



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 52 Number 3

February 13, 2008

Sunday School for all ages at 9:30 A.M.	700 Poyntz Avenue
Sunday Worship at 10:45 A.M.	Manhattan, Kansas 66502
Second Helping Dinner at 5:15 P.M.	telephone 785-537-7006
Thursday Evening Taizé at 7:00 P.M.	www.uccmanhattan.org

The House of the Lord

One of the first memory verses I remember learning in Sunday School (once I had mastered “Jesus wept”) was from the Psalms: “I was glad when they said unto me, we will go into the house of the Lord.” It’s still one of my favorites, particularly in C. Hubert Hastings Parry’s cathedral-burner anthem setting. Maybe that memory verse started it all. Thanks Grandma.

Until the Reformation, most of what the average Christian knew about his or her faith came from what they saw. It was what was enacted in liturgy and drama, and ritual, not what was read. It was what was built, sculpted, painted, and composed. It was image more than idea, music more than words. Some would say that today’s culture is more like ancient and medieval culture in that regard—based strongly in image and sound over printed text.

So when it comes to church history, one of the great resources that we can draw upon is the art and architecture created by believers to house the worshipping community. [continued p. 2]

➔ ➔ ➔ ➔ Inside this Newsletter ← ← ← ←

Sharing & Caring	3-4	Worship Volunteers	10
News & Events.....	5-9	The Second Helping.....	11
Christian Education	8	Community News	11

As some of you know, one of my avocations is the study of historic architecture. I have long been fascinated by church buildings—their design, their function, their decoration. Maybe it goes back to exploring all the nooks, crannies, attics and back passageways of the church I grew up in. We had to do something while we waited for our parents to finish counting the collection or washing the communion cups, so we explored. As you know, part of what I did on my sabbatical was to indulge my interest, visiting as many cathedrals, churches, abbeys, and ruins as time would allow.

Some of you have been wondering when you would get to see the pretty pictures. Soon, I hope. I say I hope, because I am still trying to work out some of the bugs in the technology to make it happen.

Beginning in about a month, I will be offering a series of presentations during the adult forum on Sundays at 9:30 A.M. which I have entitled *The House of the Lord*. My intent will be to survey the development of Christian architecture from antiquity to the present—or at least as much as time allows. We will explore the relationship between changes in church design and liturgical practice. We will look at some of the art that decorates these churches—because even from the beginning, the faithful always made the faith story visible in arts.

So let that left brain chill and give the right brain a workout. I hope you will join me for *The House of the Lord* next month.

Grace & Peace,

Sharing and Caring

Prayers and Concerns

These items are not viewable on this website. Please call the church office for further information.

Thank You

- On behalf of the board of directors of Shepherd's Crossing, thank you for your continued, generous support of this organization. Your donation of \$100 will assist working families and individuals afford life's basic needs in the way of gas, utilities and housing.

Executive Director, *Jan Connizzo*

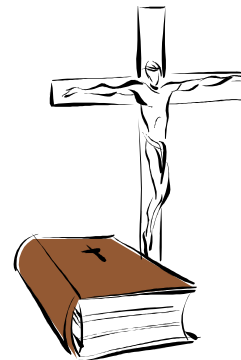
- I want to extend my most sincere thanks to all of you for your support of my trip to El Salvador. I was blown away at the response. Between family donations and congregation donations, more money than I requested was raised. There may yet be a few expenses, but if there is extra money, I'd like for it to possibly be used toward another Habitat trip. So much interest from others has been expressed that the leftover funds may not even be used by me!! That is a heart warming thought. . . maybe more people will get involved, either locally or internationally, because of this fundraiser!

Please know that I am going as a representative of our church, even if it is just in spirit! I will work my hardest to change the lives of others, and do so knowing a little piece of each of you is working through me. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity! I will bring back what I can of this life-changing experience to share with you.

Sincerely, *Chantel Vogel*

Helping

- **Need a ride to church?** Contact one of our transportation volunteers: Jim & Carolyn Hodgson, Bill Pallett, or Jeff Keller.



Ecumenical Community Lenten Worship & Luncheons

Once again, the Manhattan Ministerial Association is sponsoring Community Lenten worship services at Noon on Wednesdays during Lent. Each service lasts about one half hour and is followed by a simple lunch. These events will be held at First Christian Church, Courthouse Plaza. Come as you are to share in worship and fellowship.



One Great Hour of Sharing

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have.” – Hebrews 13:16a Why does the Hebrews preacher pose this exhortation in the negative, “Do not neglect to do good...?” Perhaps he or she saw evidence in the Christian community that praising God came much more easily than sharing.

It’s an age-old challenge to put something in the plate rather than merely pay lip service. Or perhaps he or she wanted to remind the community that even though “doing good and sharing” are so simple, so foundational to Christian life, the opportunities to act are often overlooked. ‘Of course Christians do good and share!’ we think — but do we become so accustomed to the commitment to do good that we forget to actually do the good to which we’re called? Here’s one story of how our simple act of sharing with a gift to One Great Hour of Sharing is changing lives.

What does One Great Hour of Sharing have to do with pigs?

In 2005, a grant was provided to the Ikengo Agriculture and Training Center located in Ikengo, Democratic Republic of the Congo. What began with the purchase of 20 pigs has resulted in 305 pigs in 2 years time. Participants learn how to take care of the animals and how to keep them healthy. They are then given animals to raise and mate and eventually sell to others in their community. In this way many families begin to earn a living resulting in more people being able to take care of themselves and their children. In addition to working with pigs, Ikengo Agriculture Center provides direction on growing vegetables, fruits, plants, and raising chickens.

On March 2, we will dedicate each person’s offering during worship. **We have included an envelope with this newsletter which you can use to make your gift.** Doing good and sharing what we have gladdens the heart of God, who promises that those who respond “shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.” (Isaiah 58:11, NRSV)

Tower Chimes

Kathy Bleam, Jan Lange, Judy Willingham, Sean Weston, Kent Cormack & Bill Pugh had a very productive Ground Hog Day celebration making parts, repairing parts, and assembling parts at Bill’s shop on February 2. Sean & Jan really had fun with the heat gun and the shrinkable tubing insulation.



On February 9, Jim Hodgson and Bill started installing the conduit for the chime system wiring. To get past the Narthex, the conduit passes through the stub wall at the right end of the coat rack; as difficult as this route proved to be, we have great faith that it was easier than getting the conduit through any of the four stone walls would have been!

On Sunday afternoon, February 10, Sean & Bill were successful in getting the conduit routed through an existing hole near the basement ceiling in the north stone wall of the tower. None of this work will show once it is completed, so check out the holes in the walls while they last.

Following unanimous advice from various people, Jeff Keller has ordered kiln dried timbers for building the new chime rack. As convenient as unpainted and locally available pressure treated timbers would be, they would be too unstable for our needs; they would be likely to warp and twist over the years. The six legs will cost about \$125.00 each; if you would like to donate a leg and be a real pillar of the church, please contact the church office.

At 9:00 A.M. Saturday, February 16th, we will have another work party at the Top Rung Tower Chime & Organ Service shop, just east of the new car wash at 10th and Ft. Riley Boulevard. Bill has finished painting almost all of the steel and cast iron striker parts, so there will be a lot more parts to assemble. Bring your own screw drivers (for slotted screws), and we will forge ahead. **If the labor pool allows**, a separate crew can continue installing the conduit above the Andover Hall ceiling toward the equipment room where the generator is waiting.

Cinema and Soul: Reel Theology

"For the average American, movies have replaced religious groups as the place where significant encounter with the transcendent takes place; it is in this temple of the theater where meaning is preached."

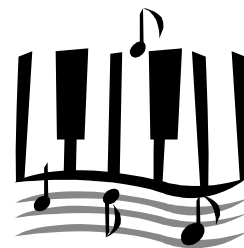
- *Selected Tuesday evenings at 6:30 P.M. in the Theater at First Congregational UCC*
- *Thought-provoking films you might not see anywhere else in the area. Discuss issues raised by the films and what the film "preaches".*
- *Short on time? Tired of cooking? Come at 6:00 P.M. with a brown bag supper. (Showtime is 6:30) Popcorn and snacks are provided for you to enjoy as we watch.*

Tuesday, March 4: *Romero*

Starring Raul Julio as the archbishop, *Romero* is the true story of the catholic priest Archbishop Oscar Romero who lived in El Salvador during the political unrest in the 1980s. The government has launched a 'terror campaign' against the guerillas in an attempt to crush them. Archbishop Romero's protests against governments' actions are perceived as disloyalty. As an example to others, the government begins to destroy churches and murder priests. Despite persecution, Romero continues to speak out against the atrocities the government is committing against the people of El Salvador, until his untimely death. A powerful movie not widely seen since its release nearly 20 years ago.

MPAA: Rated PG-13. 1989. 102 minutes.

See you at the movies.



KSU-Manhattan AGO Members Organ Recital 3:00P.M. Sunday, February 24

First Congregational UCC is hosting a recital by members of the KSU / Manhattan chapter of the American Guild of Organists. A reception will follow in Pioneer Hall, hosted by our Music Committee and Chancel Choir, with cookies baked by Manhattan organists. A freewill offering will be received to support the new Emergency Shelter being built in our community.

Christian Education

REMINDER: All children and Sunday School teachers will meet in the sanctuary on Feb 17th at 9:30 A.M. The younger class will go with Ellen for Sunday School. We will be talking about the sanctuary and the meaning of acolytes. All children are invited to attend even if they are not interested in serving the church as acolytes. Parents please encourage your children to attend.

Bible Study Nursery care is provided during the Thursday evening Bible Study. Please contact the church office if you will not be attending so we can contact the nursery attendants.

Adult Sunday School

February 17 — Alphabet Soup (an ONA Sunday School class)
Come and learn about the letters used by the LGBTQI community to describe themselves. Even if you've had a class like this before, please come and share your knowledge. If you are LGBTQI, please come and help correct any misconceptions.

February 24 and March 2 — Women in the New Testament
Discuss the women who are mentioned in the New Testament and talk through the misconceptions and/or lack of knowledge available to sort out these folks.

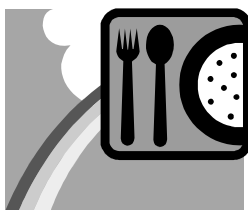
Out and About: Notes from the Edge *by Jo Foy*

Rev. Nancy Wilson in *Our Tribe* proposes five tribal gifts that gay, lesbian, and transpeople bring to the Church. First we offer the gift of coming out. The expression “to come out” is now used generically. It has already been co-opted by the dominant culture. It simply means to tell the truth, to disclose the hitherto private, hidden realities of our lives. People come out of the closet about all kinds of things these days, and sexuality is only one of them. (p. 70)

Wilson shares her understanding “that every truth is connected to and somehow supports every other truth.” She explains, “To follow Christ is to live in the truth, the whole truth.” For GLBT people to tell the truth about themselves is to be spiritually healthy, as well as, psychologically healthy.

Truth-telling may come in many forms. It may come about in the story about the family who has rejected us; or in the celebratory prayer for a family reunited by a transformative moment of acceptance. It may be personal, as a moment of reflection, when a GLBT person realizes that their life may not be just exactly like those around them. It may come about in the emptiness of holidays; or the closeness of extended family created to take the place of blood relatives and provide a sense of community and continuity. When we tell the truth about ourselves, to ourselves and to others, there is a sense of liberation. There may also be sadness, despair, wishes unfulfilled. As a people of hope, we accept our “outness” as a special gift of the Creator; given freely; extended with relentless grace and mercy.

Rainbow Table is a social gathering— all GLBTQI persons, friends, family, and allies are welcome at our table, whether or not they are members of our church or members of any church. The next Rainbow Table gathering will be Saturday, February 23, at 6:00 P.M. at Sirloin Stockade. If you plan to attend the February 23 meal, please RSVP by Wednesday, February 20, to 537-7006.



Worship & Church Volunteers

February 17, 2008

Sanctuary Flowers... Paul and Elnora Young
Greeters Jan Lange and Kathy Bleam
Scripture Reader Bill Pugh
Word for Children .. Judy Willingham
Extended Session Shai Beulow
Sunday School..... Ellen Logan / Grizelda MacDonald,
Jeff Keller and Jerry Hanna
Fellowship Hour Virginia Bigbee
Snow Removal Brad Logan (*through February 23*)

February 24, 2008

Sanctuary Flowers... Judy Willingham
Greeters Sean Weston, Ellen Logan and Kara Burns
Scripture Reader Scott Steele
Word for Children .. Cole Bennett
Extended Session Shai Beulow
Sunday School..... Ellen Logan / Grizelda MacDonald,
Jeff Keller and Jerry Hanna
Fellowship Hour Atina & Jerry Hanna, Ellen Logan &
Kara Burns
Snow Removal Dave Smit (*through March 1*)

The Second Helping

The Second Helping is a local mission of First Congregational UCC. It serves a hot meal every Sunday evening and provides sack breakfast and lunch items to each guest. To volunteer, contact Sandy O'Grady 537-7006.



February 17, 2008

Chief Cook Sandy O'Grady
Volunteers Ann Gleason, Health and Nutrition Society
Dessert Sandy O'Grady

February 24, 2008

Chief Cook Ann Smit
Volunteers ESA Sorority
Dessert Ann Smit

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Manhattan, KS 66502
(785) 537-7006
uccmanhattan.org**



Community News

Head Start is a free, federally funded early childhood program that serves families with low income. To apply, a child must be 3 years old by August 31, 2008 but not yet kindergarten age eligible. For more information call 587-2045 or stop by Head Start at 1700 Leavenworth in Manhattan.

Bread for the World Thursday February 28, 2008, 6:00- 8:00 P.M. Students, churches and community members of Manhattan, KS will join together on Thursday, February 28, for a dinner workshop sponsored by Bread for the World, a collective Christian voice urging the nations' leaders to end hunger. The workshop will explore the important ways that students, campus faculty and staff and congregational members can speak up for change, and help end extreme global poverty. The dinner and workshop will be held at Crossroads of ECM, 1021 Denison Ave., Manhattan, KS 66502 (785) 539-4281. You can register online at www.bread.org/rsvp or contact Elise Young at eyoung@bread.org and 1800-82-BREAD ext. 104.