

The Great Bend Christian



Vol. 41

April 2008

No. 4

BILL'S BITS -

Spring is coming and what a welcomed relief it will be. No more snow to move and no more biting cold. It is time to think about high school and college graduations. Every time I attend a graduation I am reminded of how little we know and how much knowledge there is to discover. Oh, to know and do so much more! Seeing how much young people have done in the few years of school makes one long to do so much more. However, none of us has fully arrived and that makes and keeps the trip of life exciting. There are some things to remember to keep us going:

1) Remember great things have small beginnings. "Watchmaker wanted," stated the classified ad in the Daily News that April 1, 1887, "give age, experience, and salary required." That ad was placed by a man named Richard Sears. It was answered by a man named Alvan Roebuck. From that small beginning was born the largest chain of department stores in the world. Small beginnings often lead to great things. Over 5,000 were fed once with only five loaves and two fish. A substance, used at one time as a plaything, a ball that bounced around, now moves our entire world. It is called rubber. A small, sidewalk "greasy-spoon" that specialized in hamburgers became the largest chain of fast-food restaurants in our history. A proverb says, "The mighty oak was once a tiny acorn." Do not despair of the little acorn you have. Plant it, water it, watch over it, entrust it to God, and watch a mighty oak come forth.

2) Have a challenge. Do you know people whose lives have become only small replicas of what they could have been? Many have great potential, but never seem to fulfill it. Rather than soaring like eagles, they flit around like sparrows. Kahlil Gibran once described such persons like this: "A fox looked at his shadow at sunrise and said, 'I will have a camel for lunch today!' So all morning he went about looking for camels. At noon, he saw his shadow again, and he said, "A mouse will do!"". How tragic it is when people with ability and potential scale down their objectives until they are no longer challenged. Always do your best. Don't become a small replica of what you *should* be. Don't become a person whose life becomes a sad illustration of what "might have been".

3) Remember to do a little more. Maybe you heard about the city slicker who moved to the country. He had always wanted to be a farmer, so he purchased a small acreage and bought a cow. Shortly afterward, the cow went dry-stopped giving milk. When he reported this fact to the neighbor who had sold him the cow, the neighbor expressed surprise. The city man said he was surprised, too; "I can't understand it. If ever a person was considerate of an animal, I was of that cow. If I didn't need any milk, I didn't milk her. If I needed only a quart, I took only a quart." Of course, the only way to keep milk flowing is by the opposite procedure: You do *not* take as *little* milk as possible from the cow. You take as *much* as possible. Much of life is that way. When we are pushed beyond our normal capabilities, we become more productive and creative. Milk the cow often and take as much milk as possible. That way, the milk continues to flow.

4) Go for it! Michelangelo once explained to an inquirer how he turned a block of marble into a sculptured masterpiece: "The statue is there in the marble, waiting to be released. All I do is knock off the excess stone." People are not unlike that. Most of us have hidden talents and abilities that are waiting to be released. We just need to chisel away the elements that keep us from being what we could become. Don't handicap yourself. Don't let fear of failure keep you encased in a block of stone. Find the courage and patience to chip away the excel marble and release the statue. **Adapted** - **Pastor Bill**

First Christian Church

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The Great Bend Christian

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Sunday Services

8:15 am Early Worship

9:00 am Sunday School

10:20 am Morning Worship

Sunday Activities

6:00-8:00 pm Grades 7-12 Youth Group

Wednesday

5:30-7:00 pm Family Fellowship Supper

6:30-7:15 pm K-6th Program

6:30-7:15 pm Adult Bible Study

7:00-8:00 pm Middle School Bible Study

8:00-9:00 pm High School Bible Study

Opportunities for Service and Growth

Adult and Children's Choirs Promise Keepers

Vacation Bible School Disciples' Men

Men's Groups Women's Groups

Sunday school for all ages Kansas Disciple Women

Regional Assembly Junior and Senior High Youth Group

Bible Studies Youth Ski Trip

Mission Projects and Trips Social Events

Special Services Educational seminars/workshops

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

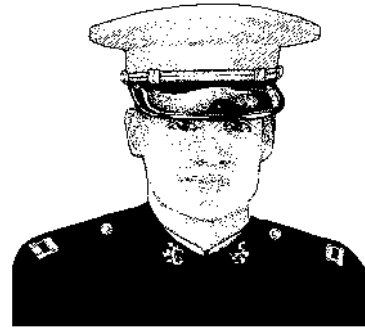
5230 Broadway - Great Bend, Kansas 67530

620.793.6603 620-793-3136 (Fax)

William Johnson.....Minister
Gavin Vavra.....Youth Coordinator
Kathy Rose.....Secretary
Jerry Ford.....Music Director
Mary Hunter.....Bell Choir Director
Connie Weiser.....Organist
DeWayne and Brenda Wagner.....Custodians
Tammy Jording.....Nursery Attendant

Rev. Bill Johnson, Minister
bjohnson@cck.kscoxmail.com
Gavin Vavra, Youth Coordinator
gvavra@sterling.edu
Kathy Rose, Church Secretary
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Web Site
www.firstchristiangb.org

Please be
Praying for...



**PRAY FOR OUR
U.S. MILITARY**

Mike & Susi Bargainear, relatives of LaDonna Moore -
Ft.

Campbell, KY

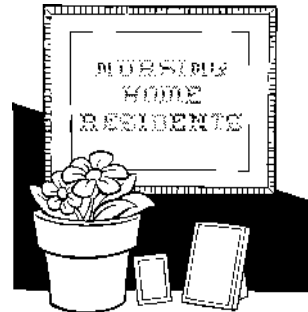
Staff Sgt. Ryan Barnes - nephew of Connie Weiser -
Iraq

Lt. Col. Ken Bellinger, Cliff Bellinger's son - Washington

Brian Bird, brother of Rhonda Jackson - Iraq

Josh Gieger, Army, Roger Marshall's fraternity
brother's son - Iraq

Delbert Wells, nephew of Hap Donecker - Germany



Great Bend Health & Rehab

Polly Omlor

Oswald Schneider

River Bend Assisted Living

Marge Keller

Winnie Phillips

Kansas Christian Home

Louise McCullum

Cherry Village Nursing Home

Mildred Lang

Martha McKown

Rachel Williams

Alterra-Sterling House

Wilma Hauser

Truman Strong

Lela Wilson

Woodhaven Care Center - Ellinwood

Mildred Boepple

Please notify the church office if you would like to
have yourself or your loved one included in our
prayers. fcc@cck.kscoxmail.com or 793-660



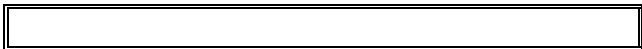
....to the family and friends of George McKown
....to the family and friends of Tom Embrey, Lew
Embrey's brother
....to the family and friends of Marsha Murphy, Brad
Searle's cousin
....to the family and friends of Sylvia Teichmann, Galen
Teichmann's mother
....to the family and friends of Lillian Courtright



NEW ADDRESS

Lucille Powell would enjoy hearing from her
friends. Her new address is: Lakepoint

Rehab & Nursing Center, 1315 N. West Street, Wichita, KS 67203.

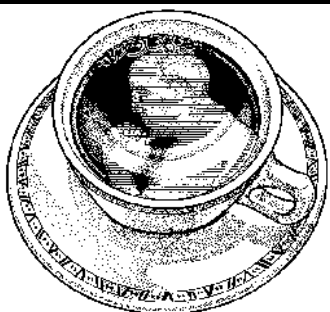


March Attendance and Gifts

| | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------|
| Sunday School | 48 | 30 | 42 | 41 | N/A |
| Early Service | 36 | 37 | 35 | 61 | N/A |
| Late Service | 127 | 143 | 120 | 220 | N/A |
| Children's Church | 8 | 7 | 3 | 13 | N/A |
| TOTAL | 171 | 187 | 158 | 294 | N/A |
| General Offering | 3,895.65 | 6,969.50 | 3,178.50 | 2,859.00 | N/A |
| Bldg. Offerings | 1,290.00 | 2,812.50 | 942.50 | 335.00 | N/A |
| Special Offerings | 250.00* | 697.10* | 504.00* | 107.00* | N/A |
| TOTAL | 5,435.65 | 9,999.10 | 4,625.00 | 3,301.00 | N/A |

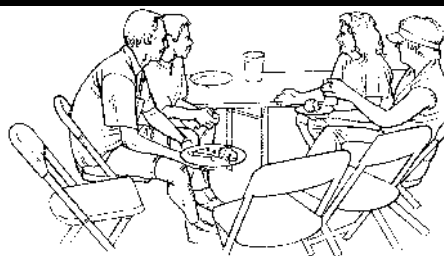
* Special Offerings include Week of Compassion, Memorials for Lois Dove & Gladys Wade, DMF Easter Offering and Wednesday Night Dinners

Cabinet Meeting – April 2 – 8 pm
 Elders/Deacons Meeting – April 9 – 8 pm
 Board Meeting – April 16 – 8 pm



MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST FCC Men's Breakfast Club!

1st Saturday of each month
 at the Highland Hotel
 8:00 am

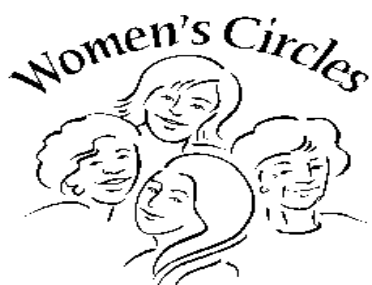


Fellowship Meals Wednesday Night Family Fellowship Dinner

5:30pm-7:00pm: All Church Dinner
 6:30pm-7:15pm: preK-6th grade - Praise, Bible lesson and crafts
 6:30pm-7:15pm: Adult Bible Study
 7pm-8pm: Middle School Bible study and fellowship
 8pm-9pm: High School Bible study and fellowship

Schedule for Wednesday Night Dinners:

April 2nd - Men's Group
 April 9th - Pot Luck
 (A-K: Main Course)
 (L-Z: Dessert or Salad)
 April 16th - ROTC
 April 23rd - Friendship Class/Joy Group
 April 30th - Pot Luck
 (A-K: Dessert or Salad)
 (L-Z: Main Course)



Martha Group
 April 16 - 1:30 pm
 Hostess: Ione Strohm
 Program: Ruth Miller

Lunch Bunch
 April 16 - 11:30 am
 The Highland

Joy Group
 April 22 - 12 noon
 Hostesses: Sally Bateman/Colleen Riegel
 Program: Alice Arnett

New Day Group
 April 28 - 7:00 pm



We welcome Courtney Campbell, Dylan Basgall, and Michael Raymer into our church family through baptism on March 23, 2008.
 Congratulations!

NOODLES

The ladies will be making noodles on April 7th. Please call the church office (620-793-6603) with your orders. Thank you!



ALL LADIES OF THE CHURCH:

Please join us in the parlor Sunday, April 13th, from 2-4 pm for a bridal shower for Chrissy Defenbaugh, Matt Hoff's fiancé. They are registered at Wal-Mart, JCPenney, Sears and Target.



We appreciate the prayers, thoughts and kindness from the church. God is so good! We enjoyed Bill's visits. God only knows when we have these things to come along in life that we are drawn closer to Jesus in so many ways. Let's pray for a great awakening in the Great Bend Christian Church!

M. L. & Arlene Cox

Thank you for the cards, e-mails, Christian love and support during my numerous hospitalizations and many medical procedures. Also, thank you for supporting our family during these difficult times. Your continued thoughts and prayers and support are truly appreciated. I especially thank Pastor Bill for his numerous visits, counseling, and pastoral care.

Sincerely,
Bill J. McKown

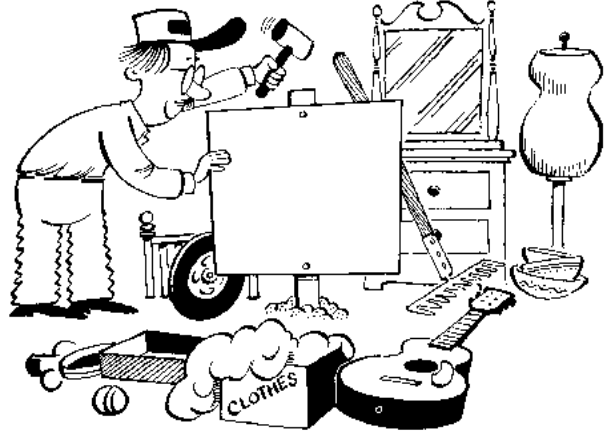
I appreciated all the cards and get well wishes while in the hospital and since coming home. Thanks especially for the prayers. Thanks to Pastor Bill for being with me both times in Wichita. All of these things gave me the peace that I needed.

Love in Christ,
Ione Strohm

To the Ladies of CWF:

Thank you all for thinking of Jesse and me on the day of our shower. We really appreciate it! Also, thank you for the beautiful embroidered tea towels. They are great and so are the pot holders! Thanks again!

Meghan Rainsberger and Jesse Moore



It's time once again to clean out those closets and storage sheds. First Christian Church will be having a garage sale on May 3rd. You may start bringing your donations to the gym on April 21st. The proceeds will go towards a youth trip this summer.



Rebecca (Webster) and Jason Parr are the proud parents of a baby girl, Adelynn Avery Parr. Adelynn entered the world on March 6, 2008. She weighed 5 lbs. 9 oz. and was 19" long. Proud grandparents are Mitch and Jennifer Webster. Proud great-grandparents are Harold and Virginia Langrehr.

Logan Ronald Enabnit came into the world on March 12, 2008, to Brandon and Lorelee Enabnit of Larned. Logan's proud grandparents are Mel and Diana Enabnit.



First Christian Church is please to make scholarship awards available to students each year.

The First Christian Church Scholarship recipient criteria is that application must be made. Need and ability shall be the principal criteria. First preference shall be given to any active member of FCC with consideration of members of cluster churches to follow.

The Phyllis A. Richardson Memorial Scholarship is to be awarded to a graduating senior from Great

Bend High School who is an active member of the First Christian Church of Great Bend. The criteria for the award are character, personality, academic achievement, goal orientation and compassion.

Applications are available in the narthex of the church and must be returned with letters of recommendation by April 15, 2008, to the church office.