

The Disciple Harbinger



Pastor Sharon's Note

Recently I picked up my copy of Carl Dudley's *"Making the Small Church Effective"* to read yet again. Within its covers, even as worn as they now are, there are many words of wisdom and provocation.

Rather than reading from front to back, I opened the book several pages into the book. Immediately my eye was caught by a subheading entitled, "Absent and Invisible Members".

Absent and invisible members are a phenomenon that all congregations quietly acknowledge. It is a reality in our busy and complicated lives. And, let's be clear here, Dudley doesn't mean the individual or family that only occasionally must miss attending church. It is understood, wrote Dudley, that circumstances may take people away from the faith community for a time. Some things, he wrote, we simply have no control over.

Dudley states the problem this way; "The absence of someone is felt by many in the congregation. When someone is not in his or her place, others feel the absence...the empty pew in worship has much the same impact as the empty chair at an evening meal. The family feels incomplete." (p. 37)

If you are one of the people who hasn't been to church in awhile, this message is for you. **WE MISS YOU!** Our family has an empty chair at our table. Our family feels incomplete without you.

**In Christ,
Pastor Sharon**

CHURCH'S VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

DISCIPLES HISTORY

(From "JOURNEY IN FAITH" by McCallister & Tucker)

Since our very beginning, we Disciples have valued highly and advocated for an educated ministry and laity. We expect our membership to be able to read and interpret scriptures for themselves. A Disciple was the founder of many of our nation's universities. Many of the school's were initially for the purpose of educating young men for the ministry. Other schools were initially organized for the purpose of providing an education for young women. Today, most are co-ed. Many of these schools continue to provide education today for our youth – some of those schools are here in Illinois.

Many of these schools were located in rural and small-town areas in what was then known as the American Frontier. (This was during the 1850's to the 1890's.)

Eureka College, Eureka, IL.



Sketch of Eureka College from
an 1873 platbook

Saturday, October 8th @ 1:30 pm, there will be a joint meeting of the Deaconate & Acolytes.
Please mark the date on your calendar & plan to attend.

ANNUAL AUCTION

The annual church auction will be held on Sunday, October 3rd @ 3:00 pm.
Please start gathering items to place bids on.

POCKET CHANGE MISSION

Our Pocket Change will be going to The Charleston Food Pantry during
September & October.

BOARD OF ELDERS MEETING (OPEN TO ALL)

The next Board of Elders Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 12, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.
Please have **all reports** into the office **no later than Tuesday the, 11th**. Thank you.



GOOD
SEEMS
BIBLES



Piper Michelle Gardner was born on Sept. 19th, weighing 6 pounds & 3 ounces. Piper's parents are Kris & Bethany Gardner. Congratulations to Great Grandma Patty (Maples) & Great Aunts Cindy (Maples) & Tricia (Briggerman).

NEXT HARBINGER

The next **Harbinger** will be **emailed/mailed** by **Friday, October 28, 2011**. Please have all **items** into the office **no later than Wednesday, the 26th**. 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, 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. It is always done the first Sunday of each month.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Children's Church - Sunday - 9:30 a.m.

Worship - Sunday - 9:30 a.m.

Bible Study - Monday - 6:30 p.m.

Choir - Thursday - 5:30 p.m.

CONTINUING CHURCH OUTREACH

Soup Stop Help is needed every Thursday from 10:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. - 2 or 3 people are needed - if you'd like to help, please call the church office.

SERVING THE LORD FOR OCTOBER

WORSHIP LEADERS

2 - Patty Maples
9 - Molly Evans
16 - Jackie James
23 - Mike Chron
30 - Tarry James

ELDERS

Jan Ernst & Tarry James
Patty & Cindy Maples
Mike & Gayle Strader
Cindy Maples & Kaye Woodward
Vicki Trueblood & Mike Strader

DIACONATE FOR OCTOBER

SERVE

Susie May
Mitch Goodwin
Jackie James
Kim Steffes

PREPARE

Jackie James
Kim Steffes

GREETERS & ACOLYTES

Susie May
Mitch Goodwin
Kristyn Haworth, Emily Zuniga
Malcolm McCarthy, Lilly Dilley

ELDER OF THE MONTH FOR OCTOBER

The church has begun an Elder of Month program. If at any time, you are in need and are unable to get in touch with the office, or Pastor Sharon is unavailable, the Elder of the Month may be called. For the **month of October, 2011**, the Elder of the Month is **Mike Strader**. 345-6987 (Home) - 232-6986 (Cell)

*For I know the
Plans
I have for you,
DECLARES THE LORD*

*Plans for
Hope and a Future.*
Jer. 29:11

BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY UPDATES

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

OCTOBER 2011 BIRTHDAYS

- 17 Iris Myers
- 19 Kaye Woodward
- 24 Jackie Moler
- 26 Hulon Rob Robertson
- 29 Mike Chron



OCTOBER 2011 ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Les & Vicki Trueblood
- 23 Paul & Donna Slifer



OCTOBER is
Ministerial Appreciation Month.
Show your appreciation!



Pastor Appreciation

Dates To Remember

CALENDAR OF EVENTS OCTOBER



- 1---**MINISTERIAL APPRECIATION MONTH** begins
1---CROP Walk
2---9:30 am Worship/Children's Church
3---6:30 pm Bible Study
6---5:30 pm Choir
8---1:30 pm Deaconate/Acolytes Training
9---9:30 am Worship/Children's Church
9---3:00 pm Annual Church Auction
10---6:30 pm Bible Study
12---6:30 pm Board Meeting
13---5:30 pm Choir
15---9:00 am Work Day
16---**CHILDREN'S SABBATH**
16---9:30 am Worship/Children's Church
17---6:30 pm Bible Study
19---6:30 pm Elder's Meeting
20---5:30 pm Choir
20---6:30 pm CWF
23--- 9:30 am Worship/Children's Church
24---6:30 pm Bible Study
27---5:30 pm Choir
30---9:30 am Worship/Children's Church
31---6:30 pm Bible Study

Holy Humor
(cause God likes to hear you laugh!!)



(Taken from www.signsandwonders.org)

Johnny's mother looked out the window and noticed Him
"playing church" with their Cat.

He had the cat sitting quietly and he was preaching to it. She smiled and went about her work. A while later she heard loud meowing and hissing and ran back to the open window to see Johnny baptizing the Cat in a tub of water.

She called out, "Johnny, stop that! The Cat is afraid of water!"

Johnny looked up at her and said, "He should have thought about that before he joined my church."



A little boy opened the big and old family Bible with fascination, looking at the old pages as he turned them. Then something fell out of the Bible.

He picked it up and looked at it closely. It was an old leaf from a tree that has been pressed in between the pages. "Mama, look what I found," the boy called out. "What have you got there, dear?" his mother asked. With astonishment in the young boy's voice he answered,

"It's Adam's suit".

One Sunday in a Midwest City ,

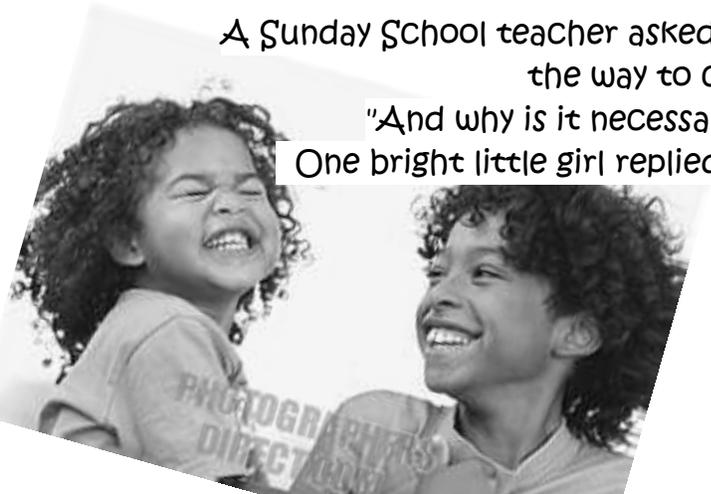
a young child was "acting up" during the morning worship hour.

The parents did their best to maintain some sense of order in the pew but were losing the battle. Finally, the father picked the little fellow up and walked sternly up the aisle on his way out. Just before reaching the safety of the foyer, the little one called loudly to the congregation, "Pray for me!

A Sunday School teacher asked her little children, as they were on the way to church service,

"And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?"

One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."



CHURCH'S VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

Serving and Growing through Christ

SG-C



OLD STATE ROAD CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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www.disciplesofchrist.org

Rev. Sharon Patton, Pastor -217-345-2003 (home)

Vicki Trueblood, Facilitator - 217-345-7244

Marci Jo Ferguson - Secretary

Join us every Sunday for Worship at 9:30 a.m.

Children's Church during Worship 9:30 a.m.

Office hours are - Tuesday - Friday, 9-3