

The Great Bend Christian



Vol. 41

March 2008

No. 3

BILL'S BITS - "Easter: Light for Our Dark Corners"

While starring in the motion picture, "The Wizard of Oz," young Judy Garland sang a song which touched the hearts of millions. It expressed a dream with which most could identify—a longing to escape to some Shangri-la—a place where problems "melt away like lemon drops." The song was entitled "Over the Rainbow" and ended with the question: "Why, oh why, can't I?" Judy Garland evidently never managed to find the Shangri-la about which she sang, however, for she later committed suicide.

Why does this old song, "Over the Rainbow," still touch us so? Because all of us experience darkness and dread in our lives. Because all of us need some new light for the dark corners of our existence. The news Holy Week brings us is much better than the old song. Easter says we do not have to go "over the rainbow" to find that for which we so yearn. The light of the world has *come to us* - Jesus Christ. And He keeps on coming. Don't miss Him.

The Resurrection brings great hope, joy and certainty to our lives.

There is hope. The older I get the faster time goes. Along with the speeding of time is the aging of our bodies and a step closer we are to eternity. The resurrection reminds us of the power that God has to give eternal life to his children. We can be certain just as Christ was raised, so, too, we will be raised.

Joy is another by-product of the resurrection. In October of 1968, I remember riding to St. Louis with a cousin and Lois following the funeral of my grandmother. I remember remarking "how final funerals" were regarding the physical presence of loved ones. Now the resurrection reminds me that I shall be reunited with my grandmother again. All children of God can have that hope.

The resurrection reminds us of the renewing we can have in baptism and living the Christian life. We, in baptism, die, and are buried, and raised to walk in newness of life. That process required constant attention by the faith, study, worship, and service in Christ our Lord.

The Easter season is a time to renew our church attendance and participation in the life of the church.

This Easter season we bid you to remember the services in the community and church which are as follows:

1. **Lenten Lunches.** See the schedule for the weekly locations.
2. **Maundy Thursday Service,** Thursday, March 20th, at 7:00 p.m. This will be a service built around the Lord's Supper. It points to the Passover where our Lord began the Lord's Supper.
3. **The Sunrise Service** on Easter Sunday at 7:00 a.m. Sunrise breakfast will follow.
4. **Our Easter Service** in the 10:20 a.m. on Easter Sunday, March 23rd.

Adapted

May You Have A Blessed Easter! - Pastor Bill

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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

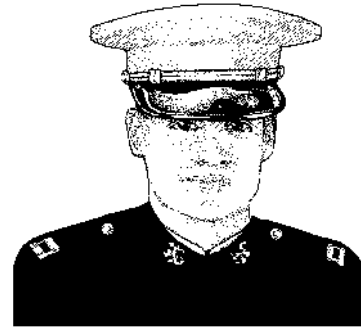
620.793.6603 620-793-3136 (Fax)

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
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Gavin Vavra, Youth Coordinator
gvavra@sterling.edu
Kathy Rose, Church Secretary
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Web Site
www.firstchristiangb.org

Please be
Praying for...

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

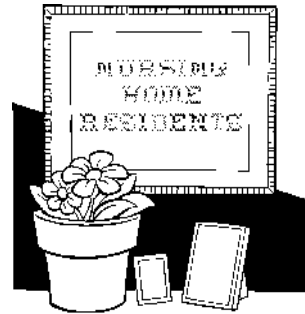


**PRAY FOR OUR
U.S. MILITARY**

Mike & Susi Bargainear, relatives of LaDonna Moore - Ft. Campbell, KY
Staff Sgt. Ryan Barnes - nephew of Connie Weiser - Iraq
Logan Bayless - active duty - Army
Lt. Col. Ken Bellinger, Cliff Bellinger's son - Washington
Brian Bird, brother of Rhonda Jackson - Iraq
Delbert Wells, nephew of Hap Donecker - Germany



...to the family and friends of Gladys Wade
...to the family and friends of Lois Dove



Great Bend Health & Rehab

Oswald Schneider
Polly Omlor

River Bend Assisted Living

Marge Keller
Winnie Phillips

Kansas Christian Home

Louise McCullum

Cherry Village Nursing Home

Mildred Lang
George McKown
Martha McKown
Rachel Williams

Alterra-Sterling House

Wilma Hauser
Truman Strong
Lela Wilson

Woodhaven Care Center - Ellinwood

Mildred Boepple



A BIG THANK YOU to Vivian Chalfant and all the ladies who helped with the Lenten Luncheon. Wonderful comments were heard about the meal. Thanks, also, to Leesa Butler, Debbie Noffsinger, and John Sheets for providing the excellent music.

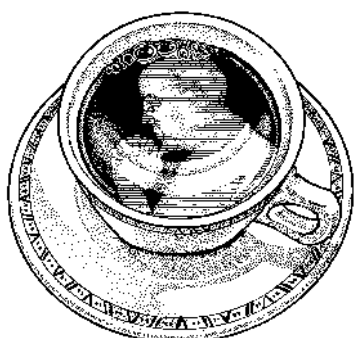
February Attendance and Gifts

	3	10	17	24	Avg. Total
Sunday School	50	49	45	51	49
Early Service	39	42	38	28	37
Late Service	135	132	98	137	126
Children's Church	3	8	9	0	5
TOTAL	177	182	145	165	167
General Offering	5,458.75	2,091.50	2,136.80	3,805.42	3,373.12
Bldg. Offerings	3,602.50	1,612.50	597.50	655.00	1,616.88
Special Offerings	3,145.35*	150.25*	--	199.00*	873.65*
TOTAL	12,206.60	3,854.25	3,670.21	4,659.42	6,097.62

* Special Offerings include Wed. Night Family Fellowship Dinners, Becker Coupons, Week of Compassion, and Associate Minister Fund

Cabinet Meeting – March 5 – 8 pm
Elders/Deacons Meeting – March 12 – 8 pm
Board Meeting – March 19 – 8 pm

Hostess: Jamee Dannebohm
 Program: Janis Fairchild



MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

FCC Men's Breakfast Club!

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

Disciples Women's Fellowship

Martha Group

March 19 - 1:30 pm
 Hostess: Morna Jordan
 Program: Helen Standley

Lunch Bunch

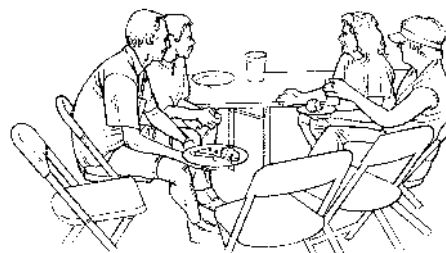
March 19 - 11:30 am
 The Highland

Joy Group

March 25 - 12 noon
 Hostesses: Lois Johnson/Vivian Chalfant/Delores Westfall
 Program: Morna Jordan

New Day Group

March 24 - 7:00 pm
 Friendship Classroom



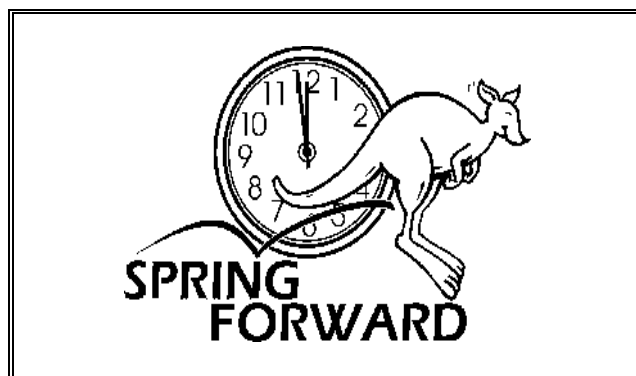
Fellowship Meals

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:

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

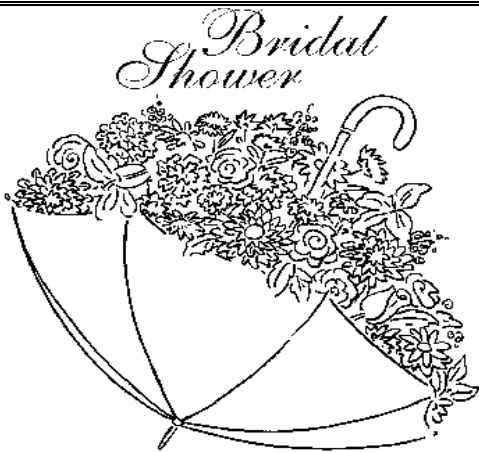


Remember time changes **EARLY** Sunday Morning, March 9th. Be sure to set your clocks ahead 1 hour!

Maundy Thursday Service

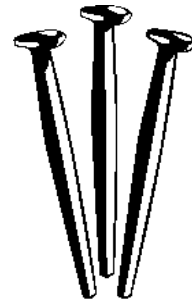
March 20th, 2008

7:30 p.m.



ALL Ladies of the Church:

Please join us in the parlor Sunday afternoon, March 9th, from 2-4 pm for a Bridal Shower for Meghan Rainsberger, Jesse Moore's fiance'. Meghan and Jesse are registered at Target, Dillard's, Wal-Mart, Pottery Barn, and Bed, Bath & Beyond.



Nails symbolize Jesus' passion and suffering because they were used at his Crucifixion. They are often depicted in groups of three because two nails were used to secure Jesus' hands, and a third was used to secure his feet. Three nails are also used to identify Jesus as a member of the Holy Trinity.

HAPPY EASTER!

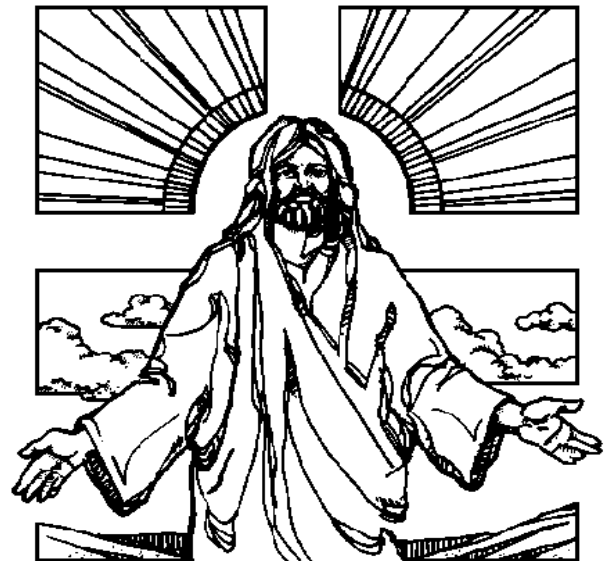


Why Palm Sunday?

Palm branches are mentioned in only of the four Gospels (see John 12: 12-15). So why do we call the first day of Holy Week, Palm Sunday?

Tradition plays an important part in church history. During Jesus' time, Rome was the world's leading power. Whenever the Romans were victorious in battle, citizens traditionally threw palm branches in the returning heroes' path.

This was the accepted custom of reception. So when Jesus rode into Jerusalem, it was appropriate that he receive a hero's welcome. One week later, he would be victorious over death.



**“Why do you look for the living among the dead?
He is not here but has risen.”**

Luke 24:5

MAUNDY THURSDAY



First Christian Church

There's more!

On the first Easter morning, three women found an empty tomb. The discovery left them trembling and afraid. They didn't know there was more - a resurrected Lord.

Later that day, the risen Jesus appeared. As happy as the disciples were about this miracle, they didn't yet know there was more - a gift of the Holy Spirit that would make their joy complete.

Early Christians in Corinth were so delighted by the gift of baptism that they could scarcely imagine

there was more - the resurrection of the body to eternal life.

As great as Easter is, it's only the "first fruits" of what lies ahead. Celebrate the fact that Christ is risen, but remember that the best is yet to come!