

The Great Bend Christian



Vol. 41

February 2008

No. 2

BILL'S BITS - "Re-Digging the Well of Sunday School"

Years ago two young teenagers were growing up in Dallas, Texas. Both of them went to Sunday school and were very troublesome youths. One faithful teacher refused to give up on the one boy; while another teacher told the other boy to get lost, that he didn't need kids like him in church. The first youth began the Secretary of Evangelism in the Baptist Church, while the other boy grew up and shot President John F. Kennedy.

Sunday school made a difference! Just think what could have happened if both boys would have received the same, faithful Bible training. Our nation's history could be different.

Here are some figures I came across concerning Sunday school: 75% of all church members come from the Sunday school, 85% of all church workers come from Sunday school, 95% of all ministers come from Sunday school.

I look back over my home church and the number of people it sent into the ministry. From time to time I wonder why and how they sent so many into the ministry.

One thing I do remember about our home church. All the young people I can remember were active in the Sunday school program as well as the entire church program. On one occasion I can remember the young people of our youth group teaching the adult Sunday School Classes on a special Sunday. I remember teaching a Sunday School Class where my old First Grade Teacher and my grandmother were in attendance.

Five Reasons Why the Sunday School is Everybody's Business

1. God gave to all Christians the command to teach every nation. The Sunday School gives us an opportunity to fulfill this responsibility in our own "back yard", to engage personally and actively in this work, and to see the results first-hand.
2. Every church member has a stake in the Sunday school. The Sunday school is not a separate part of the congregation nor the concern of only a few. It is a teaching function of the entire church, every member sharing the responsibility.
3. Many of our children's early impressions of their faith are implanted by the Sunday school. Their loyalty to Christ in later life may depend upon the Sunday school they attended in earlier years. Do they sense the urgency, the hope and the glory of Christianity in the interest shown by the adult members?
4. In the Sunday school today are the leaders of tomorrow's congregations. The vision and vitality of the church of the future will depend largely on the adequacy of the spiritual training today's children are receiving. Equipping tomorrow's church is the task of today!
5. Someone has said that the world's battles of tomorrow are won or lost in today's homes, schools, and churches. We are not bequeathing to the next generation a stable peaceful world, but through the Sunday school we can give our youth a strong, triumphant faith to cope with the problems ahead. What are you doing to make your Sunday school an effective Christ-centered school, a concern and responsibility of every member of the congregation?

See you Sunday! - Pastor Bill

First Christian Church

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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

6:30 pm - Men's Group

Wednesday

5:30-7:00 pm Family Fellowship Supper

6:30-7:15 pm K-6th 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)

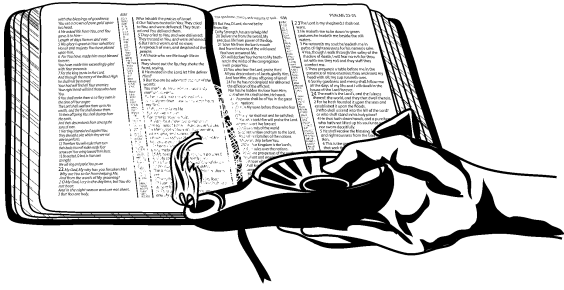
5230 Broadway - Great Bend, Kansas 67530

620.793.6603 620-793-3136 (Fax)

William Johnson.....Minister
Gavin Vavra.....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
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Kathy Rose, Church Secretary
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Web Site
www.firstchristiangb.org

Special Prayers For Those in Need



Serving Our Country

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

Campbell, KY

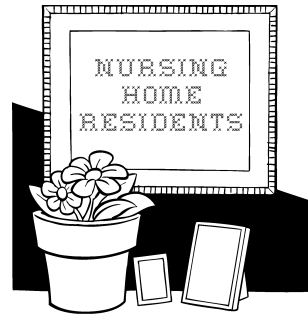
Staff Sgt. Ryan Barnes - nephew of Connie Weiser - Iraq

Logan Bayless - active duty - Army

Lt. Col. Ken Bellinger, Cliff Bellinger's son - Washington

Brian Bird, brother of Rhonda Jackson - Iraq

Delbert Wells, nephew of Hap Donecker - Germany



Great Bend Health & Rehab

Gladys Wade

Oswald Schneider

Polly Omlor

River Bend Assisted Living

Marge Keller

Winnie Phillips

Kansas Christian Home

Louise McCullum

Cherry Village Nursing Home

Mildred Lang

George McKown

Rachel Williams

Alterra-Sterling House

Wilma Hauser

Truman Strong

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 or 793-660



...to the Family and Friends of Inez Marie Jaco, John Jaco's Mother

...to the Family and Friends of Wayne Kirkman, Mike Kirkman's dad and Wanda Hoberecht's brother

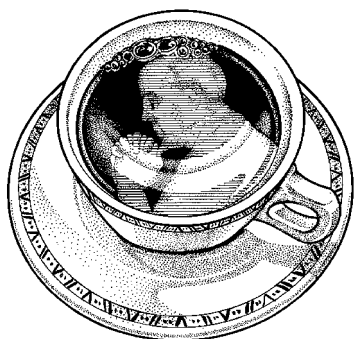
January Attendance and Gifts

	6	13	20	27	Avg. Total
Sunday School	44	40	45	45	44
Early Service	46	38	38	46	42
Late Service	162	137	98	137	134
Children's Church	3	2	9	5	5
TOTAL	211	177	145	188	180
General Offering	5,889.50	4,861.50	2,136.80	3,973.85	4,215.41
Bldg. Offerings	1,267.50	5,767.50	597.50	372.50	2,001.25
Special Offerings	20.00*	100.00*	--	201.71*	80.43*
TOTAL	7,177.00	10,729.00	3,670.21	4,548.06	6,531.07

* Special Offerings include DMF, FCC Food Bank, Children's Cookbooks, and Wed Night Family Fellowship Dinners

Cabinet Meeting – February 6 – 8 pm
Elders/Deacons Meeting – February 13 – 8 pm
Board Meeting – February 20 – 8 pm

Program: Mary Hunter



MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

FCC Men's Breakfast Club!

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

Disciples Women's Fellowship

Martha Group

February 20 - 1:30 pm
Hostess: Anneliese Ward
Program: Morna Jordan

Lunch Bunch

February 20 - 11:30 am
The Highland

Joy Group

February 26 - 12 noon
Hostesses:
Program: Helen Standley

New Day Group

February 25 - 7:00 pm
Friendship Classroom
Hostess: Janis Fairchild



Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all of your prayers for Larissa during the time of her knee surgery. She's doing just GREAT!

Sandy, Michael, and Larissa

To My Church Family,

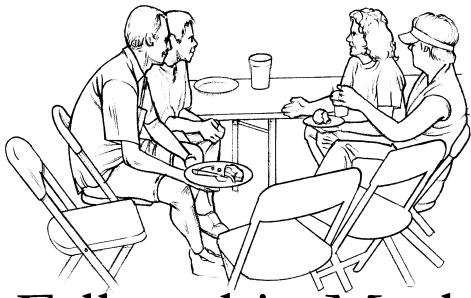
Thank you so much for the Christmas gift. I will enjoy spending the gift certificate, as I love to shop! And also, thanks to all of you who give me support with your kind words and help from day to day. I could not do my job without you, and truly appreciate being welcomed in my church home. Have a great new year! God bless all of you!

Mary Hunter

To the First Christian Church Congregation:

Christmas is a time to tell and show our love and appreciation for one another. You certainly have shown your love and appreciation for me with your gifts and gift certificates. I want to thank you for everything! So, **THANK YOU!** I enjoyed being your custodian for 8 years and now I have the privilege of being your secretary. I thoroughly enjoy my new job! Feel free to stop in and say "Hi"! My door is always open!

Sincerely,
Kathy Rose



Fellowship Meals

Wednesday Night Family Fellowship Dinner

- 5:30pm-7:00pm: All Church Dinner
- 6:30pm-7:15pm: preK-6th grade - Praise, Bible lesson and crafts
- 6:30pm-7:15pm: Adult Bible Study
- 7pm-8pm: Middle School Bible study and fellowship
- 8pm-9pm: High School Bible study and fellowship

Schedule for Wednesday Night Dinners:

- February 6 - Men's Group
- February 13 - Pot Luck
(A-K: Main Course)
(L-Z: Dessert or Salad)
- February 20 - ROTC
- February 27 - Friendship Class/Joy Group



Births in the Church Family

Congratulations to Marilyn Deason upon the birth of her great-granddaughter, Deanna May Blair. Proud grandparents are Rick and Jame Allen. Deanna was born to Travis and Ashley Blair on 01/07/08 at 12:45 pm. Deanna weighed 6lbs. 4oz. and was 18 1/2 inches long. She was welcomed home by her siblings Sierra, Austin, and Makayla.

Congratulations to Ted and Susan Brown on the birth of their granddaughter, Haley Lynn. Haley was born on 01/24/08 to Andi Brown. Haley weighed 7lbs 12oz. and was 21" long.



For anyone interested in being baptized, ages 3rd grade and up, now is the time to join the **PASTOR'S CLASS**. Beginning February 12th, from 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm, for 6 weeks, join

Pastor Bill in discovering what baptism is all about. Call Pastor Bill (793-3136) for more information.

Pastor Bill's and Lois's Pay Off Lunch

February 24, 2008
Following the 10:20 am
Service

A list will be passed at church for those wishing to attend to sign.
If you do not sign the list before February 17th, please call the church office (793-6603)



We welcome Audrey Johnson as the newest member in our church. She was baptized on Saturday, January 19, 2008. Congratulations!



JOIN US!

The Children's Choir will
sing
Sunday Morning,
February 3rd, 2008

At the 10:20 am Service

2nd Annual Hearts Aflame

Saturday, February 16, 2008

9am-4pm

Heritage Room @Highland Hotel
3017 W 10th St
Great Bend, KS

Free Admission
(Free Will Offering)

Surrendered Family Ministries will be hosting the 2nd Annual Hearts Aflame Area Wide Women's Event on February 16, 2008, from 9am-4pm at the Heritage room at the Highland Hotel. Admission is free. We are encouraging all women who are attending to register by phone (620-792-5570) or e-mail

www.surrenderedfamilyministries.org.

We are excited about having Kris Goertzen and Ginger Millermon from Hutchinson, KS.

Kris is a national speaker who has a desire to equip women to know God intimately and to live joyous, purposeful lives in the light of scripture. She serves along side her husband who is pastor at Grace Bible Church in Hutchinson. Her website is www.krisgoertzen.com.

Ginger is a top 10 recording artist and speaker who will be sharing not only her music but also her heart. It is her desire to be used by God to bring hope and encouragement. Her website is www.gingermillermon.com.

Surrendered Family Ministries has been hosting area wide events since 2003 and it is our desire to continue to bring people together, in Christ, so that god may be glorified in this area.

We believe this event will be a blessing to women of all ages.

The Bible as a letter

Soren Kierkegaard, a brilliant 19th-century philosopher, said this about the Bible: "The Bible should be read as a letter from God with our personal address on it."

How true! The Bible tells us who's behind our amazing lives. The Bible makes clear the source of our existence and explains how we're to live out our years on Earth. The Bible gives us the best rules for living with others and for living in our own skin.



Scriptures tells us of the wisdom of saints and the foolishness of scoundrels. It explains how God tries to relate to us. It guides us and provides strength and courage through our daily lives.

The Bible tells how God walked among us on Earth in the person of Christ. Most importantly, it details how Christ revealed God's immeasurable love for all humankind.

Finally, the Bible assures us that God not only cares for us here and now but will care for us in the hereafter. Forever and forever!



Thoughts for Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day, a time when thoughts turn to love. But what is love? Is it a box of chocolates, or a pretty valentine? Is it a red rose, or maybe a dozen? Is it a peck on the cheek, a fond embrace, or a big bear hug?

Well, sometimes love is known in those ways. But love, real love, is how we relate to God and to one another if life is what it ought to be - beautiful!

