



THE MESSENGER

March 2011
Volume 66
Number 27

Pastoral Reflections

by Pastor Becky Hebert

St. John's Chapel United Church of Christ

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Sunday School -
9:15 AM

Worship - 10:30 AM

Pastor
Rev. Becky Hebert

Associate Pastor
Stephan Scharf

Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Robert M. Dohm

Council President
Dennis Gromer

Council Vice President
Jim May

Board of Christian
Education Chair
Stephan Scharf

Board of Service
Ministries Chair
Elaine Tebbenkamp

Our Mission Statement:

*St. John's Chapel UCC
is called to love uncondi-
tionally, seek justice,
foster spiritual growth,
and embrace diversity
of thought and body as
taught by Jesus Christ.*

In my Christmas Eve sermon I mentioned that I have a Spiritual Director. Today I met with him (today meaning Feb 17th). Most of you know him; Rev. Chuck Gackstetter. Every time I meet with Chuck I walk away in a better place. In my humble opinion, everyone needs a Spiritual Director. You ask, "But what is a Spiritual Director." Basically, they are someone who can help you stay on a spiritual path with God.

With Lent just around the corner (it starts late this year, but it begins on March 9th with Ash Wednesday) it seems like an appropriate time to tell you more about Spiritual Directors and the role they can play in our lives since Lent is the somber season of examining our lives in prayer, confession, penitence and alms-giving. It is about the interior work that purifies our heart and makes room for God to intertwine our lives with Christ.

Prayer, our interior work, is not difficult work, but it's far from easy. To put aside all distractions and cares to simply be with God may well be the toughest thing I do in life. Have you ever tried to pray for at least 30 minutes every day? Hence, the reason for a Spiritual Director.

Spiritual Directors are considered "holy listeners." They listen intently to what you are saying while keeping an ear tuned to God...they listen for what God calls them to speak to you. They usually begin the conversation by simply asking, "What has God been up to in your life?" After awhile, once they are convinced you are noting God's activity in your life, you start the conversation. You talk about whatever is going on in your life that you need or want to share. Throughout your reporting, a Spiritual Director might ask, "Where was God in all of this?" If you do not mention your prayer life, they will ask how this is going and help you uncover the distractions and cares that are getting in the way.

When I last met with my Spiritual Director, I wanted to talk about two movies through which **I thought** I heard God speak (which is another function of a Spiritual Director; they help you determine if an idea is truly from God or just the ramblings of your own mind). If you really want to get serious about your spiritual life, if you want to keep a good Lent, if you want to enrich your relationship with God, Christ and the Holy Spirit, finding a good Spiritual Director could be the best gift you ever give yourself.

People usually meet with their Spiritual Director once a month. Not a huge amount of time for the benefits reaped. Now finding a good one can be tricky. I happened upon mine quite by accident. I went out to be there for my friend Chuck Gackstetter, who's losing his eye sight, and I walked away knowing I had found my Spiritual Director. Chuck is not a trained Spiritual Director. He just comes by the skill naturally and I think he might be willing to take on a few more in spiritual direction. There is also a nun in town that I'm told is good. If interested, ask me, and I will try and help you find someone. I am a certified Spiritual Director, but have time for only one or two.

If this does not interest you, at least consider starting and planning for your Lenten journey to Easter by taking part in the Ash Wednesday Prayer Vigil. In this quiet time you can begin your self examination using the "Examen" in our bulletins every Sunday. Taking part in the Ash Wednesday service is also an excellent way to get your Lenten observances off to a good start. It is hard to get to Easter if you have not traversed the temptations of Lent. This is a somber season. We move to Jerusalem with Jesus to face what awaits him there. Hence, the reason the music is more solemn during this time.

May you be blessed in making a good Lent,
Pastor Becky

COUNCIL MINUTES

February 8, 2011

The minutes from the February 8 council meeting will appear in the April Messenger along with the March council meeting minutes. Thank you.

Board of Service Ministries

February 7, 2011

The Board of Service Ministries meeting was held on Feb. 7 at 6:00 p.m. and opened with the group reciting the St. John's Chapel UCC Mission Statement. Members in attendance were Louise Eggleston, Clo Ella Leverenz, Tona Rowett, Pastor Becky Hebert, Johna Steinhauer, Elaine Tebbenkamp & Beverly Graham. We decided to continue meeting at 6:00 p.m. the first Monday of each month. The January minutes were read by Johna & approved. Louise gave the Treasurer's report which shows we have \$603.48 in our pass-thru account. Money from the endowment fund and ink-jet toners has been received and the supplies for visitor's baskets have been purchased. Louise has cancelled the church ad in the News-Leader.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Becky reported that Larry & Kathy Pittman have agreed to serve as BOSM members, so we thank them. Pastor Becky asked if BOSM would be willing to coordinate the two Sabbatical dinners scheduled for the congregation: her Sending Off Dinner and the Welcome Back Dinner. It was voted that we spear-head the first dinner on Saturday, June 18th, which will be the send-off for Pastor Becky's sabbatical journey. In addition to the dinner, there will be a labyrinth workshop and walk, with Assoc. Conference Minister Mark Wessel, a certified labyrinth facilitator, leading the workshop. Plans are to do a congregational mailing of invitations (including inactive members) to bring in as many people as possible. Pastor Becky also reported on visitors this past month and possible new members. Tona has found sponsors for two new members who will be joining.

Old Business: Tona reviewed with us the revised visitor's information sheet & notebook for tracking attendance that she has created. We also reviewed the system whereby we track

member attendance each Sunday. Eleanor Berger is recording the church attendance but we need to make sure someone covers when she is not available. Clo Ella passed around a sign-up sheet for picking up the pew pads. Tona is picking up pads in February and Johna will cover March.

Our first order of new business was to confirm the new officers for the year: Louise Eggleston-President, Tona Rowett-Vice President, Beverly Graham-Treasurer and Johna Steinhauer-Secretary. Subcommittee positions are: Evangelism-Clo Ella Leverenz, Membership Care-Tona Rowett & Publicity-Beverly Graham.

Pastor Becky reported that there has been a national news release sent out by the Lilly Endowment announcing the winners. We are planning to follow it with a local news release about being awarded the grant money for the sabbatical. We talked about the idea of Pastor Becky presenting her Sabbatical experience (upon her return) at a public setting, such as the library, so that it would be shared with a wider community in addition to the church.

The community garden and seeing the garden as a tie-in to evangelism was discussed. The concept of using available garden plots to develop a partnership between us and the apartment complex behind the church was proposed. We will wait on the gardening group to get their plans finalized and then BOSM will help get publicity out to the community. The idea of a dog pen or exercise area as an Evangelism tool in conjunction with the garden was reviewed and we decided not to pursue it at this time.

The meeting was adjourned with a prayer by Pastor Becky.

Johna Steinhauer,
Secretary

**The Next MESSENGER
Deadline is...
March 21, Thank you!**

Board of Christian Education February 22, 2011

The Board of Christian Education met Tuesday, February 22 at 6:30 pm at the chapel. Members present were Chuck Andres, Stephan Scharf, Eleanor Berger, Helen Keeton and Butch Stillman.

Stephan reported that for the February meeting he and the youth attended the Interfaith Alliance Meeting. In March, they plan to attend Bunco Night on the 12th and meet with the younger youth group on March 13th.

Stephan met with Tona Rowett and Joyce Burton to work out a schedule for Children's Time and Sunday School. March 6, Stephan will do Children's Time and there will be no Sunday School. March 13, Tona will do both Children's Time and Sunday School. March 20, Stephan will tentatively do both. And March 27, Joyce will do both. We will order curriculum for the children for Sunday School. It will cover March 13-June 12 at a cost of \$57.00.

The All-Church St. Patrick's Day Bunco Night will be Saturday, March 12 at 5:30 pm. Baked potatoes and "fixin's" will be provided. Please bring a dessert and a "green gift".

The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 29 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Helen Keeton

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE February 15, 2011

Friendship Circle met at the Chapel Tuesday, February 15, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. with 13 members present. President Judy Bartell led the meeting. Ida Barry gave the treasurer's report and Jan Rund gave the Crosslines report. Groceries are costing more each month.

Beverly Graham sent several cards to church members for anniversaries, birthdays, etc. Circle members' upcoming birthdays and anniversaries were read. Thank you letters for Circle's Christmas donations were offered for review.

Under New Business, Judy asked about the

possibility of the monthly hostesses visiting our homebound members. It was decided to be a good idea and we will begin visits in March. She also wondered if Friendship Circle would want to create and sell a calendar of church members' birthdays. We will think about this for 2012.

Judy reported that Circle was asked to serve a baby shower on Saturday, April 23. After more information is gathered, we will discuss it at our March meeting.

The meeting closed with the Mizpah benediction.

Pastor Becky provided us with a matching game of married couples from the Bible. She also gave a book review of "The Meaning of Mary Magdalene" by Cynthia Borrgeault, an Episcopal priest.

Delicious refreshments were served by Kim Cunningham and Pastor Becky.

Jan Rund, Secretary



**GARDEN MEETING
Tuesday, March 1
5:30 pm**

**Please join us to
launch a Community
"Sabbatical" Garden~
All ideas and people
are welcome!**

March

Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Karl Kruger | 20 "Gus" Kruger |
| 2 Amanda Peacher | Helen Keeton |
| 3 Laurel McKean | Dr. John Kaicher |
| 4 Nicholas Hutchinson | 21 Mary Lou Datema |
| 5 Chris Keeton | Tori Gromer |
| 7 Elizabeth Brazeale | 23 Richard Rehagen |
| David Dunham | Herb Shoemaker |
| 8 Gene Summers | 25 Marsha Schatz |
| 9 Bob Davis, 86 | 26 Nathan Adams |
| 10 Liz Stafford | Kera Farley |
| Marlene Saylor | Megan Flatbush |
| 11 Sue Bos, 83 | 27 Evelyn Blumenstock, 82 |
| 16 Debbie Warkins | 28 (Mrs) Chris Bartell |
| 17 Jim May | Rev Becky Hebert |
| Mike Shean | 29 Alex Riffey |
| Jane Scharf | Daniel Datema |
| 18 Brianna Blackwell | 30 Michael Kaicher |
| Virginia Shean | Katie Long |
| Emma Datema | |



Recently, a certain someone donated a certain something, that was enough to cover the "These Days" devotionals for the coming year. Now, that's a real angel!

And a whole army of angels came forward with additional snow removal donations following our winter weather event. Thank you!

And we can't talk about snow removal without thanking Lee Bartell and Friends for scraping, shoveling and salting our walk ways. It was a lot to do and we appreciate it.

And how about all those angels that know how to throw one heck of a sausage supper? It takes many, many people to set-up, cook, serve, bus and clean everything for an All-You-Can-Eat affair open to the public. Bravo to all!

Recently, it has taken many good hearts to keep the office humming every day from nine to noon. We owe a huge thanks to Johna, Evelyn, Sharon, Loy and Shirley for pitching in. Thank you, ladies!

And a special thank you to Eleanor Berger for helping to get both the January and February Messengers out. Your lending a hand is much appreciated!

There are many unmentioned Angels who silently perform acts of kindness every day. Tell others about the Angels Among Us at St. John's Chapel by dropping a note by the office.

Anniversaries

- 8 Matt & Susan Long
 9 **Charles & Jane Dunham, 39 years**
 22 Mike & Debbie Warkins



SERVICES THIS MONTH

Sunday, March 6

Last Sunday after Epiphany,
Transfiguration, Communion

Sunday, March 13

First Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 20

Second Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 27

Third Sunday in Lent

January 28, 2011

THANK YOU...for your generous support of the Council of Churches. \$979 in cash donations was received from SJC as a Crosslines Pantry Sponsor.

In grateful appreciation,
Mark Struckhoff
Executive Director



On our February 8th Crosslines Day, groceries and milk were given to **74 families for a total of 174**

Please bring food items by **Sunday, March 13th** as our next Crosslines Day is **March 15**. Much appreciation to all who help and provide for our monthly Crosslines Day!



The church will be opened in the month of MARCH by:
Shirley Datema

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2011

	2010	2010	2011	2011	2011
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
MONTH	INCOME	EXPENSES	INCOME	EXPENSES	EXPENSES
January	\$11,542.07	\$15,118.43	\$13,379.19	\$11,665.88	\$12,703.99
February	\$12,173.28	\$12,995.21			\$10,302.04
March	\$10,102.13	\$13,221.46			\$11,194.50
April	\$8,999.18	\$13,287.33			\$12,054.00
May	\$12,792.05	\$12,406.72			\$10,040.99
June	\$8,793.29	\$12,779.75			\$11,684.84
July	\$9,994.52	\$12,398.81			\$12,249.99
August	\$13,907.77	\$10,157.08			\$10,463.04
September	\$10,095.71	\$11,579.50			\$11,355.50
October	\$11,035.66	\$12,001.42			\$13,478.99
November	\$13,723.82	\$11,403.51			\$10,463.04
December	\$13,125.51	\$12,256.29			\$11,355.50
YTD Totals	\$136,284.99	\$149,605.51	\$13,379.19	\$11,665.88	\$137,346.42

1/31/2011

Money Market	\$10,381.21
Regular Checking	\$1,819.82
TOTAL CASH	\$12,316.03

Please remember to bring your pledged giving up-to-date. Thank you.

A review of the budget vs. actual may be obtained from the church office, if desired.



It's Bunco Night!

Hosted by the Board of Christian Education...and where something green to celebrate St Patrick's Day.

ALL ARE INVITED!!!

When: Saturday, March 12
 Time: 5:30 p.m.
 Where: Fellowship Hall

Serving stuffed baked potatoes (stuff your own to your liking). Please bring dessert and a green gift item to share. After dinner we will play BUNCO!

RSVP: To reserve your potato(es), please call Eleanor at 833 8796 by March 10.

Very good news...

Dwayne Blumenstock reports that at this time his tests show NO CANCER. He wants to again thank the congregation and Pastor Becky for all cards, prayers and support he received in the past 18 months.

January 27, 2011

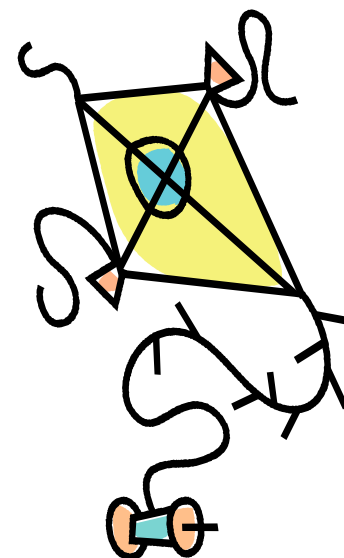
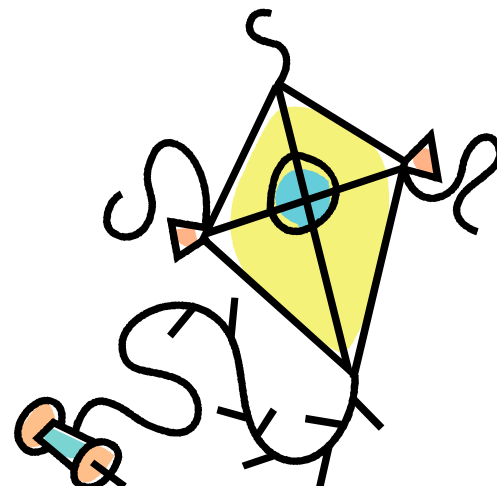
Thank you for your congregation's recent gift of \$20 to our campus ministry...

Best wishes,
 Rev. Howard Cavner
 UMHE Campus Ministry

MARCH: PROGRAMS & MEETINGS

- 1st** **Garden Meeting**, 5:30 pm
- 4th** **Spiritual Development** is Friday at 6:00 pm.
- 5th** **Bread for the World** 9:00 am.
- 7th** **Unbinding the Gospel**, Monday at 4:30 pm
Grace & Weight is Monday at 5:30 pm.
Board of Service Ministries will meet Monday at
 6:00 pm.
- 8th** **Men’s Brotherhood** meets Tuesday at 8 am.
Crosslines Fish Day.
- 9th** **ASH WEDNESDAY**
Prayer Vigil, 6:00 am to 6:00 pm
Service & Communion, 7:30 pm
- 10th** **Women’s Guild** will meet Thursday at 1:00 pm.

- 11th** **Spiritual Development** is Friday at 6:00 pm.
- 13th** **Bring Crosslines food donations today.**
Independent Women will convene on Sunday at 1:00 pm.
- 14th** **Unbinding the Gospel**, Monday at 4:30 pm
Grace & Weight is Monday at 5:30 pm.
Council meets Monday at 6:30 pm.
- 15th** **Ozark Cluster** is Tuesday at 10:00 am.
Friendship Circle will meet Tuesday at 7:00 pm.
- 16th** **Seniors & Retirees** lunch and meeting, 12 noon
- 18th** **Spiritual Development** is Friday at 6:00 pm.
- 19th** **Youth Group meets**, 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm
- 20th** **The Kitchen**, serve on Sunday at 4:15 pm.
- 21th** **Unbinding the Gospel**, Monday at 4:30 pm
Grace & Weight is Monday at 5:30 pm.
- 22nd** **Board of Christian Education** meets Tuesday at 6:30
 pm.
- 25th** **Spiritual Development** is Friday at 6:00 pm.
- 28th** **Unbinding the Gospel**, Monday at 4:30 pm



Dear Members,
 The West Plains church that we are sponsoring will have a “reception of a local church” service on April 2nd. The time is not yet set. Since we are the sponsoring congregation, we would like to have a group from this church going.

 Pastor Becky

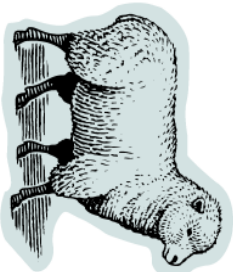
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY UPDATES...
*Membership Directories are available in the office.
 Inform Deb Hall of errors, changes and updates.*

THANK YOU!


Please update your chapel directory for Larry & Kathy Pittman...
 Kathy Pittman, 417-839-1647, email: pittman_kathy@att.net.
 Larry Pittman, 417-332-7677, email: pittman_larry@att.net.



March 2011



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1 5:30 pm The "new" Garden Group meets	2 7:00 pm Choir	3	4 6:00 pm Spiritual Dev't	5 9:00 am Bread for the World
6 Communion	7 4:30 pm Unbinding the Gospel 5:30 pm Grace & Wt 6:00 pm BSM	8 FISHDAY 8:00 am Brotherhood 6:30 pm Council	9 ASH WEDNESDAY 6:00 am to 6:00 pm Prayer Vigil 7:30 pm Service & Communion	10 1:00 pm Women's Guild	11 6:00 pm Spiritual Dev't	12 5:30 pm BCE Bunco Night!
13 Bring Crosslines Food 1:00 pm Independent Women	14 4:30 pm Unbinding the Gospel 5:30 pm Grace & Wt	15 10:00 am Ozark Clus- ter 7:00 pm Friendship Circle	16 7:00 pm Choir 12 noon Sr & Retirees Luncheon Meeting	17 	18 6:00 pm Spiritual Dev't	19 4 to 7:00 pm Youth Group
20 4:15 The Kitchen	21 4:30 pm Unbinding the Gospel 5:30 pm Grace & Wt	22 6:30 pm BCE	23 7:00 pm Choir	24	25 6:00 pm Spiritual Dev't	26
27	28 4:30 pm Unbinding the Gospel 5:30 pm Grace & Wt	29	30 7:00 pm Choir	31 <i>The Season of Lent</i>		

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Springfield, MO 65804-7306

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Springfield, MO.
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Return Service Requested
March 2011



**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

March 9, 2011
Prayer Vigil, 6 am to 6 pm
Communion & Service, 7:30 pm

