

“News From Home”
Perry Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
302 East Salling Street, PO Box 479
Perry, MO 63462



May / June 2025

Put Spring in Your Spirit

"Sing to God a brand-new song, sing his praises all over the world! Let the sea and its fish give a round of applause, with all the far-flung islands joining in. Let the desert and its camps raise a tune, calling the Kedar nomads to join in. Let the villagers in Sela round up a choir and perform from the tops of the mountains. Make God's glory resound; echo his praises from coast to coast." Isaiah 42:10 (MSG)

SPRING, SPRING, SPRING! Can you smell the fresh breeze through my open window? Ahhh!

I love the freshness of spring each year. I walk taller, feel healthier, enjoy more color in my face and a boost in my energy. Everything about spring breathes of life and newness. I love seeing green fields with baby calves reaching up for a drink from Mama. At home, I can't get enough of my own children running coatless around our yard, exploring each square foot as if it were brand-new. I can't help but lift my face to thank Jesus for the smile He gave me through His wonderful creation of springtime.

I guess that's why I love Isaiah 42:10, which draws a picture of a world reveling in the joy of praising God. I can almost hear it. It's amazing how God—the Ancient of Days, the Omega, the One Who Was and Is and Is to Come—is Lord not only of our past, but also of our future. He is Lord of all that will be new as he makes it beautiful in his time. (See Ecclesiastes 3:11.)

Imagine the newness experienced by people whose lives spanned the time before Jesus' birth until after His death. The handful of His people who believed in Him back then felt not only the longing for the Messiah but also the new joy that He arrived at last!

If springlike praise has faded in your heart, ask Jesus to plant in you fresh seeds of joy.



From the Church Board Minutes Dated 9-23-92

The Board voted to do stained glass window repair. Half of the money was sent and the work had begun. The total cost of the Stained Glass Restoration Agreement was \$5,987.

From the Church Board Minutes Dated 11-1-94

October 1 Balance	\$8,779.13
October Income	\$4,585.11
October Expenses	\$2,908.68

Balance November 1 \$10,506.56

Church representative had been to the Festival of Sharing and reported. People attended the 80th anniversary and rededication of the Center Christian Church. There was a discussion about the Harvest Supper and the decision was made to combine the New Class Supper and the Harvest Supper on November 20th at 6:30.

A donation to the Shilo Children's Home was discussed since it is not a Disciples Church. Joyce Coleman moved to send \$300 to the home since it is a Christian institution; motion seconded by Greg Harrison; carried.

Dr. Jorgenson gave his monthly report. He reminded the Board that the Church anniversary will be 90 years in 1995. The church was built in 1891, burned in 1893 and the present church in 1904. A chairman can plan with a committee for a big celebration.

Comments were made that there had been a good hayride recently and that Kate VanSlike gave a good talk. The minister and his wife will help out with the Messiah for the Raintree Arts Council in Louisiana in December.

Looking Back

In 1951 Ellen Elam painted the mural behind the baptistry.

In 1960 the first oyster supper was held and the Winners Class widened the front steps.

In 1979 new carpet was laid in the church.

A memorial to Lela Cleaver in 1993 paid for the pew cushions that she always felt the church needed.

In 1994 we found we needed to comply with regulations for the handicapped. A ramp was added to the west entrance in memory of J.D. Quinn and an upstairs bathroom was completed in the spring of 1995.

At the August 1, 1995 Church Board meeting the Worship Committee reported that they would like to have a recognition service for members of the Christian Church who have been members for 50 years or more.

From Pastor Jorgenson at the August 1995 Board Meeting: "Baby birds (not fully ready to hatch) keep appearing on the floor of the parsonage garage. It would be a nice luxury not to share the garage with the birds, if it is possible fairly soon to repair the holes in the garage door! Personally, I can stand it until they get my 1947 John Deere tractor dirty....then...watch out!"





May Birthdays

May 2 Dustin Wasson
 Andrew Holmes

May 3 Logene Friday

May 6 Levi Berghager
 Don Laird

May 7 Marj Schutte

May 14 Cheryl Reed

May 15 David Lewellen

May 16 Auburn Simmons

May 19 Wayne Jones

May 23 Kirk Cunningham
 Buddy Norman

May 29 Arlen Provancha

May 31 Eunice Fisher
 Michele House

June Birthdays

June 3 Tatum Asbury

June 7 Laura Cowan
 Jim Gay
 Martha Harrison

June 15 Craig Cunningham

June 19 Megan Henderson

June 20 Julie Chandlee

June 22 Dana Stevener

June 23 Betty Davis

June 25 Matthew Utterback

June 29 Gabe Bailey

June 30 James Parker



May Anniversaries

May 22 Gabe & Jessica Bailey
May 23 Josh & Kelsey Caldwell
May 30 J.D. & Erika Dodd

June Anniversaries

June 1 Jim & Jeanie Gay
 Franklin & Thresa Hurd
June 3 Josh & Nicole Birkhead
June 18 Gary & Julie Chandlee
June 21 Jon & Rachel LaManes
June 23 Buddy & Carol Norman
June 24 Tim & Alisha Eisele
 Paul Dean & Mikka Wasson
June 27 Wayne & Beverly Jones

Diaconate Schedule

May Elders: Arlen Provancha and Carol Norman

May Deacons: Jon LaManes, Melanie Utterback, Dustin Wasson and Kim Meyers

June Elders: Nancy Seelow and Jim Gay

June Deacons: David Lewellen, Renea Brown, Chris Johnson and Rachel LaManes



- Sun, May 1** Church Board Mtg @ 12:00
- Tue, May 6** CWF Meeting @ 10:00
- Sun, May 11** Mother's Day
Mothers honored in the morning worship service
- Sat, May 24** Church Yard Sale @ Perry Park
Details to Follow
- Sat, May 24** Church Bake Sale @ IGA
8:00 a.m. until ??
- Sun, June 1** Church Board Mtg @ 12:00
- Tue, June 3** CWF Meeting @ 10:00
- Sun, June 15** Father's Day
Fathers honored in the morning worship service
- Sun, June 22** Carry In Dinner @ 12:00
- Sun, June 29** Congregational Mtg @ 12:00
PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND!!!

Rhubarb Dump Cake

- ½ cup unsalted butter, melted
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 2 cups chopped rhubarb
- 1 cup all purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- ¼ tsp salt
- 1 cup milk
- 1 tsp vanilla
- ½ cup brown sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9x13 inch baking dish.

Spread the chopped rhubarb evenly over the bottom of the prepared baking dish. Sprinkle granulated sugar over the rhubarb.

In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder and salt. Stir in the milk and vanilla until just combined. Pour the batter over the rhubarb and sugar mixture. Drizzle the melted butter evenly over the batter.

In a small bowl, mix the brown sugar and cinnamon. Sprinkle this mixture over the top of the batter. Bake for 45-50 minutes or until the top is golden brown and a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean. Allow the cake to cool slightly before serving. Serve warm or at room temperature.

Church Membership

On page 2 of this newsletter, we mentioned recognizing 50 year members. The names listed below are those who were recognized at that time and there have been many more recognized since 1995.

If you have never placed your membership with Perry Christian Church, we would love to have you do so! It's very simple to do – you may either come down to the front of the sanctuary at the end of the worship service. Or you may also just let Eric, Leanne, Nancy or Arlen know that you would like to become a member. It's as simple as making your request known and completing a membership card. The most frequently asked question in regard to membership is whether or not you are required to be baptized. While we are thrilled to baptize anyone desiring that – it is not required that you be baptized when placing your membership in the church.

We are so very thankful for each and every one of you and thankful that you are a part of Perry Christian Church!!

50 Year Members Recognized on 10-1-95

Hattie Dooley
Gladys Slavens
Lilla Bell Wilmarth
Bennie Biggers
Tom Long
Elizabeth Dye
Lloyd English
Merlee Moss
Ellen Elam
Jewell Mills Little
Johnnie Mills
Ida Reynolds
Georgia Belshe
Jack English
Jack Long, Sr.
Jean Wilkey
Billie Ray

Nana Smith
George Buchanan, Jr.
Mary Lu Hurley Reiser
Lois Hodges
Agnes Long
Edith Brashears
Lorene Schutte
Mary English
Cleva Dooley
Harold Dooley
Roy Lee Ross
Wilma Riley
Patricia Riley
Mildred Jones

In Honor of the Fifty Year Members of the Perry Christian Church – by Dale A. Jorgenson

I still recall that youthful day
When, moved by Christ, I pulled away
From pew and family, without guile
And stumbled down the Church's aisle.

And when the preacher called my name
His question always was the same;
"Do you confess your Savior now?"
"Do you to Christ as Lord now bow?"

And then I said the answer clear
From my own lips with little fear
As I responded my best way,
"He is my Savior from this day!"

The baptistry they had to fill,
My heart was pounding some but still
I heard the words remembered most,
"In the Father, Son and Holy Ghost."

Some fifty years I have lived the life
Which Christ gave me, through joy and strife –
I've fought the fight, I've run the race
And lived my life in Jesus' grace.



Arlen Notes

It is hard to believe that summer is upon us and the official summer vacation season starts in approximately four weeks on Memorial Day. I will be looking for anyone who would like to offer special music for our services during the summer months. This can be instrumental, vocal, individual, duets, trios or groups. I said it before and I'll say it again, you may invite relatives, neighbors, people who call with the wrong number, strangers and the homeless people you find wondering the street. Our church is an equal opportunity special music provider institution, and we don't discriminate. Please understand that music specials don't have to be singing; it can be playing an instrument such as piano, organ, guitar, violin, dulcimer, flute, trumpet, recorder, etc. Just let me know and even if it is at the last moment. I will gladly change the special for the day or have more than one special if the opportunity arises.

Arlen's Words of Wisdom for this month. Not really, I stole them from a very wise woman who read it in one of the "Church Choir Mysteries" books!

"There was an important job to be done and EVERYBODY was sure that SOMEBODY would do it. ANYBODY could have done it, but NOBODY did. SOMEBODY got angry about this, because it was EVERYBODY'S job. EVERYBODY thought ANYBODY could do it, but NOBODY realized that EVERYBODY wouldn't do it. It ended up that EVERYBODY blamed SOMEBODY when NOBODY did what ANYBODY could have done."

I believe this could be very wise words for Christians. It takes EVERYBODY to help a church grow. EVERYBODY can't leave visiting with members who didn't attend church on Sunday morning, inviting people to attend Perry Christian Church, helping our youth grow in their understanding of Jesus' message, spreading the wonderful news that Jesus died for our salvation, etc. to SOMEBODY. I am afraid that NOBODY will do what ANYBODY could have done and EVERYBODY will lose if that happens.

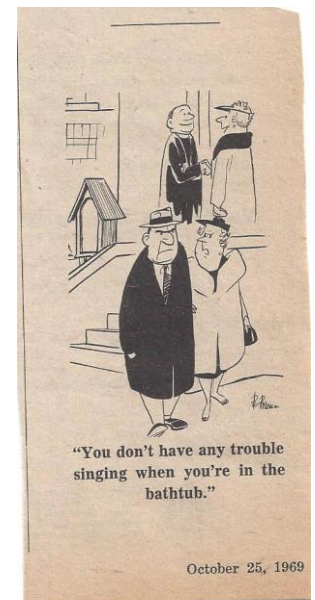
In the March/April newsletter, I featured an article about "Three Reasons to Sing Loudly in Church." I would like to continue.

There is just something about singing in church that feels different than singing with a school choir. The tune is usually simple enough for a congregation to figure it out without hours of rehearsals and the old-English lyrics are sometimes confusing. What about some of those words in a hymn?

What is a bulwark ("A Mighty Fortress is Our God)? What is a buckler ("For We Are Strangers No More")? Why are we raising our Ebenezer (Come Thy Font of Every Blessing)?

But if we fail to sing in church, we are missing out on a major component of worship.

In a blog post titled, "Why You Need to Sing Loudly in Church," composer Keith Getty writes that singing in church is on the decline. Christians come to



church, pray in church and listen in church. And when it comes time to sing, some of us stand there awkwardly, mouthing the words, or busy ourselves getting a tissue out of our purse.

Getty gives three main reasons why we need to stop this nonsense and sing to our God.

1. We are commanded to sing.

It is right there in the Bible. Here it is in Psalm 100:1-2 (KJV): “Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before His presence with singing.” Refusing to sing in church is openly defying scripture.

2. Singing together completes our joy and expresses our solidarity.

One wants to share something that excites them with family and friends (hopefully, without gloating). In the same way, singing in church completes our experience of worship. Getty says, “Singing together reminds us — not just intellectually, but experientially — that we are not slaves to the rugged individualism promoted by society. We’re actually responsible to one another.” Now for the final reason!

3. Singing affects us emotionally and bears testimony to our faith.

According to Getty, “We are what we sing.” Music affects us on a deeply emotional level, whether we are aware of it or not. Getty writes that in his grandfather’s final days, he did not remember his grandson’s name and could not accomplish ordinary tasks but could still recite the lines of the hymns that he studied every week for years. “When we are intentional about singing and the songs we sing, we build up a testimony that will travel with us through life,” Getty says.

Singing praises is also a way of giving our testimony. Do we want to look like an “excited believer” or a “disinterested spectator” to those who see us in church? Remember, not everyone in church is a Christian. There are visitors and there are those who attend but do not truly believe. Your singing can inspire those around you to turn to the One for whom you sing praises.

Getty said, “Ultimately, those who may feel they are on the outside looking in will, from the deepest part of themselves, respond to authentic and passionate singing to discover the truth held in the God songs we sing.”

And that is truly a reason to sing.

Sending a thank you to all the individuals who helped with the Lenten season celebrations. From decorating the church, helping with the Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday celebrations, and participating in the Lenten Candle ceremony. Without your help, this would not have been possible. I pray that they helped you with your journey of understanding the sacrifice that Jesus made for our salvation.



Mother's Day
May 11, 2025



Father's Day
June 15, 2025