

# The Great Bend Christian



Vol. 41

August 2008

No. 8

## BILL'S BITS -

### **MY DADDY CAME HOME TODAY!**

*"Where are the other nine?" (Luke 17:17)*

It was during the dark days of World War II. The Netherlands had fallen, the Belgian plain had been overrun, and France was being taken. The British Expeditionary Force had been sent to assist the beleaguered French and Belgian forces, but with little effect. Late in May, 1940, the British found their mission hopeless, and the only way out was the port of Dunkirk.

Over 338,000 British, French, and Belgian troops were hemmed in at Dunkirk, without sufficient Navy vessels to rescue them. The weary Allies sought shelter amid the sand dunes while the Nazi planes sprayed them with machine-gun fire. It looked as though their cause was hopeless unless God worked a miracle.

Between May 26 and June 4, perhaps as many as 650 boats of all descriptions, from British Navy vessels to lowly fishing boats, participated in one of the most daring-if not miraculous-rescues ever. With help from the Royal Air Force and Hitler's decision not to use tanks at Dunkirk, this rag-tag armada succeeded in getting the Allies out of Dunkirk before the Nazis were able to occupy the port.

In England, a minister noticed a small boy come into the church sanctuary and kneel to pray. It was not a Sunday or any other special day, just an ordinary weekday. He knelt for so long a time that the minister began to wonder about him.

When the boy finally arose to leave, the minister asked, "Do you come here often to pray?" "I have come four times in the last five days," he replied. "Do you have someone fighting at Dunkirk?" asked the perceptive minister. "Yes, my daddy," the boy replied. "But he came home today; so I came to church to thank God for getting him home safely."

Too often, we are like the nine lepers in the story from Luke's Gospel. When we get what we want from God, we forget to thank Him. How could we ever be so ungrateful?

Prayer is not always asking God for something, or pleading for some kind of miracle. One of the most beautiful parts of prayer is the coming back, as did the man in the New Testament story, and as did the English lad, to give thanks to God.

Someone has suggested that we would more often have results for which to thank God if we more often gave thanks for the results that we do get!

Items in our church life to thank God for: 1) The VBS program and all the hard work all the helpers did under Patsy Hiss's leadership. Thanks folks! 2) Thanks to Mary Hunter for the Children's program. That was great! 3) I am happy to note that we have had several kids go to our church camp this summer. They had a great time! 4) Our church family has enjoyed great special music during the summer. Thanks to Jerry Ford and Connie Weiser for arranging the specials! 5) As always, please continue to pray for the sick by name, the board, every Sunday school program, the search committee, the fall choir program, the college students, and the return to school. - Adapted

See you Sunday! - Bill

## **First Christian Church**

**5230 Broadway, Great Bend, KS 67530**

**E-mail: [fcc@cck.kscoxmail.com](mailto:fcc@cck.kscoxmail.com)**

**620-793-6603**

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### **Sunday Services**

8:15 am Early Worship

9:00 am Sunday School

10:20 am Morning Worship

### **Sunday Activities**

6:00-8:00 pm Grades 7-12 Youth Group

### **Wednesday**

5:30-7:00 pm Family Fellowship Supper

6:30-7:15 pm K-6<sup>th</sup> Program

6:30-7:15 pm Adult Bible Study

7:00-8:00 pm Middle School Bible Study

8:00-9:00 pm High School Bible Study

### **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

### **First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**

5230 Broadway - Great Bend, Kansas 67530

620.793.6603 620-793-3136 (Fax)

William Johnson.....Minister

.....Youth Coordinator

Kathy Rose.....Secretary

Jerry Ford.....Music Director

Mary Hunter.....Bell Choir Director

Connie Weiser.....Organist

DeWayne and Brenda Wagner.....Custodians

Tammy Jording.....Nursery Attendant

Rev. Bill Johnson, Minister

[bjohnson@cck.kscoxmail.com](mailto:bjohnson@cck.kscoxmail.com)

Kathy Rose, Church Secretary

[fcc@cck.kscoxmail.com](mailto:fcc@cck.kscoxmail.com)

Web Site

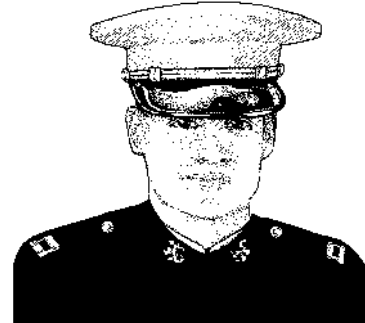
[www.firstchristiangb.org](http://www.firstchristiangb.org)



....to the family and friends of Clarence Lebbin, the father of Ken Lebbin and Mrs. Rob Dove

....to the family and friends of Marvin Schwilling, Karen Searle's father

...to the family and friends of Danny Biggs



**PRAY FOR OUR  
U.S. MILITARY**

**Mike & Susi Bargainear**, relatives of LaDonna Moore - Ft.

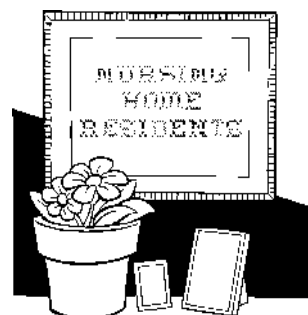
Campbell, KY

**Staff Sgt. Ryan Barnes** - nephew of Connie Weiser - Iraq

**Lt. Col. Ken Bellinger**, Army Chaplain, Cliff Bellinger's son - Iraq

**Josh Gieger**, Army, Roger Marshall's fraternity brother's son - Iraq

**Delbert Wells**, nephew of Hap Donecker - Germany



**Great Bend Health & Rehab**

Polly Omlor

Viola Schwein

**River Bend Assisted Living**

Marge Keller

**Kansas Christian Home**

Louise McCullum

**Cherry Village Nursing Home**

Mildred Lang

Martha McKown

Rachel Williams

**Sterling House of Great Bend**

Wilma Hauser

John Richardson

Lela Wilson

**Woodhaven Care Center - Ellinwood**

Mildred Boepple

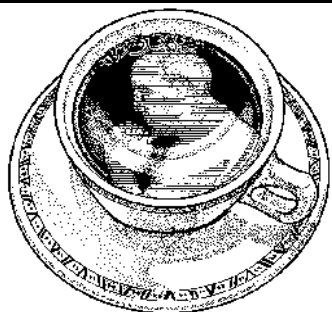
Please notify the church office if you would like to have yourself or your loved one included in our prayers. [fcc@cck.kscoxmail.com](mailto:fcc@cck.kscoxmail.com) or 793-660

## July Attendance and Gifts

	6	13	20	27	AVG
<b>Sunday School</b>	27	26	25	19	24
<b>Early Service</b>	44	31	57	39	43
<b>Late Service</b>	98	140	137	136	128
<b>Children's Church</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>171</b>
<b>General Offering</b>	7,885.22	3,660.50	2,984.98	4,062.50	4,648.30
<b>Bldg. Offerings</b>	8,555.00	1,075.00	842.50	235.00	2,676.88
<b>Special Offerings</b>	705.33*	55.00*	254.20*	2,901.70*	979.06*
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17,145.55</b>	<b>4,790.50</b>	<b>4,081.68</b>	<b>7,199.20</b>	<b>8,304.23</b>

\* Special Offerings include Memorials for Erma Moore, Marvin Schilling, Ethel Baldwin, and Danny Biggs, VBS, garage sale and wedding fees

**Elders/Deacons Meeting – August 13 – 8 pm**  
**Cabinet Meeting – August 20 - 7 pm**  
**Board Meeting – August 20 – 8 pm**



### MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

## FCC Men's Breakfast Club!

1st Saturday of each month  
at the Highland Hotel  
8:00 am

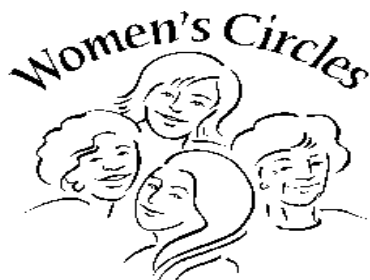
Program: Mary Hunter



## SIGN UP TODAY!

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

First Christian Church will be delivering Meals on Wheels in September. Sign up sheets are in the narthex. Thank you for your help!



#### Martha Group

August 20 - 9:30 am  
Hostess: Earlene Arnold  
Program: Ione Strohm

#### Lunch Bunch

August 20 - 11:30 am  
The Highland

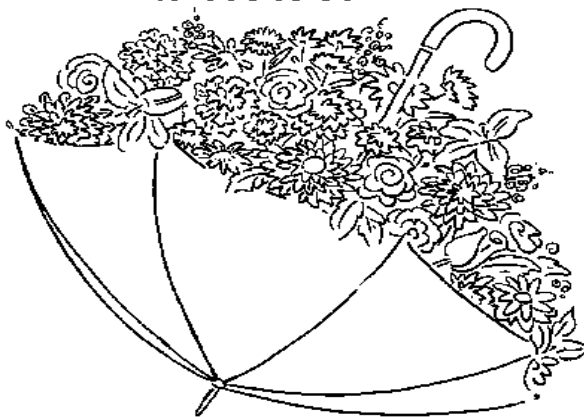
#### Joy Group

August 26 - 12 noon  
Hostesses:  
Program:

#### New Day Group

August 25 - 7:00 pm  
Friendship Classroom  
Hostess: Louise Gunn

## Bridal Shower



Ladies, please join us in the parlor at 2 pm on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008, for a Bridal Shower for Wendy Fehrenbach, Jeremy Rusco's fiance'.

Wendy and Jeremy are registered at Kustom Floor Design and E & E Glass.

**DAVE RAMSEY FINANCIAL PEACE CLASS**

A Dave Ramsey Financial Peace Class will begin on Monday, September 8, 2008, at 7:00 pm. There will be a brief orientation of the class on Sunday, August 24, 2008, at 1:30 pm in the church parlor. For information please call Debbie at 620-793-0604 or Clayton at 620-617-3364.

*Thank You!*

**Dear Church Family,**

Thank you to the Chancel and Bell Choir for the beautiful lily you sent after the loss of our Mom. Thanks also for the many cards sent and prayers lifted up for our family. Mom loved to hear the choir and bells perform and always seemed to receive such a blessing from the performances.

We would also like to express our gratitude and appreciation to the ladies of the church who prepared the delicious funeral dinner after we lost Mom. It was so comforting to be able to eat, relax, and enjoy our friends and family who came so far to be with us during our difficult time. God bless you for giving your time for us.

It was also so special for Mom to receive one of the beautiful prayer shawls while she was in the hospital. It was a comfort to us as well to know that Mom was being covered by warmth and prayers from Julie Ford and the other ladies participating in the Prayer Shawl Ministry. What a blessing that was as well!

We want to thank our ROTC Sunday School class for the generous donation of Pizza Hut certificates. They came in so handy when we had family home. What a thoughtful gift!

And finally, thanks again to Rev. Bill and Lois and all our church family who have been there for us through this difficult time either by visits or phone calls, cards, prayers, or bringing us food. You are so special to us and we will always take comfort from your love and support.

The church was so important to Mom and we feel so blessed to be a part of such a loving church family.

Love through Christ,  
Roger and Leesa Butler and Family  
Lane and LaDonna Moore and

Family

Libbie Moore

**Dear Church Family,**

Thank you for the reception and the necklace and book that you gave us for graduation. Our church family has been so caring and supportive over the years. We are very fortunate to have been raised around a loving church family. We will cherish the gifts and the memories for years to come. Thank you!

Julietha Jones and Sarah Jones

**Dear Church Scholarship Committee and Church Family,**

Thank you for selecting me to be one of the recipients of the First Christian Church Scholarship. It will help me with my education at BCCC. Thank you again for being so supportive.

Sarah Jones

**Dear Bill & Church Family,**

Our daughter-in-law, Lisa, is back with her family. She received treatment at Mayo's. It's a joyous time for Clay and their children.

Thank you for all the prayers! Life will be good for them again! God listens!

Earlene & Gene Nairn

**To the First Christian Church:**

To thank you for your kindness and sympathy at a time when it was deeply appreciated. The service was wonderful. Thank you for your hospitality.

The Wayman Johnson Family

We want to thank the church for the visits, cards, and telephone calls. Also, thank you to Rev. Bill and Lois for their kindness and sweetness. We love you! May God bless the church!

M. L. and Arlene Cox



Congratulations to Ona and Nathan Florian on the birth of their son, Preston Charles Florian, born on July 2, 2008. Preston weighed 7 lbs. 9 1/2 oz and was 20 inches long. His older brother, Troy, welcomed him home. Proud great-grandmother is Marilyn Deason.

**Disciple Men's Fall Retreat**

"Life with God"

Facilitator: Rev. Ken Marston

Associate Regional Minister

September 26-27, 2008

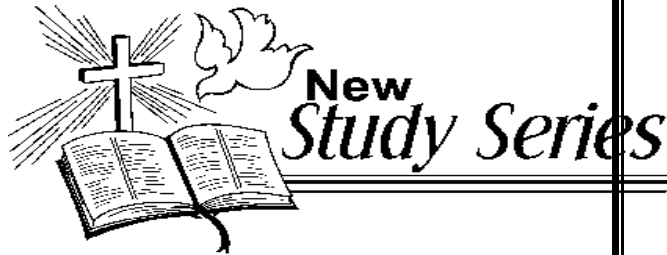
Disciples Center at Tawakoni

**Life with God** - In today's world life is often confusing and draining. Jesus said that he came that we might have "life and life abundant." So

how do we get from the life we have to the life God wants us to have? That is the focus of this year's men's retreat - as we explore the questions of "Who am I?", "Where am I in my relationship with God?", and "How do I live moment by moment in the presence of and under the guidance of God."

Registration Deadline is September 1, 2008.  
Registration forms are available in the church office.

## YOU ARE INVITED!



The Friendship Class would like to invite adults of all ages to join us each Sunday morning at 9 AM for Bible study.

A new series begins August 31, 2008:

### THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

We will embark on a journey that will strengthen our understanding and appreciation of the Gospel of John by enabling us to engage the Scripture on three levels:  
What does the Bible say?  
What does this passage mean?  
How does the Scripture relate to my life?

Join us as we take a look at Jesus through John's eyes!



### 'Twas the day after Bible School

'Twas the day after Bible school and all over town,  
With a sigh of relief, we all settled down.  
Out to the golf course goes Dad in his cap,  
And home in the bedroom Mom's taking a nap.  
Gone Linda, gone Brenda, gone David and Johnny,  
Gone Margie, and Mary, and Ronnie and Donnie.  
Gone stories, and puppets, and songs in the air,  
Gone paint under fingernails and paste in the hair.  
Rest sweetly, dear workers, and wake with good cheer.  
For Bible school won't come again for a year.

As they drifted off, I heard them exclaim:  
"It was worth all the hard work and we'd do it again!"

## VBS WAS A HUGE SUCCESS BECAUSE OF YOU! THANK YOU!

### I BELIEVE IN THE CHURCH

I believe more profoundly in the church every hour that I live. A man can make his testimony go further through the church than through any independent movements. He can make his money, his testimony, and all his work go further. He can do more constructive work through the church than any other way in the world. That is my deepest conviction. I have watched all kinds of independent movements, and my conviction steadily deepens that a Christian is doing the wisest thing possible when he links his life with the church.

-George W. Truett

### TEN THINGS MY CHURCH PROVIDES FOR ME

1. Christian worship through which I learn to practice the presence of God.
2. Christian preaching with its spiritual instruction and its challenge to holy living.
3. Christian ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which are continual reminders of the possibility of abundant new life through surrender to God and daily communion with Him.
4. Christian instruction through which I learn to think high thoughts and discover spiritual truths.
5. Christian fellowship which will strengthen the best that is in me.
6. Christian evangelistic opportunities through which I can make my life count for God.
7. Christian training opportunities through which I can find myself and grow in the Christian life.
8. Christian service opportunities through which I can make my life more useful to God and humanity.
9. Christian missions through which I can make my influence for good felt throughout the world.
10. Christian stewardship opportunities through which I can express my gratitude to God for His grace in my life...

### OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL PLATFORM

The Sunday school is:

- The friend of childhood.
- The inspiration of youth.
- The strength of middle life.
- The comfort of declining years.

The Sunday school has:

*God's day for its time.*

*God's house for its place.*

*God's book for its text.*

The Sunday school deserves:

*The full support,*

*The prayerful interest,*

*The loyal cooperation,*

*Of every member of the church.*