



Elkhart Christian Church

1000 E. Main Street, Elkhart, IN 46517

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November 2009

Pastoral Thoughts: Ask Not What....

Verity Jones asks a different question about the current Health Care debate that's filling the news in our country these days. In the current issue of *Disciples World* magazine, she points out in her editor's article that the political discussion tends to center on what will be best for you and me—that is, whoever is listening to the conversation.

She reminds us that Jesus taught us to pay attention to those who are left out of the conversation; to those who may not be heard, and may not have a political voice. Jesus taught us always to consider "the least of these."

Why address a political issue when our focus is on faith? A seminary professor of mine once said, "Wherever two or more are gathered together, there is politics."

So, whether or not we are talking about controversies on the national level, or whether we are talking about those we live with every day, the question is the same. Not, "What can you do for me?" but "What can I sacrifice for your needs?"

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: 2nd Sunday September-April: 7:30 am

Fellowship: Immediately after worship

Worship Attendance and Offering

	Att.	Offering	S.S. Offering
10/11	55	\$ 696.66	\$16.50
10/18	65	\$1,116.47	\$13.00
10/25	53	\$1,282.23	\$13.10
11/1	57	\$1,435.57	\$21.00
11/8	60	\$1,796.88	\$14.01
11/15	62	\$2,341.65	\$16.07
Christmas Offering:		\$48.00	
Week of Compassion:		\$25.00	
Reconciliation:		\$ 5.00	

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@iowatelecom.net or contact Mary Jo at the church office. (515) 367-5125.

ECC Website

Did you know? Elkhart Christian Church has a Website:

<http://www.elkhart-christianchurch.com> (Note: some web browsers don't need you to input the www.)

Take a look! And then thank Renee Lamfers and Tim Butler for pulling it together.

Farewell from Vickie Swartout

November 15, 2009

Dear fellow Christians:

Tomorrow Don and I will be driving out to the Northwest to begin our relocation to the Longview, Washington area. I will begin my new job there on Nov. 23rd at a Peace Health Clinic and be living temporarily with our son and his wife. Don will then fly back to Iowa to continue to prepare our place to sell. I pray that won't take too long!

It is a bittersweet time for me because I am leaving you; however, it is an open door provided by God to a new adventure.

For the past nine years, Don and I have enjoyed your fellowship and have shared your obvious love for Christ. You are a very special, caring congregation that seems to be rare in this day and age. We thank this congregation, including Pastor Anne, for your many kindnesses, support, and prayers.

We have confidence that you all will keep both Don and me in your prayers, and you will certainly remain in ours.

God bless you all,
Vickie Swartout

Greetings from an Old Friend

A former minister of our church, Wayne Ward, phoned Mary Herman a few days ago. He sends his best regards to everyone. He was minister here from 1962-1965. Wayne and Jane live in Pueblo, Colorado.

Sharon Payne, Our New Keyboardist

Beginning in December, Sharon Payne will join the rotation of keyboardists for our Sunday worship services, along with Brenda Dobson and Robin Luke. Sharon has played both piano and organ for churches for at least 25 years, and is coming out of retirement to play for us. Please make her welcome!

Thank You

Thank you so much for letting us be a part of your worship service. It was a great experience for us, and your congregation was very generous.

Blessings on your chime choir—may you continue to grow and share your music in God's love.

Sincerely,
Sue Garton

Note: Sue Garton, nationally known Handbell soloist, led us in a service of scripture and music on September 27. That afternoon, she led a clinic for our Joyful Noise Chime Choir. It was a great privilege to hear and learn from such a gifted musician!

Transitions

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

Karen Marlene ("Kay") Twit – January 28, 1942—October 25, 2009

Beggars Night.....

The Elkhart Christian Church was a popular place on Beggars Night! Quite an array of little – and not so little – Halloween-costumed and non-costumed folks visited; the count was 87 and even included the Pillsbury Dough Boy! Apparently word traveled that it was a good place to be warm, enjoy fellowship, play games, get your picture taken and partake of an array of goodies, drinks, hotdogs and popcorn! Wayne Zimmer's Bingo was again very popular and made lots of young folks happy when they got to choose prizes from the table of treasures left from the fall bazaar! Dave Kalsem reported that Drew Owen had a very lucky bingo card and that Drew was quite excited that Dave helped him win 3 times!

Fellowship Hall looked great thanks to the decorating abilities/efforts of Jill and Rachel Reinke and included a nice backdrop for the pictures that Mary Jo Ward took and printed for all those costumed little ones – a wonderful idea and very popular event – thanks bunches Mary Jo!

Food was abundant – Jill Reinke again provided hotdogs – something she started last year and is a major "hit." Nadine made a "zillion"

"...they shall flourish as a garden; they shall blossom as the vine"

HOSEA 14:7B

Growing Gardens of Flowers

Participants in the Global Ministries Child Sponsorship Program toured sites in Israel/Palestine in early September, meeting sponsored children and visiting mission partners and historic locations. Eight trip participants joined four members of the national UCC and Global Ministries staff on this journey to Israel/Palestine. A key feature of the journey was a day visit to Rawdat El Zuhur (Garden of Flowers) School where some of the group met and interacted with their sponsored child. The school is a long-time partner of the UCC's Child Sponsorship Program. It was established in 1952 as a school for destitute girls and currently serves 233 children.



"Many of the more than 1000 sponsors in the Child Sponsorship Program dream that one day they will meet their sponsored children," says Linda Lawrence, Program Manager. "Some of our group made this dream a reality by traveling to far away lands to meet one of the 1200 children that has called them 'auntie, uncle or dear friend' in letters and drawings."

Lawrence stressed the impact of these encounters - sponsored children become bona fide people in the sponsor's life because a relationship that started with helping to provide financial support becomes a lifetime connection and bond.

Global Ministries Middle East and Europe executive, Peter Makari, led the group to many biblical sites and introduce them to the work of mission partners and mission personnel. "Everyone got a sense of the context and engaged with Global Ministries' mission partners, as well as others - Jews, Christians and Muslims - in the land often called holy," he said.

We pray today for the children of Rawdat El Zuhur, and for their US sponsors sending them love and support.

Child sponsorship costs just \$25 or \$30 per month. There are 15 sponsoring sites to choose from. Information can be found on <http://globalministries.org/get-involved/child-sponsorship/>



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

Week of Compassion Update:
Hope, Healing, and a Hand:
A Courageous Compassion Partnership

Wednesday, November 11, 2009

From its beginning, the Disciples Hurricane Recovery Initiative has adapted to emerging needs and new challenges. Since September 2005, Disciples have given over \$4.4 million to Week of Compassion in response to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Ike. At the same time, Disciples continue to answer God's call to "Get Dirty for Jesus!" Nearly 11,100 Disciples volunteers representing 1,124 mission groups have contributed 437,000 hours to the mission of disaster recovery. The value of this volunteer labor is itself worth \$8.9 million. The hours are equivalent to rebuilding 175 homes and repairing 10 Disciples congregations.

While the Disciples Hurricane Recovery Initiative winds down at the end of this year, God does not appear ready to let the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) off the hook. Disciples Volunteering, in partnership with Week of Compassion, is poised to help Disciples continue to answer God's call to respond to those hard hit by disaster and partner in mission with neighbors in need. The work of the Disciples Hurricane Recovery Initiative will continue across the Gulf Coast. The work doesn't end there, however. Disciples Volunteering: Disaster Response is expanding its vision. As communities continue to experience and recover from natural disaster, Disciples Volunteering: Disaster Response calls volunteers to be present, offering hope, healing, and a hand in their recovery.

Answer God's call to serve with Courageous Compassion today!
Contact Brenda Tyler at 888-346-2631 or visit the Website.

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

great cupcakes to go along with all the other goodies! Tom Ward and Chip Mathis made it possible to have fresh popcorn by providing the corn, oil, seasoning and bags and an actual popcorn machine like you see at the movies! Sandi Gaulke was gracious enough to volunteer to take care of popping the corn.

A big thanks to all who helped make Beggars Night a success! All those mentioned above were great help as was Pastor Anne. I apologize if I failed to mention anyone else who helped and/or provided items/service. Again, thanks for all your efforts and we'll plan to do it again next fall!

*Barb Kalsem, Chair
Membership/Evangelism Committee*

Ode to the Fall Bazaar.....

A roast beef dinner – it's a very tasty deal;
Real mashed potatoes taking hours to peel!
Rich brown gravy, veggies, salad and pie,
If this is a taste of heaven, I'm ready to die!

A beautifully stitched quilt donated and raffled;
All those tickets sold – no one I knew won and I'm baffled!
Oh well, maybe I'll find something in the "trash to treasure" –
Some home-baked goodies to buy are also a great pleasure!

Everyone is welcome – even the sign outside says so;
Enjoy a great meal, conversation and friends for not much dough!
A special treat – whether you choose in or out to dine –
Where else can you go for a great shoeshine?

Planning, check lists, supplies to buy,
When it's complete there'll be a relieved sigh!
The work seems endless and will it ever be done?
But as we look back we realize there was camaraderie and fun!

It was a beautiful day for the 2009 Fall Bazaar at Elkhart Christian Church – even the weather cooperated, which didn't happen much during October! I personally thought it was a very good bazaar – even if I didn't win the quilt (or at least someone to whom I sold a ticket)! Thanks to all who helped and made it a successful day!

Barb Kalsem

H1N1 Precautions

In this flu season, there is concern about contagion in church, particularly in regard to the Lord's Supper, or communion.

History shows that religious and scientific journals have published articles about these concerns as far back as 1887. At that time, people were worried about syphilis, diphtheria, and tuberculosis (tuberculosis remains as great a threat today as it was then). Twenty-five or so years ago, it was HIV-AIDS. Today, it's H1N1 flu.

Interestingly enough, it has been found that people who take communion as often as twice a day (in some Christian traditions, that's possible) are no more likely to get sick than the general population who do not take communion.

It was also found that individuals who live with children under the age of 12 are more likely to be ill than those who attend church and receive communion as often as every day.

Some Catholic churches in the eastern part of the country have decided not to place holy water at the doorway, and not to drink from a common communion cup during this flu season. Based on these findings, our church Board concluded in its most recent meeting that we need not change our practices as a church. Further precautions are up to individuals, of course.

More information can be found on the Internet:
<http://www2.elca.org/lutheranpartners/archives/intinct.html>

Trustees' Representative

The trustees have agreed that Tom Ward will be their representative to receive any and all reports about cleaning issues, as we're now working with a cleaning service for the church building.

Thanks, Tom!

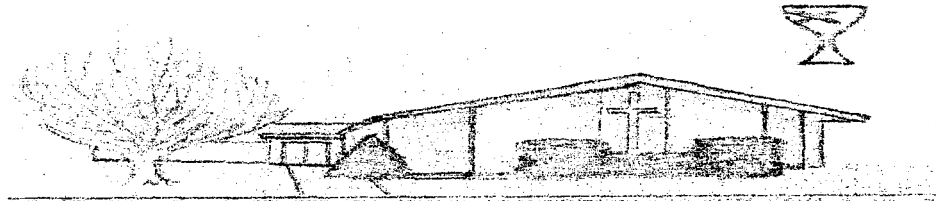
November Birthdays

- 02 Russell Sandquist
- 06 Mark Jamison
Mark Long
- 07 Mark Birchmier
- 09 Bonnie Freeland
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 Mathis
Braedyynn Batson

December Birthdays

- 02 Jerry Sorenson
- 03 Phyllis Cohee
- 04 Pam Oldham
- 06 Irline Capehart
- 07 Megan Albaugh
Michael Kaltenheuser
- 08 Don Albaugh
Charles Campbell
Paul Sorenson
Mary Jo Ward
- 10 John Owen
Joyce Russell
Jarod Rodriguez
Jacob Rodriguez
- 11 Krista Long
Kelsey Olesen
- 12 Deb Olesen
- 13 Virginia McLean
Pam Fitzgerald
Barb Kalsem
Nick Owen
- 16 John Hall
- 18 Linda Bussanmas
- 20 Wayne Zimmer
Barb Lourens
- 21 Tom Brazelton
- 22 Samuel Hill
- 23 Tom Ward
Kevin Gaulke
- 25 Bill Spratt
- 26 Russ Franzen
- 27 Dennis Parmenter
Myrna Anderson Brayton
- 28 Karla Albaugh
- 29 Tom Spratt
Mary Campbell
- 30 Randall Albaugh

Elkhart Christian Church
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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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