



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 53 Number 17

September 16, 2009

Sunday School at 9:30 A.M.	700 Poyntz Avenue
Sunday Worship at 10:45 A.M.	Manhattan, Kansas 66502
Second Helping Dinner at 5:15 P.M.	telephone 785-537-7006
Thursday Evening Taizé at 7:00 P.M.	www.uccmanhattan.org

It's Always Something

“A sad night we had last night in Manhattan. A real tornado passed through our quiet town. It unroofed our church. ... It will take from \$300 to \$500 to repair damages on our church. What I wish to say is we must have some money immediately. We must buy some 10,000 shingles as our roof was very much broken and smashed. ... We have expended over \$3,000 on the building. The plastering was just done and we expected to dedicate it the first Sabbath in June. The rain spoiled the plastering and now it will be weeks before it is finished unless we can get some money.”

So reads the letter for May 16, 1859, from the first pastor of our church, the Rev. Charles Emerson Blood. Indeed, to anyone who has served on the board of Trustees or volunteered time to help in the care of our historic building, it's always something. It's been that way from the very beginning when the dedication of Manhattan's first church building had to be postponed until the damages of the storm could be repaired. *[continued page 2]*

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But Blood and the congregation persevered, and in late July, the small stone building on Juliette street was dedicated—Manhattan's first church building. It is now the oldest Protestant church building in Kansas in continuous use by its congregation. We know it now as Pioneer Hall, and it's just a small part of our present facilities, but it is a significant and tangible link with our past, and a reminder of the sacrifice of the pioneers who came here because of their conviction that “the system of American chattel slavery [is] a high crime against God and humanity.” (from by-law 6 of the original *Constitution of First Congregational Church, Manhattan.*)

While the church is not a building, a church building, especially an historic one, is a legacy provided by our ancestors that holds an important place not only in a congregation's life but in the life of a community. This Sunday, September 20, we will give thanks that we have had the privilege of sharing worship, fellowship, and mission in Manhattan's oldest church building.

Having spent a month in the United Kingdom this summer, I realize that 150 years is not all that old by European standards. You are hard pressed to photograph churches there without scaffolding in view. But 150 is old for Kansas, and even 105 (the age of our “new” sanctuary) is old enough that there is always something that needs attention. As was the case in the summer of 1859, that something seems to be roofs once again. As I write, the roof of the tower is being reconstructed. We hope that the church will soon be signing a work order for the replacement of the roofs on the rest of our building which received hail damage in 2008.

One thing that has long impressed me about this congregation is the careful stewardship shown toward the legacy of historic buildings we occupy. They have been carefully maintained and updated by generations before us. The result is a beautiful and functional place to be the church—not a museum, but a living place that has not forgotten its past. Now it's our turn, because it's always something—something in need of our care so that it can serve future generations.

Grace & Peace,

Sharing and Caring

Prayers and Concerns

- For further information please call the church office.

Thank You

- A big “Thank you!” to Knick Knicklebine for building the safety chutes on the chime rack. We will be asking for volunteers to paint them once the new roof is on the tower.

E-MAIL PRAYER CHAIN

If you wish to be added to the First Congregational e-mail prayer chain, please contact office@uccmanhattan.org.



Helping

- **Need a ride to church?** Contact one of our transportation volunteers: Jim & Carolyn Hodgson, Bill Pallett, Mike & Martha Miller, or Jeff Keller.
- **Sunday School Teacher Needed**
A Sunday School teacher is needed immediately for the Kindergarten through grade 2 Sunday School class. The curriculum is "Gather Round" from UCC. It is very well laid out and self explanatory. There are currently 6 children enrolled in this class. Please contact Grizelda Mac Donald at CEdirector@uccmanhattan.org or visit with her after worship.



Shrub Sale

**Saturday, September 26
8:00-to 11:00 A.M.
at First Congregational UCC**

Experienced gardeners will be available to assist you.

Enhance your environment and your community.

Proceeds will benefit the Emergency Shelter, Shepherd's Crossing, and the Second Helping.



Neighbors in Need

The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive on September 20, supports the United Church of Christ's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

Through UCCTakeAction.org, our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

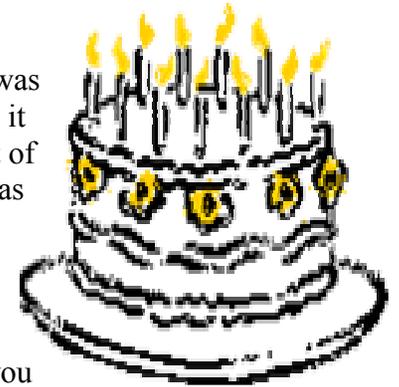
Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hocak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

An envelope for your gift is included in this newsletter.



Celebrate Pioneer Hall's 150th Sunday, September 20

Manhattan's oldest church building was dedicated in July of 1859. We know it now as Pioneer Hall—the oldest part of our building. First Congregational has been worshipping there for over 150 years, and on September 20 we are having a party! Join us for the celebration in worship and plan to stay for cake and refreshments in—you guessed it—Pioneer Hall.



Constructed in 1858-1859, Pioneer Hall (on the right) is seen with its first addition (now incorporated into Blachly Hall) in this photo from the 1870's,

ECM Potato Bar September 27

ECM (Ecumenical Campus Ministries) will be hosting an outreach meal to show their appreciation to First Congregational UCC for all that we do for ECM. The luncheon begins immediately following worship in Pioneer and Blachly Halls. The menu includes: baked potato with fixings (chili, broccoli, cheese, sour cream, butter), drinks, and dessert.



CROP Walk is October 11



What is a CROP Hunger Walk?

Neighbors walking together to take a stand against hunger in our world. Together we raise awareness and funds for international relief and development, as well as local hunger-fighting. Plan to walk with our congregation's contingent on Sunday afternoon, October 11. If you can't walk, please sponsor one of our walkers.



The Tower Roof

There is no mystery as to why the tower roof was sagging. The Riley Construction crew reports that

there are nine layers of roofing up there from the past 105 years! Last week was spent carefully removing the original decorative metal cornices which will be repaired and reinstalled. With good weather forecasts for this week, the entire roof and underlying structure is being removed and will be rebuilt with new materials. The tower chime system has been tarped for protection against the elements should the weather change while the tower is open to the sky. The new waterproof chime loft floor will protect the tower room and narthex.

This project is very important maintenance work on our historic building; unfortunately, it is also very expensive. An anonymous donor and the Women of the Church have already made generous contributions to this work, and tax credits and insurance are covering part of the project costs. However, additional contributions are welcomed. If you wish to make a gift, please mark it "Tower Roof."



Christian Education

Our Whole Lives reminders—

Parents, it's vitally important that you remember the following dates and attend this meeting to allow your children to attend the Our Whole Lives course.

Grades 4-6 Parent/Child Orientation on *Our Whole Lives*

Date: 27 September, 2009

Time: 1:00 to 3:00 P.M.

We will begin after enjoying the ECM Potato Bar lunch

Grades 4-6 Our Whole Lives: Sexuality and Our Faith classes

Date: October through November, 2009

Duration: 8 weeks

Teachers: Angela Hubler and Grizelda MacDonald

Adult Forum Sundays at 9:30 A.M.

A Sacred Conversation on Race

The United Church of Christ and the National Council of Churches has invited congregations to engage in *A Sacred Conversation on Race*. As part of that conversation, the Adult Forum on Sunday mornings is focusing our attention on the subject of race and racism in America. We meet at 9:30 A.M. each Sunday in Pioneer Hall (the original church building of our abolitionist forebears), and you are invited.

The schedule includes forums on: "The Bible and Racism" on September 20 and 27. "A History of Racism in the United States" on October 4, 11, 18, & 25. "White Privilege" on November 1. "Is Affirmative Action Still Needed?" on November 8. "Do Segregated Churches Imply Racism" on November 15.

Youth Corner

Youth Schedule for Fall 2009

September

Sun. 20 7:00 P.M. Movie Night at the church

Sat. 26 8:00 P.M. Lock-in at the Church

October

Fri.-Sat. 2-3 K-O Conference Annual Meeting, Wichita

Fri. 9 5:30 P.M. Kansas City Haunted Houses

Sun. 18 Church event—Dessert Potluck

Fri. 23-24 OWL Retreat for Sr. High, Camp White

November

Sun. 8 7:00 P.M., Movie Night at the church

12th-15th 7:30 P.M. 12-14, or 2:30 on Nov. 15, KSU Musical:

Guys and Dolls, \$10-- **Please let Tracey know**

ASAP if you can go so that the correct number of tickets can be purchased.

Sun. 22 OWL (Our Whole Lives) – Sr. High

Sun. 29 No Youth Group – HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

December

Sun. 6 7:00 P.M. Bowling

Sat. 12 3:00 P.M. Purchase gifts for adopted family

Sun 13 Wrap gifts during Sunday School

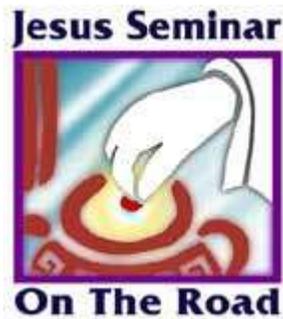
7:00 P.M. Youth Group Gift Exchange -- \$5 and

under Pink Elephant Party

Sun. 20 OWL – Sr High

Sun. 28 No Youth Meeting – SEE YOU NEXT YEAR on
January 10, 2010!

**Oklahoma City,
Oklahoma
Friday & Saturday
September 25-26, 2009**



Where does Mary Magdalene fit in with Peter and Paul? This question will be addressed in an upcoming seminar, September 25-26, in Oklahoma City.

The seminar will feature Bernard Brandon Scott, Darbeth Distinguished Professor of New Testament at Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa, Okla. and Kathleen E. Corley, Oshkosh Northwestern Distinguished Professor at the University of Wisconsin in Oshkosh. They will discuss *Peter, Paul, and Mary: Three Early Christian Voices* on Friday and Saturday, September 25 and 26 at Mayflower Congregational (UCC) Church, 3901 NW 63rd Street, in Oklahoma City.

Three lectures are planned for this two-day event. Slated for Friday at 7:30 P.M. is *Mary Magdalene, the Woman Who Knew Too Much*. The Saturday morning workshop begins at 9:00 A.M. with *Peter and Paul: Face-off in Antioch*. The afternoon session starts at 1:00 P.M. and will discuss *Christian Origins: Historical and Ethical Issues for the Church*.

“We will show the importance of three key figures in early Christianity – Peter, Paul and Mary Magdalene. People are used to taking Peter and Paul as important but not Mary Magdalene. In fact, she is a major influence in early Christianity and is certainly equal to Peter and Paul,” said Scott.

Scott earned his Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University in 1971. He is a charter member of the Jesus Seminar. His course offerings in recent years have included New Testament Greek, Introduction to the New Testament, Romans, The Historical Jesus, Theological Issues in Film, and the PTS Borderlinks study tour. Scott has authored several books, including *Hear Then the Parable* (1989),

Re-Imagine the World (2002), and served as editor of *Jesus Reconsidered* (2007).

Kathleen E. Corley (Ph.D. Claremont Graduate School) is a member of the Steering Committee of the Historical Jesus Section in the Society of Biblical Literature. Her books include *Private Women, Public Meals* (1993) and *Women and the Historical Jesus* (2002).

Registration is \$75. Cost for a single session is: Friday evening lecture: \$20; Saturday morning lecture \$30; and the Saturday afternoon workshop is also \$30.

The Jesus Seminar on the Road is a traveling seminar that brings Fellows of the Jesus Seminar into conversation with interested people across North America and around the world. For more information on Phillips Theological Seminary visit the web site at www.ptstulsa.edu. For more information on the Jesus Seminar on the Road, visit www.westarinstitute.org.

Shop Smart Grocery Certificates

The easy way to make an extra donation to the Church. Purchase your certificates before or after worship to use when you buy groceries. Buy the coupons at face value, spend them like cash, and the church receives a donation. Certificates are now available for HyVee in addition to Dillon's and Ray's Apple Market.

Caretaker Assistant Available

I am looking for part-time work providing help for homebound persons. Available on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays. Pay and hours are negotiable. Contact me via email at janallen@interkan.net.

— Jan Allen

Worship & Church Volunteers

September 20, 2009

Flowers.....*Volunteer Needed*
Greeters.....Sue Gerth, Tracey Weston
Scripture Reader.....Jim Mock
Word for Children...Bill Richter
Fellowship Hour.....Sue Gerth
Lawn Mowing.....Brad Logan (*through September 26*)

September 27, 2009

Flowers.....*Volunteer Needed*
Greeters.....*Volunteers Needed*
Scripture Reader.....*Volunteer Needed*
Word for Children...Kerri Keller
Fellowship Hour.....*Volunteer Needed*
Lawn Mowing.....Don Cannon (*through October 3*)

October 4, 2009

Flowers.....*Volunteer Needed*
Greeters.....*Volunteers Needed*
Scripture Reader.....*Volunteer Needed*
Word for Children...*Volunteer Needed*
Fellowship Hour.....*Volunteer Needed*
Lawn Mowing.....*Volunteer Needed* (*through October 10*)

October 11, 2009

Flowers.....*Volunteer Needed*
Greeters.....*Volunteers Needed*
Scripture Reader.....*Volunteers Needed*
Word for Children...*Volunteer Needed*
Fellowship Hour.....Mary Ellen Barkley
Lawn Mowing.....Brad Logan (*through October 17*)

The Second Helping

The Second Helping is a local mission of First Congregational UCC. It serves a hot meal every Sunday evening and provides sack breakfast and lunch items to each guest. To volunteer, contact Mandy Strawn at 537-7006 or office@uccmanhattan.org.



September 20, 2009

Chief Cook.....Bob Atchison
Volunteers.....Manhattan Mennonite Church, Ann Gleason
Dessert.....*Volunteer Needed*

September 27, 2009

Chief Cook.....Sandy O'Grady
Volunteers.....ESA Sorority
Dessert.....Amanda Tross

October 4, 2009

Chief Cook.....Steve Staker
Volunteers.....Manhattan Mennonite Church, Ann Gleason
Dessert.....*Volunteer Needed*

Community News

Community Cultural Harmony Week

September 20 through 25 This year's theme is "Many Voices of Hope." Throughout the week, a variety of programs, workshops, and organized events are scheduled. For a complete listing of events, times, and locations please visit www.k-state.edu/cchw.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 18-20

Movies on the Grass Series:

"Playing for Change" & "The Tiger Next Door"
Community Cultural Harmony Walk

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 (International Day of Peace):

CNV Campaign for Nonviolence Fall Rally
Opening Reception. Dance performances and food!
K-State Peace Pole Dedication at the UFM lawn
CCHW Film Series: "Jerusalem is Proud to Present"

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Singer/songwriter Javier Mendoza performs
Media Professionals Day "Media Myths and Stereotypes about Native Americans"
Asante Touring Company performing "MLK in a Hip Hop World"

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Student Panel on Diversity

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Jon Nakamatsu piano performance

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Justin Akers-Chacón discussion on immigration
Community Cultural Harmony Week Banquet and Recognition of Student Scholarships
Art Exhibit and performance: "Kansas Women"

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