



# The Link

Volume 40, Number 22

July 30, 2009

## Sunday Worship:

8/2/09 at 9:20 AM  
Carmen Lampe Zeitler,  
Guest Preacher  
*"Tear Down the Moon"*

8/9/09 at 9:20 AM  
Tim Diebel Preaching  
*"Straight Talk"*  
Ephesians 4:25-5:2

8/16/09 at 9:20 AM  
Tim Diebel Preaching  
*"The Smiling Face"*  
Psalm 80:1-2, 7-19

## Prayer Themes:

August 2: **Back-to-School:**  
Please pray for all the non-profit organizations who are helping children with necessary resources to prepare for the upcoming school year.

August 9: **Upper Midwest Region:** Please pray for our own region of the Christian Church, for their ministries, and for all the congregations of our Region.

August 16: **Diaconate:** Please pray for those who will be serving as deacons for the 2009-2010 year, and for discernment of diaconal ministry among new members of this area of service.



The July 21st Board Meeting primarily discussed two items: Candidate for Minister of Family Life and an agreement to share our building (sanctuary, classrooms, nursery) on Sundays with another congregation.

The Board voted to recommend to the Congregation that we issue a call to the Rev. Suzanne Hall Stout to serve as Minister of Family Life. Suzanne currently serves in a Florida church. This is her "second career" as she previously spent several years as a teacher, including with special needs children. She was influential in leading her church into a children's/family ministry. At our Congregational Meeting on July 26, our congregation voted to act on the recommendations of the search committee. To learn more about Suzanne, please turn to page 3.

Secondly, the Board voted to enter into an agreement to share space with Christ Community Church, probably beginning this Fall. Christ Community Church is a missional church very much like First Christian Church. Discussion over this proposal at the congregational meeting exceeded available time and will be continued at an upcoming congregational meeting. For further information, please go to page 4.

If you have additional questions or concerns, feel free to contact Jo Ann Zimmerman or Tim Diebel.

# CAPtions:



Perhaps your route takes you by *The Library* bar and grill located down the street from the church. Whatever might be noteworthy inside, the outside sports a marquee that routinely features winning, if usually wry, humor. The current one captures the sober truth: it has been a bad summer to be a celebrity. Ed McMahon, Farrah Fawcett and Michael Jackson lost in one week; since then Robert McNamara, Walter Cronkite, author Frank McCourt, and just today singer Gordon Waller of *Peter and Gordon* fame. Earlier in the summer we bid farewell to actors Karl Malden and David Carradine, singer/song-writer Kenny Rankin, and before that John Houghtaling, inventor of the *Magic Fingers* vibrating bed.

OK, I cheated on that last one. I remembered the others – and lamented their passing in my own way. But John Houghtaling, whose crowning achievement I once tried to hotwire on a high school speech team trip because I didn't have the requisite quarter, I found on an Internet list of "famous" deaths in 2009. The Internet, indeed, is an amazing resource. Who knew that someone was fastidiously keeping track? But reading over the daily logs of June and July – listing the names of musicians, poets, statesmen, academics, actors, business people and more – I began to wonder what qualifies one to make the list.

Whose death, in other words, is worth mentioning? After all, our small community has lost people this summer we have known to be significant – whose passing leaves a deep and aching void – but whose names were absent from the published list. What kind of contribution does one need to make to the world to warrant mention?

I rather prefer the standard assumed by this congregation and the wider faith community almost two decades ago in the creation of the Churches United Homeless Shelter. A homeless man had died from exposure one of those wintry nights, and this group understood this to be one death too many. Why? Because every life matters. Every pulse is significant. You may not have written a hit song or starred in an Oscar-winning movie; you may not have invented anything memorable or discovered some medicinal cure, but your life is important. In fact, ever since Jesus did so himself, we have staked our life on that conviction.

The lists, I suppose, are interesting novelties – paeans to our preoccupation with celebrity. But they deliver far less than they promise. Not even the Internet can tally the number of important people who have died in recent months. Noticing certain empty places in our pews, we can vouch for more than a few.

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 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 ..... (no e-mail)

### **Office Administrator**

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

## *Congregation Calls Minister of Family Life*

At a special meeting of the congregation July 26, the Rev. Suzanne Hall Stout was called to serve as our new Minister of Family Life. This is a new position for our congregation, expanding the part-time Director of Family Ministries role to a full-time ministerial position. Suzanne, who currently serves as Associate Pastor of Riverside Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Jacksonville, Florida where she has served since 2003, will be moving to Des Moines in October with her husband Mark.



Suzanne is a second-career minister, earning her Master of Divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary in Orlando, Florida after earning two education-related degrees from the University of Florida in Gainesville, teaching High School and College mathematics, and serving as the Director of Adult Literacy Programs for Duval County, Florida. Suzanne has been active in Regional and General ministries of the Church, serving on the Regional Youth Ministry Council, directing CYF Conference, and is a Board member of Christmount Christian Assembly in North Carolina.

In the reflection paper Suzanne shared with our Search Committee, she wrote:

“Ministry with children and youth is what lifts my spirit and expands my soul. Looking back over my life, this has been true even before I accepted God’s call to vocational ministry within the church. God has placed a burden on my heart for children. I love children/youth – young or old; little ones or big ones; the ones with spiked hair; the ones with green hair; the ones who pierce their eyebrows and tattoo their arms; and the ones who are too timid to even tell you their name. I love talking with them; playing with them; nurturing, encouraging, and praying with them; and watching them learn, change, and grow. And I enjoy talking with children about God – wrestling with the issues of life and love. I have found that as I have grown in faith, my love for and burden for children has grown as well.”

Suzanne has visited Des Moines twice during this process – once to spend an intensive weekend with the Search Committee and a smaller gathering with middle-school and high school youth, and once with her husband to explore the community in larger terms and job options for Mark, an auto mechanic currently working for a Lexus dealership in Jacksonville.

The Search Committee enthusiastically recommended Suzanne’s Call to the Church Board on July 21, and the Congregation unanimously echoed its support and affirmation. Many thanks to the Search Committee, Chaired by Juanita Scriven, and joined by Wendy Bollhoefer, Jane DeHaven, Howard Williams, Jo Ann Zimmerman, Sondra Eddings and Tim Diebel.

More information about Suzanne will be forthcoming, along with further details about her arrival.

**Saturday, August 29**

**School for Congregational Learning**

*This year's theme:*

***Spirit: Past, Present and Future***

ALL members are eligible to attend! Please see the enclosed registration form, which lists all the workshops and allows you to fill it out and send it to the Regional Office. Those who wish more information about the content of the workshops may look at the registration binder we will have available on Sundays or in the church office, or you may view it online at [http://www.uppermidwestcc.org/ministries\\_scl.html](http://www.uppermidwestcc.org/ministries_scl.html).



## Consideration of Space-Sharing Agreement with Local Congregation

At its meeting on July 26, the congregation discussed a proposal to share space with Christ Community Church. The sharing would primarily happen on Sunday mornings, and would involve them worshipping in the Sanctuary during our Learning Hour, and using our classrooms while our congregation is in worship.

This relationship has been in the discussion stage behind the scenes since February, involving the Church Board; Chairpersons of the Worship, Learning and Witnessing ministries, and the LOGOS program; and Resources Committee. A working agreement developed by College Avenue Christian Church was used as a starting point, and customized to fit our unique needs and considerations.

At the center of the agreement is a Core Team, consisting of representatives from both congregations, which would respond to problems encountered, and also develop opportunities for shared ministry on occasion.

Several logistical questions were raised during the meeting, which will be reported on a second Congregational Meeting to be held in August; but both the Board and those at the Congregational meeting are enthusiastic about the opportunity.

## LOGOS

### Leadership Team Makes Plans for Fall



The LOGOS Leadership Team consisting of Wendy Bollhoefer, Lois Carlson, Jane DeHaven, Jerry Mogensen, and Connie Ryan Terrell have begun the planning process for fall 2009, our ninth year of LOGOS!

An important element of LOGOS is recognizing individuals' particular gifts and how they may best be used to promote the faith development of our children and youth. Our church is blessed with a number of dedicated adults who love children and youth, love God, and have a gift to share. What particular gifts do *you* have which might apply to our vibrant children and youth ministry? Where might *you* feel called by God to contribute to LOGOS? I ask that you be open to hearing the "call" as spoken through the LOGOS Leadership Team.

Even if you are unable to make a sustained commitment, homemade desserts are needed weekly. There are other "behind-the-scene" tasks that are much needed and appreciated. Contact me to offer your services to this vibrant, spirit-led ministry.

### LOGOS BEGINS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16!

- Jane DeHaven, LOGOS Director



## Farmers' Market

Cooking Demonstrations! Unfolding selection of seasonal Iowa-grown fruits & veggies. Roller-bladers and soccer-players. Plenty of yummy treats to eat here or take home with you. Health screenings. Weekly entertainment. And all on our parking lot every Wednesday through September 30.

Come as a shopper, come as a volunteer - you can interact with the community and help a worthwhile cause.

Check out the web site: <[www.drakefarmersmarket.com](http://www.drakefarmersmarket.com)>.

# Be Counted in 2010

First Christian Church is a partner with the United States Census 2010. Being a partner means that we support the census and will help the Bureau reach its goal of achieving a complete count.

The census is a count of everyone residing in the United States - people of all races and ethnic groups, both citizens and non-citizens.

A complete count is important because every year the federal government can allocate more than \$300 billion to states and communities based, in part, on census data.

Religious organizations and institutions use census data to determine locations for new facilities, secure grants, and connect with potential new members.

Census information guides funding decisions for important community facilities, such as schools, hospitals, child-care centers, and more.

The data can be used to write proposals for grants which benefit all of us.

And, census data affect your voice in Congress as well as the redistricting of state legislatures, county and city councils, and voting districts.

The 2010 Census questionnaire is one of the shortest questionnaires in history, and takes just 10 minutes to complete.

By law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's census questionnaire responses with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities.

We encourage you to participate in the census next spring, and in the meantime, do what you can to encourage everyone to complete the questionnaire.

- Jo Ann Zimmerman, Congregation President



## **If Biblical Events were headlined in today's tabloids:**

*On Red Sea crossing:*  
WETLANDS TRAMPLED IN  
LABOR STRIKE  
Pursuing Environmentalists Killed

*On David vs. Goliath:*  
HATE CRIME KILLS  
BELOVED CHAMPION  
Psychologist Questions  
Influence of Rock

*On Elijah on Mt. Carmel:*  
FIRE SENDS RELIGIOUS RIGHT  
EXTREMIST INTO FRENZY  
400 Killed

*On the birth of Christ:*  
HOTELS FULL,  
ANIMALS LEFT HOMELESS  
Animal Rights Activists Enraged  
by Insensitive Couple

*On feeding the 5,000:*  
PREACHER STEALS  
CHILD'S LUNCH  
Disciples Mystified Over Behavior

*On healing the 10 lepers:*  
LOCAL DOCTOR'S  
PRACTICE RUINED  
"Faith Healer" Causes Bankruptcy

*On healing of the Gadarene demoniac:*  
MADMAN'S FRIEND  
CAUSES STAMPEDE  
Local Farmer's Investment Lost

*On raising Lazarus from the dead:*  
FUNDAMENTALIST PREACHER  
RAISES A STINK  
Reading of Will is Now Delayed

United States<sup>®</sup>  
**Census**  
**2010**

## First Christian Church

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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 5** (August 13 issue)

## 2009 General Assembly

**July 29 - Aug. 2**

<[www.disciples.org/ga](http://www.disciples.org/ga)>



**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.**

## A VIEW FROM THE PAST

Our Heritage Room volunteers do a wonderful job of working with archives, relics, photos and assorted historical artifacts relating to the history of University and Central churches. Did you know that 100 years ago, traveling preacher Charles R. Scoville led a revival in our constructed-but-not-yet-furnished auditorium? In this picture you will see the crowd (estimated at over 2,000) attending the revival, sitting on folding-chairs in our "new" building which is experiencing its centennial this year. The note on the photo states the organ was not yet installed, either.

