



**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
MESSENGER
(Disciples of Christ)**

October, 2009

840 Tenth Street
Clarkston, WA 99403-2121

Church telephone: 509.758.2943
E-mail: firstchr@clearwire.net

Web Site: firstchristianchurchclarkston.com

Our Mission: "Honor God, strive to be more like Jesus, love and welcome all, bring others to discipleship, and put faith into action locally and globally."

Rev. David L. Carringer, Minister
Tamara Byrd, Children's Education Coordinator
Fritz Sarbacher, Youth Ministry Coordinator

CHURCH STAFF:

LaRose Clark, Administrative Assistant
Sue Wilson, Office Assistant
Dani Layes, Music Coordinator
Cameron Layes, Pianist/Accompanist
Cathy Larrabee, Organist
Charlie Compton, Guitarist
Becca Koenig, Childcare Attendant
Bambi Compton, Custodial Service

CHURCH LEADERSHIP:

Lee Ann Hancock, Moderator
Bob Packwood, Vice Moderator
Janice Dumbauld, Secretary
Ann Koenig, Treasurer
Sue Wilson, Financial Secretary
Lee English, Elders
Ruth Bosserman, DWM
Sally Teichmer, DWM

MINISTRY CHAIRS:

Bob Packwood, Administration
Dani Layes, Nurture
Linda Mael, HOE
Dixie Carringer, Diaconate

TRUSTEES

Stamey English, Ronnie Mock, Bob Packwood

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

News from the Pews

We extend our sympathy to the family of **Alice Jordan** who passed away September 6.

Congratulations to **Ashley Hastings** and **Nick Spring** on the birth of their precious son Ayden Robert Hastings Spring. Ayden was born Friday, September 18. He weighed 9 lbs. 12 oz. and is 23¼ inches long.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Youth Potato Bake

Come out and help support the youth group October 3, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Fritz and the youth are providing baked potatoes and all the fixings and hoping for generous donations.

Great Communion Service

October 4, 5:00 p.m. at First Christian Church in Dayton, Washington. This service will commemorate the 200th anniversary of Thomas Campbell's Declaration and Address which initiated the Christian Church movement in the United States which ultimately resulted in the founding of our church. Transportation to the event will be available. Sue Wilson and I are both driving. Any other people who would like to volunteer to drive would be welcome. Anyone wanting to go, meet at the church at 3:00.

D.C.

Scrapbooking Bible Study

On Saturday, October 10, 10:00 to noon there will be a scrapbooking Bible study at the church. Please contact Linda Mael at 758-7003 for information about what to bring and to reserve a book.

Harvest Party

**Saturday, October 24, 3:00 to 5:00
and dinner at 5:00**

It's time again for our annual harvest party. It has been a great success in the past and we hope to repeat that this year. We will have clowns and rabbits, pony cart rides, a bouncy house, and hopefully the Grantham Marimba Band once again. Dixie needs people to help with the party. And people to donate candy, pumpkins, cakes and money to rent the bouncy house.

Adult Grief Support Group

Tri-State Hospital Hospice will be offering a free six-week Adult Grief Support Group for people experiencing grief from the loss of a loved one. This group starts on Wednesday, October 7, and will be held Wednesdays from 4:00-5:30 p.m. through November 11. This is a confidential group where you can find support and receive education regarding the process of grief. If you would like more information, or to register please call Kathy Slinker at Tri-State Hospice at 758-2568. Registration is open until October 2.

Splinters from the Board

The board met after church on Sep 13. Men's and Women's breakfasts are resuming on Saturday Sep 26. There will be a Harvest party on Oct 24 from 3-5 p.m. with dinner at 5. The minister helped direct kid's camp at Zephyr, conducted a wedding, became an interlink volunteer, helping transport people who need a ride, performed a funeral, attended clergy meetings and visited the juvenile detention center, all in addition to his regular duties.

Ministry Reports:

Administration- The treasurer's report caused an hour of discussion followed by the admin ministry scheduling a special meeting for Sep 21 to discuss the church's finances.

Nurture- Reported they had mapped out rest of the year. They recommended that the next annual meeting be a dinner held on the third

Sunday of January at 7 p.m. The board agreed. Details will be forthcoming.

Hospitality, Outreach and Evangelism-Ladies Bible study has started on Tuesday nights from 7-8. The first meeting was Sep 22. All ladies are encouraged and invited to attend.

Words from the Pasture

What an amazing church we have. Already this year we have served meals to over a hundred hungry people at the Salvation Army. We have given several nights' shelter of lodging to homeless families. We are helping a new church start by allowing them to worship in our sanctuary, we host a girl scout troop, we have hosted bereavement dinners and pastor groups. We have helped individuals fix their cars, get a place to sleep, pay their bills and receive professional counseling. We also support through our congregational tithes: Our Disciples Mission Fund, The Salvation Army, The YWCA crises services, Retired Senior Volunteers, Asotin County Food Bank, Community Action Food Bank, Interlink, Zephyr camp and conference grounds, Lexington Theological Seminary, Northwest Christian University and the Snake River Clinic. **WE ARE PUTTING OUR FAITH INTO ACTION!!**

We really have stuff to boast about. Unfortunately it all costs money.

In addition to all the cool ministry stuff we support we also pay a pastor and provide a place for him and his family to live. We pay for electricity and gas, sewer and sanitation service. We pay a phone bill and a bill for internet service. We buy paper, bulletins and other office supplies. We pay for our lawns to be cut and maintained. We pay for water and lights and we pay to maintain and repair our church building and grounds. We pay for insurance. We pay office staff, an organist, pianist, music director, children's education director, youth director and nursery attendant. It sure seems like we do a lot.

But Houston we have a problem!

I have had quite an education over the last week, on our church's finances. I have dug into everything I could find, our treasurer has

shown me the checkbook and the list of monthly expenses and as near as I can figure we are spending everything we are taking in. We are breaking even. We are not going broke, but we don't have any room to spare. AND most importantly we don't have the money to do the ministries we want to do. We don't have any money to help anyone out, feed the hungry or house the homeless.

Now there are only two solutions to this. We either spend less or we receive more in offering. Either way it goes it will define the type of church we are.

So I let me end with these questions. What kind of church do we want to be? and How can we best live out our mission to Honor God, be like Jesus, love and welcome all, disciple others and put our faith into action?

D.C.

REGIONAL CHURCH NEWS

Priorities Named for the Coming Year

At a recent meeting of the Transition Team and Executive Committee, we identified and adopted six Mission Plan priorities to address in the coming year. These six are:

- Mission and Sending including Global Missions as an overarching regional focus,
- Our commitment to be a Pro-Reconciliation Region and to embrace that commitment in all areas of our regional activity and planning,
- Youth Ministries (including the Camping Program and Regional Youth Commission),
- New Church ministries and how better to partner with our new congregations and pastors,
- Stewardship as a Spiritual Practice for congregations and Region,
- Our physical office needs in light of our mission.

Each of these priorities are named and described in our Mission Plan. They were identified as focus areas for the coming year because of their urgency in needing to be addressed (particularly Youth Ministries, stewardship, New Church, and office space) or because of the ways they help focus all of our thinking and ministry in ways that enable us to live out our vision and mission (particularly Mission and Sending and Pro-Reconciliation).

The Transition Team, Regional Board, and a yet to be formed Interim Mission Council will oversee the teams charged with living out these priorities. People interested in these areas will be invited to offer input, participate on planning teams, and help carry out these initiatives. Watch for more information as we move forward into this year and be prepared to step forward and volunteer in the area that calls forth your passion.

Our next steps are to identify the roles and tasks for each particular area and begin inviting interested people to participate. Please keep this work in your prayers as we seek to be faithful to the Vision God has provided.

Blessings,
Sandy

GENERAL CHURCH NEWS

A Story from Your Global Ministries

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

Homeless and Directionless Find Support

St John's Center in Northern Sri Lanka, which is part of Global Ministries' partner the Church of the American Ceylon Mission, is working with twelve refugee camps which have been home to thousands displaced from their homes due to civil war. St John's has nineteen volunteers, eleven pastors, one doctor and two nurses who are working tirelessly among the camps in a systematic and coordinated way offering subsistence food, child care centers, trauma counseling, medical assistance, clean water and sanitation.

Recently, about three months after the end of the civil war, the Sri Lankan government decided to send 5000 refugees from the outer camps back to their own villages. St John's received about 200 and gave them packages of food and basic clothes to start their new lives. Since their homes were destroyed they will go to live with relatives. The elderly were also released, many have no where to go. St John's is working to accommodate these elders on a temporary basis in elderly facilities.

Over 300,000 people are still in the camps. About 40% of the displaced are children --many of whom are unaccompanied by family members. Their care is the subject of conversations between the government, social agencies and faith groups like St. John's.

"Thank you very sincerely for your timely support and prayers in taking care of the refugees. Please uphold our ministry in your thoughts and prayers."

Rev. Dr. S. Jeyanesan is Chair of CACM, and Project Director of St John's and wrote this letter to James Vijayakumar, Global Ministries Southern Asia Area Executive

The prayers and help you provide through your local congregations make possible the work and witness of GLOBAL MINISTRIES, which is supported by Disciples Mission Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) of the United Church of Christ.

WWW.GLOBALMINISTRIES.ORG



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jasen Skelton
- 3 Andrea Goold Maund
Landon Klodt
- 5 Lois Marshall
- 6 Chas Compton
- 10 Rickie Parks
- 13 Colben Klodt

- 15 Pamela Beeler
- 16 Heather Klodt
- 18 Briana Mock
- 19 Frank Wright
Lydia Davis
- 20 Shane Blankenship
- 23 Kalie Brown
- 24 Chet Martin
Keilani Skelton
- 25 Don Fuqua
- 26 Michael Paine
- 27 Lee English
- 28 Justin Parks

OCTOBER BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES

- 16 Carol Fazenbaker
- 28 Mike Goold
Wanda Goold

Scripture Passages for the Sundays in October

Read ahead, pray and ask questions of the pastor.

- Oct. 4: Job 1:1; 2:1-10
Psalm 26
Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12
Mark 10:2-16
- Oct. 11: Job 23:1-0, 16-17
Psalm 22:1-15
Hebrews 4:12-16
Mark 10:17-31
- Oct. 18: Job 38:1-7, (34-41)
Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c
Hebrews 5:1-10
Mar 10:35-45
- Oct. 25: Job 42:1-6, 10-17
Psalm 34:1-8, (19-22)
Hebrews 7:23-28
Mark 10:35-45

Sunday Schedule

9:30 am – Christian Education for children and adults.

11:00 am – Worship

Fellowship

There is always a time of Fellowship in the Fireside Room, immediately following worship.

* An Elevator is available*

SCHEDULES, FACTS AND FIGURES

September Attendance and Offering

	Attendance	Money given to support our ministry
September 6	61	\$2,076.25
September 13	74	\$2,973.03
September 20	73	\$7,084.50

Our Partners in Service for Jesus

This month your offerings helped support the following ministries:

Disciples Mission Fund
Asotin County Food Bank
Interlink
Lexington Theological Seminary
National Benevolent Association
Northwest Christian University
Snake River Community Clinic
VALCAN (Valley Christian Aid
Network)
Zephyr Conference Center

A Missionary and A Goddess

Disciple missionary Minnie Vautrin earned the unusual title of "Goddess of Mercy" for her work in China during the last century. Despite the divine epithet, the story of this goddess is about vulnerable humanity in service to Christ.

Born in Secor, Illinois, east of Peoria, in 1886, Vautrin was baptized in 1904, attending Secor Christian Church. After high school, Vautrin studied at Illinois State Normal University, taught briefly, then graduated with a bachelor's in education in 1912 from the University of Illinois.

During the spring of her college senior year, Vautrin attended a meeting of the Men and Millions Movement, a nation-wide Disciple effort to raise money and recruit workers for outreach. At the meeting, Vautrin heard an urgent appeal for a new missionary to lead the Luchow Fu Girls School in what is now Hefei, China. The 25-year-old Disciple accepted the call and sailed for Asia at the end of summer.

Vautrin spent two years studying Chinese, then worked five years as principal of the girls school, adding a high school program and carrying out "evangelistic work... in leisure hours," according to a 1948 United Christian Missionary Society biography.

Doing graduate work in education during her first furlough in 1918, Vautrin joined the faculty of Ginling College in Nanking, China, when she returned to the country. The missionary educator served as dean of the department of education and was interim president for two years at the college, a women's school founded in 1913 by Disciples and others working in ecumenical partnership.

Vautrin's faith as a Disciple and her commitment to the needs of women set the stage for her greatest challenge.

The missionary was serving at Ginling in the summer of 1937 when Japan began bombing Nanking in its campaign to take China in the buildup to World War II. While most people fled the city, the poor remained, among them thousands of women and children. For Vautrin, who stayed, those left behind were a "call to service," the UCMS biography says.

Several expatriates remaining in the city organized an international safety zone to protect civilians from the coming Japanese invasion. Three fellow Disciples served on the International Committee that set up the zone, with Vautrin also working to prepare Ginling College as a refugee site.

Japanese troops attacked in December 1937. "Those of you who have lived in Nanking can never imagine how the streets look -- the saddest sight I ever hope to see," Vautrin wrote in a diary entry dated December 21. "Buses and cars upset in the street, dead bodies here and there, every house and shop looted and smashed if not burned."

The invaders inflicted widespread violence on civilians, including rape. A post-war tribunal determined that Japanese troops committed 20,000 rapes during the first month of the Nanking occupation, according to Vautrin

biographer Hua-ling Hu. And the violence continued months afterwards.

Amid the horror, Vautrin's Ginling College took in thousands of women seeking refuge from the atrocities. As the worst violence abated, the missionary educator pulled together resources for various classes, including skills women could use to support themselves in their war-torn nation. Grateful for the safe haven at Ginling, the refugees began to call Vautrin "Living Goddess" and "Goddess of Mercy," biographer Hu writes.

Vautrin remained in occupied Nanking, despite invitations from UCMS to return to the United States to serve as vice-president, according to Hu. Exhausted and depressed, she finally agreed to a furlough, leaving China in May 1940. Receiving psychiatric care and appearing to make progress, she spoke at the 1941 Disciples International Convention -- forerunner to General Assembly -- in St. Louis.

Shortly afterwards, Vautrin was found dead in a gas-filled apartment in Indianapolis, where she had been living with UCMS vice-president Mrs. Robert Doan.

A line from a "Who's Who Among Our Missionaries" form (which Vautrin likely completed on furlough after serving at the Luchow Fu school), connected her lifelong devotion to missions to her unique Disciple heritage. On the form's last page, she said she felt "heart sick" back home at seeing so many churches working apart from each other.

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

840 Tenth Street (Diagonal & Sycamore)
Clarkston Washington 99403



"I have had to go to China to really learn that the nations we call heathen," Vautrin wrote, "need Christ and only Christ, they need no creeds or doctrines."

Vautrin -- the Disciple missionary called "goddess" for the loving welcome she extended -- understood that unity is not just about oneness, but mission.

Written by: Ted Parks
Associate Professor of Spanish
Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN

