



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 53 Number 11

June 10, 2009

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

Banner Years

In the last newsletter it was John Calvin's 500th. But while we are on the subject of anniversaries ...

You will note in the Community News the local events planned as part of Pride celebrations in the month of June. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, considered by many the beginning of the contemporary gay rights movement in the United States. It is a sign of my increasingly superannuated status (it's a banner year for me also) that I cannot believe it has been 15 years since I was part of the United Church of Christ contingent in the 25th anniversary March on the United Nations.

This year, a Presidential proclamation declares June as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride month—certainly a marker of great changes in the last 40 years. But “don't ask, don't tell” continues to force citizens in uniform to practice evasion or outright dishonesty. Much is left to be done. *[continued page 2]*

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It's also a banner year for Abe Lincoln and Charles Darwin who share February 12, 1809 as a birthday. Plenty of commemorations for each are on the docket, but Darwin also has the distinction of another anniversary—150 years since the publication of *The Origin of Species*. Few books in the past two centuries have rocked our world view quite as much. The initial printing of 1,250 copies was snapped up immediately, and a second edition followed a couple of months later.

In late July and early August, with the approval and encouragement of the Board of Deacons, I will be participating in the Oxford University Theology Summer School program, the theme of which this year is “Creation and Creativity.” I will spend two weeks at Christ Church College in Oxford and will have the opportunity to participate in four seminars in addition to the keynote lectures that focus on intersections of science and faith. I am especially grateful for the time and financial support that this congregation offers for continuing education.

The seminars I will participate in include “God, Identity and Spiritual Transformation,” “Religion Architecture and the Environment,” “Religious Stories of Creation in Dance, Drama, and Painting” and “A Theology of Play.” It all sounds interesting, but I have 11 books to read over the next month and a half.

Finally, June 25 marks the 52nd anniversary of the United Church of Christ. On that day I will be arriving in Grand Rapids, Michigan, for the 27th General Synod of the UCC. I am serving as the delegate from North Central Association representing the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference. One of the challenges before the meeting this year are four resolutions regarding changes in governance and structure at the national level—a difficult subject to be sure, but one we must address for both financial stability and faithfulness to our mission.

During my absences this summer we have a great line up of preachers coming together. Sean Weston will lead off on June 28, so I hope you will join him in worship here as we worship and work in Grand Rapids.

Grace & Peace,

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.

Directory Updates

- **Colin, Sandy and Corbin O'Grady**
313 Brookway Dr, Manhattan, KS 66502
- **Harold Hartley**
921 Canberra Rd., Lafayette, LA 70503
- **Dave and Lois Sauer**
609 Elm Street, Wamego, KS 66547

Thank You

- Thank you to First Congregational for the \$455.00 contributed thus far to the Strengthen the Church Offering. Your gifts support the Still Speaking Initiative, new church development, congregational renewal, and leadership development in the United Church of Christ.

E-MAIL PRAYER CHAIN

If you wish to be added to the First Congregational e-mail prayer chain, please contact office@uccmanhattan.org



Eat Out and Help Shepherd's Crossing



Shepherd's
Crossing
FAITH HOPE LOVE

Eat at **Sirloin Stockade** on the third Tuesday each month. Sirloin Stockade will donate a generous part of your cost to Shepherd's Crossing to assist families with rent, utilities or prescription medication.

Give this coupon and your receipt to the cashier at Sirloin Stockade on a third Tuesday any time after 11:00 A.M.

Women of the Church

Summer Rummage Sale This Friday and Saturday, June 12 & 13

The First Congregational 2009 Summer Rummage Sale is Friday, June 12, 4:00 to 7:00 P.M. and Saturday, June 13, 8:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. in Andover Hall (the sanctuary basement).

Sales on Friday will be priced by the item and sales on Saturday will be priced by the bag.

Again this year the Youth Group will be handling sales of large items such as furniture in Blachly Hall.



Outdoor Worship, Blessing of the Animals, & Picnic — June 14

Due to the reconstruction of the City Park Pavilion, our annual celebration of God's creation has a new venue this year—**Long's Park** at 17th and Yuma Streets. The change in location

means a few changes from previous years. As in the past, you are encouraged to bring your pets for the blessing of the animals. Do exercise courtesy and caution in controlling animals, as we will have a variety of furry, scaly, and feathered friends present.

These are a few things to keep in mind about this year's event:

- Long's Park does not have permanent restroom facilities. There is a "porta-potty" available in the park.
- Because of limited seating at the shelter, we encourage you to bring lawn chairs. The Deacons will bring some folding chairs to supplement.
- Because of the limited size of the shelter, if we have heavy rains or stormy weather, we will worship at the church.
- Help us go green by bringing your own table service.
- Deacons will provide ice cream for dessert; brownies or other accompaniments are welcomed.
- Chef Jeff (Keller) will be grilling, including vegetarian options, and you are invited to bring other potluck dishes to share.

Interested in bringing a vegetarian dish? Linda Richter would be glad to help you with recipe ideas. All foods are welcome at the potluck, but you can help vegetarians and those with diet restrictions and food allergies by putting a label on your dish to let us all know what's in it.

ON
WARD
&
UP
WARD



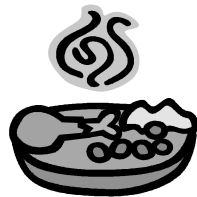
Until the tower chimes were installed, the tower roof was hardly ever seen. The lighting was minimal, and the only access was by ladder. The situation was "out of sight, out of mind." While working on the chime project, the workers realized that the tower roof is in very poor condition. The rafters are 2x6's instead of the normal 2x10's or 2x12's. Also, they are on 24" centers instead of the normal 16" centers. They sag two or three inches at the center of the roof, so drainage is minimal. One rafter is broken. The ends of several of the rafters have rotted away. The roof decking is very deteriorated in several places. Water is percolating into the stone, which is very serious.

When Danker Roofing was installing the new rubber membrane roofing on the chime loft floor during a rainy week last fall, they reported at least five leaks in the tower roof. It appears that the tower roof is an accumulation of over a hundred years of roofing and patching. It is about two inches thick, so it is no surprise that those heavy layers of roofing have caused the rafters to sag and even break.

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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.



June 14, 2009

Chief Cook.....Gretchen Lewis
Volunteers.....Ann Gleason, Jim & Marian Fuller
Dessert.....*Volunteer Needed*

June 21, 2009

Chief Cook.....Brent Maner
Volunteers.....Ann Gleason, Brent Maner's Crew
Dessert.....*Volunteer Needed*

June 28, 2009

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

Changes in 2nd Helping “Management”

Many thanks to Melissa Jones for serving as the meal coordinator for the past 8 months—it really was a much needed “sabbatical” for me. I am now back to serving in that role. Many thanks also to Mandy Strawn who has carried volunteer coordination duties while also carrying baby Oscar to term. Mandy will now be sharing that coordination with Sandy O'Grady. For those of you who do not know Sandy, she was active in 2nd Helping before moving to Arizona. She and her husband Colin and son Corbin are now back in town, and we are delighted to have her skills and knowledge—she grew up in the restaurant business! Welcome back, Sandy and crew! — *Ann Smit*

Community News

Animal Shelter and Zoo Wish Lists



The animal shelter is bursting with abandoned and surrendered animals as well as new litters of cats and dogs.

What they need most are new homes for these animals, but they also need volunteers (over 18 years of age) and the following things:

Shelter Wish List

Old towels, bedding and bath mats, Purina or Little Friskies cat and dog food, pet toys, clay (not scoopable) litter, leashes for walking dogs.

Sunset Zoo Wish List

Animal Enrichment: hard hats, little Tykes style toys, slides, snow saucers and kiddie pools, enrichment financial partners, bird baths, old spices, old towels and blankets, pet and cat toys.

Education: washable markers and pipe cleaners, tissue and construction paper, large glass aquariums in good condition.

Maintenance & Horticulture: ornate garden bench, garden fountain, solar powered fountain, push mowers, hand tools, garden tools, 2 or 4 wheeled trailer.

Zookeepers: small DVD player with repeat function for chimp gallery, jumbo-sized crates, dried fruit for diets, boomer balls indestructible enrichment balls, 2 dorm-sized refrigerators, gas powered leaf blower.

Guest Services: storage shed, display hardware for gift shop in good condition.

Community News—Local Pride Events

Flint Hills Pride Celebration

You are invited to the 7th Annual Flint Hills Pride Celebration—Kansas’ only free pride event. The event will be held Friday, June 19 through Sunday June 21 at Farnum Creek, Milford Lake. This year we are delighted to have musicians Kristie Stremel, Daniel Ray Stiller, and Charles McVey performing on Saturday afternoon. Come hungry, as we have a full menu planned for our barbecue Saturday afternoon, as well as throughout the weekend. Campsites are available for no charge and there will be free HIV testing Saturday courtesy of RAP.

Directions to Farnum Creek: Take I-70 to exit 295 and turn north onto U.S. Highway 77. Continue northbound for 10.9 miles and watch for signs. Farnum Creek and Milford Lake will be to the west. For more information, see the poster on the office entry bulletin board.

“Voices from the Heart” Fundraiser Concert at Sunset Zoo on June 27

The **Flint Hills Human Rights Project** invites you to a concert and information fair at the Chautauqua Amphitheater at Sunset Zoo on Saturday afternoon, June 27. It will be an excellent opportunity to show support for and reach out to the LGBT community.

Voices from the Heart, an ensemble drawn from the Heart of America Men’s Chorus will perform that afternoon. The show begins at 2:00 P.M. The concert is a fundraising event for the Flint Hills Human Rights Project Praxis Scholarship Fund.

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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