



The Link



Volume 42, Number 18

June 9, 2011

Sunday Worship:

6/12/11 at 9:20 AM
Tim Diebel preaching
PENTECOST SUNDAY
"More Than Tongues"
Text: 1 Corinthians 12:3-13

6/19/11 at 9:20 AM
Tim Diebel preaching
"Big Words"
Text: Genesis 1:1 - 2:4

6/26/11 at 9:20 AM
Tim Diebel preaching
"Finding Open Arms"
Text: Matthew 10:40-42

Prayer Themes:

June 12: **Pentecost:** Please pray for the youth who are participating in the baptism/membership preparation class, and for all who will be baptised on Pentecost Sunday.

June 15-22: **Choir Tour:** Please pray for our Chancel Choir, and other singers, as they travel to the U.K. on the "Celtic Mass" tour.

June 26: **Search Committee:** Please pray for the committee whose task it is to discern and find an interim minister to serve this church.

Search Begins for Interim Senior Minister



Upon learning of Tim's resignation, the Executive Committee quickly decided to begin a search for an "intentional" interim senior minister. You may ask, "What is an *intentional interim minister*? Why seek an interim minister?" Here are some short answers.

There are several types of interim ministries. Some congregations want only pulpit supply, i.e., someone to preach on Sundays. Some want only a "place holder" (full or part time) to keep things going while the search for a "settled" minister is conducted (hopefully as quickly as possible). Some congregations, First Christian included, want to accomplish important work prior to calling a new minister – more about the work in a minute. Intentional interim ministers specialize in providing leadership in this type of interim. That is what they do for a living full time. They are trained to assist congregations in this time of transition.

So, what do we need to accomplish? First, we need time to grieve the loss of a wonderful pastor, wise counselor, insightful theologian, and superb preacher. To jump quickly into a new relationship, especially after a long pastorate like Tim's nineteen years, wouldn't be wise for the congregation and wouldn't be fair to the new minister. There is only one Tim – we can't and shouldn't try to replace him with someone just like him. Second, we need to reflect on what the congregation hopes to accomplish under new leadership. We need to discern the abilities and skills that will be needed to lead us effectively. These processes need time to unfold – most likely a year or longer. How all this will be done will be decided in the weeks and months to come.

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CAPtions:



It all began with the offer of extra tomatoes. To probably no one's surprise, I had grown too many seedlings in our living room, and now that we my third garden was reaching its capacity I still had extras. Christopher and I were working on our shared community garden plot and had already shared a plant or two with neighboring gardeners, when an older gentleman walked by on his way to another. In response to our offer of tomato plants he deferred to his daughter who was really working this particular plot - although she was "conveniently late enough for her parents to accomplish most of the work" he observed with a wry smile. He turns out to be something of a gardener himself, as a little while later he passed back by with an armful of radishes he had pulled at home, a kind of thank-offering for our earlier generosity. "I don't know if they are any good," he muttered, "but I have too many and you are welcome to them. But like I say, I don't know if they are any good." And with a few more mutterings about them perhaps being "pithy" or maybe "hot", and after giving us permission to just throw them away if they turned out "no good," we was off again.

Later, after we had just about finished our work, he approached us again with purple cauliflower plants. "I don't know if these are any good," he resumed his downplaying and muttering, "but you are welcome to them." We accepted his gift and found the last little corner of space where they might flourish - on the off-chance that they turned out to be "any good."

I never had the good sense to ask the gentleman his name - or to explore what larger wisdoms and experiences might lie behind his benefactions. I'll be watching for him on my subsequent visits to the plot with an eye for correcting this initial negligence. *My* experience, after all, has been to pay attention to those who "under-promise and over-deliver," while being wary of the much more common hypes and reassurances - be they regarding tooth paste or religious claims - that typically prove to be so much hot air. The more modest ones among us tend to be the ones who truly have something to brag about.

Happy sowing - and even happier reaping.
I look forward to seeing you Sunday, if not before.

Timothy Cap Diebel

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH STAFF

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Disciples Women Summer Luncheon June 16



Interim Search, continued from page 1

We are moving forward. A very capable search committee for the intentional interim minister has been formed : Fred G.(Chair), Juanita S., Richard W., Jo Ann Z. and Howard W. The Regional Office staff have given them an orientation to the search process, and now they have begun the nitty-gritty work of the call process. While we hope to have an interim minister in the fall, the primary objective is to get the right interim minister for our particular needs. Please keep the work of the search committee in your prayers.

All women are invited to the Disciples Women's summer lunch, which will be at noon on Thursday, June 16. The cost is \$6.50 per person, and it will take place in the penthouse at Scottish Rite Park (2900 Woodland).

This is the last meeting of the season, and will provide an opportunity for sharing stories of the many years of Disciples Women.

Please bring your Blessing Box donations with you.

Reservations may be made through the church office by Tuesday, June 14: 255-2181.

Member News and Prayer Needs

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Marian & Don on the occasion of their 70th wedding anniversary.

Phyllis & Carl on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.

HOSPITALIZED RECENTLY: **Jean K., Juanita S.**



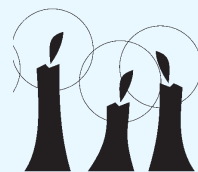
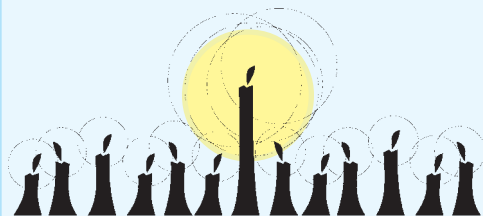
Thank You!

In our recent trying time, surrounding the passing of our mother/grandmother, Dorothy, we were heartened and humbled by the many kind words, the cards, the gifts, and the simple presence at her wonderfully uplifting service of remembrance. For all of this and more, we now say 'Thank You so much.'

— the Merkle family

CONGRATULATIONS TO: Roy Ives upon being recently inducted into the Hall of Fame at North High School in Des Moines. As a distinguished alumnus of North High, he was honored for his years of service, both in the ministry, and during World War II, serving in the Navy in the Philippines, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. During his retirement, Roy has been active at First Christian.

Roy received his Master of Divinity degree from Drake in 1957. He was in active ministry in Disciples congregations in Iowa and Colorado for 45 years. As Minister of Evangelism at Central Christian, he led his congregation to enroll 54 new members on Easter Sunday of 1953. In Ft. Madison, under his leadership, the congregation achieved the second-highest percentage in Iowa of giving to world missions. Besides pastoral responsibilities, Roy served as a director and camp counselor, participated in the establishment of the local homeless shelter, helped as a reading mentor to elementary school children, served as a Drake Relays official, and counseled inmates at the state penitentiary.



Lessons from a Chalkboard

I've been blessed to work inside some interesting buildings; some new and state-of-the-art, others older with an abundance of "character."



One with character was an old schoolhouse. To be precise it was the very first African-American public school in Louisville, Kentucky. It had been renovated many times, and during my stint was an advertising and graphic design firm. Scattered about were reminders of its educational history even though many of the original artifacts had been replaced with modern conveniences.

The age of the building always meant something needed attention. During one significant renovation project, the kitchen cabinets were being swapped out. The surprise came when the cabinets were removed from the wall and behind them revealed an old fashioned chalkboard complete with carefully composed test questions. As the cabinets came down, those of us watching collectively held our breath – it was literally like stepping back in time. In my mind I could visualize children sitting at wooden desks, complete with ink wells and pencil grooves, studying the chalkboard and preparing to answer those questions.

Even though I had heard personal stories from past students when they occasionally wandered into our doors, nothing was as breathtakingly real as this chalkboard with white lettering still so crisp I felt compelled to take the test myself.

That experience awakened an understanding within me that still remains: you can never tell what lies behind or beneath until you do a little digging, ask a few questions or listen a little closer. Surface "readings" will never suffice. Beneath the grime or lustre there is always more and we should never assume we know everything there is to know about a person, a situation or even ourselves.

Blessings on your journey,

Mary Jo



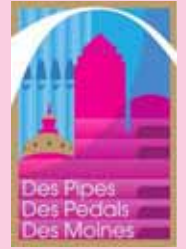
PENTECOST

Sunday, June 12

We have two young people scheduled to be baptized on Pentecost Sunday:

Rachel and David.

AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS REGIONAL CONVENTION EVENTS



The A.G.O. will be in Des Moines for their regional convention. Two events will be hosted by First Christian Church, and several others are open to the public.

Prior to the opening of the convention, there will be a reunion of Drake organ students here, sharing mini-recitals and fellowship with one another, at the church where so many of them had experiences playing the organ or being involved with worship.

Wednesday morning, June 22, we will host a worship service here, 8:30 - 9:15 am. You are all welcome to attend.

Public events include:

Monday, 6/20, 7:30 pm

Hymn Extravaganza at Plymouth Congregational

Tuesday, 6/21, 7:30 pm

Organ Concert at St. Paul's Episcopal

Wednesday, 6/22, 7:00 pm

Organ Concert at Central Presbyterian

Thursday, 6/23, 8:00 pm

Brahms Requiem at St. John's Basilica

More information at: <www.agodesmoines2011.org>

2011 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JULY 9-13, 2011 ★ NASHVILLE, TN

Be part of the story.



Tell It!

Repete yo! • ¡Dilo! • 들려 주어라!



**REGISTER
NOW!**

Take advantage of deepest discounts on registration and housing until 4/1/2011

www.disciples.org/ga

General Assembly July 9-13, 2011 Nashville, TN

Please keep in your prayers this biennial gathering of the Disciples of Christ of North America.

If you have an interest in attending, please contact Tim Diebel as soon as possible.

More information is available at
<www.disciples.org/ga>

First Christian Church

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Des Moines, Iowa 50311

515.255.2181

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Web: www.fccdm.org

Christian Church in the Upper Midwest:

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:

June 15 (June 23 issue)

CELTIC MASS
CHOIR TOUR
JUNE 15-22
WALES - IRELAND

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.

It's Time to Head to Camp!



This summer we have 22 children and youth, 3 grandparents and 1 aunt heading to camp at our Camp and Conference Center in Newton. Camps range from a one-night overnight for the youngest, to a full week for the high schoolers. The first camp begins June 13 and the last one ends August 13. What a wonderful experience is in store for all of them.

Please hold in prayer **Noah B.** and **Adam R.** who will be attending camp June 13-18; and **Elijah S.** and **Ethan S.** who will be attending camp June 20-25.

(Please watch future issues of *The LINK* for the names of our campers and the camps they are attending.)



**Farmers' Market
Open Wednesdays
4:00-7:00**

**Be sure to come shop for your
locally-produced goodies and
fresh farm produce.**

**Volunteers needed every week.
Sign-ups in the Fellowship Hall.**