

THE CONGREGATIONALIST

FIRST CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH United Church of Christ

Established 1856

421 South 36th Street Omaha NE 68131 Phone: 402-345-1533 Fax: 402-345-6212

www.firstcentral.org

Volume 16 Issue 1

July 7, 2011



Please remember in your thoughts and prayers: family of *Allen Wotherspoon*, who died June 15th; *Kate Valla's* great-niece, *Rocky*, who died last week; *Hanna & Tom Solberg*, who were married here June 25th; *Brad Milton*, recently hospitalized; *Tara Obner*, recovering at home from surgery; *Cathy Wester's* father, *Ralph Fletcher*, recovering from pneumonia; *Will Kennedy*, recovering at home from surgery; family of *Willard Nixon*, *Scott Jones's* grandfather, who died June 29th.

Thank you!

Gary & Kathy McConnell

Thanks to all who purchased geraniums donated by Sun Valley Nursery of Gretna. Our youth mission trip will benefit – and so will our yards!

Need a Ride?

If you need a ride to church, see the upcoming driver schedule below. Please call the driver directly for the Sunday you'd like to attend:

July 10, *Sam Pfeifer*, 402-691-8776

July 17, *Steve Trautman*, 402-556-4215

July 24, *Martin Richards*, 402-558-1214

Church Chat

Sara Sharpe

On Sunday, July 10th, in the Pastor's Study following worship, we will hold a Church Chat. No white gloves or scary church-ladies, just conversation, coffee, and answers to your questions about First Central. *Pastor Scott Jones*, and members *Cheryl Roche* and *Sara Sharpe* will do their best to answer any questions you may have. If you have been thinking about joining our church family, or are just curious about First Central, please plan on attending. Bring your coffee and donuts – we look forward to talking with you. New members will be welcomed on Sunday, July 17th.

Congregational Outreach Ministry

Habitat for Humanity

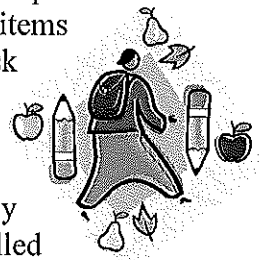
Karen Garver and Fred Felger

Many thanks to the following who provided two days worth of food and food delivery for Habitat for Humanity workers in First Central's coalition: *Patrick Cole, Terry & Toni Diel, Susan & Steve Dolezal, Holly Dzyban, Joan Eddy, Edie Godfrey, Margaret Hole, Pat & Lou Lamberty, Kathy & Gary McConnell, Paul & Ronda Spence, Chris & Adam Steffen, Carol Vogt, Joyce Wilson, and Nicki Zimmerman*. We are grateful.

Parrish Alternative School Backpack Project *Nancy Northcutt*

Every August for almost a decade our congregation has provided backpacks filled with school supplies to incoming students at Edwin Parrish Alternative School. Parrish, housed in a renovated commercial building on Farnam St. is the last stop for troubled teens in Omaha. Many of the Parrish kids start the new school year with nothing.

Beginning Sunday, July 17th, brand new, empty backpacks will be available in the parlor. Inside each backpack is a list of items suggested by Parrish staff. We ask you to sign out a backpack and fill it with school supplies. As you shop, think generic; we don't know if a backpack will go to a boy or a girl. Please return your filled backpack to the parlor by Wednesday, August 10th, as school begins the following Monday. We thank you, and the Parrish students thank you.



MARCOS

Join **MARCOS** for dinner at *Taxi's Grill and Bar*, 1822 N. 120th Street (SW corner of 120th and Blondo), on Friday, July 22, at 6 p.m. RSVP to *Verla Hamer*, 402-453-3719 by July 20th.

Nebraska Pride

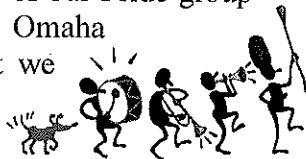
Rick Brenneman

June 25th will go down in history as one of those "remember where you were when you heard" days. The 2011 Heartland Pride was the biggest and best that Omaha has ever seen. The parade was great and the celebration behind Flixx was festive. And why not? I'd like to say because First Central Congregational Church had the most fun booth and those of us who were there had a blast, but I'm afraid that took a backseat to **Governor Cuomo** signing the bill in the wee hours of the night to legalize same sex marriage in New York. Those who had "I heart NY" tee shirts were wearing them (kudos to **Kerri Kleppin-Winn & Mark Winn** for wearing theirs). As Kerrie and Mark were bringing in the boxes of FCC tote bags, **Mike & Romero Wierzbicki** were at the booth waiting for us to arrive. **Scott Jones & Michael Cich-Jones** arrived as the parade flowed into Pride grounds and began handing out about 200 FCC tote bags with **Donald Wester** to anyone who wanted one. What a way to meet people! Special thank you's also to **Steve Jackson & Rick Richards, Cathy Wester, Deb Kirwan, Barb, Greg and Grant Switzer, Gary & Shelley Kiel, Fred Felger, Ken Freidman-Fitch, and Gary McConnell** for helping out with conversions with interested folk. Please forgive me if I have left anyone out.

Have you seen someone you don't know yet carrying a First Central bag in the store? What a great ice-breaker! These can be great opportunities to meet our neighbors. And if they got their bag at Pride, they are probably fun folks to talk to anyway.

Would you like to be a part of our Pride group next June? We noted five Omaha church groups at Pride but we didn't enter the parade.

Would you like to see FCC represented in the parade? Should we start thinking about a float or a marching banner? I'm just sayin'.....



Women's Fellowship *Beth Howard*

The Women's Fellowship Friday, July 15 meeting will be held at Joslyn Art Museum. Members should check in with **Beth Howard** at the admissions desk in the Atrium by 12 noon. There is no admission charge for Joslyn members. Nonmembers will have a special group admission charge of \$5.00, which is to be paid

to Beth Howard, who must make a total payment in order to qualify for the group rate.

Tables will be reserved in the café. After a luncheon of each member's choice, Beth Howard will lead a special tour of Joslyn's current special exhibition, *Widely Traveled and Rarely Seen*.

Those wishing to attend should make their reservations with **Martha Evans** at 402-341-6334 no later than noon on Wednesday, July 3.

Living Waters Association Annual Meeting

The LWA Annual Meeting this year is Saturday, October 22nd, from 9 a.m. -- 4 p.m. at Ralston UCC. Please contact sara@firstcentral.org if you are interested in attending. The Association would like to have folks register with their church this year.

Team of the Month: Advent Team

Sara Sharpe

At the May Council meeting, we made plans to feature a different team(s) each month, in order to raise awareness and get new people involved. The featured team for July is the **Advent Team**. You may have noticed that there is a First Forum discussion about Advent on July 10th, and the Education Ministry is offering Advent crafts on 3 Sundays in July from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. in Memorial Hall. The staff is meeting on July 11th to plan Advent, based on input from folks at the First Forum. It's like Christmas in July!

The Advent Team is responsible for decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas. Their work is guided by input from **Rev. Scott Jones** and the Worship Ministry. The Team will order the flowers for the Chancel, arrange to have the Christmas trees set out, plan any other decorations they would like for the Sanctuary, and bring their vision to life. This Team is led by **Susan Fortina**.

If you are crazy for Christmas, love to decorate, or have a passion for crafting wreaths or other decorations, this may be the team for you! Early planning leads to early shopping – hopefully for some pre-season bargains. Contact Susan at 402-346-1638, or susanfortina@yahoo.com if you want to be a part of this team.

Christian Education

Summer is a great time to expand your horizons. Join us on Sunday mornings for fun and educational activities for all ages. Take a look at July's events:

FirstYOUTH Mission Trip

This week we send off our mission team to the Pine Ridge. From July 9 to 16th they will immerse themselves in Native American culture and work on housing and other needs on the reservation. This year's workers are:

Leaders:	YOUth:
<i>Judy Bouma</i> , Chaperone	<i>Florentino Diaz</i>
<i>Carrie Stanley</i> , Chaperone	<i>Maggie Fey</i>
<i>Emma Ferber, Jr.</i> , Leader	<i>Chase Day</i>
<i>Maddie Ferber, Jr.</i> , Leader	<i>Lucy Parsons</i>
	<i>Eli Sturek</i>

We wish you Godspeed for your trip and look forward to hearing about your trip on YOUth Sunday, July 31st during worship.

At the Movies: *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*

Join *Scott & Michael* for the final installment of the Harry Potter series. Meet at the Rave Theater at Westroads Mall on Sunday, July 17th for the 4:30 show. Bring \$7 for tickets and money for supper afterwards.

Questions or ideas for the Youth Group? Call *Lamar Jones* at 402-201-1158 or *Elizabeth Wearin* at 712-623-3414.

First Forums: Adult Education

July 10 – Anticipating Advent*: Join *Scott Jones* and members of the Worship Planning Committee to explore the meaning of advent texts and themes.

July 17 – George Washington and the American Revolution. *Kent Kirwan* will speak on the accomplishments of Washington and the impact on our country's development.

July 24th to August 7 – The Historical Jesus: *Deb Kirwan* will facilitate the discussion of Dr. Bart Ehrman's video series on Jesus' messages and ministry.

*The Intergenerational Advent Workshop

Last December we had great fun making cards and gifts for our homebound members, but there were some crafts that took too long for the one-day workshop. On Sundays July 10, 17, and 24th, from 9 am to 1 pm, these crafts will be set out on tables in Memorial for everyone to work on. Please plan to come to church early or stay late to help us prepare crèche scenes and other gifts for the next advent season.



Grand Central Stations

We are the Church together

This summer, all of the church school classes (10:45 to 11:30 a.m.) are open to parents, YOUth, new members, or anyone who would like to learn more about the church. During July, we are focusing on how the church takes care of people in need.

July 10 – Caring for Neighbors: *Rick Brenneman* and *Nancy Northcutt* will show the children our outreach efforts in the local area, including serving meals at Siena Francis and the Community Meal, packing backpacks for the Parrish Alternative School, and raising vegetables in the Community Garden.

“Who needs help? Anyone. Who can help? Anyone.”

To help our children understand this concept, please bring to church school in July some small donations such as canned food, clothing or toys in good condition, school supplies for the backpacks, or garden produce for the Bounty Table.

July 17 – Caring for Members: *Edie Godfrey* and *Pat Lange* will teach us about caring for members who cannot come to church, such as taking flowers or food to sick people, hospital visiting, and caroling for the homebound at Christmas time.

To help children understand this concept, families can allow extra time before or after church to work on craft projects at the Advent Workshop in Memorial Hall.

Summer Fun with Scott

Scott Jones, Ann Cannon, and the Grand Central Station children and their friends enjoyed skating and ice cream. on June 22nd. Thanks to Ann's skating talent, everyone had a chance to learn how to skate properly.



In August, *Pastor Scott* will be hosting FirstYOUth for a canoeing adventure. We appreciate the time Scott is spending to get to know young people in the church.



Classroom Changes

Starting in September, the Elevated Track (grades 4-5-6) will meet in their own classroom, formerly the music room. The younger children (grades K-3) will meet in the new Music/Drama station, formerly the resource room. Volunteers are needed to move the piano and theater props. If you can help, please talk to *Peg Peterson*.

Sunday Mornings

Regularly scheduled events

- 9:00 Coffee in the Parlor
9:15 First Forum (Adult Education), 3rd floor
9:15 Nursery Care to 11:45 a.m.
10:30 Service of Worship
10:45 Grand Central Stations (church school for Pre-K – 6th grade) *unless otherwise stated*
11:30 Coffee Hour, Parlor

next newsletter deadline

Sunday, July 17th

email articles to sara@firstcentral.org

Week of Sunday, July 10

Sunday, July 10

Advent Projects, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., Memorial Hall
Congregational Care Ministry, 9:15 a.m.
First Forum, 9:15 a.m. “Anticipating Advent”
Evergreen Thrift Shop open after worship
Church Chat, 11:40 a.m., Pastor’s Study
Education Ministry, 11:45 a.m., Resource Room
Great Plains Ragtime Festival, 1 - 8:30 p.m.,
Memorial Hall

Monday, July 11

Staff meeting, 1 -3 p.m.
CrossOver Prison Ministries, 6 p.m., First Christian

Tuesday, July 12

Meditation, 11 a.m., third floor parlor
Tai Chi, 11:30 a.m., third floor parlor
Worship Ministry, 6 p.m.
Ministry Support, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, July 13

Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Yoga, 6 p.m., third floor parlor
20-30+, 6-9 p.m., Scott & Michael’s

Thursday, July 14

Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Friday, July 15

Siena/Francis House, 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 16

Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Yoga, 10 a.m., third floor parlor

Week of Sunday, July 17

Sunday, July 17

Advent Projects, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., Memorial Hall
First Forum, 9:15 a.m. “George Washington”
New members welcomed during worship
Congregational Outreach meeting, 11:40 a.m.
First YOUth (and others), Rave Theater, 4:30 p.m.

Monday, July 18

Staff meeting, 1 -3 p.m.
CrossOver Prison Ministries, 6 p.m., First Christian

Tuesday, July 19

Meditation, 11 a.m., third floor parlor
Tai Chi, 11:30 a.m., third floor parlor

Wednesday, July 20

Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Yoga, 6 p.m., third floor parlor

Thursday, July 21

Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Friday, July 22

MARCOS, 6 p.m., Taxi’s

Saturday, July 23

Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Yoga, 10 a.m., third floor parlor

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Neighborhood Carnival June 18



More photos on reverse

FirstYOUth sponsored a carnival on June 18 to raise money for the upcoming mission trip to Pine Ridge.



Thanks to our youth leaders
Lamar Jones & Elizabeth Wearin, the youth par-
ents, and all the youth and others who worked
on this great event.

