

# The First Word



First Christian Church

Vol. 17 No. 3

Winter Issue



- Nov 27 Advent began
- Dec 11 9:30 Ensemble
- Dec 11 Congregation Mtg.  
Following worship
- Dec 18 Ensemble sings
- Dec. 18 Christmas Bags  
delivered to shut-ins
- Dec. 24 NO CHRISTMAS EVE
- Dec 25 Christmas Morning  
10:30 Service
- Dec 29 Steven Hammond  
Celebration of Life  
Service 7:00 p.m.
- Jan 1 Hymn Sing Sunday



## From your Pastor



Dear Members and Friends,

Thank you for your love, support and trust in calling me to be your Pastor. As I settle into this new position, I am sure I will either miss or forget things that need attending, so don't hesitate to nudge or remind me.

Please know that my door is always open. If you would like or need to talk, just ask and we can set a time at your and my convenience. If an emergency, please let me know as soon as possible.

We have much to be thankful for. The love of family and friends, warm homes and a wonderful God who provides. With Christmas just a few weeks away, start counting your blessings. I think you will find you have an abundance, and maybe even some to share with others.

I look forward to serving you and bringing His word to you this Sunday and hopefully for many Sundays to come.

Peace and Joy to you!

Pastor Rich



## Advent – Nov 27th–Dec 18th

For Advent this year, we will be following the lives of Zachariah and Elizabeth, to Mary and Joseph and then Jesus. Scripture readers are Donita Pate, Amy Shakley, Tammy Repp, Jan Robinson and Todd Whitmer. There will be remembrances from members of the church for each Sunday with the theme of Hope, Love, Joy and peace. Yvonne & Wade Kimball shared the reflection of Hope for the first Sunday of Advent. Kelly Gearhart and family gave reflections on Love, Nate Whitmer will reflect on Joy, and Lana & David Bell on Peace for the 18th. We wish for all our members and friends to have Hope, Peace, Love and Joy this Christmas



## Annual Meeting—Dec. 11th

On December 11th following worship we will have our **Congregation Annual meeting**. At this time we will present the budget and a slate of officers for 2017 to be voted on. We hope you will try to attend this important meeting in the life of our church.



## Our Sympathy

Our prayers and sympathy go out to the families of Suzie Scott, who passed on May 14th, Betty Kiplinger, who passed on July 30th, David Welch who passed on September 2nd, Steven Hammond, who passed on October 13th, Lucille Boyd, who passed on October 19th, Jeanne Raubenolt, who passed on November 4th, Robert Tipton, who passed on November 9th. and on November 21st Sharon Hastings passed. Now on December 5th Gail Wolf has died. It is with sorrow that we share their passing and keep these families in our prayers.



# After School program

Since October we have hosted an after school program for youth from Ashland Middle School. This is the second year that this outreach program by our church has provided a safe space for these youth to experience positive and healthy relationships with older teens and adults. The time together has consisted of a healthy snack, recreation, living skills, creative arts options, and homework assistance. This year the counseling group **Encompass** is joining us. **Andrew and Yvette** come in for 45 minutes each week to provide other programming for the young people. We also have volunteers from the **AU Theta Phi Alpha** sorority. We thank these girls for their interest in our program. We also thank **Rev. Matt Potasky**, minister of Albion Church, who has volunteered to work with art once a month. We continue to receive positive and encouraging feedback from the Middle School and their appreciation for what we are doing here. The success of this program certainly lies with the number of volunteers who have given of their time and shared their love with these kids. We thank our own young people for their help. Nate Whitmer, Alexis, Lauren & Rachel Hastings work with the students each week. We also thank those who have furnished snacks each week. Feel free to stop at church on one of our Wednesday afternoons to see what is taking place and how these young lives are being impacted through this program.





# Thank You



First we want to thank Dick and Lennie Reich for heading up the Crop Walk back in October. We also thank the walkers and the sponsors . This year our church raised \$535.00.

The total amount raised by all the participants was \$7,703.00. Of that 25% stays locally



## **BIDDING**

We had a successful afternoon with lunch and an auction on October 9th. Many items were brought in to be auctioned off. We want to thank Kelly and Emma Gearhart for being auctioneers and Dave Bell for presenting items. Emma was “superb” and had a flair for descriptions! We brought in \$679.50 for that afternoon. We thank local businesses for their donations: Bendon, Hedstrom, Home Depot, Home Hardware, Skakley Mechanical, Hawkins Mkt. and Irwin’s. We also thank all those who brought in the wonderful items to be auctioned.

## **SHELBY CHAMBER CHOIR with Brian Nabors**

On Sunday, October 16th, Brian Nabors brought his Shelby Chamber Choir to perform for us.



We can’t thank Brian enough for making that such an enjoyable day. The young people are so talented and the music rang through the sanctuary. We fixed lunch for them and we thank Janet Whitmer, Sue Detrow, and Jan Robinson for preparing and serving the lunch and for all those who brought in cookies and brownies too.

Thanks also to Garry Burgett who donated a portion of his income from the sale of his pig at the Ashland County Fair in September. The Campership Fund received \$62.50 from Garry.

Also Thank you to Ralph & Carol Wertz, Kevin & Tammy Repp for washing all the windows in the church. And to Kevin Scott who blew the leaves out of our gutters!

Finally, we received Thank You notes from Steve Raubenolt, Bill Hastings, and Sharon’s sister. They all wanted to thank Pastor Rich and the church for making them feel welcome in our church for their Celebration of Life services for their loved ones. The good food was mentioned also! Thanks to Carol & Ralph and the Bereavement Committee!

# Let's Celebrate!

## BIRTHDAYS

Dec 5 Jane McVey

Dec 7 Adam Bell

Dec 18 Lauren Scott

Dec 23 Katelyn Komendera

Dec 31 Bob McCormic

Jan 11 Mia Scott

Jan 16 Gerald Workman

Jan 19 Beverly Zimmerman

Jan 21 Ed Snook

Jan 22 Joyce Bradley

Jan 25 Chantelle Brady

Jan 27 Fred Brady

Jan 27 Tammy Repp

Jan 28 Ken Shakley

Jan 31 Lorene Gardner

Feb 3 Echo Burgett

Feb 8 Albert Zimmerman

Feb 13 Jordan Repp

Feb 13 Logan Repp

Feb 14 Lexie Shakley

Feb 18 Bob Bell

Feb 19 Dick Reich

Feb 19 Lee Conwell

Feb 20 Dick Scott

Feb 21 John Kirby

Feb 23 Donita Pate



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