



## ***First Church of Christ***

**206 West Church Street**

**P.O. Box 301**

**Lynn, Indiana 47355**

### **Sunday Worship and Study Times**

**Bible School.....9:30 AM**

**Sunday AM Worship.....10:30AM**

**Evening Study & Youth Activities....6:00PM**

### ***The Lynn Christian is:***

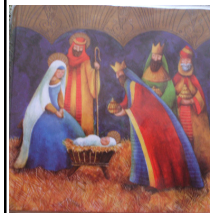
**Published by First Church of Christ in Lynn,  
Indiana on a bi-weekly basis for the distinct  
purpose of informing its members and friends of its ministry of  
“making disciples” to the glory and honor of Christ her Head!**

### ***Facts and Figures:***

<b>12-11-11</b>	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>\$1700.30</b>
<b>12-11-11</b>	<b>Missions</b>	<b>\$ 728.70</b>



<b>12-18-11</b>	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>\$2158.80</b>
<b>12-18-11</b>	<b>Missions</b>	<b>\$ 925.20</b>



## **The Lynn Christian**

**Vol. XXVI**

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**No. 26**

## **What Do We Do First?**

When you think about it, it really makes sense that we celebrate a new year immediately following our celebration of Jesus beginning His life on earth in Bethlehem. In other words, just as Jesus brought us hope of a new life with God, the celebration of a new year often offers to us a practical measuring tool for evaluating the progress of our daily walk with Christ... and the depth of our hope and trust that we have in Him! As G. K. Chesterton put it, "Unless a man starts afresh about things, he will certainly do nothing effective. Unless a man starts on the strange assumption that he has never existed before, it is quite certain that he will never exist afterward."

Yes, we rejoice and celebrate the historical fact of the miraculous birth of Jesus over 2000 years ago and the hope we possess as a result. However, how empty does that celebration become if we fail to offer ourselves as His followers, His disciples? Yes, Jesus is the reason for the season, but He is the reason for every season in our lives. If we deny that fact with the choices we make in our daily lives, then Christmas becomes nothing more than another day off of our regular schedule

We have a church family filled with those who have sought to strengthen and deepen their faith and their walk with Christ... and we thank God for that example. For that reason, I want to encourage all of us to consider how we can use the beginning of a new year to help us continue to progress in our journey with Jesus, both individually and as a church family, during the next 12 months (if God permits).

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Of course, one of the more practical ways that we can demonstrate or measure our progress is in our trust. How far do we trust God? Of course, many of us trust Him with our eternal salvation in Heaven. We do that because many of us understand that we have no power or control with that... only Jesus has defeated death. On the other hand, how far do we trust God with the issues of our life on earth?

Frequently, it seems, we have been tempted to believe that we have power and control over some things... and then we later learn differently. For example, just because we have the ability to plan our time schedule in advance does not guarantee that it will happen... only God knows what tomorrow will bring (James 4:13-15). Also, just because we can count the dollars in our bank account does not guarantee that we can know how much will be there tomorrow (or even later today!). (read Luke 12:15-31)

So, how far do we really trust God? Of course, planning our schedules and tracking our finances cannot be discarded as unnecessary. Those responsibilities give us the resources we need to help us gauge the progress of our journey. But, when there is not enough time or enough money to take care of our plans and ideas, what do we do first?... or when we do have enough time and money, what do we do first?... or before we make our plans, what do we do first? How far do we trust God?

As the new year arrives, let us evaluate individually and as a church family, how much... how far we trust God with our issues on earth. If we will take that step, I believe that, as the new year ends, we will see our trust in God strengthened... and, no doubt, we will also see His trust in us expanded, as well!

Speaking of trust, Cindy and I would like to express our appreciation for this church family entrusting us with the opportunity of serving you in the name of our Savior and Lord Jesus, the Christ. This past year has been another new adventure for us, to say the least. However, we have been blessed beyond words as God has continued to remain faithful according to the promises of His word through your love and generosity. Thank you!



(Williams' Wacky Wisdumb: No decision is a decision.)

**UPCOMING**

December 21  
6:30PM . . . . . Walk Through

December 22  
5:30PM . . . . . Christmas Caroling

December 25      CHRISTMAS DAY  
    . . . NO Sunday School . . .  
10:00AM . . . . . AM Worship Service  
                                 Begins 1/2hr early

December 28  
6:30PM . . . . . Walk Through

December 30  
7:30PM . . . Lock-In for Jr High Youth

**EVENTS:**

January 01      NEW YEAR'S DAY

January 02  
    . . . First Care Resumes . . .

January 04  
6:30PM . . . . . Walk Through



*Elders*

**Mike Alka . . . . . 765-584-1474**

**Jeff Boyer . . . . . 765-744-1390**

*Church Staff*

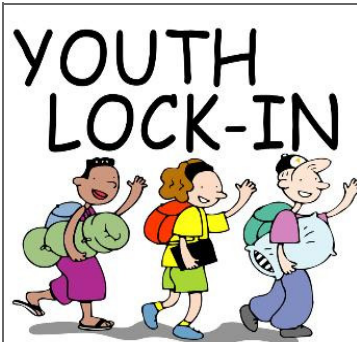
**Marjorie Alberson . . . . .**  
    **First Care Director**  
    **Office: 765-874-2590**

**Robin Brumbaugh . . . . .**  
    **Secretary**  
    **Office: 765-874-1826**

**Doug Nolen . . . . .**  
    **Minister**  
    **Cell: 765-576-1338**

**Philip Williams . . . . .**  
    **Youth Program Coordinator**  
    **Cell: 765-576-1184**

## Junior High Lock-In



The Junior High Youth are having a Lock-In on Friday, December 30th starting at 7:30PM and ending the following morning at 7:30AM, Saturday, December 31st. Special activities are being planned, including bowling.

Please see Philip or Cindy and Sign-Up TODAY!

## Youth Ministry

The next Youth Ministry meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 8th, immediately following AM Worship Service.



## Missions Ministry



The Missions Ministry will meet Sunday, January 8th at 4:30PM.



## Annual Meeting



Please don't forget to turn in your reports by Saturday, December 31st. Only a few more days away! The Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 15th, immediately after church services.

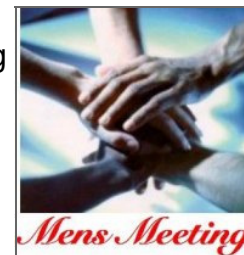
## Community Food Bank

The Randolph County Food Bank, which is currently at the Lynn Friends church, will be open and will distribute food to the needy on Saturday, January 14th from 9:00AM till 11:00AM. If you have a heart to help with this, please come. The truck will come in on Friday, the 13th, approximately 2:30PM. If you would like to help unload the truck, it would be a big help! Let us here at First Church do our part in helping with our local food bank.

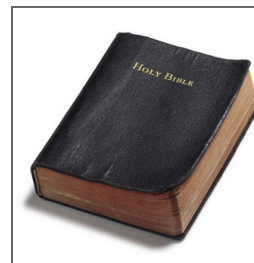


## Leadership Meeting

There will be a Leadership meeting Monday, January 16th at 7:00PM. The assignment for devotions will be to define "What is a disciple of Christ?"



## Women's Ministry



The ladies are gearing up for a new Bible study this winter, "Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World". If you would like to be a part of this, please join us! Will meet once a month and study one chapter at a time.



## *Prayer Concerns*

### Home (Health Concerns):

Nelson Collett, Connie Hartman, Val Hugg, Glen Morton,  
Katrina Norris, Jason & Ashley Vanderpool

### Our Missionaries:

Purdue Christian Campus House

### Home (Cancer):

Trinity Buck— classmate of Olivia Thurston (3rd Grade)  
Pamela Cole— Charlie & Ruth Cole's daughter-in-law

### Assisted Living and/or Nursing Home:

Modoc Group Home:

Rochella Newland

### Randolph Nursing Home:

Virginia Frazier  
Eula Newland

### Summers Pointe:

Beulah Kirk  
Ruth Welch

These names and concerns have been  
reported or updated to the church in the last month. If you  
have a prayer request that the church family needs to be  
aware of, please contact the church office.

## *Christmas Stockings*

Thank you so much to everyone who was able to donate stocking stuffers for our Shut-Ins. We will go caroling and deliver some of the stockings on Thursday, December 22nd. Please join us at 5:30PM for singing practice, then off we go! Cookies and Hot Chocolate afterwards. Everyone Welcome!

## *Servant Spotlight* *by Rebecca Glunt*

“Anything worth doing is worth doing well.” This is a favorite saying of Amy Alka that her father used to say when she was a child. Mike and Amy Alka have two children: Garrett age 13 and Abigail age 10, who are in the 8<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades, respectively. Mike and Amy have been members at FCC since 1999, and Amy has been a teacher for 20 years. She began by teaching Ag at Randolph Southern and then later taught Biology and Ag for the last eight years. Mike is a self-employed farmer. Prior to being a farmer he worked at Harvest Land Co-Op for 14 years.

This couple met at Purdue and were college sweethearts. Amy graduated with a B.S. in Agriculture Education 1991 and then with a M.S. in Curriculum and Instruction. Mike graduated in 1991 with a B.S. in Agricultural Economics.

Amy has been an FFA Advisor in the past. She has also been a 4-H leader for 10 years. Mike has served as a deacon in the church in the past and is currently on the Missions ministry and the Finance ministry, as well as being an elder. Amy has taught Sunday School classes at the elementary levels, as well as preschool and the Sunday night program from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> graders. She also helps with the Library ministry and is also in charge of the Operation Christmas Child program.

Garret and Abigail enjoy playing basketball, with Abigail being in her first year and Garrett in his third year. Abigail also enjoys horseback riding as well. She also likes art and creative writing. Garrett enjoys the outdoors doing hunting, paintball and fishing. Both children love church camp. Garrett was a junior counselor this last year. Both he and Abigail being in 4-H, Abigail participated in the horse and pony program, along with gift wrap, and arts and crafts. Garrett has also been in 4-H doing sheep and Aerospace, hunting and fishing.

Some things that you may not know about the Alka's are that Amy once met President Ronald Reagan in 1988, while he was coming to Purdue to speak. She was able to obtain a special V.I.P. pass. Also, Amy was on a national FFA Poultry judging team who judged dead and live poultry, as well as on a national soil judging team. Mike was in FFA in high school and he also enjoys doing outdoor activities.

The favorite verse of scripture from Abigail Alka is one that certainly strengthens this writers faith and is applicable to all, is found in Philippians 4:13 which states, “I can do everything through him who gives me strength.”