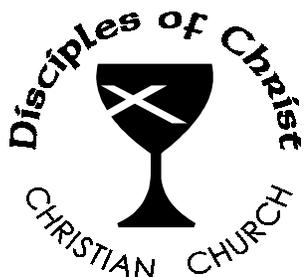


The Disciple Harbinger

March 14, 2001



To contact the pastor:

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Attendance

Mar 04 — 80

Mar 11 — 82

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Lenten Programs

Weekly Lenten Suppers and Programs

Once again, we will be joining with our friends at First Presbyterian Church for weekly Lenten observances.

We will have a light meal at 6:15 p.m. and then join together from 7:00-7:30 p.m. for a quiet time of reflection and prayer.

This year, Mr. Roy Lanham, director of the Newman Center at EIU, will be our guest leader for the services. Each brief service will include simple, contemplative singing, some instructional time, and an opportunity to practice prayer disciplines.

Lenten Services:
March 21-FPC
March 28-DOCCC
April 4-FPC



Moving On with Religious Enrichment

10:30 a.m. Sunday

The past two Sundays we viewed parts one and two of the Marcus Borg six part video series entitled *The Death and Resurrection of Jesus*. This stimulating and challenging series has prompted some interesting discussion. It's not too late (it never is) to join in the discussion.

The downside to the series is there is a homework assignment together with handouts. The good news is there is no test.

The lesson for Sunday March 18 is "Jesus is Lord". The scripture lesson for that video lesson is Genesis 45; Mark 8:27-31; and Mark 9:30-32; 10:32-34. Borg discusses the five different interpretations of Jesus' death and resurrection. Borg discusses the earliest interpretation of Jesus' death and resurrection in a pattern in which his death is the authorities' rejection of Jesus and his resurrection is God's vindication. Borg discusses Jesus as Lord and the domination system as not.

The lesson for Sunday March 25 is "Jesus is the Way". The scripture lesson for that session is: Galatians 2:20-21; Romans 6:1-23; Mark 8:27-10:45; John 14:6-11; Acts 4:1-12; Romans 10:1-20 and Ephesians 2:14-23. See, there really is homework! Borg suggests that being born again is a transformation of the heart from being centered in the self to being centered in God. The experience can be instantaneous or gradual.

Our church constitution proclaims our purpose "to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ in faithful response to God's will and purposes as revealed through Jesus Christ and in the world." May our worship and our study assist us in achieving this purpose.

—Dick Hayden

Important Board Meeting with Rev. Herb Knudsen—Congregation Invited

Our Regional Minister, Rev. Herb Knudsen will be speaking to our Board on Tuesday, March 27 at 7:00 p.m. Like all Board meetings, this one is open to the entire congregation. Rev. Knudsen will discuss change and transition, and that we do have control over transitions.

Rev. Knudsen is also publisher of *The Christian*, the Journal of the Christian

Church (Disciples of Christ in Illinois/Wisconsin). His recent article on the back page of the March/April 2001 edition of *The Christian* is quite timely relative to our congregation. If you do not receive *The Christian* you might check the bulletin board for his article "Called to be disciples of Christ".

Rev. Knudsen discusses the

five P's of transition: prayer, patience, preparation, privacy, and persistence. Knudsen describes "the transition time in between pastors as a 'critical moment' and as a 'prime time for renewal'.

All members of the congregation are encouraged to hear Herb's words of guidance and wisdom.

—Dick Hayden, moderator

In Our Library

National bestseller: Joshua and the Shepherd, by Joseph Girzone. 250 pages. A sophisticated consideration in plain language of a plan to revolutionize the church. Written as a novel. Other books by the same author also available. Please see the table at the back of the church.

Prayer List

Sofie Huffman, Dale Spence, Sheri Paul, Bobbie Nadler, Hayden Cole, Pete Love, Kip Kubisz, Mary Ellen Varble, Robert M. Wilson, Virginia Evans, Ada Elder, Jon Adams, Sheila Colbert, Lana Updegraff, Delno Hart, Jim Hollo-way and the Brown family.

Please, keep the pastor informed of pastoral care needs.

Signup deadline for the mission trip to Cozumel is March 25. Please see Becky immediately.

Are you wearing the wrong jacket?

I'm looking for a jacket that got switched with mine. It is a white jacket with blue trim. The one I have has a car key in the pocket with keyless entry. Please call Nancy Oakley at 345-6505. Thanks!

Sign up Now for General Assembly

July 13-17, 2001

"Gather at the Welcome Table"

Kansas City

A common gathering of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
and the United Church of Christ.

It's for you...

*stirring worship services *ideas and resources for your congregation *meet other Disciples

*events for youth and children *inspiration and renewal to take home

*a celebration of our ecumenical partnership

[www. disciples.org/GSA01/](http://www.disciples.org/GSA01/)

Asking the Hard Questions

By Andy Ball

One of the things I like about the MORE programme, is that we don't shy away from asking the big questions, including questions about the nature of God, that of Jesus, and questions about what it means to be Christian. These are probably important, and certainly natural questions to ask ourselves.

When we meet as a group to explore these questions, each one of us brings to the debate a different perspective and different set of experiences. Perhaps then, it should not surprise us when, on occasion, we arrive at different conclusions.

The act of meaningful discussion itself prompts a question: What is our response to people whose views differ from our own? Where the difference is slight, it is probably not terribly difficult to 'agree to differ'; but what about where the contrast is more marked?

At times it's easy to wonder how a person can possibly hold the views they have, or how they reconcile an apparent paradox. Perhaps we even wonder if a certain point of view can even be considered Christian! In James' letter

however, the Bible clearly warns us against trying to judge another's Christianity:

"Do not criticize one another, my brothers. Whoever criticizes a Christian brother or judges him, criticizes the Law and judges it. If you judge the Law, then you are no longer one who obeys the Law, but one who judges it. God is the only lawgiver and judge. He alone can save and destroy. Who do you think you are, to judge your fellow man?" (James 3:11-12)

When I first began learning about the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) denomination in 1998, I was struck by an emphasis on unity. One phrase that cropped up was "In essentials, unity; in nonessentials, liberty; in all things charity". Perhaps this stuck in my mind because it

made the important point that in order to work together, and actually get things done, we do not need to run down a checklist of common doctrine!

Closer to home, our own congregation aims to be "Growing in God's Love in a Spirit of Tolerance, Diversity and Inclusion". Whilst ethnic and cultural diversity is an important and desirable objective, perhaps it also means we should exhibit tolerance of diversity of *opinion*, and guard against failing to include people whose views differ from our own.

It is my own opinion that unity doesn't have to, and indeed shouldn't mean uniformity. Of course, your views may differ...

Our Guests in Worship

Mar 04— Christy Blew, Nicole Kyle, Brandi Howard & son, Mitch Goodwin, Gary & Becky Burnett, Jason Zhang

Mar 11—Christy Blew, Nicole Kyle, Brandi Howard & son, Mitch Goodwin, Gary & Becky Burnett

Please let all our guests know how glad we are that they have come.

Our Offerings

Mar 04

General Fund	\$ 3,789.00
Building Fund	827.00
Total	\$ 4,616.00

Mar 11

General Fund	\$ 1,434.00
Building Fund	678.00
Total	\$ 2,112.00

**A NEWSLETTER OF THE
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST CHRISTIAN
CHURCH**

13982 Old State Road
Charleston, IL 61920
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Rebecca Turner, Pastor and Editor

Join us every Sunday for Worship at 9:30 a.m.
And Sunday School for all ages at 10:45 a.m.

*Growing in God's Love in a Spirit of
Tolerance, Diversity, and Inclusion*

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
www.disciplesofchrist.org

From the Pastor

A Lenten thought from William Shakespeare...

The quality of mercy is not strain'd;
It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven
Upon the place beneath. It is twice bless'd;
It blesseth him that gives and him that takes:
'Tis mightiest in the mightiest: it becomes
The throned monarch better than his crown:
His sceptre shows the force of temporal power,
The attribute to awe and majesty,
Wherein doth sit the dread and fear of kings:
But mercy is above this sceptred sway,
It is enthroned in the hearts of kings,
It is an attribute to God himself,
And earthly power doth then show likest God's
When mercy seasons justice.

Blessings,
Becky