



# GOOD NEWS

Ankeny Christian Church

February 2012

## A new Bible Study

A request has been made for a new Bible Study to be formed and to include people from all denominations and walks of life. You are invited to come and experience a first study on **Wednesday, February 1, 2012** in the meeting room at Dahl's, 9:00 a.m. This will last about 90 minutes. There will be time to get acquainted and discussion on what to study, time and place. For any further information call Karen Fausch at 965-1670.

## Seniors of Ankeny Christian let's get together!

If you are 50 or older or just feel like it, let's get together on **Wednesday, February 1, 1:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall of the church. During our first time together we will have a time of devotions, some fun, discussion on future events, and of course a snack. We will be finished by 3:00. This will be a time to get to know one another and make new friends. If you like this idea but the date and time are not good for you call Karen Fausch (965-1670) and share you ideas.

## Property work order forms

Let the Property Committee know if you see something broken or a problem that needs attention in the church building or on the church grounds. Fill out a Work Order form and place in Property's mailbox. Work Order forms are located on the counter by the name tags.

Wonderful Wednesday class

## ***Embracing an Adult Faith: What it means to be Christian***

Led by Pastor Dave. In this six week course, we will revisit the most fundamental questions of Christianity: Who is God? What does salvation mean? What place does Jesus hold in contemporary Christian faith? This study by Dr. Marcus Borg will engage participants as they honestly confront those big questions and work together toward authentic answers.

## Monday Margaritas

Monday Margaritas is a new women's fellowship group gathering starting in **March**. We will be meeting the first Monday of every month at different restaurants in the Ankeny and Des Moines area. This is a time of fellowship and getting to know each other as women of the church. Please know that even though the fun name says Margaritas, the emphasis is not on the margaritas but the social aspect of coming together for fellowship. (Drinking a margarita is an optional choice!)

Our first outing will be **Monday, March 5** at 5:00 p.m. at the Garden Grill 8385 Birchwood Ct, Johnston. They will offer 1/2 price appetizers and \$3.50 margaritas during this time if interested.

This is for women of all ages. Join us as we get this great fellowship group kicked off.

Sorry, guys, at this time, this is for women only!!

### *Moral Injury*

I must admit that I rolled my eyes a bit the first time I heard the term "moral injury." There are dozens of ways we can be hurt, but our morals? Believe it or not, this has become a military term. It's not that we've found a new weapon to damage the morality of other people. The term refers to the very real consequences of war that affect thousands of our troops when they arrive home. As we know, war is ugly and traumatic. In war, people often witness and participate in things that challenge their normal ways of relating to the world. It's not quite the same as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Moral injury is more subtle yet just as problematic. The consequences leave people conflicted, unsure about themselves and in some circumstances contributed toward suicide.

This summer, the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) passed a resolution that deals with this problem. Our denomination will be working with the armed forces and VA to help find ways to help folks who suffer in this way. Instead of rolling my eyes, I was proud to see that our church supports folks dealing with the aftermath of what has happened to them in war. Every member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is asked to pray for those who suffer from moral injury and to become informed about this very real problem.

Of course, one need not be in the armed forces to suffer moral injury. We sin and put ourselves in positions that are at odds with the better angels of our nature. This month we begin Lent. It's a time to examine the ways in which we have done damage to our values. The good news is that there is a balm for our injury in Jesus Christ.

Grace and Peace,  
Dave

### Scriptures & Sermons

**Feb. 5**

Mark 1:29-39

#### *Lifted Up to Serve*

Peter's mother-in-law was healed by Jesus when he took her hand and lifted her up. She was lifted up by Jesus and then became a servant--literally the first deacon in the Bible. Jesus saves us, not just to bask in glory, but so that we might be servants of something greater than ourselves. Reflect upon the ways God asks you to serve.

**Feb. 12**

II Kings 5:8-14

#### *Simple Acts of Faith*

There was a man who received a prescription for healing that simply involved bathing in a river. He thought it was a joke because his healing should be more complicated. Maybe there is some form of spiritual or emotional healing that could take place in your life if you could find a way to make a simple act of faith. You'll be amazed.

**Feb. 19**

Mark 9:2-9

#### *It is Good for Us to Be Here*

Peter rightly identified that it was good that he and James and John were present at Jesus' transfiguration. It's good to bask in the light of the holy, but more importantly, it's good to realize how the mantle of God's mission has been passed on to us.

**Feb. 22**

Psalms 51:1-17

#### *Renewal*

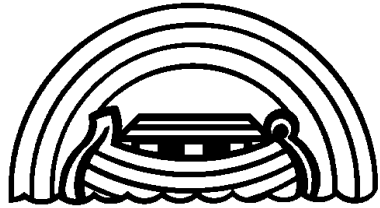
On this special service, we will renew our commitment to God and find forgiveness for our sins. It is a solemn time to get our lives back on the right path so that we can receive the blessings and love God would give us.



## Scriptures & Sermons cont'd

**1st Sunday of Lent: Feb. 26** Genesis 9:8-17  
*The Rainbow Connection*

After the flood God set the rainbow as a sign of God's promise. God continues to make promises, even to people who don't deserve them. God makes promises to you. Learn to recognize the signs that connect you to the promises.



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## Church Council highlights

**December 11:** Personnel, Evangelism, Pastoral Relations, Long Range, Nominating and Worship committee policies were approved.

Pastor Dave will be teaching a World Religion class at DMACC on M/W/F at 10:00 a.m.

**January 15:** Revitalize updates: Baby changing station installed in front bathroom. Fellowship Hall lighting will be replaced with something more contemporary. Some Peer-to-Peer financing has been paid back. Initially borrowed \$120,000 and now only owe \$85,000.

It was approved to move \$5,000 from the Contingency Fund to a new line item under Personnel to pay musicians.

### 2012 Church Council

#### **Board of Directors**

President:	Clay Dean
President-Elect:	Justin Breckenridge
Immediate Past President:	Darin Leach
Secretary: (two-yr-term)	Amy Gage
Treasurer: (three-yr-term)	Missy Stoa
Pastoral Relations chair:	Lori Reynolds

#### **2012 Committee Chairs**

Christian Education	Lori Reynolds
Endowment	Dorothy Mathis
Evangelism	Emily Porath
Missions	Karla Rice
Personnel	Darin Leach
Property	Paul Lamont
Social Life/Membership	Mary St. Clair
Stewardship & Finance	Bryan Jansen
Worship	Latisha Ukpabi

#### **And**

Member-At-Large	Steve Raver
Youth Representative	Morganne Murphy
Ex-Officio	Rev. David J. Clark

#### **Revitalize**

Arnie Porath, Chair  
Bryan Jansen

#### **AMOS**

Dorothy Mathis liaison for AMOS

#### **PASTORAL RELATIONS**

Class of 2012 Pat Morton and  
Lori Reynolds, Chair  
Class of 2013 Tom Murphy and  
Teresa Worley  
Class of 2014 Jennifer Koehler and  
Adam Pederson

#### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

David Clark, Pastor, Chair  
Mike St. Clair (1-yr)  
Marjeane Hunter (2-yr)  
??? (3-yr)

# Among Our Church Family and Friends

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## Prayer concerns

Bill Smith, Roger Swenson, Robert Sample, Jeanie Gran (sister-in-law of Pat Morton), Ruth Morgan (sister of Julie Orser), Mike Brandenburg, mother of Matt Drottz, Karen Grode, Nancy Belluchi, Carol Lee, Lois James, Tommy Cox. Shut-ins: Rita Oline, Ruth Maxwell, David Roberts. **Sympathy to** Kristen Patchin and family at the loss of her grandmother in December.

The Prayer Chain can be started by contacting Julie Orser 639-2103 (between 9am and 9pm).

**Please let the church office know about hospitalizations, surgeries, etc.** The Privacy Act (HIPPA) limits the notifications we get from health care facilities.

## Welcome new members

Jim & Angie Mann joined Ankeny Christian at the second service on Sunday, January 22. Jim is a technical service manager at Kemin Industries and Angie is a third grade teacher for Ankeny Schools. They have two daughters Madison and Kiersten. Be sure to great and welcome them into our family.

## Thank you notes

Ankeny Christian,

I want to extend my sincere thanks for the generous Christmas gift that you, as a church gave me recently. I was so surprised with the card and gift and feel so blessed to be remembered at Christmas time in this way. Playing the piano for the children's choir is a wonderful way for me to share my talent and I love working with the children of the church each week.

Thanks again-Lisa Duffy

## Thank you notes cont'd

Dear Women of Ankeny CC,

Thank you for inviting me to be part of your community as we reminded ourselves of ways to love others by loving ourselves better.

For anyone interested in further exploration of the topics we discussed, here is the list of the resources I shared (plus a few extra).

### **Centered Living:**

➤ "The Centered Life", by Jack Fortin is a good 6-session study book

**Exploring your creativity:** These books are all written with the intention of reading, reflecting, and then doing something to help the reader better understand her creativity and to allow creativity to unfold in her life.

- "The Artist's Way", by Julia Cameron
- "Walking in This World", by Julia Cameron
- "What We Ache For", by Oriah Mountain Dreamer
- "Simple Abundance", by Sarah Ban Breathnach (a daily devotional and activity book)

**Devotions:** These books are daily affirmations and devotions supporting you on your journey to live out and embrace your creativity.

- "Heart Steps", by Julia Cameron
- "Blessings", by Julia Cameron

**Writing:** If you are interested in exploring writing as an art...

- "The Right to Write", by Julia Cameron

**Journaling:** These books provide insight and activities to the process of journaling your spiritual story.

- "Journaling As A Spiritual Practice", by Helen Cepero
- "Journaling A Spirit Journey", by Anne Broyles

**Forgiveness:** If you are looking for further reading on the topic of forgiveness...

## Among Our Church Family and Friends cont'd

### Thank you notes cont'd

- "Companions in Christ: The Way of Forgiveness", published by The Upper Room, is a good workbook and could be used for individual reflection or group study
- Also, Louis Smedes has several books about forgiveness each with a specific theme. I believe he has a good approach and understanding of forgiveness.  
Blessings and joy on your journey,  
Suzanne

Attendance				
	1st Service	Sunday School	2nd service	Wed
Dec. 25	00	00	75	00
Jan 1	47	17	66	00
Jan 8	79	34	84	00
Jan 15	75	30	78	00
Jan 22	74	32	98	00

### Grady's garage sale

Ankeny Christian Childcare would like to say thank you to Ankeny Christian Church for supporting us in our endeavor to help the Greco family (Gabe, Shannon, Owen and Grady). Your donated items for the garage sale and the contributions that were given show what a giving and caring congregation you are.

A total of \$2000 was raised for the Greco family. Thank you for helping in this ministry to the Greco family.

### Kudos to...

#### For December

Denny Peterson and Jerry Van Den Berg for putting shelving in the furnace room  
John & Patrice Sayre for the Stewardship skits  
Outgoing Church Council members  
Santa's North Pole Village volunteers  
Phyllis Faulkner for holding AMOS meetings  
The Children's and Adult Choir directors:  
Angie Schnurstein, Lisa Duffy and Bob Brown for the Cantata  
Bryan Jansen for the accounting software  
Bryan Jansen, Randy & Suzette Hart, Bernie Griffin and Steve & Georgene Raver for the bathroom remodel  
Kara Duffy for being a role model for all the young children at Parents Night Out  
Darin Leach as outgoing President

#### For January

Those that assisted with Brenda Schmitz's memorial mural. We are looking at February 5 for a dedication ceremony.  
Those that helped moved Mike & Crystle Brandenburg into their new home. There was a huge turnout and support.  
Jerry Van Den Berg and Denny Peterson for moving mailboxes in the furnace room  
Lori Reynolds had KUDOS to Paul Lamont for putting on a light switch cover in the K-First Grade Sunday School room!  
Karla Rice, Latisha Ukpabi, Shanon Shreffler, Suzy Hart, Lisa Thurston, Kathy Luetje for planning the Women's Retreat  
All who helped with the Children's Christmas Program and the Christmas Cantata



Service February 22 at 7:00 p.m.

## Job opportunity

New Horizons Adult Day Center in Ankeny is looking for a full-time CNA. CMA certification preferred. Current CPR with AED certification required. Personal care of elderly and adults with brain injuries. Must be able to do 1-person transfers. Team member work environment. M-F, 9:00 – 5:30. Contact Vicki at 965-1602.



### Prayer Shawl Ministry

### Sit & Knit

Sit & Knit will not meet in February. We will meet in room 5 Monday evening, at 6:30, **March 12** for fellowship and discuss when the best meeting time for the group is. Some would

like to start a day group meeting. Please mark your calendar and join us. We are always looking for new members and willing to show anyone how to knit or crochet if you do not know how.

I want to thank all who have continued to make shawls and help see to it the people who need them get them.

Chairperson Suzy Hart

## John Park Winkler retires

John Park was interim here at Ankeny Christian from October 2005 to November 2007. If you would like to send a card, his home address is: 505 College Street, Unit 1; Branson, MO 65616. He can also be found on Face book!

# JUST 4 YOUTH!

## C.H.A.O.S. youth group

(Christ honoring and others serving)

5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade

6:30-8:00 p.m.

**Sun, Feb 5:** Regular meeting

**Sat, Feb 11:** Concert at Colfax with Adam Cates, Disciples singer from Keokuk, and his band. **Cost:** \$5, leave the church at 6:00 p.m. and return around 10:00 p.m.

**Fri-Sun, Feb 17-19:** CIA (Compassion in Action) Mission Weekend Retreat: **Cost:** \$30, stay at First Christian with youth from other Disciples churches. Our church is hosting, so if we can have everyone there, that would be incredibly helpful. We will be doing mission work around Des Moines.

**Sun, Feb 26:** 6:00-8:00 p.m. Movie Night at the church



Meets on Wonderful Wednesdays

**Leaders:** Lisa Thurston & Karla Rice

K-5<sup>th</sup> grade

6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Kids Club will meet on **February 1, 8, 15 and 29th**. No meeting on **February 22**.



## Our Larger Family • Sharing Christ's love

### Special offering for February goes to Week of Compassion

Week of Compassion continues to focus on ways that **Sharing Brings Joy**. Our gifts to Week of Compassion bring joy to others by helping a family displaced by natural disasters or political unrest by providing food, shelter and the comfort of a safe place to begin to rebuild their lives. It also provides clean water to those who don't have it and school for a child who would not have the opportunity otherwise. When we become aware of the needs of our extended global family, we are called to share abundantly. This year, as you share your gifts know that you are helping to change lives. May we all give cheerfully and multiply the joy!

"If I see the gift as mine alone to give, I might give hesitantly, even grudgingly, considering my options, then giving from a sense of ought. If I see the gift as God's who allows me to use it for a time, then the gift can flow more freely, as I join with others to be a channel for God's love and mercy."

From the poem, *Grace in Giving* by Roberta Porter

### Special offering report for December

DMF-Christmas	\$250.00
Food Pantry	\$725.00
Adult Mission	\$292.00
Youth Mission	\$129.00
Silent Auction	\$6.00

### Food Pantry Sunday is Feb 19

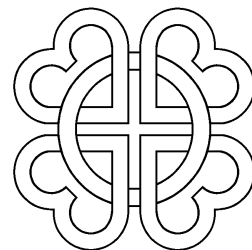
A total of 93 items were collected in January. The food items now go to the Ankeny Service Center at the Neveln building. The need is great.

### Haiti Mission Trip fundraiser at Pizza Ranch, Altoona

**Monday, February 6** join us at Pizza Ranch in Altoona for dinner. The mission team will be working at Pizza Ranch this day as servers. We will receive 10% of all sales between **5:00 and 8:00 pm**. Join us for this fun time to support our cause and also fellowship with other church members. Invite your neighbors, family and co-workers to attend this day also.

### School supply collection for Haiti Mission Trip

The team going to Haiti in **March** will be taking 200 school kits for the children in Haiti. We need your help with the collection of 50 boxes of 8 count crayons and pencil sharpeners to add to the school bags to make them complete.



“One in the  
Bond of Love”



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 (Disciples of Christ)  
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Web site: [www.accdoc.org](http://www.accdoc.org)

Pastor.....David Clark

[davedayna@gmail.com](mailto:davedayna@gmail.com)

Youth Coordinator..Lisa Thurston

Office Manager....Christine Stoffa

[ankenycdoc@gmail.com](mailto:ankenycdoc@gmail.com)

### Sunday Schedule

8:30 a.m. Traditional Service

9:30 a.m. Sunday School and  
 Fellowship Time

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service



wheelchair accessible

**Whom Shall I Send?** Written by Tom & Linnea Morse



***And I heard the voice of God saying, whom shall I send and who will go for us?*** Isaiah 6:8a

Churches in China are growing rapidly. This growth isn't the result of massive missionary efforts from the west after China's opening, but fruits of the work being quietly done by Chinese believers who held on to their faith through all of China's turmoil.

I want to tell you about Mr. K as he told me his story. Mr. K is about 40 years old and has a smile that makes you want to hear what he has to say. He was born in Northern Jiangsu province into a family of farmers.

"I was 19 years old when I first learned about Christianity from a classmate's mother-in-law. She had us pray before and after meals, which introduced us to these ideas for the first time. I had little interest in religion, but was willing to pray if it meant I could eat. One day I was walking past a small church and heard the sound of hymns being sung. When I glanced inside the feeling of comfort and peace I felt in that moment led me to believe. I realized God cared for me and it was a moment of great joy. After that I looked forward all week to my Sunday meetings with God. In the congregation no one else had even a middle school education, and 90% of them were illiterate. So they started asking me to preach or help them with reading the Bible. Looking back, it was my happiest year.

Outside of church, my friends had encouraged me to start raising chickens. I had invested in the supplies: feed, eggs, fences. One night I was outside, and sisters from the church came looking for me, but I didn't hear them knocking on my door. When I heard that I had missed them, I became focused on why it was they were searching for me. I stared at the sky unable to sleep, I knew they were going to ask me to study at the seminary, but I wanted to say "no."

Then I remembered the verse that says, "Whom can I send? Who can go for us?" And I realized that for my church I was the only one to do this on their behalf. It was my calling. The next day a sister from the church came and asked me to study at the seminary, and I happily agreed.

I had been focused on raising chickens, but God told me to raise my sights."

Together we pray for higher visions for ourselves, our church, our world.

*Tom and Linnea Morse, Global Ministries missionaries, serve with the Nanjing Drum Tower Hospital in China in English communications.*