



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) CASPER, WYOMING

THE CALL

Christmas & JANUARY 2017



**WE WISH YOU A
MERRY CHRISTMAS**

**Rev. Cynthia, Leigh &
Kathy**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 18 - ANNUAL ELDERS' CHRISTMAS DINNER at 5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Dec. 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES at 4:00 p.m. & 9:00 p.m. Candlelight, carols and communion will be offered at both services. Nursery care at 4:00 p.m. service only.

Sunday Dec. 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY - ONE Worship Service at 10:10 a.m.

Mon. Dec. 26 - OFFICE CLOSED

Sun. Jan. 1, 2017 - NEW YEAR'S DAY - Chapel @ 8:15 a.m. - Worship @ 10:10 a.m.

Mon. Jan. 2, 2017 - OFFICE CLOSED

Mon. Jan. 2, 2017 - 6:30 p.m. Elders meeting

Wed. Jan. 4 - 7:00 p.m. Choir resumes

Thurs. Jan. 5 - 6:30 p.m. - Property Commission meeting

Sun. Jan. 8 - Sunday School resumes

Mon. Jan 9 - Board meeting & Orientation

Sun. Jan 15 - Annual ALL-CHURCH Planning Retreat after worship (lunch provided).

Sun. Jan 22 - Deacon Training after worship

Church Staff:

Rev. Cynthia McBride, Lead Pastor

Leigh Earle, Bookkeeper

Kathy Winders, Secretary

Annette Crain, Preschool Director

Amber French, Music Director

Diane Lynn, Accompanist

Ministers: Every Member!

Office hours:

Mon.-Thurs.

10:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Fridays

8:30 A.M. - Noon



SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

8:15 Chapel Service

9:00 a.m. Adult Class

10:10 Worship

& Children's Classes

11:30 Coffee Fellowship

(307) 234-8964

www.fcccasper.org

fcccasper@gmail.com

Preschool hours (Sept-May)

Mon.-Fri. 9:00 AM - noon

Preschool Phone - 472-0649

ELDER'S MEETING

MONDAY, JANUARY 2, 2017

6:30 P.M.

**Contact Dennis Baker if you
will not be in attendance.**



A Christmas Wish List

When I was young, every year our parents asked for a Christmas “wish list.” Sometimes my desired item was a new toy or baby doll. As I grew, my wish list items switched to clothes or books. Our family tradition also included making a “parrot list.” This was a chance to wish for something so big, so amazing, that you knew you wouldn’t get it but it was fun to dream anyway. Things like a new car or plane ticket to Europe made that list. These were things you were as likely (or unlikely) to get for Christmas as a parrot!

The tradition of the “parrot list” dates back to when my aunt spent a year in Venezuela. She helped transport her room-mate’s pet parrot back to the states around Christmas time. So, it was proof someone *could* get a parrot for Christmas. My senior year in high school, I asked for a 35mm camera. It was a more expensive item than usually fit the family budget at Christmas, so I put it on the “parrot list.” What an amazing surprise Christmas morning when I opened the first present to see a camera strap. Other gift boxes included a flash, batteries, film... and, finally, the last present I opened was the camera itself. That gift served me well throughout my college days and into the years of my first professional job which included field photography of historical buildings. Though that film camera finally quit and has been replaced by a digital one, it’s still a happy memory for me to think of how generous my parents were that year.

Our church family is *incredibly* generous! This year - YOU have supported both a capital campaign and the annual stewardship drive. We have members who are “filling Santa’s sack” with scarves, hats & gloves for area seniors. Others will donate to the Christmas Special Day Offering & support our shared ministry in the Central Rocky Mountain Region. Every week, every month, every year - your gifts make a difference in the world as we share God’s Love at First Christian Casper. For some, there is a special joy in giving a little extra at Christmas time. The CWF this year is helping to supply clean, safe drinking water in a developing country through a combined gift to Heifer Project.

I know that part of the joy my parents (and especially my mother) took in filling our Christmas “wish lists” was watching the delight on their children’s faces as we opened gifts on Christmas morning. Since Christmas Day is on a Sunday this year, we’ve decided it would be fun for the children of the church to get to unwrap Christmas presents here - birthday presents for Jesus. If you enjoy wrapping gifts and want to give something to the church, check out the kitchen “wish list” in this newsletter (or bring another item you know FCC can use). Place the presents under the tree in Fellowship Hall & our kids will unwrap them on Christmas Day!

As last Sunday’s prelude, Diane Lynn sang “Grown-Up Christmas List” (lyrics by Linda Thompson-Jenner). The refrain wishes for: *“No more lives torn apart, That wars would never start, And time would heal all hearts, And everyone would have a friend, And right would always win, And love would never end, oh This is my grown up christmas list.”* Lately I’ve also listened to Darius Rucker sing: *“I wonder what God wants for Christmas. Something that you can’t find in a store; Maybe peace on Earth, no more empty seats in church... What do you give someone Who gave His only Son? What might put a smile on His face? Every Bible with no dust... More sister, more brother, more lovin’ one another... By now we oughta know what God wants for Christmas.”* What will you give to Jesus this year?

- Wishing you a JOYOUS and BLESSED Christmas, *Pastor Cynthia*



STEWARDSHIP REPORT

The 2016 Annual Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, December 11th to approve the 2017 budget, officers, elders and diaconate. We received 74 pledging units for a total amount pledged of \$183,286.00. This included 6 new pledges for 2017. If anyone missed the meeting and is interested in seeing the budget, additional copies are available in the church office. Our **Thanksgiving Special Offering** for 2016 was \$484 to support Disciples Higher Education ministries.

YOUTH & CHILDREN'S NEWS - Our youth & children enjoyed the "pass the present" game at their recent Christmas party, as well as a silly round of "hot potato" with Pastor Cynthia & Rev. Dean Phelps. The Youth will meet on December 20th and go Caroling at LifeCare and then Bowling at Sunrise Lanes. You are to meet at Sunrise at 6:00 p.m. On January 11, 2017 there will be a Youth Group Meeting at FCC in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be provided.



The new God & Life Class, taught by Mike Ward will begin in January, 2017. Any high schoolers can take the class *either* on Wednesdays @ 6:00 p.m. or Saturdays @ 9:00 a.m. at First Christian Church. January 25th and January 28th will be the first class session. For more information contact Mike Ward @ 259-1785.

Children are invited to participate in the "Christmas Music Sunday" on Dec. 18th. If your child would like to join in singing "Away in a Manger" and dress in costume, please come to Fellowship Hall at 9:30 AM on Sunday 12/18. There will be NO Children's Sunday School or Worship & Wonder on Sunday, Dec. 18th, Dec. 25th and January 1st. They will resume classes on Sunday, January 8th. If you are interested in becoming a leader for Worship & Wonder, please contact Erika Stupak. If you are interesting in becoming a substitute leader for the Children's Sunday School classes, please contact Jennifer Grooms.



Congratulations to: Carson Johnson, Kellen Johnson and Courtney Kaplan who were baptized on November 20th.

FCC's KITCHEN "WISH LIST"

The FCC Kitchen Angel is looking for "Kitchen" gifts: disposable cups (for hot and/or cold drinks) for the Sunday morning fellowship, plastic spoons or forks, coffee creamer and 64" round table cloths. (We can never have too many utensils or cups.) You can place wrapped gifts under the Christmas tree in Fellowship Hall. If you prefer to donate kitchen items throughout the coming year, please put your donated items on the counter in the kitchen and the "Kitchen angel" will put them away. Also, donations of large jars of creamy peanut butter or jelly are always welcome for the sandwich ministry.

Blessings, Carol Sage



JANUARY DIACONATE

Melanie Dowler, Wanda Gochenour,
Dan Coey, Laurie Anderson + 2 more

COMMUNION PREP

Chapel: SIGN UP on the clipboard!

10:10 Service: Larry Winders

GREETERS

Ted & Lois Purvis

To volunteer as a Sunday
morning greeter
call Pat Buck at 234-1829.

Offertory Steward

Larry Winders

Scripture Reader & Chapel Leader sign
up sheets are on the office bulletin
board.

**JANUARY Birthdays**

Robin Nelson	Jan. 2	Jane Wallace	Jan. 13
Maggie Grooms	Jan. 4	Lynda Williams	Jan. 13
Jane Baker	Jan. 6	Marcus Hayden	Jan. 19
Carol Sage	Jan. 6	Kim Forbis	Jan. 21
Kelly Hover	Jan. 7	Nylia Cazier	Jan. 22
Debbie Mapp	Jan. 10	Dorothy Jones	Jan. 22
David Taylor	Jan. 11	Dylan Mongan	Jan. 27
Dorothy Rhoades	Jan. 13	Karen Huckfeldt	Jan. 30

LESSONS FROM A SNOWMAN

- * It's okay to wear white well after Labor Day.
- * Simply hanging out in your front yard can be fun.
- * Accessories don't have to be fancy or expensive.
- * We're all made mostly of water.
- * You know you've "arrived" when a song is written about you.
- * So what if you're a little bottom heavy?
- * Don't get too much sun.
- * Sweating too much can be disastrous!



To the Members of First Christian Church... Thank you so much for the donation of \$3,600.00. We received it on November 22, 2016 and are deeply grateful for your kindness and generosity. Your gift means a great deal to us and it will be used to support our patients and their families who access our services. Each year we help over 300 families in Natrona County and the Glenrock and Douglas areas. Donors such as yourself make that possible! Thank you again for supporting Central Wyoming Hospice & Transitions. - *Warmest Regards, Marilyn Connor Executive Director*

**Deacon Information Sharing & Training**

There will be training for **ALL Current and NEW Deacons** on **Sunday, January 22, 2017 after the 10:10 a.m. Worship service.**

Junior deacons are invited as well. Please contact Wanda Gochenour if you are unable to make it @ 307-462-679.

Always serve too much Hot Fudge Sauce on Hot Fudge Sundaes. It makes people overjoyed and puts them in your debt! --*Judith Olney*





UPDATES FROM THE PRESCHOOL!

Our preschool will be having its class Christmas Parties on Friday, Dec. 16th and Santa will be visiting. Pastor Cynthia taught the story of Baby Jesus in Chapel on the 9th. We will be out of school on the 16th and will resume our normal class schedule on January 4th. We want to thank the members of the congregation who supported our fundraiser at Pizza Ranch (\$387) and Five Guys Burgers (\$236). On a personal note, thank you to all who have included my daughter, Ashton in your thoughts and prayers. She did well in her surgery and we should have the results back next week. We appreciate everything that FCC does for the preschool and we want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and see you next year!

Teachers Annette, Chanel, Stacy, Cheryl and Christina



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Scholarship applications for the 2017 School year are now posted on the bulletin board. Deadline to submit applications is noon on Monday, January 7, 2017. They need to be submitted to Judy Baker or can be brought to the church office. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Judy @ 277-1530.

HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED



Central Wyoming Hospice & Transitions will offer volunteer training on January 10, 2017 from 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. The class will be held on Tuesdays for 4 weeks and there is no charge for the training. The training will take place in the Chapman Home and Dinner & refreshments will be provided. If you are interested in becoming a hospice volunteer, please contact Tammy Radden @ 577-4832

CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR!!



If anyone is interested in participating in a casual New Year's Eve party with snacks and table games, contact Pastor Cynthia so plans can be made. We will have a "casual" worship Sunday on January 1st. Carol Sage will lead chapel at 8:15 a.m. and Pastor Cynthia will preach at the 10:10 service. Feel free to "come as you are" ... Wear your work clothes or your play clothes, wear your pajamas, wear your most 'comfy' outfit. "Come as you are" on New Year's Day, fancy or plain, just COME and invite a friend!

ANNUAL CHURCH PLANNING MEETING



The annual church planning meeting will take place on Sunday, January 15th right after the 10:10 worship service starting with a light lunch in the Fellowship Hall. ALL members of the congregation are invited to participate. All Commission Chairs are encouraged to contact their commission members and remind them of this important meeting.

Your gift to the **Christmas Offering** makes it possible for the Central Rocky Mountain Region to support 48 congregations and the 173 ministers that serve in their behalf. Together we develop the gifts and relationships of our youth, certify and credential ministers, and engage in ministries that transform our congregations and our communities. Please share in the work of the CRMR by giving to the Christmas Offering.





2017 Church Officers, Elders & Diaconate

At the Congregational Meeting on December 11th the following were elected to serve the church for 2017:

Executive Board

Board President: Mark Williams

Vice President: Linda Mosteller

Secretary: Elaine Singleton

Treasurer: Tom Dowler

Members at Large - Mike Ward & Janie Nelson

Historian / Photographers: Josh Woods & Lani McBee

Board of Elders: Dennis Baker, Chair. Elders Class of 2019 (3 year terms) - Paul Hallock, Dewey Smith, Amber French, Michelle Elser, Dan Coey. Dave Taylor and Carol Sage will each serve a 1 year term.

Diaconate: Wanda Gochenour & Tammy Heck, Co Chairs. Diaconate Class of 2019 - Lani McBee, Laura Chipperfield, Jo & Lyle Cox, Virginia Yohn, Todd Shaw, Trudy Woodard, Lynda Williams & Carmen Goodman.

Jr. Diaconate: Kendal Chipperfield, Nathan Hawley, Brady Hover, Dylan Stupak, Amber Rouse, Sara Williams.

Commission Chairpersons

Christian Education

Adult & Library - Jennifer Grooms

Children & Nursery - Trisha Woods & Tassma Koehmstedt

Youth - Carmen Goodman & Laura Chipperfield

Mission Commission

Debbie Mestas & Keith Rouse

Spiritual Growth

Melanie Dowler

Property

Cal Decker & Dewey Smith

Stewardship

Tom Dowler

Wills/Trusts/Memorials/Scholarships

Judy Baker

Chair of the Elders - Dennis Baker

Chairmen of the Diaconate - Wanda Gochenour & Tammy Heck

Nominating

2017 - Lani McBee & Cal Decker

2018 - Elaine Gross & Laurie Anderson

2019 - Al Singleton & Dan Coey

CWF Board

Carol Sage & Peg Jackson

January 2017

FCC CASPER CALL

JAN, 2017

December 2016
S M T W T F S
1 2 3
4 5 6 7 8 9 10
11 12 13 14 15 16 17
18 19 20 21 22 23 24
25 26 27 28 29 30 31

January 2017
S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5 6 7
8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28
29 30 31

February 2017
S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14 15 16 17 18
19 20 21 22 23 24 25
26 27 28

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day No Sunday Schools 8:15 AM Chapel 10:10 AM Worship	2 New Year's Day (observed) 12:00 PM OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 PM Elders	3 7:00 PM AA	4 6:30 AM T.O.P.S. #35 9:00 AM Quilters 7:00 PM choir	5 10:00 AM CWF Board Mtg 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch Potluck 6:30 PM PROPERTY COM-MISSION	6	7 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study 8:15 AM Sandwich Ministry 9:00 AM Scrapbookers
8 8:15 AM Chapel 9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:10 AM Worship 11:30 AM Coffee Fellowship	9 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 6:30 PM Spiritual Growth 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Commissions 8:00 PM Board Meeting	10 7:00 PM AA	11 6:30 AM T.O.P.S. #35 9:00 AM Quilters 12:00 PM CWF Group #2 7:00 PM choir	12 10:00 AM CWF Group #1 11:30 AM CWF Group #3	13	14 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study 8:15 AM Sandwich Ministry 10:00 AM State Quilters
15 8:15 AM Chapel 9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:10 AM Worship 11:30 AM Coffee Fellowship 12:00 PM Annual Planning Retreat	16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 6:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	17 7:00 PM AA	18 6:30 AM T.O.P.S. #35 9:00 AM Quilters 7:00 PM choir	19 6:30 PM BSA Committee Mtg	20 Inauguration Day	21 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study 8:15 AM Sandwich Ministry 10:00 AM Fleece Blanket
22 8:15 AM Chapel 9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:10 AM Worship 11:30 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:30 AM Diaconate Training	23 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	24 7:00 PM AA	25 6:30 AM T.O.P.S. #35 9:00 AM Quilters 7:00 PM choir	26	27	28 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study 8:15 AM Sandwich Ministry
29 8:15 AM Chapel 9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:10 AM Worship 11:30 AM Coffee Fellowship	30 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	31 7:00 PM AA	1 6:30 AM T.O.P.S. #35 9:00 AM Quilters 7:00 PM choir	2 Groundhog Day 10:00 AM CWF Board Mtg 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch Potluck	3	4 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study 8:15 AM Sandwich Ministry

*First Christian Church
520 CY Ave
Casper WY, 82601*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE

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CASPER WY
PERMIT NO. 129

PROPERTY UPDATES

The Property Commission will start meeting on the **1st Thursday of each month beginning Thursday, January 5, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.** Help is always needed for Property and this past year Cal was the one and only member of the commission and he accomplished alot BUT with all the work that is being done he needs some help so if you feel you can come to the meeting it would be greatly appreciated. Anyone, male or female, is invited to join the Property Commission.

MISSION COMMISSION UPDATES

We will continue collecting hats, gloves, socks, mittens and scarves through the end of January. These will given to individuals who are in need of warmth this winter. The collection bag is under the coat rack. The fleece blanket volunteers are continuing to make blankets in FCC Fellowship Hall on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 10-4:00 p.m. 289 blankets have been made and given to individuals in need and to agencies that provide services to the most vulnerable people in our community. We gladly accept donations for fleece. 2 yards of a printed pattern and 2 yards of a solid color are needed per blanket. Anyone is welcome to come for an hour or two or for the entire time to make blankets.

The Sandwich ministry is making 120 lunches each Saturday and volunteers are welcome to help make the lunches and/or hand them out at King's Corner. Donations of PB&J are always welcome. A special lunch will be made on Saturday, December 24th and we would welcome individually wrapped treats to add to the lunches. We will also be giving out hygiene kits that were made by the LDS Church, blankets and other items that have been collected. If you are interested in helping with any of these projects, contact Debbie Mestas or Keith Rouse. Thank you to all our current volunteers. It is very much appreciated.