

The Disciple Harbinger

April 12, 2002



To reach the church:

Please call the church at 345-3003. If there is no answer please leave a message and we will return your call.

Attendance

95 March 31
43 April 7

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As I think back now, my Dad & the Music Man had something in common. It certainly was not music. Oh, my Dad could sing a rousing rendition of a hymn along with the rest of a congregation. However, I don't remember hearing him sing much outside the church. Whistle, he could whistle with the best of them. And when he whistled, it was usually one of the hymns. The Music Man, Professor Harold Hill. Not really a professor. We know that, the towns people did not know it. They thought he was real. He was after all, selling them on the idea of a town band for the sake of the children. He wanted to make money on the instruments & uniforms. That was his angle.

My Dad was a farm mechanic in southeast Iowa. He really knew what he was doing. Maintaining & repairing farming equipment. He would also work on the family car. We had a big old garage out-back. My Dad would spend a lot of time tinkering with the car. Then my brother & I bought a car, & it was time to learn proper care of a car, under the hood, in the best tradition. The Music Man, Professor Hill was tapping into the resources of the town by telling them they needed a band for the sake of the community. And thusly, he began to sell the instruments & uniforms. The problem was that they had no instruments to practice on, & he was being pushed into putting up or shut up.

My Dad took my brother & I out to the garage one day. We thought we might be in trouble. No. Dad wanted to start teaching us the mechanics of a car under the hood. It was a wonderful idea. He wanted to pass his knowledge on to us. To keep up the tradition. For you see, my grandfather was a blacksmith, & then my Dad, & it was that my Dad became a farm mechanic in time. A strange thing happened that day. Both my brother & I did not want to learn this tradition. It was not what we wanted & we told this to our Dad. My goodness, my Dad was a man of much wisdom. He did not force us into something we did not want to do. Instead, he told us to be good at what we chose to do, & gave us his blessings.

The Music Man gathered the children of the community to begin a new tradition. But no instruments. Thusly, he taught them the "Think Method". They began practice by making the noise of their instrument. Think the music. Think the song. Think it. Think. Think. Then in time, you can play the tune on your horn or tuba or drums.

The Music Man knew what he was doing. He was a pro. My Dad knew what he was doing. He was a pro. Both knew what was needed, & both acted. The Music Man pushed the children into action. My Dad let go of what he wanted for his sons. Both knew what they were doing.

We, in the church, need to learn when to press on, even using the "Think Method" if necessary. Just like the Music Man. Or we need to learn to let go, as my Dad did with my brother & I. We had other goals. These goals did not match that of our Dad. Then I learned that Dad was a man of great wisdom, letting go of his desire for us, to allow my brother & I to fulfill our dreams. (Go to page 2.)

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

13982 Old State Road
Charleston, IL 61920
217.345.3003
pastor@disciplesofchrist.org



Denny Pritchard, Interim Minister, 11-4-01
Dick Hayden, Moderator
Linda Thornton, Office Manager
Join us every Sunday for Worship at 9:30 a.m.
And Sunday School for all ages at 10:45 a.m.
Office hours are—Tuesday - Friday, 9-3

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MUSICAL CHAIRS

What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet. Shakespeare

When is a chair not a chair? The American Heritage dictionary says the number one definition of a chair is a piece of furniture consisting of a seat, legs, back and often arms, designed to accommodate one person. But it can also be a seat carried on poles: a sedan chair, or even a slang term for the electric chair as well as four other definitions. The word pew has only one definition: a bench for the congregation in a church.

Probably most of us grew up in churches that had pews and only in the latter years have these churches begun to use chairs. What is the advantage of chairs over pews? Chairs offer both comfort and flexibility of motion and placement.

By moving chairs around for special occasions a worship service can be greatly enhanced. There is more freedom to decorate appropriately with flowers and symbols. More closeness is created between the pastor or worship leader and the congregation and the members of the congregation can enjoy eye contact and easier familiarity with each other. And as in our Disciple heritage the communion table can become the significant focal point.

Of course, whenever the chairs are changed into a new pattern there is initial difficulty with lighting, with the Elders and Deacons learning new styles of service and other difficulties of adaptation. But our chairs are both comfortable and flexible and we, too, as a congregation can be both comfortable and flexible.

We are a new congregation and we need to try new ways of worship as we reach out to new people. In the coming months we might move the chairs into a more linear fashion for a time or perhaps into a half-circle pattern depending on the needs of the service.

We are blessed with a creative and energetic pastor and in working with the Worship Committee, we hope to have meaningful and reverent services that bind us together in common purpose to seek the oneness of the body of Christ and in all ways to seek to make known the love of God.

A chair accommodates but one person but "where two or three (persons) are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them", no matter how the chairs are arranged.

"Will the circle be unbroken by and by Lord, by and by?" We hold hands in a circle at the end of each worship service - Blest be the tie that binds. Would a rose by any other name BE as sweet?!

Carolyn Hayden
Worship Committee Chair