

January 1, 2012

Sunday worship schedule: 8:30 A.M. & 10:40 A.M.



From the Minister's desk

I've been pondering whether to open this column with "things change rapidly," or "God works in mysterious ways." Maybe it should be a combination: "God works in mysterious ways and sometimes changes things rapidly."

In my previous column, I indicated that Union Church would be undergoing renovation and that we would rent them office space on the ground floor of the Education Building. Then came the fire at New Opportunity School, followed by a major setback with Union's renovation schedule. Their business administrator called to say that because of complications, their offices would not be able to relocate here in the near future – if at all. Hence, we offered the school office space. That offer was gratefully received as, among other things, the staff considers our church "home." Even though their offices and space were destroyed in the fire, they are able to remain "at home" and will have plenty of time to consider the direction they want to go next.

New Opportunity School will occupy the large room, which had served as a youth room, on the ground floor, the room that was turned into a meditation room and Judy Halstead's classroom. Judy's class will move to the dining/kitchen area of the new building.

There are a number of things that we have been able to do because of our new building. In addition to providing space for New Opportunity School, we've been able to regularly provide space for "Jammin' on the Porch," opportunities for young people involved in basketball and softball, temporary space for cub scout meetings, a girl scout fundraiser, a host of other social activities and to talk with Berea Tourism about providing space for dulcimer classes during the July "Festival of Learnshops."

One of the most asked questions centers on what we're planning to do with the destroyed structure, which has been declared a total loss by the insurance company. The first thing will be to take it down. After that, nothing needs to happen quickly. There need to be significant discussions about options and possibilities. Those discussions need to include the New Opportunity School. Already I have heard a host of ideas, some of which are creative and would provide long term, steady income to the church, while other ideas would involve spending an insurance settlement immediately. The most important thing that I can add to the discussion is a reminder that it is most wise to move slowly, thoughtfully and to explore all of the options rather than to jump into the first thing that strikes us as "logical." Best decisions rarely come while still in the shadow of a tragedy.

Wishing you a wonderful new year, Ed

Installation & Ordination

The installation and ordination of the new officers for 2012 will be Jan. 8th. Officers will be installed during the worship service they normally attend.

Congregational Meeting

There will be a congregational meeting on January 15th after both services to vote on the budget for 2012.

Please pray for ...

Ernie Murray
Lenore Murray
Al Osborne
Vickie Simmons
Steve Taulbee
Laura Crawford
Peggy Kelly
Pat Hensley
Ozella Gilbert
Michael Hughes
Wanda Moreland
Linda Coyle
Ronald Pennington
Maureen Stoy
Jim Pella
Jean Engle
Martha Reid

Financial Note

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|--|-------------|
| Monthly loan payment: | \$6,632.72 |
| Received in December. | \$15,460.80 |
| General budget needs each month: | |
| | \$16,687.33 |
| Offerings Received in Dec. | \$14,896.47 |
| Bldg. use & Misc. received in Dec. | \$ 1,377.50 |
| Please remember that our operational expenses have increased significantly with the opening of the new building. | |
| <i>Please remember that good stewardship is important.</i> | |

Note From the Treasurer

Please remember to note on your checks where you would like your offering to go (Building Fund, General Fund, Capital Campaign).

Deacons Meeting

There will be a Deacon's meeting on Sunday, January 8th at 9:30 am. This meeting will be to fill out the Deacon schedule for 2012.

Wednesday Night Meals

Wednesday evening meals will resume on January 4th with at "Pot Luck" at 5:30 pm. This year we will follow a new format for Wednesday Family Night and it will be as follows:

1st Wed.- "Pot Luck" Meal & fellowship and/or team meetings
2nd Wed. – Meal & Structured Fellowship Activity
3rd Wed. – "Pot Luck" Meal & Program
4th Wed. – Meal & Board Games

Study Group

Evening Study Group will continue meeting on Wed. Jan. 4th at 6:15 pm.

Update

Martha Reid has moved to the Terrace, room 106.

Welcome

We welcome Noah Thomas & Samuel Joseph Moreland. The identical twin boys arrived Dec. 23rd weighing in at 4lbs 13 oz. each. Proud parents are Tom & Robyn Moreland and Big brother Charlie.

Welcome Home

We are grateful that Sgt. James Hopkins has returned safely from Iraq.

February Birthdays

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|-----------------------|-------------|
| Allison Barnard | February 2 |
| Paula Gordon | February 2 |
| Emily Heiser | February 4 |
| Glennis Weston | February 4 |
| Gwynne Griffith | February 6 |
| Hayden Halstead | February 6 |
| James Moore | February 6 |
| Judy Musick | February 6 |
| Joan McGlone | February 7 |
| William Pierce | February 7 |
| Logan Boggs | February 10 |
| Lowell Moore | February 11 |
| Jean Engle | February 12 |
| Billy Wagers | February 12 |
| Ozella Gilbert | February 14 |
| Robin Richardson | February 14 |
| Todd Holbrook | February 16 |
| Jason McGill | February 16 |
| Sally Pennington | February 17 |
| Patrick Greene | February 24 |
| Laura Claytor | February 24 |
| Anita Barker | February 25 |
| Catherine Grandgeorge | February 25 |
| Taylor Greene | February 25 |
| Susan Cintra | February 27 |
| Ethan Gordon | February 27 |
| John Pennington | February 27 |
| David Grandgeorge | February 29 |

Thank You Notes

On behalf of the Gathering Christian Church, we thank you for your generosity and your consideration of our mission by the gift of the silver communion set. We are overwhelmed by your initiative and your encouragement by thinking of us this way.

Rev. Dr. Don Vanzant & the congregation of the Gathering Christian Church

Berea Health Ministry wishes to thank you for your donation of \$3000.00 on Dec. 4th. Your continued giving will make a difference in the lives of the sick and hurting people.

Cora Fletcher & Cappie Parson, Berea Health Ministry

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff and clients of Hope's Wings Domestic Violence Program, I would like to extend my most sincere appreciation for your recent contribution of \$2000.00 to our organization during this holiday season. Every dollar of your donation stays here in Madison County and goes into various programs that offer safe and supportive assistance to victims of domestic violence.

Jennifer Lainhart

We wish to express our deep appreciation and sincere thanks for your kind expression of sympathy. The bouquet of flowers was beautiful.
Margaret LaFontaine, Betty Rose & the Family of Lois Black

Thank you so much for your kind remembrance on the passing of my mother. Mom would have loved the potted plant arrangement.

Will & Mary Bondurant

Our thanks to the congregation for the gift of \$3877.80 to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) In Kentucky. This over and above outreach gift will help strengthen and expand our service to congregations.

J. Gregory Alexander, General Minister

Youth News

Chi Rho – Sunday evening meetings continue, we will meet on Jan. 8th at 5:30 pm in the class room in the educational building.

CYF – Sunday evening events continue at 6:00 pm in the Multi purpose area on. See Allison for a full schedule of events.

The next Youth Sunday is Jan. 29th.

Tables For Sale

We have several large tables for sale at the price of \$30.00 each.

Open Gym

Starting January 15, 2012 we will once again have Open Gym on Sundays from 2:00- 5:00 pm. for **families**. For this to be successful, we need to have adults willing to unlock and the lock facility. Sign up sheet for volunteers is located in the Narthex.

Sanctuary Flowers

If you would like to provide flowers in honor or memory of someone, please contact the office. The cost of flowers has increased since we last provided this service. The cost now is \$40.00, you may bring money for flowers to the office or place it in the offering tray **CLEARLY** marked "FLOWERS".

"Friend" Us

Our church now has a Facebook page. Look up First Christian Church Berea & "Like" us.

Announcements for Newsletters & Bulletin

Please be aware of the time deadline for announcements to the weekly bulletin and newsletter:

Weekly Bulletin:

Wednesday by 12:00

Monthly Newsletter:

12:00 on the 20th of Each Month

It would also be most helpful if the individual Committee Chairpersons would pass on any Committee announcements to the office. Thank you for your help in these matters.