

A Newsletter from the  
Old State Road Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Of Charleston, Illinois  
February 26, 2009

# The Disciple Harbinger



## FROM PASTOR PHIL

**Let these words of the Apostle Paul continue to fill our heart and build the church we love.** *"(11) Therefore, encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing. (12) But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labor among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; (13) esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. (14) And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the faint hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. (15) See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. (16) Rejoice always, (17) pray without ceasing, (18) give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (19) Do not quench the Spirit. (20) Do not despise the words of prophets, (21) but test everything; hold fast to what is good; (22) abstain from every form of evil."* (I Thessalonians 5: 11-22 NRSV)

Agape,  
Phil

## FROM STUDENT PASTOR ALLISSA WILLIAMS

**Dear Old State Road Family and Friends,**

***I will sing unto the LORD for he has been so good to me!*** (Psalm 13:6, NLT).

In the previous Harbinger, I discussed some of my own thoughts about the presence of worship in our lives. Certain elements of worship are important to each of us in different ways. Because it is essential for me, my focus will be on the importance that music plays in our worship experiences. Someone has written that a good goal in planning worship is to have music comprising about 35-40% of the service. I think we are right on target at Old State Road in that regard.

Anyone who knows me also knows that I love to sing! Singing brings joy into my soul and there are many hymns that I know by heart. I come from a singing family and have always loved hymns and singing them. Indeed, when I was very young, on days when the rain was falling and friends to play with were hard to find, I would sit for hours with our church's hymnal and sing through every song I knew. Those hours of singing and digesting the words and rich theology conveyed therein, have had a tremendous impact on the formation of my life in the Christian faith.

It has been said, "The one who sings prays twice." Certainly there is some truth to that. But another wonderful attribute of music is that it increases the effectiveness of memory. So, it has occurred to me that I have learned the doctrine and precepts of the Christian faith and have had them embedded in my memory primarily through song. Perhaps you are like me and can recall the with clarity the songs you learned as a child in Sunday School: *Jesus Loves Me; Into My Heart; Jesus Loves the Little Children; This Little Light of Mine*, etc. Why don't you stop right now, wherever you are and sing a couple of lines? Indeed, the simplest of the songs and hymns that are a part of who we are entail the profound thought about God, creation, salvation, commitment, and the list goes on and on.

Some time ago, I was reminded once again by the *Peanuts* comic strip that there is more to Christianity than sentimentality. In the cartoon, Charlie Brown says to Linus: "My grandfather loves to sing hymns. He remembers the words to over 100." So Linus asked, "Does he sing in the choir?" Charlie Brown replies, "No, he can't remember where the church is!"

Music teaches and trains, and it does so with a power that speaks not only to the mind, but also to the heart. That's why those songs of childhood remain with us throughout our lives. You see, we're not only what we eat. We're also what we sing! And, we ought to always be adding to the storehouse of good music that conforms and transforms us.

Finally, permit me to remind you that when one sings in an attitude of worship, whether it be a classic hymn, one of the newer songs, or an original utterance of praise, it should be done as an offering to God. In fact, all of worship is about an offering, about giving. Keep on singing friends!

***I will sing unto the LORD for he has been so good to me!***

Blessings,  
Pastor Allissa

**BIKE RIDE AND SAFETY**

Will be held on Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> with Ed Thomas of Bike & Hike. More information to follow.

**GOOD FRIDAY PLAY**

The Apostolic Center in Mattoon will be presenting a lively presentation of the story of Easter in April. We would like to take a group from our church on the evening of Good Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. Please keep that date open for a family night of fun with your fellow church family. More information to come. . .

**POCKET MONEY MISSION**

January – February were collected for Lincolnland Hospice of SBLHC and netted a total of \$ 23.38. March – April will be collected for Crisis Pregnancy Center for Eastern Illinois.

**ELDER BREAKFAST**

Will be on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, at 8:30 a.m. for breakfast and 9:00 a.m. for the new study.

**MINISTERING WITH AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE AND ENCOURAGEMENT**

There were **21** notes written and mailed in February, **a ministry of love.**

**FOOD PANTRY AND SOUP STOP OUTREACH DAYS**

Please bring to the church on Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> **sandwich bags**, and/or **paper towels for Soup Stop**; and/or **money is most needed** and/or **mashed potato mix** and/or **canned vegetables for Food Pantry.**

**BOARD OF ELDERS MEETING (OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS)**

The next Board of Elders meeting will be held on **Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30 p.m. Please have all reports into the office for the booklet **no later than Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>.**

**MEN'S LUNCHEON & SCRIPTURE STUDY**

Will be on Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, but please check bulletins & with Phil for information concerning luncheon.

**NEXT HARBINGER**

The next Harbinger will be mailed on **Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>.** Please have all items into the office no later than **Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>.** Thank you.

**SHUT-IN COMMUNION MINISTRY**

If you or someone you know would like to receive communion on **Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>,** please call the church office at **345-3003.** If no one answers, please leave a message on the voice mail that you would like to receive communion on this Sunday. It is always done the first Sunday of each month.

**PRAYER LIST**

**Those to lift up in prayer:** Jon Adams, Doris Lloyd, Diane Wright, Sara Henry, Margaret Cresch, Connor McManus (a baby in South Carolina), Robert Connour, Chris Merrell, Roy O'Hearn, Kay Etnire, Rob Spence, Chuck & June Davidson, Sharon Thomas, Evan Delude (Iraq), Marilyn Walk, Gina Giberson, Carl Maples, Sharon Holderfield, Search & Call Committee, Karen Brading, Ron Brown, Louise Ernst & family, Shirley & John Melton, Bob Taylor, Brad Cothren, Nathan Maroon, Florence (Sammee) Giffin. If you know of someone who needs to be added to or removed from this list, please contact **Nancy Oakley or Kathleen Beck.** We are all called to pray, whether we know this person, who they are or what the need is for them, God knows.

**CHURCH'S VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS**

*SG-C Serving and Growing through Christ*

**PLEASE ALL CHAIRPERSONS, CHECK YOU BOXES REGULARLY!!!**

**FIRST TIME VISITORS FEBRUARY 2008**

No first time visitors

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

Choir – Thursday – 6:00 p.m.  
Children's Church School Class–Sun.–9:30 a.m.  
Worship – Sunday – 9:30 a.m.

**CONTINUING CHURCH OUTREACH**

Soup Stop to help every Thursday from 10:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. – 2 or 3 are needed – if like to help. please call the church office.

Brownies led by Kathy Zuniga meets twice monthly, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays.

**SERVING THE LORD FOR MARCH 2009**

**WORSHIP LEADERS**

March 1           Kathy Zuniga  
March 8           Patty Maples  
March 15          Kelly Bacon

**ELDERS**

Lloyd Koontz, Stan Huffman  
Trish Briggerman, Patty Maples  
Kelly Bacon, Doug Bacon

March 22	Mike Strader	Julie McGowan, Kaye Woodward
March 29	Gayle Strader	Gayle Strader, Mike Strader

**DIACONATE FOR MARCH 2009**

**SERVE**

Velma Spence  
 Kevin James  
 Jim Wells  
 Nancy Oakley – Maggie

**PREPARE**

Kevin James  
 Nancy Oakley  
 Maggie Huffman  
 Huffman – 15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>

**GREETERS & ACOLYTES**

Velma Spence  
 Jim Wells  
 Eva Bacon, Kristyn Haworth,  
 Madison Endsley, Emily Zuniga

**ELDER SHUT-IN MARCH 1, 2009**

Lloyd Koontz, Stan Huffman

**MARCH 2009 BIRTHDAYS**

March 2	Kathy Bess
March 5	Eva Bacon
March 8	Ray Allen
March 10	Diane Allen
March 13	Jon Collins
March 16	Marla Belden
March 22	Maggie Huffman
March 25	Tarry James
March 25	Agnes Hunt
March 30	Velma Spence

**BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY UPDATES**

**If your birthday or anniversary dates are not mentioned & you attend regularly, please let the office know.**

**MARCH 2009 ANNIVERSARYS**

March 1	Mike & Kathy Bess
March 15	Brad & Robin Gabel
March 16	Wayne & Agnes Hunt

**COFFEE/JUICE FELLOWSHIP SERVERS FOR MARCH**

Vicki Trueblood, Kaye Woodward & Jim Wells



A NEWSLETTER OF THE  
 OLD STATE ROAD CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
 (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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Rev. Philip Nevius, Pastor  
 Allissa Williams, Student Pastor  
 Lloyd Koontz, Facilitator  
 Linda Thornton, Office Manager

**Join us every Sunday for Worship at 9:30 a.m.**  
 Children's Church School during Worship 9:30 a.m.  
 Office hours are – Tuesday – Friday, 9-3  
*Growing in God's Love in a Spirit of  
 Tolerance, Diversity, and Inclusion*