

THE TOWER

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United Church of Christ
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“Welcome Back Sunday”



I hope that you are enjoying your summer when the pace of life slows down somewhat for many of us. But it is time to think about the year ahead in the church. September 12 will be Park Congregational Church’s “Welcome Back Sunday.” On that day we will have during the worship service, once again, our adult choir, lay readers for the scriptures, Children’s Time, and Sunday School. After the service we will kick off Movie Matinee—which will be on the second Sunday of the month from now on—with the classic 1938 film, *Angels with Dirty Faces* (see page 6).

This would also be a good time for you personally to get back into “church mode.” Many of you take the summer off from church. You may have your reasons for why you do this. But if taking time to be refreshed so that you can come back in September renewed to participate in church activities is not one of them, then you have stayed home during the summer for the wrong reasons.

Many of you remarked that the last church year was one of the best you could remember in Park Church’s history. By “best,” you meant the eagerness of the congregation to participate and volunteer, the presence of the youth and children sharing their gifts, and the general feeling of community as we worked together to advance the ministries of our church. We accomplished much and enjoyed the fruits of our labors. To summarize, we were a community of faith and fun! Of course, we had our sad times last year as well, especially the deaths of several pillars of the church, such as Herb Nichols, Evelyn Crockett, Dawn Jorgensen, and Kenny Martindale. But overall it was a very good year.

But we can do even better this coming year. It is all up to you. If you have not been worshiping with us in Davis Chapel, come! We need you. Exciting things are happening here in our congregation. If you cannot come to church in person for whatever reason, there are still ways that you can participate. You can donate the flowers for a Sunday morning. You can e-mail or phone Pastor Gary about what is going on in your life, ask for prayer, or seek counsel on an issue that is bothering you. And, of course, you can support the church’s ministries by making donations or sending in your offering envelopes. We also need to invite new people to become part of our congregation. Our Bible Study will begin a new book--*Christianity for the Rest of Us*--that will help us to find ways that we can do that and still remain true to our identity as a mainstream/liberal Protestant congregation (see page 8).

New beginnings are always exciting, such as when children begin a new school year in September, a person begins a new job, or a family moves into a new home. The beginning of a new church year also breeds excitement. Be part of the excitement on Sunday, September 12! See you in Davis Chapel.

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Gary



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 James Rose
- 3 Fred Mezynski
- 3 David Jorgensen
- 8 Elsie Nichols
- 9 Jacob Baronas
- 10 Sherri Deneault
- 11 Dan Smith
- 13 Ron Devoe
- 14 Ted Jordan
- 16 Luis Martinez
- 18 Linda Bogosian
- 18 Holly Proulx
- 19 Matthew Proulx
- 25 Wayne Newlands
- 29 Rosemary (Sis) Johnson
- 29 Sarah Harris

SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTING TO COCO KEY WATER RESORT!

The Sunday School children went to CoCo Key on the afternoon of Sunday, June 13, following our Children's Day morning worship. As always, being together not only in church but sharing time together at other activities serves to make even stronger our "church family" bonds. A wonderful time was had by not only the children, but the Sunday School staff and volunteer chaperones as well!

NEW ADDRESSES, PHONE NUMBERS, AND E-MAIL:

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★ Thank You! ★
★ THANK YOU! ★

TO MY WONDERFUL CHURCH FAMILY,

On behalf of Dawn Jorgensen's family, I want to say "thank you" for all of your support and prayers. Though this card is late, know that you all mean so much to me throughout the year. Dawn's church family meant a lot to her and she was so fond of all of you! With my sincere thank you!

God Bless,
Holly Proulx and family

TO BRITTANY, JOSEP, JAMES, JANNELLE, AND MATTHEW,

Please accept my sincere thanks on my wonderful gift you presented to me on Children's Sunday! It is very special to me. You are all a bunch of wonderful young adults and I am so very proud of each and every one of you. Love you all dearly,
Miss Holly

TO MY CONFIRMATION CLASS,

Thank you so much for the exquisite paperweight that you gave me with the photograph of all of you: Josep Rose, Brittany Fisher, Matthew Proulx, Jannelle Lindquist, and James Rose. It sits on my office desk at church and I glance at it often as I continue to uphold all of you in my prayers and thank God for each one of you. It was a delight to teach you this past year and I look forward to participating in more events with you in the coming year. Thank you all again.

In Christ,
Pastor Gary

TO RON DEVOE,

Thank you for your wonderful handiwork that transformed a metal cabinet into a wonderful storage space for the deacons to house our treasured paraments, silver communion trays, and silver pitcher and goblets. Ron fashioned shelves for storage as well as an area that allows our beautiful altar cloths to hang as opposed to being folded. Bless you, Ron!

TO JANNELLE LINDQUIST,

Thank you to our Jannelle Lindquist for writing and delivering the sermon on Children's Day. Jannelle's sermon was based on scripture taken from John 3:16. Certainly God's love and the importance of the divine love was reflected in Jannelle's message. Bless you, Jannelle.

TO JAMES ROSE,

Thank you to James Rose for volunteering to be the first newly elected Youth Deacon to assist in serving Holy Communion on August 1. James makes history in that he is the youngest Youth Deacon ever to serve Holy Communion at Park Congregational Church! We look forward to the participation of our other Youth Deacons, Matthew Proulx, Josep Rose, Brittany Fisher, and Jannelle Lindquist in the days ahead.



MOVIE MATINEE ON SEPTEMBER 12 PRESENTS
ANGELS WITH DIRTY FACES
STARRING
JAMES CAGNEY AND THE DEAD END KIDS

Two boys grow up in similar circumstances in New York City. One becomes a gangster. The other becomes a priest. Why do they choose two different paths in life? Why is it that so many young people in poverty see the criminal life as attractive and the religious life as boring? These are some of the questions that we will explore when we watch this classic film starring James Cagney, Humphrey Bogart, and the Dead End Kids. We will gather in the Roy Room following the worship service and enjoy lunch together. We will start the movie around 11:30am. We should be finished by around 1:45pm. Don't forget your brown bag lunch!



Summer truly is a time for vacation . . . but not necessarily taking a vacation from church. Various Sundays saw various children at morning worship, BUT special kudos to James and Justin Rose who RARELY missed a week as well as Sarah and Laura Harris! These children served as on the spot acolytes and were even seen helping to pick up the chapel after services. **EXCELLENT!**

THE CHILDREN'S TOWER

September

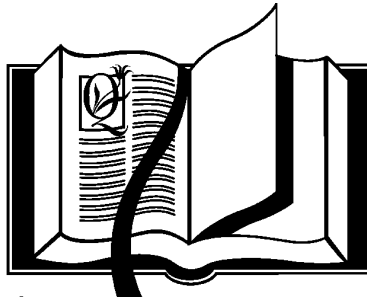


Dear Children,

Oh, what a wonderful, busy summer this has been! HOT summer days and beautiful blue skies. All that summer should be! And, those hot summer days kicked off with the week of June 28, the first day of Vacation Bible Camp with the theme of GALACTIC BLAST. Though the theme focused on an "out of space" setting, the reality of God's creation of the universe and His presence in our lives today was stellar! Together with First Baptist and Wesley United Methodist churches, we celebrated our "wonderful, magnificent, and awesome God". "Let everything that has breath praise the LORD" we spoke and sang during our four-day adventure. But then again, you children know all that because most of our Sunday School was able to attend VBC!! How wonderful!! And, because of the generosity of Miss Elsie and the Herb Nichols Memorial Fund, all of you Sunday School children who attended VBC did so at no expense. Truly, this was in keeping with Mr. Nichols' devotion to the Sunday School during his life.

Miss Linda also wishes to thank all of our church folk who helped to make VBC so great: Pastor Gary for Adult Bible Study; Miss Lisa, Miss Dee, and Miss Kimberly (along with helpers Josep Rose, Brittany Fisher, and Jannelle Lindquist) as Craft Leaders; Miss Holly, Miss Terry, Miss Linda (Harris) as Shepherds; James Rose as a Junior Shepherd; Miss Emily, Miss Judy, Miss Kathi, and Miss Paula for nightly Suppers (and yummy they were), and Mr. Ron for photographing each and every child and many activities. To coordinators Miss Val and Miss Ann from Wesley United Methodist Church, enormous thanks; to WUMC music director, Brett Maguire; thanks also to Pastor Heather, Lynne Carroll, and David Goff from First Baptist Church for their enthusiastic participation. All in all, we gathered together to number 73 children and many helpers . . . yet all in all, we numbered ONE . . . as we praised God . . . our A-M-A-Z-I-N-G GOD!

Your friend . . . *Miss Linda*



BIBLE STUDY GROUP WILL BEGIN A NEW BOOK, *CHRISTIANITY FOR THE REST OF US: HOW THE NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH IS TRANSFORMING THE FAITH*

Are you tired of hearing about “born again” or conservative evangelical Protestants in the news? Are you discouraged when you hear that mainline Protestant churches are dying and that the only churches growing are large Fundamentalist Protestant churches or denominations on the fringes of traditional Christianity? Do we mainstream/liberal Protestant Christians have a poor self-image that hinders our ministry? Well, this is the book for us!

Based on careful research from 50 congregations from six mainline denominations—including our own United Church of Christ—author Diana Butler Bass seeks to debunk the rumor that mainline Protestantism has become irrelevant in the United States. She examines the social and religious forces that have caused many churches to the sidelines of American life, but offers hope by informing us of congregations of older Protestant denominations that have changed so that they now experience solid growth. These churches are actively reaching out into the community, engaging in a variety of forms of evangelism, and leading people to a deeper spiritual life and commitment. Not exactly what we hear in the news media when they talk about old mainline liberal churches, is it?

In order to accommodate more participants, our Bible Study will move from Wednesday to Tuesday, and from the first and third weeks to the second and fourth weeks. And so, our first meeting together will be on Tuesday, September 14. We meet at 7:00pm in the library on the second floor of First Baptist’s building. If you would like to be a member of this study group, please inform Pastor Gary as soon as possible as he must order the books ahead of time and get them into your hands before our first meeting. We have already had some new folks say that they would like to join our Bible Study, but there is always room for more. Come and find out how a small congregation like ours with an old mainline Protestant affiliation can nevertheless do wonders for God’s kingdom and bring people to a deeper spiritual life.