



The First Christian Chronicle
First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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Vol. 09, No. 5

May, 2009

FROM PASTOR PATRICK

We've recently had a few thefts from the church on two different occasions within a week. Perhaps the most unnerving for me was the removal of the computer from my office. I came into the office early that morning to do some print-outs for the Revelation Bible Study and a final print-out of the prayer requests for the week, only to find the tower (box) neatly removed. Optimism and denial combined to suggest that one of the trustees had decided to upgrade or possibly had been working on it when it crashed and took it in for repair. When asked, no one knew anything about it, so it was another call to DPS.

I admit that I was perturbed by the theft. In previous thefts in my life, I'd had the experience of feeling violated and unsafe even in my own home with the doors locked and barred. Perhaps it was because it happened at the office rather than my home, or because I'd kept *most* of my own work on my personal data drive, but all I felt was irritation. I admit to thinking of fantastic booby-traps to set and I admit that going into worship, I was not in the frame of mind I should be. When we got to the prayer requests, I felt the need to voice prayers of healing for the thief/thieves,

hoping they would feel the need to repent. I did not *want* to voice that request, but rather I wanted to hold on to my anger and petulance. But I'd been down that road before. I have learned the value of praying for my enemies, whether I held anything against them or they just had something against me.

I don't know whether my prayers for that girl who passionately hated me those years ago ever caused a change in her. I can't say whether she gained the enlightenment and healing I hoped she'd be granted, nor do I know if she ever learned to live on her own or to forgive. Neither do I *know* whether our prayers that Sunday will result in a life-change for those who evidently coveted an old computer and a tool-box. But there was a miracle all the same. *I* changed. I was cleansed of my useless anger (for not all anger is unjustified or useless) and I realized that in praying for a new heart for another, I'd received a clean heart myself. "In prayer there is a connection between what God does and what you do. You can't get forgiveness from God, for instance, without also forgiving others. If you refuse to do your part, you cut yourself off from God's part." (Matthew 6:14-15, Msg) Please, join me in praying for a new heart and a new spirit

within our various communities.

*Shalom,
Patrick*

Scriptures & Sermons

- May 3rd – 1 John 3:16-24
"Living In God's Reality"
- May 10th – John 15:1-8
"The Continuous Vine"
- May 17th – 1 John 5:1-6
"Do We Love God?"
- May 24th – John 17:6-19
"Life on Display"
- May 31st – John 15:26-16:15
"Necessity of Absence"

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ELDERS

- 5/3: JR Gomolak
- 5/10: Bob Huber
- 5/17: Patrick Crocker
- 5/24: Patt Blackwell
- 5/31: Tommy Dobson

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SECOND WEDNESDAY **SUPPER CLUB**

On the second Wednesday of each month there will be a supper club. Those who wish to participate will be dining out Dutch treat at area restaurants. All you need to do is let the office know by the second Monday if you want to attend, so a reservation can be made. We hope you would like to join in. Bon appetit!

Special Outreach Project

The cabinet has decided to sponsor a special project to collect items for C.O.P.E.

After Easter through Sunday May 17th there will be a box on the back table to put items in.

Kay Gomolak will be the speaker at the Fellowship dinner that evening, and will be presented with the items then.

Needed are: canned tuna and chicken, coffee, dry creamer, sugar, tea bags. Alarm clocks, school supplies, diapers, over-the-counter meds such as aspirin, acetaminophen, ibuprofen, and children's meds. Paper plates, small and large trash bags, toilet paper, paper towels. Linens including bedding and towels. Deodorant, antiperspirant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, hair conditioner. Disinfectant spray, low-suds laundry detergent, cleaning supplies. Pots and pans, dishes, glasses, silverware, small appliances, tools for simple home repair. Children's clothes.

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Five Hammers and a Handful of Nails

"Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me before many witnesses, entrust to the faithful who will be able to teach others also." (2 Timothy 2: 1, 2)

The fourth and fifth grade boys of Donkoi Primary School in Laos were excited. They were at Mr. Khamvanh's house in the village, using one big hammer and some long nails to repair the school's tables and benches. How wonderful this farmer-carpenter villager is! He took the initiative for this project without anyone asking him. I thought, wouldn't it be wonderful if there were a carpenters' group in the school? The children were asked, "Would you like more hammers?" They all said "Yes", so that was it! The Young Carpenters' Club was born.

Mr. Khamvanh was asked if he would bring some older youths to help him finish repairing the tables and benches while the younger boys played with the hammers, nails, and wood. Mr. Khamvanh bought a 'tuktuk' full of scrap wood (a 'tuktuk' is a small vehicle that carries passengers short distances) and that summer the children of Donkoi Primary School had a wonderful time creating anything they wanted. No more repairs to tables and benches were needed.

That was how Donkoi School's After-School Program began: with five little hammers, lots of nails, and a skilled carpenter with a very good heart.

(Xuyen Dangers is a social worker in Laos/Vietnam serving as a Social Work supervisor of Donkoi Child Center and five other centers; and as social work advisor on the faculty of Social Sciences, the National University of Laos; and with Church World Service and Witness (NCCC).)

Summer Camp Volunteers

If anyone would like to volunteer as a camp counselor, dates and locations are listed below. (As a reminder, the Area covers the cost of registration for all counselors. All you are asked to donate is your time.)

CYF (Completed Grades 9-12) -
June 7-12, Black River

Created to Be Me (Completed
Grade 8) - June 28-July 4, Ceta
Glen

Chi Rho (Completed Grades 6-7)
- June 15-19, Black River

Junior (Completed Grades 3-5) -
June 8-12, Bonita Park

New Beginnings (Completed
Grades 1-3) - June 15-18, Black
River

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 8:00 NA	2
3 8:30 Bible Study Food Pantry 6:00 NA 7:00 Bible Study	4	5 5:00 PRC 8:00 NA	6	7 8:00 NA	8 8:00 NA	9 <i>11:30 CWF at Memories Rest.</i>
10 8:30 Bible Study 6:00 NA 7:00 Bible Study	11 7:00 Stamp Club	12 7:00 Rock Club 8:00 NA	13 <i>Supper Club</i>	14 8:00 NA	15 8:00 NA	16
17 8:30 Bible Study 6:00 Fellowship Dinner 6:00 NA 7:00 Bible Study	18	19 6:30 Elders' mtg 8:00 NA	20	21 8:00 NA	22 8:00 NA	23
24 8:30 Bible Study 31 6:00 NA 7:00 Bible Study	25	26 8:00 NA	27 7:00 Board mtg	28 8:00 NA	29 8:00 NA	30