



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

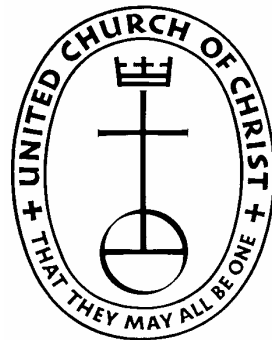
Volume 52 Number 7

April 16, 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.	<a href="http://www.uccmanhattan.org">www.uccmanhattan.org</a>

## United and Uniting

One of the characteristics of the United Church of Christ is that it is a united and uniting church, born in 1957 of a merger of the Congregational Christian Churches (CC) and the Evangelical and Reformed Church (E&R). Each of these bodies were products of earlier mergers. But we are certainly not the only united and uniting church. In 1821 a union of Lutheran and Reformed churches in Germany produced the *Evangelische Kirche* (Evangelical Church), the ancestor of “E” churches of the E&R Church. In German usage, Evangelical basically means “Protestant.”



In the late 1970's the United Church of Christ received an invitation to enter into *kirchengemeinschaft* or full communion with the Evangelical Church in Germany. [continued p. 2]

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This was in the days of a divided Germany, and so *kirchengemeinschaft* was a witness to the unity of the Church as well as our historical ties—a statement that Christians could transcend a political boundary in Germany as well as an ocean between two continents. In 1981, the UCC General Synod officially voted to enter into this new relationship. (It had been approved the year before in Berlin.)

Subsequently, various conferences within the UCC have developed partnerships with specific regional churches of what is now called the UEK (Union Evangelical Church). Kansas-Oklahoma Conference has partnered with the UEK in the southwestern state of Baden. We have exchanged delegations and explored new opportunities for growing our partnership. Some of you may remember that the Rev. Peter Scherhans, pastor of the church in Offenburg, Germany, was with us in worship in 2006 when we hosted the annual meeting of the K-O Conference. Since then, folks from K-O have visited in Baden, and members of the Baden congregations have been with us in our conference.

Next week, Bill and I will spend 10 days learning firsthand about our partners in Baden. As part of a delegation of 9 folks from K-O, including our conference minister David Hansen, we will have an opportunity to visit a number of churches and other institutions that are part of the UEK in Baden, Germany. Bill and I will be in Offenburg at Peter Scherhans’ church on Sunday, April 27. Peter has invited me to preach and bring the greetings of First Congregational UCC, Manhattan to congregation in Offenburg.

In my absence, you will also have a treat. On April 27, the Rev. Victor Force will be our preacher. On May 4, the Rev. Jack Ulmer will preach. I hope you will be present to worship with them, and that you will pray for us in our travels to our partner church in Baden. Yes, we will bring back pictures, and we plan to share those on May 18 in Adult Class.

Grace, Peace, and Auf Wiedersehen,

## Sharing and Caring

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

## Kudos

- **Jean Hill** has been named realtor of the year by the Manhattan Association of Realtors. The award criteria include adherence to the realtor's code of ethics, participation in local, state and national activities, business accomplishments and participation in civic affairs. Congratulations Jean!
- **Judy Ahrens** for taking on another term as registrar for the North Central Association Kansas Oklahoma Conference United Church of Christ. Thanks Judy.

## Thank You

- Our thanks to everyone in our church family who helped to make John's memorial service and reception on April 12 so inspiring and comforting. Your kindness was greatly appreciated. *Carol Chalmers and Family*
- Thank you for your support for theological education in 2007! The good news from our seminaries is that enrollment continues to be strong, including an increasing number of younger students. Chicago, United and Eden Seminaries each report a lively mix of ages and backgrounds on their campuses, providing a rich learning environment for all. You are with them, through your support of \$400, each and every day! As the work on our seminary campuses continues daily on behalf of all of our churches, please continue to hold their students, faculty and staff in your prayers.  
*In Faith and hope, Ann S. Moyer, Executive Director*
- On behalf of everyone at the Ecumenical Campus Ministry at Kansas State University, I wanted to thank your congregation for your recent contribution of \$425.00 to the ministry! Your financial assistance is valued and will go a long way to support the ongoing work at CrossRoads of ECM.  
*Best Regards, David Jones*

## Helping

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

## Christian Education

**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.

**4-5-6 Sunday School** Pastor Kent will be meeting on May 11 with Jerry Hanna's fourth, fifth and sixth grade classes to talk about Holy Communion.

## Habit Trip to El Salvador

Thank you all again for your support of my Habitat for Humanity trip to El Salvador. In appreciation of all of your help, I'd like



to invite you to a presentation summarizing the trip. During the adult Sunday School on May 4<sup>th</sup>, I will present a PowerPoint full of photos of the work, culture and friendship we experienced there. I look forward to seeing you in the upstairs theater at 9:30!

*Chantel Vogel*

## Adult Class Schedule

April 20 **House of the Lord** We wrap up our series for now with the flowering of the Gothic style in Europe.

April 27 **Ready, Set, Grow** Kerri Keller shares information and ideas from the recent vitality workshop at UCC headquarters.

May 4 **Habitat in El Salvador** (see above)

May 11 **Spirituality 101** Lead by Mary Ray.

May 18 **EKU Baden** Kent Cormack and Bill Pugh share their experiences with our partner church in Baden, Germany.



## Let the Sun Shine In (and at night the windows shine out!)

Over the past couple of weeks, the beautiful windows of our sanctuary have been emerging from beneath their clouded "cataracts" as the old plastic protective glazing has been removed and

replaced with clear glass. The team from Bovard Studios in Fairfield, Iowa, has been working carefully and hard to preserve and protect our windows.

Unfortunately, weather has not always cooperated. The series of rainy days followed by high winds last week slowed the project considerably. (Working with large sheets of glass atop the scaffolding was simply not possible last Friday.) The result is that much but not all of the work is done. If you want to see the dramatic contrast, look at the east side of the sanctuary from Juliette Street. The difference is amazing. Just yesterday someone who drives by regularly stopped in the office to tell us how great things are looking. Within the next couple of weeks the crew hopes to return and complete the project, at which time we will need to make our completion payment to the company.

The church has received as of April 1 \$30,450 of the \$33,175. pledged to pay for the window cover replacements. The balance of the pledges is due by June 1. The response by members and friends of this church for this project has been amazing, and we look forward to wrapping it up! If you can complete your pledge soon, it will be greatly appreciated.

# Tower Chime Update

Attendance at the Saturday morning work parties on the chime strikers and other equipment has been very low the last few weeks. Thank you Kathy Bleam for your faithful help! There is one more session scheduled before Bill leaves on vacation, so if you are available this Saturday, the 19<sup>th</sup>, please come and help, either at 9:00 or as soon as the church yard cleanup is completed. Most of the dirty work is finished, and both skilled and unskilled tasks remain to be done. (FYI, soldering and drafting abilities are needed for some of those skilled tasks).

Bill Pugh cleaned up the smallest of our ten chimes (only 120 pounds) and took it to church for the Children's Time on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Children and adults alike enjoyed the chance to see and hear one of the chimes. Thanks to Jim Flak, Don Cannon, and Sean Weston, Chimebearers.

In order to keep within our budget, we would like to do as much of the chime loft preparation as possible with volunteers. The chimney and deteriorated flooring are gone, and the next hurdle is the widening of five pairs of floor joist "pockets" in the stone walls so that additional floor joists can be installed. Because of the old soft mortar used in the construction of our church, Burke Bayer has recommended against using hammer drills for removing small portions of the stones around the joist pockets. Bill has experimented with one pocket, and found two of the three stones involved to be quite easy to drill, but the third one was very hard.

Therefore, the solution is simple: a work party! If you want a really boring job (bad pun), please sign up for a two-hour shift at the hole drilling party on April 26<sup>th</sup>. The plan is simple: drill a row of 1/4" holes as close together as possible, and then use a chisel to split the rock at the row of holes (drills and chisels will be provided). This work is tough on arm, chest, and lateral muscles, so teams of two can take turns through a two-hour shift. We also need to remove the accumulated mortar dust from between the joists to protect the drill motors and make room for fiberglass insulation. You can sign up for a drilling team along either the north wall or the south wall (a race might be implied here). It will

be vastly easier to do the loft work before hot weather comes, for the metal that covers the chime loft louvers needs to remain in place until the floor is completed and waterproof.

Five of the six timbers for the legs of the new chime rack have now been underwritten. Karen Penner & Marc Johnson, Judy Willingham, and Jean Hill have sponsored one leg each, and Burke & Margery Bayer have sponsored two! Thank you all! Contact Chasity at 537-7006 if you would like to sponsor the final leg for \$125.00.

**Work Party 9:00 A.M. to Noon, Saturday,  
April 19<sup>th</sup> at Bill's shop at 902 Fair Lane.**

**Work Party 9:00 A.M. to 3:00  
on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> in the Chime Loft**  
Please sign up in person or call Chasity at the church office.

## Women of the Church

**No Spring Rummage Sale in 2008** Due to a general lack of response, the proposed rummage sale for this spring has been cancelled. I do appreciate those of you who told me that you could help with the mundane tasks of setting up, sorting, organizing, and running the sale. Only with everyone's help can a rummage sale be successful!

*Judy Willingham*

## News from Boards & Committees

**The Grass is Getting Greener** Congratulations to all of those who won the snow lottery this year! The time for mowing is upon us, and the Trustees are looking for some volunteers. If you would like to help, please sign up. The sign up sheet is in the middle document holder on the office door.

**Graduation** The Graduation Season will soon be here, and we would like to honor all our graduates. If you have a graduate--high school, college, technical college, graduate school, or any other--please let the office know soon so we can properly honor him or her in worship on May 18. We would also like to feature our graduates in the second church newsletter in May, so information in writing would be very helpful.

Thanks from Gretchen Lewis and the Board of Deacons



### Thank You to All for the Easter Breakfast

The Board of Christian Education would like to second Pastor Kent's gratitude for everyone who helped make the Easter Breakfast such a success: those who helped set up and take down tables, those who set up the "cafeteria line" and decorated tables, those who worked in the kitchen, and those who helped clean up. Special thanks to Virginia Bigbee, Christy Crenshaw, Jim & Marian Fuller, Jerry Hanna, Jean Hill, Chris Hogan & Duane Kiefer, Brad Logan, Brent Manor, Ellen Logan, Martha Miller, Mary Ray, Marsha Tannehill, Craig Weston, and everyone else who chipped in and helped without being formally asked. And for those of you who brought food, it was delicious! Thanks to all!

For the Board of Christian Education,  
David Smit

## Church Vitality Team News

### Ready Set Grow Update

On April 4 and 5, four members of First Congregational's Vitality Team attended "Ready Set Grow" (RSG) training at the national UCC offices in Cleveland, Ohio. RSG workshops help church members learn more about the UCC's vitality and Still-speaking initiatives and related resources which are available to local congregations. First Congregational was represented by Kerri Keller, Jean Hill, Craig Weston and Kent Cormack.



The RSG workshop is intentionally designed to balance mainstream concepts about marketing and advertising with thoughtful discernment of God's call for living out our faith. We discussed the fading influence of Christendom and the impact of today's increasingly secular culture on Christianity. We spent time reflecting on our church mission statements and how to translate those into mission-focused vitality efforts. We also had a special opportunity to witness the national church in action as it unveiled its call for a nationwide dialogue about race and upcoming plans for Trinity Sunday. The workshop opened and ended with gatherings in the Amistad Chapel. In the sacredness of that place, we took part in communion and prayed for guidance in bringing home all that we had learned.

If you would like to hear more about our impressions of the workshop, please join us during Adult Education on Sunday morning, April 27 from 9:30-10:30 A.M. Keep our faith community and others in your prayers as we move forward with plans to extend God's extravagant welcome.

## Church Library News

**Gospel Parallels: A Comparison Of the Synoptic Gospels,** Fifth Edition, using the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, edited by Burton H. Throckmorton, Jr.- 1992

A gift of the Women's Fellowship in memory of Eugene Gishwiller who died in 2007.

### **Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible-**

James Strong Hendrickson Publishers, Inc. Peabody, Massachusetts

This concordance is newly typeset with clear and readable print to make it the easiest to use and most helpful edition for the modern reader. It incorporates updated and improved Hebrew and Greek dictionaries to give brief lexical definitions of each word of the original languages of the Bible. Included is an interactive CD-ROM, including the entire text in PDF format.

**The Interlinear Bible-** Hebrew, Greek and English- Second edition 2006. Jay P. Green, Sr., General Editor.

The only complete interlinear bible available in English in one volume, it is keyed to Strong's Exhaustive Concordance.

Interlinear Bibles are a time saving tool for researching the subtle nuances and layers of meaning within the original biblical languages. This one features the complete Hebrew and Greek texts with a direct English rendering below each word. It includes The Literal Translation of the Bible in the outside column.

These two books in the Lanning Bible Reference Library (in the Conference Room) are in memory of the Rev. Julian Johnson (1916-2005), gifts of his sister Mary and Joe Ed Brown, Mt. Pleasant, Texas. Rev. Johnson was pastor of First Congregational United Church of Christ from 1958 until 1981.

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

Youth who are different need an intergenerational community where they can relate to the world as though they are "normal". This is the rationale for the Flint Hills Pride Prom. At the 5th annual Diversity Summit last week on campus there was much discussion in the afternoon



around exclusion vs. inclusion. There were stories of parents in the public schools being upset because a national professional organization of Black engineers wants to start an organization with 7th and 8th graders. The parent of a white child says, "But why can't my child be a member?" The simple answer to this question is because Black children in America have a vastly different experience than White children in America. Developing self-esteem and a positive identity within that difference is key to those 7th and 8th graders being successful in life. Skin color is much easier to identify than gay- or trans-ness in general; however, when GLBT teens dress differently, have different mannerisms, enjoy different activities than the societal norm, they may be teased, excluded, and bullied by their peers.

Youth who are different need an intergenerational community where they can relate to the world as though they are the norm. Why? Because they are the norm within their group. Valerie Lehr in *Queer Family Values* uses the analogy of othermothering, where (especially) African American girls cultivate other women (besides their mothers) as nurturers and listeners (p. 165). Similarly, Gay Straight Alliances offer queer and questioning teens the support of their allies, both teen and adult. The Flint Hills Pride Prom was conceived by Rainbow Table members in January 2007 as a service project for "our" youth. We offer gay/lesbian/trans teens an opportunity to have fun in a safe and supportive environment. We invite the congregation of First Congregational UCC to join us in this celebration.

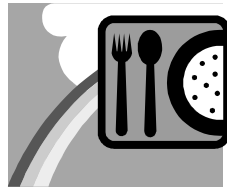
We invite donations, attendance, and volunteers to help us from 6pm to midnight on May 3, 2008. Vendor tables will be set up in the Courtyard of the Student Union, and the dance itself will be in Union Station. This event is by invitation only (just like last year), which means you need to contact Jo Foy or Mary Ray at 537-7006 to receive an invitation before Wednesday, April 30. May our Still-Speaking God laugh and dance and enjoy.



**Pride Prom** The second annual Flint Hills Pride Prom will be held **Saturday, May 3, 2008**, at Union Station in the K-State Student Union from 6:00 P.M. to midnight. Invitations are \$5 per person, and the deadline for invitations is April 30. Donations, door prizes, and volunteers are needed. Vendor tables will be available at no charge. For more information contact Mary Ray or Jo Foy at 537-7006.

### Rainbow Table April 19

The next Rainbow Table gathering will be at 6:00 P.M. on **April 19**. Please bring food to share, card tables, and chairs. Call Mary Ray or Jo Foy at 537-7006 if you need more information.



## Worship & Church Volunteers

### April 20, 2008

**Sanctuary Flowers...** Daniel & Jenny Clark  
**Greeters .....** Carolyn & Jim Hodgson, Barbara Withee  
**Scripture Reader .....** Ann Smit  
**Word for Children ..** Bill Pugh  
**Acolytes .....** Sina Hanna, Simone Buelow  
**Sunday School.....** Grizelda MacDonald, Jeff Keller and Jerry Hanna  
**Fellowship Hour .....** Jim & Marian Fuller  
**Lawn Mowing .....** *Volunteer Needed (through April 26)*

### April 27, 2008

**Sanctuary Flowers...** Jim & Marian Fuller  
**Greeters .....** Ellen Logan, Kara Burns and Marsha Tannehill  
**Scripture Reader .....** Kara Burns  
**Word for Children ..** Dave Smit  
**Acolytes .....** Ben Clark, Kyle Weston  
**Sunday School.....** Grizelda MacDonald, Jeff Keller and Jerry Hanna  
**Fellowship Hour .....** Atina & Jerry Hanna  
**Lawn Mowing .....** *Volunteer Needed (through May 3)*

### May 4, 2008

**Sanctuary Flowers...** Lauren Ritterbush  
**Greeters .....** 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Classes  
**Scripture Reader .....** Elliot Stevens  
**Word for Children ..** Atina Hanna  
**Acolytes .....** Jonathan Vogel, Josh Manning  
**Sunday School.....** Grizelda MacDonald, Jeff Keller and Jerry Hanna  
**Fellowship Hour .....** Ann Smit  
**Lawn Mowing .....** *Volunteer Needed (through May 10)*

# 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 Mandy Strawn at 537-7006.*



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

700 Poyntz Avenue  
Manhattan, KS 66502  
(785) 537-7006  
[uccmanhattan.org](http://uccmanhattan.org)

Return Service Requested

## *April 20, 2008*

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**Chief Cook** ..... Jean Hill  
**Volunteers** ..... Ann Gleason, Alpha Kappa Psi  
**Dessert** ..... Church

## *April 27, 2008*

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**Chief Cook** ..... Ann Smit  
**Volunteers** ..... ESA Sorority  
**Dessert** ..... Ann Smit

