



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 52 Number 1

January 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.	www.uccmanhattan.org

Neighbors

This past Sunday in worship, Chantel Vogel talked with the children about neighbors. The context was her upcoming trip to El Salvador in which she and David will lead a group of Habitat for Humanity volunteers in building safe and affordable housing. The children were asked to think about how someone as far away as El Salvador could be a neighbor.

So today I was thinking about other ways we might stretch our understanding of “neighbor.” Next week we celebrate the birthday of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who had an image of our interdependent world he called “the world house.” Today, more than ever before, that image is our reality. Globalization is a household word. The internet connects us to the other side of the planet at the speed of light. How many of your Christmas gifts came from the other side of the planet? Perhaps no other issue captures more clearly the reality of “the world house” than climate change. Most scientists agree that we humans are impacting our planet as never before. *[continued on page 2]*

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So what is my point about neighbors? One of the first books I was assigned to read in seminary was a little one by H. Richard Niebuhr (one of the UCC’s own) entitled *The Purpose of the Church and Its Ministry*. One of the purposes Niebuhr articulated for the Church was “The Increase of the Love of God and Neighbor,” and on that subject he wrote:

*Who, finally, is my neighbor, the companion whom I have been commanded to love as myself? ... He is the near one and the far one; the one removed from me by distances in time and space, in conviction and loyalties. He is my friend, the one who has shown compassion toward me; and my enemy, who fights against me. ... The neighbor is in past and present and future, yet he is not simply mankind in its totality but rather in its articulation, the community of individuals in community. He is Augustine in the Roman Catholic Church and Socrates in Athens, and the Russian people, and the unborn generations who will bear the consequences of our failures, future persons for whom we are administering the entrusted wealth of nature and other greater common gifts. He is man and he is angel and he is animal and inorganic being, all that participates in being. [H. Richard Niebuhr, *The Purpose of the Church and Its Ministry*, New York: Harper & Row, 1956, pp. 37-38].*

Niebuhr reminds me that “neighbor,” for the Christian, transcends not only place but time and more—“all that participates in being.” Perhaps such an understanding of “neighbor” is the starting point for the Church as we attempt to live into a “greener” discipleship in the 21st century.

Who is my neighbor? “The unborn generations who will bear the consequences of our failures.” How do the choices I make each day impact those neighbors? How might I show love to “all that participates in being?” Food for thought, at the very least.

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

- This year our congregation has generously contributed **\$1,050.00** to **The Christmas Fund** special appeal of the United Church of Christ. Your gifts will help those who have served the church faithfully through pension supplementation, emergency gifts, and health insurance premium supplementation for retired pastors, spouses and families who need help making ends meet. Thank you for your gifts. *—the Board of Mission and Outreach*
- To the members of the First Congregational Church, On behalf of the clinic volunteers and Board of Directors, I would like to thank you for your donation of \$412.20 to the Flint Hills Community Clinic. With the continued financial support of individuals and organizations like you, the clinic has provided free health care to over 1,250 area residents! Please know that it is through the community's support that our volunteers remain encouraged and inspired to continue serving those in our area who are without health insurance. Thank you so much for your support! May you all have a very merry Christmas and many blessings in 2008.

Meghan Finnegan, Administrative Coordinator

- Thanks to the intrepid gutter cleaning crew of Brad Logan and Jim Hodgson who braved the cold and ice to clear the church gutters. *Muchas gracias, Mike Miller*
- Many thanks to all who made donations for the Christmas sacks for our 2nd Helping guests. We were able to include 3-4 pairs of socks for each guest, as well as toiletries and many food items. Needless to say, most of the guests were very surprised, and we are quite sure that this sack was the only Christmas present that many of them would receive.

Thank you, Ann Smit

- Thanks to Recycler! The church recently received a check from Howie's Recycling. This was for aluminum cans deposited to a church account. The amounts were from 15¢ to \$7.30 per trip. Hooray for recycling and hooray for naming our church as recipient. If you would identify yourself, we'd thank you in person. *Joy Schell*

- To our covenant family at First Congregational UCC: We just wanted to say thank you for making us feel so welcome when we were back at church over the holidays. It was wonderful to see so many of you and share our holiday greetings in person. We look forward to our return home to Manhattan this summer!

In Christ's Love, Melissa & RC Jones

- Thank you to all who helped clean up the Christmas decorations on Sunday, January 6. It was pleasing to have so many willing volunteers. *Martha Miller*

Helping

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

Directory Changes

- Please note **Ellen Logan and Kara Burns' new address:** 28276 Homestead Road, Wamego, KS 66547. They haven't moved, but the county has adjusted the numbers!

NOTICE: The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 27, 2008, following the worship service.

The meeting will include final approval of the 2008 budget. Child Care will be provided during the meeting.

Tower Chimes

We are having a BYOH floor removing party at 9:00 A.M. this Saturday morning, **January 19th** (that's Bring Your Own Hammer [and/or crowbar]). There are two layers of flooring in the loft, and we need to remove both to gain access to the floor joists. Hopefully, we can salvage enough of the old wood to use as a sub-floor after additional joists and insulation are installed. Because the louvers are covered, the winter weather should not be any problem. Light will be provided. We will need a few workers to store the best boards on the second floor and carry the deteriorated boards to the dumpster. Also, we can put a shop vac or two to good use. Every bit of work we can do ourselves will reduce the contractor costs.

Saturday, **February 2**, we will have a work party at the Top Rung Tower Chime & Organ Service shop at 902 Fair Lane. Bring your own screw drivers (slotted), and we will work on assembling the strikers. Hopefully, we can also start work on the new chime rack.

Palm Sunday and Easter are early this year!



We Need You!



The Nominating Committee needs to fill 2 more board positions to make up complete committees. **There is 1 position open for Board of Deacons and 1 position for Board of Trustees.**

Please consider serving in one of these positions. All Boards meet the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. Contact Jim Sherow, Judy Ahrens or Jean Hill if you would like to visit about these positions. We'd like to have these positions filled by January 25, so a report can be presented at the Annual Meeting on January 27.

Thank You, Judy Ahrens

Handbell Choir

The Handbell Choir made a lovely contribution to our worship on Christmas Eve, and we would like to keep the bells ringing! The December rehearsals after church saved people from making extra trips to church, but kept family members waiting and made for very late lunches. Thursday evening rehearsals have been suggested, since the church is already open and partially heated for Bible study and Taizé worship. If you would like to ring, please contact Bill Pugh at 537-7006 and let him know whether you would prefer having weekly rehearsals at 12:15 Sundays or 7:35 Thursdays. We can probably arrange rides for any youth who want to ring.

Date Change for Board Meetings Because Ash Wednesday falls on the first Wednesday (February 6), **all boards will meet one week later, on February 13.** This includes the Board of Christian Education, Board of Deacons, Board of Mission and Outreach, and Board of Trustees.

Christian Education

Children's Sunday School will now end at 10:20 A.M. with a short meeting in the basement with all of the children and Sunday School teachers. During that time we will have a community prayer and a children's offering collected. The focus in January is on the Beatitudes, and in February we will begin with The Great Commandment.

Acolyte Training was cancelled due to illness. All children and their parents are invited to attend the rescheduled training. Due to events occurring at church we will be speaking with parents to find a date that works best for all participating. Parents please RSVP to Mary if your child would be interested in becoming an acolyte. We need an accurate count to order the Pizza for after the training.

Sunday School Teachers for January

Pre-K through K	1 st -3 rd Grades	4 th -6 th Grades
Ellen Logan	Jeff Keller	Jerry Hanna
Grizelda MacDonald		

Adult Forum Sundays at 9:30— Books That Didn't Make the Bible

How did Christians decide which books got into the New Testament? What about all the ones that didn't? Should we care about them? Join us in Pioneer Hall at 9:30 A.M. Sundays as we explore how decisions were made as to which books would be included in the Bible. We will look at examples which were not included to see what we might learn from them. We will look specifically at the Gospel of Thomas, The Gospel of Judas, and traditions surrounding Mary Magdalene.



Worship & Church Volunteers

January 20, 2007

Sanctuary Flowers... Jerry Hanna
Greeters Marsha Tannehill and Kathy Bleam
Scripture Reader Sue Zschoche
Word for Children .. Mary Ray
Extended Session Shai Beulow
Sunday School..... Ellen Logan/Grizelda MacDonald,
 Jeff Keller and Jerry Hanna
Fellowship Hour *Volunteers Needed*
Snow Removal Jim Lewis (*through January 26*)

January 27, 2007

Sanctuary Flowers... Marla Bugbee
Greeters *Volunteers needed*
Scripture Reader Sean Weston
Word for Children .. Kent Cormack
Extended Session Shai Beulow
Sunday School..... Ellen Logan/Grizelda MacDonald,
 Jeff Keller and Jerry Hanna
Fellowship Hour Atina and Jerry Hanna
Snow Removal *Volunteer needed (through February 2)*

Financial Reminder The Fourth Quarter Financial Statements are being distributed. These Reports will provide a weekly detail of your fourth quarter giving and summary of total giving for the year. Please review this report as it serves as an audit of the accuracy of the Financial Secretary's records. Phone the church office (537-7006) with questions about your report.

If you are making final payments on a 2007 pledge, please note that on your check.

The Second Helping

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.



January 20, 2007

Chief Cook Brent Maner
Volunteers Ann Gleason, Angela Hubler and family
Dessert Joy Schell

January 27, 2007

Chief Cook Ann Smit
Volunteers ESA Sorority
Dessert Ann Smit

Community Mission Opportunity

Habitat For Humanity This coming Spring Break, Chantel and David Vogel will lead a trip of 18 Americans and Canadians to El Salvador for 9 days. Individuals are responsible for the cost of the trip, totaling about \$2,000 each. Many of the Global Village participants ask for donations to help with their trip costs. Chantel invites your support through a donation that is easy and tax deductible. Please visit her Habitat Web page, <http://www.habitat.org/cd/gv/participant/participant.aspx?pid=90996917> where you can learn more about the trip and make an on-line donation. You will know it's the right page when you see "Chantel Vogel's Trip to El Salvador" below the picture.

Foster Parent Training January 12 through March 15, 2008 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Interested in Learning more about foster care or adoption? The Saint Francis Academy, Inc., is hosting a PS-MAPP class starting on Saturday, January 12 through March 15. The classes will be from 9:00 A.M. to noon each week at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 601 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan. These classes are a requirement for families interested in foster parenting in Kansas. This is the start of a new year and a great time to help children in need in our community by giving them a loving home for a moment or for a lifetime. For more information or to sign up for these classes please contact (785) 323-0839.

Parenting the Second Time Around First Monday of each month, 6-7:00 P.M. at Manhattan Public Library Grandparent/Kinship Support Groups are for grandparents and other relatives who are raising children or are providing a significant amount of care to a child. The support group is FREE. Members share experiences, ideas, encouragement and support for one another. Information about child development and community resources are also available. For more information contact Charle at 758-410-6293 or Sondra at 785-539-1805.

Harvest of Hope Supper

January 21, 2008 Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Beginning at 7:00 P.M.

at College Avenue United Methodist Church

Hosted by The Regional AIDS Project, the supper will include guest speaker U.S. Representative Nancy Boyda. Tickets for the dinner will be \$25, and can be purchased at the Regional AIDS Project Office, 2601 Anderson Avenue. Tickets will be on sale from 1:00-5:00 P.M. Monday through Thursday and 1:00-4:30 P.M. on Friday until January 18. Seating will be limited to the first 100 reservations. For further information or to RSVP, you may contact Isaac Madison at the Regional AIDS Office 587-1999 or via email at regionalaidsproject@gmail.com.