

November 11, 2009

VOLUME 61, NO. 21

**DISCIPLES OF CHRIST DENOMINATIONAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE**  
**This Sunday, November 15 at 5:00 p.m.**  
**South Street Christian Church, 500 South Avenue**



Springfield Disciples will gather at South Street Christian Church on Sunday, November 15, at 5:00 p.m. for a service of worship, followed by a time of fellowship. Featured in the service will be Mark Given on pipe organ, South Street's *Celebration!* Band and music by Emily Bowen and Nathaniel Carroll from Brentwood Christian Church. Our own **Rev. Laura Fregin** will be the featured speaker. There will also be children's programming and a combined children's choir will sing in the service.



**NACC ALL CHURCH THANKSGIVING DINNER**  
**Sunday, November 22 After Second Worship Service**  
**\$6.00 per person (youth will be free)**  
It will be catered by Heritage Cafeteria.

**2009 Thanksgiving Special Offering**

As we prepare to receive the Thanksgiving offering, Pastor Laura has asked me to share some Longman family history. In the early 80's our youngest son Tim received a full tuition scholarship at Phillips University, a Disciples related school. Encouraged by his major professors, he went on to graduate school to focus on African studies. In the past fifteen years he has worked in Rwanda including investigating the genocide. Twice he has gone to East Africa to assess State Department USAID projects in democratization. This fall he became Director of the African Studies Center at Boston University. Scholarships such as his are provided through the Thanksgiving Offering. These are offered to members of Disciples Churches attending any of the seventeen Disciples colleges. This offering also provides scholarships at the ten Disciple seminaries and divinity houses. Pastor Laura Fregin benefitted from such a scholarship while she attended Brite Divinity School. Our Thanksgiving offering will be received November 15 and 23.

**Lee Longman, Outreach Dept.**

**The Memorial Fund Distribution: The Deadline is December 15**

So that the NACC board may vote on distributions from the Unitrust Memorial Fund in early January, **the deadline for requests has been set for December 15, 2009.** Proposals should be directed to the Unitrust Committee in care of Chad Young and may be turned in to the church office. Requests may come from board members, church committees, or any NACC member. In keeping with the wishes of the donors to the various memorial funds that have been subsumed by the new Unitrust Memorial Fund (e.g., Virginia Starr, Clifford & Anise Dalton), the Unitrust Committee will give preference to proposals which fund: ■ seminary scholarships ■ worship and witness to the community (special programs, speakers, music, materials, etc.) ■ "capital improvement" proposals (physical needs not covered in the normal church budget).



**NEW Restorative Yoga Class**

Calm your mind, relax and stretch your muscles, and nourish your body with breath. Join Kim Zimmerman for an hour of Restorative Yoga, appropriate for all levels. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a yoga mat and eye pillow if you have one. The class will take place on Wednesdays, beginning November 18, from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. There is no charge for the class, but a suggested donation of \$5.00 is welcome. The Hatha Yoga classes will still be held in Fellowship Hall on Monday nights from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

# Along the Avenue



**Video Recording Ministry Still Needed?** We are attempting to determine whether there is a need to continue with the video

and CD recording of our Sunday morning 10:45 service. If you have thoughts or concerns on this matter please direct them to Ken Reese at [kreese311@gmail.com](mailto:kreese311@gmail.com) or by phone at 417-831-0776.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO

. . . **Etta Madden** on being awarded the Carter Award (named after NACC member Ruth Carter) on Nov. 5 at the United Ministries in Higher Education Annual Dinner. This award is given to honor a person who has given exceptional Christian service on behalf of their campus ministries.



**Benny & Beverly Ellis** now have an email address. It is [benny.ellis41@att.net](mailto:benny.ellis41@att.net).

Thank you to **Debbie Radford** and **Sylvia Clark** who lent their time and talents to come in and sew buttons back on our pew pads.



## WHO?



Just who is going to be 90 on November 22?

Enjoys being Aunt to Tony & Jan, Sally & Gary, Maggie, Dale & Nancy, Richard & Kathy and all their kids?

Adopted a dog recently and named him Shadow?

Nurtured many school children in her 30 years of teaching?

Never turns down a chance to go somewhere?

Entertains on Christmas and New Year's Eve with a dinner?

Got married to Franklin in 1960?

Always has a smile and a hug for everyone she meets?

Made a home for Steven and David?

Belongs to National Avenue Christian Church and several clubs?

Loves the Cardinals, knitting, and reading?

Emails her friends, makes cards on her computer and treasures her many friends?

### Jeanne Gamble - that's who!

Please join her family in celebrating her birthday at an  
**Open House**  
**Saturday, November 14, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.**  
**In our Fellowship Hall**

### Report for Sunday, November 1, 2009

Worship Attendance. . . . .	181
Church School Attendance. . . . .	87
Homebound Served. . . . .	5
Weekly Receipts. . . . .	\$11,204
"KFC" Buckets. . . . .	\$91

### Report for Sunday, November 8, 2009

Worship Attendance. . . . .	181
Church School Attendance. . . . .	67
Homebound Served. . . . .	5
Weekly Pledge Receipts. . . . .	\$8,273

### Sunday, November 15

**Sermon.** . . . . Rev. Laura Fregin

**Worship Leader.** . . . . Craig Hacker

### Sunday, November 22

**Sermon.** . . . . Rev. Laura Fregin

**Worship Leaders.** . . Charrie Dixon and Robyn Hagerman

## **From Pastor Laura...**

*In the past few weeks we have all been stretching as we have worked to expand our language for God. We are expanding the way we talk about God in the hope that we may also expand our experience of God. We are also expanding our language about ourselves as an attempt to fully understand the lived reality of being the beloved of God. In doing so, we are using language to live out with integrity that which already exists in our midst – the truth that God is equally inclusive of all people.*



*When I first came to Brite Divinity School several years ago, inclusive language was a relatively new concept for me. Certainly I knew that even though we called God Father and often used male pronouns, God was not male or female. But at Brite, they were very strict about their policy – use of non-inclusive language in a paper or a class presentation was simply not acceptable. It was so difficult for me to stop saying and writing, “Father God” and using “he”. My papers would come back with bright red circles drawn around these [and a few other errors of course!], and I soon realized they were serious about inclusive language. I think though, that it took me a much longer time to realize “why” it was important.*

*In the Bible, naming is an important concept. The name that something, someplace or someone had in Scriptures carried with it the essence of what that person or place really was. Names and naming had meaning in Biblical times and they continue to be important for us today. In looking at information from a number of resources in main line churches, these understandings as well as the following ideas are often addressed in conversations about inclusive language.*

*Inclusive language is important because it expresses what we believe as a community of faith:*

- that all people are created in God’s image*
- that God is far more awesome, personal and expansive than any one metaphor or image can suggest*
- that the diversity of the people of God must be acknowledged and embraced in such a way that all may feel and be included.*

*Inclusive language is needed because:*

- words, and the images they invoke, have the power to shape our beliefs and attitudes*
- words indicate our basic belief and assumptions about ourselves, about others, and about God*
- some language used for God actually stands in the way of helping individuals develop a close relationship with God*

*It is also important for us to understand that the Scriptures actually use a wide variety of words and images to help us understand God’s fullness. Think of all the words used to name God in the Bible. Many of these names are metaphorical, because the mystery of God absolutely transcends the limitations of our human language. The Bible though, does provide us with an abundance of metaphors for God that reflects our human experience of God’s divine presence. In reading the Bible you will find that both male and female images are used to create metaphors drawn from human relationships and, there are many other natural images also used as metaphors for God.*

*I hope you will take some time this week to look at some of those words, images and metaphors – you may be surprised at how many different ways the Bible speaks of God.*

*Remember we are reading the Book of Ruth from the Hebrew Bible in preparation for our worship these next two weeks. I look forward to seeing each of you on Sunday.*

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Newsletter Deadline: Noon on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14**  
**JEANNE GAMBLE'S BIRTHDAY PARTY** will be held from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.



**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16**  
The **ELDERS MEETING** will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the parlor.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15**  
Worship services at 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Sunday School is at 9:30 a.m.  
  
The Chancel Choir meets in the Music Room at 10:15 a.m. to rehearse before worship.  
  
Youth Groups from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
  
The **DISCIPLES OF CHRIST DENOMINATIONAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE** will begin at 5:00 p.m. at South Street Christian Church, 500 South Avenue.

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4**  
**DR. WHITE'S CLASS** begins at 6:00 p.m. in the parlor.  
  
Chancel Bells rehearse at 6:00 p.m. in Room 207.  
  
Chancel Choir meets at 7:00 p.m. in the Music Room.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22**  
An **ALL CHURCH THANKSGIVING DINNER** will be held in Fellowship Hall after the second worship service. (\$6 per person, youth free).