



# Millersburg Christian Church

## (Disciples of Christ)

“In the heart of the community, with the community at heart”

Serving Christ since 1858 — [www.millersburgchristianchurch.org](http://www.millersburgchristianchurch.org)

January, 2007

Rev. Fred Erickson, Pastor

### Now is the time to start afresh!

With the start of the new year comes the desire to start afresh and consider what is important to us. Will you spend more time with your family? Exercise more? Read more and watch less TV? While making your decisions, consider how you can help our church do its work in the community and the world.

Sign up and be part of a committee to lend your talents and time during the coming year. The list is posted on the bulletin board. Committees to consider that need your support

include: Christian Education, Membership and Evangelism, Missions and Benevolence, Property, Stewardship and Finance, and Worship.

Also, we now have an ad hoc committee to coordinate the Sesquicentennial Celebration. Thanks for your help so that Millersburg Christian Church can continue to be a vital group doing God's work in the world.

Barbara Moran  
New Board Chairperson

### Starting over is good

In our busy and hectic lives, we are blessed with many opportunities to just “start over.” The most obvious is the beginning of a new year when we make New Year's Resolutions, and resolve to do something differently, make amends, get rid of bad habits, start doing something constructive, or to just be a better person—maybe more friendly and compassionate. These are all worthy goals and objectives. Now is the time to “just do it.”

But New Years is not the only time we have to begin again. A month ago, when we began Advent, we started a new year in our worship and study of the scriptures. On Sunday, April 8, we will celebrate Easter, the resurrection of our Lord, when the hope of eternal life was offered to all and a new relationship opened between humanity and God. On Sunday, May 27, we will celebrate Pentecost, the birthday of the church when our worship as a Christian community began.

But each Sunday morning, when we gather around the Lord's Table, we are celebrating a beginning—a chance to start over, a renewal. Let's begin the new year with a good start. Gather in worship, commit to a better life, find the promise of Advent in hope, peace, joy, and love.

Fred



People of many ages took part and participated in the annual Christmas program and pageant written and directed by Jeff and Barbara Moran.

# January 2007

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

|  | 1   | 2   | 3  | 4  | 5   | 6   |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|---|
|  | 5:00p Loaves and Fishes<br>Soup Kitchen                         | Preschool 7-12<br><br><i>Joshua Bright</i>  | JOY Choir 6:30-7:30p<br><br><i>Amanda Smith</i>  |  |   | Epiphany<br><br><i>Hazel Pahl</i>   |
| 7<br>9:15 Sun School<br>10:30 Worship  | 8   | 9<br>Preschool 7-12<br>6:15p Elders<br>7:00p Board Meeting<br>Annual reports are due<br><i>Justin Collins</i> | 10<br>JOY Choir 6:30-7:30p   | 11<br>Preschool 7-12<br>Alumni Schl. 5-8   | 12<br><br><i>Brenda Rose<br/>Ron Wood</i>                                     | 13<br><br><i>Carolyn Bethell<br/>Kamden Nolte<br/>Steve Whitworth</i>           |
| 14<br>9:15 Sun School<br>10:30 Worship<br><br><i>Brad Weiss</i>  | 15<br>6:30p CWF at Maurine Long's "2007: Oh the possibilities." | 16<br>Preschool 7-12<br><br><i>Kathryn Leonard</i>  | 17<br>JOY Choir 6:30-7:30p<br><br><i>Lance Bethell<br/>Terri Collins</i>                             | 18<br>Preschool 7-12<br>Alumni Schl. 5-8<br><br><i>Gabriella Loyd<br/>Debbie Owens</i>             | 19<br>5:00p Newsletter deadline   | 20  |
| 21<br>9:15 Sun School<br>10:30 Worship<br>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service, Fred Erickson speaking, 2:00p<br><i>Sandy Langewisch</i> | 22<br><br><i>Cindy Quick</i>                                    | 23<br>Preschool 7-12<br><br><i>Tara Murray</i>  | 24<br>JOY Choir 6:30-7:30p<br>5:30p Newsletter preparation<br><i>Devon Kukal<br/>Yolanda Schafer</i> | 25<br>Preschool 7-12<br>Alumni Schl. 5-8<br>4:45 p Fulton Soup Kitchen<br><br><i>Yvonne Bryant</i> | 26<br><br><i>Cathy McCray<br/>Kali Wagoner<br/>Marvin &amp; Yvonne Bryant</i> | 27<br><br><i>Stacy Bryant-Wimp<br/>J.D. &amp; Oletha Baumgartner</i>            |
| 28<br>9:15 Sun School<br>10:30 Worship<br>Pastoral Relations 11:45 am  | 29<br><br><i>Coralie Forsee</i>                                 | 30<br>Preschool 7-12  | 31<br><br><i>Megan Kukal</i>   |  |   | <i>Anniversaries listed in bold<br/>italics<br/>Birthdays listed in italics</i> |

## The Sesquicentennial Celebration approaches

The sesquicentennial celebration is coming up on Friday, August 22, 2008. That may seem like a long ways off, but we all know how time slips away.

So we need to start getting ready for it—NOW!! From now until then, I will have an article in each newsletter that gives some history of the church as well as updates on plans for the celebration. If anyone sees errors or omissions in what I write, please let me know. If anyone happens to have an appropriate diary, letters, photos (particularly from the 19th century or early part of 20th century) please let me know.

Although a group of folks calling themselves “Christians” (as opposed to Presbyterians or Methodists or Baptists) began meeting in the Millersburg area as early as 1819 (we can have another celebration in 2019), we decided to focus on the date of August 22, 1858, as several sources cite that date as the official incorporation of Millersburg Christian Church, and it is the time when construction of a wood frame church building on the present site was completed.



Elaine Long helped coordinate the Christmas gifts donated for a family adopted through SERVE. \$145 was given toward utilities at Callaway electric. Cindy Baumgartner brought videos and books, some of which were given to the family, with the rest shared with Central Missouri Community Action. The missions committee expresses appreciation for all those who contributed toward the Thanksgiving baskets and Christmas family.

We would like to do several special things in recognition of this upcoming significant event: produce a DVD and/or print historical document; re-enact a baptism this coming summer at the old baptismal hole in Cedar Creek (for which someone has already volunteered, and perhaps others may want to participate), etc.

Some people have agreed to be on the Sesquicentennial Celebration Committee, and getting an early start will help in the process of sorting photos and other tasks. But more hands and eyes and memories are also needed to help with the planning.

See you all on Friday, August 22, 2008!!  
Jeff Moran

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## Christmas Music was special

We were privileged to have enjoyed superb Christmas music during Advent this year. The choir sang great, as always, but the flute accompaniment by Beth Haas was a joyful touch. The duet by “The Kristens,” Bright and Cassidy, was uplifting.

We also enjoyed the MCC band on Christmas Eve day, and were moved by the Moran Quartet. Singing some of the less familiar and more classical Christmas carols was a joy during Sunday School on that day.

Christmas is a time of good music, and we at the Millersburg Christian Church are particularly blessed with talented people who pitch in and share their skills through our worship together.



The JOY Choir made several musical contributions toward our celebration of Advent and Christmas, including a special number, in costume, for the Christmas pageant.



## Prayers

### Sympathy

Sympathy for the family of Joe Fisher who died December 15, 2006. He and his wife Jane have lived in Columbia for several years.

Prayers for the family and friends of longtime Millersburg resident Bob Weffenstette who passed away Dec. 15.

Prayers for Rosie Harrison Inslee and her 3 children on the sudden death of her husband. Rosie and many of her sisters baby sat at our church for many years.

### Concerns

Prayers for Ruth Forsee who fell recently and was hospitalized. On December 30, she will move to Boone Landing, 109 N. Keene St. Columbia, MO 65201.

Prayers for Sara Gusé who was hospitalized recently and is now home and undergoing treatment for cancer.

Continued prayers for Jean Bryant who is at The Bluffs and is now under care of hospice.

Prayers for Darrel Schermerhorn who continues treatment for cancer.

Prayers for Cindy Baumgartner who continues dealing with Multiple Sclerosis.

Continued prayers for Wayne Latty.

Continued prayers for Bertha Milner.

Prayers for Harold Reisch's brother Elmer.

Continued prayers for Shirley Martin's sister and brother.

Prayers for Dick Hanson who is having esophagus surgery on December 28.

Prayers for Stan Adams who is having knee surgery on January 3rd.

Prayers for Rip Russell who will be having his heart rhythm adjusted on January 3rd.

Prayers for service men and women who face dangers and for the families who experience the struggles with the wounded and the loss of life for many, especially prayers for Amanda Smith's brother who is being deployed to Baghdad.

### Joys

Congratulations to Ashley Bethell and Gary Hackmann who were recently engaged to be married.

Congratulations on a new grandson for Jimmie and Sherry Hoesch. Great-grandparents are Jimmy and Frances Bittle.

Congratulations to Allen Bright on receiving his BS in Accounting. He will be employed in cost accounting at ATK Industries near Independence.

Prayers of thanksgiving for Sally Erickson who has regained mobility following knee surgery.

John McClellan will be recognized as an Outstanding Missourian. The award will be made in the chambers of the House of Representatives at 10:00 AM. on January 10. Prayers continue for his recovery.

### January Communion

#### Elder

Ken Bright

#### Usher

Kristen Bright

#### Preparation

Lisa Bright

#### Bread

Jan 7 – Shirley Martin

Jan 14 – Lois Long

Jan 21 – Pat Baumgartner

Jan 28 – Lynn Reynolds



### Attendance

|              |      |              |    |
|--------------|------|--------------|----|
| Dec 3 .....  | snow | Dec 17 ..... | 51 |
| Dec 10 ..... | 51   | Dec 25 ..... | 60 |

### November finance report

We need to receive \$4,824 each month to meet our budget

|                   | Month       | Year to date |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$3,245.26  | \$12,437.67  |
| Income            | \$13,276.45 | \$53,766.25  |
| Expenses          | \$7,248.67  | \$56,930.88  |
| Ending Balance    | \$9,273.04  | \$9,273.04   |

## From the outgoing President:

It is always a pleasure to work with a talented, enthusiastic, caring group of people like Millersburg Christian Church, and being

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### Officers elected

The Board of the congregation, at the annual Board caucus, elected officers for the 2007 year. Elected to office were:

Board President: Barbara Moran  
Vice-president: Carol Cox  
Treasurer: Lisa Bright  
Asst. Treasurer: J. H. Long  
Secretary: Elaine Long

These are important positions in the life of the congregation. One way we show our support, and help them do their work, is to volunteer to serve on one of the committees of the church.

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### Annual reports due

We do significant ministry together. It is important that we have a record of what we have done so that we can better plan our future work to be even more effective. It is also an important historical account of the way our congregation has served the Kingdom of God.

In order to best do this, each year we prepare an "Annual Report." All committee chairs and constituency group leaders are invited to submit a report of their work for this report. The reports are due at the Board meeting on Tuesday, January 9.



Alyssa and Kristen Cassidy sang a special number for the Christmas pageant. They also served as readers along with Kristen Bright and Jordan Collins.



President of the Board is one of the easier jobs in the work of the church since all the "real" work gets done by the various committees, the minister, the secretary, etc.

We continue to lift up our collective mission work as a strong congregational feature and hope that people will support Sunday School and Worship to an even greater degree in the coming year. We still need to reach out to the community of Millersburg and continue to welcome visitors and new people in town. And we try to continue growing in grace and spirit.

Jeff Moran

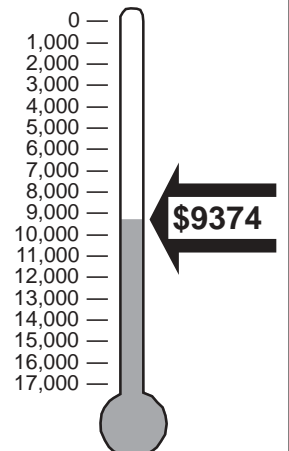


The MCC Band presented a rousing prelude of Christmas carols to begin worship on Christmas Eve day.

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**Sign up for a committee.**  
**Enjoy the work of the church.**  
**Be a part of the decisions.**  
**Help set our direction.**

**HVAC campaign getting the temperature down**



## Thanks are expressed



Thanks for those who lit the Advent Candles: JH and Lois Long, John and Lynn Reynolds, Kim Kulas and Kim Loyd and the Cassidy and Moran Family.

To our friends at Millersburg,

Sally and I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the generous Christmas gift. We will add it to our account for a special project in the future. Fred and Sally

From The Adult Day Connection

Thank you for the generous gift of \$185.07 to the Adult Day Connection. It is a privilege to serve families in our community who need adult day health care. Your gift will be available to assist families who need our services but cannot afford the full fee.

Enabling families in this community to keep someone in their home rather than place them in a

nursing home is a choice that may be possible because of adult day health care. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely, Tish Thomas, Director

From Missouri School of Religion  
Center for Rural Ministry

This letter acknowledges receipt of a recent contribution of \$185.06 from Millersburg Christian Church to MSR Center for Rural Ministry. We greatly appreciate your support.

We pledge that your generous gift will be directed towards furthering the mission of MSR. These efforts continue to center around providing transforming experiences of leader development, ministerial preparation and continuing education. As always, we place emphasis on small and rural churches and communities.

I was delighted to hear that your church has included us in its outreach. Thank you. Your gift will truly bless.

Sincerely, Fran Schnarre

Director of Educational Ministry

Krystal Jacobs, Office Administrator



The youth of the congregation came early on the day they went Christmas caroling to help prepare a basket of cookies and fruit for those who were shut-in or ill in the Millersburg area.



### Snow removal

Jan – J.H. Long, Morans

Feb –

Mar – John & Lynn Reynolds

### Lectionary Scriptures for January

Sun, Jan 7, '07

Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalm 29

Acts 8:14-17

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Sun, Jan 14, '07

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm 36:5-10

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

John 2:1-11

Sun, Jan 21, '07

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Luke 4:14-21

Sun, Jan 28, '07

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Psalm 71:1-6

1 Corinthians 13

Luke 4:21-30



### Children's Church

Jan 7 – Chelsey Bowles

Jan 14 – Kristen Cassidy

Jan 21 – Justin Collins

Jan 28 – Kristen Bright

**January  
item for SERVE:  
Household and  
personal products**

## Visitors are appreciated

We have been blessed with several visitors over the Advent season. We have enjoyed having Sally Erickson with us as she concludes her ministry with the Huntsville Christian Church and is about to begin another ministry with the Dripping Spring Christian Church north of Columbia.

We have also appreciated Pam and Darius Brady and Edmund and Brandy Schsag from Blue Springs, MO.

Carolyn Bethell certainly wins the “fill a pew” prize, filling two pews with her and Bill Anderson’s families: Marshall, Amy and Rylie Simmons and Billie Jean Anderson. Ashley Bethell brought her new fiancé, Gary Hackmann.

It was also a joy to have Ron Miller worship with us and to bring his three granddaughters: Rylie, Alexis and Kaylee. We continue to life up Ron in our prayers following the untimely death of his wife Louise.

**We are still looking for a church secretary. Is this something you would like to do?**

## Youth enjoy caroling

The youth of the congregation, and a few adults, joined together in singing Christmas carols at the homes of several of our members. They first traveled to Fulton and the Churchhill Manor to carol at the home of Ruth Forsee. They then traveled to Peggy Rose, Bertha Milner, Otmar and Sara Stephens, Sara Gusé, and Lois Long.

## Women to meet

The Christian Women’s Fellowship (CWF) will meet at the home of Maurine Long on Monday, January 15, at 6:30 PM. The topic will be “2007: Oh the possibilities.” They will be looking at keeping track of joys through the year. Bring a salad to share.



**Kim, Lance, and Gabriella Loyd were Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus for the Christmas pageant.**

## Poinsettias are given in memory

The sanctuary was brightened during advent with poinsettias placed there in memory of departed loved ones:

Michael Bethell, husband of Carolyn and father of Ashley and Lance, grandfather of Savannah and Hunter.

Walter and “Miss Eula” Baumgartner, parents of Patty Baumgartner.

Glen Baumgartner, father of Larry Baumgartner.

Jack Collins, grandfather of Justin and Jordan Collins.

Leonard and Edna Sigman, grandparents of Cindy and great-grandparents of Casey and Cody Baumgartner.



**The women of the congregation gathered at the home of Carolyn Bethell for their annual “cookie exchange.”**

## Communion will be different in January

At the Board caucus the Elders and Deacons decided to try a different way to do communion during the month of January. It will be a combination of the way we normally do communion and the way we do it at special services, such as Maundy Thursday and

Christmas candlelight communion.

When it is time to partake of the communion elements we will come forward by rows, beginning with those seated closest to the front. The Elder and Deacons will be standing in front of the chancel steps. The Elder will be holding the bread, and the two Deacons will each be holding a tray of cups. Persons partaking of communion will come up the center aisle, break off a piece of bread from the Elder and partake of it. They will then step toward the deacon on their side of the church and partake of the cup. They will then return to their pew by the side aisle.

Those unable to come to the front will be served where they are seated by the deacons.

We will be coming up with a process whereby we can get congregational response to this way of doing communion.

**What are you doing to start the new year off on the right foot?  
What are you going to do for the church this next year?**



The little angels of the congregation sang a special number during the Christmas pageant held December 9.



Address Services Requested

Millersburg Christian Church  
4527 State Road J  
Fulton, MO 65251



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