



The Link



Volume 43, Number 2

September 29, 2011

Sunday Worship:

10/2/11 at 9:20 AM

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Beth Dobyms Preaching

"Vineyard Residents"

Text: Matthew 21:33-46

10/9/11 at 9:20 AM

Beth Dobyms Preaching

"A Message from our Co-Worker"

Text: Philippians 4:1-9

10/16/11 at 9:20 AM

Beth Dobyms Preaching

"The Trick Question"

Text: Matthew 22:15-22

Prayer Themes:

October 2: **World Communion Sunday:** We recognize our place in the one Body of Christ, and celebrate our communion with the greater Church around the globe.

October 9: **Hunger Hike:** Pray for the walkers, and for all the recipients of the funds raised.

October 16: **Children's Sabbath:** Please pray for all children, especially those who suffer from hunger, war, abuse, displacement, and lack of access to clean water, education, or safe housing.

DES MOINES AREA

HUNGER HIKE

SUNDAY

OCTOBER 9



From the 2010 Hike receipts, \$41,000 was allocated to established organizations for food and food-related assistance, both to local and international agencies. Over 96% of Hike receipts are distributed for food or food related programs.

Hunger Facts

1. Last year requests from the Des Moines Area Religious Council's food pantries increased by 66%. During the same time wholesale food costs rose 40%.
2. The City of Des Moines Garden Project enables families to raise much of their own food.
3. Children & Family Urban Ministries uses Hunger Hike funds to purchase milk for breakfast for inner-city children.
4. 421,000 Iowans are defined as "at risk" for food security
5. Our mission team carried seeds for tomatoes and other vegetables to Guatemala last spring. The seeds were provided by Seeds International, an organization the Hunger Hike supports.
6. Around the world about one in every six persons is hungry.

Be part of the Solution!

Consider **hiking** the scenic autumn walk along the Des Moines River. If you cannot walk, then **sponsor** a hiker with your generous pledge. Contributions will be collected through Sunday morning October 9th. *Questions? See Sally Nadolsky.*



We Walk That More May Eat

SONG CENTRAL



Dear Friends,

I always believed singing in choir did something good for people, but now there's proof! Good timing, too, as Friends of Music will be sending its annual plea for support, much of which goes to our Drake section leaders for the choir. Please look for that mailing and give prayerfully and generously. And if you have ever thought of singing with us, you don't need to have a great voice, just a love of singing. Read below, and come this Wednesday at 7:15. Here are a few reasons why it may be good for you:

In a recent Impact Study by Chorus America, a national service group for choirs, we learned that:

1. Choristers are significantly more likely than others to self-report being reliable, willing to accept criticism, regularly accept assignments outside their area of expertise, and significantly less likely to say they don't get enough credit for what they do or get viewed by others as resources instead of allies. A large majority of choral singers credit chorus experience as key to their team participation or team leadership abilities and with helping them to socialize better in other areas of their lives.
2. Children who sing in choruses get significantly better grades in school than kids who have never been part of a choir, according to their parents, and substantial majorities of parents with children in choirs say their child's ability or performance in English / language arts, mathematics, and academics overall improved after their child joined a choir.
3. Choral singers are much more likely to volunteer in their communities and to contribute money to philanthropic causes.
4. Community singing was credited with overthrowing several bad governments, including the "Singing Revolution" in the Baltic states, and apartheid in South Africa. 300,000 Latvians singing together can get some business done! In a recent civil rights special aired on PBS, former Ambassador Andrew Young said the reason communism failed in the American South was simple. "They didn't sing," he said.
5. 96% of adult choral singers who are eligible voters vote in national and local elections – compared to 70% of the general public who are voters.

With 270,000 choruses nationwide, 22.9 percent of households report having a choral singer living with them. The report goes on to say, "Choral singing also provides a host of other, perhaps less tangible, benefits. A choral community can provide hope and acceptance for the disenfranchised, or for those who are simply lonely. Families spread out over time or become distant for other reasons. Spouses and partners change or expire, and other hardships come and go. A chorus can provide a predictable and reliable social anchor in good times and in bad."

Making great music together with a deep message of faith is the focus of our choir. Join us!

Peace,

Ben Allaway

Director of Music, Composer-in-Residence



LOGOS

Wednesdays,
Grades K-5: 4:25 to 7:00 p.m.
Grades 6-12: 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

In addition to the new children and youth identified in the last Link article, we also extend a warm welcome to: Russell Ashley (Pre-K), Kaitlyn Ashley (Kindergarten), Shelby Rice (3rd grade), Austin Tillery (3rd grade), Kassy Ashley (4th grade), Thomas Ivy (4th grade), and A.J. Ashley (5th grade). In all we have 11 new kids who either joined or were promoted into the K-12 program!

Upcoming Themes:

October 5

Farmer in the Dell Night

October 12

LOGOS Homecoming

We invite all former LOGOS participants (young adults who "grew up" in LOGOS as well as previous volunteers) to join us for the Family Time meal, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Jane at 274-6681 or Suzanne at the church.

Just for Fun ...

A selection of popular songs for well-known Bible characters:

- Noah "Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head"
- Adam and Eve "Strangers in Paradise"
- Lazarus "The Second Time Around"
- Esther "I Feel Pretty"
- Job "I've Got a Right to Sing the Blues"
- Moses "The Wanderer"
- Jezebel "The Lady is a Tramp"
- Samson "Hair"
- Salome "I Could Have Danced All Night"
- Daniel "The Lion Sleeps Tonight"
- Joshua "Good Vibrations"
- Peter "I'm Sorry"
- Esau "Born To Be Wild"
- Jeremiah "Take This Job and Shove It"
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego "Great Balls of Fire!"
- The Three Kings "When You Wish Upon a Star"
- Jonah "Got a Whale of a Tale"
- Elijah "Up, Up, and Away"
- Methuselah "Stayin' Alive"
- Nebuchadnezzar "Crazy"

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH STAFF

Interim Senior Minister

Beth Dobyms bdobyms@fccdm.org

Minister of Community Life

Sondra Eddings 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

Music Director/Composer in Residence

Ben Allaway BENLMNOP@aol.com

Bookkeeper

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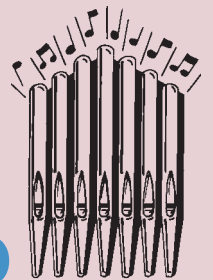
Custodian

Kristine Boyer custodian@fccdm.org

Office Administrator

Nanette Johnson njohnson@fccdm.org

Save the Date



Organ Concert

Sunday, October 30

3:00 pm at First Christian

We know it's kind-of short notice, but an outstanding organist, Dr. Wilma Jensen, will be performing in Iowa, so that provided a wonderful opportunity to bring her to First Christian! More details on this program will be in the next *Link* newsletter and the weekly e-mails.

FALL SUNDAY LEARNING HOUR CLASSES

Fall classes meet weekly at 11:00 a.m.

It's not too late to join a class!

LEARNING HOUR CLASSES FOR ADULTS



Sojourners

(2nd floor, Lounge)

"*Living the Questions*" will be the focus of Sojourners Class this fall. This is an open-minded alternative to studies that attempt to give seekers all the answers. Sojourners is a place where members are encouraged to think and diversity of views is always welcome as we try to explore the best of today's biblical thought.

Facilitators: Richard Walters, Juanita Scriven, Steve Franklin

Relevant

(1st floor, Fellowship Hall conference room)

How do Jesus' teachings interact with our lives in a way that is relevant to the world we live in? This is what we seek to learn together using short video clips, with communicators that really speak to us, as the basis for our discussion. Compact, portable, and concise - each video touches on issues that we care about, that we want to talk about, and it comes in a way that fits our world.

Facilitator: Sondra Eddings



10 of 10

(2nd floor, Library)

Using *The Present Word* curriculum, we will focus on a survey of Old Testament wisdom using Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon. We will also examine Jesus' teaching taken from the book of Matthew.

Facilitator: John Reese

People, Inc.

(3rd floor, Room 314)

In a discussion-based format, using DVDs or books, this class looks at contemporary issues through the eyes of several biblical scholars. Join us for a multi-week discussion that touches on the heart of issues in today's society.

Facilitator: Fred Gee



Centering Prayer

(2nd floor, Office Conference Room)

Centering Prayer is a form of silent prayer. No prior experience is necessary, so join us each Sunday as we gather to practice prayer together.

Facilitator: Mary Jo Franklin.

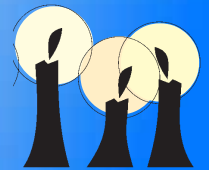
LEARNING HOUR CLASSES FOR CHILDREN & TEENS

Preschool through 12th grade students engage in fun, interactive, age-appropriate Bible-based activities which connect learning to daily life.

Babies/Toddlers	Mezzanine Nursery
Pre-Schoolers	Mezzanine Classroom
K – 2nd Grades	Room 302
3rd – 5th Grades	Room 315
Middle-School	Room 306
High School	Room 305



The Contemplative Corner



for your Spiritual Journey

The Bucket List

A picture of my adventurous daughter received on my cell phone with the caption:

"Did I tell you I was going skydiving? Surprise!"



There was a popular movie a few years ago called *The Bucket List*. It starred Morgan Freeman and Jack Nicholson as two senior citizens diagnosed with terminal lung cancer. Morgan Freeman's character designs a "bucket list" of all the things he had wanted to do, had intended to do, but somehow hadn't. They embark together on an adventure to do all those things on the list such as skydiving, climbing the pyramids and riding motorcycles on the Great Wall of China.

These days, the term "bucket list" seems to show up everywhere. A friend of mine is a breast cancer survivor whose appreciation and zest for life has sky-rocketed since her recovery. She, too, has created a personal bucket list. At last count, she had checked off target shooting from her "to do before I die" list.

Good for her. Good for anyone who embraces life with such gusto.

And yet...

I keep wondering if there isn't something more than "give it all you got before you go" gusto?

It seems so narrow, this forced list of things-to-do, places-to-go, and sights-to-see-before-I-die mentality.

Check. Check. And check.

I can't help thinking that in our efforts to do, do, do, we somehow miss the mark. Why not stretch to *be* something, not *do* something? **Be** kind. **Be** loving. **Be** persistent. **Be** adventurous. In such be-ing - won't do-ing become the natural end result? And a much shorter bucket list?

Blessings,

Mary Jo Franklin

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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:

October 5 (Oct. 13 issue)

This Just In:

CHIMES CONCERT

A special re-dedication
concert on the
tower chimes

Sunday, October 9
3:00 pm

Reception Following

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.

Save the Date



CHILI COOK-OFF MONDAY, OCTOBER 31

Watch for Details
for this
annual event of
Friends of Music



Haiti Mission Trip

Fundraiser Lunch & Auction

Sunday, November 13

(Mission Trip is March, 2012)