



**THE MAGNOLIA CHRISTIAN
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**

**Corner Maple Avenue & Locust Street
P. O. Box 274**

New Martinsville, West Virginia 26155

Victor L. Hunter, Minister Phone (304) 455-4460

Sunday School 9:45 am Worship Services 9:00 am & 10:45 am

Worship & Wonder 10:45 am

Church e-mail address: orvella@nmfcc.com or pastor@nmfcc.com

Church website: www.nmfcc.com

Marsha Smith, Editor masmith66@yahoo.com

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2012

PASTORAL MARKINGS

By

Pastor Vic Hunter

LIGHT IN THE SACTUARY

An Invitation to Church Attendance as a Priority in 2012

In this Epiphany Season at the beginning of *Anno Domini* 2012 (The Year of Our Lord), I want to offer a sincere invitation, a simple invitation, to attend the worship of the church regularly, faithfully, expectantly. Why? Because the light in the sanctuary is different! It is different than any place else in the world. Have you noticed it?

Tucked away in Psalm 96:6 is this simple but profound insight: "Honor and majesty are before God; strength and beauty are in God's sanctuary." The Greek word for "epiphany" simply means "manifestation." Webster's dictionary says an epiphany is a manifestation or perception of the essential nature or meaning of something. It is an intuitive grasp of reality through something usually simple and striking.

So there it is! What I see so often in pastoral care in this long journey across the human landscape is the need, the desperate need, in our lives

For strength and beauty...

For light in the shadows...

For an intuitive grasp of reality...

For perception of the essential nature or meaning...

in the midst of the fears and hurts, the dark detours, the shallow understandings, and the blind stumblings of the disconnected, undirected, disillusioned, and dislocated nature of our existence.

We need the weekly light of the sanctuary of Christian worship! For in the light of the sanctuary we find the strength and beauty of God. We see and perceive differently in the light of worship.

We see life more clearly. We see ourselves more honestly. We see our direction more accurately. We see our neighbor more graciously. In the light of the sanctuary of worship we can experience the intuitive grasp of reality—faith's sight of the divine presence with us.

We sit in the light of the sanctuary, not to get "stars in our crown" but light in our life. We sit in the light of the sanctuary or our lives shrivel and darkness creeps in. We sit in the light of the sanctuary to see, to rest, to adore, to feast, to hear in the divine presence of God in Word and Sacrament. The light *is* different!

There is no ulterior motive or pragmatic purpose. There is nothing to be accomplished, counted, achieved, or measured. In the light of the sanctuary where the strength and beauty of God *are*, we simply *are*. We worship in order to worship. We pray in order to pray. We sing in order to sing. We give in order to give. We love in order to love. We listen in order to listen. We commune in order to commune.

And that is enough! You are invited. Come to the light of the sanctuary. Let us keep the feast!



Birthdays and Anniversaries



January Birthdays

- 1 Walter "Bob" Myers
Jacob Norton
- 2 Tom McLaughlin
- 3 Mark (Dino) Highley
Marsha Smith
- 5 Kinsey Cantrell
- 6 Ryan Shepherd
Tyler Highley
- 8 Ann Byard
- 9 Tom Shepherd
- 12 Sydney Haught
- 13 Kathie Richter
- 15 Todd Greene
- 17 Kathy Louise Cozart
Stingray Joe Bates
- 18 Bob Schmidt
Derek Bryan Fruner
- 21 Janet Berger
Joel Potts III
- 26 Erin Nicole Little
- 27 Eric Piekarski
- 29 Iris Isaacs
Frank Cibik

January Anniversaries

- 5 Glen & Maxine Potts
- 23 Jim & Beverly Underwood
- 25 Scott & Kathie Richter

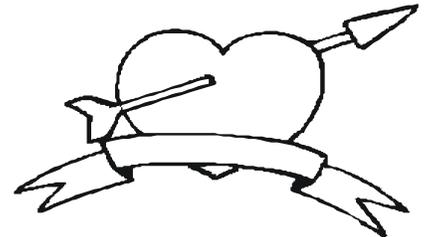


February Anniversaries

- 2 Michael & Elizabeth Durant
- 25 Earl & Marsha Smith

February Birthdays

- 2 Matthew Rigggenbach
- 5 Kim Fruner
- 6 Barbara Yoho
- 9 Shirley Cecil Newman
- 14 Nikki Hardman
- 16 Valarie Belcher
Steve Stine
- 17 Genelle Ferreebee
Lisa Shepherd
- 19 Todd Barcus
Joanna Filliez
- 20 Tom Emch
- 21 Alisha Sue Ware
- 22 Gabarielle Cecil
- 23 Kyleen Jiannine
- 24 Juanita Sue Kochler
- 25 Jill Shade
- 28 Dan Jeffers, Sr.
Madlyn June Booth



SERVING THE CHURCH IN JANUARY

ELDERS

David & J.B Bridgeman

DEACONS

Todd Bates	Bob Bland
Kathy Bridgeman	Kent Burgey
Debbie Cochran	Mary Mahurin
Brenda Hardman	Penny Morris
Randy Hardman	Patrick Norton
Sharon Maston	

SERVING THE CHURCH IN FEBRUARY

ELDERS

DEACONS

Patrick Norton	Maxine Potts
Jennifer Pugh	Kathie Richter
Scott Richter	Myra Rine
Don Rigggenbach	Tammy Wilson
Jackie Rigggenbach	Charlie Virden
Mary Kay Virden	

Preparing Communion for January

Cheryl LeMasters

Preparing Communion for February

Opening & Closing Church for January

Tom Shepherd

Opening & Closing Church for February

Terry Cozart

THANK YOU

I want to thank all the members of FCC for the Christmas cards, good wishes, kindnesses and gifts during this Christmas season. Blessings to all of you as we enter this New Year together.
Pastor Vic

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Christian Church Members, Thank you for the recent donation of 18 cans (#10) of food for the Open Door ministries. Your continued support of the Open Door since it began to serve the persons in need of food is greatly appreciated. Best wishes for a blessed holiday season.  
Sincerely, Lucille Blum

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First Christian Church, Thank you for supporting the Esther Crumbly fund. We anticipate helping 425 families in Wetzel County this year and your donation of \$250.00 will provide Christmas food baskets for several families. Again, thank you for partnering to help those in need. May you and yours have a blessed holiday season. The Esther Crumbly Board

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Thank you to Pastor Vic and all our Church family and friends, for your many prayers, cards, caring words and love during the death of my great granddaughter, Connie Litton. Thank you to all who donated food and helped in any way with the dinner. You are truly God's people. God Bless you, Golda Cecil and families

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"Thank you" to all of you for your support of Mandy Huggins on her mission trip with Youth with a Mission. She will be leaving Hawaii on December 18th going to Thailand, Laos and Myanmar. Please keep her in your prayers.
Betty Huggins

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Dear Church Members, Our volunteers thank you for the very generous yearly donation and your outstanding gift of canned food. Your continued support is a blessing to the Open Door Ministry. Sincerely Lucille Blum

~~~~~  
Thank you for your kindness and sympathy in the loss of Connie Litton. The Litton family & Cecil family

THANK YOU

To My First Christian Church family: Thanks for all you do, but especially what all expired for the funeral. I can't say how much you are appreciated for the delicious food and all the time you spent waiting. I'm so thankful. All raved about the food, the service, flowers and your thoughtfulness. Thanks again Cheryl LeMasters and Lynn Hissam Hayes Family

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To the congregation at First Christian Church – Thank you so much for your caring and love. The generosity that you showed after the tornado in Tuscaloosa warmed our hearts. We were very fortunate during and after the storm. Although we did have damage and continue with repairs, we were able to stay in our home and have the money and insurance to recover. Many here in town do not. Knowing we could help others with the money and after discussing it with Vic, we began to look for a good place to use the money. It took a while, but we recently found two. Part of the money will go to United Methodist Church in Tuscaloosa. They are building homes for handicapped individuals in Tuscaloosa for the cost of materials. They have volunteers who work for free. The individuals lost their home in the tornado. The remainder will go to 5 children who lost their parents in the tornado. They are living with their grandmother in poor conditions. The money will help with needs and with a Christmas wish. Hopefully you are happy with where your gift went. Thank you for everything.  
Scott Hunter

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To the members of the First Christian Church, Thank you for the money, it will be very useful, and I appreciate it very much. Thank you and God bless you.
Mary VanCamp

~~~~~  
Another year has gone by and I would like to thank everyone for all their kindness and friendship, cards, gifts and many thanks for my Christmas bonus. You are all so very generous. My job here becomes very hectic at times, but a busy church is a church doing the work of God. Happy New Year and God Bless!  
Orvella

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Our Christian Sympathy goes to Fritzi Hill (wife) and the family of Kendall Hill who died on Tuesday, December 27th.

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P. O. Box 274
New Martinsville, WV 26155**

**Nonprofit Org.
U. S. Postage Paid
New Martinsville, WV
Permit 69**



Return Service Requested

**MID-WINTER
YOUTH RETREAT
February 10-12, 2012**

**Cedar Lakes Conference Center
Ripley, WV**

**6th – 12th grade students
Post-high gathering on site
Don't miss it!**

**REGISTER NOW!!!
\$100.00**

**Visit www.wvdisciples.org or get form from Church office
Registration Deadline is January 31st**

HELPING HANDS

Helping Hands depends on the local churches to help supply the food pantry. They have a suggested shopping list, listing items for each month. The items being collected for **January is canned meat and February are soup and crackers.** These items can be placed in the Gathering Room.

ATTENTION DISCIPLES MEN!!

The men of the West Virginia Region have joined with the men of five adjacent Disciples Regions in co-hosting a major men's event next summer. Much successful effort has resulted in an exceptional opportunity for men to experience spiritual renewal, inspiration, and fellowship, and also gain first-hand knowledge about the historical beginnings of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Planning for this event has been accomplished with the encouragement and full support of Disciples Home Missions and the General Conference of Disciples Men. You are invited and encouraged to take advantage of this unique opportunity.

**The Event: "XTREME FAITH-Bold Action:
A Gathering of Disciples Men"
July 13-15, 2012 at Bethany College**

The Gathering includes inspirational presenters, a timely and engaging array of workshops, and tours of the historic areas, sporting events, a pig roast, and important hands-on mission work in support of the historic areas for willing volunteers.

We Would Appreciate Your Help...

First (if you're a male, or wish to gift a man in your life with a wonderful getaway), we encourage you to personally register now. Early Bird registration with reduced rates ends January 9th. There is also a further reduced rate for men 35 and under. For complete information about the Gathering, and for on-line or mail-in registration forms go to:

<http://www.gathering2012.org>.

This is a unique opportunity for you and the men of our church. I would appreciate your efforts to have your church well represented.

I am hoping to see you there!

Randal Dawson

Regional Disciples Men President

We still need some Story Tellers for Worship and Wonder. This is a wonderful program and we have the perfect setting for it. Please call Fran (455-5092) if you are able to help with this need for our children. They are the future of our church.



December Elder's Report

Don and Jackie Riggerbach called Janet and Eddie Greene, Michelle Smith and John Zumpetta..

We served communion to: Golda Cecil, Fay Ebeling, Mildred Frieden, Edith Oblinger, Barb Warner, Juanita Kockler and Bob and Gussie Schmidt.

We visited and delivered poinsettias to Doris Swadley and Emma Newman and visited with Kendell Hill at the New Martinsville Health Care Center.

Frannie will take poinsettias and serve communion to Elizabeth Hawkins, Rose Ann Winland, Mary Louise Heintzman, Geneva Rawe.

Several of the Elders delivered over 24 Christmas coin jars to deserving people of the community.



GIVING ROOM

HERE ARE A FEW OF THE ITEMS WE COLLECT IN THE GIVING ROOM...PLEASE STOP IN AND CHECK OUT THIS ROOM. FOR SUCH A SMALL ROOM, IT IS JAM-PACKED WITH GIVING.

Witschey's Cash Register Receipts – We are collecting cash register receipts during the school year. They will benefit New Martinsville School, which will receive school equipment.

Campbell's Labels for Education – You need to clip the UPC's off of all Campbell products. These are then turned in to the company and the school receives free merchandise from the Campbell's Labels for Education catalog. Items usually purchased are playground balls, art supplies for art class, teacher supplies and many other products.

Box Top for Education – Again you need to clip the Box Top of specially marked products. These are also redeemable for supplies and playground equipment.

Ink Cartridges – Used printer ink cartridges are collected and redeemed for money which is used to help send kids to academic programs/camps, help teachers with additional supplies and many other things that the school many not provide, but needed.

Cell Phones collected are delivered to the YWCA Domestic Violence Advocate. The YWCA takes the phones that have chargers and have them programmed to only dial 911, so victims have another way to contact the police if they need them. They are able to take phones that do not have chargers and get credit toward new cell phones.

Used Eyeglasses – When you donate those old pairs of glasses that are just taking up space in your drawers, they can be given to people around the world that can't afford them, let alone the cost to get examined. The glasses are collected by the local New Martinsville Lions Club and then sent to a collection center closest to us. They then will be classified, distributed and taken by volunteer optometrists and ophthalmologists to where they are needed most.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Love of knitting and crocheting is combined into a prayerful ministry that reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace. Each shawl begins with prayers for the recipient and prayers are continued while the shawl is finished. ANYONE can make a shawl to put on the cross in front of the church and ANYONE can take one to give to someone to show them our love and prayers. If you have questions, would like more information, or want to learn to knit or crochet, call Melinda at 455-1469. It is a wonderful way to share Jesus' love.

BEAR MINISTRY

The Bear Ministry is another way that First Christian Church shares love and prayers with others. If you know of anyone who has a need or a special joy, please take a Bear from the basket at the bottom of the Prayer Shawl Cross. There is a note attached that lets the recipient know that we love and care for them. Children love them, but we've found they bring a smile to anyone who receives one!

OPEN DOOR MINISTRIES

Please bring large cans of vegetables or fruit and leave on the table across from the church office. The need is still there; people are still hungry and the supply is down. We need to do what we can and not forget this wonderful ministry.