



Christian News

First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

102 S Connor St

Sunday Worship 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.

Sunday School 9 a.m.

www.sheridandisciples.org

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

January 2008

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Reading the Bible with Jewish Eyes: Unlearning Christian Anti-Semitism

Studies with a Jewish Christian Theologian-in-Residence

Sunday, January 20 at both our worship services (8 a.m. & 10 a.m.), the Rev. Rebekeh Simon-Peter will be our guest preacher. Rebekah will then lead the Sheridan community in ecumenical Bible study for our participation in Martin Luther King Jr. activities, and prayer for Christian unity week.

Bible Studies:

Sunday, January 20. 3 p.m. “Was Jesus a Christian?”

Monday, January 21

Noon worship for prayer for Christian unity week

Trinity Lutheran Church

5:30 p.m. Community pot luck dinner (our church)

6 - 8 p.m. Bible Study: “Did the Jews Reject Jesus?”

Tuesday, January 22

5:30 p.m. Dinner (our church)

6 - 8 p.m. Bible Study: Has the Church Taken Israel’s Place as the Chosen People?

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly,” preached Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In honor of his life and legacy, the Sheridan Ministerial Association is presenting a special program: “Reading the Bible with Jewish Eyes: Unlearning Christian Anti-Semitism.”

While tremendous progress has been made in Jewish Christian relations during the last 50 years, widespread misinformation, mistranslations, and misunderstandings continue to hinder the Church’s understanding of the Jewish Jesus. As a result both Jews and Christians are imperiled and impoverished.

The Bible study sessions will be led by The Rev. Rebekah Simon-Peter, a United Methodist minister, Director of Bridge Works. Simon-Peter is a Jewish Christian who came into Christian discipleship from the Orthodox Jewish community. An unexpected vision of Jesus when she was 30 years old prompted her to discover more about the Jewish Jesus. She is well grounded in both Jewish and Christian belief and practice.

Rebekah says: “These interactive, biblically-grounded, thought-provoking studies enable believers to integrate the Jewishness of Jesus so that the Bible, the Person, and His People come alive anew. I am delighted to offer this study in honor of Dr. King as he has always been one of my heros.”

Participants are requested to bring a Christian Bible to the study sessions. A beautiful display of Judaica will be featured. Each participant will receive a customized study guide with biblical citations and bibliography, as well as a Bridge Builder certificate.

Registration is \$10 per person; pre-registration is appreciated. To register, please call our church office (674-6795). To learn more about Bridge Works, an extension ministry of the United Methodist Church, contact Rev. Rebekah Simon-Peter at www.bridgeworkspresents.org or 307.320.6779.

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Foods and Faith: Learning from other Christian traditions

On Sunday, January 27, after second service, in place of chat n coffee, our friends from the Seventh Day Adventist congregation will be sharing with us some of their favorite foods, and talking about their 8 laws of health. The Seventh Day Adventist are known for their cooking without meat! What’s that about? Cooking without meat? Come and find out. Learn how other Christians, from a different tradition, understand our Christian Bible from a different point of view. What do they have to teach us about foods? You might be surprised!

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Ash Wednesday Worship

Ash Wednesday comes early this year – Wednesday, February 6! We have been invited by our friends at First Congregational United Church of Christ to join them for worship. Pastor Doug will be the guest preacher. Since he will have returned from his trip to Israel by then, no doubt, he will have some interesting stories to share. Maybe even pictures too.

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, the forty days of fasting (not counting Sundays) that prepare us for our celebration of Easter. This ancient service originated in Gaul in the sixth century and was first used to confine public penitents doing penance for grave and notorious sin, whom the clergy tried to comfort and encourage by submitting themselves to the same public humiliation. Today, we participate in worship on Ash Wednesday by using the ashes from the palms of our Palm Sunday worship, thus, connecting celebration with penance as we remember the words from Genesis: “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” Ash Wednesday Worship begins at First Congregational Church, 7 p.m. Hymn singing, prayers, scripture readings, meditation, and the implementation of ashes.

From the Pastor

Most of you miss out on the fun of serving on a committee. Around here, we have some fascinating discussions in committees about how best to serve God through the church. Throughout the last year, I have especially appreciate listening to Jim Wilson (moderator) and Ken Humphrey

(chairman of the Elders) engage in debate at General Board meetings.

In summary, Jim has proposed the importance of having a “foot print” of our property. Set goals. Develop a plan to put the property God has entrusted us to its best use. Ken, however, has argued that we need to focus energy on “spiritual life.” Building up our spiritual community. Strengthening our inner life.

As I listen to Ken and Jim talk, I find myself admiring their ability to have frank discussions and remain friends. Oddly, though, I find myself agreeing with both men. I know, it sounds wishy washy. But, in the practice of ministry, we do need to focus on spiritual life, and we do need to put sincere thought into how to be stewards of church property.

As we look to the future, we have opportunity to do both: Improve property and build up spiritual life. Some neat plans are in the works for our property: The beginning of the Robert Reed Memorial Gardens is in motion for spring; the next stained glass window is supposed to be completed by the end of January; we are in process of remodeling two apartments for our housing ministry. More talk about the need to replace carpet, change the bell tower, and other ideas.

In terms of spiritual life, our church is hosting the first of its kind ecumenical Bible study for Sheridan. Our guest theologian-in-residence, will be my friend, Rebekah Simon-Peter. Rebekah is a gifted leader. I know you will find her to be insightful as well as informative to your spiritual journey.

I do regret, however, that I cannot be with you for this opportunity. After making arrangements with Rebekah to come to our church, an opportunity arose for me to travel to Israel. Israel? Bible study? Israel! Sorry, friends. You have proven to me many times that you can do ministry without my presence, so, I am going to Israel with my mom and my son, Devin, and with our friend, Les Engelter, and a few others from Colorado.

I am sure I will have some good stories to tell when I get back, and, I am expecting some good stories from you as well. Stories about new insights into how you read the Bible, and things you learned from other Christians in our community through ecumenical Bible study. Surely, a blessing of spiritual growth for all of us.

Peace and good will.



Doug




Congratulations to Edith Dawdy on the celebration of her 100th birthday, December 24, 2007. What a GREAT Christmas present!

Memorial Gifts

In Honor of Katherine Reed	In Honor of Kelly Weber	In Honor of Loretta Payette
Patricia & Thomas O'Leary	Marilyn & William Schott	Margaret & Jack Flynn
Charles & Cindy Shipley	Charles & Janice Catron	
	Tom & Ky Dixon	

Although we are responsible for the virtue of our own souls, it will be extremely unlikely that many of us will be virtuous if we live in a vicious society, We need to be concerned, therefore, with the health of our society as well as the health of our souls.” (Robert N. Bellah, on the role of government in a democratic society. Quoted in the Christian Century magazine, January 15, 2008).

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Non Profit
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Sheridan, WY

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