



The Disciples Together Express

News from the Christian Church in the Upper Midwest
(Disciples of Christ)

July 2011



Bill Mitchell
Partner Regional Minister

In the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the uniting of ministers and congregations for ministry is titled Search and Call. It is a process designed to help discern the call of a minister to a congregation. Having been a ministerial candidate in the process, it is particularly rewarding to serve as a facilitator of this experience.

A part of the Search and Call is a series of questions and inquiries which are asked of the candidates. By their answers, candidates relate who they are to the congregation. These inquiries have changed little over the years. *Share your spiritual journey. How do you handle conflict? What are your strengths and weaknesses?*

That is one question which I have never heard asked by a search committee. It never made it to a profile form. Nor was it ever offered by a congregation member before the congregational vote. It's a rather simple, essential question.

Do you know God?

That's a good question to ask a minister, a congregation and especially ourselves.

School for Congregational Learning

save the

date!

August

27

2011

School for Congregational Learning

GREAT AWAKENING 2011

Saturday, August 27th

West Des Moines Christian Church

Worship Preacher:

Christian Piatt
Blogger
Minister
Author of "Banned Questions"
book series



This year's Special Great Awakening day will be filled with fun, fellowship and food along with learning new ways to inspire your home church. You will gather great information from leaders of other church communities, have conversations with new friends, and share stories about activities that are happening in our home churches.

From 101 to 1 year old, School for Congregational Learning has an activity for you! With free daycare for our little disciples and new this year, unlike any School for Congregational Learning before, we are adding a big outdoor tent for our youth to attend! Lead by Bert Burns, Regional Minister of Camp and Conference Center, youth age 5-18 will come and experience hands on time for learning disciple history and why we, as disciples, are who we are. All ages are welcome to attend and experience School for Congregational Learning! Many other classes will be offered for adults as well. Sign up for the workshops of your choice today! See church office for more information and registration form or go to www.uppermidwestcc.org.

Christian Conference Center Camp

Holy Ground has had lots of laughter, learning and worshipping as the summer fun continues! Remember to email your campers at christianconferencecenter@gmail.com or write to 5064 Lincoln Street, Newton, IA 50208. Please put their name and camp number on the mail you are sending.



Around the Region

- **Bloomfield Christian Church** is collecting supplies such as bedding, toiletry items, laundry soaps, canned goods and money to take on their mission trip to Joplin, MO July 15th. They have teamed up with churches from MO that will be going to Joplin monthly.
- The **Atlantic United Church of Christ** congregation, along with the **Exira Christian Church** and the **Council Bluffs Broadway Christian Church**, collected hundreds of pounds of school supplies to take to the young school in Caiman. Atlantic UCC traveled to Haiti June 8-17. Here is an excerpt from an article by UCC Pastor Nancy Jensen - *Two things that readily come to mind are the graciousness and spiritual joy that you see in Haitian Christians. The people are incredibly open to others and so willing to share what they have. They may not have material possessions, but they have a song to share with you, or a piece of bread and a smile from the heart. They are so very proud of the strides they have made, but it isn't a pride that centers on self-achievement. It is an acknowledgement of what God has blessed them with that they have taken and used to improve life for the many.* To read the full article go to the online Disciples Together Express at www.uppermidwestcc.org.
- **First Christian Church Mason City** is participating in Hawkeye Harvest Food Bank month. With school being out many families need food. The church members are filling a grocery cart the whole month of July to donate to the local food pantry.
- Clergy and congregations in the flooded areas have generously been offering assistance with "moves" and in a few instances, have been offering the hospitality of their own homes to evacuees.

Iowa State Fair Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed this year at the Iowa State Fair, August 11-21, 2011 to assist with the Regional Mission. Anyone who is interested to host, lead songs and play piano at the old church building are welcome! The hymn sing is held from 11:30 – noon each day. The host needs to arrive about an hour before to prepare the church & then a lead singer and piano player will arrive around 11:15 to lead that day's worship. The songs are mostly the "good old" hymns and are in a printed booklet provided by Guide One Insurance. Parking passes and admission tickets will be provided for you on the day you are scheduled. If you are interested please contact JoAnn Thomas at revthomas77@hotmail.com or call 712-623-2897.



Old Church Building

We want your news! Does your church have an article, story or event for the DT Express? The Region wants to know! Please email your editors Amber Elliott adeumw@gmail.com or Adam Frieberg amfumw@gmail.com or call the Regional Office at 515-255-3168 or mail article to CCUM, 5064 Lincoln St., Newton, IA 50208.

*What lies behind us and what lies before us
are tiny matters compared to what lies
within us.*
Walt Emerson