



## Elkhart Christian Church

October 2009

### **Pastoral Thoughts: There's Always a Future**

Jeremiah 29:11-13

In mid-September I spent a couple of days on the north shore of Lake Superior, the first time I'd been there in over 30 years. It was as beautiful as I remember. I recognized some of the same rose bushes, raspberry bushes, and wildflower patches. They were like old friends.

I took an afternoon and walked a wilderness trail along a creek that leads right into the lake. At one point I sat on an old bench covered with moss and lichen, to think. I wasn't there long. A squirrel charged up a tree right next to me and let me know that this was the wrong place, and the wrong time, and I was the wrong person to sit in that spot. I moved on.

Do you ever feel that way? That you might not be doing the right thing at the right time? Many ministers I know would tell you that, while they're studying in their office, they worry that they should be out seeing people, and while they're out seeing people, they worry that they should be studying in their office.

**Either that, or the squirrel was mistaken.**

I walked a little downstream and found another bench, on a little footbridge over the stream. I found myself thinking about how short life is, how short it really seems for some dear friends who are already looking into eternity.

That's when I felt a nudge in my mind, a thought that sounded like God's voice—"There is always a future. Always."

Blessings,  
Anne

## Come and Worship

Chancel Choir: 8:00 am

Sunday School Gathering: 9:15 am-Sunday School Classes:9:30 am

Worship Service 10:30 am

Handchime Rehearsal: 4:00 pm

Men's Breakfast: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday September-April: 7:30 am

Fellowship: Immediately after worship

## Worship Attendance and Offering

	Att.	Offering	S.S. Offering
8/23	43	977.50	no Sunday school
8/30	62	1,356.78	no Sunday school
9/6	49	1,043.86	no Sunday school
9/13	61	1,257.01	14.40
9/20	73	2,128.55	23.39
9/27	70	1,560.48	15.16
10/4	66	2,170.15	20.44

Christmas Offering: 75.00

Week of Compassion: 35.00

Reconciliation: 36.00

### Mission Statement

Elkhart Christian Church is a family of faithful Christians actively caring for the needs of others; sharing our faith through worship, education, and outreach; and providing fellowship that represents Christ's love and presence in our community and our world. Our mission is to nurture and prepare everyone God entrusts to us to become mature and dedicated Disciples for the glory of God.

If you have information for the weekly church bulletin or monthly newsletter, or if you would like to have your birthday printed and it is not already on the list, please place it in the secretary's mailbox, email it to [eccsecretary@lowatelecom.net](mailto:eccsecretary@lowatelecom.net) or contact Mary Jo at the church office. (515) 367-5125.

## Thank You

To our pastor and congregation of Elkhart Christian Church.  
We thank you all for helping us celebrate our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.  
God bless you all.  
Leland (Ken) & Chris Cunningham  
And thank you for the lovely cards and well wishes.

To our Elkhart Christian Church Family—

Your kindness has been a blessing. Thank you so much for all the cards, calls, thoughts & prayers during and since my surgery. The support of my church family has been and is very uplifting—that's what we should be always—supportive of all in the Elkhart Christian Church!

Special thanks to Anne for her visits!

Sincerely,  
Dave Kalsem

I want to say "Thank You" and I appreciate everyone who came to my birthday celebration on August 22. I had a very good time.

Laura Thomas

## Transitions

We've been asked, for the sake of those who don't always get our news, to record those members who have died in our newsletter. If you have a name you would like included, please let the church office know.

Mary Margaret Kessler - April 5, 1918—September 30, 2009

## Sunday School Notes

ECC Sunday School began September 13; the start of a great year! Pre-K -K will be taught by Shanda Owen and Tara Owen. Lennie Batson and Connie Carney will teach 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade. We will be concentrating on the Old Testament stories. Mike Luke and Paul Reinke will teach the Jr./Sr. High class. There will be no Children's Church offered this year, although Nursery will be available for infants through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade after Children's Moment. We will be promoting a "special" offering from now through December called "Kids Against Hunger." We are asking the children to bring a special quarter for this offering. Please encourage them to participate in this. We are looking forward to educating your children.

## Pumpkin Prayer

Dear God,

As I carve my pumpkin, help me say this prayer:

Open my mind so I can learn about you;

(Cut the top off the pumpkin)

Take away all my sin and forgive me for the wrong things I do;

(Clean out the inside)

Open my eyes so your love I will see;

(Cut eye shaped like hearts)

I'm sorry for turning up my nose to all you've given me;

(Cut a nose in the shape of the cross)

Open my ears so your word I will hear;

(Cut ears shaped like the bible)

Open my mouth so I can tell others you're near;

(Cut mouth in the shape of a fish)

Let your light shine in all I say and do! Amen

(place a candle inside and light)

## The Paradoxes of Life

When I spend myself - body, soul and strength - I find replenishment within.

When I extend kindness freely, I find kindness growing abundantly within.

When I give abundantly to God and charity, I find my resources increasing instead of diminishing.

When I exhibit happiness, I find mostly happy responses.

When I give or serve or share or provide, I receive or am served or shared with or provided for in return.

When I offer peace of mind to another, I discover it growing within myself.

When I feel at peace with God, I discover I am at peace with the world.

Charles Ferrell

“Forgiveness can remarkably restore our relationships, renew our spirits and revitalize our lives.”

William Arthur Ward

# FALL FESTIVAL

## ELKHART CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Saturday October 24, 2009

9am to 2pm

Coffee & Donuts 8:30am to 11:00am

## Roast Beef Dinner

11:30am to 1:00pm

Tickets - Adults \$7.00

Ages 6-12 \$5.00

Age 5 and Under Free

Garden Produce

Shoe Shines

Baked Goods

Large Selection of  
Trash To Treasure Items

Quilt Raffle  
(\$1.00 donation)

Crafts

All Drawings at 2:00pm

Please bring your marked items on Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup>  
to the church from 2pm - 8pm

*"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."*

PSALM 46:1

## Homeless and Directionless Find Support

**S**t John's Center in Northern Sri Lanka, which is part of Global Ministries' partner the Church of the American Ceylon Mission, is working with twelve refugee camps which have been home to thousands displaced from their homes due to civil war. St John's has nineteen volunteers, eleven pastors, one doctor and two nurses who are working tirelessly among the camps in a systematic and coordinated way offering subsistence food, child care centers, trauma counseling, medical assistance, clean water and sanitation.



Recently, about three months after the end of the civil war, the Sri Lankan government decided to send 5000 refugees from the outer camps back to their own villages. St John's received about 200 and gave them packages of food and basic clothes to start their new lives. Since their homes were destroyed they will go to live with relatives. The elderly were also released, many have no where to go. St John's is working to accommodate these elders on a temporary basis in elderly facilities.

Over 300,000 people are still in the camps. About 40% of the displaced are children - many of whom are unaccompanied by family members. Their care is the subject of conversations between the government, social agencies and faith groups like St. John's.

"Thank you very sincerely for your timely support and prayers in taking care of the refugees. Please uphold our ministry in your thoughts and prayers."

*Rev. Dr. S. Jeyanesan is Chair of CACM, and Project Director of St John's and wrote this letter to James Vijayakumar, Global Ministries Southern Asia Area Executive*



You make the difference . . .

The prayers and help you provide through your local congregations make possible the work and witness of GLOBAL MINISTRIES, which is supported by Disciples Mission Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) of the United Church of Christ.

WWW.GLOBALMINISTRIES.ORG

## An Altar in the World—an Invitation to Read

One of our greatest living preachers, Barbara Brown Taylor, has written a book about encountering God beyond the walls of any church—*An Altar in the World*.

What follows is the table of contents, and an invitation to anyone who would like to read this with others.

1. The Practice of Waking up to God: *Vision*
2. The Practice of Paying Attention: *Reverence*
3. The Practice of Wearing Skin: *Incarnation*
4. The Practice of Walking on the Earth: *Groundedness*
5. The Practice of Getting Lost: *Wilderness*
6. The Practice of Encountering Others: *Community*
7. The Practice of Living with Purpose: *Vocation*
8. The Practice of Saying No: *Sabbath*
9. The Practice of Carrying Water: *Physical Labor*
10. The Practice of Feeling Pain: *Breakthrough*
11. The Practice of Being Present to God: *Prayer*
12. The Practice of Pronouncing Blessings: *Benediction*

Talk to Pastor Anne if you're interested in being part of a study group, using this book.

### Week of Compassion Update:

#### Floods in Georgia: Rebuilding in Cedar Rapids

September 22, 2009

As Ray Miles, Regional Minister of the Christian Church in Georgia, writes, "What started as an inconvenience and a topic of conversation has escalated in many parts of Georgia to a natural disaster." Homes have been destroyed and some lives lost to the torrential rains. As of now, we do not know of any Disciples churches damaged, though some members of Disciples congregations have been significantly affected. In response Week of Compassion is sending a "solidarity grant" to the Christian Church in Georgia. WoC has also been in touch with the regional ministers and local church pastors in several other states that experienced flooding over the weekend, and so far, there are no reports of other Disciples congregations or members affected.

Week of Compassion is getting ready to team with Church World Service to help plan a 2010 Ecumenical Rebuild Project in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to help with that community's continued flood recovery efforts. This project is only in the planning stages, so please be on the lookout for more details!

**Note:** Week of Compassion is a year-round ministry, and the needs are year-round. Any time you want to make a contribution, write your check to Elkhart Christian Church, and designate "Week of Compassion" in the note field.

-Pastor Anne

## October Birthdays

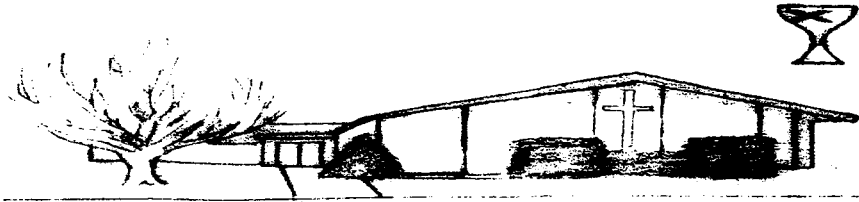
- 02 Mable Conley
  - Alan Brazelton
  - Scott Durrell
  - Julie Owen
- 03 Kathy Warrington
- 05 Nancy Owen
  - Nathan Dobson
  - Linda Brazelton
- 07 Jim Elmore
  - Don Swartout
- 08 Steve Albaugh
- 09 Galen Freel
  - Jay Mathis
  - Renee Lamfers
  - Kalven Owen
- 10 Tony Thompson
  - Ronald Cory
- 11 Jill Reinke
- 12 Gavin Cory
- 13 Brandon Cory
  - Kristina Smith
  - Cindy Hall
- 14 Jacob Van Gorp
- 15 David Spratt
  - Eric Bean
- 16 Andy Hall
- 18 Lane Hill
- 20 Gloria Elmore
- 22 Bill McLean
  - Donna Spratt
  - Brent Bean
  - Sharon Reinertson
- 23 Lots Sorenson
- 24 Mike Olesen
- 25 Barb Angstead
- 26 Ashley Owen
- 27 Richard Higginbottom
- 28 Maxine Owen
- 30 Betty West

## November Birthdays

- 02 Russell Sandquist
- 06 Mark Jamison
  - Mark Long
- 07 Mark Birchmier
- 09 Bonnie Freel
  - Charles Sorenson II
- 10 Leslie Anderson King
- 13 Cole Thompson
- 14 Laura Butler
- 15 Tim Butler
- 16 Charlotte Dawson
- 19 Barb Meeker
- 20 Sydney Anderson
- 21 Jayne Higginbottom
  - Chad Martin
- 23 Robert Ault
- 25 Richard Miller
- 27 Bob Voshell
  - Shawn Romick
  - Leslie Cory
- 28 Theb Vogt
- 29 Di Parson
  - Braedyynn Batson



**Elkhart Christian Church**  
**(Disciples of Christ)**  
**124 S. Washington**  
**P.O. Box 97**  
**Elkhart, IA 50073**  
**(515) 367-5125**



**"Sharing Our Faith and God's Love"**

**Church Staff:**  
**Ministers: The Congregation**  
**Pastor: Rev. Anne E. Gregory**  
**Board Chair: Tim Butler**  
**Church Secretary: Mary Jo Ward**  
**Pianists:**  
**Brenda Dobson**  
**Robin Luke**  
**Vickie Swartout**

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