



The Pittsfield Christian

First Christian Church of Pittsfield, Illinois

Volume 54 Issue 4

January 25, 2012

Coming Events

Date	Event
1/24	7:00pm Elders Meeting
	8:00pm Open Gym
1/25	7:30pm Choir Practice
	3:40pm Wednesday Youth
	5:30pm Family Meal
	6:30pm Oasis
1/26	4:00pm Basketball Practice
	6:00pm Pike Youth League
1/27	6:00pm Pike Youth League
1/28	9:00am Pike Youth League
1/29	8:00am Bible Study
	8:00am Worship
	9:10am Oasis
	9:10am Sunday School
	10:30am Worship
	12:00pm Pike Youth League
	5:00pm Elder Training
	5:30pm Youth Family Night
1/30	7:00pm Long Range Planning Committee
	6:00pm Christian Ed Comm. Meeting
1/31	8:00pm Open Gym
	12:00pm Noon Bible Study
	6:00pm Basketball Practice
2/1	7:30pm Choir Practice
	3:40pm Wednesday Youth
	5:30pm Family Meal

Date	Event
	6:30pm Oasis
2/2	7:00pm Circle V Meeting
2/3	Basketball Game
2/5	8:00am Worship
	8:00am Bible Study
	9:10am Oasis
	9:10am Sunday School
	10:30am Worship
	11:30am Congregational Meeting

Lectionary Scriptures

January 25 **Isaiah 5:8-23**
 January 26 **Mark 6:6b-13**
 January 27 **Mark 6: 14-29**
 January 28 **Mark 6:30-44**
 January 29 **Mark 6:45-52**
 January 30 **Mark 6:53-56**
 January 31 **Mark 7:1-13**

Welcome Lummis Family

Last Sunday, Jan. 22, the Scott Lummis family came forward during 10:30 service and joined the church. They have been attending for some time and we are excited to have them with us each week. Give them a big FCC welcome when you see them!

CYF Valentine Dinner

The annual CYF Valentine Dinner fundraiser will be Sunday, **Feb. 12**, at Crossroads with serving beginning at 5:00 pm. Menu is chicken breast (\$12) or rib eye (\$15) meal with baked potato, green beans, salad, dessert, and drink. This is

the main fund raising event for CYF, our high school youth group. See any CYF member, Pastor Luke, or the church office for reservations.

Deadline is Feb. 6.

February Congregational Meeting

The annual February Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, **February 5**, immediately after 10:30 worship service. Agenda calls for review of the 2011 financial information and committee reports.

Blood Drive

The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive at Crossroads Center on Monday, **February 6**, from 1:00 until 6:00 p.m. The Red Cross needs you now more than ever as the winter months are a difficult time for blood collection. To schedule an appointment call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit redcrossblood.org and use sponsor code FirstCC. Walk-ins are welcome and all donors must present a photo ID. All donors will receive a soup mug and recipe card while supplies last. The host for this event is our Christian Women's Fellowship. **Sign up at the fellowship table if you can help with the event that day or provide cookies. Contact Rosemary Clark if you have any questions.**

Christian Ed Meeting

The Christian Education Committee will meet Monday, **Jan. 30**, at 6 pm.

Long Range Planning Committee

The Long Range Planning Committee will meet Monday, **Jan. 30**, at 7:00pm.

Elder Meeting

Training for all Elders will be Sunday evening, **Jan. 29**, starting at 5pm at Pastor Michael's home.

Seven Days of Seeking

The church will hold a week long prayer vigil Seven Days of Seeking from **January 22 through 28**. The church will be open at 6:00am, 12:00 noon, and 6:00pm or you may pray from home. We will have flyers on the mantels detailing a list of some prayer focuses for our journey and a daily list of scripture to read.

With Sympathy

We express our sincere sympathy to all the family and friends of John Irwin who passed away early Wednesday morning.

Good for Another 122 Years

Hamer Tate, Mike Boren and Michael Ten Eyck inspected our estimated 1000 lb. bell on Jan. 10. It was found wanting! A heavy pin that supported one side of the bell, had pulled half-way out of the metal block it was in, and the pin was bent downward. We are unsure of when the bell had been inspected previously. We immediately called in the

cavalry (Keith Elledge). In a few more days of work the bell was stabilized, worn parts taken to Keith's shop, and on Monday, Jan. 16, the parts were lifted up to the belfry (30-40 ft up) and re-installed and braced with steel to last at least another 122 years, Lord willing.

Kenny Manson and Mike Boren helped, but the main work was done by the remarkable combination of Keith Elledge and Hamer Tate. Between the two of them, they must have (or can build) any tool known to mankind. They can still wield an old fashioned hammer and file as well. They don't force anything-they just get a bigger hammer.

First Christian Church is blessed with so many people of so many different talents-working together for the good of the Lord's Kingdom on this earth. We praise the Lord for Keith and Hamer and for all the rest of you who volunteer in so many different ways.

On an historic note: The bell appears to be bronze. It says on it, "From Meneelys' West Troy, N.Y. 1854. It is about 36 inches across the bottom. Our current building was built in 1890. However, the first building built by the Pittsfield Christian Church was a white two-story frame building on the same site, completed in December, 1853. So, it seems very likely that this bell, which was cast in 1854, was purchased soon after the frame church was completed; then, in 1890, it was probably pulled straight up to its present location with a pulley mechanism of some sort. We think this because the holes in the wooden ceilings and

platform appear large enough for the bell to have come up through them.

In the days before air-conditioning and insulated houses and the noise of truck traffic, bells were heard all over the town at times of worship-and sometimes to sound an alarm. We are pleased that our church bell has been rung to remind people to come and worship for approximately 158 years. Praise the Lord that we still have the freedom and the ability to call people to worship today. May it ever be so!

Man of the Year

CMF (Christian Men's Fellowship) met Jan. 17. They are pleased to announce the 2011 *Man of the Year* is Bobby Smith. Bobby is very active in areas of the church and has spearheaded property projects and spent many hours on church property fixing and addressing needs including his special foam spraying skills. He is active as Trustee chair and a mainstay in the kitchen honing his talents on smoking brisket. Bobby is exceptionally creative on the Long Range Planning Committee in brainstorming on the future of the church. Join me in expressing our sincere gratitude to Bobby for sharing his abilities with us. What a blessing the Smith family is.

Cry Room

To better accommodate our Sunday Oasis service attendees with young families, we now have a cry room set up in the upstairs youth rooms at Crossroads. There is live video feed of the service with comfortable seating. Please feel

welcome to use this service. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Children's Choir News

This Sunday, **Jan. 29**, Children's Choir will dismiss during 10:30 service to practice songs for upcoming. This is for youth from age 4 through 8th grade.

Wednesday Oasis Service

Pastor Ron Baker is leading a 4 to 6 week Bible Study during 6:30 pm Wednesday Oasis service on Jewish feasts and the rich symbolism found in them. This is something you will find very interesting that you don't want to miss. Bring your Bible.

Bible Study

The Bible Study has resumed on **Tuesdays** at 12:00 noon in the Long Room. EVERYONE is invited! What a great way to start the new year by diving into Bible Study!!

A Lot of Youth Group News

This Sunday, **Jan. 29**, will be Family Night for LIFE and CYF. We will start with a potluck at 5:30 followed by worship, teaching, and games. Let Luke know if you plan to come and intend to bring something for the potluck. Hope to see all youth and parents in attendance.

Attention parents, let Luke know if you can help with the youth meals on any of these dates: Mar. 4, 11, 18; Apr. 1, 15; May 6, 13, 20. Bless A Block is canceled Jan. 28 because the youth leaders will be out of town for training. One of the most productive ways to sell Valentine dinner reservations is

to canvas the congregation before services. You would be surprised how many will attend if you just ask them. All 6th - 12th grade students are encouraged to attend Dare2Share Gameday conference in St. Louis on **March 16-17**. This would be a great opportunity to stimulate and empower your student's faith in Christ. Notify Luke if your child will attend. Cost is \$30 to help cover the hotel and meals. Scholarships are available for those who wish to attend but not able financially.

Outreach Committee News

The Outreach Committee continues to support the mission work of the following entities. If you would like to make a contribution to any one of these mark your offering envelope accordingly. Operation Restoration, Pioneer Bible Translators, Elijah and Kristen Brokaw Peters. On a regular basis Elijah and Kristen email us a newsletter. Let the office know if you would like to receive a copy.

Happy Birthday Francess

Francess Redd will turn 104 years young on January 30. We have received her new address and would like to share it with you so we can shower her with birthday cards. Her address is: 708 22nd Street, Room 23, Greeley, CO 80831.

Family Meal Crew

Feb. 1: Rosemary Clark, Ann Ferguson, Mike & Julie Boren, John & Cheryl Birch, Edith Gant, Don & Deloras Martin, Kay Sealock, Howard & Vera Staffy,

Linda Decker.

Blanket Sunday

From something as simple as a blanket, amazing things can happen. We can provide warmth and protection to victims of a disaster, seeds and tools to struggling farmers, and water and health to impoverished communities by holding a Church World Service Blankets Offering. Funds raised by Blankets support CWS emergency response and long-term community development work around the world, including here at home. Thousands of congregations across the U.S. hold Blankets events each year. Five dollars will provide a warm wool blanket to a needy family. If you would like to support this program sponsored by our Christian Women's Fellowship mark your envelope "Blanket" and funds will be directed accordingly through Feb. 5. Thank you for your loving gift.

Outreach Fruit Baskets

Each year our Local Outreach Committee sends fruit baskets to our homebound members as well as those in nursing homes. This is done the Sunday nearest Valentine's Day. If you know of someone homebound associated with the church or in need of a fruit basket, please notify the office by **February 8th**.

CWF Circle Meetings

Circle V will meet at Crossroads on Thursday, Feb. 2, at 7 pm. Circle IV will meet at the Cardinal Inn at 9:30 am on Feb. 9. On Feb. 13 Circle I will meet at 7 pm at Crossroads.

Attention Committee Chairs

It's very important for committee chairs to keep minute books up-to-date. Please submit a copy of your minutes to the office after each meeting as well as in your book. These books serve as great reference when preparing year-end reports. At the Board Meeting earlier this month the board highly recommended each comm. chair have a designated committee member who they closely work with and can take your place in time of illness or emergency. **And finally, the office needs the list of everyone on your 2012 committee by February 14.**

Counseling

Madison Park Christian Church in Quincy will provide a unit of DivorceCare beginning Thursday, Feb. 16. This will be a 13 week program covering a host of important topics related to the healing and recovery from divorce. It is designed for those who have experienced divorce at any time in their past, those currently going through divorce, and those contemplating divorce. DivorceCare is an interactive DVD, faith-based program, utilizing a workbook and conducted in a group setting. A brochure is available outside our church office. Sessions are 6:30-8:30pm. Childcare will be available. To register call MPCC at 222-2529. Cost of the class is \$10.

Soup to Go

The Crossroads Fundraising Committee will be selling hot soup for you to take home and enjoy on Sunday, **Feb. 19.** Choose from Chili or Turkey

Noodle. Add a side of Pimento Cheese Spread. Then add Brownies for desert. YUM! Order forms are on the sanctuary mantels. Feel free to share them with friends and family. Just drop your completed forms in the basket on the coffee table. **Everyone must preorder by Monday, Feb. 13 so we can have your order filled and ready for you to pick up on the 19th in the Crossroads Dining Room, 10:45 - 12:15 pm.** If you have any questions talk to Jenny Tate, Yvonne Stauffer or Angie Hittner. Thank you for supporting our efforts.

February Birthdays & Anniversaries

1: John Hull, Lisa Wombles, Keaton Hittner, 2: Georgia Soloway, 4: Jennifer (Lierly)Griffith, Kaitlyn Apps, 6: Megan Hittner, 9: Neval Boyd, Spencer Miller, 10: Patty Ruble, 11: Brandy Allred, 12: Alice Ghrist, Jeff Lacey, Jamie Sweeting, Emma Wombles, 14: James & Mary Davis, Ricky & Christina Collins, 15: Bre Davis, 17: Richard Rhodes, Marjorie Zimmerman, 18: Lori Schweighardt, 19: Eugene Belford, 20: Amy Casto, 22: Jennifer Miller, Chelsea Hayden, Chad Sealock, Jessica Hull, Rick Wombles, 23: Karly Losch, Mildred Doyle, 24: Vickie Tharp, Justin Pennock, 25: Callie VanAntwerp, Jake McNulty, Loyd Casto, 26: Peyton Apps, Bryce Lind, 27: Carolyn Z. Casteel, 28: Walter Lamb, Madelyn Strubinger, Virginia Tice, Ron & Teresa Bauer, Howard Staffy.

Adult Open Gym

The adult basketball open gym continues at Crossroads on Tuesdays at 8:00pm. Contact Pastor Luke if you would like to join in the fun!

Pastor's Message: Vision Correction

I knew it was time to go to the eye doctor when those around began to tease me about holding things so far away from my face to read. I had noticed that when working in tight spaces I was unable to read labels, instructions, (But what man ever does...right guys?) or small print. Trying to hook up the audio and visual cables at the Oasis services had become quite difficult and frustrating. I could not put it off any longer. My lack of good vision was having an impact on my ability to complete needed tasks, so I swallowed my pride and went to the eye doctor. Sure enough, my eyes had changed and the result was that I now need to use reading glasses for seeing things close up. Although I think it makes me look silly, I am thankful that my vision is corrected with some simple steps.

It is even more amazing how important spiritual vision is to the church. We have begun discussing our vision as the body of Christ. Scripture instructs us as to the importance of spiritual vision.

Proverbs 29:18 Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he. -KJV

When our spiritual vision is lacking we find ourselves wandering around struggling for direction. We encounter frustration and often, like my experience was, we end up keeping spiritual things at arm's length to try to figure them out. The New King James translation of this verse is

Proverbs 29:18 Where *there* is no revelation,* the people cast off restraint;

But happy *is* he who keeps the law. -NKJV

I have found this to be quite accurate in church life. When we have no direction, or revelation as to our purpose, we cast off our discipline. When we understand the spiritual goals that God has called us to be about, we more readily embrace the necessary discipline.

Last Sunday we identified Salvation as one of the primary goals of the church's ministry calling. It's a part of Christ's ministry and part of our vision. I sincerely hope that we understand the value of the salvation Christ has secured for those who will receive it by faith. I once again encourage you to not allow it to be something that we consider at arm's length, but really bring it up close and personal. When we understand how great of a gift it is, it literally transforms us and our thinking. We realize that we are not just here for ourselves. We are His!

When we understand this

wonderful gift, we will be compelled to share it. If we have no desire to share it, we really need to reevaluate our understanding of salvation. It is *that* transformational and life changing. It is part of the vision of the Church. I hope this understanding is like my experience putting on my reading glasses...it made things so much clearer.

Loving you all,

Michael

Prayer Concerns

Marie Bachman (*Friend of John VanAntwerp family*)
Larhonda Behl (*Friend of Karla Lehr family*)
Dick Bennett
Darcie Brooks (*Deloras Martin's niece*)
Joe Burch (*Linda Lovell's son-in-law*)
Scott Carnes (*Donna James' nephew*)
Delanie Casto
Mary Chamberlain (*Dan Chamberlain's sister*)
Evelyn Chamberlain Einhouse (*Don Chamberlain's sister*)
Alan & Shawna Coffey (*Friends of Lori Schweighardt*)
Shelia Combs (*Friend of Steve Allred family*)
Karen Dworzynski (*Mary Boehm's sister*)
Kay Foreman (*Judy Ferguson's sister*)
Molly Goodman
Paul Guthrie
Eva Kelly
Sharon Killebrew
Betty Killebrew
Dawn Kubinski & family (*Friends of Lori Schweighardt*)
Rosemary Lerch
Joe and Ruth Lofgren (*Rosemary Clark's family*)
Dawn Manson (*Kenny Manson's mother*)
Ron Martin (*Rhonda Vinyard's cousin*)
Taylor Martin (*Friend of Larry Wigington family*)
Dan Martin (*Rhonda Vinyard's cousin*)
Becky Neese
Scott Osment
Judy Parks (*Michael & Julie Boren's sister-in-law*)
Scott Payne (*Judy Dunham & Carole Elledge's brother-in-law*)
Kathy Pressey
Mary Evelyn Rupert
Scotty Scarbeary (*Friend of Dorothy Yaeger*)
Linda Schmitt (*Karen Goodwin's sister*)
Nadine Sowdan (*Friend of Roger Yaeger's family*)
Eddie White

Serving Schedule for January 29, 2012

Elders: Joyce Lemons, Wayne Chamberlain
Diaconate: Carol Cooley, Glen Cooley, Keith Elledge, Sandy Wigington, Robin Herron, Ruth Hulford
Preparation of Communion-8:00AM: Steve & Vicki Tharp
Preparation of Communion-10:30AM: Wayne & Cindy Chamberlain
Sound System: John VanAntwerp
Candle Lighters: Sydney Bauer, Lauren Saxe
Scripture Reader: Kay Sealock
Nursery Helper-8:00AM: Carmen Long
Nursery Helper-10:30AM: Alayna Mendenhall
Communion to Shut-ins: Mike & Julie Boren, Charlie & Mary Gates
Family Meal Date: February 1, 2012
Family Meal Crew: Ann Ferguson, Rosemary Clark & Crew
Driver: Call the church--285-4129

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
PITTSFIELD, ILLINOIS

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Pittsfield, IL 62363 Crossroads: (217) 285-6171
E-mail: info@fccpittsfield.org

Staff: Michael Ten Eyck, Pastor
Luke Justice, Youth/Associate Minister
Helen Earls, Music & Christian Education
Rebecca Rhodes, Administrative Secretary
Maria Owens, Custodian

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. M-Th
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. F

Worship times every Sunday:
8:00 a.m., 9:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Church School: 8:00 a.m. and 9:15 a.m.

Wednesday Oasis 42

Total 332

Operating Fund Receipts

01/22

Estimate Needed Year-to-Date to Meet Budget \$33,073.00

Received to Date \$32,551.00

Estimate Needed per Week to Meet Budget \$8,268.00

Received 1/16 - 1/22 \$8,897.00

Wishes and Wants

Wanted: Yards to mow this summer. Jim Belford
285-1365.

Stewardship

01/22

Operational \$7,181.35

Property Improvement \$27.00

Outreach--Missionaries \$70.00

DHF \$75.00

Outreach-General \$53.00

Blankets - CWF \$115.00

Total \$7,521.35

Christian Education Attendance

01/22

Nursery 4

Three - K 8

First-Third 5

Fourth-Sixth 8

Seventh-High School 5

Disciples 21

New Beginnings 12

Young Adult 8

Bible Study 6

Wednesday Youth 52

Total 129

Worship Attendance

01/22

8AM Worship 74

9:15AM Oasis 55

10:30AM Worship 161