

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
803 Market Street
Mt. Carmel, IL 62863-1499
618-262-7331**

E-VIZ – Volume 1, Number 57

**SUNDAY SERVICE
September 11, 2016**

**Sermon: “Rejoice”
 Rev. Jackie Summers**

Scripture: Luke 15: 11-10

**Worship 9:30 AM
Sunday School 10:45 AM**

**WATCHING OUR FIGURES
August 28: 99
September 4: 95**

***“Growing God's Family to Share God's Word”
First Christian Church***



Visitor

Volume 74, Number 1

September 7, 2016

RESPOND TO THE CALL

How about making a difference this Sunday? Sunday, Sept. 11 is Respond To The Call Day. It's a day when people are encouraged to offer service in your community as we remember the events of Sept. 11, 2001. How can you and your family and friends make a difference?

ELDERS MEETING

The Elders will meet this Sunday, Sept. 11 immediately following worship to elect a new head Elder for 2017-2018.

CHOIR RETURNS

Welcome back to Gary, Marilyn and our Chancel Choir. They will be back in worship with us starting this Sunday, Sept. 11. Please take time to thank someone who gives us their time and talents to lead us in music each Sunday.

BIBLES TO FIRST GRADERS

We have new Bibles to present to our first graders. They will be presented during worship this Sunday, Sept. 11.

BOARD MEETING

The Administrative Board Meeting will be on Wednesday, September 21, 2016 at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

NEW CHURCH WEBSITE

We have a new church website in creation for our church. You can check it out at www.mountcarmeldisciples.com. It is not complete yet, but on its way. We hope you enjoy the new look, pictures and information.



YOUNG ADULT ROAD RALLY

All FCC Young Adults (18-30 somethings) are welcome, we will gather at 3 pm on Sunday, Sept. 16 to go on a road rally following clues around town. Please bring a finger food or snack to share at the conclusion of the Road Rally. All Young Adults are welcome to join us for a fun afternoon.

PRAYER LIST

If you would like to be on the Church Prayer Chain, please contact the church office. You will be alerted with a recorded phone call if there is a prayer concern. This is part of the church's All Call phone program.

REGIONAL ASSEMBLY - HEART CONNECTIONS

October 21-22 in Springfield. Please let us know if you are interested in attending. Adults and youth are welcome. We do need some adults to serve as delegates as the youth will be involved in mission work on Saturday morning. This is also an opportunity to be involved in a Mission First Gathering on Saturday afternoon to help our General Church discern where we are being called to mission as a church. Please hold the Regional Assembly and Mission First Gatherings in your prayers.

REGIONAL MISSION TRIP

This trip to Arkansas is to the Heifer Please project site and Church World Service warehouse where they will volunteer and learn. The dates are Oct 31- Nov 5. If interested, please contact, Dave Kniker at [309-853-7814](tel:309-853-7814) or e-mail at dfkniker@gmail.com

WADI FOOD PANTRY

The cupboards are pretty bare. Please make an effort to bring extra food from home or buy some on your next trip to the grocery store. There is a great need for food, please help out as you are able. There were 22 food items and 2 bags of personal care items taken to the pantry this week.



CAUGHT DOING GOOD... ..

**Ginger Boewe for helping get the Visitor ready to mail!*

SERVING IN SEPTEMBER



Deacons: Bill Hackler, Doug Lathrop, Kelsey Phelps, McKinnon Anderson, Kim More, Connor Anderson

Custodial Deacon: Jon Mayhue

Communion Preparers: Sharon & Harold Mobley

Sanctuary Straightener: The Mayhue's

Elder on Call: David Foshee

Acolytes: Ty Hipsher & Emma Mayhue

~~~~~ OFFERING - August 28, 2016

General	\$2,503.00
Sunday School	16.00
Blessing Basket	4.00
Blanket Sunday	35.00
Outreach	8.00
Website	100.00
Week of Compassion	100.00
Membership Care	170.00
T-Shirt	20.00
First Grade Bibles	<u>100.00</u>
Total:	\$3,056.00

~~~~~ OFFERING - Sept. 5, 2016

General	\$3,045.00
Sunday School	20.16
Website	100.00
Outreach	<u>8.00</u>
Total:	\$3,173.16



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Andrew, Connie Deisher, Teresa Stoltz, Dana Tate, Patti Dunkel, Ella Mae Whitten, John Lockhart, Diane Whitenack, Myra Webb, Bryan Buchanan, Kenny Thompson, Terry McGuire, Our sisters and brothers in Christ throughout the world, Ed Johnson, Liz Kieffer, Luke Dill, Blake Baker, Charlie and Louise Acree, Global Refugee

Crisis, Kidd Harkelroad, Rod Raber, Tom Sarg, Ashley Davis, Mike Foshee, Don Sanders, Sandy Walker, Joan Hackler, Fred Jackson, Don Marx, Ben Campbell, Devan Swift, Ruth Buchanan, Larry Peterson, Mary Margaret Rusch, Richard Alka, Doug Peterson, Myrtle Hocking, Helen Seaton, Betty Gillihan, Betty Taylor, Gloria White, Jeff Raber, Alice & Jim Warmoth, Jennifer Koonce, Elaine Spencer, Mary Jo Birley, Dorothy Chapman, Bill Beesley, our country, it's leaders, all servicemen and women; natural disaster victims.



## A CALL TO PRAYER FOR MISSION FIRST

### Luke 14:12-14 NRSV

*He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."*

Earlier this week, people gathered in a fellowship hall for fried chicken. The meal was catered from a favorite local place, because the volunteers in charge of the meal were exhausted. In fact, everyone who walked through the doors was worn out-emotionally and physically. This meal was a free dinner hosted by St. Paul Lutheran Church and First Christian Church Baton Rouge. The community gathered around that table included people who have lost everything to the floods, people who have devoted every waking moment in the past two weeks to helping their neighbors and friends, and people who are unsure about what tomorrow would bring.

Those tables seem to me quite a bit like the banquet table Jesus mentions in our scripture for today and very much like the table to which Jesus invites us every week. I see: food freely offered, with no expectation of repayment; comfort mutually given, strengthening all; love made known in the crispy goodness of fried chicken and the breaking of bread.

Our call into mission is to set these tables for our neighbors, not just in the wake of disasters, but always and everywhere-in the struggles of every day, in the midst of inequality, in the face of mistrust and misunderstandings, at kitchen tables and cafeteria tables and bus-stop benches. We are called to set tables of grace, with an open invitation to all, and a special welcome for those whom the world has pushed aside. Our mission is found around tables.

*As a practice of prayer, sketch a table full of food, with seats all around. Don't worry about the artistic value-it's not for display, but for prayer. Label each seat at the table with a person or group of people to whom you would struggle to offer an invitation (e.g. your grouchy neighbor, a family member you have conflict with, people of a different political or religious identity, immigrants, or people in prison.) As you label each seat, offer a prayer of blessing for that person or group, and pray that God's Spirit of compassion will fill and guide you. Amen.*

*By Caroline Hamilton-Arnold*

## GLOBAL MINISTRIES

### September 2016: Loving Our Neighbor

By [Judy Chan](#)

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."  
*Mark 12:30-31*

It's not every day that the Consul General of a Middle Eastern country asks to come for a visit to the Hong Kong Christian Council (HKCC). When the Consul General arrived with his staff, he explained that he was new to his position and was troubled by events around the world involving violence and terrorism. He was concerned about the rise of 'Islamophobia' or anti-Muslim sentiment. He wanted to reach out to other religions in Hong Kong to get to know them and to build better relationships. In our conversation, he learned that the HKCC also actively seeks ways to build friendship and engage in dialogue with other world religions.

At one point, the Consul General asked us how Christians viewed what was happening in the world where more and more violent conflicts were breaking out between cultures and religions. I thought for a moment. And the words of a Syrian Christian I had heard just a few days earlier came to mind: "Christians always stand for non-violence and non-retaliation. We must always forgive. We are taught by Jesus in the bible to love our enemies." And that's what I told him. I couldn't think of anything else that is more central to our Christian faith than loving God, loving our neighbor and loving our enemy.

The Consul General didn't know us and we didn't know him. But he came in search of peace and a sign of friendship among people of faith. I wonder what would happen if local churches and Christians took more initiative to reach out to get to know people of other faiths. We often speak of "extending the right hand of fellowship" to our Christian brothers and sisters in worship. Perhaps we could find more opportunities to shake hands with those in our own cities that come from other lands and cultures and faiths. Like us, they desire nothing more than living together in peace and friendship.

*Judy Chan serves with the Hong Kong Christian Council. She is responsible for communications for the Council*