



## Elkhart Christian Church

**August—September 2011**

### **Pastoral Thoughts—Do I Have to Live in Faith?**

**Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

**Note: The following comes from a sermon I preached in July. Several people asked if it could appear in the newsletter. —Anne**

One thing I learned at General Assembly in Nashville—I don't particularly like living in faith. I say that that's what I'm committed to—but I learned that there are times when it's just not very comfortable.

I've said it before and I'll say it again: we all actually *do* live in faith. We live in faith that when we turn on the tap, water's going to come out of it. And we live in faith that the water's going to be clean enough to drink (OK—maybe some of us don't really believe that, but it's mostly true in this country). We live in faith that we don't have to stockpile food in our basements, because we're going to be able to go to the store and buy what we need every few days. We live in faith that when we turn the switch, the lights will come on. We believe in a lot of things, and we believe they're going to there for us. The phone lines are going to work. The radio and TV stations are going to be there when we turn them on. And so on.

Anyway, here's my story. I counseled ADAM Camp the first week of July, and, as you know, 4 of our church members were there as campers. Camp is something this church requires its pastor to do. (Did you know that? It's written right into the contract.) When I first came to work with this congregation, I dreaded that part of things. I'd never been an outdoor person, and I was sure I was going to hate camp. But I had agreed to do it—there was no way out. And I went, and found that it was one of my favorite parts of this ministry. That was five years ago.

This year, ADAM Camp and General Assembly were going to overlap. And this congregation requires its pastor to attend General Assembly when it comes around every 2 years. (Did you know that? It's written right into the contract.)

I'd also been trying all spring to find a way to go to General Assembly without having to fly—I was sure there ought to be a less expensive way to go. So I'd been emailing back and forth with the church in Ames about sharing a van ride to Nashville with their youth. I was going to

## 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 of the month-Sept. through June: 7:30 am

Fellowship: Immediately after worship

## Worship Attendance and Offering

	Att.	Offering	S.S. Offering
07/03	34	\$1,270.00	No S.S.
07/10	44	\$1,261.24	
07/17	61	\$1,448.45	
07/24	44	\$3,510.05	
07/31	52	\$1,396.76	
08/07	39	\$ 815.00	
08/14	46	\$1,658.93	\$1.00
08/21	37	\$1,354.00	
Christmas Offering:		\$ 90.00	
Week of Compassion:		\$ 35.00	
Pentecost:		\$ 35.00	
Reconciliation:		\$ 50.00	

## 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@windstream.net](mailto:eccsecretary@windstream.net) or contact Mary Jo at the church office. (515) 367-5125. **Please note new email address.**

Note: Elkhart Christian Church has a Website:

<http://elkhart-christianchurch.com>

have to miss a whole third of ADAM Camp! But I needed to find a way to do both things.

When I got to camp, I learned that a van was going from the Pleasantville and Fairview Disciples churches, and that it would go a whole day later than the first van. So I arranged to travel with them. But there was a problem. As soon as I got in the van, I learned that they were coming right back to Iowa on Tuesday morning. I would miss 2/3 of General Assembly. Also not OK.

So that's the part about living in faith. I got to Nashville, and had no way home. Not a comfortable position to be in. I was wondering if I was going to have to buy a very expensive one-way airline ticket, just to get back to Iowa when things were over. Or maybe I'd have to rent a car and drive all the way back. Also expensive.

But I began to learn that living in faith is actually worth it. I began to learn how many friends I have across the Upper Midwest Region—part of it is because I *have* worked at camp every summer, and part of it is that I participate in Regional activities. (Did you know that? It's written right into my contract.) Iowa folks kept seeking me out at the Assembly and asking if I had a ride home—because a couple of my colleagues were recruiting for me. And finally, on the last morning of the GA, I got an offer for a ride that would leave Thursday morning, so I wouldn't miss any of the Assembly, that would take me straight to Pleasantville—where I'd left my car, and I'd have the whole back seat of the vehicle. Such a deal.

But here's something else that happened. Every time my schedule got messed up, I would run into someone who really meant a lot to me—a good Christian friend who has always been an encouragement. I saw several of those friends that week.

Why is that important? Because, if you're going to live in faith, you need to see the blessings. And that's part of what General Assembly is all about. It's about meeting Disciples from all over the U.S. and Canada, and even other parts of the world, and being encouraged that your own congregation is not the only group of Christians trying to make a difference in the world. It's about hearing what the many national and international ministries are doing—and seeing why it is we send money to an organization bigger than our congregation. It's so works of ministry can happen that one congregation could never afford to support. Did you know? There are 72 different ministries based at our Disciples headquarters in Indianapolis. Did you know? And that money comes from individual churches all over the U.S. and Canada. In the case of our congregation, it comes from individual members in the congregation who decide to give to the four denominational offerings we have during the year.

General Assembly is also a time to worship with several thousand other people. Did you know? One of the nights, Dani and Douglass Anne Cartwright sang a duet. I wish I could have brought home a recording! They sang during the memorial moment—when the names of Disciple ministers or spouses, or laypeople who have worked for our churches, regions, and the

national church, and who have died in the previous year—when those names are scrolled across the big video screens throughout the arena. As many of you would know—the duet was beautiful! For those who don't know, Dani was one of our regional ministers, and was married to my predecessor at ECC—David Cartwright. And Douglass Anne is their daughter. And did you know? Douglass Anne is a seminary student now—at Brite Divinity School at TCU. A Disciples school.

And what does all this have to do with faith the size of a grain of mustard seed? Or faith like a very rare pearl? Or faith like the smallest bit of yeast that makes a huge amount of flour rise and become bread dough?

Well, all of these parables are about hidden things—something that starts small and has a big effect. They're also about things that surprise us.

Let's be honest. Don't you find that the hardest things to deal with in this life are not always the big events, or even the times of heartbreak, but the everyday frustrations and glitches that make us lose our patience and even our tempers? But Jesus seems to be saying that God's joyful empire comes out of very small things—and things you have to wait for. How long do you suppose the pearl merchant was willing to search until he found the greatest of pearls? He would have had to go through multiple frustrations and glitches. How long does it take a tiny bit of yeast to make a whole lot of dough rise? Long enough that most of us have totally given up baking bread. We'd rather cook something quick—if we cook at all.

And how long does it take for a tiny seed to become a great big shrub—big enough for more than one bird's nest?

Sometimes faith only comes through frustration and the patience needed to get through it. I was frustrated and impatient about how I was going to get home to Elkhart. But all along, things were working out beautifully. Will I be able to be patient and hopeful the next time I'm inconvenienced (or think I am)? I can only hope so.

So, what's the final word? Yes, I DO have to live in faith. How about you?

Blessings,  
Anne

### **Spanish Camp!**

Another Spanish camp session was held August 8-12. It went very well (muy bueno)! As the campers left we heard them say: "We want to come back next year. With a few additional donations, this camp session raised \$100.00 for the church general fund. Both sessions added together raised a total of \$200.00 for the church. About the camp: In August we had some return campers (glad they came back for more) and some new children from Alleman. They learned basic Spanish terms, letters, the alphabet, colors, adjectives, greetings, family, months, seasons and how to tell time. We played

memorization games such as Bingo in Spanish, flash cards, match up and hot potato. Small prizes were given to the winners of the games. The fiesta was moved to Thursday so all campers could enjoy. It was complete with a piñata, squirt guns and food. Gracias!! To all who helped. THANKS for the use of the church facilities, for the parents for sending their children, for donating money and for the campers themselves for attending, (we truly enjoyed working with you all), and for the co-instructors: Chris and Maddie, who also volunteered their time.

Submitted by: Jill Reinke, Aaron Reinke, Rachel Reinke

### **CWF News**

As the new chairman of CWF, I would like to thank Sue Owen, Nadine Zimmer, Mary Jo Ward and Vera Cory for the hours and years of service they have donated to ECC for this committee. They have done an exceptional job that is difficult under any circumstance. Their devotion to the CWF mission has had many good results for their efforts and we will be looking forward to their assistance as the new committee board persons get their feet wet.

I want to thank Mary Jo Ward, Vice Chair; Connie Carney, Secretary; and Michelle Brown, Treasurer, for stepping up to the plate and offering their services for this year. I am sure I will achieve success with all these great ladies' assistance.

Thank you one and all

Sandi Gaulke, CWF Chair

We are on board once again for having the Fall Harvest Roast Beef Dinner on October 22, 2011. Sue Owen is again in charge of the dinner. Cathy Handley is overseeing the crafts/white elephant and bake sale section.

We are asking any and all who can bake, do crafts of any kind and whomever wants to donate items for the white elephant sale to let any CWF member know.

We know that everyone in the congregational family have talents and abilities to share. No one's help will be too small or insignificant. Call me any time at home or on my cell if you would like to help. (515) 967-9157 is my home phone and (515) 554-9175 is my cell. The better we do the more we can assure having this event again next year.

Thank you all

Sandi Gaulke, CWF Chair

## **2011 VBS Announcement**

It was another fun year joining with Salem UCC for VBS! It was hosted at their church in Alleman this year. It was held the last week of June. Our theme this year was Pandamania! "God is WILD about you!" Bernita Barr (UCC) was the director; Keri Alleman and Tracy Leshner (UCC) facilitated crafts. Judi VanDyke (UCC) and Pastor Anne (ECC) were the music leaders. Tara Owen, Lennie Batson, Gabbie Butler and Sabrina Taylor (ECC) ran games. Kathy Houge (UCC) and Kathy Wampler (UCC) taught the Bible lessons to each group. We also had wonderful kitchen, adult and youth helpers, including Tammy McClain (UCC) and Sara Tolbert from Elkhart. Thank you so much to all of them! We met Sunday through Thursday from 6:00 -8:30 pm. We served a free dinner first hosted by the UCC Women's Fellowship. The average attendance was about 44 kids. They seemed to enjoy themselves with the music, lessons, crafts and water games. We would so enjoy having your children join us next if they weren't able to make it this year; the more, the merrier! It was awesome ministering to these children.

## **Sunday school News!**

We are in need of a teacher to help co-teach 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday school. It is a flexible schedule from September through May, with holidays off. It could be every other week or every other month per your need. Please call Lennie Batson @ 367-2055 if you are interested or able to help. Thank you.

There will be a Sunday school kick-off again this year. IT will be held on Sunday, September 11, 2011. We will begin with singing in the sanctuary at 9:15. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us!

## **CYF News!**

### **Youth Group Starts in September**

Our next meeting will be Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:00 p.m. for youth in 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades to make plans for the upcoming year. We will continue to meet the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays this year from 6:30-8:00 pm.

Last year the youth showed interest in a youth band. Starting in October, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday's meeting will be a short meeting, if necessary, and Tim Butler has volunteered to lead the band. Please bring your instruments and singing voice. If you don't play an instrument or sing, please still plan to come, you can help with the electronic equipment. I'm looking forward to an exciting year!

The church had a hayrack in the Elkhart parade July 23<sup>rd</sup> and we'd like to thank the following people for their help and support.

- The youth group for making the signs
- Tom Cory for letting us use his hayrack
- Matt Owen for getting the water donated and the hayrack to Elkhart and back to Mike's
- Mike Luke for helping get the canoe to Tom Cory's
- Craig Ellyson for his canoe
- Rob Own for pulling the hayrack in the parade with his tractor
- Youth and adults that helped put labels on the water bottles
- Youth and adults that walked and handed out water or doe and threw out candy.

THANK YOU!  
Coral Sorenson

### **Elder & Diaconate Appreciation Dinner**

On September 25, there will be a lite meal beginning at 6:00 pm for the new and existing Elder and Diaconate. After the meal we will include a review of the order for serving communion and receiving offering. Sue Owen will be asked to present information about the opportunity of serving communion to members of the church & community who are shut-ins.

### **CROP Walk!**

Please mark your calendars and consider joining us once again this year as we participate in CROP Walk. It is set for Sunday, October 2, with registration beginning at 1:30 p.m. and the walk begins at 2 p.m. If you would like to get a packet please see Connie Passmore. Twenty-five dollars raised can provide a farm family with everything they need to make succulent, nutritious honey – hives, training and equipment. Fifty dollars can provide 400 lbs. of much-needed food for a local church-run food pantry. One hundred dollars can provide 250 cute and useful baby chicks, which will grow up to be egg producing chickens. Please consider raising funds and walking.

### **A Prayer of Thomas Ken (1637-1711)**

**Writer of the Doxology sung at ECC every Sunday after the Offering**

**The following was shared with the ECC Bible Study group by Arlys Hall:**

O God, make the door of this house wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship; narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and strife. Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling-block to children, nor to straying feet, but rugged and strong enough to turn back the tempter's power. God make the door of this house the gateway to thine eternal kingdom.

## **WEEK OF COMPASSION AND GLOBAL MINISTRIES RESPOND TO THE DROUGHT AND FAMINE IN AFRICA**

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is joining with ecumenical partners to respond to the ongoing famine in Kenya and other countries in the Eastern Horn of Africa as more than 20 million people in the region are in crisis. Week of Compassion and Division of Overseas Ministries/Global Ministries staff members report this year marks the driest period in the Eastern Horn of Africa region since 1995, with the lowest level of rainfall in more than 50 years. As a result, food security – the access and availability to food – has deteriorated for most households. Crops have failed, large numbers of livestock needed for survival have perished, and local food prices have increased substantially.

Sandra Gourdet, Area Executive for Africa in DOM/Global Ministries, says the Organization of African Initiated Churches (OAIC) and the Presbyterian of East Africa are preparing response project proposals this week that will focus on immediate and long-term solutions. Week of Compassion Associate Director Brandon Gilvin said Disciples assistance is being directed to Church World Service and the ACT Alliance, which are focused on providing immediate relief and longer-term food security/nutrition and water initiatives.

Week of Compassion updates on the situation are at [www.weekofcompassion.org/updates/2011/7/21/drought-in-east-africa-the-worst-in-decades.html](http://www.weekofcompassion.org/updates/2011/7/21/drought-in-east-africa-the-worst-in-decades.html)

Updates from Global Ministries can be found at [globalministries.org/news/africa/africa-drought.html](http://globalministries.org/news/africa/africa-drought.html)

Gifts for famine relief can be given online at [www.weekofcompassion.org](http://www.weekofcompassion.org)

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



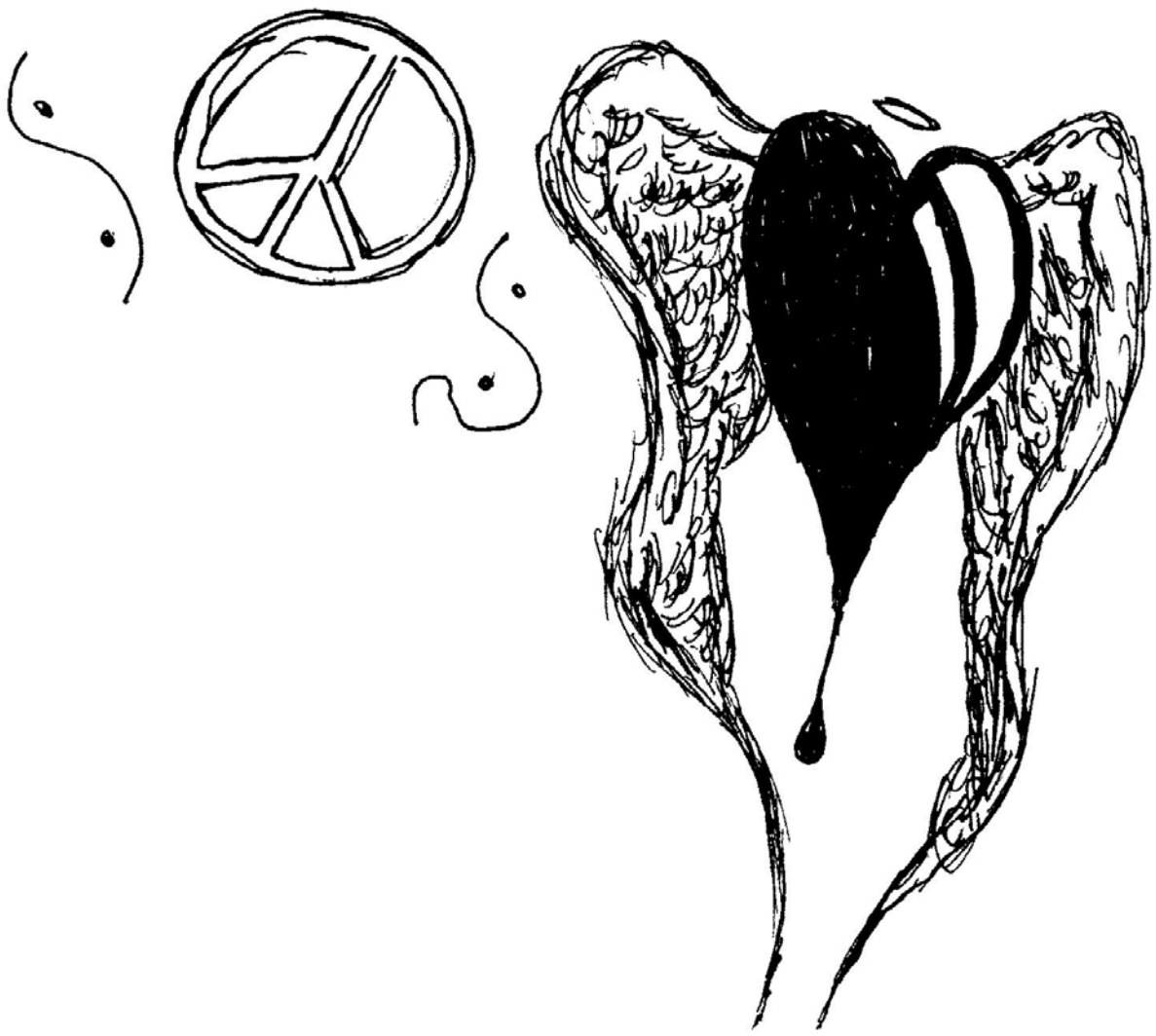
Dear Anne,

Thank you so very much for being at Adam camp.  
It was so very much fun, I had such a great  
time. Thank you so very for taking your time to  
go. Being with you and having you there was so  
exciting. God bless you,

Your friend, your student,

Z.Z.

Zachary Z. Brown



*“Go, stand in the temple court and tell the people the full message of this new life.”*

ACTS 5:20

## A New Way is Possible

**T**he prison of Basse-Terre has been making the French news lately, unfortunately, for the wrong reasons. It was ranked the worst prison of France. Tim Rose, Global Ministries missionary in Guadeloupe says, I am assigned as both prison chaplain and “reinsertion” counselor at the prison of Basse-Terre.

Originally built in 1660, as a catholic convent, it was converted into a prison in 1772. Not only is the prison old and rundown, the prison is extremely overcrowded. Set up to hold 130 prisoners its current population is approximately 200 and there are only two social workers assigned to work with the prisoners.

The Protestant Reformed Church of Guadeloupe (PRCG) has a prison chaplaincy program and a partnership with a local non-profit organization, “Accolade Caraïbes,” to maintain a presence in the prison. I accompany the prisoners spiritually, and I help them make plans to re-enter society after their release. Through job training, spiritual support, family counseling, transitional housing opportunities and acting as a link between the prisoners and the parole board, I try to help prisoners create a new life for themselves.

Obviously the challenges are immense. Through listening, prayer and helping prisoners find real solutions to their problems, many have come to realize that God’s promise of new life is possible.

*Please pray for the prison population of Guadeloupe and the work of the Prison Chaplains and the social workers of Accolade Caraïbes.*

*Tim Rose serves with the Reformed Church of France as the Pastoral Assistant for Diaconal Ministries in Guadeloupe and Martinique.*



TIM ROSE



## 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

## **September**

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  
    Jacob Oldham  
23 Craig Ellyson  
24 Mary Cory  
25 Marti Birchmier  
    Marci Long  
    Kyle Cory  
    Ginger Swenson  
29 Dick Hudson

## **October**

02 Alan Brazelton  
    Scott Durrell  
    Julie Owen  
03 Kathy Warrington  
    Steve Snyder  
05 Nancy Owen  
    Nathan Dobson  
    Linda Brazelton  
07 Jim Elmore  
    Don Swartout  
08 Steve Albaugh  
09 Galen Freel  
    Jay Mathis  
    Renee Lamfers  
    Dustin Bussanmas  
    Kalven Owen  
10 Tony Thompson  
    Ronald Cory  
11 Jill Reinke  
12 Gavin Cory  
13 Brandon Cory  
    Kristina Smith  
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  
24 Mike Olesen  
25 Barb Angstead  
26 Ashley Owen  
27 Richard  
    Higginbottom  
29 Maxine Owen

Elkhart Christian Church  
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**Church Staff**

Ministers: The Congregation  
Pastor: Rev. Anne E. Gregory  
Board Chair: Dave Kalsem  
Church Sec.: Mary Jo Ward  
Pianists: Brenda Dobson  
Robin Luke  
Organist: Sharon Payne

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

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