



Sunday School
9:30 am

Worship Service
10:15 am

329 N. 6th Street
Lafayette, IN 47901

THE VISITOR

Monthly News & Updates -- January, 2023

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Greetings,

We are now to the part of the year where for the next few months we'll all be writing the wrong date on our checks. Honestly, 2023 feels like a made-up number. Wasn't it just 2003? What about 2013? We're almost a quarter of the way into the 21st century. Where has all the time gone???

2023 will be the first year in several years that we are not entering into in the midst of a pandemic. It can be difficult to remember that last year at this time there were more positive cases of Covid than at any other time. But now, we are largely on the other side of the Corona Virus pandemic. Most of the folks involved with the church have been vaccinated and boosted, and we're not as worried today as we have been in the past few years with the health effects of exposure to the corona virus. We're still being cautious, of course, but thanks be to God: we're in a much better place today than we were last year.

As we enter the new year as a church, there is a bit of clarity. Even as the future always seems a bit blurry, we know a few things. First, we are on our way towards identifying a new mission statement. In November we met and discussed the values of the church, and based on many, many conversations, it seems as though a few fit. We are a generous people who give of our time and money to support others in need. We believe in good stewardship, which is about what we do with what God has given us. We are compassionate, seeking to show love to those around us. And we believe in good tradition, especially that which comes from our own denomination, the Disciples of Christ: the priesthood of all believers, biblical values, an open communion table that is accepting of all people, and a desire for unity in Christ,

among others. This sense of what we value will help us begin fashioning a new mission statement, which will be an expression of who God is calling us to be in this time and place.

Along with this renewed sense of mission, we are also embarking on an exploration of how we use our building to support mission and ministry. In November we learned about an opportunity called “Indiana Sacred Places,” which will help leaders of our church come up with new ways of sustaining our historic building. Along with training, we will also receive money for initial studies and improvements. The first of these retreats is going to be scheduled for February, and we’ll be giving updates as we find out more. This is an exciting opportunity for us to work toward a more sustainable future.

As we head into this year, these are the two big things that are happening around First Christian Church: a continued discernment of our mission and vision based on the identified values of the congregation and a new direction for how we utilize our building. Honestly, that’s probably enough. But I wonder, as the year goes on, what else do we need to be exploring? For me, it’s a question of our neighborhood: how are we learning to be better neighbors to the folks who live and work in and around downtown Lafayette? In our mission conversations and in our work towards becoming a sustainable historic property, we are committing to being neighbors in the downtown Lafayette community. These are the folks we are called to be church to and for. How are we being called to serve them?

What are your plans for the New Year? Are you a resolutions person or not? I hope whatever it is you’re committing to, that you’ll continue to turn your attention to God, to listen to the one who calls us into new life.

Blessings,
Rev. Andrew Guthrie



Click on the following link to view the church calendar:
[January Calendar](#)

The church office will be closed on Monday, January 2, 2023, in observance of the New Year's holiday.

Our January First Sunday Celebration will be held on January 8 (the second Sunday). We hope you can stay following worship service as we recognize Michelle Schluttenhofer for her years of service and dedication to our congregation.

Pub Theology will be meet at Lafayette Brewing Company on January 19th at 7pm. We'll be getting together to enjoy some refreshments and conversation about being followers of Jesus.



The January/February/March issue of the **Our Daily Bread** devotional is available in the Narthex and in the Gathering Place. Please take one for yourself and for a friend. If you would like to have a copy mailed to you, please contact June at the church office. (765) 742-4058

The Seekers Class meets 2nd floor of the church each Sunday at 9 am. There is also have a Zoom link for those who prefer a virtual option. For those joining by Zoom (note: this link is new as of October 2022)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83721532451?pwd=Q1NLU1N6N05GalV4NnRheTMzOXIVdz09>

Meeting ID: 837 2153 2451

Passcode: 445516



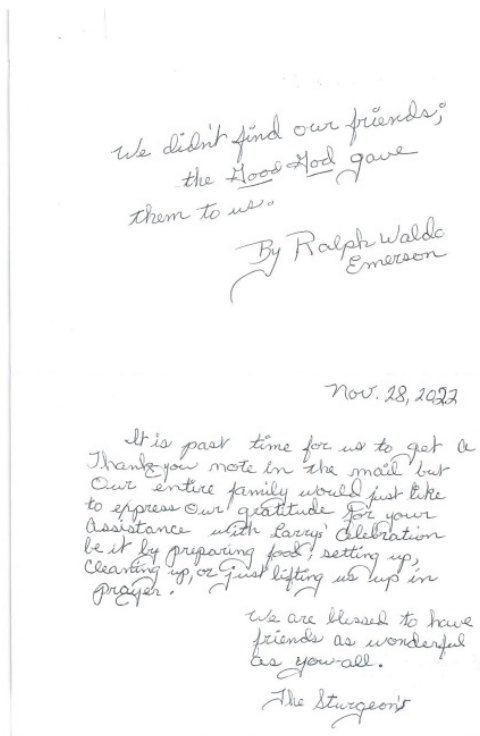
We will need volunteers at **Food Finders Fresh Market on January 28th** from 9:45am-Noon. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Andrew or the church office at 765-742-4058.



Please plan to join us following the worship service on Jan. 8 as we recognize Michelle Schluttenhofer's 17 years of service and dedication to First Christian Church. Michelle, Dave and John will be moving to Florida as soon as their house is completed, probably in the spring or early summer of 2023. Michelle's last official working day at the church was December 31. Michelle began her church career with the children and youth. Her duties evolved over the years into working with the entire congregation and community outreach. Michelle and her family will certainly be missed. We pray for God's blessings on their future endeavors and welcome them back to visit whenever they can.



THANK YOU



Thank you, thank you, thank you! The support of this congregation has been phenomenal! I appreciate your thoughtfulness in supporting Jubilee Christmas. Our guests were amazed and thankful for your kindness.



There were lots of smiles and hugs. I didn't hear any negative comments, which I consider a success. I wish I could be a "fly on the wall" to see the happiness on the kids' faces on Christmas Day! Thank you again for all of your generosity. Gaye Hilgediek

The sanctuary was decorated beautifully this Advent season.
Thank you to all who donated their time and resources.

POINSETTIA DONATION LIST

Name:

Carolyn Weedon
Carolyn Kanehe
Michael & Susie Nelson
Richard Ellsworth
John & Laura Gullion

Michael Urbano
Carolyn & Steve Henry

In Memory/Honor of:

Edna Leslie, mother; Jeff Weedon, son
Parents and family members
Richard Nelson & Tom

Margaret Spencer, Emerson DeBoy,
Dorothy & Dean Stockton, Tom & Judy
Gullion, Jimmy DeBoy

Parents

Thank you to Kathy Stirlen for gifting us with her beautiful artwork this Christmas. Please help yourself to her postcards as her gift to you.



The staff of First Christian Church would like to thank the congregation for their many acts of kindness to us this season. We enjoyed Christmas goodies, received many beautiful cards, and are very appreciative of the love gift. We would like to wish each of you a healthy and happy 2023.

Andrew Guthrie, pastor; Michelle Schluttenhofer, Director of Congregational Ministries; Jeffrey Goodspeed, Director of Music; Steve Klink, Worship Media Coordinator; June Jenkins, Administrative Assistant

PODCAST

In the third episode of the FCC Podcast, we're going to hear from folks who helped out at Christmas

Jubilee. That day, representatives from 25 families gathered with volunteers from First Christian Church to celebrate the gift of Christmas together. Hear from the many volunteers about what makes the day special!

If you'd like to hear more, visit fcclaf.org/fccpodcast, or you can point your cell phone camera at the QR code, and it will take you there.



You may email prayer requests to prayer@fcclaf.org
or call the church office at 765-742-4058

Congregational requests will remain on the list for two weeks unless otherwise requested.

NURSING HOME/HOMEBOUND

Charlene Bowman - Mulberry
Sally Brunger - Glasswater Creek
Joyce Bryant - Home
Marylou Curtis - Westminster
Sue England - Majestic Care
Joyce Hamilton - Five Star Residence
Barbara Harvey - Cumberland Pointe
Vernetta Lynn - Aster Place
Nell Merimee - Westminster
Mary & Nelson Mosson - Westminster
Pat Nelson - Wickshire
Flo Peters
June Petit - daughter's home
Wanda Sharp - Indianapolis

SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Alexis Bradshaw - Navy
Chad Ellsworth - Air Force
James Sanders - Army

CONGREGATIONAL REQUESTS

Sue Dismore - cancer
Mary Thomas - cancer
Rex Russell (C. Long's brother) - cancer
Carol Guthrie (Amanda's aunt) - cancer
Harry Martin - cancer
Moin (Mary Begum's son) - cancer
Sara Armstrong (Steve K's niece) - cancer
Larry Sturgeon - cancer
Kathy Stirlen - back problems
Sturgeon's son-in-law--stroke

CHURCH BUSINESS

First Christian Church – Lafayette

Executive Board Notes/Minutes

December 20, 2022

The Executive Board of First Christian Church – Lafayette, met Tuesday evening, December 20, 2022, at 4:00pm in rooms 202-203 of the Education Building. The meeting was called to order and a Quorum was established by Cindy Garvey Parliamentarian. Board Chr. Dave Kelsey opened the meeting with a prayer.

The following persons were in attendance: Dave Kelsey, Carolyn Kanehe, Steve Henry, Richard Ellsworth, Cindy Garvey, Don Lindstrom, Rob Galbraith, Mike Rubesch, Pastor Andrew Guthrie and Norman Long.

Minutes/Notes from the November 10, 2022 meeting were adjusted to include Rob Galbraith as an attending member of the Indiana Landmarks Meeting. With that change, the minutes were approved as printed on a unanimous vote. The agenda was then focused on the following items:

- Governance and Ministry – Pastor Guthrie led an extensive discussion based on notes collected at the noon luncheon following the Congregational Meeting on November 13, 2022. He referred to a printed handout summarizing the Values, Mission and Vision for First Christian Church collected at that noon luncheon. The questions at hand were, “Who is God calling us to be?” and “Who do we want to be as a church?”
- Indiana Landmark – Sacred Places Indiana – Their application for First Christian Church was reviewed and discussed as we focus on the future of our church building and its uses. (A copy of the application is on file and available for review in the church office)
- Proposed Learning Team – A group of four members and Pastor Guthrie will attend specialized training in the early and late spring of 2023 to lead and undertake this next and crucial step in the utilization of our church facilities. Suggested members were thought to be Pastor Guthrie, Dave Kelsey, Rob Galbraith, Richard Ellsworth, and an unnamed woman to balance out the training committee.
- Committee Reports
 - Treasurer – Steve Henry presented the following written report. (A copy of the Assets, Liabilities and Modified Cash Basis report prepared by the CPA is on file and available for review in the church office)

November 30, 2022, Financial Statement

- **Month to Date November 2022**
 - The November 30, 2022, month to date financial statement indicates a deficit of \$16,303.55.
 - The deficit can be attributed to three income and expense areas. Pledge receipts were \$7,602.72 below budget, investment income of \$5,081.81, and property expenses of \$4,371.69 over monthly budgeted expenses.

- As identified in previous property reports, the HVAC system is being repaired over a multiyear time period.
- First Christian received a large invoice covering several months of HVAC work in the amount of \$6,530.00.
- It should be noted that while investment income is listed on the financial statement, this income is not used to pay monthly expenses.
- Removing investment income of \$5,081.81 from total month to date income reduces income to \$17,151.68 and increases the November deficit to \$21,385.36.
- **Year to Date 2022**
 - YTD pledge receipts were \$182,191.22,--- \$56,142.11 below the anticipated budget level of \$238,333.33.
 - Due to improved stock market conditions, investment income for the month of November increased by \$5,081.81, however Investment Income YTD experienced a loss of \$15,708.46.
 - Both the lower pledge receipts and the investment income losses have contributed to the YTD deficit of \$46,828.98.
 - When the YTD investment income loss is removed from the income ledger, the YTD deficit is reduced to \$31,120.10.
 - Foundation Trust Income YTD is \$90,540.51, which is \$13,540.51 over the YTD budget.
 - As frequently noted, First Christian continues to under spend our budget. Through the end of November, YTD expenses were \$323,010.98,--- \$71,139.03 under budget.
 - Missions giving YTD of \$32,115.97 represents 10.8% of income and designated gifts.
- **2022 compared to 2021**
 - Pledge Receipts
 - When comparing the November 30, 2022, year to date financial statement to the November 30, 2021, year to date financial statement, there is a YTD decline in actual pledge income, from \$214,404.52 in 2021 to \$182,220.24 in 2022, a 15% decline of \$32,184.28.
 - Total monthly pledge receipts for November 2022 were \$14,073.11 compared to 2021 receipts of \$23,264.34, a 39.5% decline of \$9,191.23.
- **Total Receipts**
 - Total year to date income numbers for 2022 show a lesser decline.

- YTD Total Receipts (adjusted for Investment Income losses) through November 2022 were \$291,890.88 compared to adjusted 2021 receipts of \$315,196.98, a 7.4% decline in income of \$23,306.10.
- Total Expenses
 - Year to Date expenses for 2022 are the same as 2021 expenses.
 - Year to date expenses through the end of November 2022 were \$323,010.98, while expenses through November 2021 were \$324,635.26.
- Deficits
 - The 2022 YTD deficit (adjusted for Investment Income) is \$31,120.10.
 - The 2021 YTD deficit was \$ 9,435.28.
 - The November YTD 2022 deficit increased by \$21684.82, a 229% increase.

Committee Reports Continued:

- Property – Don Lindstrom reported repair work for the Plastering and paint in the Sanctuary damaged by a water leak have all been completed. The wallpaper in the upstairs men’s bathroom will be repaired in the near future. Attic repairs to stabilize the south wall of the Education Building were underway and would be completed soon. The delay was caused by unexpected electrical issues with wiring located in the attic.
- Worship – Carolyn Kanehe reported that the holiday decorations and all worship services have been completed and planned. Weather related issues were brought to light for the Christmas weekend services. Social and public media will be used if needed to alert the congregation to needed changes in the worship services. Streaming over the internet will be conducted regardless of weather conditions. Snow removal has been confirmed. Safety and security of the congregation was also addressed.
- Conclusion:
 - The next Executive Committee meeting was scheduled for Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 4:00pm in rooms 202/203 in the First Christian Church Education Building.
 - Being no further business to transact, the meeting was closed with prayer led by Pastor Guthrie at 6:00pm

Respectfully recorded and submitted by: Norman D. Long, Secretary



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