



The Link



Volume 42, Number 21

July 28, 2011

Sunday Worship:

7/31/11 at 9:20 AM
Tim Diebel preaching
"Fearing What's Ahead"
 Text: Genesis 32:22-31

8/7/11 at 9:20 AM
 V.B.S. Sunday

8/14/11 at 9:20 AM
 Suzanne Stout Preaching

8/21/11 at 9:20 AM
Tim Diebel Preaching
"Nurturing Differing Gifts"
 Text: Romans 12:1-8

Prayer Themes:

July 31: **Fifth-Sunday Offering:**
 Please pray for the school supplies program of the Boys and Girls Club, which will be the recipient of the July 5th-Sunday offering.

August 1-7: **Vacation Bible School:** Please pray for our young people and teachers in this year's V.B.S. summer program.

August 14: **Interim Search Committee:** Please pray for the group involved with discerning our Intentional Interim Minister.

**Saturday,
 August 20**



**Tim Diebel
 Farewell
 PARTY
 and Potluck
 First Christian
 Fellowship Hall**

Saturday, August 20th 5:00 to 8:00 PM or so. Y'all Come. It's a Down Home Texas Hoe-Down and Barbecue to Celebrate our Sr. Minister. This Bow-Tie Wearing, Guitar Playing Preacher whose made his home with us for nearly the past 20 years. We will supply, Beverages, Texas Barbecue, Baked Beans and a cool place in Fellowship Hall to eat, and greet and sing and play. Please contribute a side salad or dessert if you are able. There is no child care because all children are asked to join and participate. If you play a musical instrument, bring it with you and join the band!

Also remember we will be putting together a Memory Book with your stories, memories and pictures of Tim and Lori and we will present it to him. We may present him with a few other surprises as well. You won't want to miss this event to give our Pastor a great send-off.

If you have a story, or picture, or card which you would like included in the memory book, please submit to Jerry Mogensen or to Nanette in the office by August 3. Also, monetary gifts are being accepted and will be pooled to purchase a gift befitting Tim's new mission. These gifts may be sent to the office in an envelope marked "Tim's gift."

Food for Thought

It happens a lot. Things change.

I will never forget an evening walk many years ago when I was shocked to see three For Sale signs in neighbors' yards. Only the week before I had experienced one of those special moments of "all's right with the world" as I walked down our street and gave thanks for our great neighborhood, the lovely families that we enjoyed and the special children that were my children's dear playmates. And then suddenly, there was a job loss and a job transfer and a family illness that necessitated the moving of these cherished neighbors.



I find myself wondering how the architect and the builder of a structure that was awesome at the time of its creation must feel when years later that same building is demolished to make way for a parking lot. How do we feel when a special project we have created is discarded by the person who comes after us.

Surely these experiences are difficult at the time, but hopefully they do not cause us to vow never to be creative or productive again. Instead, we look for new ways to be creative and productive, for new relationships, maybe even a new venue for expression.

Kent Keith writes in his book "Anyway" about a time at the beach with his wife and daughter. Together they built a large sculpture of a turtle in the sand. As they worked the waves moved closer and closer and eventually washed the turtle back into the sea. "Bye-bye, turtle," said the daughter. "He went back into the ocean." It seemed like the natural thing to do. Keith points out that when we share these kinds of moments, we find pleasure in creating something and being together. The joy is in the good times shared and in the memories created. "The satisfaction is in the building (of something new)."

Of course, many things do last. The pyramids of Egypt and the works of Michelangelo have existed for hundreds of years. But, the truth is that most of what we do will not last in such a grandiose manner. In this day and time, every day brings technological advances and new discoveries. Still we will continue to set new goals, create expanded vision, bring together teams of workers. Others of us will work dutifully behind the scenes to support and encourage and implement. And when we are gone we will leave a legacy in the hearts and minds of those who have worked alongside us. And our legacy will be reflected in the culture we leave behind.

Let us give thanks for the legacy left behind by all the folks who have been a part of this church and Christ's work both within and outside these walls. And let us shout Hallelujah and give thanks again for the inspiring gifts and lovely memories that Tim will leave with us when he departs. Let us remember the good times shared and the memories created and that the satisfaction is in the building.

Most of all, let us look forward to continuing to enjoy the satisfaction of building God's kingdom together. The groundwork has been laid.

In Christ's love,
Sondra

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LOGOS

Fall Start-up September 14, 2011

To Camp (One last Time)



First Christian youth have a couple of busy camp weeks ahead. Please hold in prayer the following campers:

- CYF #17 (August 1-6) - Samm Robinson
- Chi Rho #13 (August 8-13) - Ashley Caswell and Kelly Heitz

What a wonderful experience is in store for all of them.



Interim Search UPDATE



The search committee for the Interim Minister has already met seven times. With input from the Council, we have established qualification criteria and compared them to 8 profiles. Three ministers were interviewed. However, at this time, none were viable candidates so we are continuing to review new profiles. The committee is very committed to insuring the best match for our church as we move through the time "after Tim" and "before the new Senior Minister." We value the prayers of the congregation as we continue to engage this search and discernment process.

- Howard Williams, chair

~~ONE~~ Two Vacancies for Shelter Meal Providers



A volunteer has signed up for November. First Christian Church's commitment to the Central Iowa Shelter is strong. On the 20th of each month, our congregation is responsible for the evening meal and next day's breakfast. For the past few years, we have received help with this mission from other congregations.

For 2011, we have ONE month left to fill - September and November. Please think how you can help. Your Care Group? Sunday School Class? Bridge Club? Scout Troop? And, donations to our Shelter meal fund are always welcome; write "shelter fund" on your check's memo line. Call Ginny Gieseke, 277 6951, for more information or to sign up.

Many "everyday items" always welcome at the Shelter, such as: socks, toothpaste and brushes, personal and feminine hygiene items, soap, shampoo, shaving cream, disposable razors, magazines, first-aid items, and duffel/gym bags. Towels, sheets, and blankets are always needed. In cooler weather, warm jackets and coats are needed. Your donations can be delivered to the Shelter at 205 15th Street.

You Don't Want to Miss Learning Hour in August



August 7 A Special Time With Tim

Tim will share with us parts of his journey leading to his decision to retire as well as some of his plans for the future.

August 14 A Special time with the Interim Search Committee

The committee will discuss the merits of having an intentional interim and the process of searching for such a person. A time for questions and answers and discussion will be included.

August 21 A Special time for the congregation and the staff

The church members and the staff will spend time together to discern how they can best assist and support one another in the coming months as our journey together continues.

August 28 Reception for Tim & Lori Diebel

This will be a come-and-go gathering to provide a time for fellowship and fond farewells. A pot-luck of finger foods will be served along with our regular Friendship Time coffee and punch.

GREAT AWAKENING 2011!

School for Congregational Learning

Saturday, August 27 at W.D.M. Christian Church



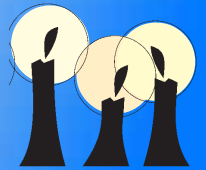
For those of you who have not (yet!) been to a "SCL" event, WHAT IS S.C.L.???

It is a one-day training event sponsored by our Upper Midwest Region. It's an opportunity where all individuals in a congregation can receive instruction, guidance, inspiration, and direction for doing the work of the church. (We *all* have a ministry, remember?) The cost is only \$20 per adult (\$5 for ages 5-18, with free child care for those under age 5). **What do you get?** Your choice of two workshops (from a list of more than thirty options), plus lunch, worship, and a keynote speaker. (A list of workshops will be available at church, and also on the Region's web site: <www.uppermidwestcc.org>.) Presenters include Tim Diebel, Linda Lighthall, and Jerry Sawyer (along with many other bright lights from the Upper Midwest). The keynote speaker will be Christian Piatt, author of the "Banned Books" series. Grades 1-12 will have their own special activities led by Bert Burns of the Camp & Conference Center.

Registration forms are currently available in the church office and the Region's web site, and they will soon be available (along with more information) on Sundays and through our usual congregational communication's venues.



The Contemplative Corner



for your Spiritual Journey

Sprague Lake
Rocky Mountain National Park



The Tale of Two Travelers

'Tis the season for summer travels – from the office, from the city, from the everyday-ness of our lives. There's something about changing scenery that's invigorating and it doesn't matter if that scenery is Disney World or a campground in Okoboji. It's different from our everyday world and that makes it fun.

Or does it? It seems to me there is an art to vacationing. And some do it better than others.

Take, for example, two acquaintances. When asked how their respective vacations had gone, I received two entirely different answers.

Traveler One: *"It was fantastic. I enjoyed every minute of it."*

Traveler Two: *"I'm exhausted. Our vacations are wearing me out. I need a vacation away from my family!"*

Traveler One's vacation was a several weeks ago, yet he still maintains an "afterglow" and I don't mean his tan; he still seems refreshed and truly relaxed.

Traveler Two's vacation was just last week. She looks tense and weary, her body rigidly pushing through the day.

So what, you may ask, made the difference?

There is a tendency to cram as much as possible into the short time allotted to us on our vacations. We feel the need to do everything, see everything – or our time and money won't have been wisely spent. We become so focused on the result that we miss the moment right in front of us. We overlook the necessity of lingering inside those moments and allowing them to provide respite and nurture for our lagging spirits.

I think Abner Sprague said it best – almost a hundred years ago. Abner Sprague was an early pioneer in Estes Park, Colorado where for many years he owned and operated a vacation lodge for travelers to the Rocky Mountain National Park area. He received people from all over the world and had ample opportunity to study the traveling habits of his visitors. He understood the distinct difference between a "tourist" and a "guest" and observed:

"...there are those you can call nothing but tourists. Those that go tearing from coast to coast and back again on their vacations are tourists. When they reach home from their travels they are not certain where they saw this or that...The guest comes to stay every minute of his vacation he can spare. If he fails to see every nook and corner of the place on one visit, he comes year after year...Our guests never get tired...They go home rested."

Traveler One understood this. The vacation spirit is still inside him.

It never entered into Traveler Two.

May your vacation travels provide you with restorative and resplendent 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:

August 3 (Aug. 11 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.

First Christian Youth Work & Play in Minneapolis

Thirteen of our high school and middle school youth and three adults spent four days working and exploring the Phillips Neighborhood on the south side of Minneapolis. At Community Emergency Service <www.cesmn.org> we delivered Meals on Wheels, worked in their community food pantry, sat in on client intake interviews, helped with computer data entry, cleaned the building, distributed flyers in the community and much more. At St. Paul's Lutheran Church we helped with the community children's art program's summer project, which is creating community planters made from original mosaic tile artwork. We also cleaned, and cleaned, and cleaned.



While in Minneapolis, we spent time at the Midtown Global Market and played at Valleyfair amusement park. This year's trip had good opportunity for us to share God's grace with others, and was a wonderful bonding experience. *Special thanks to Jenny Robinson and Corey Henderson for serving as chaperones.*