

The Great Bend Christian



Vol. 44

May 2011

No. 05

BILL'S BITS -

May is an action packed month, with things like Mother's Day, Graduation and Memorial Day. I share a thought for each of these big days.

GOD BLESS MOTHERS

An overprotective mother accompanied her son to his college registration. While he stood in line to sign up for classes, she made her way to the registrar's office. "I'm here to be sure my son gets the right roommate," she said. "I also want to be sure that this school does not tolerate foul language, dirty movies, or alcoholic beverages. It is very important that my son be exposed to a totally Christian atmosphere. After all," she added, "this is the first time he's ever been away from home-except for the three years he spent in the Marines." Very few mothers are that naïve, but the love of every mother comes with a certain amount of built-in blindness, doesn't it? And perhaps that is the way it should be. No matter how old we get, we never outgrow the need to have at least one person love us without reservation, with a totally positive outlook, and with the firm conviction that we are essentially good people. Come to think of it, that's exactly the way the New Testament says God loves us. Maybe that is why he gave us mothers-to let us know what he is like.

THE JOY OF GRADUATION

May has been one of the big months for graduation for high school, colleges, universities, and other schools. As always, we rejoice with our youth as they graduate and set their faces toward new goals and pursuits. Our joy and prayers go with you. All of us need to remind ourselves that we as God's children are constantly moving toward graduation into glory. A friend of the late W. C. Fields recalled going to see the comedy actor in his last days at the hospital. The friend found the actor reading the Bible. "What are you doing?" asked the friend. "Looking for loop holes," Fields replied. Now we are called to study and live by the scriptures, not looking for loop holes, but preparing for eternity.

MEMORIAL DAY

To some Memorial Day is the front door to summer. Yet there are none of us that does not owe something to others including the departed. There are the countless people who have given their all to our country and to others. It is good to remember the departed in gratitude. These people are a part of God's blessing upon us. The memory of the departed ought to serve as a summons to us to faithfully serve God by serving others. Not only should we remember the dead but we should express our gratitude to the living before their days are done here on earth. - adapted

Best Wishes for a Great May! Bill

First Christian Church

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The Great Bend Christian
(USPS 576-380)
Published Monthly
By First Christian Church
5230 Broadway
Great Bend, KS 67530
Postmaster Send Address changes to:
First Christian Church
5230 Broadway
Great Bend, KS 67530
Periodicals Postage Paid
At Great Bend, KS 67530

Sunday Services

- 8:15 am Early Worship
- 9:00 am Sunday School
- 10:20 am Morning Worship

Sunday Activities

Wednesday Activities

- 5:30 pm Family Fellowship Dinner
- 6:00 pm Pre K-2nd , JYF (Grades 3rd-5th)
- 7:00 pm Choir Practice
- 7:30 pm CYF & Chi-Rho (Grades 6-12)

Opportunities for Service and Growth

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Adult and Children's Choirs | Promise Keepers |
| Vacation Bible School | Disciples' Men |
| Men's Groups | Women's Groups |
| Sunday school for all ages | Kansas Disciple Women |
| Regional Assembly | Junior and Senior High Youth Group |
| Bible Studies | Youth Ski Trip |
| Mission Projects and Trips | Social Events |
| Special Services | Educational seminars/workshops |

<p>First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) 5230 Broadway - Great Bend, Kansas 67530 -6603 620-793-3136 (Fax)</p> <p>William Johnson.....Minister Kelli FrazierChristian Ed Coordinator Justin Frazier Youth Coordinator Kathy Rose.....Secretary Jerry Ford.....Music Director Mary Hunter.....Bell Choir Director Connie Weiser.....Organist Arlon Johnson.....Custodian Tammy Garrison.....Nursery Attendant</p> <p>Office Hours: M-F 8:00—12:00 1:00—3:00</p>

<p>Rev. Bill Johnson, Minister bjohnson@cck.kscoxmail.com Kathy Rose, Church Secretary fcc@cck.kscoxmail.com Kelli Frazier, Christian Ed Coordinator kfrazier@1stcc.org Justin Frazier, Youth Coordinator jfrazier@1stcc.org Web Site www.firstchristiangb.org</p>

Please notify the church office if you would like to have yourself or your loved one included in our prayers. fcc@cck.kscoxmail.com or 793-6603.



....Merlin & Nelva Grimes & Family upon the loss of Merlin's brother, Homer
....Gene & Earlene Nairn upon the loss of Gene's sister, Elva Petz
....Josh Sheets upon the tragic death of a friend in the Kansas City area
....Doris Berkley & Family upon the loss of Doris's niece, Peggy Turner
....David & Alana Blessing & Family upon the loss of David's mother, Linda Saenz



Shane Agosto, Army, Melissa Hittle's former student - Afghanistan
Susi Bargainear, LaDonna Moore's niece - Korea
Bryce Batchman, Air Force, Debbie & Richard Batchman's son - Schriever Air Force Base, Colorado Springs, CO
Chris Batchman, Army Reserve Recruiter, Debbie & Richard Batchman's son - Olathe, KS
Lt. Col. Ken Bellinger, Army Chaplain, Cliff Bellinger's son - Germany
Malcolm Deason, Army, Nelson Deason's son, Marilyn Deason's grandson - Hawaii
Jesse Freeman, Jessica Marston's friend - Japan
Joe Johns, Army Reserves, Kathy Foster's nephew-in-law
Steven McGee, son of Mystie (Svatos) McGee - Afghanistan
Josh Prewitt, Marines, Roger & Laina Marshall's nephew - Afghanistan
Steve Rice, Lt. Colonel, Air Force, Melissa Hittle's former classmate - Afghanistan



Cherry Village Nursing Home
Martha McKown
Country Place Senior Living
Arlene Cox
Great Bend Health & Rehab
Viola Schwein
River Bend Assisted Living
Ione Strohm
Sterling House of Great Bend
Darlene Biggs
Lela Wilson
Woodhaven Care Center - Ellinwood
Esther Burhenn

April Attendance and Gifts

	03	10	17	24	AVG
Sunday School	43	52	69	58	56
Early Service	41	36	39	46	41
Late Service	126	133	161	265	171
Children's Church	6	10	25	25	17
TOTAL	173	179	225	336	228
General Offering	7,138.05	5,356.73	5,579.18	3,905.18	5,494.78
Roof Fund	617.50	632.50	172.50	325.00	436.88
Special Offerings	1,266.93	377.00	82.06	806.82	633.20
TOTAL	9,022.48	6,366.23	5,833.74	5,037.00	6,564.86

* Special Offerings include Memorial for Dean Wells, Outreach, Youth Mission Trip, Wednesday Night Dinner, Barton County Emergency Aid Donations, DMF Easter Offering, Palm Sunday Pot Luck, Easter Breakfast

General Fund:

Year-to-Date Needs	95,307.80	102,115.50	108,923.20	115,730.90	-----
Year-to-Date Giving	68,835.52	74,192.25	79,771.43	83,676.61	-----

Cabinet Meeting Date: May 4th, 6:00 pm



Disciples Men Fellowship
Saturday, May 7th
9:00 am



COME ONE! COME ALL!
AN EVENING OF FUN AND GAMES
May 1st
6:00 PM
CHURCH PARLOR
Bring your games!
A good time will be had by all!



Martha Group
Hostess: Louise Gunn
Program: Anneliese Ward
May 18, 2011, 1:30 pm

Lunch Bunch
May 18, 2011, 11:30 am
The Highland

Joy Group
Hostesses: Louise Gunn/Lois Johnson
Program: Patsy Hiss
May 24, 2011, 12:00 pm

New Day Group
Hostess: Janis Fairchild
Program: Jenny Colglazier
May 23, 2011, 7:00 pm



Welcome to God's Family

Please give a warm welcome to our newest member, Blake Sheets. Blake Sheets joined our church through baptism on Easter Sunday! Welcome aboard!



Thank You Notes

Thank you to Janis Fairchild for the highest bid during the CWF Silent Auction for the queen-size quilt topped by Mildred Boepple. Janis won the quilt with a bid of \$275 to go towards the roof fund. Janis said it was well worth it and donated \$500 instead! Thanks again, Janis!

Dear First Christian Church Members,

The Association of Barton County Emergency Aid wants to give you a sincere thank you for the recent monetary donation you gave to the Barton County Emergency Aid Association. We will be able to help many families in Barton County who need a helping hand from the donations of many generous people. We appreciate donations, and expertise, shared by the Great Bend Community. Thank you once again.

In Christian Fellowship,
Barton County Emergency Aid Association

Dear Members of First Christian Church,

Thank you for the many kindnesses of food, flowers, memorials, cards, and prayers following my knee surgery and Dean's passing. It is wonderful to have such a supportive church family and a minister like Pastor Bill.

Sue Wells

Bill, Kathy, and the Church,

Thank you for your concern for me in the passing of my mother. I really appreciate your gift of the beautiful plant and your support.

Terry Wiens and Family

Thank you, Rev. Bill, and everyone for your visits, prayers, and all of the cards. It was appreciated so very much.

Love and Prayers, Floreine Blankenship



Congratulations to Gary and Sheryl French upon the birth of their new grandson. Tristan Michael French was born March 23rd to Chris and Allison French of Overland Park, Kansas. Tristan weighed 7 lbs and was 19.5 inches long. Big sister Ellie Annie French helped welcome him home.

Madelyn Ann Snodgrass was born Friday, March 25, 2011, at 8:14 am, weighing 5 lbs. 11 oz. and was 18 inches long. Her proud parents are Dustin and RuthAnn Snodgrass of La Crosse. She was welcomed home by her big sister, Addison.

Violet Lydia Cuta was born Sunday, March 27, 2011, at 8:21 pm, weighing 8 lbs. 6 oz. and was 21 inches long. Her proud parents are Rachael and Josh Cuta of Bloomington, MN. Big sister Rane welcomed Violet home.

Proud grandparents for both Madelyn and Violet are Rhonda and Jerry Glenn. Proud great-grandparents are Bill and Janis Fairchild. Aunt Rebecca Burton along with cousins Alexis and Aiden Burton also welcomed the new additions into the family.



Fellowship Meals

2011 WEDNESDAY NIGHT FAMILY DINNER SCHEDULE

May 4th - POT LUCK

May 11th - Group V

May 18th - Group I

May 30, 2011

The price of freedom

In “What Did He Die For?” Twila Paris reminds us why we observe Memorial Day – and why we worship Jesus as our Savior. The first verse tells of a 21-year-old soldier fighting for America’s freedom during World War II. The second verse recalls another young man, many centuries prior, sent by his Father to win eternal freedom from sin for the entire world.

The chorus offers this challenge:

“What did he die for when he died for you and me,
Made the sacrifice so that we could all be free?
I believe we will answer each to heaven
For the way we spend a priceless liberty.
Look inside and ask the question, What did he die
for?”

Memorial Day challenges us to live so as to honor the sacrifices made by members of the military. We value our freedom because of the heavy price people have paid for it. Likewise, every day we’re challenged to live so as to honor Jesus’ supreme sacrifice. He calls us to spend our “priceless liberty” using our blessings to bless others.