

The Disciple Harbinger



Pastor Sharon's Note

Advent is a season in which we find ourselves living in tension with the world as well as in tension with Christianity. The world is preparing for a time of great celebration and merriment. Many overspend trying to please loved ones. Some party too seriously and eat too much. All of us want to spend the time with family and friends and feel bad if we can't.

The tension within the world of Christianity comes as a result of living between preparation for the coming of Christ the first time, at the birth of Jesus, and the second coming of Christ. In the time of preparation for the first coming, we bring hopes and expectations for his first coming that may not have been met in previous celebrations of His coming. This is the time of Christ's "already" presence in the creation in which we live. Christ is here today and everyday. Yet, many are disappointed with Christmas' past. Many say, "Bah, humbug."

However, we also have expectations for the second coming. Advent is the time when we think about the "not yet", of the end of time. What do we expect when Christ returns at some point in time that only God knows? What do we hope will be present at the time when Christ finally returns? Do we expect peace? Abundance? Will He be a man? Or a woman? What if He is to come again as a woman of color from Chicago?

Advent begins a new liturgical season in the church. At the beginning of the new year, we make plans for the birth of the Christ-child immediately after we ended the old year, with a celebration of His kingship. The name Advent means coming. Advent is a period of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus yet again. Simultaneously, we wait for the time when He will come again.

Advent is a time of giving thanks to God for the gift of Jesus Christ as an infant. It is also a time which allows us to give thought to His second coming, whenever that might be. Advent hymns remind us of the preparations we make in anticipation of His birth that we celebrate later in December. And they remind us of that later time when Christ will again return.

Advent is celebrated with “Hanging of the Greens” services, the lighting of Advent candles, meditations to help us prepare for the birth again, and Christmas caroling. Even the giving of gifts to those we love is a part of the preparation.

May this season of Advent meet your every expectation, and may your hope be renewed as you again prepare for the birth of the Christ-child.

In Christ, *Pastor Sharon*

THANK YOU!!!

Thank you so much to the congregation for the inscribed Family Bible as a generous wedding gift. We will get much use out of it in the years to come. Thanks again for thinking of us at this special time in our lives. In Christian love, Mitch & Melissa Goodwin.

GINGERBREAD CHURCH BUILDING CONTEST

Have you signed up yet? Don't worry, you are still welcome. It will begin at 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 5th, with two member teams participating in building gingerbread churches, and **all ages** are encouraged to participate. Bring small boxes for the structure of your church. Graham crackers, frosting, and candy bits will be provided. Then at 4:00 – 5:00 p.m., judging will take place, as well as clean up. At 5:00 – 6:00 p.m., there will be pizza and pop. At 6:00 p.m., we will go caroling in our community. If you don't wish to build a church, please come, and share fellowship and fun, with great joy.

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE – SERVICE KITS VIDEO

Sunday, December 6th there will be a video shown concerning CWS Service Kits to prepare for those in need for Christmas. The kits will consist of:

School Kit will need:

One pair of blunt scissors (rounded tip)
Three 70-count spiral or tape-bound pads
8” x 10 ½“ ruled paper or pads with
200-210 sheets of ruled paper. (No
loose paper or filler paper)
One 30-centimeter ruler (12”)
One hand-held pencil sharpener
One large eraser
Six new pencils with erasers
One box of 24 crayons (only 24)
One 12” x14” to 14” x 16” finished size cotton
cloth bag with cloth handles
Pack all items inside the cloth bags. Pattern
for the bags are available.

Value: \$ 13

Processing/Shipping Cost: \$ 2 per Kit

Hygiene Kit will need:

One hand towel measuring approx.
16” x 28” (no fingertip or bath
towels)
One washcloth
One wide-tooth comb
One nail clipper (no metal files or
emery boards)
One bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
One toothbrush (in original packaging)
Six Band-aids

**Please do not add toothpaste to the
Hygiene Kit.**

Toothpaste that
has an extended expiration date
will be added to Hygiene Kit
shipments prior to shipment.
Seal all items in a one-gallon
plastic bag with a zipper closure.

Value: \$ 11

Processing/Shipping Cost: \$ 2 per Kit

Baby Kit will need:

- Six cloth diapers
 - Two T-shirts or undershirts (no onesies)
 - Two washcloths
 - Two gowns or sleepers
 - Two diaper pins
 - One sweater or sweatshirt
 - Two receiving blankets (one can be a hand-knitted or crocheted baby blanket)
- All items should be new. Wrap inside one of the receiving blankets and secure with both diaper pins. Patterns are available for many of the Baby Kit components.

Value: \$ 39

Processing/Shipping Cost: \$ 2 per Kit

Emergency Clean-up Bucket will need:

- One five-gallon bucket with resealable lid
 - Five scouring pads
 - Seven sponges, assorted sizes
 - One scrub brush
 - Eighteen cleaning towels (reusable, like Easy Wipes)
 - One 50-78 oz. box dry laundry detergent
 - One 12 oz. bottle of liquid concentrated household cleaner (like Lysol)
 - One 25 oz. bottle liquid disinfectant dish soap (like Dawn)
 - Fifty clothespins
 - Clothesline, two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.
 - Five dust masks
 - Two pairs latex gloves (like Playtex)
 - One pair work gloves
 - 24-bag roll of heavy-duty trash bags (33-45 gallon)
 - One 6-14 oz. bottle of insect repellent (drops or lotion, not aerosol)
- Please purchase all liquids in plastic bottles. Be sure to send only new, unopened materials. Put all items in the plastic bucket, making sure they are packed securely to avoid damage during shipment, and seal lid with packing tape. Place each Bucket in a separate box.

Value: \$ 50

Processing/Shipping Cost: \$ 3 per Bucket

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

- December 6, 2009 – Second Sunday of Advent – Peace
- December 13, 2009 – Third Sunday of Advent – Joy
- December 20, 2009 – Fourth Sunday of Advent – Love
- December 24, 2009 – Lighting of the Christ Candle

- Kathy, Bob & Emily Zuniga
- Gayle & Mike Strader
- Lloyd Koontz
- Doug, Kelly, Garrett & Eva Bacon

CHOIR CHANGES

Choir will meet to practice on Friday, December 11th & 18th at 10:00 a.m. at the church, instead of Thursday on those weeks.

GUEST HARPIST

Hannah Drake will be here on Saturday, December 12th at 7:00 p.m. to share her amazing gift of the Harp. This will be a date you will not want to miss, as the music from the harp is sweet and beautiful.

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL OFFERING

Will be collected Sunday, December 13th & 20th. The offering is a way to support the Region's Ministry to enlist Disciples as members of a movement for wholeness. Luke 2: 15b

CHOIR CONTATA

Will be Sunday, December 20th during the regular worship time, a time to prepare for the coming King through praise and song, and a time to support your choir and all their efforts to prepare.

CANDELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Will be held at 11:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 24, 2009. If you would like to attend but do not want to drive at night, there is a sign-up sheet on the back table of the sanctuary, or call the church office.

VESPERS PRAYER SERVICE

Continues each Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. There have been a total of **62** in attendance since the first Wednesday of October. Prayer is the strength of a church. **There will be no Vespers Prayer on Wednesday, December 23, 2009, due to Christmas Eve the next day.** Pastor Sharon

AS HEARD AROUND THE OLD STATE ROAD CHRISTIAN CHURCH

This week's quote came from **Mike Chron**, "**Can't sleep? Don't count sheep, talk to the Shepherd.**" If you would like to submit a quote, please let Pastor Sharon or Linda in the office know and it will be printed. **We would love to hear your quotes!**

POCKET CHANGE MISSION

For November – December 2009 will be for **Coalition for People in Need.**

NOTES OF APPRECIATION – A WONDERFUL BLESSING TO THE RECEIVER

There were **29** notes written and mailed in **November's ministry of love.**

FOOD PANTRY AND SOUP STOP OUTREACH

Will be collected Sunday, December 6th & 13th. For **Soup Stop** will be **paper towels** and/or **brown paper bags**; and/or for **Charleston Food Pantry** will be **money most needed** and/or **diapers, all sizes** and/or **shampoo**.

BOARD OF ELDERS MEETING (OPEN TO ALL)

The next Board of Elders Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, December 9, 2009** at 6:30 p.m. Please have **all reports** into the office **no later than Tuesday, December 8, 2009**. Thank you.

NEXT HARBINGER

The next Harbinger will be **emailed/mailed** by **Thursday, December 31, 2009**. Please have all **items** into the office **no later than Tuesday, December 29, 2009**. Thank you.

SHUT-IN COMMUNION MINISTRY

If you or someone you know will not be able to be in church and would like to receive communion on **Sunday, December 6, 2009**, please call the church office at **345-3003**. If no answer, 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.

VISITATION REMINDER

Please, please call the church office when you or a loved one is admitted to the hospital. Because of confidentiality laws we are no longer automatically notified. Also, call when you or a loved one would like a visit from the pastor or an elder. We want to be helpful to you and your family in your times of need, but we need to know there is a need.

CHURCH'S VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

SG-C Serving and Growing through Christ

FIRST TIME VISITORS NOVEMBER 2009

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Beverly Miller

Ken Hull & Jerry Alan Donna

Rev. Dana Zartman

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.

SERVING THE LORD FOR DECEMBER 2009

WORSHIP LEADERS

December 6 Gayle Strader
December 13 Kevin James
December 20 Kathy Zuniga
December 27` Patty Maples

ELDERS

Vicki Trueblood, Tarry James
Lloyd Koontz, Stan Huffman
Tricia Briggerman, Patty Maples
Kelly Bacon, Doug Bacon

DIACONATE FOR DECEMBER 2009

SERVE

Velma Spence
Kevin James
Nancy Oakley
Jim Wells

PREPARE

Kevin James
Nancy Oakley

GREETERS & ACOLYTES

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

ELDER OF THE MONTH

The church has begun an Elder of Month program. If at anytime, you are in need and are unable to get in touch with Linda in the office, or Pastor Sharon is unavailable, the Elder of the Month may be called. For the **month of December**, the Elder of the Month is **Patty Maples**, 345-3782 home & 549-0369 cell.

COFFEE/JUICE FELLOWSHIP SERVERS FOR DECEMBER 6, 2009

Congregational Life Committee

Coffee/Juice Fellowship will only be served on the first Sunday of each month.

ELDER SHUT-IN DECEMBER 6, 2009

Vicki Trueblood, Tarry James

BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY UPDATES

If your birthday or anniversary dates are not mentioned, please let the office know.

DECEMBER 2009 BIRTHDAYS

December 5	Gladys Cole
December 8	Chase Staggs
December 17	Celena Sims
December 18	Keith McVaigh
December 19	Ashley Slifer
December 23	Les Trueblood
December 31	Alyson Mott

DECEMBER 2009 ANNIVERSARYS

December 5	Charles & Gladys Cole
December 17	Bill & Laurie Olson
December 23	Doug & Kelly Bacon
December 28	Bob & Kathy Zuniga



A NEWSLETTER OF THE
OLD STATE ROAD CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
13982 Old State Road
Charleston, IL 61920
217/345-3003

pastor@disciplesofchrist.org

www.disciplesofchrist.org

Rev. Sharon Patton, 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*

