

The Great Bend Christian



Vol. 42

December 2009

No. 12

BILL'S BITS -

CHRISTMAS: GOD'S PROMISE DELIVERED

Ivory Soap, as we know it today, is partly the result of an accident! During the Civil War (1861-1865), the firm of Proctor and Gamble of Cincinnati, Ohio, had a contract to furnish candles and soap for the Army. They had so many orders that they had to run their little factory twenty-four hours a day and build machines which helped them produce more soap in less time. Then one day, something happened. One story says that during a night shift, a mixing-machine operator fell asleep on the job, and the machine over-whipped the mixture. The batch of soap was so over-whipped and contained so much air that the bars of soap floated when placed in water. The foreman was about to have it dumped back into the kettle to be boiled again, but someone suggested, "Let's see; maybe the customers will like it." And they did! Soon up and down the Ohio River, orders poured in, "Send us more floating soap. For several years, it was known as "white" soap; then one Sunday in 1879, Harley Proctor, the company's first advertising and sales manager, found a better name for it when he heard the words of Psalm 45:8 in church: "All thy garments smell of myrrh and aloes and cassia out of ivory palaces . . ." He named his soap "Ivory." The first case of *Ivory Soap* was sold in October of that year. Samples of this floating soap were sent to colleges and laboratories to be analyzed and compared with castile soaps, which were the finest soaps manufactured in that day. One chemist reported *Ivory Soap* to be "99 and 44/100% pure". These were magic words for advertising to Harley Proctor. Soon they were registered as the company's trademark with the U.S. Patent Office. "It Floats" was added in 1891 to make one of America's top advertising slogans of all time. And all this came to be because of an accident!

During his life as a Christian missionary, many "bad" things happened to the apostle Paul. Many times he got into trouble with the authorities; he was tried before rulers; he was put in prison; he was driven out of towns and forbidden to preach. One would think that all these bad things would slow down the progress of the gospel. But Paul believed that God was always in control and that for everything bad that happened, God could make good come of it. And so it was. When he wrote to the Philippians, from a Roman prison, he could tell them God had used his problems to advance the gospel. God is still in control today. He can take our bad experiences and work good, too. That's a great promise we can count on. That certainty is seen in Galatians 4:4; but when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son,---God had been preparing history for the time and place to send Jesus into the world--- another miracle of Christmas. (adapted)

Merry Christmas to All! 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

4:00 pm Grades 6-12 Youth Group

Wednesday

5:30-7:00 pm Family Fellowship Dinner

5:30-7:30 pm Youth Meetings

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
Kelli Frazier	Christian Ed Coordinator
Justin Frazier	Youth Coordinator
Kathy Rose.....	Secretary
Jerry Ford.....	Music Director
Mary Hunter.....	Bell Choir Director
Connie Weiser.....	Organist
Mike Grauer.....	Custodian
Tammy Garrison.....	Nursery Attendant

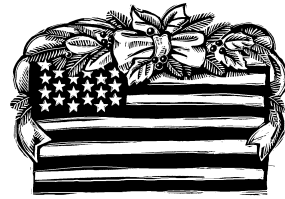
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**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR
PRAYERS:**

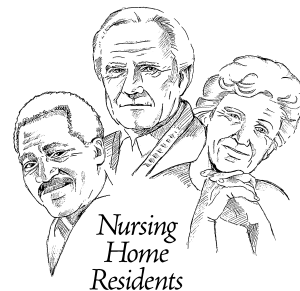


.....Randy & Annette Goering & Family upon the loss of Randy's father, Delbert Goering
.....Brad & Karen Searle & Family upon the loss of Brad's uncle, Jim Searle



**Remember Those
in the Military**

Susi Bargainear, LaDonna Moore's niece - Afghanistan
Bryce Batchman, Air Force, Debbie & Richard Batchman's son - Afghanistan
Lt. Col. Ken Bellinger, Army Chaplain, Cliff Bellinger's son - Northern Italy
Steven DeWhitt, Doris Berkley's grandson-in-law - Iraq
Joey Gardner, Hap Donecker's great-nephew - Afghanistan
Josh Gieger, Army, Roger Marshall's fraternity brother's son - Iraq
Steven McGee, son of Mystie (Svatos) McGee - Afghanistan



Great Bend Health & Rehab

Viola Schwein

Kansas Christian Home

Louise McCullum

Cherry Village Nursing Home

Cliff Bellinger

Martha McKown

Sterling House of Great Bend

Darlene Biggs

Lela Wilson

Woodhaven Care Center - Ellinwood

Esther Burhenn

November Attendance and Gifts

	1	8	15	22	29
Sunday School	69	65	72	62	N/A
Early Service	49	48	37	52	N/A
Late Service	143	128	127	159	N/A
Children's Church	10	10	12	6	N/A
TOTAL	202	186	176	217	N/A
General Offering	4,834.45	5,128.35	2,153.15	4,553.20	N/A
Bldg. Offerings	1,513.00	2,807.50	1,155.00	1,970.00	N/A
Special Offerings	2,493.83	1,281.23	415.61	547.00	N/A
TOTAL	8,841.28	9,217.08	3,723.76	7 070.20	N/A

* Special Offerings include Wed Night Dinner Donations, Memorials for Helen Standley, John Richardson, Darrell Davidson, & Lois Hart, Pumpkin Patch, Operation Christmas Child, DMF Thanksgiving Offering, Thanksgiving Baskets, and Thanksgiving Dinner donations

Cabinet/Board Meeting – December 9 – 8 pm

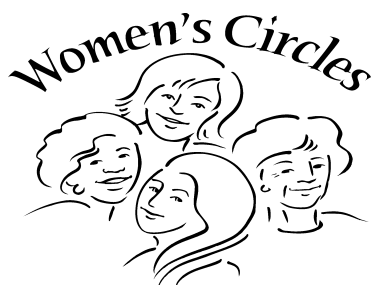
CALLING ALL MEN! Disciples Men Fellowship Saturday, December 5th 8:00 am

We will meet this month at FCC at 8:00 am. You are invited to attend for breakfast, a short devotional, and plenty of fellowship time. A sign-up sheet will be out in the Narthex. Come and join us for a morning of good 'ol fashioned "Man Time"!

New Day Group

Hostess:

Program: Christmas Party
December 20, 2009, 6:00 pm
Parlor



Martha Group

Hostess:

Program: Christmas Luncheon
December 15, 11:30 am, Classic Inn

Lunch Bunch

No Meeting in December
The Highland

Joy Group

Hostess:

Program: Christmas Luncheon
December 15, 2009, 11:30 am Classic Inn

Christmas Food Baskets



Christmas is the Time for Giving!

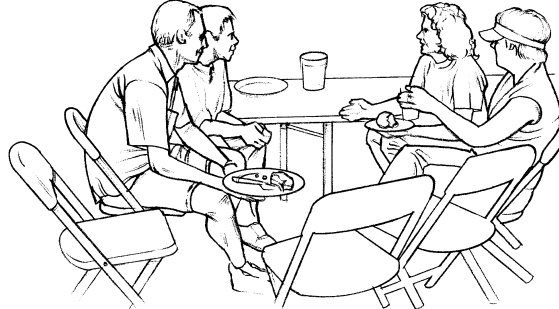
Please consider giving a monetary donation to help those less fortunate receive a Christmas Basket from First Christian Church. You may give your donation to Julie Ford or the church office. Please earmark any checks to Christmas Baskets. Thank you!

New Building Fundraiser



contacting any New Day Group member. The proceeds will go towards the building fund. Thank you!

The New Day Group will be making and selling Bierocks and Ham & Cheese Pockets for \$2.25 each or \$26.00 a dozen. Orders must be in by January 2nd. The orders will be ready by Super Bowl Sunday, February 7th. An order sign-up sheet will be in the church library or can be made by



Fellowship Meals

2009-2010 WEDNESDAY NIGHT FAMILY DINNER SCHEDULE

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

GROUP I

Ruth Behrens (Contact Person)
Louise Gunn
Rebecca Burton
Rachelle Sheets
Jennifer Keener
Randy & Annette Goering

GROUP II

Donna Marston (Contact Person)
Lois Johnson
Nadine Maier
Jennifer Cauley
Ted & Susan Brown
Morna Jordan
Glen & Dixie Hughes

GROUP III

Roger & Leesa Butler (Contact Person)
Dee Holman
Lane & LaDonna Moore
Bob & Patsy Hiss
Clark & Donna Rusco

GROUP IV

Julie Ford (Contact Person)
Bill & Janis Fairchild
Vivian Chalfant
Betty Ferrell
Melissa Hittle
Debbie Batchman
Nancy Baldwin

GROUP V

Vi Black (Contact Person)
Sue Wells
Mattie Begg
Marilyn Deason
Dolores Westfall
Nelva Grimes

December 2nd - POT LUCK
December 9th - Group IV
December 16th - Group V
December 23rd - NO DINNER
December 30th - NO DINNER

January 6th - POT LUCK
January 13th - Group I

January 20th Group II
January 27th - Group III

February 3rd - POT LUCK
February 10th - Group IV
February 17th - Group V
February 24th - Group I

March 3rd - POT LUCK

March 10th - Group II

March 17th - NO DINNER

March 24th - Group III

March 31st - Group IV

April 7th - POT LUCK

April 14th - Group V

April 21st - Group I

April 28th - Group II

May 5th - POT LUCK

May 12th - Group III

May 19th - Group IV



Thank You Notes

Dear Friends in Christ:

Praise God for the blessings that come our way. What a blessing it is to have your appreciation. Thanks for the beautiful card and gift certificate. Thanks for all your support the year around.

Yours in Christ,
The Bill Johnsons

Dear Friends in Christ:

Thank you so very much for all the cards, calls, visits, food, and inquiries during my recent surgery. Your prayers were greatly appreciated.

Thanks again and God Bless!

Yours in Christ,
The Bill Johnsons

Thank you to everyone who participated in anyway in Operation Christmas Child—filling shoeboxes for children around the world. Thank you for your donations of filled boxes, donations of items for the boxes, monetary donations, hands to fill boxes, prayers for the children receiving the boxes, and so much more. As of Sunday, November 15, we filled 108 boxes. God bless you all! That's 108 children who will hear the message of Jesus Christ's love and gift of grace because of your generosity. Your giving history has been fantastic: 2005 - 102 boxes; 2006 - 72 boxes; 2007 - 58 boxes; 2008 - 79 boxes, and now in 2009 - 108 boxes. What a wonderful, generous group of loving Christians you are. Thank you again.

Merry Christmas to All!
Connie Brockhausen



FROM THE STAFF AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



ADVENT

Things We Can Do During Advent

1. Turn away from speech that is unkind and unChristlike; instead, let your words be generous and affirming.
2. Turn away from self-doubt and self-deprecation; instead, treat yourself like the "Miracle of God" that you really are.
3. Turn away from fear and anxiety about tomorrow; instead, concentrate on the blessings that are yours today - and trust God for the needs of tomorrow.
4. Turn away from hatred and distrust of other people; instead, pray for a willingness to forgive and to "love one another" even as you have been loved and forgiven by your Heavenly Father.
5. Give up trying to be "perfect"; instead, thank God for His forgiveness and acceptance.
6. Give up trying to control everything and everyone around you; instead let God do what He does best.
7. Give up TV one evening a week; instead, visit someone who needs the love of Christ in a special way.
8. Give up an hour or two of "family time" on Sunday morning; instead, bring your family to church with you and join with the family of God in worship and in joyful anticipation of Christ's coming.

--Copied

CALLING ALL WOMEN!

The All Women's Christmas Luncheon will be December 15th, 11:30 am, at the Classic Inn.

Plan now to join us for good food, fellowship, and fun!



Christmas Eve Service
 First Christian Church
 December 24, 2009
 7:00 PM

**NEW YEAR'S EVE
 PARTY
 FOR FAMILIES**

Bring in the New Year with family and friends here at the church. The good time will begin at 8:00 pm on Thursday, December 31st.

Bring your games and goodies!