

THE CALLER

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)
OWENSBORO, KY**

From the Preacherman....

I grew a pumpkin. Actually two. Two pumpkins, so far, flowered and grew on a giant vine that sprouted in a plant bed in my yard. The vine is now more than fifty feet long. Laura and I thought at first that it was merely a squash plant (same family), until it grew and grew and produced small, orange pumpkins!

The best thing? I had nothing to do with any of it. Not a single thing. That is the gift and the wonder. Maybe a pumpkin decomposed there last fall. Perhaps, after Halloween, that spot was as far as I got with the decaying pumpkins from the front porch. Maybe the seeds were in the mulch we spread. The point is that we don't know. We didn't do a single blessed thing to make this giant vine and these wonderful pumpkins grow. We just watch in wonder.

Do we take too much credit and too much blame for too many things? Probably. There are certainly things for which I am responsible: husband, father, preacherman, citizen of this community and country. I accept that. However, this world is actually quite large and complicated- have you noticed? The problems and struggles are often exasperating and much older than any of us. We help where we can and trust God with the rest. And sometimes life, despite our struggles, produces wonder in odd places. So, I bow my head and thank God for the gifts and pray to be of use in the struggles.

Is my church the way that it is because of me? Maybe a bit, but not totally. There are wonderful people here who do exceptional things, but we also make mistakes and struggle with each other. And the Spirit of God flows through us all, lifting us up and bearing us along. There is no single person here responsible for the blessings of life in this place. Our life together is a gift, unplanned and unexpected.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer said in his book Life Together, "We must be ready to allow ourselves to be interrupted by God. God will be constantly crossing our paths and canceling our plans by sending us people with claims and petitions." And maybe spreading pumpkins in my yard as well.

Peace.... Chris



September

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 Dinner @5:30 p.m. Worship @6:15 p.m. Youth Groups, Cantata, & Choir @6:30 p.m.	3 Refugee Food Pantry	4	5
6 Worship/Sunday School Handbells 5:00 p.m.	7 Church Office Closed 	8 Youth Groups to Joys of Cooking	9 Fellowship Potluck @5:30	10 Finance Committee Meeting @11:30 a.m.	11 	12  Youth to "Bunks Across America" 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
13 Worship/Sunday School Handbells 5:00 p.m.	14 Retired Teachers Luncheon OCTC Community Chorus Practice 6:30 p.m.	15  Picture Appointments	16 Dinner @5:30 p.m. Worship @6:15 p.m. Youth Groups, Cantata, & Choir @6:30 p.m. Picture Appointments	17  Picture Appointments New Beginnings →	18	19
20 Worship/Sunday School Handbells 5:00 p.m.	21 	22 Board Meeting 5:30 p.m. Homemakers Group Lunch & Meeting	23 Dinner @5:30 p.m. Worship @6:15 p.m. Youth Groups, Cantata, & Choir @6:30 p.m.	24	25	26
27 Joseph Jacobs Ordination Ceremony Worship/Sunday School Handbells 5:00 p.m.	28 ↓	29	30 Dinner @5:30 p.m. Worship @6:15 p.m. Youth Groups, Cantata, & Choir @6:30 p.m.			

***Men's Fellowship at Great Harvest on Frederica Every Wednesday @ 6:30 a.m.**

Happy Birthday!

1 Stuart Gant
 2 Cate Gaddis
 3 Edie Gaw
 4 Lucille Fischer
 4 Mike Robinson
 5 Emme Roberts
 5 Jim Westmoreland
 7 Mary Yerington
 10 Selma Lucas
 11 Nancy Connor
 13 Anne Carlisle
 13 Martha Lee
 14 Mike Bruce
 14 Judy Howe
 16 Gloria Goodaker
 16 Patty Schrecker
 17 Jackson Kyle
 18 Reise Elliott
 19 Stan Brown
 19 Ross Johnson
 19 Tom Norvell
 21 Terry Brownson
 21 Margaret Miller
 21 Katie Sterett
 22 Cheryl Bell
 23 Joan Thomason
 25 Chris Gaddis
 25 Carroll Laswell
 25 Marilee Thompson
 25 Steve Rice
 26 Brenda Hoyt
 26 Norman Woodward
 27 Sally Lott
 28 Tom Maddox
 28 Meghan McKinley

Happy Anniversary!

Kyle & Sara Aud
 Adam & Katlyn Fischer
 Gloria & Wayne Goodaker
 Amy & Todd Harper
 Brendon & Sidney Howton
 Brenda & Doug Hoyt

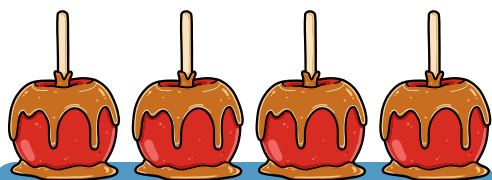
Mike & Patty Matthews
 Riley & Luke Payne
 Tab & Vicki Quisenberry
 Rob & Corie Spencer
 Katie & Tres Sterett
 Gary & Mary Lisa Tunget
 Elizabeth & John Yager

July Financials

Offering for the Month:	\$31,180.20
Other Revenue Month:	\$4,843.80
Total Revenue:	\$36,024.00
Monthly Expenses:	\$48,346.87
Net for the Month	(\$12,322.87)

Year-to-Date Offering	\$266,175.90
YTD Other Revenue	\$21,945.94
YTD Revenue	\$288,121.84
YTD Expenses	\$342,759.25
Net for the Year	(\$54,637.41) ☹️





Thank you note

On behalf of the Leadership Institute and our community Health Team—please accept our sincere thanks for supporting the Lunch and Learn program. We look forward to sharing the good things that will come from this work! Thank you!

Stacy Edds-Ellis

Health Team

Collette Carter, Chair
Chris Castlen, Chair
Becky Horn
Laura Farmer
Travis Williams
David Tucker
Bobby Grant
Samantha Taylor-Kaai
Debbie Zuerner
Nicki Feher
Rachel Pate

Weekend Food **BACKPACK** Program

We are again collecting money for the Weekend Food Backpack Program this year for students at Cravens & Estes Elementary schools. To fund one child for one year is \$165, however, every amount is appreciated and can be given at different times throughout the school year. If you would like to make a donation, please write a check to FCC with “backpacks” in the memo line, or place cash in an envelope marked “backpacks”. Thank you for helping us with this important project!



Pictorial **DIRECTORY** news and updates



Follow-up appointments to view pictures taken at church will take place on September 15th, 16th, and 17th. We will send out reminders for your time to come in and view/purchase pictures.

For those of you that DID have your picture taken:

1. Come in for your picture appointment + pick out your picture for the directory = you get a free 8x10.
2. Come in for your picture appointment + pick out your picture AND make a purchase = you get free 8x10 AND FREE directory.
3. If you do NOT come in to pick out your picture = you get a pre-selected picture in the directory & you must buy a directory or the church gets charged for it.

***If you did NOT get your picture taken**, but you want to have a picture in the directory, please send us a digital copy of a picture ASAP. You can email a picture to stacy@fccowb.org or text a picture to 270-315-6822. You may even have one of us take a picture of you at church.

Thank you note

Dear friends at First Christian Church,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$3,000 toward the purchase of our new copy machine. While it not might seem like an exciting purchase, it will become one of our most valuable tools. Your gift will bring smiles, conversations, and moments of comfort for nursing home residents. I can't wait for residents to hold a hymn booklet created just for them with the songs we sing each week.

Thank you for helping us continue sharing the hope of Christ with those we serve.

Marla Carter



Thank you...

to Martha Lee & Francy Miller for their work on picture weekend, to Jack Lee for getting the volunteers lunch on Sunday, and Chris Castlen for his volunteer work on Sunday!

Potluck



We are pleased to announce Fellowship's September Potluck will be on Wednesday, September 9th at 5:30. Fellowship provide pulled pork sandwiches, hot dogs, AND a sundae bar:) Please bring in a **vegetable or a salad** to feed 8-10 people.



Some Events Last Month!

New Nursery Workers

We have two more new faces in the nursery. Josie and Piper started in August. Please welcome them, when you see them.



Josie Hawkins



Piper Kipling

The Flower Ministry had lots of **BEAUTIFUL** flowers to work with Monday, August 17th! If you'd like to help, they'd love to have you!



Flowers were given in memory of Issac Sterett.

Wednesday Night Dinner

Chicken and Beef Tacos

September 2 @ 5:15pm



Fellowship Potluck

September 9 @ 5:15pm



Baked Spaghetti and Chicken

Fettuccine Alfredo

September 16 @ 5:15pm



Grilled Chicken Sandwiches

September 23 @ 5:15pm



Soup and Baked Potato Bar

September 30 @ 5:15pm



September

New Members

We are pleased to welcome Rob and Corie Spencer. You may already know them, because they were married and baptized here by Jerry Lang, and were previously members of Century Christian. They have two children. A 20-year-old son, Radley, and a fifteen-year-old daughter, Annabeth. They are very happy to be back with a church family. Please add them to your "Who's What". Their address is 2259 Flowerette Court, in Utica, KY 42376.



Promotion Sunday, Food Transfers, Primetimers, & Flat Jesus



Promotion Sunday took place on August 9th. Each student got a special blessing and a key chain. The key chain states, "FCC Loves Me!" On the other side it has a back to school prayer.



Katie Sterett and Diane Ford have graciously agreed to lead the Refugee Food Pantry and our food ministry. We wish them all the best in this endeavor. It is a big job and so far, the future looks bright!



Primetimers headed to Farmer and Frenchmen this past month with a record number for the year! Thanks, to Carroll Hayden for filling in to drive this bunch on the bus! Our next Primetimers luncheon will be Sept 8 11:30AM at Big Whiskey 234 Frederica St, Owensboro. If you wish to join us, please contact Janet Luckett by text only at 270-929-4984.

Flat Jesus had a GREAT summer! In August, he still managed to travel to two states and to Louisville. THANK YOU TO ALL who took flat Jesus with you this summer and sent pictures for us to post. We will supply new copies of Flat Jesus in June, but feel free to take Jesus in your heart with you wherever and whenever you travel.



Sally Wood, Sally Ham, and Ruth Ann Dearnness all got the memo to wear blue and white on Sunday, August 9th. Flat Jesus was all in white, but we were glad he was with them!

Nancy Connor created a beautiful Flat Jesus to help her enjoy her time at the Susquehanna River in Wrightsville, PA.



Ali Huffman and Aaron Lundy enjoyed their time in Greensboro, North Carolina. We are so happy they took Flat Jesus with them.



Larkin Hayden and Flat Jesus joined a couple of former members, Kay Richmond and Sue Ann Morris, for lunch in Louisville. Brooke Petrofsky and Jane Haase joined them, as well. So great to see everyone!



RILEY
DUKE
PRE-K



ROSELIE
MCKINLEY
5TH



TESSA
MCKINLEY
PRE-K

SOPHIE
MCKINLEY
3RD



EDIE
JOHNSON
KINDERGARTEN



GRAHAM
JOHNSON
2ND



SELMA
LUCAS
5TH

NADIA
LUCAS
1ST



ZEKE
DOUGLAS
5TH



ELLE
AUD
6TH



BROOKS
AUD
3RD

HOLDEN
AUD
5TH



JANA
LAWRENCE
6TH



ROSS
JOHNSON
7TH



REID
STERETT
8TH



ANNABELLE
BAUR
8TH



ASHER
LUCAS
8TH

HIGH SCHOOL



WADE
HARPER
9TH

HAMPTON
GADDIS
10TH



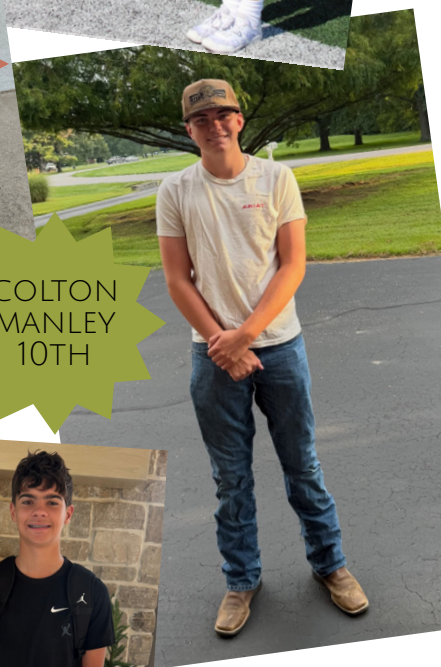
GARRISON
JOHNSON
9TH



COLT
JOHNSON
2 YO



HANNAH
WEBB
9TH



COLTON
MANLEY
10TH



ELTON
SMITH
10TH

ADDELYN
YAGER
12TH



JOHN
PATRIK
YAGER
9TH



LANDRY
ROBERTS
12TH



ANNA
TRAVIS
12TH



PARKER
WEBB
12TH



JOHN
CLAY
FORD
12TH



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