



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH MESSENGER

(Disciples of Christ)

December, 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 OFFICERS:

Lee Ann Hancock, Moderator
Bob Packwood, Vice Moderator
Janice Dumbauld, Secretary
Ann Koenig, Treasurer
Sue Wilson, Financial Secretary
Ruth Bosserman, Historian

MINISTRY CHAIRS:

Bob Packwood, Administration
Dani Layes, Nurture
Linda Beck, HOE
Dixie Carringer, Diaconate
Lee English, Elders
Sally Teichmer, DWM
Linda Mael, DWM

TRUSTEES

Stamey English, Ronnie Mock, Bob Packwood



'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.'

Matthew 1:23

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

News from the Pews

We give thanks to everyone who has helped find Angie Jenkins and Paula Lautenslager apartments to live in. The efforts of our church on behalf of these two members are a true reflection of Christ's teaching and God's Love for all.

Please keep everyone who is traveling in our prayers this holiday season.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Hanging of the Greens

November 28th at 6:30 pm

Please come and help decorate the church for the season of Advent. We will be having a short service before we start and Cider and Cookies after we're done.

Christmas Parade

Come help us build our float on Saturday Dec 5 at 10 a.m. All are welcome to ride or walk along with the float. We have plenty of room. Meet at the Church at 3 p.m. if you want to ride on the float. We are planning on singing carols and having anyone who is willing to wear a costume as part of a manger scene.

Holiday Grief Workshop at St. Joe's

On Wednesday, December 9, at 2:00 there will be a Holiday Grief Workshop at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center in Conference Room C.

Many people who are grieving the loss of a loved one feel the pressure of the holiday season. Come to this workshop where suggestions will be offered for coping with this season. There will be information, cookies and punch. Valet parking is available free of charge at the north entrance. For more information call 799-5204. This workshop is presented by the Pastoral Care Department.

Christmas Program

We are looking for volunteers for our Christmas program. Parts are available for all ages. The program will be during our regular worship time on Sunday, December 20. There will be two practices on the two Saturday's preceding the program.

Cookie Sale



It's time for our Annual DWM Cookie Sale on December 12 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Contact Linda Mael to donate cookies or volunteer to help.

Piano Recital

The students of Kay Yoder which include Savannah and Jasmine Carringer will be holding their annual Christmas time of Sharing at our Church at 7 p.m. on Dec 18th.

Everyone is invited.

Christmas Dinner at FCC



Everyone is invited to join us on Christmas Day at 2:30 p.m. at the church for Christmas dinner. Turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and dessert will be provided. Please bring a salad or other side dish to share. This dinner is for anyone who would like to come. So feel free to invite your family and friends.

Martin Luther King, Jr. and Idaho Human Rights Day 2010

Our community will soon have the opportunity to participate in the annual Martin Luther King,

Jr./Idaho Human Rights Day observance, to be held Monday, January 18, 2010.

The event will begin at 6:00 p.m. at the Lewis Clark State College Amphitheatre where entertainment will be provided by the LHS Gold Voices and others. At 6:30 there will be a candlelight procession to the Activity Center on the LCSC campus.

The main event begins at 7:00 at the LCSC Activity Center with a program by the Spokane Community Choir, a mixed choir with members from various Spokane churches. Joining us again will be the Reverend "Happy" Watkins from the New Hope Baptist church in Spokane, who will present some of Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King's speeches. Rev. Watkins is well-known and sought after throughout the Pacific Northwest as an orator of MLK's speeches. He brings alive the power and meaning of the late Dr. King., Jr.

The program will conclude by 8:30 making it possible for parents to bring school-age children.

Splinters from the Board

Ministry Reports:

Administration-Continues to work with the 2010 budget and will present its final budget recommendation at the December board meeting.

Nurture- A plan for worship during the advent and Christmas season has been made and work has begun on the Christmas program. We are asking for Children, youth and adult volunteers to participate in the annual Christmas program.

Hospitality, Outreach and Evangelism-

At our last meeting, the Hospitality, Evangelism, Outreach Ministry was visited by Fritz Sarbacher to discuss plans and ideas for the construction of the float for the Clarkston Lighted Christmas Parade. Many great ideas were exchanged, and the first construction session was planned, which by now should have

already happened. The theme of the parade is "The Twelve Days of Christmas." We have chosen to represent the First Day of Christmas, depicting the birth of Jesus. It was proposed that there be a "pear" tree on the float as well, with very large pears and a very large partridge cutout.

November 28 at 6:30 pm we will be hanging the greens and other decorations throughout the church. We will be serving cider and cookies to all who will be helping. Please plan to attend and lend a hand. There's lots to do, and the more hands involved, the faster it will be done. There will be a brief service before we start the actual work. This year we will have an actual plan for where everything is to go.

The hospitality hour following our Sunday morning worship service was again discussed, with the biggest discussion centered around what should actually be provided by those who volunteer to host the hour. It seems that it has evolved into what appears to be an entire meal, but that certainly is not necessary. Everyone agreed that all anyone should feel committed to if they volunteer to be a host or hostess is the coffee, punch, and cookies or crackers. And even if you don't sign up as a volunteer host or hostess, you are still welcome to bring any items that you wish to share during this time. Two ministries host one Sunday per month, and other volunteers are needed for the remaining Sundays. Remember, it can be as simple as you wish to make it. Although a hot soup is always comforting in this cold weather, it isn't really a requirement. We'll all share whatever anyone wishes to provide.

We're always looking for more members of this ministry. If you feel you could contribute in any way towards Hospitality, Outreach or Evangelism, please contact one of us, or come to our next meeting the second Monday evening of the month.

Linda Beck, Chairperson

Words from the Pasture

I have been contemplating the shortening of the days lately. I find the season very symbolic. As the days get shorter, there is less and less light in the world. For me this symbolizes the times in life when things seem to be getting worse and worse. Life goes bad for many reasons, health issues, wealth issues and most importantly spiritual issues. I believe that ultimately all issues in life are interrelated. A lack of money or chronic pain can lead to spiritual crises as we wonder why these things have happened. Does not God care? Why has God let this happen to me? The opposite relationship is also true. Spiritual crises can lead to financial and health related issues. In fact I wonder if the root cause of all crises isn't a reflection of a person's relationship with God.

Forgive me if I seem to be implying that an imperfect relationship with God is the cause of all the unpleasantness that has occurred in our lives, I'm not. What I am speculating is that a person's faith and trust in God, or lack thereof, is the cause of the attitude in which a person deals with the inevitable hardships of life in this world. I think a strong relationship with and reliance on God prevents many unfortunate circumstances from becoming crises.

As we enter into the season of advent I again feel the renewal of hope. We once again celebrate the coming of a savior who can lift us out of the circumstances of our lives into the light, a right relationship with God, our creator. If we remember, even as the light slowly fades from the world, that our God loves us and has not abandoned us, we will be blessed with a faith that will see us through any hardship.

D.C.

REGIONAL CHURCH NEWS

Dear Friends,

O Come All You Faithful! This is the theme for this year's Christmas Offering. This special day offering and Disciples Mission Fund are two

primary ways we fund God's work among us as the Northwest Regional Christian Church. One hundred percent of the Christmas Offering from NW congregations stays in the Region and supports our work with one another.

The Christmas Special Day Offering at work . . .

*. . . Supporting congregations through the Search and Call process from the moment they discover their pastor is leaving, through the interim and into the calling of a new minister . . . supporting congregations as they seek new ways to be faithful in the 21st century . . . offering resources to congregations as they seek to strengthen specific ministries . . . providing children and youth with spiritual growth and leadership opportunities through camps and retreats . . . supporting pastors facing significant personal challenges and needing a pastor to talk with . . . welcoming and nurturing new congregations as they begin their ministry and relationship with the Christian Church (Disciples) . . . moving into our new vision and mission on the Regional level as we live into a new structure and regional priorities . . . **All this and so very much more!***

Giving thanks always for you,

Sandy Messick
Regional Minister and President
smessick@disciplesnw.org

Look for the offering envelopes in the bulletins.

GENERAL CHURCH NEWS

***We are Disciples of Christ,
a movement for wholeness
in a fragmented world.
As part of the one body of Christ,
we welcome all to the Lord's Table
as God has welcomed us.***

• Disciples of Christ Statement Of Identity

DISCIPLES PASTOR SELECTED TO BE NEW MINISTER OF FAITH AND GIVING (Indianapolis, Ind. - DNS - Nov. 19, 2009) - A

Disciples pastor whose church has demonstrated outstanding stewardship has been called to serve as the new Minister of Faith and Giving. Bruce Barkhauer, senior minister of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Jeffersonville, Ind., will assume his new position beginning on Feb. 1.

"I am excited about Bruce's call to lead the church in this important and vital ministry," said Todd Adams, Associate General Minister and Vice President. "I first met Bruce at a stewardship training event where I was one of the leaders. As we engaged in conversation, I remember thinking, 'He could be up here teaching this as well!' I look forward to the many ways in which his ministry will bless and lead the wider church."

Barkhauer has been pastor of First Christian in Jeffersonville since 1996. His congregation of 400 members contributes about three quarters of a million dollars a year to the church's ministries.

"I'm thrilled to become a part of this process for the Church. I am very humbled by it," said Barkhauer. "I am asking for people's prayers, not only for myself and my ministry but for the Church in general as we undertake this endeavor."

John Mobley, chair of the Center for Faith and Giving, and regional minister of Alabama/Northwest Florida, said Barkhauer has been an effective pastor, has a background in business and communication, and has been active in community service and organization. "Rev. Barkhauer will give leadership to the development of a five-year plan during his first six months," said Mobley.

Mobley said the Church will benefit from a ministry that is dedicated to helping Disciples understand stewardship as a life-response to the love and generosity of God. Although many ministries of the church already emphasize the importance of stewardship, stewardship has not become a church-wide priority.

Barkhauer graduated from Ohio University in Athens in 1979. He attended Lexington Theological Seminary and earned a M.Div. degree from Christian Theological Seminary in 1985. He also did significant doctor of ministry work at Ashland Theological Seminary. During his undergraduate studies he was an intern with the Phil Donahue Show in Chicago, and later served as the general manager of WJMM-FM, a Christian radio station in Lexington, Ky.

R. Glen Miles, chair of the search committee, said the new minister of Faith and Giving is a tremendously gifted communicator. "Bruce is passionate about stewardship," said Miles, senior minister of Country Club Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Kansas City.

Marilyn S. Fiddmont, also a member of the search committee, believes that Barkhauer has a clear, uncompromising theological understanding of stewardship – not only as a financial impetus but as a spiritual discipline. Barkhauer is focused, visionary, articulate, and yet practical in his understanding of faith and giving, she noted. Fiddmont is assistant vice president of the Christian Church Foundation in the South Central Zone. "This was demonstrated not only in abstract terms but in a tangible proven record both personally and in the congregation he has served," she said. "He has been instrumental in creating a culture of generosity in that community."

First Christian Church, Jeffersonville, where Barkhauer is pastor, contributes about \$750,000 a year to its debt retirement, mission, and operating budget, "which is amazing, considering its size," he said.

"The first thing I will do is a lot of listening," said Barkhauer. "I will listen to the General Ministries, I will listen to the Regional Ministries, and I will listen to the congregational pastors. From that, my advisory committee and I will get a sense of the resources that are needed to help cultivate a culture of generosity across the life of the Church.

"It was tough recently to announce that we were leaving the church and the ministry that we've had for 14 years," said Barkhauer. "Folks were very kind and very sad. We received a standing

ovation at the end of the meeting – a little awkward, but touching and well intended." He and his wife, Laura, have three grown children.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Barbara McCallum
- 5 Carol Fazenbaker
Linda Kramer
- 6 Stamey English
Mildred White
- 9 Tom White
Hannah Parks
- 11 Ann Koenig
- 13 Christine Davis
- 14 Christopher Davis
- 15 Kayla Hammond
- 23 Kimberly Paine
- 25 Vicky Brooks
Billie Jo Dynes
- 27 Alda McIver
- 28 Dixie Carringer
- 29 Cameron Layes
- 31 Tamara Byrd

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 8 Tom and Mary Jo White
- 12 Don and Sue Fuqua
- 18 Stamey and Lee English
- 22 Dave and Ann Koenig
- 27 Jasen and Amber Skelton
- 31 Hank and Marcia Craddock

BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 Lela Martin
- 16 Janice Dumbauld
- 19 Ruth Teal
Myrton Foredyce
- 25 Don Fuqua
Sue Fuqua
- 27 Becca Koenig

Scripture Passages for the Sundays in December

Read ahead, pray and ask questions of the pastor.

- Dec. 6: Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6
- Dec. 13: Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18
- Dec. 20: Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)
- Dec. 27: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Psalm 148
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-52

SCHEDULES, FACTS AND FIGURES

October Attendance and Offering

	Attendance	Money given to support our ministry
November 1	73	\$5,000.87
November 8	70	\$5,514.85
November 15	88	\$2,175.29
November 22	72	\$1,174.41

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*

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

840 Tenth Street (Diagonal & Sycamore)
Clarkston Washington 99403



Our Partners in Service for Jesus

This month your offerings helped support the following ministries:

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



Merry
Christmas

