

Burlington Zion Express

January 2014



In the Interim

"Next Steps"

Greetings from your new Interim Minister! It is exciting to begin this new part of our journey. Our opportunity to worship together November 24 was a great start. You all made me feel so comfortable and welcomed. I have heard so many wonderful things about the congregation: from the Consistory, from Jonna Jensen your Associate Conference Minister, and from colleagues in other churches throughout Iowa. Although I'm new to the town of Burlington, I lived in Iowa for thirteen winters, and Iowa has come to feel like home. Many of you have already reached out to make me feel welcomed and at home, and I thank you for that hospitality.

Very soon, we will be holding an all-congregation gathering where we can meet in an informal setting, and where you can tell me about all the things that make Zion a very special place. In addition to large meetings, we will have opportunity to meet in smaller settings and individually. I'm eager to hear your stories, to come to know and appreciate your heritage as you do, and to begin to understand the ways in which God has been growing your faith and using you to bring about the Reign of Heaven.

As we begin our work together on this journey called "the interim" between Called Pastors, we will be following a process which has proven helpful to many other congregations during this time of transition. Like the Israelites trekking across the wilderness toward the Promised Land, we will not always be able to see clearly where we are headed, but we will go with the confidence that God's provision is sufficient. Like Israelites in the Sinai, it will not always be obvious that we are making progress, but we are assured that we are heading in the right direction, even when the journey seems longer than we wish.

While we are continuing to conduct weekly worship and Christian Education, baptisms, weddings, and funerals, we will also be taking on some additional tasks designed to take advantage of this transitional period. We will be looking at who we are as a congregation; what are our unique strengths, where are our passions, and where do we perceive God calling us into ministry in the future. That self-assessment will be very helpful in constructing the congregation's profile, and will be invaluable when the Search Committee begins to evaluate candidates for Called Pastor. The better we do our self-assessment, the more clearly the Search Committee will be able to know when they have located the candidate God has sent our way.

At first, I want to learn about your congregation. In a variety of ways, I will be asking about Institutions, Narratives, and Rituals. I am studying your structure: learning about which committee does what, meeting with Church leaders to find out about the flow of decisions and work.

At the same time, I want to hear your stories about what this congregation means to you. What are your connections to others in this congregation? How did you come to be here? Who invited you first? How were you made to feel welcome? What are the milestone events in the life of the congregation that have made you who you are? What do you see as the strengths of this congregation?

And third, I am learning about your rituals. How do you like to organize and conduct worship; what music best speaks to your faith, how formal or informal do you prefer to be? Janice, Marilyn, and others have already been working with me on those plans. So many of you have already been helping to orient me to the particular ways you enjoy structuring worship. Your efforts are much appreciated.

We are together on a journey of transition from the beloved and successful tenure of Pastor Jane, towards the selection and installation of the next Called Pastor who, by God's grace, will be here just as successfully. It will be an exciting journey, and there will be many opportunities for growth in spirit and strength, of individuals and as a congregation. Through the grace of God, the leadership of Christ, and the fellowship of God's Holy Spirit, we move boldly and confidently into the next step.

Grace and peace to you,

Pastor Brice



Worship

Sunday, January 5

8:45 am: Adult Sunday School
10:00 am: Worship and Children's Church
11:00 am: Coffee Hour

Sunday, January 12

8:45 am: Adult Sunday School
10:00 am: Worship and Children's Church
11:00 am: Coffee Hour

Sunday, January 19

8:45 am: Adult Sunday School
10:00 am: Worship and Children's Church
11:00 am: Coffee Hour

Sunday, January 26

8:45 am: Adult Sunday School
10:00 am: Worship and Children's Church
11:00 am: Annual Meeting/Luncheon



January 5: Lyle and Janice Gibson, Don and Vivian Kellar

January 12: _____

January 19: Jeanette Fisher (in honor of her 90th birthday), Judy Tomkins, Tom and Connie Ralston

January 26: Annual Meeting Luncheon provided by the Fellowship Committee

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the back of the sanctuary if you would be willing to be a sponsor/host. We need someone for January 12th and beginning in February. Ask some friends to help you! Thank you.

Worship Helpers

Sunday, January 5 – Communion

Audio/visual: Scott Wood
Church closer: Sandra Deal
Communion preparers: Don and Vivian Kellar
Greeters: Jim Levins, Milt and Laurie Paule, Matthew Patrick
Reader: Lisa Neises
Tower Bell: Jakob Welch and Marlis Robberts
Valet: Bill Daws

Sunday, January 12

Audio/visual: Scott Wood
Church closer: Sandra Deal
Greeters: Glen Gottschalk, Paula Renard, Jim and Deb Ritters
Reader: Gail Lawlor
Tower Bell: Bob Parmeter
Valet: Tony White

Sunday, January 19

Audio/visual: Scott Wood
Church closer: Sandra Deal
Greeters: Charles Brissey; Pauline Kuster; Stacey, Ethan & Emery Kerr; Paula Mehaffy
Reader: Deb Goble
Tower Bell: Tony White
Valet: Tom Ralston

Sunday, January 26

Audio/visual: Scott Wood
Church closer: Sandra Deal
Greeters: Cathy and Dave Schnicker, Tom and Connie Ralston
Reader: Paula Renard
Tower Bell: Milt Paule
Valet: Bill Hummel

Church School News

by Janice Gibson

A Big After-Christmas Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Advent Workshop and helped to decorate the church for the Christmas season this year. Also, thanks to Peggy Wilkinson, Paula Mehaffy, Sandy Levins, and Lin Parks for all your help with the youth Christmas musical! A special thanks to our choir and the Jan and Gary Chapman family for the special music on Christmas Eve. So many contributed to the beauty and spirit of the season!

Children's Church Begins Again!

Children's Church, for young people ages 5 through 8th grade, will begin again this Sunday, January 5th. We'll be exploring the story of "The Not-So-Wise Man." Regular attendance at church and Children's Church helps your child learn the stories of our faith. Learning from the stories and being a part of a faith community can strengthen them as they travel their own faith journeys!

Next NOIZ Nites for Families!

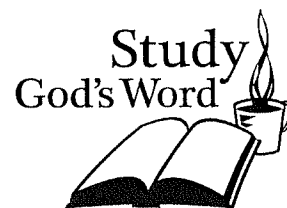
The next Noiz Nites for Families will be on Wednesday, February 5th. Stay tuned for more details!



We are so pleased to welcome **Reverend Brice Hughes** here as our new Interim Pastor, effective January 1st. A few volunteers were there to help him unload his trailer that evening at his new place of residence: 161 Windsor Circle. He is happy to be returning to Iowa, and we're happy to have him!

Be sure to read Pastor Brice's letter at the front of this newsletter and then be here on Sunday to meet him or get reacquainted. His contact information is on the back page of this newsletter. You may also call the church office to reach him during the week. Friday will be his scheduled day off.

Wear your name tag each Sunday to assist him with learning everyone's names.



Tuesdays
7:30 a.m.

The Coffee and Scripture Bible Study group meets every Tuesday morning at 7:30 am at Diggers Rest Coffeehouse. This coming Tuesday on January 7th the study will be about the Magi and Epiphany. Then the group will decide on a new topic. Please join them!



Sing-along at Klein Center

A group of volunteers will be going to Klein Center at **2:00 p.m.** on **Sunday, January 12**, to sing for the residents there. Please plan to join them!



Your church staff again this year wishes to say thank you very much for your generosity and kindness to each one of us during this past Christmas season. We appreciate the monetary gifts we were given. You're a very generous, thoughtful congregation, and we're very thankful for you!

Janice
Marilyn
Earnest
Kay
Deb
Renita
Megan

Happy New Year!

Stewardship Message

The Need for Love Continues

An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up..." Matthew 2:13

Christmas and all the surrounding hoopla are over, and it is very tempting to just sit back, digest the season, and rest from giving for a while. There are credit card bills to pay, trees to take down, and houses to clean, and that seems enough for January.

The thing about babies, though, is that they continue to need all sorts of care, and we have just celebrated the birth of a baby! Joseph was called to flee with Mary and the infant Jesus to save him from Herod's dangerous fear. Mary needed to feed him, change him, and rock him to sleep as they traveled. Seasons change, but the need for love continues.

And that's what giving springs from, is it not? Love. Parents, foster parents, grandparents, godparents, churches, and all who care for children continue to give to them in season and out because they love them. God remembers what it is like to be a child! Consider the children of your church and of your town; what kind of love do they call forth from you today? How can we continue our Christmas love of children all through the new year?

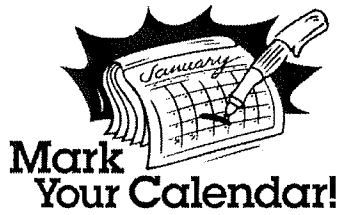
Rochelle A. Stackhouse is the Senior Minister of The Church of the Redeemer, United Church of Christ, New Haven Connecticut.

God is still speaking,

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



New Members –



Thursday, January 23

7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Church Fellowship/Library Area

We are having a get-together on Thursday, January 23rd, for all those who have joined Zion during the past 18 months.

Rev. Brice Hughes, our interim minister, along with other active, established members will be there to answer any questions and discuss any concerns you might have.

Please join us for cookies and conversation. If you have any questions about the evening, ask Kaye Hanna, Judy Taylor, or Paula Renard.



There are a few people who still need to pick up their boxed set of offering envelopes for 2014. These are on the credenza at the back of the sanctuary.

The 2013 fourth quarter giving statements are available for you on a table in the narthex. They are in alphabetical order. Please stop by and pick yours up.

Timeline for:


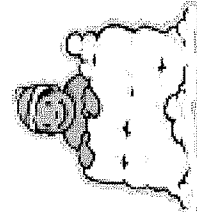

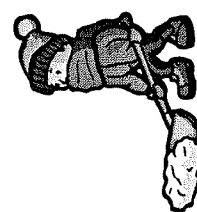


- **Sunday, January 5:** Proposed 2014 Budget is distributed to the congregation. There will be a time for questions and answers at the Coffee Hour following worship.
- **Sunday, January 12:** Annual reports deadline! All board and committee chairpersons should submit their report to the church office telling about that board's or committee's 2013 activities. Treasurers also need to turn in financial reports for their organization. These will be published in the annual report booklets being distributed the next Sunday.
- **Sunday, January 19:** 2014 Zion Church Annual Report booklets will be available for everyone. This will give you time to review it before the annual meeting.
- **Sunday, January 26:** Zion's Annual Congregational Meeting will be held after the worship service downstairs in the fellowship hall. All members should plan to attend as we vote on the 2014 budget and elect church officials. The Fellowship Committee will provide lunch for everyone.



January 2014



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 8:45 am: Adult Sunday School 10:00 am: Worship & Children's Church 11:00am: Coffee Hour	No Bridging the Gap - Deb gone - 6:00 pm: Fellowship Comm.	 7:30 am: Bible Study at Diggers Rest	1  6:00 pm: Take down Christmas decorations 7:00 pm: Choir	Pastor Brice is here!		
8:45 am: Adult Sunday School 10:00 am: Worship & Children's Church 11:00am: Coffee Hour 2pm: Singalong-Klein	13	14 7:30 am: Bible Study at Diggers Rest	15 7:00 pm: Choir	16	17 Pastor Brice's day off Marilyn on vacation	18 Fellowship Hall reserved 12-6 pm
8:45 am: Adult Sunday School 10:00 am: Worship & Children's Church 11:00am: Coffee Hour	20	21 7:30 am: Bible Study at Diggers Rest	22 7:00 pm: Choir	23 7:00 pm: New Members Gathering	24 Pastor Brice's day off	25
8:45 am: Adult Sunday School 10:00 am: Worship & Children's Church 11:00am: Annual Meeting and Lunch	27	28 7:30 am: Bible Study at Diggers Rest 6:00 pm: Social Justice Committee 7:15 pm: Choir	29 No Choir; Rehearse on Tuesday	30	31 Pastor Brice's day off	

January

Birthdays

- 1 --- **Flo Fickel**, 628 S. Leebrick St.
7 --- **Linda Thornburg**, 2013 Vogt St.
8 --- **Avery Levins (7)**, 11737 Tama Road
15 --- **April Kenney**, 2020 S. 14th St.
16 --- **Jeanette Fisher**, 1700 Hillary St.
17 --- **Lyle Gibson**, 204 Crestview Dr.
20 --- **Mary Robberts**,
1212 Indian Hills Drive
22 --- **Rod Reeves**, 1605 South St.
23 --- **Shirley Wilson**, 537 Spring St.
West Burlington, IA 52655
Christina Cowles, 5236 Ferres Lane
Chase Graham (15), 321 Summer St.
West Burlington, IA 52655
25 --- **Emery Kerr (4)**, 12081 50th St.
Jacqueline Workman (10)
2613 Evergreen
27 --- **Ann Hummel**, 111 Golf Lane
Karen Sneller, 1903 River
30 --- **Jeffrah Levins**,
11737 Tama Road



Anniversaries

- 1 --- **Sandy and Jim Levins (13)**
714 Whitewood St.
12 --- **Teri and Ron Hummer (29)**
2533 Cliff Road



Early February Birthdays

- 2 --- **Ethan Kerr (6)**, 12081 50th St.
Debbie Ritters, 209 Curran St.
5 --- **Briana Landstrom**,
2105 S. 10th St.

Early February Anniversaries

- 2 --- **Nancy and Gary Haley (34)**
13797 90th Avenue
5 --- **Dennis and Dyan Dietzman (42)**
2819 Fair Acres Drive

Journey

The journey from Bethlehem to Jerusalem is approximately 7 miles; yet it holds the full story of our faith: from the promise of a Savior fulfilled in the birth of Jesus, to his work of atonement on the cross, to his glorious resurrection and ascension, to the birth of the Church that gathers in peoples of every tongue and race. It is here we are living; and while living here, full drama is unfolding around us every week and every day - both in the liturgical celebrations and in the lives of our Palestinian Christian sisters and brothers! The past year or so has been filled with learning, adjusting, renewing friendships and new relationship building, networking, as well as accomplishing. My (Victor) assignment as regional consultant has kept me amply busy with the preparation and execution of a number of significant region-wide consultations, conferences and leadership training workshops that have addressed critical issues exacerbated by the so-called "Arab Spring." The central questions for these ongoing events (encompassing 4 countries) are: "How much religion should be interposed in the affairs of the state, and how much state should interfere with religion?" and, "How can a shared vision be formulated and crystallized for a new future for the Arab Middle East whereby full citizenship for everyone would be assured, human dignity could be preserved, and a decent quality of life could be accorded to all?" The methodology adopted examines different models where different states have dealt with these questions and have found a healthy and meaningful symbiosis between religion and state, and then come up with an authentic Middle Eastern vision for the future of this region...



VICTOR AND SARA MAKARI

Life in this part of the world is intense, especially in Israel/Palestine; it is even more so on the West Bank. Daily life of the people here is full of challenges, possibilities, hopes, worries, disappointments and fears. One can read these emotions on their faces in the crowded marketplace: in their drawn looks, in street demonstrations, in the way many defy rules and authority, in the way many seem burdened and bent down.

But life is also full of joys and potentialities; you can see it in their bright eyes; their laughter and cheerful smiles; in children's innocent play; and among youth, in their defiant confidence in a better future.

O God, we pray for calm, for reason, for good will to prevail, and for your spirit of counsel to guide leaders and those in authority into the paths of peace. We are deeply grateful for the prayers and support of church members and friends as we seek to live out our overriding commitment to the principle of "critical presence" by being an authentic witness to the love and the grace of God.

Victor and Sara Makari serve with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America with the Diyar Consortium of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. Victor serves as Regional Consultant for the Religion and State in the Middle East Program. Sara serves as editor of publications of Diyar.



You make the difference...

The prayers and help you provide through your local congregations make possible the work and witness of GLOBAL MINISTRIES, which is supported by Disciples Mission Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) of the United Church of Christ.

WWW.GLOBALMINISTRIES.ORG



The BZ Express

January 2014

Zion United Church of Christ

412 N. 5th Street, Burlington, Iowa 52601

319-752-2305 - Office phone

319-754-1467 - Office fax

515-450-1321 – Pastor's cell

Church email: ucczionbur@aol.com

Pastor's email: bricehughes@hotmail.com

Website: www.zionuccburlington.org

Staff

Reverend Brice Hughes, Interim Pastor

Janice Gibson, Organist, Choir Director,
and Christian Education Director

Marilyn Stein, Office Administrator

Kay Jacobs, Treasurer's Assistant

Renita Jarrett, Choir Accompanist and
Wedding Coordinator

Megan Agnew, Nursery Supervisor

Earnest Turner, Custodian and
Buildings & Grounds Coordinator

Volunteers

Deb Ruble, Director of Bridging the Gap

Judy Taylor, Heritage People Coordinator