



Volume 60  
December, 2009  
Celebrating our  
60th anniversary  
all year long

News of First Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ) of Marietta

# The HARBINGER

We are an inviting, welcoming, growing Christian community, worshipping God in the Disciples tradition since 1949, where you are a stranger but once.

## What's the BUZZ???

On November 22 we held our annual congregational meeting as required by our constitution and bylaws. The primary business items addressed were the election of new Elders, Deacons, and Trustees and the budget for the coming year. I am excited about the incoming servants our congregation has selected. As for the budget... Much discussion proceeded over the adoption of the budget as presented. It was recognized that, except to some small portion that identified as not to be funded in the absence of giving to cover the bills, the budget reflected the real cost of keeping the doors open. It was stated clearly that based on the real bills reflected in the budget and the history of giving in the next very few weeks we will either decrease the bills by 33%, increase giving by 50% or some combination. I know it looks strange so let me put it in dollar numbers. We are falling short of paying the bills and our people by \$60,000 a year. Passing the budget without asking first for ways to decrease the bills does have a positive light. As a congregation we have decided to increase giving by the additional \$60,000 a year, or \$5,000 a month, to meet the bills as they stand. This is great! Now is the time to take that on with a vengeance. Now is the time to bring more people to Christ and to be a part of our family in Christ's name. Now is the time to act to save where we can like living with the heating and air set more moderately, lights set at less than full where possible, and coordinating meetings and events to help save on the time that the building is open, lit, and warmed. Now is the time to put the effort into seeing that our facility is clean, inviting, and a place we want to bring our family and friends. I have every faith that we, as a church family, WILL accomplish this. (Cont'd pg. 2)

## Some Ponderings for December

I never read this story but that my thoughts and mind do not wander to the drama that is told in this story as found in Luke 2:8-20.

8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,<sup>a</sup> the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,<sup>b</sup> praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"<sup>c</sup> <sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

I am amazed that God would send himself to the earth in the form of a helpless little child. He would be born through the pains of childbirth and that this child would change all humanity for all time. I hope this Christmas season that you too will be amazed at the story and that it will bring new meaning to you and your family. May you also return to your homes "glorifying and praising God for all that you have heard and seen."

Peace and Love this Holiday Season, Pastor Rob

## Music Notes from Pam Barksdale

*The Chancel Choir invites you to  
come and worship  
the Newborn King.....with Praise Noels!*

The Chancel Choir is excited to share with you the cantata 'Praise Noels' arranged by Don Marsh. This cantata blends traditional carols with some of today's most popular worship songs. The choir will be presenting this cantata on Sunday, Dec 13 in the 11 AM worship service. We will also present the cantata at Atherton Place on Sunday, December 20 at 4 PM. There will be a 'sneak peak' as the choir presents one selection from the cantata on Saturday, December 5 at the 4 PM dinner for food pantry clients, friends and family. Come join the Chancel Choir and Soulfire for food, fun and music and to sing together the wonderful carols of the season!

Joy to the World!

Pam Barksdale

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(Cont'd from page 1) I am taking a step in this way, at 9:00 A.M. on Saturday, December 12, I will be at the Church with ladders out and replacing the burned out lights. I invite any able person to join me at that time to help and to take on extra little things like clearing some leaves from around the building, trimming shrubs, and general cleanup and spruce up. It is the Christmas season, a time that we will be seeing the most guests. We need to make every effort to make our Church home inviting to the guests and comfortable to us. We WILL continue to do the work of God and grow in faith and family.

In His Name,

Ken Russell, Chairman of the Board, FCC Marietta

Have you ever wondered how your marriage would change if you started celebrating God's design for a lifetime commitment? Are you contemplating marriage, have you been married less than 5 years, have you been married less than 25 years, or have you been married for less than 50 years? This seminar may be for you. If you find these questions intriguing please contact Pastor Rob or attend an informational session on this topic December 9, 2009 @ 6:30 pm in the church library. We will together be exploring a program that will focus on the divine purpose and motivation of why God brings people together. The title of the seminar that we will be exploring is called: **Celebrating God's design for commitment.** If we choose to host this event interest in such an endeavor can be explored together.

## ***A Note From Dottie Lee***

I would like to take this opportunity to say a word of good-bye. The past ten years as your Pastoral Associate have been very rewarding. You gave me a ministry on which to focus, and feel that I was serving God in some way. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share in your joys and sorrows. I have many good memories to cherish for the rest of my days. Please keep me in your prayers, and you will certainly be in mine. Do all that you can to make this Church a vital witness in this community and region. You are a great people!

With love in Christ,  
Dottie Lee

## **Important Dates for put on your Calendar**

**December 5th @ 4p.m.: Dinner & a Show**

**December 13th @ 11a.m.: Choir Cantata**

**December 19th @ 5p.m. Christmas Dinner  
Party**

**December 24th @ 5:30p.m.: Christmas Eve  
Service**

## From Our Congregational Health Minister, Rev. Donna Kremer

### **.How Much Do You Know About Diabetes?**

About eight percent of all Americans have diabetes, and the rate is increasing. We all need to learn more about this prevalent and life-threatening disease, including common symptoms, how it affects your health, tips to manage it and prevent complications and ways to reduce your risk factors. However, a lot of what you read and hear is just plain wrong. Test your knowledge of diabetes by answering “Fact” or “Myth” to each of these questions:

1. Eating too much sugar can cause diabetes
2. People with type 2 diabetes do not make enough insulin.
3. Losing weight can reduce your risk of developing type 2 diabetes.
4. People with diabetes need to eat special dietetic foods.
5. If you have pre-diabetes, there’s nothing you can do to avoid becoming diabetic.
6. There is no cure for diabetes.
7. People with diabetes are more likely to have gum disease than non-diabetics
8. Birth control pills are dangerous for women with diabetes.
9. Uncontrolled diabetes can cause blindness.
10. People with diabetes are more likely to catch a cold or become sick.

How did you do? To find out more “Facts” about diabetes, stop by the display in Lee Fellowship Hall. Your Congregational Health Minister will perform glucose (blood screening) throughout the month.

Answers:

1. Myth
2. Fact
3. Fact
4. Myth
5. Myth
6. Fact
7. Fact
8. Myth
9. Fact.
10. Myth

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### **CWF FAMILY NIGHT**

#### **Christmas Memories & Traditions**

**December 3, 2009**

**Our Christmas CWF covered dish dinner will be Thursday, December 3, 2009 at 7:00 pm. We will be sharing our favorite Christmas memories or traditions with each other. Think back over your life and those favorite times and share them with your church family. Please bring your favorite casserole or vegetable or dessert and plan to attend.**

## Pastoral Staff

Robert Mason	Senior Minister
Hal Doster,	Senior Minister Emeritus
John Lee✙	Senior Minister Emeritus
Jerry Gladson	Senior Minister Emeritus
Dotty Lee,	Pastoral Care Emeritus
Jeff Shimizu	Pastoral Associate
Warren Taylor	Minister of Recovery
	Pastoral Associate
Donna Kremer	Minister of Congregational Health
Eduardo Villarreal	Spanish Service
	Pastoral Associate
Sherwood Smith	Dir. of Disciples
	Mission Food Pantry

## Church Staff

Pam Barksdale	Director of Music
Wilma Zalabak	Pianist
Tommy Russell	Administrative Assistant
Sean Warner	Youth Director

## Services

Sunday School	9:45 a.m.
Worship & Communion	11:00 a.m.
Youth Activities	12:30 p.m. Sundays
Spanish Worship	3:00 p.m. Sundays
Bible Study	6:30 p.m. Wednesdays
Spanish Bible Study	7:30 p.m. Wednesdays
Traditional AA Meeting	7:00 p.m. Tuesdays
Church Office Hours	8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. M-Th

Website	<a href="http://www.fccmarietta.org">www.fccmarietta.org</a>
Email address	<a href="mailto:fccmarietta@comcast.net">fccmarietta@comcast.net</a>

## You are invited to...

### Worship

Sundays at 11:00 AM

Dec. 6: "Call Me The Baptizer" Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 3:1-6

Dec. 13: Christmas Cantata

Dec. 20: "For Unto You a Child is Born" Isaiah 9:2-7 & Luke 2:1-14

Dec. 24: "Call Me Ahkmet the Inn Keeper"

### Conversations

(A mid-week Bible study)  
Wednesdays, 6:30 PM

No Conversations for November and December



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Marietta, GA 30060  
Permit No. 302

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