



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
NEWSLETTER**

Volume 54 Number 1

January 13, 2010

Sunday School 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 Doane College Choir In Concert

7:00 P.M. — January 30

at First Congregational United Church of Christ

For more than a century, Doane choral groups have inspired audiences with performances of sacred and secular music. In more recent years, Doane Choir has enjoyed international acclaim as well. During annual national tours, the choir has presented concerts in Boston, Denver, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, New York City, Phoenix, Tucson, Pasadena, San Diego, and at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

Since 1989, the choir has also embarked on six international tours, appearing in Austria, Germany, Italy, Lichtenstein, Sweden, and Switzerland. The choir has presented concerts at many of the most prestigious cathedrals in Europe, including St. Mark's Cathedral in Venice, the Thomaskirche in Leipzig, Germany, and the Dom of Cologne, Germany. Following performances in Schwäbisch Hall, Germany, the choir received the following review from critic Helmut Brandt in the *Haller Tagblatt*: "The choir impresses by the wide spectrum of its repertoire, its immense

assurance, and the dreamily perfect coordination of voices and dynamics from whispered pianissimo up to effortless vocal power." In May of 2008 the choir sang in the Salzburg Dom (Mozart's church), and gave a standing room-only concert in the Peterskirche in Vienna, Austria.

In the past decade, the Doane Choir has performed a number of choral-orchestral works with the Omaha Symphony, Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra, the Lincoln Chamber Orchestra, and the Nebraska Symphony Chamber Orchestra. They have also frequently collaborated with the choirs of Abendmusik, at First Plymouth Congregational Church in Lincoln. Recent Abendmusik collaborations have included performances of Franz Joseph Haydn's *Creation*, John Rutter's *Requiem*, and Andrew Carter's *Song of Stillness*.

Recordings of the choir are available for purchase from the Doane bookstore (<http://bookstore.doane.edu/>), and are also sold at most Doane Choir concerts. Additionally, the choir's most recent CD, *Precious Lord* (2008), is available for purchase in electronic format from iTunes, Amazon.com, and other online music retailers. Videos of Doane Choir are posted on YouTube.

Doane College offers four choral organizations, providing every interested student an opportunity to participate in the vocal program. In addition to the Doane Choir, other choral ensembles include Collegiate Chorale, Jazz Unlimited, and Doublewide. Each of the Doane choral ensembles tours annually.

Dr. Kurt Runestad is in his sixth year as an Assistant Professor and Director of Choral Activities at Doane College in Crete, Nebraska. A Nebraska native, Runestad graduated from St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota with a B.A. in music education. In 1993, he earned a Master's of Arts in Choral Conducting from the University of Iowa. He returned to the University of Iowa in 2000, completing the Doctorate of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting in May of 2004. He is a regular book reviewer for *The Choral Journal*, and a frequent clinician, arranger, and adjudicator for choirs throughout the Midwest. Runestad received the 2009 Doane Student Congress Professor of the Year award.

Sharing and Caring

Prayers and Concerns

- Please call the church office for further information.

Helping

- **Need a ride to church?** Contact one of our transportation volunteers: Jim & Carolyn Hodgson, Bill Pallett, Mike & Martha Miller, or Jeff Keller.
- **Home Communion Visits** are available by contacting the office or the pastor. The Deacons can arrange to bring communion to your home on the first Sunday of each month as we celebrate the sacrament in worship. Visits at other times can be arranged with the pastor.

E-MAIL PRAYER CHAIN

If you wish to be added to the First Congregational e-mail prayer chain, please contact marianfuller@gmail.com.



Thank You

- Thank you for your generous gift received during the months of July through October of \$200.00 to support Chicago, United, and Eden Seminaries. Your contribution will provide critical support for each seminary. Thank you for making theological education a vital ministry of your congregation.

Kiely Todd Roska, Development Coordinator

- On behalf of the students, staff and directors of the Ecumenical Campus Ministry at Kansas State University, I want to thank you for your recent gift of \$425.00. Thanks for your great support this past year. We look forward to a great new year in 2010. Blessings to you!

David Jones, ECM Campus Pastor

- Thank you for your contribution of \$127.50 to the Mayor's Food and Fund Drive. We thank you for opening your arms during this season of giving and sharing in our efforts to eliminate hunger in our community.

The Flint Hills Breadbasket

Directory Updates

- **David and Chantel Vogel**
David and Chantel will have different residences until about June. If you need to send something to both of them, use the Denver address. The Manhattan address will just be for Macy and Chantel.

2897 Iola St., Denver, CO 80238-3191

324 Fordham Rd., Manhattan, KS 66503



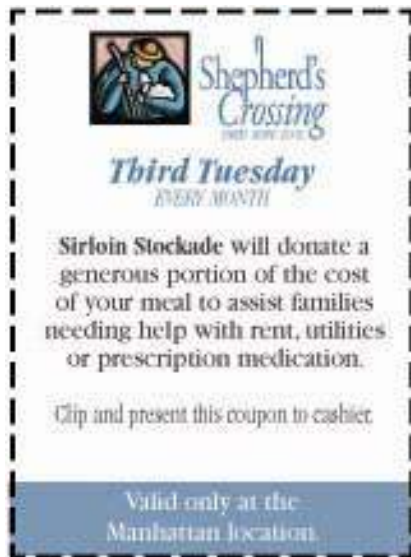
Festive Feasters

Festive Feaster starts again in February and continues through May. We will have the same format as before—Groups of about eight persons meeting once a month for a meal at the hosts' house or at a restaurant. Really no rules—just a good way to get to know our church

family. Contact Donna Keyser at 537-7006 or office@uccmanhattan.org if you would like to be included in a 2010 Festive Feasters group.

Hosting the Doane College Choir

Many thanks to all of you who have volunteered to host members of the Doane Choir on the night of January 30. At this point, it appears as if we have sufficient hosts to house the choir members. We may need more volunteer help with serving and cleaning up the evening meal before the concert, however. Please contact Gretchen Lewis or the Church Office if you are willing to do that.



Shepherd's Crossing

receives 20% of total sales at Sirloin Stockade on Tuesday, January 19th. Last month we received \$115.43, bringing our 2009 total to \$3,682 from Sirloin Stockade. To the left is a coupon for your use at the Manhattan location. Thank you for your support with this fundraiser!

Jan, Shepherd's Crossing

Annual Meeting Notice

The Annual Meeting of the First Congregational United Church of Christ, Manhattan, Kansas, will be held on Sunday, January 24, 2010, following Morning Worship.

Christian Education

Sunday School Second Semester:

Teachers for Spring 2010

Pre-K Teacher Dave Smit Curriculum: "Gather Round"

Grades 3-5 Teacher Jeff Keller

Grades K-1 Teacher Sue Gerth (this class will be held if any kids are available and not attending OWL)

OWL K-1 Teacher Angela Hubler (commences in Feb. 2010).

January 17 OWL Informational Meeting for Parents of K-1 Children

I hope you all had a relaxing break, and now we're ready to start with the OWL K-1 meeting. Please note that this Sunday, January 17, the Parents Meeting will be hosted for your child from 9:30 A.M. to 10:30 A.M. We will be watching the introductory video, and information will be shared about the basic class schedule and content. Handouts will be available for all parents to peruse further at home.

Please inform me if you're unable to attend this first meeting.

— Grizelda MacDonald, Christian Education Director

Study & Discussion Opportunities for Adults

Thursday Evening Bible Study

Our Thursday evening Bible Study is up and running, and you still have time to check it out! We have chosen the book *Velvet Elvis: Repainting the Christian Faith* as a jumping off point for our discussions. We meet at 5:30 P.M. in Blachly Hall, and you are welcome to bring a brown bag supper or snacks. Child care is provided. We conclude by 6:45. Taizé worship follows.



ECM Gearing Up for Spring Semester

The ECM students have set much of their program schedule for spring semester. In addition to participating in some occasional community service projects and organizing two alternative spring break trips, one to engage in construction projects in New Orleans and another to learn more about issues related to poverty with an ecumenical organization, UrbanSpirit, in Louisville, their weekly lineup looks like this:

Sundays, 5:00-6:00 P.M.—Fair Trade Advocates (justice education and advocacy)

Sundays, 6:00-8:00 P.M.—Table Fellowship (free food + fun activity and/or special speaker/discussion)

Mondays, 6:30-8:00 P.M.—Healthy Relationships (seminar-style sharing on topics related to human flourishing)

Thursdays, 5:30-6:30 P.M.—Worshipful Yoga (a combination of physical and spiritual exercise)

Thursdays, 6:30-8:00 P.M.—Faith Forum (viewing and discussing videos from the “Dream. Think. Be. Do.” series)

Thursdays, 9:00-10:30 P.M.—Aggieville Theology Club (at Bluestem Bistro, no-holds-barred theological discussion)

The Ecumenical Campus Ministry serves college-aged persons and young adults in the Manhattan community through “Exploring Faith, Coming Together, Meeting Needs” and is located at 1021 Denison Avenue, next to the K-State campus. David Jones, 539-4281 is the ECM campus pastor.

**COMING SOON TO A PIONEER HALL
NEAR YOU!
SUNDAYS ONLY, BEGINNING
JANUARY 31 AT 9:30**

**A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE TO THE
WAR IN AFGHANISTAN**

**STARRING
BILL RICHTER**

and a Large Supporting Cast to be Determined Later
Running for at least Three Sundays, Perhaps More

Mark your calendars!
Tell your friends!
You won't want to miss it!

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which is solely responsible for its content.
David Smit, Presiding Officer

John B. Cobb, Jr. issues challenge to the UCC

from UCC News online, submitted by Sean Weston

I would like to start a group to explore how our congregation can respond to Cobb's challenge. If this interests you, please let me know at church, email me at office@uccmanhattan.org, or call me at 537-7006. We will be creative in providing ways for as many people as possible to participate. — Sean Weston

The Rev. John B. Cobb Jr., foremost known as the lead proponent of “process theology,” has called on the United Church of Christ to lead all Christians in a mission of ecological and social transformation. Cobb made his remarks before the annual meeting of the UCC’s Southern California-Nevada Conference on June 5, 2009. Cobb’s entire address can be read at <http://alturl.com/cy7e>.

In Cobb's own words, his challenge consists of “proposing that the United Church of Christ take as its mission working with God for the salvation of the world.” He says the UCC is uniquely positioned among Protestant denominations because of its embrace of progressive theology that sees Christian mission as inclusive of spiritual, personal, social and ecological care.

The progressive Christian project, Cobb says, theologically addressed and repented for a religion that had “acquiesced in outrageous racism [and found] that our inherited form of the Christian faith was anti-Jewish, patriarchal, religiously exclusivist, anthropocentric, and demeaning of our bodies and their sexuality.”

Because the UCC, through the actions of the General Synod, “has worked through the conflict about homosexuality” and made other strides in the work of progressive Christianity, Cobb asserts the denomination is unrivaled in its ability to “give wholehearted attention to the still more fundamental problems facing the world.”

The Rev. John B. Cobb Jr. is emeritus professor at Claremont School of Theology and founding co-director of the Center for Process Theology.

Worship & Church Volunteers

January 17, 2010

Flowers	Donna Keyser
Greeters	Volunteers Needed
Scripture Reader	Judy Davis
Word for Children ...	Don Cannon
Fellowship Hour	Jim & Gretchen Lewis
Snow Removal	Dave Smit (<i>through January 23</i>)

January 24, 2010

Flowers	Volunteer Needed
Greeters	Volunteers Needed
Scripture Reader	Gretchen Lewis
Word for Children ...	Jean Hill
Fellowship Hour	Sue Zschoche & Judy Davis
Snow Removal	Jim Hodgson (<i>through January 30</i>)

January 31, 2010

Flowers	Volunteer Needed
Greeters	Anne & Dale Stearns, Volunteer Needed
Scripture Reader	Donna Keyser
Word for Children ...	Volunteer Needed
Fellowship Hour	Donna Keyser & Millie Schroeder
Snow Removal	Donna Keyser (<i>through February 6</i>)

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 or office@uccmanhattan.org.



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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

700 Poyntz Avenue
Manhattan, KS 66502
(785) 537-7006
uccmanhattan.org

January 17, 2010

Chief Cook Dale Stearns
Volunteers Anne Stearns, Ann Gleason
Dessert *Volunteer Needed*

January 24, 2010

Chief Cook Ann Smit
Volunteers ESA Sorority, Ann Gleason
Dessert Ann Smit

January 31, 2010

Chief Cook *Volunteer Needed*
Volunteers *Volunteers Needed*
Dessert *Volunteers Needed*



Tower Chimes Plaque Installed

Part of our agreement in receiving the tower chimes was that we acknowledge First Presbyterian Church, Tulsa for their gift through the installation of a new plaque in their new home. The original plaque that was part of the 1924 system remains in the church in Tulsa. A new bronze plaque of similar design that acknowledges the gift, restoration, and installation of the chimes was installed on December 23 by Sean Weston and Bill Pugh in the Narthex. Check it out!