



Thunderbird West Congregational News

July/August 2009

Chayne Greenwalt's Graduation Luncheon



Chayne Greenwalt's High School graduation was celebrated by her friends and family with a dinner given by her family on May 24th following the Worship Service.

Chayne is working this summer at the Guthrie Grove Reunion Grounds (Iowa) as lifeguard. She plans to attend Graceland University this fall. Best wishes in your endeavors, Chayne.

Chayne's summer address:

Chayne Greenwalt
72 Center Street,
Manning, Iowa, 51455

Perspective...

What is greater than God, More evil than the devil, the poor have it, the rich need it, and if you eat it, you'll die?

Answer on page 4

Pastor's Corner

While in my garage the other day, I realized that I still possess a considerable amount of junk. Before we left Michigan, we were suffering from what I would call the basement syndrome. We sold about half of the furniture that we had because we knew we would have a smaller home without a basement in Arizona. Now we suffer from the garage syndrome, meaning what will I do with all of those things I have accumulated over the past nine years?

We all come to points in our lives when we have to clear out some of the clutter. We may have done some downsizing when we moved to Arizona, yet we may still have some future downsizing to address. We may decide it is time to give things away. Common sense hopefully will tell us when it is time. We realize that too much clutter prevents us from action on what we know to be our priorities in life. De-junking can have spiritual value. Jesus told his disciples as they embarked on their first missionary journey to take "nothing with them".

As all of us are too rapidly moving into our later years, we realize that once these changes are made, it can be much easier to move on. We have had to make decisions about what to dispose of and what to keep. We have had to throw out some of the clutter. But have we? For some, we are not talking about material items. There can be the memories of disappointments, a grudge that we cannot let go of; dreams that were not realized. That kind of clutter, taking up space in our minds, can prevent us from moving forward in our work of helping each other move closer to Christ.

Life is so much more than things or past regrets. Life is about the relationships we share with God through Jesus Christ. We instinctively know, at this stage in our lives, we should be drawing down to the basics. Our church family becomes so essential.

You know by now that I look at the service we do for each other as a pastoral care ministry. At Thunderbird West, we will always strive to improve the level of pastoral care for our congregation by helping to utilize each other as caring servants. The desired result of the ministry is that each member of our congregation feels they are a vital part of our church family. We have found that many times people need a shepherd for a long period of time and others need one during a particularly stressful period in their lives. We are learning this fact as we prayerfully visit those in our church family. Remember these words from Isaiah 40:11. "He will feed his flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs in his arms and carry them in his bosom and gently lead the mother sheep." This is what we must do for each other.

As we set out to be servants for God, we will undoubtedly be confronted with the challenges of illness, hopelessness and fear, but with the love of God, we will have the power to comfort the grieving, calm those who are afraid and give hope to those who have lost hope. We can't control everything that happens in another person's life, but we can control how we respond to the circumstances by listening, extending care and being a presence for that person.

I can't think of any group of people that I would rather be involved with in this kind of life than with my church family at Thunderbird West. I am thankful for this opportunity. I hope that all of you, here in the valley or away for the summer season, have a wonderful and safe time.

Mike Alexander

When you accept rather than fight your circumstances, even though you don't understand them, you open your heart's gate to God's love, peace, joy, and contentment..

Amy Carmichael

Pastoral Care

"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest"
Matt 11:28

Scott and Diane Sloan will be doing a weekly prayer list on Wednesday's via email. This is to add to what Mike already does by informing us of urgent prayer needs when they arise. This will help us follow the needs and continue to pray as needed. If you add someone to the list we would like you to also help update us on their progress. We did this in California and it was very exciting seeing God's hand at work and be able to celebrate together when God's children find healing, strength, direction, peace and joy.

Pastoral care Visiting

Pastoral care visiting is an important way of answering Jesus call to go into all the world and preach the gospel. Visiting can demonstrate caring. Through preparation the visitor can represent Jesus Christ in loving, caring ways and can respond sensitively to human needs. Visiting can provide the setting where the love of God can be declared through words of encouragement and supportive actions. People can be assured of their worth and given a sense of belonging. By sharing their testimony of the importance of Jesus in their lives visitors may help people see meaning in the present and hope in the future.

(Harry Black, Visiting a pastoral care Ministry)

When Scott and I started attending the Thunderbird congregation we had many church friends invite us over for lunch or just come over for a visit to get to know us. We felt loved and valued and thought "this is where we want to be."

Alice Wingard coordinates the visiting team here at Thunderbird. They meet monthly. If you want to be a part of visiting ministry please contact Alice Wingard.

Friendship

Friendship is a promise spoken only by the heart.
It isn't given by any pledge or written on any paper.
But friendship is a promise that is renewed
every times two friends meet and smile
and enjoy good times that come from simply being together.
It's a promise to share both glad times and sad times,
a promise it think of each other fondly
whether near or far apart
Friendship is a promise spoken only by the heart,
a promise that is always kept by love.

- Presiding Elder:**
Mike Alexander
623-556-5084
- Counselors:**
Judy Bradish
602-938-6029
- Dan Edwards**
623-975-2450
- Jared Ingram**
623-974-3099
- Sustained Duties**
Financial/Book Steward
Carrol McCans
623-975-8317
- Historian:**
Ruth Anderson
623-561-0135
- Recorder:**
Vicki Alexander
623-556-5084
- Congregation Secretary**
Eldora Engebretson
623-566-9299
- Commissioners:**
Christian Education:
Carol Nicholls
623-551-0032
- Communication:**
Bulletin & Newsletter
Eldora Engebretson
- Facilities:**
Phil Dachenhausen
623-974-8589
Eldora Engebretson
- Fellowship:**
- Leadership & Outreach:**
Bob Ballew
623-584-9835
- Pastoral Care:**
Diane Sloan
623-561-0135
- Worship:**
Madelyn Edwards
623-975-2450
Wanda Ingram
623-914-3099
- Youth:**
Donna Greenwalt
602-536-3204

Tuesday Night Game Night

A group of friends are faithfully working on their cognitive skills in their attempt to prevent dementia as well as have a good time together. They call themselves the "Tuesday Night Game Night Gang". This is an open group of people, some of them like to eat out at 4:30, and then go to one another's homes for cards & games from 6 to 9 p.m.

This has become an "outreach" ministry, without particularly intending to, as friends invite friends. If you want an enjoyable evening with a fun loving group of people, from all over the Valley, think about joining this activity.

Ruth Anderson



Game night with dinner at Furr's restaurant followed by games at the Walton's home

Pictured at dinner: John Decker; Ruth Anderson; Genie Perigo & John Walton

Playing Games background: John Decker & Lois Nelson at the table: Genie Perigo; Denny Nelson; Chip Reist & Max Laudeman

Mission Center Calendar

July

10-15 Reunion followed by family camp

25-31 Jr. High Camp

August

21-23 Spiritual Growth Retreat

September

18-20 Women's Retreat

October

24-25 Fall Youth Retreat

(From page 1) Perspective... Answer

The answer to the riddle is "nothing."
Nothing is more evil than the Devil.
The rich need nothing.

Nothing is greater than God.
The poor have nothing.
And if you eat nothing, you'll die

Christian Education

Through the summer there will be a casual adult class in the banquet area with coffee and juice served. Sharon Davids is teaching health care classes throughout June and is willing to continue if well received. The first class was on falls and was very informative. Sharon has much experience and education in teaching health care issues. Diane Sloan has agreed to lead some classes in medical forms and health care programs if Sharon does not lead classes all summer.

There will be a children's class for all ages with various leaders throughout the summer. In the fall, starting with the first Sunday in September, the three youth classes will continue with the same teachers
Diane Sloan, Heather Featherstone, and Carol Nicholls.

Stroke Identification

Blood Clots/Stroke - They Now Have a Fourth Indicator, the Tongue

STROKE: Remember the 1st Three Letters....S.T...R.

A neurologist says that if he can get to a stroke victim within 3 hours he can totally reverse the effects of a stroke....totally. He said the trick was getting a stroke recognized, diagnosed, and then getting the patient medically cared for within 3 hours, which is tough.

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer severe brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke.

Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

S *Ask the individual to SMILE.

T *Ask the person to TALK and SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE (Coherently)

(i.e. It is sunny out today.)

R *Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS.

If he or she has trouble with ANY ONE of these tasks, call emergency number immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

New Sign of a Stroke ----- Stick out Your Tongue

NOTE: Another 'sign' of a stroke is this: Ask the person to 'stick' out his tongue. If the tongue is 'crooked', if it goes to one side or the other, that is also an indication of a stroke.

Editors comment:

Distributing the last issue of the Thunderbird News electronically was met with a very favorable response.

David Elrod suggested that since we do not have the additional cost of printing in color the newsletter can now include colored pictures. I totally agree so I have included his suggestion in this issue.

For those without email I will still pass out as many of the newsletters as possible at church and the rest will be mailed.

Suggestions and articles are always welcome.

To everyone that submitted a column – Thank You!

Eldora Engebretson

One of the best explanations of God



A man went to a barbershop to have his hair cut and his beard trimmed. As the barber began to work, they began to have a good conversation. They talked about so many things and various subjects. When they eventually touched on the subject of God, the barber said:

'I don't believe that God exists.'

'Why do you say that?' asked the customer.

'Well, you just have to go out in the street to realize that God doesn't exist. Tell me, if God exists, would there be so many sick people? Would there be abandoned children?'



If God existed, there would be neither suffering nor pain. I can't imagine a loving God who would allow all of these things.'

The customer thought for a moment, but didn't respond because he didn't want to start an argument.

The barber finished his job and the customer left the shop.

Just after he left the barbershop, he saw a man in the street with long, stringy, dirty hair and an untrimmed beard.

He looked dirty and unkempt. The customer turned back and entered the barber shop again and he said to the barber: 'You know what? Barbers do not exist.'

'How can you say that?' asked the surprised barber. *'I am here, and I am a barber. And I just worked on you!'* *'No!'* the customer exclaimed. *'Barbers don't exist because if they did, there would be no people with dirty long hair and untrimmed beards, like that man outside.'*



'Ah, but barbers DO exist! That's what happens when people do not come to me.' *'Exactly!'* affirmed the customer. *'That's the point! God, too, DOES exist!'*

That's what happens when people do not go to Him and don't look to Him for help.

That's why there's so much pain and suffering in the world.'

July & August Schedules for Sunday Morning Worship

July

**5 - "God's Grace is Sufficient"
Communion Service**

Plan/Preside	Wanda Ingram
Speaker	Jared Ingram
Pianist	Ruth Anderson
Acting Deacon	Judy Bradish
PA	Tom Bradish
Greeters	Duane & Audrey Birks
Hall Monitor	Diane Sloan

12 - "Stand in Holy Places"

Plan/Preside	Dan Edwards
Speaker	Beth Richardson
Pianist	Brenda Jones
Acting Deacon	Kyle Brittan
PA	Eldora Engebretson
Greeters	Betty Sanderson
Hall Monitor	Carrol McCann

Jr. Church

19 - "Journey in Compassion"

Plan/Preside	Sharon Davids & Madelyn Edwards	
Speaker	Vignettes	
Pianist	Ruth Anderson	
Acting Deacon	Eldora Engebretson	
PA	Kyle Brittan	
Greeters	Bill & Muriel McCullough	
Hall Monitor	Scott Sloan	

26 - "For this Reason"

Plan/Preside	Beth Richardson
Speaker	John Walton
Pianist	Ruth Anderson
Acting Deacon	Merilee DuFault
PA	Vicki Alexander
Greeter	Bob & Ruth Anderson
Hall Monitor	Bob Anderson

August

**2 - "Partake of the Bread of Life"
Communion Service**

Plan/Preside	Brenda Jones
Speaker	Mike Alexander
Pianist	Ruth Anderson
Acting Deacon	Eldora Engebretson
PA	Vicki Alexander
Greeters	John & Judi Walton
Hall Monitor	Phil Dachenhausen

9 - "Come to Me and Never be Hungry"

Plan/Preside	Judy Bradish
Speaker	Lee Swick
Pianist	Heather Featherstone
Acting Deacon	Merilee DuFault
PA	Kyle Brittan
Greeters	Jim Rasmussen
Hall Monitor	Judi Walton

Jr. Church

16 - "Make a melody to the Lord"

Plan/Preside	Mike Alexander,
Speaker	David Nii
Pianist	Ruth Anderson
Acting Deacon	Judy Bradish
PA	Tom Bradish
Greeters	Ken & Awilda Thomas
Hall Monitor	Carla Brittan

23 - "Does this Offend You?"

Plan/Preside	Kyle & Carla Brittan
Speaker	Carol Nicholls
Pianist	Heather Featherstone
Acting Deacon	Ken & Awilda Thomas
PA	Vicki Alexander
Greeters	Joshua & Donna Greenwalt
Hall Monitor	Dan Edwards

30 - "Honor with Your Heart"

Plan/Preside	Mike Alexander
Speaker	David Elrod
Pianist	Ruth Anderson
Acting Deacon	Kyle Brittan
PA	Eldora Engebretson
Greeters	Tom & Judy Bradish
Hall Monitor	Madelyn Edwards

**Junior Church is the 2nd Sunday of each month
Schedulers**

Worship	Madelyn Edwards & Wanda Ingram	
Music	Heather Featherstone	
Deacons & PA	Eldora Engebretson	
Greeters	Irene Clark	
Hall Monitor	Judi Walton	

Abbreviations

TBA	To Be Announced
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Envelopes for Checks in Offering

If you are putting a loose check in the offering plate please use a generic envelope located on the Book Steward case in the fellowship hall.

Thank You, Carrol McCans, Cong. Financial Officer

Black Bean & Corn Relish

Servings: 4-6

1 16 oz. can of **black beans**, washed (other beans are ok)

4 ears worth of cooked **fresh yellow or white corn**

1 medium yellow or white **onion**, diced

1 **red pepper**, diced

1 **green pepper**, diced

1 **jalapeno chili**, minced

4 T. minced **cilantro**

1/4 c. diced **tomato**

1/4 c. **lime** juice

Salt & pepper to taste

Mix all of the ingredients together except the black beans, add them last, chill and serve.

You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich.

You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.

You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift.

You cannot lift the wage earner up by pulling the wage payer down.

You cannot further the brotherhood of man by inciting class hatred.

You cannot build character and courage by taking away people's initiative and independence.

You cannot help people permanently by doing for them,

what they could and should do for themselves.

.....Abraham Lincoln



Community of Christ

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Glendale, Arizona 85306