



# The Link

Volume 43, Number 5

November 10, 2011

## Sunday Worship:

11/13/11 at 9:20 AM

Beth Dobyns Preaching

"Courage and Mercy"

Text: Matthew 25:14-30

11/20/11 at 9:20 AM

THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

Suzanne Stout Preaching

"A Generous Hope"

Text: Ephesians 1:15-23

11/27/11 at 9:20 AM

Beth Dobyns Preaching

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## Prayer Themes:

November 13: **Stewardship:** We pray that we may be faithful stewards of all which God has entrusted to our care.

November 20: **Thanksgiving Offering:** Pray for the Disciples higher education programs which benefit from this special offering

November 27: **Advent:** We pray for our spiritual journey through this season of preparation for the coming of the Christ - as a baby in Bethlehem, and as the triumphant Saviour.



**The Thanksgiving Offering** benefits the colleges, universities, seminaries, and divinity houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). These learning communities are an extension of the church, challenging students to understand and respond to God's call to serve. Your support provides scholarships, church relations programs, and chaplaincy offices. Most importantly, your support of the 2011 Thanksgiving Offering helps Disciples raise up servant leaders! At First Christian, we will receive the Thanksgiving offering on November 20-27. (for more information, go to <[www.disciplesmissionfund.org](http://www.disciplesmissionfund.org)>)

# Connections

## So...What's Up with the Interim?



Things are up and running this fall at First Christian! Lots of people of all ages are in this building every week – from the Ray Society to Logos. There are all kinds of church meetings every week; music is rehearsed; prayers and worship are shared. The life of the church goes on, as it should. At the same time, there is a great deal of work going on in terms of our study and assessment together as it relates to the future of this congregation. I thought you might find it helpful to know some of the major areas that are part of an interim minister's work:

The major agenda of an interim ministry period centers on five developmental tasks first spelled out by Loren Mead in a monograph entitled *The Developmental Tasks of the Congregation in Search of a Pastor* and then elaborated on in his book *Critical Moment of Ministry: A Change of Pastors*. This is also drawn from resources of the Interim Ministry Network.

### 1. Coming to Terms with History

It is important for congregations to know their history so that they can appreciate their heritage and at the same time be aware of the issues and concerns that need to be resolved in order to move freely into the future.

### 2. Discovering a New Identity

Identity is the task of understanding “who we are now in our present context and what it is we understand God is calling us to be.” It is the task of developing the vision to which a congregation is being called.

### 3. Shifts of Power/Leadership Changes

When a pastor leaves, there is often a time when persons who have been in leadership rethink their commitment and determine whether or not they want to continue in leadership positions. Other persons often find the interim time an opportunity to take leadership roles.

### 4. Rethinking Denominational Linkages

We have an effective partnership with our regional church. That relationship is normally more visible while the structures of the church beyond the congregation are engaged in working with the congregation in moving through the interim period and seeking to find the right pastor to call.

### 5. Commitment to New Leadership and to a New Future

As a congregation determines its direction and calls a new pastor to help lead it in moving into that future, there will probably be a new commitment both to the new leader and to the future.

*This is certainly not just a nice, neat checklist that we will finish; however, it is important work for the congregation to move through. It will help to clarify direction for the years ahead.*

**Beginning in January, there will be a critical event each month on a Sunday evening.** There will be specific work to be done that will help you analyze where we are now and where we sincerely want to go in the future. Dates and times will be announced shortly, and these will be the dates that are so important, YOU will need to carve out the time to be present every single time. You will find this work engaging and lively, and your ideas will be critical to gaining an understanding about where we are as a congregation. The future is at our doorstep! May God bless us as we discuss, pray, laugh, and listen together.

See you in church!

*Beth*



# LOGOS

## Upcoming Themes:

**November 16**

Give Thanks - CAN-STRUCTION NIGHT

**November 23**

NO LOGOS - Thanksgiving holiday

## Worship Skills:

**Sunday, November 20**

Gr. 3-5: Bulletins/Greeters

Canned goods donations and CAN-STRUCTION service project will be dedicated.

*Please arrive by 8:55 a.m. for rehearsal/duty.*

**"CAN" you help us fight hunger? Please bring your donation of canned goods by Sunday, Nov. 13 for the "Can-Struction" project!**



## Immediate Needs for LOGOS

1. Desserts for 84 (or 42, partnered with someone). Contact Verna Cobb at <cobbvmr1@msn.com> or 262-7796.
2. Empty, clean, small to medium size plastic containers with lids.
3. Individually wrapped store-bought snacks like rice krispy treats and animal crackers.
4. Prayers for a continued successful ministry during our year of tremendous growth.

*Dear Members of First Christian Church:*

*We, the family of Chuck Johnson - Mary Alice, Charla, John, Sandra & Janet - want to thank you for all your expressions of sympathy to us at this difficult time. The many cards that were sent, along with the special one so many of you signed, were all appreciated very much. We also want to again express to our minister, Beth Dobyns, our gratitude for her splendid contribution to Chuck's service.*

*May God bless you all,*

*Mary Alice Johnson*

## Member News & Prayer Needs

HOSPITALIZED RECENTLY: **Pat Oberbillig,**

PRAYERS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED FOR: **Judy Lyon**

PLEASE CONTINUE TO KEEP IN PRAYER: **Glenny**

**Caswell, Gary Western, Kinnick Campbell,**

OUR SYMPATHIES TO:

**Nanette Johnson** and the family of her father, Rev. Russ Johnson (88), who died on Oct. 28.

**Juanita Scriven** and the family of her son, Mark, who died recently (on a trip to Mexico).

**Wilma Thorson** and the family of her son, Tom Thorson (57), who died Oct. 31.

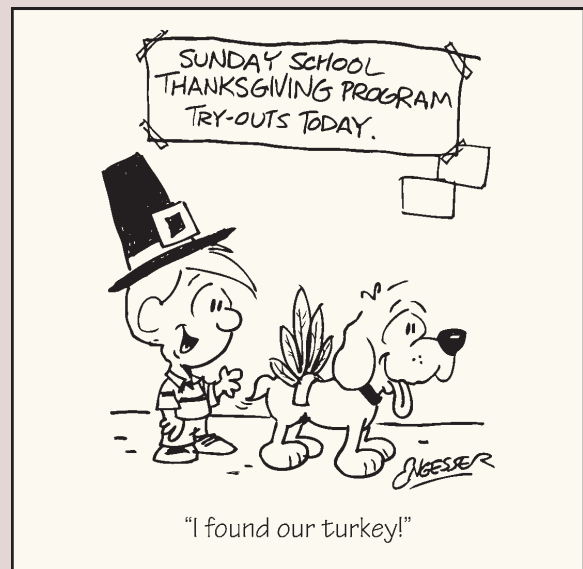
The family of **Kristine Boyer**, on the death of a close relative of her children.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

**Elaina Steenson**, who was named to the IA H.S. Music Assoc. All-State Orchestra.

**Beth Dobyns**, who received the coveted "Golden Pot" award at the October 31 Chili Cook-off.

*Many thanks to all who entered and attended.*



## FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH STAFF

### Interim Senior Minister

Beth Dobyns ..... [bdobyns@fccdm.org](mailto:bdobyns@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:ss Stout@fccdm.org)

### Minister of Music

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### Music Director/Composer in Residence

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### Office Administrator

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

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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:

**November 16** (Nov. 24 issue)



**Building  
Our  
Legacy  
Daily**

**Sunday, November 13**  
**Consecration Sunday**

Be sure to come for worship -  
remember to bring your  
pledge card with you!

**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.**



## RINGING BELLS & RED KETTLES:

Last year *First Christian Bell Ringers* brought in over \$2,500 to help feed hungry families, and provide assistance to people in the Des Moines area.

This year we will be back at the same stand, inside the Dahl's Store 3425 Ingersoll. We need bell ringers for two-hour shifts starting at 8:00 AM on Thursdays. The first day is November 17<sup>th</sup> and then every Thursday (except Thanksgiving) until Christmas.

Please sign up to ring bells on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall or call Bill Moulder @ 372-2669 to reserve a slot. We need to staff six shifts each day from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM.



## Women's Fellowship/ Study Group

You are invited to come at 6pm on Sunday, November 20 to join with other women in an experience of learning and growing with friends. Your RSVP is requested to the church office or to Suzanne Stout.

### "Novels" book group

Do you enjoy reading fiction? Would you like the opportunity to discuss what you read? A new group is forming which will have its first meeting at 6:30 pm on Monday, November 28. Call Suzanne for more information.

