

June 2011

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THE NEWSLETTER

UP

As Disciples of Christ, the foundation of our service is communion. Recently, we changed our constitution so that all members are eligible to serve as Diaconate. We hope that all members feel the honor and duty to participate. I am in the process of asking 12 members to each take a month to serve as Diaconate leaders for the month. The roles of these leaders are to 1) set up and clean up communion, 2) make sure that there is bread and juice for the month, 3) assist the elders to serve communion during the service and make sure there are enough people each week to serve with them.

There will be a chart on the bulletin board for all members to sign up for the Sundays they will be able to serve. For the summer, this will be the Diaconate leader and 2 others.

We have several ways that communion may be served. One is by intinction (the dipping of the bread into the chalice) either at the communion table or as held by the elders. Another is by passing the trays with the bread cubes and small cups. A third would be to pass the chalice and bread plate for intinction. Each method has its advantages and disadvantages. For instance, we have found that the passing of the chalice and bread plate is awkward for some folks. Yet serving each other is a humble honor.

We appreciate the open mindedness that you have shown to the things we have been trying.

It is an honor to serve in this church!

Nancy Steuart, UP chair

OUT

By David Moxley

Think of what you've had to eat today. Dead. All of it. If you ate plants, they were at some point harvested, uprooted disconnected from a stalk or vine, yanked from the ground so that they could make their way to your plate, where you ate them so you can ... live. The death of one living thing for the life of another. This death-and-life mystery, this mechanism, this process is built into the very fabric of creation.

As we go through life, we need to be grateful for all that we have. We often don't stop to think what it takes to sustain our lives. Sacrifices must be made. Other people, animals, plants, they all make sacrifices for each of us. We, in turn, can reach out to others in order to help sustain life, too.

Life is about giving and receiving, dying and living, sacrifices and prosperity. As we hurry through our busy days, checking things off our to-do lists, let us pause and give thanks for all that we have. May we remember all the sacrifices it takes to sustain our lives. Let us also take time to reach out to others who are less fortunate or just need a helping hand. Whether going on a mission trip, volunteering at a local food pantry, visiting someone in the hospital, checking up on a friend or neighbor, or just pausing to express a sincere and kind word with someone, may we follow Jesus' example of taking the time to reach out to others around us.

Jesus talks about death and rebirth constantly, his and ours. He calls us to let go, turn away, renounce, confess, repent, and leave behind the old ways. He talks of the life that will come from his own death, and he promises that life will flow to us in thousands of small ways as we die to our egos, our pride, our need to be right, our self-sufficiency, rebellion, and our stubborn insistence that we deserve to get our way. When we cling with white knuckles to our sins and our hostility, we're like a tree that won't let its leaves go. There can't be a spring if we're still stuck in the fall.

THANKS

To our Church family,

Words seem so inadequate as I try to express thanks for the outpouring of love from our church family during Gene's illness and passing. Know you are indeed our strength. Our hearts are full with your support.

Because Gene loved interacting with the youth we are establishing a memorial fund in Gene's honor at Disciples Christian Church.

With love,

Claudette Thomas

Jana Mullins

Laura Radetic

Jacque Clingan

JOHN'S JOTS

by Pastor John

Imagine yourself living in the mid-to late 1st century in Asia Minor. You're a Christian. You've heard how this crucified, resurrected Jesus will come very soon to establish his kingdom on earth. But, Jesus has been gone for quite a while now and so far, there are no signs of his return. You've begun to wonder what's gone wrong. Your non-Christian friends have poked fun at your beliefs. So what are you supposed to think and do?

It's easy to see how these 1st century Christians would begin to wonder what went wrong. They had a certain set of expectations and these expectations hadn't been met.

The writings of Luke-Acts sought to address this crisis by helping the early church to reframe God's story so they could see what God was doing in the world and how they were to be God's people in this new reality.

As Alan Roxburgh points out, "Luke was crafting these stories of what had gone wrong and what God was doing in the world with a single response: nothing has gone wrong! God was up to something much bigger than the little boxes into which these initiating communities had placed him."

Roxburgh uses Luke 10:1-12 to frame a response to the 1st century church and the 21st century church. In the story of the sending of the 70, Luke was responding to the crisis in the church for the Gentile Christians. Roxburgh writes, "It can be stated in these terms: the primary way to know what God is up to in our world when the boundary markers seem to have been erased is by entering into the ordinary, everyday life of the neighborhoods and communities where we live. Framing this in terms of the way churches function in our time, we can say: in these times of huge transition where our language houses are being overturned, we will not know what God is up to in the world by huddling together in study groups, writing learned papers, or listening to self-appointed gurus. If you want to discover what God is up to in the world just now stop trying to answer this question from within the walls of your churches. Like strangers in the need of hospitality who have left their baggage behind enter the neighborhoods and communities where you live, sit at the table of the other, and there you may begin to hear what God is doing."

What is God doing in our neighborhoods? Do we spend time listening to our neighbors in order to get a sense of what God is up to? What would we need to do differently in order to hear our neighbors? Are we willing to do whatever it takes to listen to our neighbors without any preconceived ideas of what they need?

Shalom,
Pastor John

THE WAY I SEE IT

By Fredrick R. Mouse

Can you believe the summer is half over? We've just celebrated the 4th of July and before you know it school will be back in session. This summer may have been the fastest on record.

But in the process we've seen some new things happening here at DCC. We actually suspended our worship in our building on Pentecost Sunday and allowed the Spirit to do something new with us. 29 of us went down to St. Raphael's to put diabetes kits together, stocked pantry shelves, worked in the community garden and picked up trash. At least for 1 Sunday, the neighborhood saw that we cared more for them than we did for ourselves.

We've also seen our worship space reinvented in the hopes of making it a more intimate, less formal space. We've tweaked it a couple of times so that we can experience God's presences in a new way.

And the good news is that your human preacher hasn't fallen off his stool . . . yet.

Before you know it the construction on the bypass will be done and access to the church will be much easier. I know this old mouse will not miss the seemingly constant beep beep beep of construction vehicles backing up. It seems like they never go forward, they only go backwards. Their beeping right now as I type this.

So, I wonder what new thing God has in mind for us? God only knows!



Until next month, Freddy

PRAYER REQUESTS: Lois Johnson, Chosen, Troops, Kim Vangan, Ron Hurst, Don Gross, Ray Scheffler, Linda Ashbrook, Kathy Baughman, Liz Longard, The Thomas Family

JULY BIRTHDAYS:

Tammy Gross	1
George Spears	14
Pete Ayers	17
Terry Cox	24
Colin Whitt	24
Emily Williams	30



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