

The Disciple Harbinger

November 27, 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

63 November 10

51 November 17

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"BEHOLD, THE STAR"



According to Scripture, only the magi, scholars of astronomy, recognized the conjunction of stars and planets as a sign of a royal birth. They traveled westward, stopping in Jerusalem to ask, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?" (Matthew 2: 2) No one had seen the star. Not surprisingly Herod was concerned, so he consulted the chief priests and scribes. They knew of the prophecy recorded in the book of Micah and directed the magi to Bethlehem. Christ later spoke of Jerusalem, "They will crush you to the ground you and your children within you, and they will not leave within you one stone upon another; because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God." (Luke 19: 44)

On 9/11/01, our nation changed. We changed. We need assurance that terrorists won't strike again. We target people because of how they look or practice their faith. We live in a state of high anxiety, some finding comfort in religion, others turning to drugs. We await the return of a state of normalcy but the meaning of the work is changing. Where are we headed? What does the future hold? The answers aren't written in the skies, but the stars are pointers to the truth. "The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims His handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech and night to night declares knowledge." (Psalm 19: 1-2) This Advent let us accompany the magi to Bethlehem.

Our journey begins in darkness. The path is long and winding. Somewhere, we miss a turn. Anxious to be on our way, we seek guidance. We look for answers to questions that the world cannot answer. To whom do we turn?

At last, we greet our Lord. But the brilliance of the Light momentarily blinds us, and again we find ourselves in darkness. Have we made no progress? It is here we learn to walk by faith, not by sight. Christian hope is the theme.

Having basked in the light of the Bright and Morning Star, and joined the angelic choir in singing, "Christ is born, Christ is risen, Christ will come again," we must move on. When Christ returns, He will judge His people. The theme is commitment.

Taken from the Introduction in the "Partners in Prayer, Advent 2002"

Written by Jessica Cannon

ADVENT SEASON EVENTS

December 1:

1st Sunday of Advent—Hanging of the Greens—during Worship.

December 8:

2nd Sunday of Advent—Peace Sunday—Intergenerational Advent/Christmas hosted by the Spirit Seekers Adult Class—at 5:00 p.m. Whole family invited to attend. Light meal will be served.

December 15:

3rd Sunday of Advent—Children's Christmas Program—during Worship.

December 22:

4th Sunday of Advent—Service of Gifts—during Worship.

December 24:

Christmas Eve Service—at 11:00 p.m.

PARTNERS IN PRAYER

The new Partners in Prayer Devotional booklets for the 2002 Advent Season, may be found on the back table in the Sanctuary. This is a perfect way to lead up to Christmas, with daily prayer and reading of God's Word. What better way is there to prepare for the blessed celebration of the birth of our Savior, than quiet time spent each day with Him.



WHAT A SAVIOR!!!

POINSETTIAS

The time is here that we must be thinking about the Christmas Poinsettias. Please let Linda know in the office if you wish to purchase a poinsettia in memory of or in honor of a loved one/ones for the Christmas Season, they have already been ordered. The cost per poinsettia will be \$7. Please fill out and return the enclosed sheet to the office. Or sign up on the sheet provided at the back of the Church.

Remember the true reason for the season before us is the celebration of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.



Board Members, please be sure to check your mailboxes!

SOUP STOP

From Carleton E. Curran, Food Handler from Soup Stop: I want to take this opportunity to thank the members of your congregation for the generous donations of both food and time to the continued operation of Soup Stop. I do want to emphasize the great importance that Soup Stop places upon the contributions of both time, and treasure the people of your Church that enable the continued operation of Soup Stop. Thank you very, very much.

The things that they most need right now are paper towels, individual bottles of water, individually wrapped snack items, (as potato chips, granola bars, etc.).

Even though we had hoped to change the times to go to the Soup Stop from Tuesdays to Thursdays, at this time Tuesdays are the days that are most needed. For December the Tuesdays that Disciples Of Christ Christian Church members will be going to help will be on the 10th and 24th, at 10:30 a.m. This is a time for all who are able, may come to share their time to help others.

DYNAMIC LIVING

Dynamic Living will take place as usual on Tuesday, December 10th at 10:00 a.m. at the Church, but on Tuesday, December 24th there will not be a Dynamic Living, due to it being Christmas Eve.

“Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name. For the Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations.”
Psalm 100: 4-5 NIV

Prayer Concerns

Dale Spence, Hayden Cole, Kip Kubisz, Robert M. Wilson, Virginia Evans, Dorothy Teaters, Ada Elder, Jon Adams, Fred Moler, Sharon Mathews, Wanda Fouts, Florus & Bobbi Nadler, Jim Holloway, Elbert Chron, Toni Cole, Jean Doty, Heather McCullough, Patty Maples, Leland Hall.

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

SUNDAY CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHOOL

The new Children's Church School Class has begun. The class is taking place during the Worship Service time, at 9:30 a.m. Our thanks to the teachers who have chosen to give of themselves to teach. A list of the teachers are on the board at the back of the Church.

D.M.M.

On Wednesday, December 4th, at 7:00 p.m., Lisa Madlem will be here to speak about SBLHC's Life-line program.

Be sure and check out all the information that has been received from the United Way of Coles County organizations, that have come to share with us, found on the side table in the Sanctuary. See what can be done to help our community.

THANK YOU LORD

Thank you Lord,
for clean tap water that flows.
As do mountain streams,
water so clear, it glows.

Thank you Lord,
for our air so refreshing.
As the Lord restores souls,
refreshes our very being.

Thank you Lord,
for blessings as showers.
As rain from clouds,
bring beautiful flowers.

Thank you Lord,
for the love that you give.
As thru Your Son,
eternal we will live.

*Linda Kay Thornton
(Written July 19, 2002)*

Let's give the Lord our thanks for even the smallest of blessings this Thanksgiving Day, as we should do every day.

CWF CHRISTMAS BASKETS

The CWF will be preparing their Christmas Baskets on Friday, December 6th at 6:00 p.m., at Vicki Trueblood's house.

LETTERS TO GOD

Dear God,
Please put another holiday between Christmas and Easter. There is nothing good in there now. Ginny

Dear God,
Thank you for the baby brother but what I asked for was a puppy. I never asked for anything before. You can look it up. Joyce

The CWF will meet at the Church on December 19th at 7:00 p.m. All women are welcome to join.

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 December

Communion: Kyle Bess, Mike Bess, Jeanette Shannon, Bob Wilson
Preparation & Cleanup: Ferne McHenry, Nancy Oakley
Greeters & Candlelighters: Diana Allen, Audra Roach

Elders:

Dec. 1 Vicki Trueblood, Tarry James
Dec. 8 Verlon Myers, Stan Huffman
Dec. 15 Lloyd Koontz, Pat Marsh
Dec. 22 Patty Maples, Tarry James
Dec. 29 Vicki Trueblood, Paul Slifer

HARBINGER DEADLINE:
Please submit articles for the next Harbinger on or before Tuesday, December 17, 2002 to the church office.

Shut-in Schedule

December 1 Patty Maples, & Jan Hall

Board Meeting

The next regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 11th at 7:00 p.m. at the Church. All are invited to attend.

Birthdays

December 14 Brett Thomas
December 16 Katherine Bugle
December 16 Carolyn Hayden
December 19 Ashley Slifer
December 28 Mary Greenlaw
December 29 Becky Miller

Anniversaries

December 17 Bill & Laurie Olson
December 21 Bill & Cindy Temple
December 27 Denny & JoAnne Pritchard

Worship Leaders

**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

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

We're on the Web!
www.disciplesofchrist.org

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