



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 52 Number 17

November 14, 2007

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](http://www.uccmanhattan.org)

## Intentionality, Practice, and Vitality

### Part II: from the pastor

The article I shared by Diana Butler Bass in the previous *Newsletter* named three key areas of intentional practices that lead to vitality in Christian congregations: prayer, Bible reading, and relationships.

During 2007 our congregation has addressed two of these practices in new ways. In the area of prayer, we now have an e-mail prayer chain to keep members informed of concerns as they arise during the week. It also means if you are unable to attend church on a Sunday, you can still keep up with concerns in the congregation and share in the ministry of prayer. I give thanks that God called Marian Fuller to facilitate this ministry of prayer.

In the area of relationship, we have organized the congregation into care clusters. Each cluster has a leader who seeks to foster relationship among members of the group and to [continued p. 2]

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keep our deacons and me aware of pastoral care needs. I give thanks again to Marian for developing the program and to many of you who serve as cluster leaders.

New ministries in two of the three areas is a great accomplishment, but what if we were to make it three for three?

Because Advent is a season of expecting, waiting, and new beginnings, I will be starting a Bible Study group that will meet on Thursdays beginning November 29.

## Bible Study and Fellowship

Thursdays at 5:30 P.M. beginning November 29

Bring your Bible

Brownbag your supper if you wish

Come as you are

Come any week or every week

For those who wish to stay, Taizé worship follows at 7:00

We will experience various ways of engaging scripture, and the group will chart its own future for 2008.

As I have visited with folks about when to have such a group meet, there is no one time that works for everyone. However, several of you have suggested after work but before evening activities. So we will try this schedule and see how it works. One advantage is that we are already heating the space for other activities, so it's as "green" a time as any.

Because this is the supper hour for some, you can feel free to bring a snack or a meal. We will begin with about 15 minutes of informal community building (which will give you a chance to eat) and then move into Bible study. We will wrap it up by 6:45 P.M. so that Taizé worship can begin at 7:00.

Grace & Peace,

## Sharing and Caring

### *Prayers and Concerns*

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



### ***FIRST CONGREGATIONAL E-MAIL PRAYER CHAIN***

If you wish to be added to the First Congregational email prayer chain, please give your email address to [office@uccmanhattan.org](mailto:office@uccmanhattan.org). You will be kept advised of prayer concerns among our members and friends that come up during the week.

### *Thank You*

- Thank you very much for the \$100 donation to the Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Flint Hills Chapter (FHPFLAG). We appreciate your support and also the use of Pioneer Hall for our monthly educational meetings. *Karl J. Kramer, Sec. Treas. FHPFLAG*
- Thank you from Shepherd's Crossing for your generous donation and all the time and effort it takes to have a successful plant sale. As you know we are in need of funding currently and this is a great help. We are blessed to have such a caring community to live and work within. Today, Shepherd's Crossing is assisting more working families than ever before. The increasing costs of housing in our area combined with increasing costs in gasoline and utilities makes it impossible for many of our clients to afford life's basic needs specifically food, shelter and medications. Our clients are truly appreciative of the small financial assistance and emotional support that the volunteers of Shepherd's crossing offers.

Faithfully, *Jan Connizzo*, Executive Director

### *Helping*

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

### *Welcome Recent New Members*

- **Sandy O'Grady** Colin and Sandy grew up in Vero Beach, Florida, went to the same high school, and started dating right after graduation in 2001. Both attended college in Orlando at the University of Central Florida. Colin majored in History and Sandy majored in Hospitality Management. They were married in Orlando in 2005. Colin received his commission in the Army in August of that year and was stationed in Manhattan in February of 2006. Their son Corbin was born in August of 2006. Colin enjoys reading, sports, the outdoors. Sandy loves to read, quilt, be outside, and stay busy. One of the ways she stays busy is as Volunteer Coordinator for The Second Helping at First Congregational. Corbin loves wreaking havoc everywhere and being cute. Colin is a First Lieutenant in the Army and Sandy works at Famous Dave's.
- **Ellen Logan and Kara Burns** Ellen and Kara were united in marriage at First Congregational just this past October. Both Ellen and Kara work at Hills Pet Nutrition. Kara is a veterinary technician specialist and Ellen is a veterinarian. They live just outside of Wamego and have three children Tara, Sara and Mathew. They are Pug enthusiasts—check out their license plate some time.

- **Kathy Bleam** Kathy is a native Kansan, raised in Jetmore for 15 years before attending the University of Kansas. She taught high school in rural Kansas City before starting to work for Social and Rehabilitation Services. She has a very short resume because she has worked for SRS ever since December 1978. “What a freak!” she says. Kathy’s major hobbies are crochet, knitting and tatting; and she has a plot in Manhattan community gardens.

## Celebrate the Harvest This Sunday! Harvest Potluck Dinner November 18

Join us after worship for great food and fellowship. Each family is asked to bring a main dish and either a salad, vegetable or dessert to share.

Also, **please bring your own table service** to make cleanup easier. Coffee and a fruit drink will be provided.

**New this year:** There will be several door prizes! Come prepared to enjoy the company of church friends and a great harvest meal, and you might take home a special treat.



## Representatives of the Second Helping Learn about the DC Central Kitchen



On October 30, Robert Egger of the DC Central Kitchen in Washington, D.C. gave a Lou Douglas lecture. At noon that day, there was a luncheon at the Flint Hills Job Corps where the culinary arts students in the Job Corps prepared and served the meal and Mr.

Egger spoke. Sandy O’Grady and Ann Smit were invited to represent the Second Helping at the Luncheon.

The DC Central Kitchen is located in the basement of a homeless shelter in D.C. Not only does the Kitchen serve meals to the residents (and to others), but it also trains many of them in the culinary arts so that they can get jobs when they leave the shelter. The Kitchen receives two tons of food donations daily, and it turns them into 4000 meals served daily. Mr. Egger is trying to establish local networks among farmers and soup kitchens to reduce the costs of transporting food. He also encourages students at colleges to establish student-run soup kitchens.

It is safe to say that although the Second Helping works on a scale far smaller than that in D.C., Sandy and Ann took away not only inspiration but also some ideas for ways to enhance what we do.

### **Stewardship Update:**

As of November 14, we have received 41 pledges / giving commitments for 2008 totaling \$117,889. In order to meet our goal for 2008, we need to reach a minimum of 60 pledges totaling \$144,000. Any dollars beyond that will reduce the projected deficit. Please consider how God is calling you to ministry at First Congregational UCC in 2008.



## My Habitat For Humanity Trip

Dear Church Family,

Most of you are probably familiar with Habitat For Humanity. It is an organization that builds safe, decent, affordable houses for people who need them. Habitat sells the homes for no profit. The homeowners are given an affordable loan and are expected to donate their own time to building their home and others. As the homes are paid off, Habitat uses that money to build more homes. It is a wonderful circle that grows and continues to help more people.

You may not be aware that Habitat has an international organization called Habitat for Humanity-Global Village. Through this organization, people donate their time and the cost of the trip to travel to another country to help build houses there. The theory being the same; homeowners help build their own home for a reasonable price. When we travel to a country to help build homes, we work alongside the homeowners and volunteers. It is wonderful to experience new cultures first-hand and see the difference we make in the lives of others.

This coming Spring Break, my husband will be leading a trip of 18 Americans and Canadians to El Salvador for 9 days. I am so grateful that I am able to attend with him. I would like to offer any of you willing and able the opportunity to support this cause. As I mentioned, I am responsible for the cost of the trip, totaling about \$2,000. Many of the Global Village participants ask for donations to help with their trip costs, which is what I am asking. Making a donation is easy and tax deductible. Every little bit helps and I appreciate even your consideration. Please visit my Habitat Web page, <http://www.habitat.org/cd/gv/participant/participant.aspx?pid=90996917> where you can learn more about my trip and make an on-line donation. You will know you are on the correct page when you see "Chantel Vogel's Trip to El Salvador" below the picture.

I will be happy to give a presentation to the Adult Ed. class later in the spring so people can to see what we do and why we do it. These trips are truly life-changing.

I appreciate your time and consideration, — *Chantel Vogel*

## Nominating Committee Report 2008 Officers and Board Members

*2008 Nominating Committee* appointed by Cabinet  
Jim Sherow (2007), and Judy Ahrens (2008), Jean Hill (2009)

### BOARD OF DEACONS

*12- members, 2-year terms*

#### 1 year remaining

Jeff Peterson	2008	Ann Smit	2008
Sue Zschoche	2008	Chantel Vogel	2008
Duane Kiefer	2008	<u>position open</u>	2008

#### 2 years remaining

Jeff Keller	2009	Marsha Tannehill	2009
Gretchen Lewis	2009	Carolyn Hodgson	2009
Angela Hubler	2009	<u>position open</u>	2009

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

*9 members, 3-year-terms*

#### 1 year remaining

Kyle Mankin	2008	<b>2 years remaining</b>	
Scott Steele	2008	Mike Miller	2009
<u>position open</u>	2008	Bill Pallett	2009
		<u>position open</u>	2009

#### 3 years remaining

Jan Lange	2010
Jim Lewis	2010
Jim Hodgson	2010

### MISSION AND OUTREACH

*6 members, 2-year terms*

#### 1 year remaining

Jerry Hanna	2008	<b>2-year term</b>	
Marian Fuller	2008	Judy Davis	2009
Frank Sidorfsky	2008	Shelia Stevens	2009
		Elise Dunnigan	2009

## BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

6 members, 2-year terms

### 1 year remaining

Dave Smit 2008  
Shai Buelow 2008  
position open 2008

### 2 years remaining

Atina Hanna 2009  
Grizelda MacDonald 2009  
Paula Pierce 2009

## CABINET AT LARGE

3 Members, 3-year terms

Brent Maner 2008  
Barbara Withee 2009  
Joy Schell 2010

### MODERATOR

Martha Miller 2008

### MODERATOR-ELECT

Duane Kiefer 2008

### PAST MODERATOR

Jim Sherow 2008

### CHURCH CO-CLERKS

Virginia Bigbee (membership)  
Judy Willingham (recording)

### AUDITING COMMITTEE

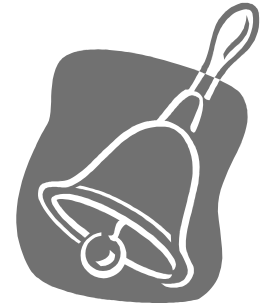
Judy Davis and K-State Accounting

If you would like to share your time & talents at First Congregational UCC, consider serving on one of the boards listed. There are open slots noted above, and our Membership Clerk Virginia Bigbee would like to turn over her work to a new Clerk if there is a willing volunteer. Please contact one of the nominating committee members, Jim Sherow, Judy Ahrens or Jean Hill, if the spirit moves you to serve!

**Reminder:** If you expect to pre-pay some of your 2008 Pledge before the end of 2007, please mark this clearly on your check so that we are able to credit it as you intend. Thank you.

## Handbell Choir

Anyone interested in ringing handbells in our celebration of Christmas is invited to a meeting/rehearsal this Sunday, November 18, at 5:00 P.M. in the Conference Room. Ringers of all ages and levels of experience are welcome!



## Workers-R-Us

The youth will once again be offering services to those who need odd jobs done. Please call Tracey Weston to coordinate at 537-7006. All donations will be used in the annual Adopt-a-Family program.



## MOWING IS OVER, SNOWING IS NEXT!

The Trustees are very grateful to all who took turns in mowing the lawn this summer. Thanks go to Don Cannon, Al Cochran, Jim Fuller, Rob Hayes, Jim Hodgson, Jeff Keller, Brad Logan, Brent Maner, Dave Manning, Mike Miller, Bill Pallett, Jerry Reynard, Leo Schell, and Dave Smit.

Now we're ready for players in our "snow lottery". The sign-up sheet is in the rack on the office door. Chances are very slim (unless you are Leo Schell) that it will actually snow the week you're signed up for, so to increase your odds we recommend signing up for several weeks.

## Christian Education for Kids

Thank you to Mille Schroeder and Donna Keyser for their donation of a CD player to the Nursery. The children are enjoying the new music and even dancing a jig or two. Thanks.

Our new nursery attendant is Lavon Nelson. Lavon has worked in the school system for many years here in Manhattan and has a small daycare now that she has retired. We are so lucky to have found her. Please extend a warm welcome to our Church family to Lavon.

This year we are presenting a Christmas musical and Pastor Kent is directing and teaching the children their parts at the beginning of the Sunday School hour each week. This is a request for parents to please have their children here promptly at 9:30 to begin rehearsals. The big show is scheduled for December 16<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks, *Mary*

## Adult Forum Sundays at 9:30 A.M.

### **COUNTERING PHARAOH'S PRODUCTION-CONSUMPTION SOCIETY TODAY**

featuring Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann

*"It is a journey from slavery to covenant that we keep making over and over again...because Pharaoh has immense power always to draw us back into slavery."*

*November 18 -- Countering Caesar*

*November 25 -- An Act of Imagination*

*December 2 -- On Not Doing God Any Favors*

**Attention All Children in the Congregation  
Rehearsals are now underway, and we need you!**

**Music rehearsal at 9:30 sharp each Sunday.  
Dress Rehearsal Saturday, December 15 at 10:00 A.M.  
The Manhattan Premier Sunday, December 16 in Worship**



# Manhattan / Kansas State HIV / AIDS Awareness Week

*“As Jesus was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Rabi, have mercy on us. When he saw them, he said “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed.”* Luke 17:12-14

Come and learn about, understand, and support those who live with this modern day “leprosy.” Walk with us as we remember those who passed away and support those who now live with HIV/AIDS.

- November. 26-29 **Names Project Quilt Display**  
KSU Ballrooms 10:00 A.M.- 10:00 P.M.
- November 26-30 **Information Tables**  
KSU Union 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.
- November 26 **Opening**  
KSU Cottonwood Room 7:00 P.M.
- November 26, 28 **Panels**  
KSU Union 12:00 P.M.
- GBLT Show**  
To be announced
- November 28 **African Speaker**  
KSU Union 12:00 P.M.
- Night Speaker**  
KSU Union Station 7:00 P.M.
- November 29 **Artists For AIDS Awareness**  
Union Pacific Train Depot
- November 30 **Concert/Poetry**  
KSU Union Station
- December 1 **World AIDS Day Walk & Memorial**  
3:30 P.M. Walk begins at Triangle Park in Aggieville, candles and balloons provided.  
4:00 P.M. Walk will conclude with a Memorial Worship Service at First Congregational UCC.

For more information please visit [www.rap-kan.org/aware.html](http://www.rap-kan.org/aware.html).

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Return Service Requested

