

May 12, 2011

The

Christian Messenger

First Christian Church, Sullivan, Illinois

Attention All 2011 Graduates



Our annual Graduate Recognition Sunday is scheduled for May 22.

Please call the church office by May 19 if you or a loved one is graduating from high school or college.

Photos are needed for a media presentation—a childhood photo, current photo, college/career plans (high school grads) or degree conferred (college grads).

Celebrate
Pastor
Grant's
Seminary
Graduation

Sunday,
May 15

9:00 a.m.

Congregational Meeting
Sunday, May 22 ▪ after 9:00 a.m. Worship

Proposals regarding an additional Worship Service and updated Three-Year Ministry Plan will be presented.

Thank You

To the Prayer Shawl Stitching Team

Thank you so much for the lovely Prayer Shawl. I know it takes a lot of stitches and I'll think of you every time I wrap it around me.

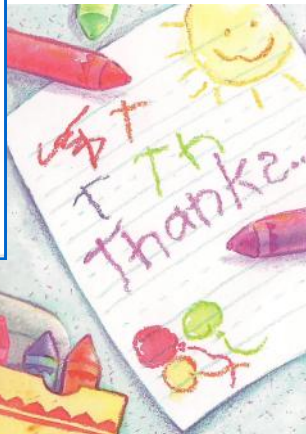
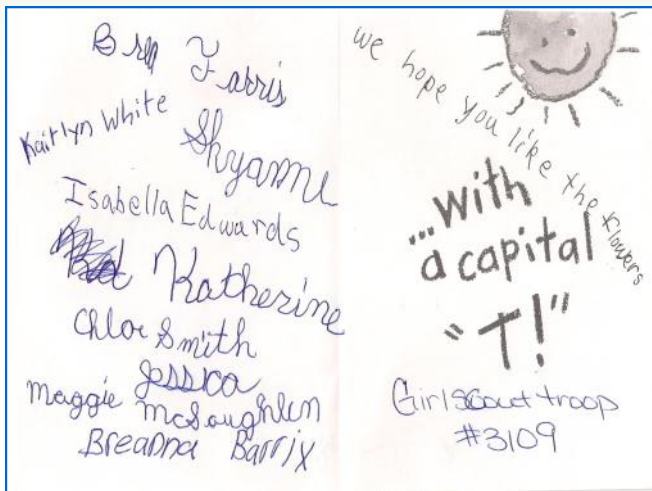
God Bless all of you,

Connie Lance

Easter Offering Update

Last year, FCC raised \$700, and this year, we were able to raise \$877. The Easter Offering supports general and racial/ethnic ministries and Disciples Home Missions. Thank you all who were able to give to or pray for this offering!

Cheri Rich and Shannon Phillips
World Outreach



Girl Scout Troop 3109
give thanks for use of
our building.
Check out the flower
pot out front that they
gave us!

New Sermon Series "You Asked For It"

Topics were submitted by
the congregation.

Upcoming Messages and Scriptures

May 15 — "Bound in Christ for Eternity" —
Matthew 28:18-20 & Romans 8:38-39

May 22 — "Are You Just Dating Jesus or Are You
Married to Him?" — James 2:14-18

May 29 — "Rachel: A Love Story" — Genesis 29:14b-30

Visit our website at www.fccsullivan.org for highlights from our Sunday
Worship Services and pictures from church events.

SHS Baccalaureate

May 22 at 8:00 p.m.

COOKIES NEEDED



Eight dozen homemade cookies are needed for Baccalaureate on May 22nd. Please contact the church office if you wish to donate cookies. Thanks.

Memorial Sunday

May 29
9:00 a.m. Worship

Join in remembering our loved ones who have passed on to their eternal resting place.



Fishers of Men

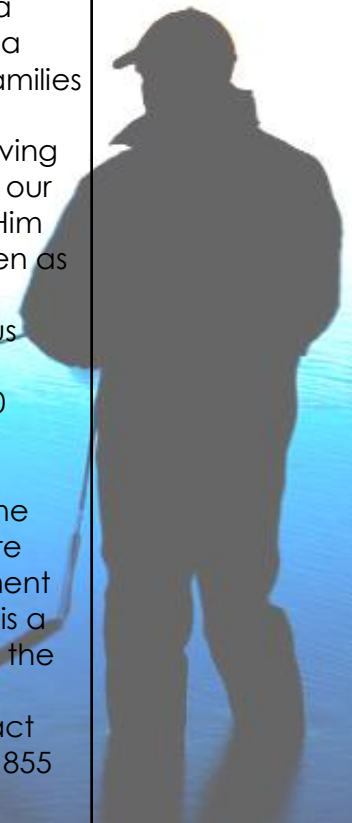
Have you noticed in the "Christian Messenger" Community Calendar section Legacy Team Trail and wonder what that is? This is a division of a national organization "Fishers of Men" bass fishing tournament trail with a mission of presenting the Gospel of Jesus Christ to fishermen and their families through competitive and professionally run fishing tournaments.

We, at Fishers of Men, believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of the Living God. We believe that he came and died on a cross for the remission of our sins and rose again on the third day. And that anyone who believes in Him and accepts Him as their personal savior, can have eternal life in Heaven as well as a life more abundant while here in this life.

Hundreds of people have made first time decisions to follow Jesus and hundreds more have renewed their commitments to Him at our meetings. Over the past eight years Fishers of Men have lead over 3,000 anglers to first- time profession of faith and over 10,000 who have rededicated life to Jesus

Legacy is a youth adult format team tournament that requires one team member to be over 19 and the other under 19. All tournaments are held on Saturday with a meeting on Friday evening before the tournament where a simple meal is provided and then a devotional message. This is a wonderful ministry as 85% of those who become Christians do so before the age of 18.

If you'd like more information or would like to help with this contact Barry Featheringill, email bfeatheringill.fom@mchsi.com, cell phone 217 855 0429.



Brother in the outside kitchen



Brothers in the kitchen



Cheri Burcham
Team Leader

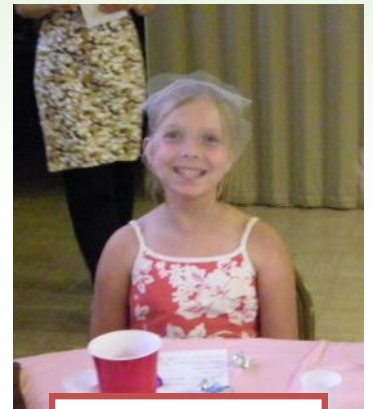


Cheri Burcham, Team Leader
Dick Burcham, Chief "Brother in the Kitchen"

Sisters in Faith Banquet

May 10, 2011

Program – Chocolate

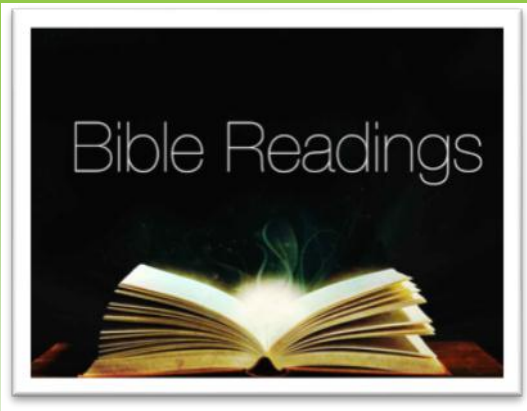


Sophie Fultz
having fun



Enjoyed by one and all !





May 2011

- 1 1 Corinthians 15:1-34
- 2 1 Corinthians 15:35-58
- 3 John 8:12-30
- 4 John 8:31-59
- 5 Psalm 85
- 6 John 10:1-21
- 7 John 10:22-42
- 8 1 Peter 1:1-25
- 9 1 Peter 2:1-25
- 10 1 Peter 3:1-22
- 11 1 Peter 4:1-19
- 12 1 Peter 5:1-14
- 13 2 Peter 1:1-21
- 14 2 Peter 2:1-22
- 15 2 Peter 3:1-28
- 16 Isaiah 25:1-12
- 17 Isaiah 26:1-21
- 18 Isaiah 40:1-31
- 19 Isaiah 41:1-20
- 20 Isaiah 42:1-25
- 21 Isaiah 43:1-21
- 22 Isaiah 49:1-26
- 23 Isaiah 51:1-16
- 24 Isaiah 65:17-25
- 25 Jeremiah 29:1-23
- 26 Jeremiah 30:1-24
- 27 Jeremiah 31:1-22
- 28 Jeremiah 31:23-40
- 29 Ezekiel 43:1-27
- 30 Revelation 21:1-27
- 31 Revelation 22:1-21

Community Calendar

Sullivan High School Choral Department
Present

""Beauty and the Beast""

May 12, 13 and 14

8:00 p.m.

Little Theatre on the Square

2011 Legacy Tournament Trail

Lake Shelbyville

May 14 2011

Wolf Creek State Park Ramp

6:00 p.m. Pre-Tournament Meeting

Friday, May 13

Coles County Barbershop Chorus

Saturday, June 11 at 4:00 p.m.

Dvorak Concert Hall at EIU, Charleston

See office bulletin board for more
information.



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Visit our website for recent sermon
audio, past newsletters, and all
kinds of helpful information!

A Call to Action from our World Outreach Team

Samaritan's Purse: Recovery in Japan and Southeastern United States

Our congregation has been anxious in knowing what our response can be to the natural disasters in Japan in early March as well as with the recent tornados that hit the Southeastern region of the United States a couple of weeks ago. My experience is of course that we should give, but sometimes waiting to see what needs are truly there is the wise policy, and this one is worth the wait. I believe our Operation Christmas Child group of Samaritan's Purse (<http://www.samaritanspurse.org/>) can give us the Christian outlet we need to meet the needs of these areas.

Japan Recovery: Needs Are Great

In March, when the earthquake and tsunami that followed killed so many in Japan, we prayed for them and wondered what the need would be. Immediate needs of food, water, clothes, tool kits, and shelter were and still are essential. Since then, additional needs for transportation have been answered through a Samaritan's Purse bicycle check-out program which has begun through many shelters, many of which are elementary schools. Our wait and prayer for the right assistance has come. Samaritan's Purse has observed the first-hand the distressing need for these people: the need for prayer and hope.

According to Franklin Graham's April 2011 newsletter, a true need is in missionary work. Of course, the money we offer will be given to aid in the necessities of surviving; however, the newsletter described people in shock nearly two months later from the tragedy, people who are immobilized and sometimes unresponsive. Missionary groups in Japan have been visiting these people in need, providing comfort, care, and Jesus' hope to help sooth them through the word of God. Our funds will support the greatest needs for the Japanese people.



Southeastern United States

During the weekend after the Alabama tornados, more than 1,200 volunteers served Samaritan's Purse to aid this hardest hit area with the clean up and basic needs. The

Samaritan's Purse site indicates the immediate needs are "in the clean up, and people can volunteer to assist in the clean up through Samaritan's Purse online at <http://spvolunteernetwork.org/>."

Samaritan's Purse can gift to both of these needs and ensure the resources are filtered to the greatest areas of need. Overall, the goal for this offering is \$1,000, which seems small still to meet the needs of both of these areas, but it is a starting point begging to be exceeded. Please dig into your purse or wallet and search your home for loose change or anything you can offer these people in the most dire needs will be delivered.



Many blessings to the survivors of these tragedies,
World Outreach



U-Night

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, May 18

Fellowship Hall Light Supper served at 6:00

Activities for adults and children of all ages.
Sign up on the Worship attendance slip, through
the Church Secretary or on Facebook.



Remember in Prayer

Family of Melba Bales, Family of Bob Davis, Kathy Leslie and family in the death of her father, Heidi Bryant, Brenda Franklin, Tim Anderson, Diann Smith, Kevin Gaither, Luella Hughes, Heather Dillner, Tracy Hudson, Tristan Warner, Dorothy Craig, Susie Parks, Lisa Morse, Diasy Keown, Marilyn Wood, Connie Lance, Mike Wilson, Vera Myers, Bob Harris, Andrea Klingel, Tara Sparrow, Nancy Davis, Carol Bolsen, John Daily, Rodney Maxwell, Gavin Wright, Bev Alwerdt, Dave Dolan, Evelyn Hale, Marge Gaule, Father John Sohm, Fran Dudley, Randy Righter, Mary Bragg, Ellen Ann Little VandenBrink, Sean Little, Russell Wiley, Bob Dudley, Robert Yaw, Don Stratman, Gary Kirkwood, Thomas Culp, Nancie Taylor, Jane Geiling, Rev. Darrell Statzer, Toby Shafer, Pat Burcham, Don Bragg, Marvene Walton, Mardelle Bolin, Celia Buesking, LaVerne Braden, Ina Buxton, Dorothy Cook, Ruth Florini, Warren Hall, Archie Lowe, Dick Mills, Alice Ray, Paul Hutchcraft

Our military serving our country

News from the Pews

- ◆ Our condolences go to the Family of Melba Bales who died on May 11. Services will be Saturday, May 14 at 10:30 a.m. at McMullin-Young Funeral Home, with a luncheon following at the church.
- ◆ We express our sympathies to the Family of Bob Davis, brother-in-law of Bev Alwerdt, who died on April 19. Graveside services will be May 12 with a luncheon following at the church.

Attendance Report "We count people-because people count!"

May 1	Worship Service	.....	122
May 8	Worship Service	.....	131

Stewardship Report

May 1	Offering	.....	\$ 4,251.00
May 8	Offering	.....	\$ 5,381.00
	Weekly Budget for 2011	.....	\$ 5,000.00

Family Matters

Warm weather is finally here! I think we can all agree that it's about time. The warmer temperatures are welcome - I can't say the same for the humidity however. The warm balmy weather reminds us that summer is approaching. Summer brings a change in routine. Kids are out of school and for many, summer is a time to relax, go on vacation, and follow their own schedule.

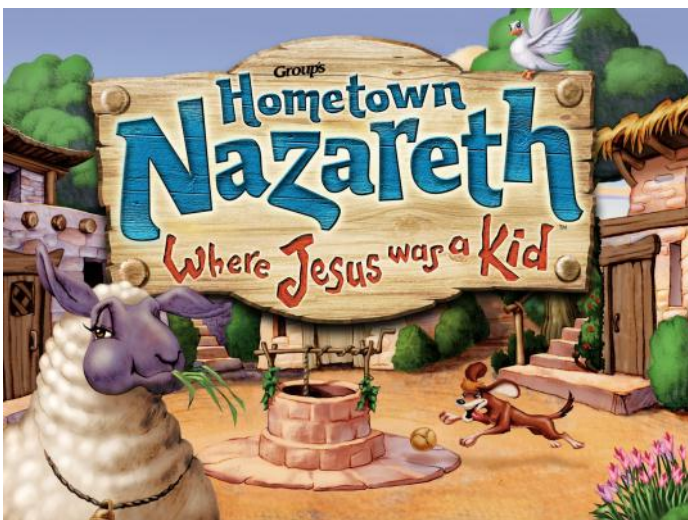
I think that summer can often cause us to lose our perspective on things. With a new routine (or lack of) it becomes easier to miss a Sunday here or there. Don't get me wrong, I think it's great to go on vacation! However, I want to stress that summer is not a time to just "check-out". For parents especially, it is important to communicate to your children that going to church is important summer or winter, spring or fall.

There are going to be a lot of exciting things going on at FCC this summer and it is my hope that you'll make church activities a priority. I'm especially looking forward to Vacation Bible School. This year's VBS is July 18th-22nd from 5:30-8:00pm. Our theme for this year is "Hometown Nazareth: Where Jesus was a Kid". I'm really excited about this year's VBS because it is going to be a great opportunity for kids (and adults) to gain a better understanding of what life was like during the time Jesus lived.

Mark July 18-22 on your calendar and begin praying for the children that will be coming to VBS this summer. I'd also ask you to consider what role you can play as a volunteer at VBS this summer!

See You Sunday,

Pastor Grant



Becky's By-line

I hope you are enjoying our new and improved newsletter. It is taking Michelle, Grant and I some time to get used to the new format, but it certainly is worth the effort. It is exciting to include more photographs of great moments in the life of our church family and who doesn't like that???



Michelle compiled a wonderful cost comparison for me which shows the financial savings which come along with this change in how we communicate. The number of newsletters we print and mail now numbers 55 rather than 295. Although we must pay first-class rates for those mailings rather than bulk rate, we still save money. Taking into consideration the paper, postage, and copying costs, we save around \$140 per month or close to \$1700 per year. When you add in the fact that we used to print some of the newsletter in color once in a while, the savings is probably closer to \$2000. That is \$2000 we can now put toward other areas of ministry.

Thank you for your patience and feedback regarding the newsletter. As I mentioned before, this is a work in progress so we appreciate your patience as well as your comments. We want to be good stewards with everything God entrusts to us. We also want to strengthen our communications with you so you will be as up-to-date as we are.



We have many celebrations coming up in the life of our church. I'm still basking in the afterglow of Easter—how about you? We will continue that this Sunday as we have two more youth who are being baptized. We also are celebrating Grant's seminary graduation—what a wonderful moment, indeed! Then May 22 is Graduate Sunday when we celebrate all our high school and college graduations. The following Sunday, May 29, is designated Memorial Sunday and is the time when this church family remembers our loved ones who have passed on to their eternal home since last Memorial Day.

I hope you will find time in your lives to celebrate with your church family in the upcoming Sundays. We have much about which to thank God!

Pastor Becky

SUNDAY SERVICES

9:00 AM Morning Worship
10:15 AM Church School

Phone - 217-728-7351
Fax - 217-728-7352

Michelle Liddiard, Secretary
Office Hours: M-F 9 to 12:00, 1 to 4:00
Church E-mail: fcc5@mchsi.com

Rebecca S. Ingram, Senior Pastor
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Address Service Requested

