

Covenant News



September 2009

COMMITTEE CONTACTS:

Moderator:

Phil Roush
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Clerk:

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314-961-4977

Parish Life:

Sharon Porter
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Christian Education:

Lynda Morrison
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Alan Boston
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Stewardship:

Joseph Weyhrich
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Rally Day!!

Sunday, September 20, 2009

Potluck after the service in Memorial Hall. Drinks and fried chicken will be provided. Please bring a dish to share. A freewill offering will be taken.

Benevolence supported by First Church will be presented for members of the congregation to learn more about the amazing ministries available locally and supported by our members!

Fall Sunday School Theme *Rules We Live By* gets underway.

Sermon: *All That Jazz*

Rotary Club Car Show and the Jazz Festival!

*Food, Games, Giving, more Food and Fun!!!
Join Us!*

The Solution to Pollution

The solution to pollution is ablation of effusions,
Emanations and emissions of a nauseating sort;
The abatement come-too-latement of the effluence of affluence,
Cessation in our nation of the man-made fart.
The Machiavellian monsters of the mighty megalopolis
Are exuding and extruding a quite unlovely mess,
While creatures piscatorial, aerial, arboreal
Are tiring and expiring from environmental stress.

If you wish delicious dishes of nutritious little fishes
A shrimpy dip or crabby nip, then keep the waters clean.
Stop unlawful awful offals and the filthy, frothy refuse
Of the factories, refineries from fouling up the seas,
Pesticides infest our tides, trickling down the riversides;
Repulsive, sick expulsions of the gushing flushing flume,
And the scrofulous great populace exterminates, defoliates,
Contaminates, proliferates and adds to the spume.

The crickets in the thickets, all the chicks and little piglets,
All the wing-ed things that sing are wondering where to go;
The mouse, the moose, the louse profuse, the ruffled grouse and old gray goose,
The cats, and rats, and bats, and gnats would also like to know.
In the rusky, dusky forest, in the misty, bosky dingle,
In the stillness of the wildness there's a pall in the sky,
And the twittering tit-willow is a-lying, O so still-o
In the hedgerow in the meadow where he just laid down and died.

-Alex Usher, 1970

In The Interim

This Fall we begin the one hundred and forty-third year of First Congregational Church of Webster Groves. Over the near century and a half there are many who, now, are visible only to remembering hearts. There are also many new persons who have come to carry on the important work of this congregation; to share also their life's happiness and sorrow. And there are others of whom we have not even dreamt, who one day will fill our places, we pray. That is as it should be.

We gather not to propitiate an angry god who like a middle eastern potentate, needs the constant groveling and adoration of masses of people; nor do we gather to fulfill a social obligation or to obtain social status. We gather to worship the God who offers us hope and love.

I have come to believe that the church is about one thing: people. It is about our finding transcendence and transformation. How easy is it to forget that!

How easy to think that it is a social club, or a concert hall, or a place to play micro-power politics, or to drink coffee with our friends, or put on a play, or to be an art gallery or a playground for children, or a place to talk about great and small books, or to eat dinner. These are all good things, most of them at least, and churches do them, but they are not what we are about. We are about people, about finding transcendence in our lives and being transformed, even when we would rather not.

As we begin again, adding a one hundred and forty-fourth year to the circling years of this congregation, we are invited to seek our own transcendence and transformation.

In this year you will also, with God's grace, call your next minister. It is an exciting year. Be here to be a part of it.

John



Moderator's Update

As I write this, we are actively pursuing the ministerial search process and at the same time looking for a Youth Director for the Christian Education Ministry programs that work with younger members of our congregation. There have been a number of interviews for the Youth Director to date. Once that person is hired, we will initiate the search for a Christian Education Director who will be the staff person assisting with Christian Education ministry programs. These are new positions provided for in the remainder of the 2009 budget and more important, the staff our Appreciation Inquiry process identified as most important to members of our congregation.

John Robinson, Joe Weyhrich and I have had a meeting to discuss the stewardship campaign prior to putting the budget for 2010 together. My hope is that we can budget for realistic pledging...and that you can stretch to support our congregational needs even in this time of economic uncertainty. Consecration Sunday will be October 18 so we will defer the Bylaws mandated Budget approval meeting into November when we have a better idea of the resources available to the church.

By now, you've probably looked at our church's website. It really tells the story about who we are and what we do in the community. As some of us continue to brag about our new office administrator, Jennifer, I propose to ask the other members of our Executive Ministry if they will agree to make Jennifer our webmaster. She has the experience from her previous employment and has made some improvements in our website text to date.

In our "calendar meeting" this morning, we entered the dates for many of the September events that will start our fall worship season. We have administrative activities as well to come in the next few months. See you in church!

- Phil Roush, Moderator

Three Ministries Corner

Search Committee

In the last month our church profile has been published in UCC publications and as a result the search committee has received 21 candidate profiles to date. Each member of the committee is completing a methodical review of these profiles, after which they are evaluated by the committee as a team. All candidates receive acknowledgment and some profiles are retained for further consideration. The committee is encouraged by the early response and expects to receive additional profiles in the coming weeks. For more information regarding the search process please check out the bulletin board in the hallway near the entrance to Memorial Hall.

Facility and Finance

This ministry met on August 10. We are glad to report at this time there are no major problems regarding the eminence and operation of the church. A committee was formed to formalize a policy and procedure for use of the church. The policy will include guidelines for the office administrator to use when scheduling rentals and special events. A new personnel policy is near completion. The audit is ongoing. Chip has been asked to get an estimate for the repair of the east parking lot.

Christian Education Update

Youth Director Search: Our interview team chose 5 individuals to interview from among more than 100 applicants. One candidate stood out from the rest. She is in the final stages of the interview process as the Covenant News goes to press.

Christian Education Director Search: A job description has been advertised and we are currently receiving resumes. Interviews will begin in early September.

Summer Sunday School: Our summer Sunday School theme wrapped up August 16 with a service devoted to earth stewardship and featuring elements from the kids' summer activities. We all enjoyed learning about God's gift to us of the earth and its abundance, and about our duty to care for it. Special thanks to Rosemary Hensley, Jane Fairbanks and Frank Trampe who helped teach; Ray Landis for consultation on the music and John Robinson who was convinced (most of the time) that we could pull the service together.

Fall Sunday School: The theme developed for the fall term is "Rules We Live By." It will cover the 10 Commandments and the Beatitudes and will commence on September 20. We appreciate the volunteer spirit of many members of the congregation who have already agreed to help teach this fundamental topic. A teacher orientation session will be announced soon.

JULY RECEIPTS AND EXPENSES

		YTD	YTD	YTD
Receipts	Actual	Actual	Budget Variance	
Interest & Misc Income	3	7,449	10,383	-2,934
Pledges & Gifts	22,976	225,520	258,001	-32,481
Use of Church	4,445	22,708	21,875	833
Benevolence Fundraising	<u>0</u>	<u>13,057</u>	<u>8,750</u>	<u>6,807</u>
Total Receipts	27,424	268,734	299,009	-30,265
Expenses				
Salary & Benefits	22,159	201,184	185,905	-15,279
Institutional Expense	4	89,283	83,198	-6,085
Ministries Expense	<u>2,575</u>	<u>29,993</u>	<u>29,770</u>	<u>-233</u>
Total Expenses	29,202	320,460	298,873	-21,587
Surplus or Deficit	-1,778	-51,726	136	-51,852
Pledges to date are equal to or exceed receipts				

Happiness cannot be traveled to, owned, earned, worn or consumed. Happiness is the spiritual experience of living every minute with love, grace and gratitude.

Denis Waitley

SAGE

Sunday, September 13	11:15 AM	Picnic at Larry Hensley Park
Saturday, October 3		Lunch at Applebee's followed by a short walk or longer hike on Grant's Trail.
Tuesday, November 3	7:00 PM	At church, John Robinson, "Transylvania."
Friday, December 4		"Crèches and Carols" at Mormon Church followed by lunch.
Sunday, December 6	5:30 PM	Yankee Swap at the Perry's
January 2010		Basketball at Washington University

Sage will meet on Saturday, October 3 for lunch at Applebee's on Watson, just west of Grant's Trail. Other landmarks include Grant Road and the AAA office also on the north side of Watson.

After lunch, we have the opportunity to work off the calories with a walk to one or both of the cemeteries nearby in Crestwood. If we choose the Grant Trail, we can walk to Father Dickson Cemetery where slaves were buried. Dickson is the subject of "clean up" projects twice a year by volunteer groups.

Closer to Applebee's is Sappington Cemetery, established in 1811 by John Sappington. Gravestones there date to the American Revolution era. Sappington once owned a 2400 acre plantation, now occupied in part by Lindbergh High School. These sites and other south county attractions are highlighted in the August 7-13 issue of the South County Times.

We'll meet at Applebee's, 9031 Watson at 11:30 on the 3rd. Sign up in the church office.

SAGE has purchased 10 gift cards from Payless Shoe Co. for Webster Rock-Hill's "Back-To-School" program. Many thanks to all those who contributed! W.R. Hills is very grateful and 10 children will have new shoes for "Back to School."

-Marjorie Richardson

First Church - Webster - US Timeline

9 of 12 Series

1960 **Greg Ritchie, Associate 1960-65.**

Plymouth and Steger Jr. Highs open.

Webster Groves Community Days in July created.



1961 **First Church ratified joining UCC.**

Commuter train service to St. Louis ended.

East Parking lot expanded.



1962 **Iglis announced his retirement.**

Martin Goslin, Minister 1962-65, Helfenstein Manse purchased.

Church housed preschool for retarded children.

1963 **Offices, east entrance off parking lot, library added.**

Youth Fellowship visited black colleges in the south.

MLK *I Have A Dream* speech.



1964 **Gerald O'Connor, Associate 1964-66.**

Civil Rights Act passed.

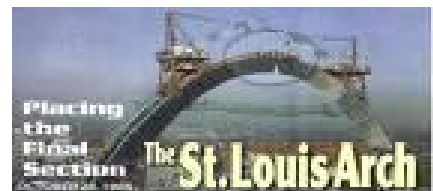
1965 **Willing Workers formed** (sewing and knitting group).

Vietnam War.

Arch built.

Ritchie becomes Interim Sr. Minister.

Helfenstein Manse sold and church policy changed to compensate ministers so they could buy their own home.



1966 **100th Anniversary** 1600 members 10 Guilds.

Paul Davis, Minister 1966-93.

Floyd Davidson, Associate 1966-69.

Busch Stadium opened.



1967 **Duane Estes, Youth Minister 1967-70.**

First Youth Work Camp - Rough Rock Arizona.

First Webster Groves Century Home designated.

Youths' Vacation Spent Aiding Indians



Website

The new web site is completed and the address is www.firstchurchwg.org. I would like to thank the following people for their contributions toward the original content: Bob Woodsmall, Lynda Morrison, Marge Niemeyer, Jan Barnes, John Robinson, Charles Brader, Bob McCoy, Kay Roush and Dana Romeis. I particularly want to thank our new office manager, Jennifer Adams, for the work she has done toward finalizing the project. Jennifer is very knowledgeable with website operations. She will be the contact for anyone who wants to submit articles or updates for the website, including corrections. A committee has been formed that consists of Charles Brader, Marge Niemeyer and Jennifer for the review of all information prior to inclusion on the site. An additional thanks is provided for Haris Probic for his cooperation with the entire group.

-Rod Cooper



Communion Team Update

September 6 will be the first Communion that the Communion Team serves. Rather than making calls each month for people to serve, this team will sign up as their schedules/other commitments allow. There is also a list of people who can substitute.

We always have room for more, so please let me know if you would like to be on the Communion Team. I am in need of someone who can be the leader on the Communion Sundays that I either cannot be at Church or will be playing bells.

There will be a short training session the end of August for the team members; team members will be contacted regarding the date and time.

Thanks to all who have agreed to help with this very important part of our church life.

-Laura Cooper

September Meal-A-Month

Spam
 Flavored Rice or Noodles
 Canned Mixed Vegetables
 Canned Fruit
 Powdered Milk



2 positions available, open-ended terms, compensation, a front row in heaven.

COVENANT NEWS REPORTER—any church member who is inclined is sought to submit an article for each issue regarding almost any aspect of parish life from the obscure to the obvious.

PASTRY CZAR—an individual is sought to arrange for donuts or a substitute to be at church for coffee hour each Sunday. He or she may bake, buy, or store in the freezer and he or she may do it alone, form a team or delegate.

For either position please reply to Sharon Porter, Parish Life Ministry Chair

Show Case

Share Your Talents!

As you go from the Narthex to Memorial Hall, stop at the show case and enjoy the beautiful collection of glass paper weights. They are selected from the Ginnie Conlee has gathered over a number of years. She is sharing them with us for the month of September.

Consider sharing your collections or the products of your talents with the First Church Family. Contact Joan Musbach to schedule a month.

Choir Kickoff - September 10!

The Chancel Choir and Canterbury Bell Choir will begin a new season on Thursday, September 10! Both choirs always welcome new members, high school age and older. No musical training is necessary, just a desire to serve God through music! If you are interested in joining a choir or are curious and would like more information, please talk to Dr. Ray or a choir member. We hope you will consider joining us as we offer praise to God through music!

Canterbury Bell Choir meets in Sample Chapel, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Chancel Choir meets in the Choir Room, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

At our first meeting on September 10, we will have a social gathering in the Parlor between rehearsals, beginning at 7:15 p.m. Please bring a favorite snack to share! Prospective members are encouraged to join us!!

Highlights From Our Worship Grant Year!

It is hard to believe that our Worship Grant year has come to an end. What an incredible year it was! The poster below (the full-size version is on display in the church Narthex) illustrates highlights and reflections from the year. The mural painting project will also be displayed in the Narthex and in Memorial Hall throughout the month of September. If you missed the "Hope in the Midst of Struggle" presentation on July 26, copies of the DVD will soon be available. In addition, work is being completed on a photo book which will highlight the year through pictures, stories, and reflections!

A special thanks to members of the Worship Art Team who gave so much time and energy to the project year! They are: Jan Barnes, Lili Calder, Laura Cooper, and Dana Romeis. Please express your gratitude to them.

We want to thank all who participated in many, many ways throughout the grant year! The works of art created will continue to enrich our worship and inspire continued creating of new works of art!

We hope to continue the work begun this year. If you are interested in serving on the Worship Art Team or can offer time to a specific project, please talk to Dr. Ray, Lili Calder, or Dana Romeis.



SEPTEMBER 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 8:30AM Oasis Tutoring 8:30 Sandwich Makers 9:30 Willing Workers 5:30PM Martha Rounds	2 12:00PM AA 6:00 Fitness Group	3 7:45AM Martha Rounds 8:30AM Oasis Tutoring 5:00PM Stewardship Committee 5:30PM Martha Rounds	4 12:00PM AA 7:30 Webster Groves Stamp Club 8:00 Webster Groves Stamp Club	5
6 10:00AM Worship (Communion) 10:15 Sunday School 11:15 Coffee	7 Office Closed 8:00 AM Monday Morning Men 12 PM AA 6:00 Fitness Group 7:00 Critical Eyes Art Group 7:30 AA	8 8:30AM Oasis Tutoring 9:30 Willing Workers 11:00 Mary Martha 5:30PM Martha Rounds 6:30 Lady Elect	9 8:30 AM Oasis Tutoring 12:00PM AA 6:00PM Fitness Group	10 7:45AM Martha Rounds 12:30PM Prep for Ministry Meeting 5:30 Martha Rounds 6:00 Art World Association 6:30 Bells 7:30 Choir	11 12:00PM AA	12
13 10:00AM Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:15 Coffee—Parish Life Inquiry 11:15 SAGE Picnic at Hensley Park	14 8:00AM Monday Morning Men 12:00PM AA 6:00 Fitness Group 6:00 Gateway Pastel Artists 7:00 Three Ministries 7:30 AA	15 8:30AM Sandwich Makers 9:30 Willing Workers 4:00 PM Centenary Cares 5:30 Martha Rounds 6:00 Watercolor Society	16 12:00PM AA 6:00PM Fitness Group	17 7:45AM Martha Rounds 7:45 P.A.T. Parent Educator Screening 5:30PM Martha Rounds	18 7:45AM P.A.T. Dial Screening 12:00PM AA 7:30 Webster Groves Stamp Club 8:00 Webster Groves Stamp Club	19 7:00AM Car Show (Rotary Club)
20 RALLY DAY 10:00AM Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:15 Coffee 12:00PM Potluck and Benevolence Fair	21 8:00AM Monday Morning Men 12:00PM AA 6:00 Fitness Group 7:30 AA	22 9:30AM Willing Workers 5:30PM Martha Rounds 29 8:30AM Sandwich Makers 9:30 Willing Workers 11:00 Staff Meeting 5:30PM Martha Rounds	23 7:45AM P.A.T. 12:00PM AA 1:00 Oasis Tutoring 6:00 Fitness Group	24 7:45 Martha Rounds 8:30 Journeymen 5:30 Martha Rounds	25 12:00PM AA 5:00 Room at the Inn	26 7:45AM P.A.T. Parent Educator Screening
27 10:00AM Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:15 Church Tour 11:15 Coffee	28 8:00AM Monday Morning Men 12:00PM AA 6:00 Fitness Group 7:30 AA		30 12:00PM AA 6:00 Fitness Group			

Ezekiel's Wheel Mission Day at Kinder Cottage!

For a third year, our teen creative team, Ezekiel's Wheel, spent a day at the Uni-Pres Kinder Cottage in East St. Louis. In addition to presenting a puppet show and leading the preschoolers and elementary aged children in creating paper bag puppets, we had the wonderful privilege of presenting Kinder Cottage with a check for \$863, representing donations collected at First Church!! Thank you, First Church!

Below are some highlights from the day! Our young people included Maddie Broz, Kara Hoganson, Dion Landis, Abby Shea, and Lucy Short. The group is co-lead by Marilyn Davis and Ray Landis. See the Youth Bulletin Board (in the hallway to Memorial Hall) for more photos!



BE OF SERVICE TO OTHERS

Every third Tuesday of the month members of First Congregational Church have been going to Centenary Church on Olive Street to feed 150 to 180 homeless people an evening meal. We meet at 4:00 p.m. at our church to car pool downtown. We do some food preparation, serve the meal, clean up the kitchen dishes, pots and pans and are done by 6:00 p.m. This is a service that has been going on for some time by dedicated members, but now we need additional help. I have found that service to others brings a special reward. If you are interested in helping in this worthwhile mission, please contact Carolyn or Bob Woodsmall at 314-849-9663. We need your help!

Thank you! Bob

Each friend represents a world in us, a world possibly not born until they arrive, and it is only by this meeting that a new world is born.

-Anais Nin

Lady Elect Guild Begins a New Year!

The Lady Elect Guild is an evening fellowship opportunity for women of the church. The group meets the second Tuesday of the month, September through May, usually at the church and usually at 7:30pm.

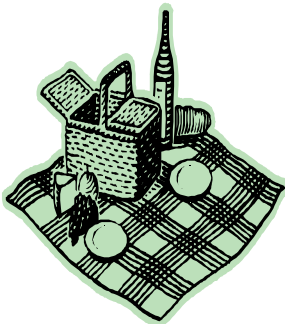
On September 8, we will have our Fall Potluck. We will meet a little earlier due to dinner plans. Anyone interested is asked to bring a Salad, Break, or Desert; beverages and tableware will be provided.

Every gathering is open to anyone interested and we communicate our plans by e-mail. If you are interested but can't join us in September, contact Linda Kopetti at lkopetti@charter.net for more information, or to add your name to the e-mail list.

Please consider joining us September 8th in the parlor at 6:30pm.

The Hallway Showcase

Let's keep something interesting in the Hallway Showcase. Does your church group wish to sign up to showcase your activities one month out of the year? Do you have an interesting collection to share? Please contact Joan Musbach at jmusbach@swbell.net.



Old Fashioned Picnic at Larry Hensley Park

Pack your picnic basket or drive thru McDonalds and pick up your lunch after church Sunday, September 13 at 12:00 noon.

Join us for fellowship, fun and conversation at Larry's park in Rock Hill. Sign up sheet and maps to the park will be in the office. The two Bobs, McCoy and Woodsmall, are in charge.

Hope to see you there!

St. Louis Association Women

You are cordially invited to:
St. John United Church of Christ, Manchester
332 Old Sulphur Springs Road
(directions to the church are located in the church office)
For the St. Louis Association Women, UCC

Fall Gathering

Meet Jeff Fulk, Minister and Manager
Shannondale Community Center
Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Registration: 9:30am Closing Worship: 1:00pm

Come hear the story of the Shannondale Ministry
Meet new friends, renew old friendships.

Enjoy a delicious lunch.

Registration deadline: September 15, 2009

\$10.00 per person, includes lunch.

This event sponsored by St. Louis Association Women, UCC
(Registration forms can be found in the church office)

Couple Communication Skills Workshop

The Gateway Chapter of
The Association for Couples in Marriage Enrichment
Invites you to a
COUPLES COMMUNICATION SKILLS WORKSHOP
(pre-requisite for joining a Marriage Enrichment Group)
Friday, October 23, 2009, 7:00pm—9:30pm
(child care available Friday night only—toddlers through 10)
Saturday, October 24, 2009, 8:30am—4:30pm

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (UCC)

Facilitated by:
Ann Broyles & Barry Rinderknecht, ACME Certified Leader Couple
And Linda & Steve Techner, Leader Couple

Cost per couple: \$80.00
Includes workshop, materials, 1 year membership in both national and Gateway ACME
For further information: Ann Broyles (636) 458-4059 or EABROYLES@prodigy.net

COVENANT NEWS

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves, U.C.C.
10 West Lockwood Avenue
Webster Groves, MO 63119

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Organization
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PAID
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1065

Reverend John Robinson
Interim Senior Minister

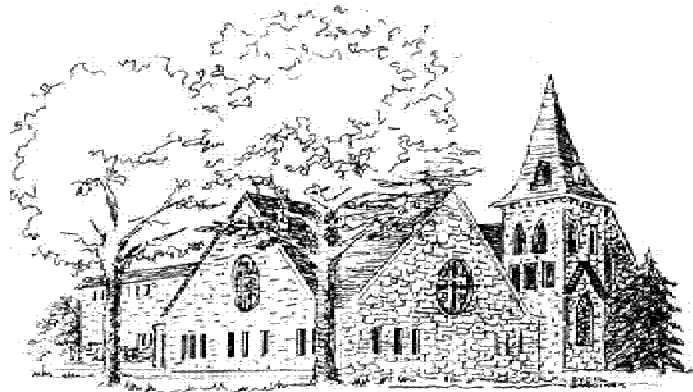
Dr. Raymond Landis
Music Director/Organist

Phil Roush
Moderator

Jennifer Adams
Office Administrator
Covenant News Editor

Chip Isringhaus
Facilities Manager

James Nelson
Custodian



Prayer Commissioned By the Search Committee

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, may each of us as members of First Congregational Church UCC feel the Presence of Your Holy Spirit as we seek a new spiritual leader for our church. May our choice, with Your Divine Guidance, inspire our church to grow in spirit and in commitment to Christ's mission.