



THE SPENCER CHRISTIAN

Dan's Wonderfulness July 2009

Last week I attended a retreat for all the ministers in our cluster that was held in West Bend, Iowa, home of the famous Grotto of Redemption. At the retreat we had a speaker who helped us focus on spiritual practices that can be transforming for both the minister and the congregation. Of course, a particular part of our time together was spent studying scripture.

At the retreat one particular scripture spoke to me again as if for the very first time, although I've heard it and read it hundreds or thousands of times.

In Exodus 3:1-12 we find Moses encounter with God in the bush that was burning but did not burn up. It's interesting what can spring up from scripture if you'd just pay attention. I paid attention and heard a few interesting phrases. The event took place "*beyond the wilderness*" (v 1) and during the event Moses was told by God to take off his shoes for that very place was "*holy ground*" (v 5).

It's interesting to think of a place beyond the wilderness being a holy place. To say something is beyond the wilderness it means it is off the map, it's out of the way, it's barren. Nothing should be expected to come from a place that is beyond the wilderness. But it was that very place that God declared holy. It was that very place where God showed up and completely transformed Moses.

There are all sorts of things in our lives that could be considered *beyond the wilderness*. There are places, of course, that seem like wilderness. But there are also other things. There are people for whom we might think there is little or no hope. There are people in whom we would certainly not expect to find an encounter with God. There are times and struggles that seem like the least likely places we would encounter God.

But we might just find ourselves like Moses in those places, times, and even in those people's faces, seeing God in a burning revelation, hearing the voice of God calling us to worship, and find ourselves standing on holy ground. Our God makes all things holy. Even things we think are *beyond the wilderness*.

BIBLE STUDY/PRAYER GROUP

There will be no Bible Study/Prayer Group through the summer.

SUMMER WORSHIP

Summer worship times will be Saturdays at 5:30 PM and Sundays at 9:30 AM. This will begin the first Sunday in June. We'll resume the regular schedule on Sunday, August 23.

WORK DAY FOR PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

We have a great new opportunity in front of us at First Christian. We have the need for a playground area. The property ministry would like to let everyone know that we have staked off some space behind the church for the new playground area. If you get a chance take a look out the patio doors at the location.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

There will be jobs for everyone, from digging holes to cementing the corner post in, to starting the assembly of the equipment. We also have a few jobs of general maintenance around the church. You will not be left standing around. Talk to Barry as to the playground work date.

THANK YOU

Thank you for your support of our families through your donation of

bread to be put in our food pantries. It is such a help to be able to have that on hand to complete our pantries. We appreciate your continued support and confidence in our ability to assist those who find themselves in a crisis situation. We value your help in caring for local families who need our help. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Anita Jorgensen

Clay County Outreach Director

Upper Des Moines Opportunity

THANK YOU

I would like to thank all my church family who attended my Surprise 80th Birthday Party on June 19th. Also, for all the ones who couldn't attend but sent cards. Thanks also for all the cards and love gifts. I didn't realize how many friends Pat & I have made in the 36 years since we joined the First Christian Church Family. All was greatly appreciated and makes me feel really humble.

Thanks and God Bless every one of you.

Niles Swancutt

THANK YOU

Thank you for the picture frame and gift of money. I will put the money toward my college education.

Thanks again,

Cassidy Smith

DISCIPLES WOMEN/CWF



DISCIPLES WOMEN / CWF

DW/CWF met on Thursday, June 11th at 6:30 PM for a dessert luncheon served by Executive Board. Gerry Griffiths thanked the ladies for the refreshments.

Barbara Brownmiller introduced Karman Brown who gave an interesting talk and showed pictures of her mission trip to Haiti.

Ruth Kirlin did the installation of DW/CWF officers for 2009-2010. Ruth read the purpose of DW/CWF which is to provide opportunities for spiritual growth, enrichment, education and creative ministries to enable women to develop a sense of personal responsibility for the whole mission of the Church of Jesus Christ.

The DW/CWF board officers discussed seriously the value of the Disciple Women organization and re-discovered all the activities we support in the church as service and mission projects, total dollar value being over \$4,000.00 last year. We stress spiritual growth opportunities as well as fellowship. It was the consensus that we should continue as Disciple Women in Spencer. We encourage all women to be involved in DW/CWF for their spiritual growth and fellowship with other women by being ready, willing to serve with God's help.

Those installed as officers are:
President ó Becky Woolery
Vice- President ó Gerry Griffiths
Secretary ó Margaret Anderson
Treasurer ó Phyllis Hurdle
Study-Worship ó Ruth Kirlin
Group Leaders ó Nancy Triggs
Ardythe Harris
Sherry Groenewold

Ruth gave the officers a gold star in recognition of their good work and she thanked all Disciple Women for their support in service, using their talents and abilities in many ways. Ruth closed with prayer.

Phyllis Hurdle, treasurer gave a report of where DW/CWF money goes such as Christian Church in Upper Midwest Service projects, Timothy Fund, Women to Women, Youth activities, such as camp, VBS, flowers and Memorial Remembrances.

Meeting closed with CWF Benediction.

Thank you, God for allowing us to serve you in all things. Continue to guide and direct us that we will be faithful serving with gladness. Let us never forget that in serving the needs of others, we are serving you! Amen

Margaret Anderson, Secretary

DISCIPLES MEN



The Disciples Men will hold their regular monthly meeting on Saturday, July 11 at 7:30 AM ó 8:30 AM. Men of all ages are invited to join us for study, discussion, and breakfast

UPDATE OF THE SOUND SYSTEM



The sound booth construction has started. Wow! The work that has already been achieved is wonderful. Gary Gaston, Randall Anderson, Ken Hicks from the Sound Committee and many others have been working hard every night since the last Angel Food distribution. Here are a couple of pictures when they first started. If you would like to help, please do.

PUMPKIN PATCH FUNDRAISER

We have been approved by Pumpkins USA to host a pumpkin patch fundraiser at our church this coming October. This will be an incredible fundraising opportunity for us, as well as a great way of connecting with our community with a bit of fun.

What we are looking for now is a project coordinator for the pumpkin patch.

If this is you, it doesn't mean you'll be in charge of doing everything by yourself. It would mean you would be the main contact person for the project and responsible for helping bring people together for this.

This will really be a great project with a great payoff.

I hope you'll consider becoming our coordinator.

If so, please contact me at dan@spencedisciples.org or 712-270-0004.

SERVING OUR CHURCH IN JUNE

Elders: Wendell Anderson, Dick McCord

Deacons: Dan Hollander, Captain, Randall Anderson, Bev Dudziak, Gerry Griffiths, Julie Kinsley, Stan Nissen

Deacon Preparers: Jan Nissen, Nancy Triggs

Junior Deacons: Felicia Essick, Kramer Baethke

Worship Leaders

July 5 Jerry Groenewold

July 12 Sonya Nash

July 19 Bob Griffiths

June 26

Greeters

July 5

July 12 Bill & Othel Lewis

July 19

July 26

Children's Moment

July 5

July 12

July 19

July 26

Nursery Attendants

July 5

July 12

July 19 Julie Kinsley

July 26

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Danielle & Eric	Sipress	4
Rick & Trina	Hollander	7
Mike & Cindy	Williams	7
Valerie & Gerald	Rath	8
Don & Dorothy	Veitch	12
Rodney & Coreen	Boernsen	14
Bill & Othel	Lewis	14
Rhonda & Marvin	Smith	16

Johnnie & Fernn	Steward	17
Greg & Dawnetta	Baethke	18
Jim & Harriet	Johannsen	18
Marvin & Ardythe	Harris	21
Lloyd & Nancy	Triggs	25



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

July Birthdays		
Deane	Anderson	1
Harvey	Verdoorn	2
Cindy	Krieger	5
Marilyn	Zellaha	5
Carolyn	Hicks	6
Wadena	Lorenz	7
Ardyce	Stevenson	10
Trina	Hollander	11
Nathan*	Mayes	12
Dana	Anderson	13
Valerie	Rath	15
Brayden*	Combes	17
Jennifer	Kenney	17
Vickie	Grotjohn	19
Angie	Lawson	19
Scott	McCord	19
Mitchell*	Sebastian	26
Vicki	Stoffel	26
Katlyn	Miller	31
Cassidy	Smith	31

SUMMER YOUTH

INUNDATE OUR CAMPERS WITH MAIL!

One of the coolest ways you can show our young people how much we love and support them is by sending them mail while they are away at church camp. Just send a little card wishing them well and telling them they are in our prayers. Here are who you can send mail to and when to send it (The dates listed are not the actual camp dates. They are dates on which to mail things so they will arrive while the camper is at camp):

<u>Camper</u>	<u>Camp</u>	<u>Send mail between:</u>
Sean Hollander	Junior 4	July 3 . July 7
Diamond Hollander	Junior 4	July 3 . July 7
Sean McCord	Chi Rho 13	July 25 . July 29
Shelby McCord	CYF 17	August 1 . August 5

Send mail to the following address:

{Camper Name}
{Camp Name & Number}
Christian Conference Center
5064 Lincoln St.
Newton, IA 50208

KIDS FIRST

Kids First is a ministry of First Christian Church dedicated to helping meet the needs of infants and children in Spencer and the surrounding communities. Through FCC local outreach fund, donations, and help from local businesses, Kids 1st offers baby needs (diapers, wipes, diaper creams, baby wash/lotion, etc) for a reduced cost to families once a month. Everyone qualifies (Limit per family) to purchase diapers, wipes and other supplies. Prices are subject to change. Kids First started on May 9th from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, The next date is July 11 from 5:00 . 7:00 PM. Proceeds and donations will go to replenish the baby items for the next month. Contact Dana Anderson at 712-260-3801 or Michele Mayes at 712-270-0005 for further information.

SUMMER MISSION TRIP: CORALVILLE & DES MOINES

We will be taking a group on a mission to Cedar Rapids this summer from July 8-11. While in Cedar Rapids we will be staying at the Disciples Mission Station hosted by Coralville Christian Church and working on flood disaster recovery projects. We are also planning a day trip to Des Moines to enjoy Adventureland at the end of the trip. Youth ages 14 and up are especially encouraged to join us on this trip! For more information, please contact Linda Gaston at lggaston@smunet.net

Save The Date!
2009 School for Congregational Learning
August 29, 2009
Spirit



Past, Present, & Future
Valley Southwoods Freshman High School,
West Des Moines, Iowa.

- *Inspiring Worship*
- *Intuitive Keynote* Speakeró Rev. Dr. Richard Hamm
Executive Administrator, Christian Churches Together
- *Insightful Celebration*
- *Invigorating Workshops*

~ Friday August 28th Kickoff ~
6:00 PM Picnic ~ West Des Moines Christian Church
Reenactment ~ Signing of the Declaration & Address
By Rev. John Bolen

Prayers and Concerns

Prayers: Don Veitch· has been discharged from Spencer Hospital and admitted to St. Luke's, Rodney Boernsen· Will not be having the scheduled surgery. It is not needed as he is healing well on his own! His next visit to Rochester is in September.

Lisa Buchan, Tyson Zellaha, Mary Jo Ellenwood, Dorothy Veitch, Jim Gelner, Harland Brownmiller, Barbara Brownmiller, our military troops & leaders serving abroad.

July Lectionary Readings

Week of				
July 5	2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10	Psalms 48	2 Corinthians 12:2-10	Mark 6: 1-13
July 12	2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19	Psalms 24	Ephesians 1:3-14	Mark 6: 14-29
July 19	2 Samuel 7: 1-14a	Psalms 89: 20-37	Ephesians 2: 11-22	Mark 6: 30-34, 53-56
July 26	2 Samuel 11: 1-15	Psalms 14	Ephesians 3: 14-21	John 6: 1-21

<>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <><

When you or a family member is hospitalized, please let the church office know at 262-2945, so we can have the opportunity to minister to you. The hospital is not allowed to tell us of patient admissions.

Office Hours: Financial and Membership Secretary Mary Schomaker will be in the office on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8-12 and 1-5, and Thursdays from 8 - Noon. However, those times may be somewhat flexible, so call first if you need to see her. Custodian's Hours Dana Galm's day off is Saturday. If you need him to do something, please call ahead of time. His hours are flexible, but if he is not at the church, you may leave a message for him with someone else or on the answering machine.



Newsletter Deadline will be the Tuesday before the last Sunday of the month with the exception of some months due to the holidays. **August deadline is July 21st.** Send Article information to news@spencerdisciples.org.

Contact information: Please tell the church office about any e-mail changes, additions and/or deletions. By having your current e-mail address, it will save the church money by reducing paper, printing and postage costs. Plus the addresses will only be used for church purposes. Thanks!

www.spencerdisciples.org

Phones: Office, 262-2945; Pastor's Office, 262-1029; Cell, 270-0004

Dan Mayes, Pastor	dan@spencerdisciples.org
Mary Schomaker, Fin. & Membership Sec.	mary@spencerdisciples.org
Sherry Groenewold, Organist	sherry@spencerdisciples.org
Dana Galm, Custodian	dana@spencerdisciples.org
Carolyn Hicks, Parish Nurse	Carolyn@spencerdisciples.org
Newsletter Team	news@spencerdisciples.org

..

First Christian Church
701 East 18th St
Spencer, IA 51301



RECIPIENT NAME
STREET ADDRESS
ADDRESS 2
CITY, ST ZIP CODE