

The Great Bend Christian

Vol. 41

May 2008

No. 5

BILL'S BITS -

DO YOU KNOW ANYONE IN THE CHURCH THAT IS GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL, JUNIOR COLLEGE, COLLEGE, OR ANY OTHER SCHOOL THIS SPRING? IF SO, LET THE CHURCH OFFICE (793-6603) KNOW POST HASTE, PLEASE! We want to recognize and celebrate this occasion with them.

May is the traditional month of graduation. We wish all our graduates God speed in their life's journey at this moment. Our prayer is that you will realize your dreams and goals as you move into the future. Above all, we pray that you will continue to make Christ the center of your entire life.

Mother's Day is in May. I share this story to honor our mothers:

Mother's Day: God's Assistants

The little girl was in a children's program at her church. She had rehearsed and memorized and practiced until she knew her part well. She was to begin the entire program so she walked out on the stage, turned to face the audience-and froze. Seeing all those people, with their eyes all focused on her, was more than she had bargained for. Her lines faded from her mind and stood still-unable to speak or move.

Her mother, sitting on the front row, became as frantic as the little girl. She gestured, and mouthed the words, but all to no avail. Finally, in desperation, the mother whispered the opening phrase, "I am the light of the world." Instantly, the child's face relaxed, a smile appeared, and with renewed confidence she began: "My mother is the light of the world."

That little girl accidently illustrated a great truth. Only Jesus is "the light of the world," but mothers often act on his behalf. As someone else has so aptly put it, "because God can't be everywhere at once, he made mothers."

Memorial Day opens the summer months.

Memorial Day recalls and honors vets and all those who have gone before us. It is a traditional practice to place flowers on graves. Let that remind us also to cast the flowers of appreciation for those who serve God and others.

Best wishes for a great May and we'll see you Sunday. - adapted

Yours

in Christ, Bill

First Christian Church

**5230 Broadway, Great Bend, KS 67530
620-793-6603**

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

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-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/workshop

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

...to the family and friends of Vernon Bunselmeyer
...to the family and friends of Dolly Shriner, O. W. Huss's sister
...to the family and friends of Scott Noel, Janice Speer's cousin
...to the family and friends of L. D. Slaymaker, Helen Morgan's brother

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

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

Leigh Bellinger, nephew of Cliff Bellinger - Iraq

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

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

Delbert Wells, nephew of Hap Donecker - Germany

Great Bend Health & Rehab

Polly Omlor

Oswald Schneider

River Bend Assisted Living

Marge Keller

Winnie Phillips

Kansas Christian Home

Louise McCullum

Cherry Village Nursing Home

Mildred Lang

Martha McKown

Rachel Williams

Sterling House of Great Bend

Wilma Hauser

John Richardson

Truman Strong

Lela Wilson

Woodhaven Care Center - Ellinwood

Mildred Boepple

April Attendance and Gifts

	6	13	20	27	Average
Sunday School	35	55	31	33	39
Early Service	40	58	33	43	44
Late Service	154	131	129	142	139
Children's Church	0	0	3	4	2
TOTAL	194	189	165	189	184
General Offering	5,827.93	4,281.50	3,936.98	4,088.00	4,533.60
Bldg. Offerings	3,952.50	972.50	618.50	537.50	1,520.25
Special Offerings	539.13*	414.97*	873.20*	1,945.00*	943.08
TOTAL	10,319.56	5,668.97	5,428.68	6,570.50	6,996.93

* Special Offerings include Wednesday Night Dinners, 30 Pieces of Silver, Memorials for George McKown, Sound System, FCC Food Bank, Becker Coupons, Wedding Fees, Honduras Trip, and donations for funeral dinners

Cabinet Meeting – May 7 – 8 pm
Elders/Deacons Meeting – May 14 – 8 pm
Board Meeting – May 21 – 8 pm

FCC Men's Breakfast Club!

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

Martha Group

May 21 - 1:30 pm
Hostess: Ruth Miller
Program: Anneliese Ward

Lunch Bunch

May 21 - 11:30 am
The Highland

Joy Group

May 27 - 12 noon
Hostesses: Louise Gunn/Morna Jordan
Program: Dorothy Alefs

New Day Group

May 26 - 7:00 pm
Friendship Classroom
Hostess: Louise Gunn
Program: Jamee Dannebohm

Wednesday Night Family Fellowship Dinners

Will Resume Again in the Fall!

See you then!

Disciples Women Fellowship

Explanation of Worksavers Monies

This special offering is meant to replace "Cookie Bazaar" which the CWF ladies have done for over 10 years. The bazaar was held in December.

In 2003, the ladies chose to replace this big job by what is called Worksavers giving to keep the monies coming for the building fund. It has proven to be working. It was suggested that each lady give \$5.00 per month for this special offering to add to the building fund.

It began in 2004 and has been successful with each coming year. It has brought in about \$2,000.00 for this fund. We do not check if you have provided monies for this special fund. You are on your own as to what you can provide for this extra giving. Any gift is accepted.

Each of the three groups has their own offerings to provide special giving to community projects.

Offerings, noodles, and tea towels are the way we keep monies for our general budget. We do not ask for "dues" for our mission work. We find that our women are very generous.

If you have any questions, please call me . . . Morna Jordan, DWF Chairman, 620-793-6387.

NOODLES

The ladies will be making noodles on May 5th. Please call the church office (620-793-6603) with your orders. Thank you!

Thanks to all who donated to the 30 Pieces of Silver. A total of \$244.97 was collected and given to the Barton County Emergency Aid.

Julie Ford

To the Ladies of the Prayer Shawl Ministries Team:

Thank you very much for the wonderful prayer shawl. It is beautiful and it is so nice to think of all the time and care that went into making it. We really appreciate all the thoughts and prayers of the church. We will be back to visit when Adelynn has arrived and is ready to travel!

Sincerely,
Rebecca & Jason Parr

Thank you so much for the beautiful prayer shawl. My dad gave me quite a scare and when Bill brought the shawl, I knew that others were also praying. It was and is very comforting.

In Christian Love,
Kim Guesnier

The McKown Family wishes to express their gratitude to the many friends who extended thoughts and prayers, sent cards and flowers, brought food, and donated memorials in George's memory. Special thanks to Pastor Bill Johnson, the ladies who prepared the wonderful luncheon, and the whole First Christian Church Family. Thanks to the many who attended George's Celebration of Life!

May God Bless You!

Bill and Lois,

I want to thank you and all the church members for all they did for Lucille. A special thanks to Glen Hughes for helping to load her things up. I am sorry that I am so late with this. My other sister Dorothy has been in the hospital so I have been on the go. Lucille is doing good.

Thank you!

With Love,

Catherine Brown

What a wonderful feeling knowing the church family is so caring during my health issues. Pastor Bill is a great "Shepherd" with a word of encouragement and a prayer. The Prayer Shawl is a cherished gift that not only warms the body but also the soul. How fortunate we are to have Jerry Ford and the choir members. They have been very supportive to me. I miss singing in the choir but have enjoyed listening in the congregation. The Friendship Class is very faithful with their prayers, cards, and acts of kindness. I will always be grateful to all!

In Christian Love,
Merlin Grimes

Elian Alejandro Ramirez was welcomed into this world by his parents Fernando and Bree Ramirez. Elian was born at 4:30 am on April 17, 2008, weighing 6lbs. 7oz. and was 18.75 inches long. His proud grandparents are Roger and Leesa Butler.

Hey, Kids!

Do you have a song in your heart that's just waiting to get out? If you do, we have the perfect idea for you! This summer, we will be having a musical celebration just for you! All children ages 3 through 6th grade are invited. We will be meeting at the church in the mornings from July 7th to 11th. We will sing, play bells, and have a great time praising God all week, then perform at the worship service on Sunday, July 13th. Keep watching the newsletter for details. If you have questions, or if you are ready to get your name on the list to participate or to help, please call Mary Hunter at 620-285-9775.

We welcome Ken and Donna Marston, and their children, Jessica and Peter, into our congregation by transfer of membership.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

MAY 11, 2008

During a science lesson, a second-grade teacher demonstrated how a magnet can pick up

metal objects such as nails and screws.

Afterward, she said, "My name begins with the letter 'm'. I pick up things with my power. What am I?"

A boy quickly answered, "You're a mother!"

A Mother's Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for the blessings of my children. Help me rely on you for guidance, patience and even-temperedness throughout my days.

I want my children to love you, worship you and serve you as best they can. Grant me the wisdom to know how to influence them to live godly lives. Prevent me from provoking my children to anger and from manipulating or nagging them.

Fill our household with abiding love and respect, and help us all be united in purpose to do your will. In the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

One Memorial Day, some children were asked what the holiday meant to them.

"That's the day the swimming pool opens!" answered one eager boy. What he didn't realize or appreciate was that he can freely go to the pool because more than one million people have put their lives on the line to preserve America's democracy. Many of them have died so citizens of other countries might also enjoy the privileges of political, social, and economic freedom.

Memorial Day is our opportunity to pause and remember the sacrifices of many of America's best citizens. They made the supreme sacrifice on our behalf, so please remember to honor these heroes on May 26.

Congratulations to the young members of our congregation who are graduating! No doubt they look forward to the next phase of their lives with excitement, anticipation, and perhaps a little apprehension.

We hope these words, adapted from Phillips Brooks, will serve graduates well as they embark on their journeys:

"Do not pray for an easy life; pray to be a stronger person. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers but for powers equal to your tasks. Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle, but you will be the miracle. Every day you shall wonder at yourself and the richness of life which has come to you by the grace of God."

Ascension Day

Forty days after each Easter, many Christians around the world celebrate the Ascension. It's the day when the resurrected Jesus was raised up from the earth into heaven. The Ascension is the prelude to Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came upon a gathering of people, including the apostles, in Jerusalem.

The Ascension is more important than many Christians realize. In his human body, Christ could be in only one place at a time. The risen Christ, however, can be spiritually present in any place at any time.

Retaining a Sense of Wonder

A man who took a trip observed the majesty of the mountains, the colors of wildflowers and the magnetism of a stream where trout were swimming. He returned home saying, "I hope I never get used to the glory of nature."

None of us should "get used to" the goodness of God, the Good News of Christ, the inspiring music of a choir, the stories of great saints, the thoughtfulness of neighbors, the assistance of strangers and the uplifting laughter of children who haven't lost the gift of wonder.

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

5230 Broadway - Great Bend, Kansas 67530

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

Office Hours: M-F

8:00—12:00 1:00—3:00

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