

# The Disciple Harbinger

May 10, 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

58 April 28

64 May 5

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## WHERE IS EVERYONE?

"We are a small congregation this morning. Too many mornings! Still, rather than regretting the absence of our neighbors, let us rejoice in the fellowship of those present."

I don't know about you, but these words scare me & bother me. These words are from the movie "Sister Act". The priest of the congregation uses these words at the beginning of worship in a Catholic Church. These are important words for any congregation to address, let alone this congregation as it continues to journey through it's intentional interim ministry time.

Do these words apply to the Disciples of Christ Christian Church? Yes, at times these words apply to us. Sometimes we look like a small congregation. Sometimes we act like a small congregation. Yes, too many mornings. I think that we can sense this attitude as we worship & work together.

The priest asks these questions. So where is faith? So where is celebration? Well, I know that we have faith. And we sure like to celebrate. I know this from my personal experiences with you as we worship & work together. However, perhaps we can do much more than just to say that something has gone terribly wrong. Some individuals, in these kinds of situations choose to run & hide, than face the problems. For it is easy to hide. Hiding behind our traditions. Hiding behind our prayers. Hiding behind our lack of providing opportunities for Christian Education & hands-on mission

work. Hiding behind walls. Hiding behind fences, both seen & unseen.

Back to the words from Sister Act. It truly bothers me what the priest went on to say. "Still, rather than regretting the absence of our neighbor, let us rejoice in the fellowship of those present." What bothers me is the words "rather than regretting". May I suggest that both actions can take place at the same time? Most certainly, we want to celebrate in fellowship. That is a part of who we are. And we must regret the absence of our neighbors.

Sister Mary Clarence, a showgirl that is hiding as a sister in this same church, catches this vision. She & the other sisters open this congregation to the neighborhood. They use bolt cutters to cut open the chain link fence & carry off the gates. And they begin to realize their mission to the neighborhood. Not behind closed doors in a committee meeting. Not just voting "yes" in a Board meeting. What they do is cut down the fence the church was hiding behind for protection. Then they go out into the neighborhood to work & worship shoulder to shoulder in the spirit of Christ working in & through them by the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

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**WHERE IS EVERYONE? Cont.**

As a part of the interim process, I would like to suggest the following. Pentecost Sunday is coming on May 19th. I would like to celebrate what our future can be if we cut down the fences & carry off the gates. To help us, I would like to invite all members to come join me Sunday, May 19 to watch the movie "Sister Act" as to what happens to a congregation that opens itself up to the rest of the world. We would begin at 5 p.m. & share in a light meal. I would like to share this excitement with this congregation.

*Denny Pritchard*  
Intentional Interim Pastor

**SBLHC BIKE STOP**  
**June 2, 2002 1-3 pm**

Do you want a chance to wear that new Disciple T-Shirt or that beloved Disciple bike shirt? Here's your chance! We've been asked again to be the refresh-

ment & bathroom break for the SBLHC Cancer Survivor's Celebration Bike-a-thon.

This year the hospital will supply everything including a tent they will put up in front of the church. We supply the friendly greeters, arm wavers, direction givers & refreshment servers (all in our beautiful shirts, of course!). Those who cheered the riders on last year enjoyed bringing their lawn chairs & visiting as well.

The 28 mile ride begins at 1 pm & the 9 mile ride begins at 2 pm. We will need people at the church from 1 pm until the last rider (probably Carolyn) comes through (3 pm or so?).

See Carolyn if you would like to donate your time, or money to sponsor a rider or to be a rider yourself! There will be information on the back bulletin board as well.

*Carolyn Hayden*  
Worship Committee Chair

**UPCOMING WORSHIP & CHOIR EVENTS TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR AND JOIN IN!**

May 12 MOTHER'S DAY  
Men's Spiritual "RIDE THE CHARIOT"

May 26 MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND  
Irving Berlin's "GOD BLESS AMERICA" Rehearsals will be 6:00 pm Tuesdays, May 14 and May 21.

June 23 CHILDREN'S SUNDAY  
"NOAH AND THE ARKETTIES" a large cast rap play (with instruments) for children of all ages. Rehearsals times and article coming soon.

**Please note that the Wednesday night light suppers & studies will continue through Spring.**



***Board Members, please be sure to check your mailboxes!***

**FROM ANNIE & FAMILY**

"Blessed be the tie that bind." Our family deeply appreciated the circle of love, which enfolded us by our church family. We needed the quiet & peace received through the delicious dinner, prepared by the ladies of the Congregational Life Committee. The fellowship of Christian love was not only expressed, but also felt. Thank you. Annie Nickles & Family.

**SPIRIT SEEKERS SUNDAY  
SCHOOL CLASS**

Beginning Sunday, May 12, at 8:30 am, Bill Mineo will be teaching the new adult class. He will be teaching from "Prepare the Way", a vital ministry to equip all ages in becoming part of the faith community of Disciples of Christ.

**OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY**

**Our Christian sympathy & prayers go out to the family of John Bailey & to Becky Dennis at their loss.**

**Prayer Concerns**

Sophie Huffman, Dale Spence, Hayden Cole, Kip Kubisz, Robert M. Wilson, Virginia Evans, Dorothy Teaters, Ada Elder, Jon Adams, Fred Moler, Pat Cole, Sharon Mathews, Wanda Fouts, Danny Pritchard, Florus & Bobbi Nadler, Jim Holloway, Leland Hall, Elbert Chron, Gene Miller, Annie Nickles.

Please notify Ferne McHenry to add or remove a name from the list.

## NOAH & THE ARKETTES Children's Sunday, June 23, 2002

The Disciples Dramateers are raring to go again! By popular demand we have chosen a script that can include everybody! It is a large-cast rap play for children of all ages. The premise of the plot, other than saving all of God's creatures, is that those on the Ark became the first choir in celebration of God's promise, & creation.

This play requires no talent, little (if any) memorization, just lots of enthusiasm! We need pretend animals to stomp, snort, honk, bray, stamp, clap, snap & make joyful noise unto the Lord. This rap-a-long is for all. Families can sign up together!

The signup is on the easel at church or tell Carolyn. We will go over the script right after church Sunday, May 19th. Plans are to rehearse on Sundays right after church as needed.

This play is advertised as short, about 15 minutes, & E-A-S-Y. Costuming & staging will be minimal but fun. Tarry has already signed up as God & Molly as a Wild Dog. So get on board the Ark!

### EXCITING OUTREACH

There are more exciting projects in plans for Outreach for the mission trip coming up in August.

June 7 & 8 Rummage Sale

July 4 Booth at 4th Celebration

August Booth at Coles County Fair & Car Wash

### BIBLE FUNNIES BY KIDS

From Pat Shannon

A 10 year old, under the tutelage of his grandma, was becoming quite knowledgeable about the Bible. Then one day, she floored her grandma by asking, "Which virgin was the mother of Jesus? The virgin

Mary or the King James Virgin?"

A little boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object & looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages. "Mama, look what I found" the boy called out. "What have you got there, dear?" With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered, "I think it's Adam's underwear!"

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday—Friday  
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

**The CWF will meet at the church on May 16 at 7:00 p.m.**

## OUR WORSHIP GUESTS

*There is a way to fill this space with names. Invite someone to church! Also, when you look around on Sunday and you haven't seen certain people in church for awhile, then pray that you will look up next week and they will be there. Invite someone new to come to church, and pray for those who you would like to see in church. Seriously, do this!*

## Scheduled to Serve In May

Communion: Doug Bacon, Fraun Lewis, Joe McGee, Jeanette Wilson

Preparation & Cleanup: Cindy Maples, Laurie Olson

Greeters & Candlelighters: Norma Mineo, Jeanette Shannon

Elders:

May 19 Vicki Trueblood, Tarry James

May 26 Jan Hall, Stan Huffman

**HARBINGER DEADLINE:**  
Please submit articles for the next Harbinger on or before May 22, 2002 to the church office.

## Board Meeting

The next regular church board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday June 12 at 7:00 p.m. at the church. All are invited to attend.

## Birthdays

May 17 Audrey Ingram  
May 17 Alissa Brankey  
May 22 Laura Thomas  
May 27 Steve Shirley  
May 29 Judy Hunt Milam

## Anniversaries

May 25 Bill & Barbara Warmoth

## Shut-in Schedule

June 2 Paul Slifer & Patty Maples

## Worship Leaders

May 19 Bill Mineo  
May 26 Bonnie Moore

**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 8:30 a.m.  
Office hours are—Tuesday - Friday, 9-3

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

We're on the Web!  
[www.disciplesofchrist.org](http://www.disciplesofchrist.org)

## **SHOWERS OF BLESSINGS**

Showers, right now that is almost a dirty word with all the rain that we have received of late. Rain that has brought some awful flood waters in this area. These showers started with just a few drops, but those few drops turned into heavy flooding rains. I know what you are thinking. Blessings do not go with the showers we have been having. It is hard sometimes to see the blessings in times of great upheavals in our lives. They are always there. We may not realize what they are till much later, but they are there.

In Ezekiel 34:26 he's talking about "showers of blessings". Of course, the showers in this verse are talking about showers of blessings from the Lord to us. If you think about all the rain drops that it has taken to bring us the flood waters that we have been experiencing, it still could not compare with the blessings we receive daily from the Lord. Too often we tend to overlook the blessings that He has given us. The simple little things that we take for granted, as clear fresh water coming out of the tap, warm clean sheets to sleep on, or awakening to a new day. We are so blessed with these things, that we forget to give the glory & thanks to the One who gave them to us.

Even through our sufferings & loss of loved ones, there are blessings to find. They strengthen us, & help us to grow in our faith, & love to others. God does not bring the sufferings on us, but we are blessed in knowing that through these sufferings, we are being carried all the way by the Father in Heaven. And to always remember that He will get us through all the way to the end of those sufferings.

Look for the "Showers of Blessings" today in your life, then give thanks to the One who gave them to you. My prayer is that He will flood you with these blessings each & every day. LET THE BLESSINGS FLOW.

*Linda Kay Thornton*