



Waukee Christian Church Newsletter

Waukee Christian
Church
(Disciples of Christ)

Sept. 2011

BACK to CHURCH KICKOFF

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SUNDAY, SEPT. 11

Just like our old 'Denim Days
wear casual clothes!



Come for worship and stay for a
Back-to Church Carnival.
Activities & Information,
Fun & Fellowship for all ages.
SEE YOU SEPTEMBER 11.

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Fall Schedule

The Fall Worship
Schedule time will be
decided on Aug. 31,
and will be announced
in church on Sept. 4th,
and you can check the
weekly WCC email for
more information also.

We hope to see
each of you at WCC
Worship Service!



UNDER THE STEEPLE

By Pastor Larry Squier

All we need is Love

Is not the main purpose of our religion, our Christianity our faith . . . is it not to love one another more than we've ever loved before? I think it is easy for any congregations to do what we consider "church." We go to church, we attend meetings, we stop by for fellowship but these things though, ubiquitously nice and pleasant, still fail to speak to the love Christ calls us to be and become. In fact, I would suggest the most defining description of a Christian is the bigness in which one loves, no matter what the situation or the circumstances. William Sloane Coffin once wrote, "Love measures our stature: the more we love, the bigger we are. There is no smaller package in all the world than that of a man all wrapped up in himself."

This kind of love extends itself no matter what kind of pain, suffering, or misfortune we might experience. When someone does something to us we can react as a victim or a martyr; we can bemoan how much we were put out by someone's actions or we can, in genuine love, seek to reconcile with the one who has hurt us or with whom we have a difference. This kind of love is what Christ said should cause us to leave our offerings at the church and go and be reconciled with our fellow human being before we enter into any act of worship. (See, Matthew 5:23-26) In this Matthew passage Jesus implies that unresolved differences that are not reconciled in love are a form

of murder.

And what should we say about moral impropriates, the kind of sins or derelictions that have the whole community buzzing? Most people want to see justice, as in a pound of flesh or an eye for an eye, for what has been allegedly committed to everyone's disdain. But what would be the most loving thing to do for one who is "caught" in some dishonorable action? Once again, Christ lifts up the bar of love and asks each of us to raise our own bars of banishment and fault finding. (See, John 8:5-11) Jesus dismisses the crowd ready to stone the woman caught in adultery. He then showed her compassionate, nonjudgmental love as he declined to condemn her. She was liberated to live a life freed from sin and the burden of past mistakes.

I would say that most of our problems, both personally and corporately, are as a result from our failure to love one another in big ways and as big people. We tend to easily become petty and judgmental in our relationships and far too uncreative in our ways to love one another, especially love one another as we ourselves would like to be loved. A church is really only as great as its people's ability to outdo one another in loving like Jesus loved. Again, William Sloane Coffin writes, "Love, and you are a success whether or not the world thinks so. The highest purpose of Christianity--- which is primarily a way of life, not a system of belief---is to love one another. And the first fruit of love is joy,

the joy that represents meaning and fulfillment. " We all know people who seem to be unhappy most of the time, those who are sick all of the time and can't seem to get well. Some of them seem to walk around with a cloud of gloom over their being? They may well be people whose spirits have not found the larger capacity of what it means to love in great ways, to love unconditionally, to love even the unlovely. "Too many religious people make faith their aim. They think 'the greatest of these' is faith and faith defined as all but infallible doctrine. There are the dogmatic, divisive Christians, more concerned with freezing the doctrine than warming the heart. If faith can be exclusive, love can only be inclusive." And yet Paul, in his marvelous representation of the power of love in I Corinthians 13, makes it clear that the greatest power in our lives is the power of love.

We can never overestimate the power of love. Years ago a sociology professor at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore assigned his class to a city slum to interview 200 boys. "On the basis of your findings, predict their future."

Shocked at what they saw in the slums, the students estimated that 90 percent of the boys interviewed would someday serve time in prison.

Twenty years later the same professor asked another class to locate the survivors of the 200 boys and compare what happened. Of the 180 boys they could find, only four had



ever been to jail.

Why had the predictions by the earlier class proven false? A common denominator — over 100 of them remembered having the same high-school teacher, Miss O'Rourke, who had been a tremendous influence on them at the time.

After a long search, Sheila O'Rourke was found in a nursing home in Memphis. When asked for her explanation she was puzzled and replied, "All I did was love every one of them."

Never doubt the power of love, especially the love of God in Christ Jesus.

As we begin a new church year following our summer respite; we need a few more Sunday School teachers, a few more volunteers for our children's music, and for our youth activities. But not to oversimplify it, *all we need is love.*



I Coffin, William Sloane, *Credo*, Westminster John Knox Press, 2004 (Louisville - London) p.24
 II Ibid
 III Coffin, William Sloane, *Credo*, Westminster John Knox Press, 2004 (Louisville - London) p. 25
 IV Alan C. Cole, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" *26th Street Church of Christ Homepage*, mupfc.marshall.edu. Retrieved Feb. 25, 2004.



Points to Ponder

By Pastor Nancy Thomas

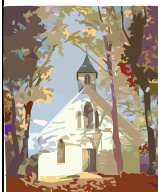


Thank you, congregation, for giving me the opportunity to attend the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) last July. That event is always a renewing experience on many levels. The Assembly re-elected the Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins to a second six-year term as General Minister and President. Following are excerpts of her “acceptance” speech—words of wisdom for our church today.

“We are in an amazing and challenging time to be church. Sometimes we mistake the nature of the challenge before us,” that our problems are declining membership, poor organization and communication, dwindling finances. While these issues are real and do need to be faced, none are the fundamental challenge for Disciples of Christ in today’s world. “The challenge for us today is that so many of our neighbors do not know the love of God. The need of our neighbor is what needs to break our hearts and preoccupy our board meetings. The people we see every day on the streets and on our computer monitors are brother and sister human beings who do not know that they are each and every one precious and beloved in God’s sight. Showing our love for God by loving our neighbor is our challenge. It’s the challenge for us to address in every one of our ministries.”

“It’s supposed to be catching, the love of God—know us, know

Jesus, know the love of God. Disciples in many places are making this happen through mission trips and powerful prayer, through ministries supported by Disciples Mission Fund and Week of Compassion and Reconciliation Ministry.” Disciples of Christ were at work in India after the 2004 tsunami. In one particular village, which had been overlooked by other organizations, Disciples helped people experience God by rebuilding houses and replacing fishing boats. The village priest thanked Dr. Watkins, “You Disciples of Christ were Jesus to us.” It’s about showing the love of God, being Jesus to someone. As we do at Waukeee Christian Church through our work with the Food Pantry, Klothes for



Kids, the Great Giveaway, Hope Ministries, Operation Christmas Child, and other outreach ministries.

“The church at its core is strong.” We have some problems, but they can be overcome. “We Disciples are still who we’ve always been, pragmatic people who love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. We see a neighbor’s need and we partner with someone to do something about it. We Disciples still believe that knowing Jesus is enough; simple proof of faith is stronger to unite than anything else is to divide. We know that we show

the love of God by loving our neighbor as Jesus asks us to do. NOW, IT HELPS FOR BELIEVABILITY IF WE CAN DEMONSTRATE SUCH LOVE AMONG OURSELVES.”

We are going to continue to disagree on many things. “We are a broad, wide-open table reflecting the diversity of God’s children... with so many different points of view. It is time for us to engage as children of God. If we are to be people who share the love of God by loving our neighbor, we have to be a church that loves each other and can engage each other in Christian love on important aspects of our own life.”

“God can transform the world through us. The world of God’s desiring is emerging and does emerge when we love our neighbors and we show it. Among our own Disciples ministries, there have recently been some important conversations where brothers and sisters stayed at the table beyond the first round of tension and disagreement to work their way through to a better understanding, staying with the conversation passed the first flashes of anger and misunderstanding. This takes commitment, courage, and Christian love. We can do this.” Yes, Dr. Watkins, we can, with God’s help.



LET'S GET BACK TO CHURCH

Many of our activities have been on "summer break" and so have many of our families.

It's time to get back and get involved!

Back-to-Church CARNIVAL SEPT. 11

Learn about Sunday school classes for all ages.

See what's happening with youth groups.

Promote your favorite fellowship activities.

Explore outreach ministry opportunities.

Play some games.

Eat some food.

Catch up with old friends.

Meet new friends.

Get excited about a new church year!



Meals from the Heartland

Volunteers still needed for the Annual Hunger Fight weekend Aug. 31—Sept. 3 in Host positions to help supervise shifts & packaging volunteers, fill supplies, & load boxes for shipping. If you can join the many volunteers, Thank you very much!

"Through A New Lens: A Change of Heart"

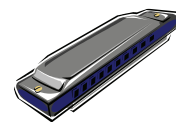
Upper Midwest Fall Retreat will be held Sept. 30—Oct. 2 at Lake Koronis, MN.

Ladies — make plans to head up to the retreat and hear Rev. Gail Thiessen share about her 2010 sabbatical to New Zealand.

Those interested can find additional details on the church bulletin board.



Phil Hague



will return Sept. 11.

We look forward to again hearing his harmonica music during Worship Service.



KIDS NIGHT OUT!



FRIDAY NIGHTS
5:30 - 10:30PM

2nd FRIDAY — every month

Pizza ~ ~ Popcorn ~ ~ Drinks
provided with a movie

This is an opportunity to introduce
new families to our church,
and is also a fundraiser.

Call Joyce Breckenridge
515-943-1149

Additional Volunteers needed!

Suggested Minimum Donation
\$10 per child or \$20 per family



**RESERVATIONS
REQUIRED!**

SPREAD
THE
WORD !!



P. R. C.

Now Serving for Pastor Larry are:
Tom Wilkerson, Gene Sapp,
Shari Burgus, and Gene Stanbrough

Now Serving for Pastor Nancy are:
George Risinger, Jack Carpe, and
Darcey Gruber

CHILDCARE MINISTRY

Thank you, Joyce Breckinridge and Suzanne Koch, for continuing to be the only volunteers in our childcare ministry on Sunday morning.

They need your help!

The more volunteers we have, the fewer times any one person has to miss worship services.

If you have ever appreciated having a place for our active children to play so you can concentrate on worship, please volunteer for a Sunday or two in the Children's Garden. care area!



FESTIVAL:

DM Southside Sculpture Park will hold the 3rd Annual Art Festival on **Sat. September 17**
Crafts, music, hot dogs, & drinks will be available.

Come join in a day of fun!
One block E of SW 9th, on
McKinley Avenue.



Elder Serving Schedule

September:
Karen Neese
Naomi Brumfield
October:
Kyle Brock
Jan Jensen

November:
Kyle Brock
Laura Helmus
December:
George Risinger



Craft Night

Come join us Thurs. nights at 6:30pm for a night of fun, fellowship and crafts! Bring your craft ideas and projects to the church to work on.

Everyone is welcome to join us for this event.

Craft projects will benefit the "Shops on T Ave" fundraiser!



CWF

The Christian Women's Fellowship group will start meeting again with a potluck with WOW on

Thurs, Sept. 1st
at 6:30 pm

at the church. We will have a guest speaker, Shannon Neff, who will talk about Haiti. All ladies are invited.



Monthly Motorcycle Lunch Ride

Every 3rd Saturday of the month we will leave from the church at 10am and ride for awhile before stopping for lunch.

Call Wayne Breckenridge with any questions at: 515-978-4936.



CROP WALK

Dallas County CROP WALK will be held on October 9th— Sunday afternoon, following the same route that was taken last year. Hopefully you can make it outside to enjoy a nice fall walk day and help raise funds for those who are in need.

CLEANING MINISTRY

Many thanks to volunteers for cleaning the church during the month of August. **September weeks are available for volunteers.**

Please check the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. To assist our volunteers, we have a checklist of tasks that need to be completed every week. Most of our volunteers have been able to complete the cleaning in about 2½ to 3 hours.



HOPE MINISTRIES

WALK A MILE IN THEIR SHOES

WALK-A-THON

SEPT. 3

9:00am

Copper Creek
Pleasant Hill





CONGRATULATIONS

Matthew and Jodi Cross are proud new parents of a baby boy! Reagan Matthew was born August 26 at 5:52, 21" long and weight of 8 lb, 2 oz. Marvin and Nancy Cross claim the honor of calling this new little guy Grandson.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

September 17



Kelly Harmes and
Cody Zickefoose
will unite in marriage.

We all wish them many happy
years of marriage.



THANK YOU

To my church family—



Thanks so much for the support as I graduate high school and make my way to Iowa State. I really appreciate all the thoughts and prayers. It's good to know that you are thinking of me. Thanks for the book also, it's helped.

Sophie Karau

BOOK SALE

Iowa Right to Life — Huge Sale on
SEPT. 27—OCT. 1

Jordan park Camp Building
2251 Fuller Rd, W. Des Moines

9/274:00pm—9:00pm

9/28—9/30.....9:00am—9:00pm

10/1.....8:00am—3:00pm

1st night ONLY there's a \$5.00 entry fee,
but all other time are FREE admission.

CONDOLENCES

We offer our deep condolences to
the families of loved ones who have
passed away recently:

Mike Olson

Barbara Beech

Todd Wortham



PSALM 105:1 "O GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, CALL ON HIS NAME,
MAKE KNOWN HIS DEEDS AMONG THE PEOPLES!"



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

September 2011

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Cell Phone: 480-2688

Email: nancythomas52@q.com

Admin. Assistant: Christina L. Gillespie

Praise Team Coordinator: Gena Pierce

... CHURCH OFFICE ...

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SUMMER WORSHIP

9:00AM

1st and 3rd Sundays Contemporary Service

2nd and 4th Sundays Traditional Service

May 29 through September 4

... MISSION STATEMENT ...

In our service to Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior,
we strive to be faithful to the Lord's Table and Scripture.

waukeechristianchurch.com

The Waukee Christian Church Newsletter is published monthly.