



the Spirit



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*SMALL enough to know your name...  
BIG enough to serve!*

## A Listening Heart

John Baillie (1886-1960), a Scottish theologian and author of *A Diary of Private Prayer*, considered a devotional classic, wrote/prayed:

*“For the power Thou hast given me to lay hold of things unseen:*

*For the strong sense I have that this is not my home:*

*For my restless heart which nothing finite can satisfy:*

*I give Thee thanks, O God.*

*For the invasion of my soul by Thy Holy Spirit:*

*For all human love and goodness that speak to me of thee:*

*For the fullness of Thy glory outpoured in Jesus Christ:*

*I give Thee thanks, O God.”*

As a new year starts, may we be attentive to the prayers of our hearts, the desires of our souls, and with thanksgiving come humbly before God.

I look forward to worshipping with you on Sunday.

-Blessings, Liz ☘

## It IS Time...



**...Saturday, January 7, 9 AM** join us as the church goes through the annual “un-decorating” from the Advent/Christmas season.

There will be coffee, hot chocolate and a sweet treat to offer nourishment for the task. As you well know, many hands make light the work! YOU are needed so join the fun! ☘

## A Very Special Celebration

On January 1, 1996, First Christian Church of Cedar Falls, Iowa welcomed new pastor, Elizabeth A. Woodward. The Administrative Committee invites everyone to join in a special anniversary celebration on Sunday, January 15. Joann Wahner will make a presentation during worship and a reception in the narthex will follow worship.

Join the celebration as we observe Liz’s 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary. ☘



## **In the Church Family**

**Karen Garrison** is a resident at Manor Care in Waterloo.

### ***Our Sympathy to...***

...Nancy Dunkelberg and family on the death of her husband, George on December 26. Funeral services were held at First Christian Church on Friday, December 30, 2011. Our prayers of love and support are offered for the entire family at this time of loss and grief.

### ***Please keep in your prayers...***

Curt Mather                      Kaye Drew  
Leo McGlaun                    Kenny Reints  
Arron Brummel                Carlynn Harrum  
Phyllis Oberhauser's son, Gene  
Hassman's son, Jared  
Jennifer DeYoung's father  
Vanderwerf's great-granddaughter,  
    Hannah Johnson  
Calhoun's granddaughter, Lindsey  
Maralee Crooks' sister, Carol  
Mary Jo Woody's sister, Ann  
Denise Aves brother, Mark Paylor  
Woodward's brother, Don Wilson  
Dave Crooks' brother  
Barbara Sterrett's brother, Lynn Roberts  
Carl Jenkins' brother, John  
Alyce Jenkins' sisters, Dorothy & Marjorie  
Mather's sister-in-law, Becky Mather  
Hassman's daughter-in-law's father,  
    Leo Schroeder  
Phyllis Oberhauser's aunt, Berneice Brown  
Sandy Goodwin's uncle  
Kim Carbiener's aunt & uncle, Nancy & Bob  
    Anderson  
Joan Christensen-Sund's cousins, Mimi & Cynda  
Taylor's great-nephew, Hank Bernotas  
Traci Hahn's friend, Roxanne Kincaid  
Linda Morgan's friends, John & Linaya

Barbara Sterrett's friends  
Mary Jo Mallon's friend, Connie Rasmussen  
Vanderwerf's friend, Barb Meyer  
Marilyn Miller's friend, Chuck Frazier  
Joan Christensen-Sund's friend, Carla B.  
Jeanine Fernandez's student, Taylor  
Vanderwerf's neighbor, Josh Brown  
CCUM camper, Shelby McCord  
Oliver Palmer and family  
Sam Mason on the death of his mother  
World peace and safety ☸

### **Family & friends serving in the military:**

Jared Coil	Jay Craig
Michael Karlowicz	Rick Eichenlaub
Jacob Kopriva	Sam Berrett
Diana Salmela	Jed Bauch
Craig Berte	Matthew Romine
Scott Vanderwerf	Tommy Schiller
Robert Valley	Jack Darland
Brett Williams	Tim Bernard ☸

## **Another Birthday to Celebrate**

Dean Bartholomew will celebrate his birthday on January 28. We strive to have our birthday and anniversary list as accurate as possible. If you see an error or a celebration not included in our list, please contact the church office with that information. Thank you for your help.

*Happy Birthday, Dean!* ☸

## **New Phone Number**

Phyllis Oberhauser's new phone number is 242-8064. Please make that correction in your membership directory. ☸



# A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

by Sharon Watkins  
General Minister and President



## O God of infinite creativity...

At the beginning of this New Year – winter for so many – the rich brown earth is even now preparing to burst forth with a spring of possibilities and new life.

Though the human eye cannot see it, you continue to bless the earth with new beginnings. We praise you!

*Bless us with new beginnings, we pray.*

Where we have lost sight of your Reign breaking in – even now at hand –

*Renew our vision.*

Where we have faltered in reaching out to our neighbor in love, missing the moment to extend a hand of wholeness,

*Renew our courage.*

Where we have allowed cynicism to dry our bones and sinews,

*Renew our hope.*

At this beginning of a New Year, dear God, our arms are still warm from cradling the Babe of Bethlehem. Help us to keep that memory strong. Strengthen our arms to welcome your many children into communities of love.

Prepare our hearts to burst forth with a spring of possibilities and new life. Stir us to be and share your love with the same vulnerability, the same humble expectation that brought you into the world in person.

Help us, your church, your disciples, to be harbingers of your reign of justice and of peace fully emerged.

O God of infinite creativity, at the beginning of this New Year, we know that you are about to do a new thing. Help us to perceive it, and to join in. In the name of Jesus, your greatest new beginning, we pray. Amen. ☩

## Returning...

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**LOGOS/Youth Groups** will resume this Wednesday, January 4 at 5 PM. The evening includes fellowship, study and a tasty meal. Come and join the Christian adventure!

**Bell Choir and the Chancel Choir** will resume practice this week. Bells ring on Tuesdays at 6:30 PM; the Chancel Choir sings on Wednesdays at 7:30 PM. You are always welcome to join either one or both groups.

**Church School** will resume this Sunday, January 8 at 9 AM in the church library. ☩

## Coming Soon...

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**Thursday Bible Study** will return on February 2, 9:30 AM in the church library. The first three weeks of February will focus on a study of the Gospel of Mark. Thursday February 23 the study will turn to a Lenten study. The study will explore lives of several biblical characters and how their lives were changed/transformed by Christ. The coffee will be brewed. The conversation will be engaging. Mark your calendar and join the Thursday Bible Study.

**Welcoming Prayer** is a form of prayer that follows the skills of centering prayer. A four week course on Welcoming Prayer will be offered during the season of Lent. Watch for specific details in the next issue of the Spirit. ☩



## First Readers Book Club

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After a little vacation, the First Readers Book Club will meet Thursday, January 19, at Connie Deaver's home (3714 McClain Dr., C.F.) **Due to the cold and early nightfall these days, let's meet at 6:00 PM.** We can also discuss if we want to move meetings to earlier in the day during the winter months.

Books are here and may be picked up from Connie. We will be discussing The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio (How my mother raised 10 kids on 25 words or less.) by Terry Ryan. ☺

## Thank You's

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Dear Church Family,

My sincere thanks for your generous monetary gift this Christmas. Being a part of the music ministry at First Christian Church has been such a joy and has been a wonderful part of my life.

Merry Christmas to you all,  
-Mary Jo Woody ☺



Thank you so much for Christmas gift. It was greatly appreciated. Your support this year has gotten me thru a rough year, but on the brighter side brings joy to my heart to know we are a part of such a caring congregation.

Also, thank you for the invite to join the 39'ers at their Christmas gathering and for the goody box. It's always fun to see what yummy food is in it.

Wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year.

-Linda Myszka ☺



Thank you for the Christmas gift. I enjoyed the 39'ers goody box. Thank you!

-Kim Carbiener ☺

## Movie + Supper + Games

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**January 8 @ 5:30 PM**

Laughs! Drama! Mystery! Romance! All this and more can be found in the film, "The Call," produced by My Town Pictures in Traer. Filmed in late summer 2011, nearly all the cast and crew live in or near Traer, including Larry & Dotta Hassman. This film will be shown at the church on Sunday evening, January 8, at 5:30 PM. A light supper will be served. Games and fun will follow the movie. ☺



## 2012 Flower Calendar

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The 2012 flower calendar has been posted. Sign up for a date to share flowers with your church family. Celebrate or commemorate a special date or give flowers "just because you want to."

The church office will make a reminder call during the week preceding your scheduled date. Flowers can be ordered by the office from Bancroft Florist (they have our building key) or you can order them from the florist of your choice. Flowers from your own garden are also welcome. Please call the church office if you have a question. ☺

*Cedar Falls Community Meal*

*Tuesday, January 31*

*Start the New Year right...*

*Sign up to volunteer!*

