



Sunday's Service

"I don't believe in God anymore. I'm sorry, but I just can't believe like you do." The young man's statement of unbelief shocked his mother, but raises the question of faith which arises in the minds and hearts of many people living in this world. Dr. Yonker will address the issue in his July 12 sermon, "Answering the God Question," based on Jeremiah 16:19-21 and Mark 9:14-29.

Join us this Sunday morning when Jerry Daugherty will sing "The Twenty-Third Psalm" by Albert Malotte at the 8:30 worship service and the Chancel Choir will present the anthem "I Have Felt the Touch of God", music by Lloyd Larson, at the 10:30 service.

Preachin' the Good News

Our college students who went on this year's "learning and serving" mission trip to the Yakama Christian Mission have been invited and accepted the call to preach at Red Top Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Hallsville this Sunday, July 12. They will also be preaching at our church the following Sunday. It is an exceptional group that continues on the journey of transformation after returning home from a big mission trip like this one. This is one such group and this was one such mission site. Thanks be to God!

Weekly Report

July 5, 2009

Received this week \$11,314
Received to Date \$11,314
Needed to Date \$6,674
Attendance - 245
(includes early worship - 38)

Welcome New Members!



Carol Hyde responded to the invitation at the 10:30 service on Sunday, July 5 and came to the front of the sanctuary with her eight-year-old daughter, **Hannah** where they were greeted by John and Amy Kay. A single adult, Carol works in the kitchen at Cracker Barrel Restaurant and has been visiting our worship services with Hannah the last three months. She transfers her membership from another congregation here in the city. Welcome Carol and Hannah! Address: 1206 Lakeview Avenue, Apt. B, (65201); phone 875-0052.

Brandon Spradlin responded to the invitation at the 10:30 service on June 28 to join our congregation by transfer of his membership from a church in Mexico. Also a single adult, Brandon has moved to Columbia in recent months, and is presently living in temporary housing while he searches for employment. His phone is 573-721-6095. Welcome Brandon!



Mid-Summer Festival

Come to the church on Wednesday, July 22nd to reconnect with friends at the church or to meet a bunch of good folks for the first time. From 6-8pm we will be in the Fellowship Hall and just outside those doors having our first ever fun Festival. There will be pizza, solo acoustic guitar performance, washers, face painting, crosswords, maybe even a dunk tank, BINGO and a cake walk! Super great

fun! Mark your calendars and make plans to be at the church because the Membership Department wants you to enjoy this fun yet relaxing time to get together during the mid-summer heat. Most of the activities will be free for your enjoyment and the pizza and pop will cost a minimum amount so that we cover our costs. Hope to see you here!

Heerrree's Johnny!



When the announcement was made in this column several weeks ago about a bike trip to Indianapolis, apparently we did not make it clear who is going to ride to the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). So, to clear up the confusion, Sarah took a picture of me wearing my funny looking outfit, which we post in the Visitor this week. I am the one who is going to peddle his way to Indy for the biannual meeting of the church.

In order to arrive in Indianapolis in time for the first session on Wednesday evening, July 29, I will leave from the parking lot of the New Haven Elementary School bright and early Saturday morning, July 25, and begin heading east over the country roads for the big meeting. Depending on the schedules of other avid riders, there will be either two, three or four of us making the trip of approximately 380 miles, riding four days on our bikes. We will be supported by a van driven by my friend and fellow biker, the Rev. Karen Yount, retired Disciples minister of Kansas City with whom I have made three such previous trips in past years.

Some people have asked whether I am planning to ride home and my answer is an emphatic, "No, I'm only half crazy!" Others have asked why I am doing such a thing, and the answer is easy, to raise money for a cause I have long supported, the Reconciliation Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Reconciliation educates leadership in the church to transform the church as it aims at addressing and eliminating the primary causes of racism in North America. (reconciliationministry.org)

As result of a few conversations with members of the church, we have already received \$1,850 in gifts to send me on my way! Other

church members may make monetary gifts to support this important ministry of the church. Checks may be written to First Christian Church, noted "Ride for Reconciliation," or "Bike Trip". Pledges may be made for each mile ridden: e.g. 10 cents per/mile X 380 miles = \$38.00 or 5 cents per/mile X 380 miles = \$19.

So, that's the deal! And that will be the fun I'll be having beginning Saturday morning, July 25! When you wake up that morning, don't forget to send us off with your best wishes, and say a prayer for a tail wind!



Thanks for the bible and all the church does. Thanks again.
~Ryan Hunsaker

For anyone involved in giving me the opportunity to receive the Mildred Ray Shrou Memorial and the Vera M. and H. Glenn Purdy Scholarship, these scholarships have been a tremendous help (considering they are the only ones helping towards my college expenses). It means a lot!! Thanks again. ~Laurel Creasy

CD's on Sale!

Brenda Mosby has recorded a CD which she is offering for \$10, half of which goes to the church budget. The CD's are available for purchase in the church office.

Building Fund BARBECUE!

July 11th, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
Rock Bridge Christian Church
301 W. Green Meadows Rd.
Ph. # 573-442-4677



Chicken or Pork Steak
with 2 sides, dessert & drink
Tickets - \$8

News of the congregation

Marvin Tracy has returned home to continue recuperating from surgery last week at Boone Hospital. Also in our prayers at this time is **Alice Vaughn**, **Sarah Storm's mother**, who was admitted to Boone Hospital last week for testing.



Ragsdale Family Visits from California!

It was a pleasure to welcome five members of **Ruth Ragsdale's** family to church on Sunday, June 28. They had come from California to spend some time with Aunt Ruth, and enjoyed joining her for worship, seeing the sanctuary, and identifying "the Ragsdale pew" on the north side of the sanctuary which family members had occupied for many years. Pictured (L to R) are Ruth's sister, **Betty Fretz**, **Ruth Ragsdale**, her niece and great niece, **Lin Wapner** and **Sarah Wapner**, and her niece, **Ann Fretz-Scott**.



July 13-Bragg Stanley, Christopher Stormer, Eric Seaman, Richard Underwood, Marci Lower
July 14-Anne Campbell, Buddy Green
July 15-Tommie Ross, Tammy Arnett
July 16-Micki McGuire Kirkham
July 17-Paul Rinehart, Cullen Snow
July 18, Kim Boger, Ellyn Brother, Judy Cunningham, Tom Sisson

A World Council of Churches for the 21st Century

** Thanks to Tom Yonker for providing this World Outreach brief. Tom served at The World Council recently for 18 months.*

It's tempting to describe the World Council of Churches as a "United Nations" of churches, and when describing it to someone unfamiliar with the global ecumenical landscape that's a helpful comparison to make. Like the UN, the WCC has a worldwide scope, embracing 349 churches in more than 110 countries, effectively comprising the largest and most visible manifestation of the ecumenical movement in the world.



Along with others, Nobel laureates Adolfo Esquivel and Desmond Tutu march for peace during the WCC 9th Assembly in 2006. The Assemblies are rich with dialogue, worship and action.

Since 1937, the World Council has enjoyed this senior status as the leading global ecumenical body. As a member of this fellowship, member churches:

- are called to the goal of visible unity in one faith and one eucharistic fellowship;
- promote their common witness in work for mission and evangelism;
- engage in Christian service by serving human need, breaking down barriers between people, seeking justice and peace, and upholding the integrity of creation; and
- foster renewal in unity, worship, mission and service. (taken from www.oikoumene.org)

But in my experience, the WCC is less of a global deliberative body and more of a family that gathers regularly to support each member. Although the comparison to the United Nations only goes so far, the processes, squabbles, and difficulties navigated in the WCC are just as real. As you can imagine, gathering 300 or more church leaders from every fringe of the globe results in a gathering of just as many opinions. For this reason, deliberations about the most important issues facing the global church can be excruciatingly tedious. But in its best moments, the WCC gathers Christians of virtually every stripe to draft common statements about faith and theology, to work together in mission and evangelism, and to hold world leaders accountable and responsible with a solid Christian and moral foundation.

Some criticize the WCC as being a mechanism which has been outdated for years and too slow to react to the modern challenges facing the local churches. But being an organization

that is completely reliant on local church support, there is no party that is more acutely aware of these changes than the World Council.

The WCC has had a strong voice in recognizing that the lifeblood of the world Church has shifted to the 'global south'. The most fervent Christian communities no longer reside in the cathedrals of Europe or North America, but instead they pack the tents and superstructures of South America, Africa and Asia. More often, Christians in many countries refrain from calling themselves life-long Methodists or Anglicans, for example, but they choose to worship in whichever community they feel comfortable, which may mean experimenting with different denominational communities. With the resurgence of evangelical Christianity taking hold in the world many millions of Christians worship in churches which fall outside the umbrella of the WCC, which forces the World Council to examine itself.

The WCC, as a body, is highly attuned to this shift and not resistant to it. It's become clear that the traditional models of ecumenism no longer seem to fit most grassroots situations, even though those models have been strong for nearly a century. Indeed, the WCC wants most deeply to remain relevant, and adapt if it must, even though that change might be painful to enact.

In a move which many feel is more in line with the Christian spirit of our communion, the WCC adopted the consensus model of decision-making during the run-up to the 9th General Assembly which took place in Porto Alegre, Brazil, in 2006. Under the consensus model, during official meetings of the Central Committee or the General Assembly, delegates do not vote or pass resolutions by majority tally, as in a parliamentary body, but an experienced moderator judges the feeling of a group and will not allow business to proceed until major grievances are aired and addressed. This allows for fair, organic discussion to guide the meeting, without forcing a vote if one is not needed.

Although this change to the consensus model of governing reflects a more tolerant, patient way to come to common decisions, the most important question remains unanswered: fundamentally, is the WCC relevant and necessary?

With the despair of the current economic situation hanging like a cloud over every nation, some might easily say no. But a community of member churches representing more than 560 million Christians continues to say yes, the World Council of Churches *is* still relevant, and we should confront the challenges of the new century together.

The official WCC website provides resources for worship, study guides, news bulletins, agendas, reading materials and much more. I encourage you to visit it at: www.oikoumene.org



(youth) @ first christian

CYF (9-12 grade)

Canoe Float Trip, July 20
Reservation to Jimmy by
July 14. \$10

(Mon. Night Bible Study is
on break until August.)

JYF (grades 3-5)

Pool Party at Boger's House
Sun., July 19, 3-6:30 p.m.
Meet @ church, 2:45 p.m.
Pickup @ church, 6:45 p.m.

Chi-Rho (grades 6-8)

Movie Outing to see the new
Harry Potter movie, "Harry
Potter and the Half-Blood
Prince", Sunday, July 19,
evening.

Disciple Kids Day Camp:

July 15 (Register by July 8)
Aug. 12 (Register by Aug. 5)
Forms & fliers are in the office
or narthex on Sundays.

Chi-Rho Mission Trip: August 15-17

CYF Mission Trips: #2- TBA, August 9-11

Learning The Lord's Prayer

This summer on *The River of
Life* discover and learn about
Jesus' prayer. Intern Jamie
will be leading us in work-
shops all of July & August.
Come join us! We will sing
VBS songs too!

Hey Church Member: Survey ?

The Master Planning Committee invites you to take the
Online Building & Mission Surveys! Today!

1. Go to the church website www.firstchristian.org
2. Look for the red-lettered "Building Survey Link" and
"Mission Survey Link"
3. Click on each of these and take both surveys.
(Paper copies of the survey are available in
the church office or narthex.)

Our "Soup Kitchen"

Many thanks are extended to the Keystone Class for taking the responsibility of preparing for, serving and cleaning up supper at Loaves and Fishes on the fourth Monday in June. This is the second time that this Sunday School class has adopted an evening and I knew that even though I was out of town, it would be well taken care of... and it was. Thanks to Pam Hunsaker, Colleen Nilges and Chuck Scott for their service.

Here is an excerpt from Colleen's reflection about the evening in which they served 90+ hungry folks from our community:

"We were also fortunate that when we arrived, someone was there, had the air conditioner on so it was cool and had lots of volunteers to help us unload. Some of them even came back to the little park there at the church and offered to help! Bless them!

We used roughly 30# of meat, 2 big cans of green beans, 2 large and 2 medium size cans of fruit cocktail, four gallons of milk and 2 coolers of lemonade. We took 2 small coolers of extra ice just in case. All in all a huge success!

It is such a unique and humbling experience. Thanks be to God that we are able to do this service!"

Thanks be to God indeed. If you would like more information about helping with this ministry, please see Paula Hoenes or Amy Kay. Different small groups from our church serve on the fourth Monday of each month. ~amy kay

Who is at Church Camp this week?

8th Grade Camp about God and Sex, July 13-18

Sally Kessell, Brian McCarty, Jenny McCarty,
Mamie Meenehan



Omitted from the Jr. Camp II list last week:

Makali Hawkins! She was there too!

Summer College Group

Last Wednesday evening our college group met and reconnected with visiting and Bible Study. Those who were able to be there decided that we should meet each week on Wednesdays at 7:00pm. We will do things like watch documentaries and discuss them, have Bible Study, go on field trips and one time we will work in our Fair Trade Store. It will be a good July and August! Please spread the news. Thanks!

Public Forum

The Open Door Ministry of Missouri United Methodist Church, PFLAG, and Lutherans Concerned would like to invite you to a "Public Forum on Faith and Sexuality" on **Friday, July 10, at 7pm** at the **Christian Life Center** at the **Missouri United Methodist Church, 204 S. 9th Street**. The guest speaker will be David R. Weiss, Lutheran theologian, author and poet, who is a professor at The College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, MN. Dr. Weiss is the author of "To the Tune of a Welcoming God", lyrical reflections on sexuality, spirituality and the wideness of God's welcome. Everyone is encouraged to attend, and refreshments will follow the forum.



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Perhaps some of you knew or knew of Mae Yoho Ward whose son Don collected from her yearly journals a compilation of her daily Letters to God. Sought after as a speaker, Mae Ward served the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in various capacities for nearly sixty years.

She very personally tells of hopes and fears, of failing eyesight and health, the need to move away from her home, friends and familiar surroundings, concerns for herself and those about her. Here are valuable insights on coping with life's difficulties, a book useful to young and older that would offer new understanding with each reading.

The Visitor

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Return Service Requested

Serving Schedule - Sunday, July 12

Van Driver: TBA

Office Receptionist: Carol Slusher

Church School Greeter: Colleen Nilges

Flower Ministry:

Arranged by - Mary Kay Mueller and David Heise

Delivered by - David Ross and Charles Scott

Servers for 8:30 Worship Service

Worship Assistants: Larry and Millie Caringer, Betty Moon

Elder: Charlie Koelling

Servers for 10:30 Worship Service

Communion Preparation: Jay and Chris Creasy, Judith Creasy

Liturgist: Angie Allen-Hylen

Elders: Shirley Park, Dan Backues, Barb Rothenberger

Deacons: The Creasy Team

Greeter North Door: Donna Houston

Greeter South Door: Daryl and Lynn Klotz

Ushers: The Burnam Team

Banner Bearers: Kim Potthast and Ben Creasy

Candlelighters: Gavin Rose and Julia Bower

This Week (July 12 - July 18)

Sun. - Church Softball Game, 7:00 p.m., Yellow Field
at Rainbow Softball Center

Wed. - Disciple Kids Day Camp, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
- Men's Lunch, 11:30 a.m., Senior Center
- Master Planning Mtg., 5:30 p.m. Morris Parlor
- College Group, 7:00 p.m., Bethany Hall

