

COVENANT CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
(Disciples of Christ)  
2700 72nd Street  
Urbandale, IA 50322

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Des Moines, Iowa  
Permit 1586

ADDRESS SERVICE  
REQUESTED

**Visitors**  
LaDonna Nelson  
Mitchell Lvorg  
Howard & Janet Williams  
Harold & Ruth Martin

**Financial Notes**  
September 20, 2009  
Total Deposit \$1,507.42  
Food Pantry \$81.42  
Helper International \$281.30  
September 27, 2009  
Total Deposit \$1,662.00  
Food Pantry \$25.00  
Reconciliation Offer \$70.00  
Audio/Visual \$50.00  
Needed per week-\$3,132

**How to Reach Us**  
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FAX 515-253-0174  
pwitmer@covenant-christian.org  
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church@covenant-christian.org  
www.covenant-christian.org

**www.uppermidwestcc.org**  
Christian Church in the Upper Midwest  
**www.disciples.org**  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

**Attendance**  
Sunday, September 27 Worship 56  
Sunday, October 4 Worship 60

The next newsletter will be mailed on Wednesday,  
October 21. Articles to be submitted by  
Monday, October 19.

# the COMPASS

"Stand at the crossroads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths." Jeremiah 6:16

M.A.P.

## Ministry Action Plan

Volume 1 Issue 32  
October 7, 2009

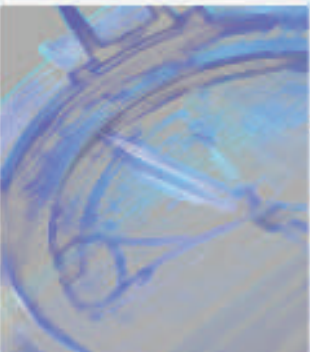
You have the Compass in your hands, and have for about 18 months now. The Compass represents the embodiment of some changes and discerning vision that has taken place over the course of several years. The Compass offers a fresh look and organizes the events of our community life around the mission and vision that is expressed in *the journey up. . . the journey in. . . and the journey out.* It is our response to the invitation to

*come, journey together.* . . . While the compass is an essential tool for the journey, it occurs to me that we are in need of a map. Maybe it's time for us to put our compass to work along side a reliable map: A **Ministry Action Plan.**

As stewardship season approaches and we begin to focus on gifts and graces for ministry, I want to begin moving toward our annual meeting with some intentional and specific recommendations about our church structure and function. We began to take a look at some of this two years ago but have left many questions unresolved. Do we have a need for elders and deacons? What is the right size for our governing board and what is the best way for it to function? I'm afraid we have tried to avoid tedious and unproductive meetings by having fewer meetings. But this has not lead to more productive or creative thinking. Is it time to take a good look at our by-laws and make sure they fit the church we are today? These are just a few of my questions. I have more and am sure you do as well.

I will begin working on a Ministry Action Plan seeking your input whenever I can. It is my intention to bring forward a rough outline or skeletal structure that can serve as a starting point for us to form a reliable M.A.P. that can move us faithfully into God's future.

Peace, Paul Witmer



covenant  
christian  
church



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*"Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 2:4-5)* Covenant Christian Church is a **Christ-Centered** Church. This can mean something different for each one of us, but at its core, it must mean that people look **true north** at us and see Christ. Not the perfection of Christ, of course, but the *mind* of Christ. And how do they recognize in us the *mind* of Christ? They see the attitude described above. A **Christ-Centered** church nurtures in us an attitude of service to others, humility, honesty and openness. With tools like these in our toolbox, we can truly change the world . . . for good.

...journey up.

### "Building the Body of Christ: From Gifts to Fruits"

Christian stewardship begins with God's giving to us . . . "For God so loved the world he gave his only son." (John 3:16) Christian stewardship begins with God's love but it goes on to affirm God's ownership.

Stewardship begins not with what you can do for the church but with the gifts you have received from the Spirit and how the church can assist each of us in putting your gifts to work for God's kingdom.

Stewardship is a relational concept with God. We are God's trustees who are chosen to take care of all that is important to God.

The upcoming Stewardship Campaign is about ministry, mission, vision and lastly money. Living in this society takes money, but giving through the church is about more than money. It is about lives being changed. It is about never feeling lonely or unloved. It's about helping others. It is about children and youth. It's about our personal salvation. It is about what God has done for us. It is about God's grace in our everyday lives. Giving through the church is about supporting the MINISTRIES of our church in exciting and glorious ways.

Join us in celebrating the gifts of the Spirit during our stewardship emphasis this Fall: "Building the Body of Christ: From Gifts to Fruits."

**October 18<sup>th</sup>** – "Graced by the Spirit – Receiving Gifts of the Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:7-11)

**October 25<sup>th</sup>** – "Led by the Spirit – Exercising Gifts of the Spirit" (Romans 12:4-8)

**November 1<sup>st</sup>** – "Empowered by the Spirit – Living with Fruits of the Spirit" (Galatians 5:22-26)

**Sunday, November 22**, will be a time of celebration and Thanksgiving with a congregational meeting and fellowship luncheon.

Karen Vroman  
2009 Stewardship Committee Chair

...journey in.

#### IN OUR RAYERS

Jayde Hildebrand	Paul Ratashak
Jean Ward	David Etzel
Howard Sohn	Donna Adamson
Tyler & Jennifer Roberts	

#### NOTES AND NEWS

- Our prayers of sympathy and support are with **Jackie Benson** and family upon the death of her brother, **Jim Nothnagel**, Lincoln Nebraska.
- Thanks to all who helped serve another CFUM meal at Trinity on October 2.

#### Thank You

We would like to thank the Board of Covenant Christian Church and the members of Covenant for the lovely reception for us following church on October 4.

It was greatly appreciated; as has been the support, friendship and prayers in our quest for marriage equality in Iowa. We are blessed to be a part of the Covenant Christian Church family.

David Twombly & Larry Hoch

...journey out.

#### Personal Hygiene Products



Thanks to members and friends of Covenant Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 132 personal hygiene products were delivered to the DMARC Emergency Food Pantry warehouse on September 21, 2009. These items will be included with food orders as individual pantries request them.

#### Aluminum Pop Tabs

Thanks to members and friends of Covenant Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) approximately five pounds of aluminum pop tabs were delivered to the Ronald McDonald house on October 1.

The Outreach Teams thanks you for your continued support of this project.

#### Hunger Hike October 11

*2.3 million requests were made to Iowa food pantries and soup kitchens in 2009—a 63% increase since 2003.*

While we do not have any walkers in this year's hike, we can support the Hunger Hike with our gifts to show our continued support for these important ministries

