first
CHRISTIAN

Issue 50 Volume 62

December 14, 2014

the
BULLETIN

1408 E. Benjamin Ave., Norfolk, NE 68701

Welcome Guests

Please take a moment to fill out the Welcome Card in front of you. You can drop it off at our Connection Center or in the black boxes in the lobby.

We are glad you are here!

COLLECTION OF GIFT CARDS FOR PINEHAVEN RANCH KIDS

We are collecting $10 Walmart gift cards to bless the children at Pinehaven Christian Children's Ranch this Christmas. If you would like to donate a $10 Walmart gift card please drop it off at the church office by noon on **Friday, December 19th.**

Pinehaven Christian Children's Ranch is one of the 9 Core Missions supported by first Christian. Pinehaven is a residential, year-round program that provides a stable and loving environment for high-risk children. Pinehaven provides an alternative home environment where troubled kids can reach their potential that God has placed within them. The Walmart gift cards are just one way we can share love with these children.

How You Can Improve as a Father?

Look at the impact that you can have as a father. When a child is won to Christ, the entire family comes to Christ 25 percent of the time. When a woman is won to Christ, that goes up to 29 percent. But when a man comes to Christ, that number jumps to 95 percent. As men, we can make a difference in our children's lives. Find out how in the Quest for Authentic Manhood, a 24-week series beginning Tuesday, January 6, at 5 a.m. and 6 a.m. or Thursday, January 8, at 6:30 p.m. For more information or to sign up, check out the Connection Center in the lobby.

A very special "**thank you"** to the many volunteers who helped make the Children's Christmas Program a great success! Over 30 adult and Jr. High/ Middle School volunteers lead groups, organized activities, prepared snacks and meals, created props and provided technical support. Your generosity and love for the children did not go unnoticed.

Thank You!!

Congregational Meeting

2014 Annual MEETING

FCC's Annual Congregational Meeting will be at the end of the 11 a.m. service this Sunday. The sole purpose of the meeting is voting. The three items on the ballot are: Affirmation of Elders, approval of the 2015 budget, and approval of the By-Laws revisions. The proposed budget has a 4.6% increase. The Elder nominees are all currently serving Elders. The By-Laws revisions pertain to the Elder identification process. Copies of the By-Laws revisions, brief bios of the Elder Nominees, and the 2015 proposed budget are available in the office window. Ballots will be distributed at the end of each the service just before a special song by our children. Ballots can be dropped off in the blue buckets on your way out of the auditorium.

Nuts and Bolts:
- The vote will officially take place at the close of the 11 a.m. service.
- Absentee ballots will be received until the close of the 11a.m. service.
- A blank does not count as a yes or a no.
- All members 16 years old or older can vote.

Pray For Each Other

Dave Domina - recovering at home
Logan Drabek - grandson of Dick and Judi Carlson, surgery recovery
Ron Hilkemann - stroke recovery
Troy Kremlacek - shoulder surgery recovery
Stu Nelson - hip replacement recovery
Randy Rodenborg - car accident recovery

firstCHRISTIAN - Effectively love northeast Nebraska for Jesus
Connection Christian Church in Columbus - Effectively love people in and around Columbus for Jesus

Impossibly Amazing Trips of a Lifetime

I was hooked. The headline worked. I love the idea of daring the nearly impossible. The trips described in the article include trekking the jungles of Bornea, diving between tectonic plates, and going backcountry in Afghanistan. The danger, expense, distance and other-worldliness of these trips are nearly unimaginable. I can only think of one trip that would be even less possible and more amazing, space travel...the final frontier…to boldly go where no man has gone before. Only 24 people have gone beyond low Earth orbit. Yet even these two dozen haven't come remotely close to the impossibly amazing trip God took to earth.

The trip from heaven to earth is not a matter of distance, but of identification. Imagine taking on the form of something completely different, maybe a slug in a Himalayan cave, a gnat in Papua New Guinea, or an amoeba on an island near India while retaining the non-physical part of us that makes us human. Jesus identified with us. The Creator became part of the creation while remaining Creator. That's the incarnation. God with us is God as us. Wow. Tim

Congratulations on Your Memberships

Deric and Kristi Werner, placed their memberships last Sunday, December 7 at firstCHRISTIAN. They have three children, **Korbin, Kyndal, Kayton,** and **Kinsley**. Welcome to the firstCHRISTIAN family.

Children's and Youth Program Schedule

JAM Clubs for grades K-4 and Lil'K for ages 3-5 are on a Christmas and New Year's break. Both programs will resume on January 14.

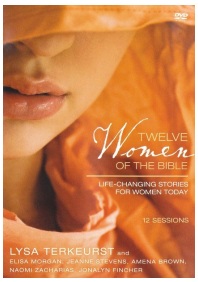
Club 56 meets one more time this year, this Wednesday! The next Club 56 session will start January 7. To register your 5th or 6th grade student, contact Marshal at fccmarshal@conpoint.com.

FUEL meets one last time before the Holiday season break. This Sunday youth grades 6-12 meet at the church at 5 p.m. for caroling outdoors and a barn dance to follow. FUEL will resume January 4.

Family Sunday Service—Sunday, December 28

Children ages 4 and up will join their families for worship at both service times. Children ages 4 through grade 4 will be dismissed to Children's Church during the message. Grades 5-6 will remain with their families for the entire service.

A new Bible study coming for Women of FCC



Twelve Women of the Bible: Life Changing Stories for Women Today by Lysa Terkeurst will have two twelve week options: Monday mornings at 9 a.m. starting January 12 or Tuesday nights at 6:30 p.m. starting January 13. The study guide is $10. A sign-up sheet will be at the Connection Center on Sunday, December 14 and 21. You may also sign up by calling the office at 402-371-5734, Cindy Chleborad at 402-841-9987 (Mondays), or Chris McKibbon at 402-379-4596 (Tuesdays).

Christmas Gifts For The Ministers

A box will be in the lobby for "The Ministers' Christmas Gifts." Cash placed in the box will be divided equally among our 5 ministers. If you prefer to designate your gift to an individual, please make a check out to the individual or place your gift in a card or envelope bearing the individual's name. Please do not make checks out to First Christian Church because these gifts cannot be run through the church treasury.

2014 Annual Mission Goals
Ending the Year Well!

The **2014 Missions Designated Giving Goals** below are faith stretching and are based on FCC's 2013 giving. The percentages that are in red indicate that through your generosity we have exceeded our giving goal for 2014! Please consider helping us meet all our 2014 goals by giving a gift to one of our **9 Core Missions**. **Undesignated Christmas Eve giving will be used to help meet our remaining goals.***

	Goal	Received	%of Goal
Christian Student Fellowship*	**$5,000**	**$3,614**	**72.3%**
Deaf Missions	**$12,000**	**$16,226**	**135.2%**
PBT—Marc & Tina Gebhard*	**$9,000**	**$5,838**	**64.9%**
Al & Rhonda Juve, Japan*	**$9,000**	**$6,773**	**75.3%**
Literature & Teaching Ministries*	**$12,000**	**$9,099**	**75.8%**
Nebraska Christian College*	**$11,000**	**$10,419**	**94.7%**
Northwest Haiti Christian Mission	**$12,000**	**$12,689**	**105.7%**
Norfolk Rescue Mission	**$9,000**	**$10,044**	**111.6%**
Pinehaven Christian Ranch	**$12,000**	**$12,000**	**100%**

CREATE A RHYTHM
HOME FX PROJECT

WHAT COMES TO MIND WHEN YOU THINK OF CHRISTMAS AS A KID?
It may be that one amazing present that made its way under the tree, but more than likely, you remember those little things you did with your family each year. The moments you experienced together that became your traditions. This month we'll be giving you some Christmas family experiences to try out. Maybe they'll become a new tradition.

READ THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Pull out the Bible, gather the kids around, and let them hear you read the best story ever, the Christmas story. It might not seem like they're listening at first, but over time, the sound of mom and dad's voice reading each Christmas will become something they look forward to every year. As your kids get older, pass the tradition on to them. It just might turn out to be a gift that gets passed down for many generations to come. Need ideas? Start with **Luke 2:1-21**.

HOST A BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS

Who doesn't like a great birthday party? Yes, they're work, but giving your kids the family experience of investing in friends and family, along with celebrating Jesus' birthday, will be so worth it. Make sure you include your kids in the planning, preparing, and hosting of the party. The experience of making people feel special and celebrating Jesus' birth will be something your kids will look forward to every year.

Children & Youth Classes

Nursery– fully staffed 9:15 & 11 a.m.
Birth to 2 years
West Hallway

Preschool 9:15 & 11 a.m.
2-3's & 4-5's
West Hallway

Elementary School 9:15 & 11 a.m.
K through 4th grade
North Hallway

Middle School 9:15 a.m.
5th & 6th grade
Chapel: South Hallway

Jr. / Sr. High (FUEL) Class 9:15 a.m.
7th through 12th grade
Chapel: South Hallway

Adult Bible Classes 8 a.m.
Subject: Revelation
Chapel: South Hallway
Subject: 1 Corinthians
Fuel Room: North Hallway

Worship Services

Piano | **Bill Miller**
Drums | **Zach Fuoss**
Electric | **Dan Muehlbauer**
Bass | **Jared Carriker**
Acoust/Harmonica | **Brian Gall**
Vocals | **Melinda Cooper, Allen Stateler, Romona Noble**
Worship Leader | **Greg Springer**

Lead Ushers

9:15 a.m. | **Kevin Mueller**
11 a.m. | **Lou Siefker**

Songs

O Come Let Us Adore Him
The First Noel | Phil Wickham
Babe In the Straw | City on A Hill
It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Elders' Phone Numbers

Donald Holloway
Chairman
402-371-7972

Steve Ball
Treasurer
402-371-5734

Larry Glandt
402-371-6970

Jim Hopkins
Secretary
402-371-1466

Kevin Mueller
402-379-4943

Tom Schmidt
Vice Chairman
402-379-8293

Steve Smith
402-371-3470

Ministers' Email Addresses

Tim DeFor
Lead Minister
fcctim@conpoint.com

Randall Coffin
Associate Minister
fccrandall@conpoint.com

Marshal Hardy
Youth Minister
fccmarshal@conpoint.com

Greg Springer
Worship Arts Minister
fccgreg@conpoint.com

Kristi Carmichael
Children's Minister
fcckristi@conpoint.com

December 7, 2014

Attendance
Worship: (324, 195) 519
Sunday School: 197
Worship plus Sunday School: 716
Total attendees: 640

General Fund
Budgeted weekly: $11,780
Received: $15,816
Budgeted ytd: $577,220
Received ytd: $625,498

Debt Service
Needed Weekly: $2,600
Loan Payment: $11,300
Received this week: $3,088

Mission Giving
Missions this week: $2,757
Missions ytd: $95,895