



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 53 Number 22

November 25, 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

The Adventure of Advent

By the time you read this in print, the turkey will be leftovers and the Christmas machine will be in high gear. The church will do its countercultural best to remind us that the weeks preceding Christmas are about more than shopping, decorating and frantic attempts to achieve the perfect Christmas. The scriptures of the season will take us into the lives of those who waited and watched not for Christmas in all its warm and fuzzy nostalgia, but for something new, something signaling change, something that would shake the foundations of the familiar.

Our Adult Forum series during Advent centers on the theme of Advent Adventures and offer the opportunity to share some new adventures—I'll be leading off by talking (and showing, if technology cooperates) about my experience this summer in Oxford. Certainly there will also be the familiar—what would the season be without the children reminding us of the nativity story in their own inimitable way? And the haunting hymns of the season—old favorites like O Come, O Come, [continued p. 2]

→ → → → Inside this Newsletter ← ← ← ←

Sharing & Caring.....3-4	Volunteer Ministries..... 9-10
Seasonal News & Events5-7	Stewardship Updates 11
Christian Education..... 8	Community News..... 11

Emmanuel; Wake! Awake! For Night is Flying—new favorites like Toda la Tierra (All Earth Is Waiting to See the Promised One).

I suppose “new favorites” is in the ear of the hearer when it comes to hymns, but I am especially grateful to those who share their art with the church. Every favorite was once a new hymn. Thinking of Advent adventures, Fred Kaan is the hymn writer who comes to mind. Kaan, who died this past month at the age of 80, described himself as the “world’s most surprised hymn writer.”

Fred Kaan was Dutch, was unable to read music, and only began to learn English at the age of 16. He became a minister in the United Reformed Church in Britain, and while pastor of Pilgrim Church in Plymouth, England, he grew frustrated that he could not find hymns that expressed what he wanted to convey in worship. Thus began an adventure of a lifetime of hymn writing. Eventually, he wrote the texts for more than 200 hymns in English, and has been called the “dean of 20th century hymn writers.

Of the four hymn texts by Kaan that appear in *The New Century Hymnal*, my favorite is one of his earliest, written in 1965. After 4½ decades, the hopes it expresses remain utterly contemporary:

*For the healing of the nations, God, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords;
to a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word.*

*Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred, all my come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase.*

*All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned;
pride of status, race, or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span.*

*You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind,
that by our response and service earth its destiny may find.*

(Hymn 576, *The New Century Hymnal*)

Grace & Peace,

Sharing and Caring

Prayers and Concerns

Please call the church office for further information

Helping

- **Need a ride to church?** Contact one of our transportation volunteers: Jim & Carolyn Hodgson, Bill Pallett, Mike & Martha Miller, or Jeff Keller.
- **Home Communion Visits** are available by contacting the office or the pastor. The Deacons can arrange to bring communion to your home on the first Sunday of each month as we celebrate the sacrament in worship. Visits at other times can be arranged with the pastor.

E~MAIL PRAYER CHAIN

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



Thank You

- The Women of the Church have several fund-raising activities. One is serving a meal to the AAUW. Lois Sauer began this project in 1995. With profits we have continued to help maintain the church kitchen and to make annual donations to several local mission groups. Currently Barbra Withee and Joy Schell plan menus and cook part of the meals. Additional cooks have been Donna Keyser and Martha Miller. A regular crew helps serve the meal and clean up the kitchen. The crew includes Jenny Clark, Ann Gleason, Carolyn Hodgson, Lauren Riterbush and Marsha Tannehill. Many thanks to all these volunteers. If you might be interested in helping with shopping, cooking, or serving and clean up, please call Joy Schell at 537-7006.

Board Members and Officers

- Special thanks to all those who agreed to serve as officers or as members of the church's boards and committees in 2010. The church boards meet on the first Wednesday of the month, at 7:00 P.M. If you have agreed to serve on the board of Deacons, Trustees, Christian Education, or Mission and Outreach for the coming year, please plan to attend on December 2nd. This helps us make a smooth transition from the outgoing board membership to the new board membership.
- If you have been serving on a board in 2009, thank you for your service, whether you are continuing in that capacity or moving on to new adventures!

Annual Reports Please have your annual reports to the office as early as possible. It is greatly encouraged that those who can turn your report in before the end of the year do so.



The Doane College Choir

We are still in need of volunteers to accommodate the Doane College Choir coming at the end of January. The Choir, from UCC related

Doane College in Crete, Nebraska, will be giving a concert at our church on the evening of **Saturday, January 30, 2010**. They will also sing in our worship service the following morning. We're looking forward to the evening concert and to hearing the choir the next day in church.

We will need to find housing for about 50 students, and we're asking for congregational help. If you have an extra bed or two, and are willing to house folks on Saturday night and get them to the church on Sunday morning, please call the church office or sign up on the sheet on the office door. Please let us know how many beds you have, and whether they are singles or doubles.

Thank you so much!

Gretchen Lewis, on behalf of the choir



Hanging of the Greens

This year you have two opportunities to help:
Saturday, November 28 at 9:00 A.M. members and friends are

invited to gather and help decorate the sanctuary with poinsettias and greens for the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

Sunday, November 29 following Fellowship Hour the Deacons invite you to help them hang the greens in Pioneer and Blachly Halls and to decorate the Chrismon Tree in Pioneer Hall.

Poinsettias

Advent brings the opportunity for you to provide poinsettias in memory of or in honor of someone important to you as we decorate the church for Advent and Christmas. The cost to donate Poinsettias is \$10.00 per plant.



Christmas Eve Worship

Choral and instrumental music, candles, Holy Communion, the Christmas story, hymns old and new, carols on the chimes, the Christmas Fund offering—plan to join us for the annual celebration of Christ's birth. Friends or family visiting? Bring them along! **8:00 P.M. December 24.**

The Angel Tree

Help bring a smile to the face of a child again this year by participating in the annual Angel Tree project. Each angel on the tree represents a child in foster care in our community. Each angel has a list of three items to choose from that the child would like this Christmas. The angel tree will be in the office entryway, and angels can be picked up weekdays during office hours or on Sundays. Please return all of your angel gifts to the church office, unwrapped, no later than Sunday, December 13. If you have any questions please contact Elisé Dunnigan at 537-7006 Thank you for being an angel to a child!



From the Board of Trustees

Fall Clean up—December 5



The annual Fall Clean-Up day for the church grounds is scheduled for **Saturday, December 5th** beginning at 9:00 A.M. Please bring gloves and garden equipment (including rakes). With many hands, this job may take only a couple hours. If you only have an hour to spare, that is OK, too! Pickup trucks to haul away the leaves are also a great help.

Study & Discussion Opportunities for Adults

Thursday Evening Bible Study

Our Thursday evening Bible Study is up and running, and you still have time to check it out! We have chosen the book *Velvet Elvis: Repainting the Christian Faith* as a jumping off point for our discussions this fall. We meet at 5:30 P.M. in Blachly Hall, and you are welcome to bring a brown bag supper or snacks. Child Care is provided. We conclude by 6:45. Taizé worship follows.

Advent Adventures

Advent Adventures is the topic to round out 2009 in the Sunday morning Adult Forum series. We begin on November 29 with Pastor Kent sharing a part of his experience at the Summer Theology School at Oxford University this year.

Christian Education for Kids



The Sunday School Christmas Pageant will be presented on December 13 during the worship service.

There will be no Sunday School Classes for children, youth, or adults on December 27 or January 3.

Worship & Church Volunteers

November 29, 2009

Flowers Advent Poinsettias
Greeters *Volunteer Needed*, Dan & Ben Clark
Scripture Reader Dave Smit
Word for Children ... Atina Hanna
Fellowship Hour *Volunteer Needed*
Snow Removal Dave Smit (*through December 5*)

December 6, 2009

Flowers Advent Poinsettias
Greeters *Volunteers Needed*,
Scripture Reader Judy Ahrens
Word for Children ... William Richter
Fellowship Hour Atina Hanna
Snow Removal Dale Stearns (*through December 12*)

December 13, 2009

Flowers Advent Poinsettias
Greeters *Volunteers Needed*,
Scripture Reader Jim Mock
Word for Children ... Christmas Play
Fellowship Hour *Volunteer Needed*
Snow Removal Al Cochran (*through December 19*)

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 785-456-6743 or mandy.strawn@gmail.com.



November 29, 2009

Chief Cook Ann Smit, Sue Zschoche
Volunteers KSU Nutrition Department
Dessert *Volunteer Needed*

December 6, 2009

Chief Cook Manhattan Mennonite Church
Volunteers Karen Franz
Dessert *Volunteer Needed*

December 13, 2009

Chief Cook *To be announced*
Volunteers *To be announced*
Dessert *To be announced*

Stewardship Update Thank you to members of First Congregational Church who have pledged for 2010. Thus far we have received 40 pledges totaling \$116,538.51 from pledges. Our basic goal for 2010 is \$150,000—we must raise that much in order to avoid cutting valued staff or programs. If we can exceed that level, we can reduce the projected deficit or extend our mission and ministry. If you would like to make a pledge, please fill out a pledge card or call the church office.

Raise the Roof Funds We have had a good response to our request for funds to cover the costs to fix the church roofs. We have received pledges and/or gifts that total \$7,170 toward our goal of \$12,000. The Board of Trustees thanks you for your generous support of this campaign.

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**700 Poyntz Avenue
Manhattan, KS 66502**
(785) 537-7006
uccmanhattan.org



Community News

Mayor's Holiday Food & Fund Drive is a community wide fundraiser that brings Manhattan together to help families in need. Hunger exists year round, however the need for food assistance is most intense in November and December because of the demand for additional necessities. During the holidays the Breadbasket distributes thousands of food baskets to Manhattan families in need. It costs approximately \$38 to provide a food basket for a family of four. If you would like to make a donation, please make checks payable to:

**The Mayor's Holiday Tree
905 Yuma
Manhattan, KS 66502**

Your contribution is tax deductible and will be matched by a foundation! Food donations are always welcome at the Flint Hills Breadbasket, especially during the Holidays!

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



1 WORLD AIDS DAY

2
11:30 Lunch Bunch

7:00 Board Meetings

3

5:30 Bible Study
7:00 Taizé

4
9:00 Crisis Center Meeting

6:00 Storytime

5

6  **ADVENT II**
8:30 Choir Rehearsal
9:30 Church School
10:45 Worship & Communion
12:00 Fellowship Hour
5:15 Second Helping

7

8

9


10

5:30 Bible Study
7:00 Taizé

11
9:00 Crisis Center Meeting

6:00 Storytime

12

13  **ADVENT III**
8:30 Choir Rehearsal
9:30 Church School
10:45 Worship-
Christmas Pageant
12:00 Fellowship Hour
5:15 Second Helping

14
Newsletter Deadline

15

16

6:00 Vitality Team
7:30 Cabinet

17

5:30 Bible Study
7:00 Taizé

18
9:00 Crisis Center Meeting

6:00 Storytime

19

20  **ADVENT IV**
8:30 Choir Rehearsal
9:30 Church School
10:45 Worship-
Lessons & Carols
12:00 Fellowship Hour
5:15 Second Helping

21

22

23

24 CHRISTMAS EVE
8:00 FESTIVAL
Service of Word and Sacrament

25

Office Closed

26

27 CHRISTMAS I
9:30 Choir Rehearsal
10:45 Worship
12:00 Fellowship Hour
5:15 Second Helping

28

29

30

Please submit Annual Reports to the office

31

No Taizé

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Geneva Denholm
- 1 Vincent Hanna
- 4 Jim Mock
- 5 Dona Sidorfsky
- 5 James Dunnigan
- 11 Simone Buelow
- 12 Robert Bauernfeind
- 15 Paula Caffey
- 16 Jane Hebert
- 16 Linda James
- 20 Joe Strawn
- 21 Karen Penner
- 26 Kerri Keller

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 23 Damien & Jane Hebert
- 25 Richard & Linda Hoag
- 30 William & Caren Knicklebine

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- December 2 Lunch Bunch
Board Meetings
- December 6 Fill the Breadbasket
- December 13 Children's Pageant
- December 14 Newsletter Deadline
- December 16 Vitality Team Meeting
Cabinet Meeting
- December 20 Lessons & Carols
- December 24 Christmas Eve Service
- December 25 **Christmas Day**
Office Closed