

**Pastor's Corner ... continued**

Essentially, we are going to operate as we did in the 15 months between Dr. Larry Colvin and my arrival. Members of the church will take turns preaching and elders will care for the sick and preside at the table. Larry Thompson, Bobby Garner, Rev. John Harwell from Poplar Bluff, and Dr. Penny Ross-Corona from the Mid-America Region will be on call for weddings, funerals, and other pastoral emergencies.

Additionally, the elders affirmed the deployment agreement made with the search committee. It states that my pastoral position will be held throughout the deployment. Lily will continue to live in the parsonage while I am away. The congregation will make normal contributions for pension and insurance, but my cash salary will be picked up by the Air Force.

These details were shared with the church during worship. Members of the congregation responded just as the elders themselves had. There was both shock and a tangible pride that the mission of the church was going to extend in such an unexpected direction. Completely unprompted, the elders called the entire congregation forward to lay hands on Lily and me.

Prayers were said and tears were shed. From more than one person I heard, "we've got this." "Don't worry." "We'll take care of Lily." "Thank you for being there for our military members."

Tears continue to well up as I write these words. That was one of the most meaningful moments of my career. As I prepare for this new adventure, you continue to make Christ's love real to me each and every day. You do have this. I am not worried. You will take care of Lily. Thank you for being there for this particular military member. You are all more of a blessing than you will ever know.

First Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
P. O. Box 295  
Dexter, MO 63841



**THE CHRISTIAN CRIER  
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**

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February 28, 2018

*The Pastor's Corner*

During my most recent drill weekend I received news that has completely reshaped my plans for the next year. Starting sometime this summer I am going to be going on a six month government sponsored camping trip. Like everyone

in the Air Force Reserve, I am eligible for deployment anywhere in the world at any time. There have been a couple of false alarms along the way, but after seven years of service, it appears that will be soon be my turn.

The first thing that I did after finding out was to call Lily and let her know what was going to happen. She and I are both going through a strange mix of emotions at the moment. This possibility is something that Lily and I have always known was a part of my service. It is something we discussed long before we ever got married. Logistics like wills and powers of attorney were set up long ago. Besides, she is a strong and capable woman. She managed a home of her own long before we ever met. She can do it again. She is going to be fine.

However, the fact remains that we are about to spend several months apart, potentially on different sides of the globe. There are going to be challenges of communication. We are going to miss birthdays and holidays. Significant events will take place without the other person. She is proud of what I do and I am looking forward to using my skills to care for the men and women of the military. As exciting as this opportunity is, the fact remains that we will miss each other desperately.

Every factor that gives me confidence in Lily applies equally to this congregation. The impressive nature of First Christian Church once again became evident as I began the process of sharing the news. My conversations with the leadership of our church began with the elders on Sunday morning after drill. During our conversation surprise was mixed with concern and overwhelming support. Ultimately, the elders said that this was something we knew was a possibility before I received a call to Dexter. They reminded themselves that our church has thrived without a minister before and drew up a plan to do it again.

*Continued on back page ...*

**March Serving Schedule**

**Elders:** Kenny & Eddie Pope  
**Deacons:** Sandy Edwards & Donna Speck (communion prep.), Brian Merritt, John Hunter, Deidre & Jon Thompson

**Greeters:**  
 3/4 Bob & Janice Barney; Carolyn Carrier.

3/11 Sue Christian & Sandy Edwards; Debbie Ellinghouse.  
 3/18 Kellie Reese & Brooklyn Staggs; Eddie Pope  
 3/25 Gregg & Melanie Miller; Sarah Moore

**Welcome:**  
 3/4 Janice Barney;  
 3/11 Sandy Edwards  
 3/18 Debbie Crane  
 3/25 Jansen Williams

**Worship Leader:**  
 3/4 Carolyn Carrier  
 3/11 Kenny Pope  
 3/18 Debbie Crane  
 3/25 Melanie Miller

**Acolyte:** Maddie Thompson  
**Computer & Sound Board:** Eric Basham & Parker Vanslyke

**Pianist:**  
 3/4 Brandy Mouser  
 3/11 Julie Rybolt  
 3/18 & 3/25 Kim Williams

**Special Music:**  
 3/4 Lucy Thornton  
 3/11 Kellie Reese  
 3/18 Tommy Horton  
 3/25 Kim Williams

**Open/Close Church:** Larry Thompson

*(If you will not be able to serve on the Sunday listed, please find your replacement and notify the church office who will be serving in your place.)*

**PRAYER LIST**— Kay Ables, David Adams, Reverend Tom Bass, Mary Ellen Blankenship, Bill & Dee Boesen, Carolyn Carroll, Caryl Clippard, Maxine Daniel, Ginger Evans Dill, Shirley Edwards, Sue Waggoner-Flowers, Janet Hammock, Friend of Eric & Sandra Basham, Raydean Hendrix, Josephine Hueckel, Noreen Hyslop, Debbie Lewis, Bonnie Logan, Elvena Martin, Betty & Bob Mayer, Lola Montgomery (sister-in-law of Carolyn Montgomery), Winnie Morgan, Diana Orr, Barb Owens, Mae Pope (Mother of Debbie Wilson), J.T. Putnam, Betty Russell, Scott Russell, Rita Speight, Marty Thompson, Jerry Thrower, Nancy Wright, Danielle Wunderlich, Bonnie Yersak's son, Tyler



Wrapped candy is needed for the annual Easter Egg Hunt! Please drop your bags of candy by either kitchen at church by Sunday, March 25.



2018 Summer Camp dates have been announced. All camp information including dates can be found at <http://www.mid-american-disciples.org/summer/> or contact the church office for additional information.



Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 11. Don't forget to "spring" ahead on Saturday evening!



**SHUT-IN OF THE MONTH**  
 Jim & Amanda Smith  
 11098 CR 717  
 Dexter, MO 63841  
 A visit or card would mean so much.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> 6:00 p.m. Zumba	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 6:00-7:30 Youth Meeting in Disciple Center	<b>5</b> 11:30 CWF Meeting at Airways 6:00 p.m. Zumba	<b>6</b> 8:00 Prayer Group	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 6:00 p.m. Zumba	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 8:15 Elder's Meet 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 6:00-7:30 Youth Meeting at Methodist Church	<b>12</b> 6:00 p.m. Zumba	<b>13</b> 8:00 Prayer Group  6:00 p.m.—Ladies Meeting at El Bracero	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Bootheel Cluster Meeting (here) 6:00 p.m. Zumba 11-7 Corned Beef & Cabbage Feed 7:00 p.m. Board Meeting	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 6:00-7:30 Youth Mission & Silly Game Night with Methodist Youth (here)	<b>19</b> 6:00 p.m. Zumba	<b>20</b> 8:00 Prayer Group	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 6:00 p.m. Zumba  <i>April Newsletter Articles Due</i>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  <b>1:00-4:00</b>  <b>Easter Egg Carnival at Methodist Church</b>
<b>25</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Palm Sunday 6:00-7:30 Youth Meeting in Disciple Center	<b>26</b> 6:00 p.m. Zumba	<b>27</b> 8:00 Prayer Group	<b>28</b> 11:30 Meet at Church to pack and deliver Easter Boxes	<b>29</b> 6:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service	<b>30</b> 6:00 p.m. Good Friday Service	<b>31</b>