



FIRST CHRISTIAN disciples of christ

HIGHLIGHTS

Making disciples who make a difference!

December 15, 2021

Life Together

I love a good sermon! I recently watched a good one on Youtube. It was preached on November 7 by Rev. Lynn Casteel-Harper, Minister of Older Adults at Riverside Church in New York City.

In her introduction, she recounted the actions of the Sesame Street character Count Von Count. She says, "He's a kind of friendly version of Count Dracula who is obsessed with counting even to the point of annoying those around him. He numbers everything delightfully and deliberately, counting flowers, cookies, ants, bats, apples, telephone rings, children, seconds, even feelings." Then she says, "There's something theologically compelling even redemptive about this puppet's counting because to count means to take note of, to see, to name as valuable what one notices."

In the past, I have been guilty of being too much like Count Von Count. I have obsessively counted everything too. In the churches I have served, I have tracked everything I could to try to measure success. In church work, it is not always easy to tell if you are being successful. So I counted income, attendance, and new members. I am still counting. Recently, I have been reporting to the board the number of members that I have had significant contact with so far.

Some of my minister friends look down on such an emphasis on numbers, but I always felt that numbers represented people. And people ARE important.

Rev. Casteel-Harper says that counting means that every person counts. She adds, "So this isn't just a flock of sheep, there is one sheep. There is two. There is three. This is just not a sea of people, there is one person. There is two. There is three. There is four. The world is made more particular and vivid, more alive and real by this kind of paying attention, of seeing and counting. Linger upon and relish each flower, each bat, each second, each child. When we

stop to count, to take stock, each being is lifted up as precious, a creature of God's own creating."

That is certainly my intent as I count things in church. It's not an effort to dehumanize people, making them just a number, but an effort to pay attention, to see every person as important enough to count. The church is not made up of a membership, not just a congregation, not just a vague generality we call "the church." There would be no congregation without each individual person in it. Our job is to focus on each one.

I love her line that said "to count means to take note of, to see, to name as valuable what one notices." There is one church member. There is two. There is three. There is a hundred and nineteen. Each one matters! You count! You matter!

You can watch the sermon I mentioned by going to Youtube and searching for "Riverside Church Counting the Saints." I think you'll like it too.

Dr. Mickey Anders
Interim Sr. Minister

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November Board Summary

- Financial Report:

- ◊ A written report was presented to the board including Financial Statements for October 2021 and YTD 2021 and Restricted Funds, which were reviewed and discussed. Pledges and offerings are down YTD by \$18393.54 compared to budget; General Endowment Income is up YTD by \$42,028.53 compared to budget; health insurance, supplies, and utilities are less than budget; computer and internet, due to recent WIFI installation in parts of the building, are over budget.
- ◊ Proposed 2022 Budget documents were distributed and reviewed including salary increases and pension plan contributions. \$137,000 is the estimated amount to be distributed from the General Endowment Fund. Per the Endowment Fund Policy, 50% will be added to the General Budget, 5% will be added to the General Budget for Outreach Spending, 5% to the Youth Fund Restricted Account, 20% to the General Budget as Endowment Income, 10% to the Building Fund, and 10% to the Reserve Fund. Most expenses were increased by 5%.

Following review and discussion, the board:

- a. Approved having current insurance carrier evaluate the building value and contents and increase our coverage as needed within 90 days.
 - b. Approved increasing the Employment Practices and Liability and Sexual Abuse Liability coverage to 1 million dollars.
 - c. Approved October 2021 Financial Report.
 - d. Approved 2022 amended Proposed Budget, totaling \$503,257.00, including an annual pay increase not originally included in proposed budget.
 - e. Approved Reserve and Building Fund Policies and Procedures.
 - f. Approved the Gift Acceptance Policy.
- Board approved a recommendation from the Personnel and Executive Committees, that it shall be the policy of the church that employees of FCC shall not be reimbursed in lieu of taking health insurance offered, except for minister's contract negotiations.
 - Board approved to allow the transfer and payment of unspent funds remaining in the Outreach budget at year end 2021 in the following manner: 1) Up to \$1500.00 to Camp Wa-Kon-Da-Ho for their restroom project. 2) up to \$5000.00 to Kentucky Refuge Ministry for Afghan resettlement programs. 3) Remainder of the funds to be spent for Week of Compassion Disaster Relief.
 - Board approved to allow the transfer and payment of Maxine Maxey Fund excess from community events, scholarships, and Soups on Us of up to \$4000.00 to be dispersed to ASAP (Agency for Substance Abuse Policy), for use in several programs they administer here, but not limited to these programs: homeless emergency housing, drug treatment programs, and development of homeless shelter in Boyle County, KY.
 - Board approved 2022 Slate of Officers, Ministry Area Coordinators, Youth Representatives, Elder Officers, Elders, and Trustees effective January 1, 2022.
 - Property: The interior sanctuary window repair and painting project will start in January, 2022, at a savings of \$1200.00 by delaying until then.

FCC KIDS CORNER

FCC Kid's Club will be taking a break during area school 's Winter Break, but be prepared for lots of fun things coming in January!

Our January theme will be **Challenge Accepted**. Each week the kids will tackle a new challenge with activities inspired by the popular (and silly) Youtube videos of the same name. Each weekly lesson points them back to the ultimate challenge . . . Deciding to follow Jesus!

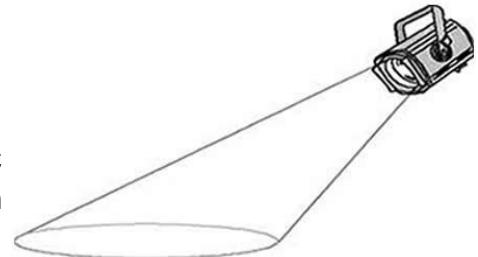
We will start the New Year with a trip to **Windjammer's Fun Center on Sunday, January 9th** for Skating, Laser Tag and more!

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend. Friends are welcome to join the fun!



There will be No Kid's Club on December 19th, December 26th or January 2nd so that families can spend time together over the holidays.

We hope to see everyone on Sunday, January 9th for an exciting trip to Windjammer Fun Center!



Spotlight on our FCC Kids!

Each month we have been shining the spotlight on one of our FCC Kids so you can put names, faces, and families together! This month our spotlight shines on Elijah and Liam Welch.



Elijah and Liam Welch attend FCC with their parents, Donna Carol and Sean Welch. They are surrounded by lots of family at church including grandparents Don and Carolyn Burton and cousins Serenity Smithers and Kierstyn Gibson.

Liam, (pictured left) is in PK3 at Junction City Elementary School. So far his favorite subject is recess but music is a close second! He loves to play outside, swim, collect rocks, and catch bugs. He also likes to go to the zoo and the park with his twin brother Elijah. He likes to sing & dance, play musical instruments, do arts & crafts, and build with blocks. Liam is excited about playing soccer this fall!

Elijah (pictured right) is also in PK3 at Junction City Elementary School and, like his twin brother, chose recess as his favorite subject. He loves to play outside, swim, collect rocks, go camping and to the park with his brother. When he can't be outside he likes to sing & dance and play with monster trucks and his super heroes. Elijah is his Papaw Don Burton's little shadow and can't wait to learn to fish.

Both Liam and Elijah's favorite memory at church is playing in the church nursery! When you see Liam and Elijah at church, be sure to say Hi so they get to know their FCC Church Family!



Prayer Concerns

Bill Barker
Jane Boyd
Steve Cline
Rev. Catherine DeMoss
Margaret Ann Milburn
Mike Miller
Susan Montgomery
Bill Morgan
Mike Swain

Bonnie Wilson
Jeff Withers
Mary Lou Withers
Nyla Wright

Shut-ins

Jerry Boyd
Steve & Pat Bruce
Mindy Carter
Odell Hines
Jack Kaiser

Marianne Kirby
Betty Ramey
Catherine Shoultz
Dorothy Warren

Congratulations

To Julie and Jake Sparks on the birth of Lucille Ann Sparks who born Thursday, December 9. Proud grandparents are Mary Ann and Lyle McGlothlin.

Thank You

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all the cards and prayers, and especially for being able to borrow a wheelchair. I am grateful to be a part of a caring church family.

Nyla Wright

Outreach Ministry Thank You!

As the current year comes to a close, we would like to thank the many people who have helped First Christian Church provide outreach to those in need during the past year. Whether it was feeding the hungry, helping the homeless, providing community events, providing gifts for children in need, scholarships, or financial contributions, we were blessed to be able to serve those in need in our community and region. We were also able to give financial support to those in need in our State.

We would like to thank our Outreach Team of Nancy and Dave Robertson, Jan Bradshaw, Ruth Sigler, Nancy Mahon, Molly Cooper, and Sueann Rice. We want to thank Mary Ann McGlothlin for heading up Soups On Us, and Nancy Robertson for Heading up BackPack for Kids. These are ongoing monthly ministries. Thanks to all those who helped with our Community events (Easter, Halloween, and Christmas). Special thanks to Patti Wright for helping with these children's events. Thanks to those who helped with Church Under the Bridge, Angel Tree, Bell Ringing, Advent food boxes, Christmas Food Boxes, etc. Each and every one of you is a blessing to our church and community.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year. It has been a privilege and honor to chair Outreach at FCC.

Terry & Linda Dachenhaus
Outreach Co-Chairs

Service Roster **January 2, 2022**

Worship Leader— Rev. Catherine DeMoss

Elders at the Table—Larry & Jan Scott

Deacons— David May, Rodger & Wendy Ross, Kasey Wilson

Communion— Ruby Cline-Eaton

Children Worship & Wonder— Patti Wright, Linda Dachenhaus

Children's Church— Patti Wright, Linda Dachenhaus

Acolytes— Bari Bowman, Sarah Kate Taylor



Your church staff wishes each you a very blessed Christmas filled with hope, peace, joy, and love throughout the new year.

News & Announcements

December Congregational Meeting Summary

A congregational meeting was held on Sunday, 12/5/2021, following worship, to vote on three (3) items of business. Vice-Chair Julie Jones led the meeting. The documents explaining these business items were presented in advance to the congregation via the Highlights, in the pews, and in emails. A \$900.00 increase in the budget, due to a salary increase that was not originally included in the proposed budget, was emailed to the congregation prior to the meeting.

- 1) The congregation unanimously approved the church Constitutional change regarding oversight of the church's finances. The change involves the following: The Constitution be revised so that the "Budget Committee" will be called "Finance Committee" and the responsibilities include six (6) items outlined in the documents.
- 2) The congregation unanimously approved the Slate of Officers for 2022, Ministry Area Coordinators, Youth Representatives, Trustees, Elder Officers and Elders (2022-2024). Julie expressed her appreciation for the hard work of the Nominating Committee: Cheryl Gibson, Becky Whited, Judy Morgan, David May, Susan Hensley, and Rodger Ross and for the willingness of those who agreed to serve in leadership positions in the church.
- 3) The congregation unanimously approved the 2022 Budget of \$503,257.00. Julie expressed her appreciation for Treasurer Martha Bryant, who worked tirelessly and went over and above on the Budget and changes.

Christmas Poinsettias

December 22 is the deadline to place a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one. Cost is \$10. Fill out the information and make your payment at the welcome table on Sundays or call the church office. All poinsettias should be picked up after the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service or Worship Service on Dec. 26.

Soups on Us

Join us on December 18 for the last Soups on Us for the year! We thank each of you who volunteered and/or contributed in some way throughout the year to this ministry. Our cookie bakers are asked to bake a little extra in December. Remember cookies can be brought to the church during the week. Volunteers are needed at 7:30 am this Saturday.

Giving Advent Calendar

All food boxes are to be returned on Sunday, December 19 in the arcade area. For box pick-up, contact Patricia Calvert (859-583-6336) or email: calvertz@bellsouth.net. Thank you for contributing to The Salvation Army Food Pantry.

Week of Compassion for Recent Tornado Disaster

Those who would like to donate to the relief effort from the recent storms in Western Kentucky may give online at weekofcompassion.org/donate and designate to KY Tornado Relief or can make checks out to FCC with Week of Compassion in the memo line. Other opportunities of giving online, go to TeamWKYReliefFund.ky.gov. For a toy drive, go to governor.ky.gov/toydrive. Please continue to pray for the families impacted from the storms and many volunteers.

New Art Display

Tony Richardson, son-in-law of Jeanette Barbour, has always had a love for art but started a little later in life. He has quickly accumulated a beautiful collection of portraits, landscapes, animals and still lifes using oil and graphite. Take time to check out his art display on the 2nd floor. There are some wonderful Christmas paintings you don't want to miss!

Church Wi-Fi

FCC has extended the Wi-Fi into more areas of the church and now has a guest network called First Christian Church GUEST. The password is fccguest.

Inclement Weather

One Call Now and other media outlets will be used to announce any closings or cancellations of church activities or services. For inclement weather during the week, we will follow our snow policy:

If Boyle County Schools are closed, the church staff will move to a one-hour delay. At that time, the senior minister will make the decision to close the church or not, and would then contact media outlets to inform them of the church's operations for the day if it is closed.

Church Closing after Christmas

The church will be closed the week after Christmas and the church offices will reopen on January 3.

Informal Worship on Sunday, December 26

Now used more as a day for enjoying gifts and watching sports, Boxing Day originated in the United Kingdom as a time to give back to those in need. While we have pushed much of this almsgiving ahead of Christmas in recent years, this year on Sunday, December 26 we will look at the traditions around giving back to those around us. This will be an informal worship service. No childcare will be provided. Hope you will join us as we continue to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

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Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service

Join us on Christmas Eve for our special candlelight service at 7:00pm.
Bring your family and friends as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

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