



Pilgrim's Progress

JANUARY 2012 Issue



"The purpose of this church shall be to bind together followers of Jesus Christ, for the object of sharing in the worship of God and in seeking His will for our lives, especially as that will is set forth in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ."

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*A New
Year
Begins!*

2012
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Thinking of this year fills me with excitement. It marks Cheryl's and my tenth year as pastor of First Congregational. An exciting year it promises to be, as long as we keep our eye on the prize, which is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

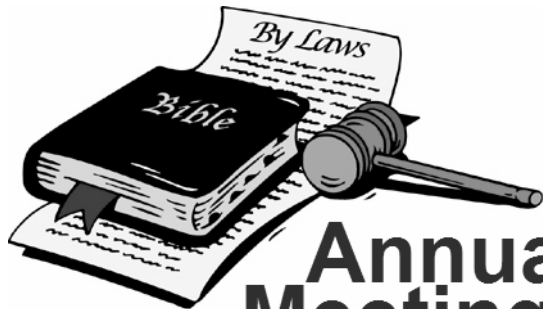
Epiphany (January 6) marks the end of the official Christmas season. But it's much more than that. As stated in the Gospel of John 1:9-14, the one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, came into the world, the very world He created. But the world didn't recognize Him. He came to His own people, and even *they* rejected Him. But to all who believed and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God. We are reborn, not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God. So the word became human and made His home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. We have seen His glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

Now THAT makes for a "Happy New Year" *all* the time.

Sincerely Yours In Christ,

Pastor Barry and Cheryl

PLEASE NOTE:
GROUPS NOT MEETING IN JANUARY
 Cum Double, Amity, Women's Fellowship,
 NOOMA Nites, Church Women United



Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 15, 2012
12:15 p.m.

There will be a potluck meal at 11:30 a.m. - prior to FCC's Annual Meeting. Meat and drinks are provided.



I would like to thank all those who helped me celebrate my 90th birthday. It made me feel so special to hear so many kind words and birthday wishes.
 Happy New Year,
 Beth Tigges



Please pray for our soldiers that are serving overseas:
Shawn Wimberly & Marty Mettlin
 both stationed in Afghanistan.

STATS CORNER:

DEATH:
 Don Peterson, November 15, 2011

NEW MEMBERS:
 December 13, 2011
 Carlton & Carmalee Kothenbeutel
 Claudia Koch
 Jim Clark
 Nate Speas

January Birthdays

- 1 Bing McHone
Quinton Norman
- 3 Janice Jordan
- 6 Max Canfield
Aaron Dickey
- 7 Aubree Greenwood
- 8 Rod Hassler
- 11 Jennifer Howard
- 12 Elliott Stanley
- 13 Larry Koepnick
Jenni Packer
- 14 Cameron Vranek
- 15 Janet Breed
Connie Lyman
- 19 Kristin Meyer
- 22 Harriet Arklie
- 23 Joan Carter
Barry Sedlacek
- 24 David Berg
Sarah Grabe
- 25 LeAnn Fuller
John Olson
Jonna Wagar
- 26 Debi Estabrook
Davis Ragland
- 27 Barb Scafferi
- 31 Jayne Bonnette
Brenda Morris



JANUARY ANNIVERSARY

Todd & Leah Stanley
1/4/2003



Why Go To Church?

A Church-goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday... "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 203,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this ... they all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are DOWN to nothing... God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!



Please keep our Members in Care Facilities in your Thoughts and Prayers:

Helen Berg
Olive Showalter
Woody Shives
Zora Dysart
Esther Riley
Delores Bavender
Don & Connie Lyman
Jewel Blahnik

Upcoming February Events:

Cum Double: 2/1/12, 6:30 p.m.
Church Cabinet Meeting: 2/5/12, 11:45 a.m.
Ash Wednesday Service: 2/22/12, 7 p.m.
1st Sunday of Lent: 2/26/12



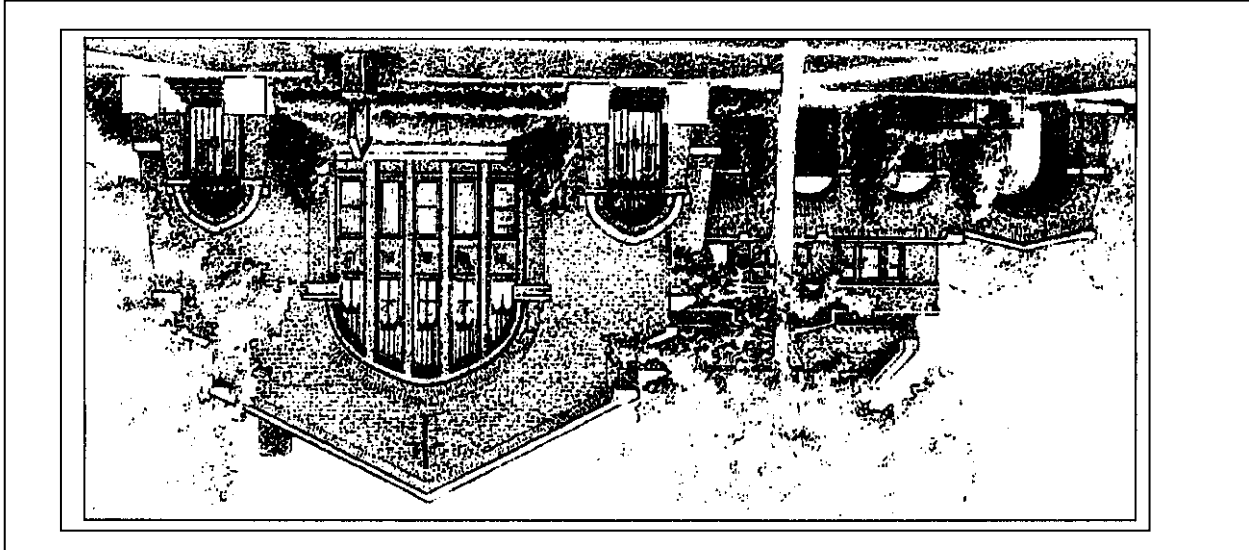
First Congregational Church
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Marshalltown, IA 50158

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 Permit No. 33
 Marshalltown, Iowa
 50158

- Address Service Requested -

641-752-4239 Office hours 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Mon - Thurs
 Worship Services: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
 Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
 fax: 641-844-0370
 email: fcc@adits.net
 web page:
www.fccmarshalltown.org

A member of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches





JANUARY

WORSHIP SERVICES:
8 & 10:30 A.M.
SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 A.M.
CHANCEL CHOIR PRACTICE: 9:30 A.M.
BELL CHOIR PRACTICE: TUESDAYS, 5:30 P.M.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!	2	3	4 W.W.	5 W.W.	6	7 W.W.
8	9	10	11 Board of Trustee Mtg. 6:30 pm W.W.	12 W.W.	13 FCC Stamp Club 10 am	14 W.W.
15 Potluck 11:30 am Annual Meeting 12:15 pm	16 BCE Mtg. 6 pm	17 Board of Deacons Mtg. 6:30 pm	18 W.W.	19 W.W.	20	21 W.W.
22	23	24	25 W.W.	26 W.W.	27 FCC Stamp Club 10 am	28 Meals-On-Wheels 11 am @ MMSC W.W.
29	30	31				

(center insert)



2012 MEALS-ON-WHEELS

Sign-up sheet for Meals-On-Wheels is in the Narthex or you may contact the church office to volunteer to be a driver. This year's first six months of available dates:

- January 2
- February 25
- March 24 & 31
- April 28
- May 26
- June 23 & 30

FCC FINANCIAL UPDATE

		YTD thru
Account	Nov	Nov
Offerings & Misc. Income	\$14,345	\$151,087
Total Expenses	\$22,920	\$197,450
*Savings Gain or (Withdrawal)	(\$8,575)	(\$46,363)

*includes budgeted withdrawal from savings of (\$3,616) (\$39,776)

