



**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

MARCH/APRIL 2012

PASTORAL MARKINGS

By

Pastor Vic Hunter

Life Before God

I have a good friend, a theologian that has taught at Princeton Theological Seminary and Columbia Theological Seminary. He is one of those theologians out of the Reformed Tradition who has a genuine love for the church and who sees theology being done in service of the church. He has written a wonderful book called Before God. He says that when people would hear the title of his book, they would almost invariably ask, "What could be before God?" But, of course, he was not referring to any temporal sense as if there was life "prior" to God, but in the sense that Christians (believers) live life before the face of God—in gratitude, in worship, in service. His concern is that in our secular and pluralistic and post-Christian world even Christians have lost any sense of daily life lived before God, in the presence of God.

As we travel through this Lenten season, and in keeping the vision of the Psalmist alive—"I keep the Lord always before me"—I would like to suggest we think of our lives (personally and corporately as the church) as an "extended prayer." Of course, the disciplines of Lent are prayer and fasting and almsgiving. Understanding life as an extended prayer might help us to actually begin to think about living our lives before God. Or in conversation with God.

Among the major movements of prayer are confession (of both faith and sin—the telling of truth about our lives), thanksgiving, intercession and petition. In confession there is an honesty that undergirds our living before God. In thanksgiving, there is a recognition of life as a gift before God. In intercession for others, there is a check on our own self-absorption and egos by recognizing the needs and presence and importance of others—the neighbor—before God. In petition there is an awareness of our own need and longing before God.

Thinking of life as an extended prayer brings awareness, as does prayer itself: awareness of God, awareness of relationships, awareness of both limitations and possibilities, awareness of failure and awareness of grace. It feeds an authentic humility within a growing strength. As far as the disciplines of Lent, life before God is the life of "being and becoming" rather than simply "doing and consuming": prayer as moving toward the will of God rather than bending God toward our will; fasting is not simply abstaining from bread but sharing bread with the hungry; almsgiving is not simply a "charitable tax deduction" but the life of *caritas* and *charis*—the charity of enoughness for all, in justice (what the bible calls the "righteousness of God") in God's bountiful creation and abundant love.



Birthdays and Anniversaries

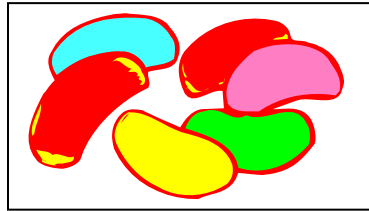


March Birthdays

- 1 Jenna Ferrebee
- 2 Alexander Ross Gilbert
- 3 Steven Chance Zajdowicz
Hunter Quinif
- 5 Hubert Roberts
- 7 Zachary Cantrell
- 10 Chad Shepherd
- 12 Lloyd Miller
Nettie Mason
- 15 John Barcus
- 17 Gussie Schmidt
- 18 Ethan Coulter
- 19 Nelda Walton
- 20 Beth Cantrell
- 21 Doris Swadley
Christina Coulter
- 24 Claudia Emch
Debbie Dendron
- 28 Cathy Santana
- 29 Sandra Kay Hinerman
- 30 Brandon Byard

March Anniversaries

- 3 Richard & Sandra Hinerman
- 23 George & Juanita Kockler

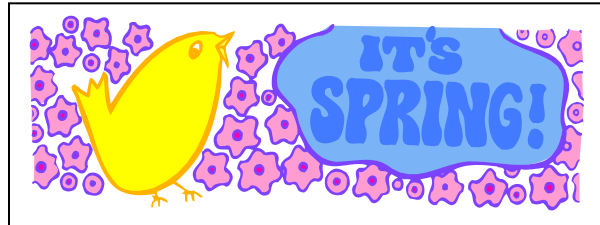


April Birthdays

- 1 Robyn Fitzsimmons
- 2 Lisa Booth
- 3 Russell Shepherd
- 4 Fred Emch
Mary Ferrebee
Emily Irizarry
- 6 Logan Hassig
- 10 Samuel Shepherd
Cheryl LeMasters
- 11 Linda Hornbrook
- 12 Nicholas Cochran
Amanda Nelson
- 15 Anna Lee Emch
Carl Anthony Berger
Minna Emch
- 17 Bob Coffield
Tom Emch II
- 19 Jim Isaacs
Benjamin Bridgeman
Beverly Underwood
- 21 David Todd Bates
- 25 David Jeffers
- 27 Joel Potts II
Traci Mullins
- 28 Emerson Grace Barcus
- 29 Lynn Barcus
- 30 Butch Barcus

April Anniversaries

- 4 Michael & Lori Hall
William & Debbie Dendron
- 12 John & Patty Barcus
Ed & Janet Greene
- 17 Frank & Amy Cibik
- 21 Butch & Lynn Barcus
Jim & Fawn Price



SERVING THE CHURCH IN MARCH

ELDERS

Fran Caldwell & Verna Mall

DEACONS

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

SERVING THE CHURCH IN APRIL

ELDERS

Dave & Karen Emch

DEACONS

Jennifer Pugh	Kathie Richter
Scott Richter	Myra Rine
Don Riggenbach	Tammy Wilson
Jackie Riggenbach	Charlie Viriden
Mary Kay Viriden	Maxine Potts

Preparing Communion for March

Debbie Dendron

Preparing Communion for April

Opening & Closing Church March

Todd Bates

Opening & Closing Church for April

Lloyd Miller

THANK YOU

To our Church family, Thank you for all the prayers, visits, phone calls and cards while Charles was in the hospital. A special "Thank you" to Pastor Vic. God Bless Betty Huggins

Dear Friends, Thank you for the donation of canned vegetables. We appreciate your continued support. The Open door Ministry continues to serve between 500-600 meals each week. Sincerely, Lucille J. Blum

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.



BREAD, BROTH AND BIBLE: *During the season of Lent, beginning on February 29, you are invited every Wednesday to FCC Fellowship Hall at 12 noon for lunch and a Lenten devotional led by Pastor Hunter.*



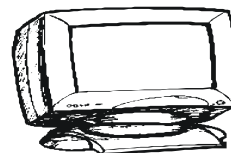
HELPING HANDS

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 **March is Cereal and April is Peanut Butter.** These items can be placed in the Gathering Room.

The Love Ladies are taking orders for **Easter Bon Bons.** We are making Mint, Coconut, Maple and the ever favorite Peanut Butter. The price is \$7.00/lb. There are approximately 18 bon bons per lb. Please sign up on the sheet across from the church office ASAP.



our **WEBSITE....www.nmfcc.com** ...offers weekly greeting from the pastor, review of the sermon, announcements, organizational structure and all kinds of information.



First Friends is sponsoring a year round project of collecting aluminum cans. Money from the cans will go to special needs in the community. At Christmas, they purchased gifts for two children. The next project is to give gifts to the Animal Shelter.

ELDERS' REPORT

On Sunday, February 26, 2012, Elders Butch and Trey Barcus served communion to Grace and Mark Batton; Rose Dolan; Fay Ebeling; Edith Oblinger; David Rawe; Rose Ann Winland and daughter Lou Ellis; and John Zumpetta.

Inquiries were made about Eddie Greene and Bill and Karen Pugh.

Emma Newman, Geneva Rawe and Doris Swadley were visited.

Telephone calls were made to Louise Bauman and family; Bill and Tyke Ebeling; John and Gladys Graham; Elizabeth Hawkins; Mary Louise Heinzman and Tom and Hekna McLaughlin; Nettie Mason; June Mullett; Scott and Kathie Richter; Gussie Schmidt; Armenta Shepherd; Marsha and Earl Smith; Michelle Smith; Carol Watkins; and Barbara Werner.

**First Christian Church
Corner Maple & Locust Sts.
P. O. Box 274
New Martinsville, WV 26155**

**Nonprofit Org.
U. S. Postage Paid
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Permit 69**



Return Service Requested

Twenty's Plenty

Last year we launched a new idea called Twenty's Plenty.

This money was used to help fund our local food bank Helping Hand, and Open Door a wonderful program that feeds anyone walking through the door one day a week.

For anyone who wasn't here last year or a reminder.. HERE IS THE IDEA--instead of giving up caffeine, chocolate alone we should try an exercise of replacement.

We are not asking for you to give more than you are able, just by making a change in your life to save and donating that as your offering for Lent. Can your **family** find a creative way to save \$20 a week for an offering during Lent? Give that \$20 in addition to your regular offering to the church. Maybe give up Netflix, maybe its McDonald's (JUST my Frappe ends up saving \$15.00 a week)! Maybe a few less songs from iTunes....

Twenty dollars or twenty minutes to make a difference.

20 minutes a day reading your Bible or just 20 minutes a day in prayer, a conversation with God. Please bring your saved \$20 in an envelope marked Twenty's Plenty (or Lent) each week and drop it in the offering plate.

During Lent last year, you gave a total of \$1280.00 for our church's outreach programs. The church donated that money to Helping Hand and Open Door.

CAN WE INCREASE THAT OFFERING FROM LAST YEAR TO BENEFIT OUR COMMUNITY?

Are you giving up something for Lent?

Twenty's Plenty.

REGIONAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN NEW MARTINSVILLE

We have rescheduled the gathering previously cancelled on January 13 due to weather. "**A Holy Conversation of the Church**" on the Marcellus Shale phenomenon presently touching the lives of many in our communities, will now take place on **Saturday, May 19** from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in New Martinsville. Our hosts there have prepared to welcome us and provide the meal, and leaders of the conversation--including the Regional Minister, Rev. Vic Hunter, Rev. Gary Kidwell and Rev. Dr. Darwin Collins (of the Christian Church Foundation), and others--are committed to making this a meaningful time for everyone who attends.

We need to know names of attendees **no later than noon on Monday, May 14**. Cost for the day, including lunch, is \$10 per participant. We will be indebted to you for the opportunity to broaden the table of conversation.

In Christ's Love,
David

Rev. David T. Chafin

Deputy Regional Minister

[Christian Church \(Disciples of Christ\) in West Virginia](#)

PROGRAM PLANNING GROUP

From the beginning of January, Program Planning members have thought of, discussed and put into motion several projects for the 2012 year. Patty, Trey, Kyleen, Mary Kay, Charlie, Todd and Jennifer have taken on the responsibility of Baccalaureate service, Worship and Wonder classes, First Friends, VBS, Pastor's class for Baptism, picnic, Mother's Day dinner, Open Door, Helping Hand, Prayers Shawls, Chili Fest, Relay for Life, Screen Door Ministry and so many more we will be talking about as the year goes on.

There are a few new projects we would like to put before you at this time.

Disciple Center has been a work in progress with Pastor Vic. He has some good ideas that will make a difference in our role of helping our community. Please remember March 4th meeting date.

We had had some people ask about an adult Sunday School Class. J. B. Bridgeman is inviting all those interested to join his class between services in the Fellowship Hall.

We have had one Gospel Sing/Pie Social and we are planning more. We also are planning some movie nights. Stay tuned.

We are moving forward to join the Methodist Church and more with their efforts to make a difference in our community for those I need of our help in the way of servant projects. We will have more info on this very soon.

Our big project right now is our new church directory. Lifetouch will be coming on March 30th and 31st, Friday and Saturday. April 6th and 7th, also on Friday and Saturday. We will be distributing information every week and we are asking that you pick a day and let us know, so we can fill the schedule sheet from top to bottom. You can call IOrvella at the church, talk to Kay Jeffers or Penny Morris for any questions or information. We also would like to have some helpers on the days of picture taking. A lot more to follow on the new directory every Sunday.

**Jesus had no servants, yet they called Him
Master.**

Had no degree, yet they called Him Teacher.

**Had no medicines, yet they called Him
Healer.**

Had no army, yet kings feared Him.

**He won no military battles, yet He
conquered the world.**

**He committed no crime, yet they crucified
Him.**

He was buried in a tomb, yet He lives today.

**Feel honored to serve such a Leader who
loves us.**

**In the Bible, Jesus says... "If you deny me
Before man, I will deny you before my
Father in Heaven"**

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.

Upcoming Events for Disciples Men & Women

March 8-9 at Mountainside Conference Center, Bethany College, Bethany, WV

Preaching and Praying Holy Week – Rev Dr. Bonnie Thurston

Two-day workshop in preparation for preaching and participating in Holy Week. Bring your Bible.

March 8 – 9:00 am – 12:00 The “Killer P’s” of Holy Week and A Liturgical and Theological Overview of the week.

1:30-4:30 – The Palm Sunday Problem and the “Lost Days” (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week).

March 9 – 9:00am – 12:00 Maundy, Thursday and “Good” Friday

1:30-4:30 – The Easter Vigil & Passover, Easter and Mark’s Odd Ending.

Registration is \$100.00 for 2 days – includes meals, book and instructional materials.

Call 304-829-4343 to register

Monday, March 12 First Christian Church--1200 Third Street, Moundsville

Disciples Men & Women Spring Gathering – Together

Registration @ 6:30 – Dinner and Program @ 7:00

\$12.00 payable at the door

March 26 & 27 at Mountain Conference Center, Bethany College

“The Challenge of Being Church in the 21st Century” – Oreon E. Scott Lectures

Rev. Dr. Sharon E. Watkins

April 26-28 1st Christian Church – Parkersburg

122nd Regional Assembly

Mark D. Anderson – National Benevolent Association

Bob Shebeck – Division of Overseas ministries

Darwin Collins – Christian Church Foundation

Thaddaeus B. Allen- Regional Minister

Interest Group Gatherings

All-Assembly Banquet

Numerous Displays

Networking Opportunities

Men’s & Women’s Luncheons

Wonderful Mid-Ohio

Re-connect with Regional

Minister & Staff & Visit

The Regional Center

Pre-Assembly Workshop on

Ministry with the Aging, our new

Regional Priority

Valley Hospitality, and

Historic Blennerhasset

Hotel-special meals, and

discounted luxury rooms

July 13-15 at Bethany College, Bethany, WV

Xtreme Faith Bold Action

A Gathering of Disciples Men

CHURCH BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2012

Minister (Ex-Officio)	Pastor Vic Hunter
Moderator	Butch Barcus
Vice Moderator	Don Riggenschach
Church Clerk/Secretary for the Board	Maxine Potts
Treasurer	Heather Norton
Assistant Treasurer (Non-voting)	Brenda Hardman
Financial Secretary	Jackie Riggenschach
Assistant Financial Secretary (Non-voting)	Brenda Hardman
Church Historian	Joel Potts III
Members At-Large	Dan Jeffers
	Kay Jeffers
	Kyleen Jiannine
	Mary Mahurin
	Melinda Grandstaff
	Charlie Virden
	Mary Kay Virden
	Penny Morris
	John Barcus
	Lisa Shepherd
	Linda Barth
Representative of the Elders	
Representative of the Diaconate	
Representative of the Trustees	
Chairperson of the Program Planning Group	
Chairperson of the Property Committee	
Chairperson of the Special Funds Committee	
Chairperson of the Stewardship/Finance Committee	

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

As you can recall, the Church took out a loan for \$230,000.00 in September 2008. After 39 months, we have paid \$154,913.80 (outstanding!) on that loan, which leaves us with a balance owed of \$75,086.20.

Even if you have already paid off your pledged amount for this campaign, please continue to give as you are able, so we can pay off this loan as soon as possible. Many here at FCC are continuing to donate to the campaign and your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Any donations to this campaign should be identified as "Capital Campaign" in the memo section of your check or on any envelope used.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

BEGINNING SUNDAY, MARCH 4TH @ 6:30 pm A TOUR OF CHRISTIAN HISTORY

We are going to start a new course of study: how did we get from "there" to "here"? How did the church get from Jerusalem to New Martinsville? What has happened in the 2000 year history of the church? Where did Catholics come from? Where did Protestants come from? Why are there so many denominations? What does the "unity" of the church mean? What is the relationship of the contemporary church to Jesus of Nazareth? Come and join us (and bring your friends), on this exciting tour...this exciting venture.