



January 2014

Crossroads Connections



A church in the crossroads of life

A Moment with Pastor Mike

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During the Christmas season, we've enjoyed hearing the seasonal music, the great hymns and carols, and even the secular, silly music about Santa, reindeer, and snowmen. On the last Sunday of December, we had fun ringing our bells during worship. But sometimes its important to turn off the music and listen to the silence. And in the silence, we can hear the angels sing.

Kirk Byron Jones says that "Silence is a mysterious gate to dimensions of God we may not be able to access otherwise. ... In silence I am more likely to experience God on God's terms and not my own. In silence I

am less likely to sidestep mystery." (The Jazz of Preaching, p. 54)

The bareness of silence can make us feel uncomfortable and awkward. It's easier to be surrounded by sound, from our TVs and CD players, MP3s and smart phones, satellite radios, and all the other wonders of our technological age. Yet, what do we miss by not opening ourselves to sheer silence once in awhile? What do we miss by not listening to the silence, not allowing our hearts and minds to tune in on something that's not preprogrammed from outside us?

That crusty old prophet Elijah, on the run from a pagan queen's army intent to kill him, hid in a cave and wanted to give up. He needed some word of encouragement. A mighty wind howled. No voice of God. Then fire crackled through the valley below. No voice of God. There came a mighty earthquake, rumbling and shaking through the valley. No voice of God. Finally, in the silence, came the still small voice; the sound

of sheer silence. In the quiet, God gave the prophet the challenge and the promise that Elijah needed to hear. (1 Kings 19:11-18)

It's good to pray to God every day, but let's not make the conversations one-sided. Listening is at least as important as

speaking. Sometimes we might hear God's word of blessing and challenge in the words of people around us, or in the voices of the media, but we should also learn to listen to the silence. "Be still and know that I am God," the Psalmist said. Be still and listen. Maybe begin by reading a few verses from your Bible or a passage from a devotional book, lift up to God your own needs and the needs of those around you in prayer, but take a few minutes for listening, too. In the silence, you may come to experience the presence of a gracious and loving God.



Worship times:

Sunday School at 9:30 am.

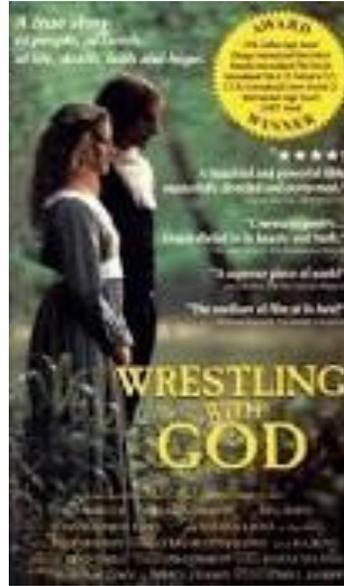
Worship at 10:45 am.

—Grace and peace, Mike

BEACON Relational Dinner

Crossroads Christian Church in partnership with BEACON Ministries will be hosting relational ministry dinners on the last Wednesday evening of each month at 5:30 pm, beginning in January 2014. Crossroads will host the meal and life message, with life skills training offered following dinner by a BEACON volunteer. Incentive vouchers will be presented at the conclusion of the session. If you know of someone who is in need and would benefit from this event, please contact the church office or BEACON at (618) 222-8842.

Wrestling with God



Beginning Wednesday, January 8, 2014, the Dinner/Video/Discussion group (DVD) will view the film *Wrestling with God*. This 1990 independent film is a dramatic account of the life of Alexander Campbell, one of the forbearers of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Please come and join us for food, fellowship and fun!

Bible Facts—Epiphany

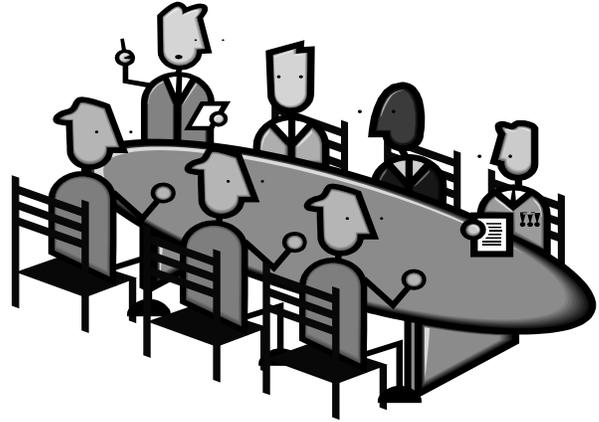
Observed on January 6th, the Epiphany celebration remembers the three miracles that manifest the divinity of Christ. The name "Epiphany" comes from the Greek word *Epiphania*, and means "to show, make known, or reveal." The celebration originated in the Eastern Church in AD 361, beginning as a commemoration of the birth of Christ. Later, additional meanings were added - the visit of the three Magi, Christ's baptism in the Jordan River, and his first miracle at the wedding in Cana. These three events are central to the definition of Epiphany, and its meaning is drawn from these occurrences.

Jennifer Lewis will be serving as an interim pastor for First Christian Church in Bonne Terre, MO for a period of 6 months. We wish her all the best in this new opportunity!

If you would like to serve as a Worship Leader or Greeter for the 2014 calendar year, please contact the church office so you can be added to the list.

Chips From the Board

- Board approved Pastor Mike's request to use church facilities on March 1, 2014 from 9-3 for the *Dare to Lead* meeting with groups from other congregations.
- "Relational" dinner/meetings will begin the last Wednesday in January and meet on a monthly basis.



Elder's Corner

Every January we anticipate looking forward to the coming year with its unknown possibilities, opportunities and hope for better times. At the same time we look back on the past year and take stock of what has happened and how it has impacted us. Our past recollections provide us with a strong base on which to make future decisions; and are our treasured storehouse of fond memories of days past.

However there is a danger if we are mesmerized by our past actions, longing to correct mistakes or dwelling on missed opportunities. We may pine longingly for the "good old days" when times were not as hard, or wish to revel in past glory and successes. This tendency to continuously relive our past causes us to pause in our journey and not move forward as we should. I'm reminded of the curious parable in Luke in which Jesus describes the perils and hardships of discipleship. He mentions that those who set their hands to the plow (i.e. the work of God) cannot look back. You can demonstrate this yourself by marking out and walking a line between two points. If you walk the line looking straight ahead, the task is easy. Next try walking the line but this time turn your head and look behind you as you walk. How did you do?



Just like people, churches have difficulty moving forward if they're focused on their past. They long for times that are long gone and for a style and a culture that has evolved and moved ahead. The challenge of churches today is to evolve and change with the times and to become relevant in the current culture in their community. This challenge is for Crossroads as we continue in our transformation toward a congregation focused on mission here in Caseyville. As we continue into 2014, it is my hope that we can all be open and accepting to the change and transformation that will shape the future of our congregation.

—Pat McAllister

Prayers

- Tom Hull cancer stable, no growth
- Death of Virginia Yates (friend of Patty P.)
- Thanks for memories both happy and sad
- Ed Hayes able to return to work after recent surgery
- Death of Noni Cone (cousin of Pat Dueland) on December 3
- Nephew of Marie R. diagnosed with ALS
- Death of Mary Beth Hoehn (daughter of Rollie & Jodie)
- Larry Peterson (brother-in-law of Jim & Patty) in serious condition at Barnes
- Leroy and Hedy Madison ongoing health issues
- Faye Pritz recovering at home after recent fall
- Lenny Pritz (son of Faye P.) back in hospital
- Prayers of strength and mercy for all those in need this time of year
- Jan E. undergoing medical tests

Week of Compassion Update

Week of Compassion, Disciples Volunteering, and United Church of Christ Wider Church Ministries Disaster and Volunteer Ministries will be coordinating efforts with the Oklahoma Disaster Recovery Project, Oklahoma United Methodist Disaster Response, and other local partners to help volunteers put their Compassion into Action.

Projects will be part of the community's comprehensive recovery effort. The focus will be on home repair, rebuilding, and new construction, but may also include community renewal projects, such as the re-planting of trees, and other meaningful work in support of partner agencies whose services were impacted by the tornado. These projects will be identified locally by the Oklahoma Disaster Recovery Project.

Week-long Mission Trips in 2014 will begin the week of April 7. Registration is \$100 per person, with a \$25 nonrefundable deposit. Check with the Registrar with questions about availability or register for your top two preferred weeks. Registrations will be honored in the order they are received.

Thank You!

The staff of Crossroads would like to thank all of you for our Christmas love gift. We really appreciate your thoughts and kindness.



THE POWER OF
PRAY

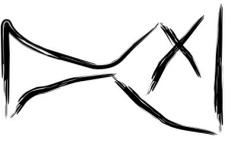
Our Homebound

Pat Beyer
Ray Doctorman
Rollie & Jodie Hoehn
Vera Hudson
Nelson Rodriguez-Arté



Lay Worship Leaders—January 2014

	January 5	January 12	January 19	January 26
Worship Leader	Dan Upton	Patty Buckhannon	Pat McAllister	Ken Holmes
Elder	Bob Green	Mona McAllister	Ken Holmes	Pat McAllister
Deacons Prepare	Pat Hayes Shirley Holmes	Patty Buckhannon Mary Weygandt	Patty Buckhannon Shirley Holmes	Pat Hayes Mary Weygandt
Deacons Serve	Patty Buckhannon Pat Hayes Meredith Moder Curt Sutton	Jim Buckhannon Patty Buckhannon Meredith Moder Mary Weygandt	Jim Buckhannon Patty Buckhannon Pat Hayes Curt Sutton	Jim Buckhannon Pat Hayes Curt Sutton Mary Weygandt
Deacons Candles	Pat Hayes	N/A	Pat Hayes	N/A
Deacons Sanctuary	Shirley Holmes	Patty Buckhannon	Shirley Holmes	Pat Hayes
Greeter	Curt Sutton	Marie Reichling	Pat Killian	Curt Sutton
Audio-Visual	Kay Marshall	Pat McAllister	David Kennedy Jr.	David Kennedy Jr.



January 2014

SEGA Prayers for the Month

1/5-1/11 Hematite First Christian Church, Hematite, MO
 1/12-1/18 Villa Ridge Christian Church, Villa Ridge, MO
 1/19-1/25 Liberation Christian Church, St. Louis, MO
 1/26-2/2 SEGA—Penny Ross-Corona, support staff,
 the other Areas Ministers & staff in CCMA

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>New Year's Day</i>	2	3	4
5 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship	6	7	8 5:15 Dinner/Video 7:00 Choir Practice	9	10	11
12 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship	13	14	15 5:15 Dinner/Video 7:00 Choir Practice	16	17	18
19 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 12:00 Board Meeting	20	21 12:00 Lunch Bunch at Eckert's	22 5:15 Dinner/Video 7:00 Choir Practice	23	24	25
26 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship	27	28	29 5:15 Dinner/Video 7:00 Choir Practice	30	31	

Happy Anniversary!!
19 Jessie and Tom Hull

Happy Birthday!

<p>1 Jo Jones Ryan McAllister 4 Faye Pritz 8 Nicholas Clay Christian Moder</p>	<p>15 Pat Hayes 16 Connie McAllister 17 Madeline Medley 22 Corinne Goodall Ron Johnson</p>
<p>23 John Weygandt 24 Greg Marshall 26 Carol Brookshier 30 Claire Weygandt</p>	

Life Program at Eden Theological Seminary



What is the LIFE program? LIFE (Lay Institute of Faith Exploration) is a program of retreats that invites lay men and women to study scripture and explore Christian faith and life. It challenges participants to become life long learners and disciples, faithful witnesses to the gospel and faithful members and leaders of the church. LIFE is sponsored jointly by the Missouri Mid-South Conference, the Illinois South Conference and Eden Theological Seminary (all United Church of Christ).

Coming Soon...

January 10-11, 2014

Certificate Course - "God Revealed in Scripture: Biblical Theology" Rev. Dr. J.

Clinton McCann *Evangelical Professor of Biblical Interpretation, Eden Theological Seminary*

Davidson College, A.B., 1973

Union Theological Seminary in Virginia, D.Min., 1977

Union Theological Seminary in Virginia, Th.M., 1978

Duke University, Ph.D., 1985 Joined Eden Faculty, 1987



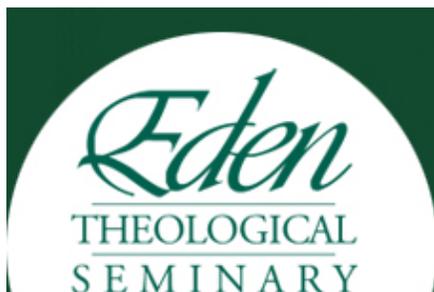
Clint's research and writing have focused on the Psalms. A noted biblical scholar, he served as chair of the Psalms Section for the Society of Biblical Literature for ten years. "I try to instill in my students the idea that academic inquiry is a way to deepen their faith. Questions and new ideas are always a stimulus to think; and the simplest definition of theology is 'thinking about God,' especially about the astounding implications that the Bible portrays God as unfailingly gracious, merciful and loving on a world-encompassing scale."

Recommended text: materials provided

Five retreats are held each year (early January, early March, late April, mid September, and early November). They begin with on Friday evening with 6pm dinner and end on Saturday at 3:30pm, following closing worship. Each retreat includes worship, community life, devotional time, meals and six hours of class instruction.

Other Certificate Courses Include:

- On the Road to Discipleship
- Exploring the Presence of God (Thinking Theologically)
- Reading and Understanding Scripture: Old Testament
- Reading and Understanding Scripture: New Testament





Christian Church

2415 North 89th Street
Caseyville, IL 62232
(618)398-1587

Interim Pastor - Rev. Michael Dixon
medixon2@earthlink.net

Office Manager - Patrick McAllister
crossroadsdisciple@sbcglobal.net

Hours: M,T,W,Th 8-12

Music Director - Carol Brookshier
clbrookshier@charter.net

Nursery - Connie McAllister

Custodian - Richard Reichling

**We're Disciples: a movement for
wholeness in a fragmented world**

Upcoming Events

Lunch Bunch

On Tuesday, January 21, the Lunch Bunch will meet at Eckert's Country Restaurant in Belleville at noon. Sign-up sheet is in fellowship hall.



Fellowship Hosts Needed

We are in need of hosts to serve refreshments on the second Sunday of each month for 2014. If you would like to host, please sign your name on the sheet in fellowship hall.

