



# The Link

Volume 42, Number 11

February 10, 2011

## Sunday Worship:

2/13/11 at 9:20 AM

Suzanne Stout preaching  
*"Life Choices"*

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

2/20/11 at 9:20 AM

Tim Diebel preaching  
*"The Building of  
Each Generation"*

I Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23

2/27/11 at 9:20 AM

Sondra Eddings preaching

## Prayer Themes:

February 15: **Board Meeting:**

Please pray for the quarterly meeting of our church board, for the wisdom and discernment on the part of all the new and old board members and church leaders.

February 20: **Prayer ministry:**

Please pray for all those in our congregation who minister through various forms of prayer practice.

February 27: **Week of Compassion:**

Please pray for the special offering, and for all those who will receive assistance through our financial gifts.



## Reception for Ginny Gieseke

On Sunday, January 30, First Christian honored Ginny Gieseke for her 14 years of service as Manager of the Drake Neighborhood Farmers' Market. She is pictured here with her husband Jim (*who also works tirelessly at First Christian on many projects, especially building repair and chairing the Resources Committee*). Kay Campbell outdid herself with the amazing bucket o' produce cake (*pictured above left*).

During Ginny's 14-year history as market director, she served as president of the Iowa Farmers' Market Association, she received the Gladys Burkhead award for Outstanding Volunteerism, and has been an active member of First Christian, as well as a volunteer with a number of organizations.

How fortunate we are to have a friend like Ginny as a part of our church family, and how grateful we are for her service and her example. Thank you, Ginny. We offer you our prayers and good wishes in your retirement, as you continue to do God's work here in the heart of Des Moines.

# CAPtions:

So, I have the seeds – at least most of them. As I suppose is common, I thought I had over bought. Seed catalogues, it turns out, are very seductive; and the deep-winter longing for garden-fresh vegetables still smelling of fertile soil makes my taste buds whimper. Before I sent off the order I had to splash cold water on my face for a bracing reality check, then go back and eliminate half of the items I had circled. “There is, after all, a limit,” I kept telling myself, though I had no idea how to measure what it might be. In the end, I did more indulging than deleting; entered my credit card number and clicked “send.” Better to give away extras than kick myself for running out. It’s just my own little agricultural classroom I reminded myself – to learn something firsthand about how food gets on my table. It was never my ambition to single-handedly feed the world. I had a deck on which to experiment with containers, and a community garden plot to share with my son. Hardly an expansive acreage.



And then I was offered more land. Ummm, a fair amount of it. To plant. However I want to. I reminded my friend that I didn’t really know what I was doing; that the point of all this was to learn – probably from failure. I plan to read all I can and take advice from all I can and to brew up all manner of disgusting organic fertilizer teas that promise healthy and spectacular results, but the inescapable truth is that the person planning to do all this learning is an over-educated city boy who is naively long on “want to” and pathetically short of “know how.” I was reluctant to take up some of his precious soil in an undertaking that has almost no prospect of being pretty, let alone successful. It could also be that my reticence was really the voice of my ego not wanting to commit foolhardiness under the watchful eyes of generous friends. But he was persistent in a way that forced my hand. For months he has heard me long for an opportunity and the experience. Was all that just dreamy bleating, or was I serious?

Taking a deep breath, then, I confirmed to my friend – and to myself – that indeed, I am serious, accepted his generous offer, and with the aid of online garden planning software I have begun to dabble around with layouts. And, I realized with an emerging grin, I’m going to need to order more seeds.

Seeds – kernelled dreams that have done all they can by packaging within their shriveled form almost boundless potential and finding their way into your hand; dependant now on this aspiring farmer to overcome his inhibitions and mitigate his ignorances and daringly...

...hopefully...

...prayerfully...

...plant them.

Sounds a bit like discipleship, doesn’t it?

I look forward to seeing you Sunday – if not before.

*Timothy Cap Diebel*

## **FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH STAFF**

### **Senior Minister**

Timothy C. Diebel ..... [tdiebel@fccdm.org](mailto:tdiebel@fccdm.org)

### **Minister of Community Life**

Sondra Eddings ..... [seddings@fccdm.org](mailto:seddings@fccdm.org)

### **Minister of Family Life**

Suzanne Stout ..... [sstout@fccdm.org](mailto:ssout@fccdm.org)

### **Minister of Music**

Carl B. Staplin ..... [Carl.Staplin@drake.edu](mailto:Carl.Staplin@drake.edu)

### **Music Director/Composer in Residence**

Ben Allaway ..... [BENLMNOP@aol.com](mailto:BENLMNOP@aol.com)

### **Bookkeeper**

Steve DeHaven ..... [sdehaven@fccdm.org](mailto:sdehaven@fccdm.org)

### **Custodian**

Richard Shoemaker ... [custodian@fccdm.org](mailto:custodian@fccdm.org)

### **Office Administrator**

Nanette Johnson ..... [njohnson@fccdm.org](mailto:njohnson@fccdm.org)

# LOGOS



## Wednesday Evenings

Grades K-5: 4:25 to 7:00 p.m.

Grades 6-12: 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

## Weekly Themes:

**February 16** – Random Acts of Kindness

**February 23** – Nifty Neckties.

*Dig through your brother or dad or grandpa's closet and wear a really ugly - I mean nifty - necktie!*

## Worship Skills:

**Sunday, February 13**

K-2: Help serve cookies and punch at Friendship Time

3rd- 5th Grade: God Rods

Middle School: Worship Leaders

**Sunday, February 20**

K-2: Bulletins/Greeters

Middle School: Communion Prep

*Please arrive at 8:55 a.m.*

*unless otherwise noted on take-home sheets.*

## Mission Projects

### Guatemala

LOGOS children and youth recently decorated 50 fabric bags to be distributed to Guatemala children with supplies. We send our love to Central America along with several First Christian members and other Disciples folks going on the upcoming mission trip.

### Children & Family Urban Ministries

LOGOS is now collecting art supplies, mechanical pencils, and books (gently used or new) for our neighbors at Children & Family Urban Ministries housed in Trinity United Methodist Church on the near north side. Consider donating supplies or money to LOGOS where we will pass on to this awesome ministry serving a neighborhood of significant need. Donation deadline: Wednesday, March 2 when we will dedicate our contributions as part of the LOGOS theme "Read Across America/Dr. Seuss' Birthday."



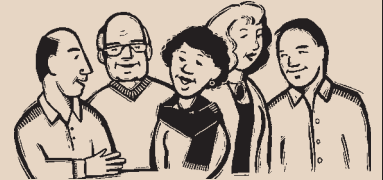
## LOGOS – Rec & Play

*This article is part of a multi-part series on the various aspects of our LOGOS program.*

One of the activities at LOGOS each week is a time of Rec & Play. The activities vary, based on the theme for that week of LOGOS, and run the gamut of active or quiet games, and craft activities. As with the rest of their class times, the children are divided into age-specific groups. Through time spent in recreation and play, the children learn that at the heart of God's love for us there is fun and adventure.

## New Learning Hour Topic:

### People, Inc class



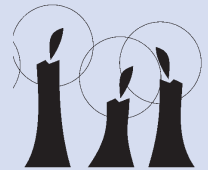
Are you interested in learning more about the history and issues of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict? Then make plans to join the People, Inc class (room 314) during the 11:00 a.m. Learning Hour though the month of February. Be part of this discussion-based class, and learn more about this conflict and how it impacts all our lives. (Fred Gee, facilitator)



"I suspected it was done that way."



# The Contemplative Corner



for your Spiritual Journey

## What We Make, Makes Us

Effective advertising sticks with you. Who doesn't know what the bright yellow arches mean or that nothing runs quite like a Deere? Advertising is meant to touch a nerve and make us believe we need something. Memorable advertising touches us so intimately that it becomes part of our collective pop culture psyche. I'm thinking of Nike's "Just Do It" ads. How many of us haven't used this slogan to get ourselves up and going even if we have never owned a single Nike branded item?



There's a new ad campaign that has popped up on my radar. Jeep has recently re-designed their Grand Cherokee models and used slick television commercials and sleek print ads to hype their message. However, as slick as their advertisements are, for me, it's the finely tuned message that probes my psyche, making me ponder larger life lessons than whether to buy a new car.

The ads show the Jeep traversing in diverse and rugged off-road terrains. The goal is to portray the re-designed Jeep as a return to old fashioned values. Values such as pride in expert craftsmanship that were once part of our country's collective value system. The catch phrase permeating the campaign is this:

### "The Things We Make, Make Us"

What gets to me is the deep truth of this slogan. Isn't it true that how we spend our time, money, and energy — good or bad — ultimately makes us who we are?

If we accomplish our tasks with integrity and pride, we are filled with the same. If we are less than honest and cut corners, then that also takes up residence within us. We can't avoid it.

With the new year still young and laden with possibility, may the truth of these words make you who you would like to be.

Blessings on your journey,

Mary Jo Franklin

## Member News & Prayer Needs



HOSPITALIZED RECENTLY: **Don E.**

OUR SYMPATHIES to **Suzanne** and her family, on the death of her grandmother in Florida, Lucille Hall (age 103 and 1 day), on January 30.

**General Assembly**  
**July 9 – 13, 2011**  
**Nashville, TN**

## 2010 Financial Condition

By now we are essentially done with the 2010 financial year. So, how did we do? In total we had expenses greater than income by \$4,600; this is slightly more than the expected deficit of \$3,400. Pledge and Non-Pledge income was \$361,500; \$2,700 less than expected. The ministries finished the year with slightly less expense than expected. The building and administration areas came in greater than expected, principally in the Outside Services (e.g., snow removal, pest control) and Equipment Maintenance categories (\$3,500 greater than expected for both categories combined). If you would like a statement with all the gory details, let me know and I will get you one; I don't yet have a Summary as we have for the congregational meeting.

You might also be interested to know that the congregation supported special offerings, missions, and non-budget programs with additional offerings of \$59,800. This is in addition to your contributions to the General Fund. From the General Fund your church contributed \$38,500 to eight organizations (the primary payment as \$30,400 to the Disciples Mission Fund).

The Capital Campaign is nearing the end. We have only the chime project to finish. When your contribution ends in June 2011, consider the challenge to continue your Capital Campaign payment as an addition to your regular pledge. This would help strengthen your church and enable us to better meet our mission in the years to come. Thank you for considering this, I hope you can meet this challenge.

– Don Sanning, Treasurer

## Church Board Prepares for Quarterly Meeting on Feb. 15

The Board of First Christian Church – that accountable body which sets and reviews church policy, monitors congregational progress and maintains budget fidelity – will meet for its regular quarterly meeting on Tuesday, February 15 at 6:30 p.m. in the second floor lounge. In the context of prayer and worship, the various ministries will report on their activities and plans, the treasurer will present a financial statement, and new business will be considered. The Church Board is comprised of elected congregational officers, all term Elders, ministry and standing committee chairs, the President of the Endowment Foundation, a congregational representative-at-large, and representatives of Disciple Men and Disciple Women. Any member of the congregation is welcome to attend the meeting.

## Foundation Receives Many Kinds of Gifts

Our church receives many kinds of financial support. A member recently advised us she has changed the beneficiary on several CD's she has at her bank – the Endowment Foundation is now the designated beneficiary. Our congregation's future is stronger because of her gift.

Sometimes however, a cash gift is not the best gift. When planning your estate, appreciated securities as a gift can avoid capital gains. The same is true for appreciated real estate. You may have insurance policies which were bought when you were young and are no longer a vital part of an estate plan. Such policies make perfect gifts. Tax deferred annuities, 401K accounts, and other qualified retirement plans all require that income tax be paid upon the withdrawal of funds. At death, many of these assets can become gifts through your will, avoiding taxes that would otherwise be due.

As your Foundation representatives meet monthly, we are focused on the long term future of First Christian Church – planning how we can help keep its witness strong. We hope that is part of your thinking too. Together, we can do really remarkable things.

– Richard Walters, Foundation President



## Week of Compassion Offering Sundays Feb. 20-27

For over 60 years, Week of Compassion has been our denomination's international relief agency. Share the joy by sharing your resources with those in need. See the enclosed brochure and envelope and bring or mail your offering to the church. Write your check to "First Christian" with a memo line of "Week of Compassion."

## First Christian Church

2500 University Avenue

Des Moines, Iowa 50311

515.255.2181

fax: 515.255.8759

Web: [www.fccdm.org](http://www.fccdm.org)

Christian Church in the Upper Midwest:

[www.uppermidwestcc.org](http://www.uppermidwestcc.org)

### Sunday Morning Schedule:

9:20 am -- Morning Worship

10:45 am ---- Friendship Time

11:00 am ----- Learning Hour

### OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Thurs — 8:30-4:30

Friday — 8:30-1:00

### *The Link ...*

... is published twice per month.

Submissions are due Wednesday of the previous week and may be edited for length, clarity, or for consistency with other articles.

### **NEXT DEADLINE:**

**February 16** (Feb. 24 issue)

**WE ARE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST, an Open & Welcoming community of faith, called to witness to God's creative power in the midst of a richly diverse neighborhood. We are challenged to share in a vibrant Spirit-led common life. As we mature in the Spirit and respond to God's calling, we are empowered and compelled to reach out to neighbors near and far in a reconciling ministry partnership.**



## DMARC

### Emergency Food Pantry

### Fifth Annual Soup Supper & Pottery Sale

Sunday, February 20, 2011

4:30 PM - 7:00 PM

West Des Moines Christian Church

4501 Mills Civic Parkway (WDM)

Support the Food Pantry, and have a hearty winter supper (with a bowl you can take with you!) Soup selections will include chicken noodle, vegan garden vegetable and chili. Each guest will also receive a hand-crafted ceramic bowl, while supplies last. Additional pieces created by local artists will be available for sale.

Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased at the door.

Jo Ann Zimmerman will also have advance tickets which you may buy from her.

