



The Link

December 4, 2011

“We proclaim Jesus Christ and promote communities of joy, hope, love and peace. We will become a world-wide church dedicated to the pursuit of peace, reconciliation and healing of the spirit.”

A Day of Singing

What would Christmas be without music? One of the many Christmas traditions that we all treasure is the singing of Christmas carols. What is it about singing carols that causes our heart to rejoice? It begins with love. Love always makes the heart sing. It begins with God’s love for us. This, in turn, results in our love for God. This, in turn, leads to love for one another.

There is a story that takes place in the midst of the Great Depression when a family of three—Mom, Dad, and little six-year old Billy—had absolutely no money for store-bought presents. Nevertheless, they were very inventive in celebrating Christmas. They decided to make pictures of the presents they would like to give one another if money were no object. So they drew pictures or cut out pictures from magazines. They put the pictures into boxes, wrapped them and placed them under a scraggly Christmas tree. On Christmas morning the tree was heaped with riches. The gifts were only pictures, to be sure, but they were symbols of Christmas giving. Most of the make-believe presents were for little Billy. There were pictures of a new bicycle, cars, and all kinds of toys and games.

Billy’s parents hadn’t expected any gifts; however with a squeal of delight, Billy crawled under the tree and pulled out a gift he had prepared all by himself. He handed his present to his parents with a smile and they opened it. They found a picture-gift more precious than all the others. It was drawn with first-grade crayons. It was a picture of three people standing together with big smiles on their faces. They had their arms around each other. And under the picture, little Billy had printed a single word—“us.”

The light dawned and tears of joy filled the eyes of the parents because they realized that, in years to come, they may be able to give some of those Christmas presents they had only imagined, but they could never give a present more precious than the one they had received that year—the gift of love they had for each other.

That is a story that must be told at Christmas. If that doesn’t make your heart sing, nothing will. Our lives are filled with love. God sings over us. And we sing of the wonders of Christmas. It begins with LOVE.

Claude M. Rains, Jr., President, Central Missouri Mission Center

UPCOMING EVENTS:

TODAY—Rock 'n Road Show, Sedalia, 4-6pm for Middle School and High School youth. Bring your friends!

December 10 — Marshall Chicken Dinner, 5-7pm. This is a thank you dinner for the community. Carry-out available. All are welcome!

December 11— Advent Worship Service. Celebrate Advent at The Temple, 7 pm, with an evening of lessons and carols.

December 18—HARK! For hope is surely still to come...A special Christmas event: featuring art, song and original slam-poetry presented by the Central Mission Community of Christ young adults, 6 p.m., The Temple. This program promises to be inspiring and is open to all ages.

December 26-January 2—Central Missouri Mission Center will be closed due to the Christmas holidays.

February 6-10, 2012—MEADS Courses, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., The Temple. See back page for extended details.

February 11, 2012—Joyful Noise Workshop, This all-day Saturday **free** event will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude with an informal community sing-a-long at 7:30 p.m. This workshop will familiarize you with theological content, musical styles, worship planning techniques, and topical indexes for the 2013 Community of Christ hymnal. To register, contact Pam Robison at 816-833-1000, ext. 2324 or probison@CofChrist.org.

JANUARY 2012 SPEAKER'S SCHEDULE

CONGREGATION	January 1	January 8	January 15	January 22	January 29
THEME	Kneel Before Him	By Water and Spirit	Lord, Speak to Me	Respond to God's Call	Jesus Amazes and Astonishes
Bates City	Elmer Young	Claude Rains	Bruce Watson	Local	Pauline Watson
Butler	Prayer Service	R. Snyder	Barbara Burch	David Watson	M. Kammerer
Camdenton	Gwen Lind	Nancy Bell	Donn Quick	Gene Wilson	Harold Carlile
Clinton	M. Hutchinson	Fannie Fenwick	Millie Shatt	David Quick	Anita Norman
Coal Hill	Richard Wood	Fred Kidd	Richard Wood	Rick Eaton	Diane Allison
Harrisonville	Fred Kidd	F. Christenson	Nancy Allen	Warren Stowell	Jay Allen
Holden	Pastorate	Leland Stowell	Gayle Calder	Mark Frank	Jodie Kemtrick
Iola	Gary Murphey	Daryl Greve	Becky Carlile	Bob Trammel	Dave Warren
Kingsville	W. Stowell	Scott Narwood	Claude Rains	Donna Harper	Jean Hoover
Marshall	Gwen Banks	Larry Green	Carl Case	Shirley Case	Mark Frank
Oak Grove	Praise Service	Kate Frazier	Heather Frank	Robin Dyer	Bob Barrett
Odessa	Carol Sadler	Testimonies	Larry Green	Rand Hodgson	Dave Honeycutt
Pleasant Hill	Rick Tucker	Diane Allison	Jean Hoover	Lisa Layton	Lenny Tucker
Rich Hill	Communion	Chad Reynolds	David Quick	Fred Kidd	Local
Sedalia	Communion	Mary Jo Sartin	M. Grechus	Mark Allen	Scott Norwood
Warrensburg	Scott Norwood	Pastorate	Anita Norman	Donn Quick	Worship Comm
Warsaw	Communion	L. Konopasek	R. Amundson	H. LaMastres	Claude Rains

Morning services begin at: 10:30 a.m. for Oak Grove, Sedalia, and Warrensburg. 10:45 a.m. for Bates City, Butler, Clinton, Harrisonville, Holden, Kingsville, Marshall, and Odessa. 11 a.m. for Camdenton, Coal Hill, Iola, Pleasant Hill, Rich Hill, Warsaw. (The speaker should arrive at least 15 minutes before the service begins.)

IF YOU CANNOT FULFILL AN ASSIGNMENT, please contact the Mission Center or congregation presiding elder as soon as possible so that a substitute can be assigned.

FEBRUARY 2012 SPEAKER SCHEDULE

CONGREGATION	February 5	February 12	February 19	February 26
THEME	Gather around Jesus	Make Me Clean	This Is My Son	Remember the Everlasting Covenant
Bates City	Local	Diane Allison	Peggy Heath	Special
Butler	R. McDaniel	Youth Service	Liahona	Heather Frank
Camdenton	Don Bell	Dave Covington	Tracy Dyer	Gene Wilson
Clinton	Dena Quick	Richard Fenwick	Jean Davis	Scott Blair
Coal Hill	Richard Wood	Chad Reynolds	Richard Wood	David Quick
Harrisonville	Tim Dennis	Greg Resch	Ray Peter	Claude Rains
Holden	G. Kendrick	Pastorate	Nancy Allen	Donnie Shippy
Iola	Daryl Greve	Fred Kidd	Dave Warren	Gary Murphey
Kingsville	Dorothy Salsman	Anita Norman	Donn Quick	Diane Allison
Marshall	Maxine Scott	Jean Davis	Rand Hodgson	Mary Kidd
Oak Grove	Linda Gerteisen	Gene Ganson	Mark Frank	Robin Dyer
Odessa	Pam Corn	Claude Rains	Jeff Kramer	Adult Class
Pleasant Hill	Janice Tuttle	Mark Frank	Becky Carlile	Holly Rabourn
Rich Hill	Communion	Becky Carlile	Local	Special
Sedalia	Linda Grechas	Youth	Jean Hoover	Anita Norman
Warrensburg	Rick Eaton	Young Adults	Judy Edmunds	Liahona
Warsaw	Larry Nutt	R. Amundson	Elbert Heath	Local

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MARCH 2012 SPEAKER SCHEDULE

CONGREGATION	March 4	March 11	March 18	March 25
THEME	Receive a New Name	Tell the Glory of God	God's Love Endures Forever	Written on Our Hearts
Bates City	San Mobler	Donn Quick	Local	Becky Monkress
Butler	Prayer Service	Holly Rabourn	Fred Kidd	Ron Dundson
Camdenton	Diana Tracy	Claude Rains	Gwen Lind	Nancy Bell
Clinton	Kathy Loyd	Diane Allison	Becky Carlile	Willie Houk
Coal Hill	Richard Wood	Rand Hodgson	Richard Wood	C. Hebblethwaite
Harrisonville	Chad Reynolds	Jan Caldwell	Lon Caldwell	Dave/Elaine King
Holden	Warren Stowell	M. Christenson	Jay Allen	Janet West
Iola	Bob Trammel	Daryl Greve	Dave Warren	Anita Norman
Kingsville	Wally Carlile	Fred Kidd	Mark Allen	Mary Jo Sartin
Marshall	Jim Case	Elbert Heath	Donn Quick	W/B Carlile
Oak Grove	Benny Wilson	Robert Barrett	Guest	Claude Rains
Odessa	Sharon Winter	Pauline Watson	Jean Hoover	Youth
Pleasant Hill	Nancy Allen	David Quick	Lenny Tucker	Mark Allen
Rich Hill	Communion	Local	Floyd Harsh	Local
Sedalia	Dorothy Poort	Doona Harper	Diane Allison	Boni Lee
Warrensburg	Mary Kidd	Bruce Watson	Jeff Kramer	K. Mannerling
Warsaw	Bob Merrill	Ray Peter	W. Stowell	Sue Stevens

MEADS Offers Special Course

Pursue Peace on Earth

In addition to regularly scheduled courses, Ministerial Education and Discipleship Studies (MEADS) is sponsoring a special mission-focused course in February. The Pursue Peace on Earth course is an excellent opportunity to go deeper into this mission initiative. The hope of Zion will become reality when we live Christ's peace and generously share his peace with others. This course is not part of the MEADS 12-course certificate program; however, you can earn Temple School credit.

Date: February 6–10, 2012
Location: Community of Christ Temple
Independence, Missouri
Cost: \$25

Course Schedule

8:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. **Public Ministry***
Robin Linkhart, instructor

1:30–5:00 p.m. **Hebrew Scriptures***
Wim van Klinken, instructor

1:30–5:00 p.m. **Pursue Peace on Earth** (cost \$25)
Brad Martell, instructor

After MEADS,
stay for the
Joyful Noise
Workshop
(see other side)

*Fees for Public Ministry and Hebrew Scriptures are \$88 for one course, \$175 for both courses, or \$50 to audit one course.

For more information or to register, contact Michelle Booth at (816) 833-1000, ext. 1459 or mbooth@CofChrist.org. Visit www.CofChrist.org/MEADS to learn more about the MEADS 12-course certificate program and future classes.

MEADS
Ministerial Education and Discipleship Studies

Gift of Volunteering

During this season of giving, please consider sharing your gifts and talents at Community of Christ Historic Sites. We are scheduling now for the spring months and have a significant need for help in Kirtland, Ohio and Nauvoo, Illinois. Serve one to three months or longer. Contact Lachlan Mackay at LMackay@CofChrist.org or (217) 453-2246.