky Luttrell,

KS Attorney General’s Human Trafficking Task Force Project Organizer.

**Saturday, April 10: First Christian Church, Manhattan**

Registration at 9: AM and concludes with worship, ending at 3 PM.

**COST IS \$15 PER PERSON**

(includes snack & beverage at registration and lunch)

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**Registration form:** Check & form below due at church office by Friday, March 26,:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_





# Community



## THANKS TO PASTOR KEN

*Many thanks from the newsletter crew for the delicious meal Pastor Ken cooked for us as a thank you. The stir fry and crab rangoon were excellent and Ken's thoughtfulness is much appreciated.*



*Dale & Mary Lou Webster, Jeanne Powell, Ruth Lignitz, Janet Webster, Virginia Wesley, and Betty Slemen*

## Our Sympathy

*We reach out in sympathy to Treasa Wright and her family at the death of her stepmother, Myrtle Harmon.*

*Sympathy goes to Cindy Sink and Lisa Allen, and to Connie & Roger Sink, at the death of David Allen on March 1.*

*Congratulations to Richard and Linda Gallagher, and Jason, Tara, Ben and Grace Gallagher as they rejoice to have Sossina added to their family.*



*Congratulations to Pastor Ken and Sharon on the birth of a granddaughter, Kaylon Joanna, on February 28th in Wellington. Parents are Kris & Monica Finley.*

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



- March 1 Caleb Purvis
- March 2 Steve Shawgo
- March 3 Megan Pfizenmaier
- March 5 Patrick Milligan
- March 7 James Morris
- March 13 Natalie Appl
- Danielle Theiss-White
- March 14 Zachery Daniel
- Bryan Schurle
- March 17 Don Thomson
- March 18 Steve Cross
- Diane Wester
- March 23 Kelly Johnson
- March 26 Bruce McCallum
- March 27 Carol Duerfeldt
- March 29 Dale Lackey
- March 30 Barry Fair
- Jeanne Powell



*Thanks to everyone who participated in our Annual Soup Supper and Talent Show.*

*What a fun night!*

**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**

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