



# The Beacon

## Harrisburg Christian Church

201 East Sexton • P.O. Box 36 • Harrisburg, Missouri • 65256  
(573) 875-5577 • FAX (573) 875-5199 • [hcc@socket.net](mailto:hcc@socket.net)

**John Gillman, Pastor**  
**Home Phone: 573-874-9997**

**JANUARY 2012**

Greetings HCC,

Does God have a purpose and plan for our lives in 2012? Will He guide us? How do we know when God is guiding us? Is it possible for us to miss His guidance in our lives? How can we know if we have chosen the right path? One thing is for certain, if our Creator has a purpose and a plan for our lives, we'd be crazy to opt for plan B instead of following the Creator's plan. The good news is that God does have a purpose and plan for us and he is willing to let us know what it is.

God will guide us! Read the words of Psalm 25:8-9 "*Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.*" (NIV). This is great news that God has promised to guide us, but how do we hear from God? How do we receive this guidance? Is it possible to think that God is leading us a certain direction when He really isn't?

We can receive clear guidance from God! Our first step is to become familiar with God's word, the Bible. In the Bible, we find God's purpose and plan for our lives and multiple instructions for living out each day. As we begin the year 2012, I would like to challenge each of you to begin or continue the habit of reading the Bible on a daily basis. I also want to challenge you to learn from a Bible teacher at least weekly through hearing sermons and participating in small group Bible studies. Much of God's purpose and plan for our lives is found in the Bible. Let's not miss out on God's guidance this year by failing to study the Bible adequately. Even though much of God's guidance is found in the scriptures there are still ways that we can be misled, especially when we make decisions about things that aren't directly addressed in scripture. Be careful when you think that a certain path before you is the one that God is guiding you towards.

Sometimes we are faced with decisions that aren't directly addressed in the Bible, like: "Who should I marry?", or "Should I remain at my current job?" In these situations, we are dependent on the Holy Spirit's leading. I have found that I can sometimes confuse my own desires and emotions with the leading of the Holy Spirit. When you encounter these situations and are seeking the Spirit's guidance, try asking these questions:

1. Are there any principles in scripture that apply to my decision? What factors are important to God?  
Will this choice bring God glory?
2. Have I asked advice from people who love God and know me? Have I considered their counsel?
3. Am I emotionally connected to this decision? Am I making a decision based on emotion and have I thought through the long term consequences of this decision?
4. Have I waited for the Lord's guidance and am I willing to follow wherever He leads?

I have often been guided by God through the Bible and when encountering decisions the Bible did not directly address, I have also experienced the Holy Spirit's leading. I would describe this leading as a deep conviction or "gut feeling". The good news today is that God is willing to guide us and he has provided a way for us to receive that guidance through the Bible and the Holy Spirit's leading.

As you seek God's guidance this year, I'd like to remind you of two additional things. First, God does not always lead us on an easy path. Look at the path He guided Jesus through! If you are going through something difficult, don't automatically assume you are outside of God's plan. Second, when you find that you have failed to follow God's guidance, don't give up. Get back on the path! God is good at taking our mistakes and failings and turning them into something good in the future. (Much of this information was taken from the book Knowing God by J.I. Packer. You can find the book in the HCC Library.)

God, please guide us in 2012.

God Loves You!  
John Gillman

**HCC is a great place to worship our Lord! We invite you to join us this Sunday!**

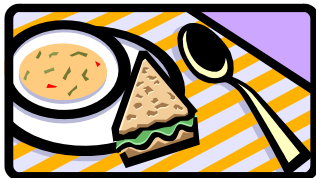
Bible Study for all ages at 9:00am. Worship Service at 10:00am  
(Childcare is provided for children less than 5 years during Worship Services)

**Other tidbits: (January)**

- Congratulations on your baptism! Jaimie Sublett, Hannah Douglas, Heidi Salter, and Rolla Merritt. Way to go!
- Congratulations to Wayne Richards. Wayne hit a home run at HCC, having completed Class 101-401.
  - talk to John Gillman if you are interested in taking these classes.
- What a fun Christmas program! Great job to our organizers and children.
- I'd like to wish myself a happy born-again birthday. I was born again on January 1<sup>st</sup> 1986. Thank you God for rescuing me and changing my life.

**All You Can Eat...  
.....well until supplies last!**

Please join us for "Soup and Sandwich Night" in the fellowship hall at 5:30pm on Sunday January 15<sup>th</sup>. Look for sign-up sheets during service the week before.



Your host,  
The Fellowship Committee

***Keeping in Touch***

"HCC recently received a letter from the Rick and Kathy Kite. Below is part of that letter. Rick and Kathy, we thank you for your encouragement and support!"

Nov 28th, 2011

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

While Rick and I are separated from you through time and distance, please know you are often in our thoughts and prayers. While many names and faces have changed through the years since our membership at Harrisburg Christian Church, the spirit of the Lord remains ever present. We so enjoy getting the monthly update from you; it keeps us close in heart. Thank you for keeping us on your mail distribution list.....

May God continue to richly bless you!

In Christ Love,

Rick and Kathy Kite / Colorado Springs, CO



**Attention  
Students  
Grades 9-12  
Come join us!!**

The Harrisburg Chapter of the **Fellowship of Christian Athletes** meetings are held in the Mrs. Blakemore's room every other Thursday morning at 7:15 am. This semester meeting dates are as follows:

Jan 12, 26; Feb 9, 23; March 8, 22; April 5, 19; May 3  
(See Cec Blakemore for more information.)

\*\*\*\*\*

**The FCA boosters provide breakfast for the students each meeting. If you would be interested in providing food or donating money toward this project, contact Rinda Blakemore 875-5758.**

**Middle School FCA**

The Harrisburg Chapter of the **Fellowship of Christian Athletes**  
Grades 5-8

Meetings are held in the Miss Mathews' every other Thursday from 3:50-4:30.

## Dates to Remember!!

Praise Team Practice – First & Third Tuesday  
- (Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>) 7pm

Board Meeting – Second Thursday (Jan 12<sup>th</sup>) 6pm

Fellowship Supper – Jan 15<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm

Beacon Articles due the 15<sup>th</sup>  
[beacon@harrisburgchristian.org](mailto:beacon@harrisburgchristian.org)

Women's Bible Study – Mondays @ 6:30pm  
Fridays @ 9:30am

Young Mom's Bible Study – Tuesdays @ 7pm

Men's Bible Study – Thursdays @ 6pm

Bulletin Information Due Wednesdays  
[amy@coyotehill.org](mailto:amy@coyotehill.org) or 573-819-1906

## Service Assignments:

### Church Opening

- 01 Bobby & Brenda Carey
- 08 Johnny & Vickie Spry
- 15 Mary Gilbert
- 22 Tootie Hardman
- 29 Al & Doris Querveaux

### Greeters

- 01 Wally & Jill Williamson
- 08 Bobby & Brenda Carey
- 15 Anita Pingel & Elaina Priddy
- 22 Doc & Karen Kinkead
- 29 Bob Mueller & Bill Farris

### Communion

- 01 Johnny Spry, Herb Owens, Paulette Thurston, Cara Douglas, Shelly Perrigo, Jimmy Ott
- 08 Sam Coy, Bobby Carey, Collin McBriday, Brenda Carey, Angie McBride, Debby Thomas
- 15 Herb Owens, Johnny Spry, Judy Price, Vonna Foley, Joy McBee, Kim Lanes
- 22 Randy Foley, Sam Coy, Sean Cochran, Mary Gilbert, Paulette & Charlie Thurston
- 29 Herb Owens, Bobby Carey, Anita Pingel, Jodi Gilpin, Cec Blakemore, Christy Blakemore

### Church Closing

- 01 Roy & Luda Francis
- 08 Kathleen Gillman
- 15 Wayne Richards
- 22 Jodi Gilpin
- 29 Guy Stroud

### Candle Lighters

- 01 Jodi Gilpin Family
- 08 Bob Distefano Family
- 15 Marla Oglesby Family
- 22 Sam Coy Family
- 29 Doc & Karen Kinkead

### Nursery

- 01 Dwayne & Mary Whaley, Megan Crowley
- 08 Charlyn Crowley, Elizabeth Freeman, Ann Elizabeth Gillman
- 15 Jodi Gilpin, Randy Foley, Lauren Crowley
- 22 Anita Pingel, Judy Price, Aaron Blakemore
- 29 Leslie Morgan, Keely Long, Judy Owens

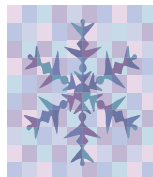


## Harrisburg Christian Church

201 East Sexton • P.O. Box 36 • Harrisburg, Missouri • 65256  
(573) 875-5527 • FAX (573) 875-5198 • [hcc@rocketmail.com](mailto:hcc@rocketmail.com)

Nonprofit Organization  
U. S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit #3  
Harrisburg, MO 65256

# In Inclement Weather Conditions:



Our intent as a church is to be open and available every Sunday for the worship of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. However, if extreme weather conditions occur, such as an ice storm, a determination will be made by the Chairman of the Board and Pastor to close church for the safety of the congregation. The church closing will be broadcast on television channels KOMU-8 and KMIZ-17 and radio stations KMFC 92.1, KPLA 101.5, and KRES 104.7.

"We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."

Romans 6:4 NIV

### ***READ THE BEACON ONLINE***

[www.harrisburgchristian.org](http://www.harrisburgchristian.org)

Help us save money in printing and postage, send an e-mail [beacon@harrisburgchristian.org](mailto:beacon@harrisburgchristian.org) and let us know we can discontinue mailing you the Beacon each month. We will e-mail you monthly to let you know the Beacon is posted on the website.