FROM THE PASTORS DESK: Well, my term as your Interim Pastor is drawing to a close. This Sunday, Dec. 20, will be my last Sunday to preach. It has been an interesting few months and I have enjoyed the opportunity to again share the message of hope and love that we find from the Bible. Let’s never forget that our service is to the Lord and how blest we are to be in His family.

I really appreciate the cooperation from all of you and the expressions of appreciation that I have received. It has been a blessing to be a part of this church family, and we will continue to still be a part of the family here. From the senior members of our family down to the children, we are blessed with talent and spiritual gifts and getting to see them used for the Kingdom of God is a great thing.

Continue to be in prayer for our leadership that we might be strong in service and faithful in worship, so that our community might be drawn closer to the Lord. Seek for ways to serve Him and just enjoy and appreciate each and every day.

Linda & I wish each of you a blessed Christmas and a great New Year filled with joy and love.

Blessings to you all…Gary B


“Last Sermon” written by Pastor Gary Benjamin… We at FCC wish you and Linda many blessings for your future. Rather you are wintering in AZ (golfing while we sit here with a foot of snow and temps near 0), camping in summers with your friends or just making new memories with your families and friends we say ENJOY you deserve it. Your Sunday sermons have been a God Send to us all and will be dearly missed.

Thank you so very much for once again stepping up and being our interim and healer! As for me you are a great person to work for...you make it fun and easy! You will be missed while you are in AZ…I would say “not really,” but that would be a lie! Your church families love you both and wish you all the best!

First Christian Church
“Family Life Center” Growth Chart

- New Building Addition ~ $900,000
- NBF Cash on Hand ~ $664,359
- Pledges yet to be received ~ $148,388
- Projected NBF Balance ~ $812,747

December 2015 General Fund and Building Fund Giving

Christ loved us and gave himself up for us a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:2

- General Fund Offering for Dec. 13, 2015 ~ $2927.43
- For December to Date ~ $9169.26
- Building Fund Offering for Dec. 13, 2015 ~ $840.00
- For December to Date ~ $2926.58

My Eoffering for November
- General Fund $103.14 ~ NBF $350.00
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Opportunity Class had 3 present Sunday. They had prayers for Betty Penn and Opal Meyers. Mary Hamilton opened their class with prayer then presented the lesson on “Acceptable Offering” Mary also closed the class with prayer.

The SOS Class had 21 present with 19 members with their Bibles and 10 who were daily readers of the Word. The class requested prayers for Laura Parks (cousin of Phyllis Adams); Gurdon Olson and Leonard Hiestand (son of Sam & Freida Hiestand). Larry Varvel opened the class with prayer. Rusty Coons completed lesson #4 from “Before Amen.” The class closed with “The Lord’s Prayer.”

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES
AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
8:00 a.m. ~ Early Worship Service
9:15 a.m. ~ Sunday School (all ages)
10:30 a.m. ~ Worship Service & Children’s Church

December 13, 2015
SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE Total ~ 213
  8:00 a.m. Worship Service ~ 64
  10:30 a.m. Worship Service ~ 149
SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE Total ~ 96
  1 ~ Nursery: Age 0 thru 4 years
  5 ~ Beginners: 4 year olds ~ Kindergarten
  9 ~ Primary: 1st thru 3rd Grade
  7 ~ Juniors: 4th thru 6th Grade
  9 ~ Jr High: 6th thru 8th Grade
  7 ~ Sr High: 9th thru 12th Grade
  14 ~ Overcomers: young adults
  6 ~ Pastor’s Class: Not age specific
  14 ~ Great Expectations: 50+
  21 ~ SOS Class: 60+
  3 ~ Opportunity Class: Seniors 75+

Serving us on December 20, 2015

Offertory Prayer Elder: Roger Adams
Communion Prayer Elder: Burke Rogers
Deacon Usher: Dan Kasprzak
Communion to Shut Ins Elder: Gene Watson
Communion to Shut Ins Deacon: Craig Cole

December Deacons Group B:
Bill Ratliff, Greg Gwin, Leroy Hamilton, Jason Miller & Nathan Wiehl

Audio/Visual:
8:00 a.m.: Ruth Peine / Cheryl Varvel
10:30 a.m.: Jim Myers / Jenny Myers
8:00 a.m.: Pianist: Nancy Horn
8:00 a.m. Organist: Vicki Hulett
10:30 a.m. Pianist: Doris Wilson
10:30 a.m. Song Leader: Mary Hamilton
10:30 a.m. Greeters: Craig & Jody Cole, Dylan & Sophia

Communion Prep for December:
Leroy & Sandra Hamilton

Lord, We pray that you keep Alicia from all harm, and bless her always with Your grace and love.

Amen

CONGRATULATIONS! Alicia Hermreck was born Thursday, December 2nd. She weighed 5 lbs 4 oz. & was 18” long. Parents are Brian Hermreck & Amanda West Ottawa, KS and Great Grandmother is Norma Hermreck, Garnett, KS.

Christian Crafters, Many thanks for the beautiful quilt that I received. We appreciate the many hours you spent making this quilt.

Gary & Linda Benjamin
THANK YOU FOR COMING…Norma & Kristene Jackson and Colton of Greeley, KS; Skyla guest of Lena Adams; Dawn Adams, Emily & Allyssa of Welda, KS; Adrian Hess, granddaughter of Lisa Modlin and Alan Young. Steve Watkins and Team Haiti to have a safe trip in January.

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY
Clarence Hermann, Jim Jordan, Loretta Lankard, Wilma McIntosh, Earl Peine, Whitney Peine (daughter of Earl & Ruth Peine), Reed Richardson, Dorothy Schuster, Archie Smith requesting prayers for his family; Steve Watkins and Team Haiti to have a safe trip in January.

PRAYERS FOR EXTENDED FAMILY & FRIENDS
Steve (requested by Gayla Corley); Wilma McIntosh requests continued prayers for her family; Diana Bowen (sister of Howard Williams); the family of Paul Brazeau (Mary Hamilton’s brother’s brother in law); Bill Breit (requested by Mary Hamilton); Julie Crebs (friend of Gayla Corley); Alisha Dunn (requested by Franque Meliza); Greg Grabill (brother in law of Becky Allen); C.B. Harris, Dennis Hermreck (brother of John - by Carol Hermreck); Terry Hermreck, Leonard Hiestand (son of Sam & Frieda Hiestand); David Hoddy (cousin of Darwin Hamilton); Jeanne Logan (mom of Steve Spring); Shelby Lowe (cousin of Judy Tisor); Jim & Maddie McAllister (parents of Paula Sjorlund); Kenneth Nulle (brother of Becky Allen); Steve Richardson (son of Reed & Carol Richardson); Roger Rockers (requested by Mary Graham); Duane & Becky Roush (requested by Carol Hermreck & Carolyn Schuster), Leroy Sobba (brother of Mary Graham); Dave Tyler (requested by Doug & Bev Farren); Sheryl Urquhart (by Carol Hermreck); Doug Walsh (brother in law of Doug Linder); Hannah Ward (granddaughter of Doug & Connie Meyer); Charles Wilson (son of Corky & Kay Wilson); John Yates (brother of Paula Sjorlund) & the leaders our our country & our veterans and troops.

PRAYERS FOR OUR LOVED ONES IN CARE CENTERS
Golden Heights ~ Vi Davin, Jean Brown, Olive Kline, Max Ratliff, Lois Crist
Residential Living Center ~ Bill Young, Vera Wills (Aunt of Phyllis Adams)
Guest Home Estate ~ Vernon & Goldie Hunt, Ruth Gorrell, Robert Young, Seatta Van Donge
ORV Village West ~ Ralph Hamilton (father of Leroy Hamilton)
Comfort Care Home ~ Birdie Zentner ~ Cimarron Nursing Center ~ Lois Miller

PRAYERS FOR OUR MILITARY
Japan: Shawn Parks, husband of Rochele
Qatar: Brian Shanley, son of Mike & Becky Shanley and grandson of Helen Bailey

THANK ALL OF YOU FOR SHARING YOUR POINSETTIAS

In Loving Memory Of: Earl Meyers & Don & Laurel Wichman
Bill & Josephine Graham; Joe & Bertha Sobba;
And Glenda Cramer
Elmon & Mildred Velvick
Alfred & Goldie Hardesty

Shared By:
Opal Meyers
Frank & Mary Graham & families
Sherrie, Jackie & Jay
Mary Martin

~When someone you love becomes a MEMORY, the memory becomes a TREASURE~

THE MEMORY TREE: If you have a person in your family who has passed away and you’d like an ornament placed on the tree in his/her memory, please let us know by placing the name on the flap in the Sunday Bulletin or contact Marsha Dulin in the church office at 785-448-3452. A reminder that if you do request an ornament, please take from the tree after Christmas.
Four Winds DAR presented Carl Ulse the DAR Community Volunteer Award for 2015. This award honors volunteers in the community who tirelessly give to the community without ever wanting or expecting any recognition or compensation. The person is nominated by the local chapter and at least two letters of recommendation are written by persons who have firsthand knowledge of the nominee’s volunteer services. This is all forwarded to the state chair for approval, the state chair then forwards to the national chair. Carl received a certificate and pin from DAR. He works with the Senior Coalition; takes people to Kansas City to doctor appointments, volunteer’s time at the recreation center; works in our FCC office; and gives the live-in caregiver of an elderly couple a break to run errands. Carl is very deserving of this award and a wonderful example of volunteerism on our community.

YOU STILL HAVE TIME TO BRING YOUR HATS & MITTENS FOR THE MITTEN TREE! The tree is located in the FCC Overflow Room where we will collect items thru Sunday, December 20, 2015 and then we will distribute them to our local ECKAN. If you would like to donate to this great project you may bring your hats, scarves, mittens, gloves and socks and place them on the tree, under the tree or give them Marsha in the office. Thank you all for supporting this very worthwhile project and I have no doubt that the ones whose lives we have touched thank you also!

WEEKLY EVENTS AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Monday Ladies Bible Study will not meet in December- Resumes January 4
Monday Christian Woodworkers ~ 1:30 p.m. ~ Darwin Hamilton’s work shop
Tuesday Christian Crafters ~ 10:00 a.m. ~ Annex
Tuesday Prayer Group ~ 6:30 p.m. ~ Annex
Wednesday Roots ~ 6:00 p.m. ~ First Christian Church
(NO Roots December 23 or December 30 ~ resumes January 6)
Wednesday Choir Practice ~ following Roots in the Sanctuary
Friday Church Office Closed
Saturday Men’s Breakfast & Devotions ~ 7:00 a.m. ~ Fellowship Hall
Sunday Legacy ~ 5:00 p.m. ~ Fellowship Hall

THURSDAY, December 17
~ Emergency Food Assistance Program Food Distribution date for December has been scheduled for Thursday, December 17. It will be held at the Anderson County Fair Grounds Community Building beginning at 4:00 p.m. This is a first come, first served basis and is in partnership with the First Baptist Church of Garnett. Please take note of the date change for December!
~ Care Team will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 p.m. Those on the committee are Ron & Darlene Jenkins, Norma Hermreck, Miranda Thummell, *Doug & Connie Meyer, Nelda Potter, Carolyn Schuster, Paula Sjorlund & Gene & Gail Watson.

SUNDAY, December 20 ~ Education Committee Meeting ~ NO Legacy
WEDNESDAY, December 23 ~ NO ROOTS / Christmas Break
THURSDAY, December 24
Christmas Eve Services ~ Join us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ
FCC Candlelight worship services will begin at 4:00 p.m. and also at 6:00 p.m.
FRIDAY, December 25 ~ Christmas Day
SUNDAY, December 27 ~ Worship Committee Meeting ~ NO Legacy

WEDNESDAY, December 30 ~ NO ROOTS / Christmas Break

THURSDAY, December 31 ~ New Years Eve Alternative: Calling all 6-12 Graders! 2015-2016 New Years Alternative is near! This year we have some special plans to Bowl in the New Year and trust me you won’t want to miss!! The majority of this event will be at Hidden Haven Christian Camp. Bowling will be in Erie, Kansas. Included in our activities will be a surprise, Sniper, Bowling, Night Games, Movies, Food and as many friends as you can bring! We will meet at FCC at 5:00pm December, 31st and return Jan 1st, 2016 by 8:30am. Permission Slips will be ready Sunday after Thanksgiving and the Cost is $9 plus money to eat in the Erie Bowling Alley. This event is great fun and will keep many students from mischief over the New Year’s Holiday! Please call if you have any questions 503-474-7965. Sign up Deadline is December 20th, 2015. Thanks and God Bless, Chris

December 14th, 2015 ~ Christmas Program Thank You!! What a wonderful time of year it is! The CHRISTmas season is indeed all about sharing the love which was given to each of us about 2000 years ago! Last night was a great experience of what that might have looked like. The adults and students looked so good while they were evangelizing in our church! On behalf of the education committee, I want to thank each Sunday School Classes, Pastoring committee and each individual for serving in such a special way! I hope some of the visitors may come to know Jesus because of the efforts we made last night. You are immensely appreciated! Many thanks and let's all work together to keep JESUS the reason for this season! Blessings, Pastor Chris
**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH ELDERS**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Roger Adams</td>
<td>448-8172</td>
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<td>*Kevin Lewis</td>
<td>204-2257</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burke Rogers</td>
<td>448-5987</td>
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<td>Larry Varvel</td>
<td>448-5794</td>
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<td>Ron Jenkins</td>
<td>204-1590</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doug Meyer</td>
<td>913-909-7680</td>
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<td>Steve Spring</td>
<td>448-2491</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gene Watson</td>
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**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH DEACONS**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ron Anderegg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cody Clark</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dan Dulin</td>
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<td>*Greg Gwin</td>
<td>229-5105</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dan Kasprzak</td>
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<td>Mike Burns</td>
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<td>448-4504</td>
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<td>Jeff Finn</td>
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<td>Leroy Hamilton</td>
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<td>Bill Ratliff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jason Sjorlund</td>
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<td>Mike Zentner</td>
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