



## Elkhart Christian Church

July-August 2010

### Pastoral Thoughts— The Blessings of the Wider Church

I heard an interesting comment from a new friend I met at Quadrennial Assembly. She said, "I wouldn't even be involved in the church if I didn't know that we're doing so much at the larger level." I think she meant that there's often little we can do on our own, but when we get together with so many other Christians, and so many other churches as a denomination, we can do so much good not only around the country, but around the world.

That's one of the main reasons for national gatherings such as Quadrennial and General Assembly—so that we can be encouraged by what's going on among our brothers and sisters in other places, and so we can be energized in our own ministries.

At my first Quadrennial Assembly ever, Dr. Sharyn Dowd was the Bible study teacher. That means she gave a 25-minute lesson to the entire assembly every morning but Sunday. Many of you may remember that Dr. Dowd is one of my mentors, and that she preached at my installation service here at ECC four years ago.

I returned from Quadrennial with DVDs of Dr. Dowd's Bible study lectures, and the ECC Bible Study group was able to watch and then discuss the first one recently.

Just another of the riches of the larger church, for which we can give thanks to God.

Blessings,  
Anne

## Come and Worship

Chancel Choir: 8:00 am - September through May

Sunday School: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Labor Day until last Sunday before Memorial Day

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

Worship Service 10:30 am

Handchime Rehearsal: 4:00 pm - September through May

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

There is no Men's Breakfast in May, July or August

Fellowship: Immediately after worship

## Worship Attendance and Offering

	Att.	Offering	S.S. Offering
6/06	55	1,445.13	No Sunday school
6/13	49	1,064.60	No Sunday school
6/20	48	1,171.28	No Sunday school
6/27	43	655.60	No Sunday school
7/04	41	1,910.40	No Sunday school
7/11	50	621.00	No Sunday school
7/18	57	1,276.31	No Sunday school

Christmas Offering: \$ 40.00

Week of Compassion: \$ 25.00

Pentecost: \$ 145.00

## 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](mailto:eccsecretary@iowatelecom.net) or contact Mary Jo at the church office. (515) 367-5125.

Note: Elkhart Christian Church has a Website:

<http://elkhart-christianchurch.com>

## Opportunities for Service & Fellowship

Prayer Meditation: Mondays at 5:30 -

Bible Study: Tuesdays at 2:00 - please call Anne for location

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month: Worship Committee Meeting

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month: Board Meeting @7:30 pm

## 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.

Lois Irene Sorenson - October 21, 1921—May 14, 2010

Doris Ann McQueen - August 11, 1931 - May 24, 2010

Charles David "Chuck" Sorenson - August 19, 1914—July 1, 2010

## Thank You Notes

Dear ECC,

June, 2010

Thank you so much for the *God's Promises to Graduates*; it was very much appreciated.

I will be taking it up to Iowa Central with me for the great advice.

Thank you!

God Bless You!

Kelsey Olesen

The following note is from Stephen and Rebecca Haney, co-pastors of the new church start in Rochester, Minnesota. Stephen and Rebecca visited and spoke to us in January. All of our Pentecost Offering this year went to support this ministry:

July, 2010

Dear Elkhart Christian Church,

We enjoyed our visit you all. Thank you for your prayers and support. Your prayers and support enable us to share the Gospel in Rochester. People who have heard Jesus' story for the first time are getting excited by God's love and grace.

We pray for you church, and ask God to richly bless you!

Sincerely,

Stephen & Rebecca Haney

## Reflections on A.D.A.M. Camp (Art, Drama, And Music)

To experience A.D.A.M. Camp is much like a dream, finding something I've always longed for, and perhaps you have too. A.D.A.M. Camp is acceptance, the freedom to be yourself. Imagine a room quite big, and the moment you enter it you can feel the creativity outpour. A room where you can see, hear, and feel the gifts God gave. A place where no one will judge or discriminate, a place each person should hope to find.

Sometimes we forget how that could feel, or we even forget to desire it. So, you should feel proud to have helped two members of your congregation experience it. Perhaps they'll let it shine for you.

—Sabrina Taylor

### Fourth Ice Cream Social - 2010

The Elkhart Christian Church annual ice cream factory “cranked up” again on June 26! That’s when members of the Membership and Evangelism Committee along with some “seasoned veterans” and some first timers made about 18 gallon of ice cream to be served that evening at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Ice Cream Social. Those helping and deserving a big “thank you” are: Wayne Zimmer, Paul Reinke, Jim Mathis, Bill McLean, Craig Ellyson, Don Swartout and Dave Kalsem with some assistance from Barbara Morrison, sister of Mary Ann Mathis. Carl Van Gorp again provided all the ice needed and we appreciate his generosity. While the ice cream was being made Nadine Zimmer was busy getting things lined up in Fellowship Hall, making cold and hot drinks and the other necessities for an event like this. Fellowship Hall looked so festive and patriotic thanks to the decorating abilities of Nadine and Mary Ann Mathis with assistance from Barbara Morrison and her young friend, Madeline Tilyou who were visiting from out-of-state.

There were again lots of yummy desserts to go along with the ice cream - provided by generous members of the church—Thank You! Also, thanks to the ladies who helped cut/serve desserts and general kitchen help and clean up—an event like this could not happen without willing volunteers!

Everyone who was able to stay for the entertainment of the evening - “The Good Guys” - seemed to enjoy their music and fun. Dave thinks the only female singer in the group would be a really nice addition to our church choir (wishful thinking!!)

It was a fun event and one that we plan to repeat again next year. If you have ideas, comments, or suggestions or want to be involved with this, please do not hesitate to contact Dave or me - we want to make this a community event that everyone can enjoy. Again, thanks for your support and efforts - they are very much appreciated.

Barb Kalsem, Chair, Membership/Evangelism Comm.

## 10 Vacation Bible School Highlights

The 2010 VBS theme was High Seas Exhibition. I would like to thank all of the volunteers who made this year's event a huge success.

We have for the last few years combined with Salem United Church of Christ in Alleman. This year ECC hosted the event and again this year the combined VBS was very successful. The number of children participating was up to approximately 50 each night.

Teachers are always the backbone of the week; we had a great group of people who gave generously of their time and talents: Lisa Fausch—Pre-K, Kathy Wampler & Monique Avant—K & 1<sup>st</sup>, Kathy Houge—2<sup>nd</sup>, Lennie Wilharm-Batson—4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>. I thank you all for your commitment and great enthusiasm during the week.

We were blessed to have many young helpers this year. This group deserves great appreciation. They came on time and ready and willing to work each night. Thank you to these young adults: Aaron Reinke, Rachel Reinke, Bekah Ward, Nicole Bishop, Sara Tolbert, Sabrina Taylor, Gabbie Butler, and Tyler Wainwright.

Last year we began a new tradition of serving a kid-friendly meal each night of VBS. This is great for the kids and adults, as many of our teachers have young children participating in VBS. Getting the kids fed and to VBS on time has been a challenge for many working parents. The children really enjoyed the mealtime. The kitchen crew was amazing; there was plenty of food for all to enjoy; it was fresh and ready each night. Thank you to these wonderful ladies: Sandi Gaulke, Cathy Handley, Coral Sorenson, Jeanette Owen, Michelle Brown, and Jill Reinke.

Game time at VBS is one of the highlights for the kids, as you might expect. Tara Owen has generously been our game captain for the last several years; she always has such wonderful creative ideas, and she manages to keep it very organized and on-task. She incorporates a message of God's love with fun activities such as this year's treasure hunt, and walking the plank for God. Thank You, Tara.

Our music crew is unlike any other. The team of Brenda Dobson, Pastor Anne Gregory and Tim Butler, deserve a team trophy for the best-organized and most awesome music time ever. The music for this year's VBS was very modern and upbeat. One older youth was heard saying that they couldn't believe this is our church singing this great music. The musical folks have outdone themselves this year. Thank You!!!

Keri Alleman has put our craft area together these last few years. Each night she shares her enthusiasm, spirit and endless imagination. This year was no exception. She incorporates the Bible lesson into each night's craft, and the children may not even realize they have learned something wonderful about Jesus. I hope all the children will enjoy resting on the fantastic pillowcases they crafted with the Bible lesson, "God's Love is Comforting." Keri and the children also helped to tie a fleece blanket as part of our mission project for this year's VBS. We want to thank her and the children for all the hard work.

We want to thank our great photo partner, Mary Jo Ward. Again this year, she took photos of each of the children and spent many evenings floating around and taking photos of the activities the children were participating in. She took a great photo of the entire VBS gang. Thank You, Mary Jo. The photos are on a CD if you would like to view them.

Our mission partner these last few years has been World Vision—Operation Kid-to-Kid; this is a Christian humanitarian organization committed to reaching children and combating poverty. World Vision serves nearly 100 million people in 100 nations. The mission project, which is included in our VBS kit, has been a lot of fun to share with the children. Last year we made teddy bears to send to Operation Kid-to-Kid, and this year we tied the fleece blanket. We are proud to report that this year we raised through offering and donation \$219.03 to send to Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ. These funds are sent through the same organization as your Christmas, Easter and Pentecost offerings.

What a great week we enjoyed sharing the week with old and many new friends. See you in Alleman for VBS 2011.

Submitted by Education Co-Chair, Connie Carney

### **Disciples News**

#### **NORTH CAROLINA DISCIPLE HONORED BY NEW STAMP FOR NEGRO LEAGUE PLAYERS**

A North Carolina Disciple is among a group of former Negro League baseball players, who helped celebrate the issuance of a commemorative United States postal stamp, which honors the league. Carl Long, who played with the Black Barons of Birmingham, Ala., was recognized with the dedication of a new stamp on July 2 in Washington, N.C., along with several other former athletes from the Negro League. Long is a member of Grove Park Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), in Kinston.

Long is the father of Sotello V. Long, regional minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in South Carolina. Sotello Long and his wife, Dee, congregational services consultant for Church Extension, were involved in the unveiling of the new stamp. In addition, "Carl Long's Day" was observed in Kinston on July 3 during the Kinston Indians baseball game.

\*It is better to die for an idea that will live, than to live for an idea that will die.

Steve Biko

\* In the stillness, you find your true being. In the silence you will hear the breathing of your soul.

Neal Donald Walsch

## Pastoral Letter from DOC Leadership To Churches Affected by the Gulf Oil Spill

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*Hear my prayer, O Lord;  
let my cry come to you.  
Do not hide your face from me  
In the day of my distress.  
Incline your ear to me;  
Answer me speedily in the day when  
I call.*

—Psalm 102:1-2

Our Dear Friends and Partners in Ministry:

We write to you with hearts heavy with grief. Like most of the world, we have watched as the disastrous oil spill in the Gulf Coast has continued, seemingly unabated. We have watched as those we have entrusted to prevent such tragedies have puzzled over how this could have happened, and we have watched as attempt after attempt to stop the leak has failed.

We are angry, hurt, and disappointed. We are also well aware that your proximity to this disaster sharpens your emotions. Beaches marked by oil, wildlife sticky with oil, struggling economies—these are happening not just on your televisions, but also in your communities, perhaps even in your backyards. We grieve with you, pray for you, and have hope for an end to the damage done by this spill and for the healing of the Gulf Coast.

We know, too, that the damage done by hurricanes in the recent past makes your hurt all the more palpable. We weep with you as we remember the recovery work that still needs to happen across the Gulf Coast from Texas to Florida, and we pray with you as we anticipate the current hurricane season.

Above all, we share with you a commitment to ministry in the midst of such uncertainty. Though our hearts are heavy with grief, they are full of faith as well. **From the office of the General Minister and President to the seminary classrooms, God's call to respond continues to resonate.**

Those of us who serve as Regional and Area Ministers along the Gulf Coast are here to listen and to respond to pastoral needs as best we can, and we are committed to connecting you with the services you need.

Those of us at Week of Compassion stand ready to collaborate with our Regions and congregations to help provide relief to those affected by the spill—whether that means collaborating on recovery efforts with our ecumenical partners or providing resources to our congregations and church

members for whom the economic fallout from this disaster is proving to be a disaster in itself.

Please let us know how we can be of assistance. All of us make up the Church—the very Body of Christ, and as we know from that oft-repeated letter of Paul, whenever one member suffers, the rest of us suffer as well.

We send to you our tender love, our fledgling hope, and prayers that the one who calls us to be signs of grace in a harsh but holy world might continue to push us toward wholeness and healing.

In Christ's Peace,

**Dr. Beth Dobyns**

Transitional Area Minister, SW Coastal Plains Area

**Rev. Allen C. Allen**

Transitional Area Minister, SW Bluebonnet Area

**Rev. Barbara E. Jones**

Executive Regional Minister, Great River Region

**Rev. Michael Elmore**

Regional Pastor, District 1, Great River Region

**Rev. Ron Degges**

President, Disciples Home Missions

**Rev. Carl Zerweck**

Disciples Volunteering

**Dr. Sharon Watkins**

General Minister and President

**Rev. Amy Gopp**

Executive Director, Week of Compassion

**Rev. John Mobley**

Regional Minister, Alabama and Northwest Florida

**Rev. Rebecca Hale**

Transitional Regional Minister, Florida

**Rev. John Richardson**

Regional Minister, North Carolina

**Rev. Sotello Long**

Regional Minister, South Carolina

**Rev. Dani Loving Cartwright**

Regional Minister and President, Southwest



*"I will not let you go until you bless me."*

GEN. 32:26

## Tenacious Hope

Every Wednesday at noon, Mrs. E is there. She sits in front of the Japanese embassy in Seoul, Korea with her friends to ask the Japanese government to apologize for its past treatment of Korean women as sex slaves during the Asia Pacific War. Mrs. E is elderly, as are her friends. Many of the so-called "comfort women" have passed away. Mrs. E hopes that justice will be done before she meets her grave. She is surrounded by a crowd of civilians who support her struggle. Over the loud speaker a statement is read, a song is sung, a prayer is given. The window blinds of the Japanese embassy are shut. Stone faced guards and secret police make sure there is no outright confrontation. This peaceful sit-in has continued for seventeen years.



JEFFREY  
MENSENDIEK

In December 2009, religious leaders from around the world, gathered for the Second Conference on Article Nine and Peace in Asia. There were various Buddhist, Christian and Muslim denominations represented. There was great meaning when we gathered in Seoul, because we were all made aware of the realities of the Cold War which still divide the Korean peninsula. East Asia has not been able to move beyond the dualisms of the Cold War era. What we witnessed was a wall; a remnant from the Cold War. The wall is invisible, but no less as real as the wall being built in Israel.

Part of our program was to join the sit-in, and pray alongside these women who were victimized by war. We were all moved by the experience. I was reminded of the story of Jacob who wrestled all night with the angel of God. Jacob refused to let the angel go until he received a blessing. Mrs. E is one of those Jacobs of our time. I see in her a faith that refuses to let go, trusting that God is a God of love and blessing for all.

Let us pray for the tenacity of Mrs. E and others that their belief in the possibility of justice becomes our call for the enactment of justice.

*Jeffrey Mensendiek serves as a Global Ministries missionary with the Council on Cooperative Mission, and as director of the Gakusei (Student) Center in Sendai Japan.*



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 News

### "Growing Projects"—

#### Week of Compassion Offerings at Work

Growing projects are a unique way of getting local churches involved in working for food security all over the world. Essentially, churches pool together money to support a growing project, which can look like many things--some extra acreage managed by a local farmer, a community garden, a pumpkin patch that brings together the labor of a youth group and local retirees. The yield from that growing project--whether it is a share of what several head of cattle bring when sold at the stockyards, or the money that comes from fresh vegetables sold at a farmer's market--then goes to support one of the many food security projects all over the world; these projects help people utilize their skills in new ways, creating opportunities for sustainable small-scale food production.

Local growing projects take a good bit of work and coordination, but they are an amazing way to get churches--particularly rural churches--involved in making a big difference in fighting hunger all over the world. They can be joint ventures by small Disciples churches, a rural church with access to farmland can team up with a suburban or urban church with some financial resources to give, or it could emerge out of a local ecumenical effort--churches gathered together in a single community who want to do something to reach outside their town.

There are currently 12 growing projects sponsored by Disciples churches [in places such as Bosnia & Herzegovina, the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, and Serbia], and they are supporting tremendous work overseas. Week of Compassion has some special grant money set aside to help foster more growing projects, and we'd love to see more take off, whether it takes the form of a longstanding family farm's labor of love or a local congregation's experiment in urban agriculture or community gardening.

Love for one's neighbor takes many forms, after all.

—Brandon Gilvin  
Associate Director

*Week of Compassion is sharing resources and changing lives. Thank you for sharing your resources and helping to change lives.*

\*People do not decide to become extraordinary. They decide to accomplish extraordinary things.

Sir Edmund Hillary

## August Birthdays

01 Jami Edler  
02 Douglass Cartwright  
03 Ned Cory  
04 Lester Morris  
05 Aimee Grismore  
Teresa Kaltenheuser  
06 Penny Howard  
07 Jim Mathis  
08 Kristi Blair Balentine  
10 David Passmore  
Rebecca Lahai  
13 Brian Ault  
16 Aaron Reinke  
17 Lanette McHone  
18 Rachel Owen  
20 Laura Thomas  
Riley Owen  
22 Sherri Sorenson  
23 Brody Caswell  
24 Anna Edwards  
25 Bekah Ward  
27 Zachery Brown  
30 Eric Hall  
Michelle Brown  
31 Janet Albaugh  
Phyllis Barnhill

## September Birthdays

01 Tom Albaugh  
02 Jill Dobson  
03 Judy Franzen  
04 Wilma Scott  
Douglas Praska  
Johnathan Ralls  
Shanda Owen  
05 Connie Carney  
06 Mattison Hill  
08 Sue Owen  
Chris Scott  
09 Gary Cory  
11 Kelsey Caswell  
Bob Reinertson  
12 Stephanie Ault Reynolds  
Alice Struthers  
Steve Romick  
13 Brody Batson  
14 Matt Elmore  
Taber Jamison  
15 Joyce Romick  
Jan Wilson  
16 Diane McHone  
Dennis Miller  
17 Roger Cory  
20 Mark Parmenter  
Brent Sorenson  
Justin Voshell  
21 Barb O'Neel  
Dan Higginbottom  
Logan Albaugh  
Norman Higginbottom  
22 Bill Mason  
23 Craig Ellyson  
24 Mary Cory  
25 Marti Birchmier  
Marci Long  
Kyle Cory  
Ginger Swenson  
29 Dick Hudson

**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**  
**Organist:**  
**Sharon Payne**

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