

The Church of the Damascus Road

Flash!

Volume 13
Issue No. 1
January 2010
Fort Dodge & Rockwell City, IA

Musicians Needed

We no longer have a piano player like Judy Lang for our worship services, so we need piano players willing to accompany the liturgy and hymns for worship at the Fort Dodge Facility on Wednesday evenings. To volunteer, call the office at 515-955-3579



We Need DVDs and CDs

The CoDR libraries at both facilities are in need of good, newer Christian CD's and videos. If you or your church have extras or would like to purchase some, our members would appreciate it very much. Thanks in advance.

—Pastor Paul Stone

His Angels

His angels are all around
And though we hear not a sound
Their eyes are always upon
Those chosen, the chosen ones

They utter the spiritual things
Man cannot hear, nor repeat
And wait for our lips to produce
The spoken Word, with the power of faith

Angels just standing around
Waiting for the spoken Word
They rejoice at what it says
And carry it out to the letter.

W. E. Bell, NCCF

Note: I got this on 2-23-09, 11:30pm in the dark.

Inside the Flash!

- Page 2 - 16 Baptisms
- Page 2 - Because I Love You
- Page 2 - Great Brothers in Blue Weekend
- Page 2 - Denominations
- Page 3 - Reentry Aftercare Director
- Page 3 - CROP Walk
- Page 3 - 100-a-Month Club
- Page 4 - Winning Art Work
- Page 4 - Worship Schedule
- Page 4 - Invite the Pastor



CoDR Eighth Annual Meeting

Saturday, November 14, 2009, marked CoDR's 8th Annual Meeting, held at St. Olaf Lutheran Church, 239 North 11th Street in Fort Dodge. The day began at 10am with a gathering of Reentry Reintegration Teams from around NW Iowa, including interested members of Webb/Gillett Grove/Dickens UMC Parish.

A catered dinner was served at Noon, followed by the Annual Meeting. It was good to see old and new friends. A delayed harvest kept many of our supporters away, but those who attended enjoyed fellowship, good food, and good memories.



Robert L. Johnson II, Prison Poet



David Goetzinger, FD Aftercare Team

Christmas Card Give Away Appreciated

On Friday (11/27/09) the Activities Dept. sponsored the annual Church of the Damascus Road Christmas Card give-away. Offenders were able to receive up to 4 cards with postage included. The response was overwhelming. We do not have the total card count yet, but we invite you all to peek into the gym office to see the boxes of cards waiting for us to process so that the mail room can send them on their "Merry" way.

On Saturday (11/28/09) I went to Boone Unit to distribute the cards to orientation and segregation offenders. Rec workers Tony Soule and James Sourwine went with me and they were great help. A special thanks to officers Buckingham, Kent, Bodenberger, Miller, and Powers, who went out of their way to help with the card distribution and collection.

In addition, many offenders expressed their appreciation for being included in this event and asked me to convey their thanks to Pastor Stone and the CoDR volunteers...and with their thanks I would like to add mine...Happy Holidays!

—Ellie McBroom, FDCF Rec Department



FDCF Brothers-in-Blue

The 20th Brothers in Blue weekend at FDCF December 10 – 13 was a holy success. Fifty-eight first timers completed the weekend, a record for FDCF. Team, Palanca, and candidates were deeply touched by the Spirit throughout the weekend. Three men approached Pastor Stone on Friday asking to be baptized. After some discussion and instruction, all three were baptized at the Saturday communion service. That service was so Spirit-filled that ten more men came forward seeking to be baptized. Those ten were baptized at the Sunday service of Holy Communion. Awe was probably the foremost emotion for all present. Praise God ... from whom all blessings flow.

—Pastor Paul Stone



FDCF

November 4, 2009

Michael Bernard Brown

November 11, 2009

Nathan Andrew Herron

Anthony Michael Orr

December 12, 2009

Douglas Lee Daugherty

Dustin Wayne Gordinier

Ricky Joe Miller

December 13, 2009

Dale Everet Bogue

Eric Michael Curly

Rodney James Hansen

Jeremy Lee Kush

Jonathon Lyle Lariviere

Chad Richard Legler

Terry Lee Norris

Thomas Leroy Pogue

Guadalupe Rodriguez

William Franklin Ross

Welcome!

The Church of the Damascus Road

Almost
2000 years old
and still
under the Maker's
guarantee.

Because I Love You

I have a story to tell you, this is how it goes:

A lonely child wakes crying
from a troubled dream.

Breathing hard and frightened,
he fights down a troubled scream.

Lashing out at darkness,
he trembles and he shakes;

Tiny sobs and sniffles
are the only sounds he makes.

His little heart beats fiercely
as he kneels on the floor;

He folds his hands together
as he glances at the door.

He bows his head down low,
then slowly begins to pray:

Tell me why, Jesus, do you cry, Jesus,
when the world cares not that you came?

Tell me why, Jesus, do you cry, Jesus,
when the world goes on just the same?

Here is what I think Jesus might say:

I look down upon the world
and pain is what I see.

There's no love, no kindness,
no heartfelt sympathy.

I look out over my oceans
at miles and mile of oil;

On land I see starvation,
and all the foods you spoil.

Children roam the streets
with no place to rest their heads.

They deal in drugs and sorrow,
and kill to buy their bread
Prisons are overcrowded
and yet the homeless have no place to go.

Church remains a den of thieves,
a house of pretense and show-

These are the ones I cry for,
for their souls are filled with shame;

Unless they want or need me,
most deny even My name.

Tell me why, child, do I cry, child,
when man has grown from the seed I've sown

like thistle blown wild and free?
Tell me why, child, do I cry, child?

Because ...I love you.

—Mike Downs



LAMENTATIONS 3:22, NRSV

Point of View:

Denominations

Let's face it, the only denominations worth anything at all come in tens and twenties. In fact, the one dollar denomination is worth more than any two religious denominations. After all, if you could put a Catholic and a Protestant in the collection plate, what does God get? **A lot of arguing!** Put a dollar in the plate and what does God get? The money to evangelize, to purchase treats for non-believers, bibles for prison inmates, food for the needy, the list goes on.

The next time someone asks you what denomination you belong to, remember this: it is fine to acknowledge how you favor one brand of church over another, so long as the first thing to come out of your mouth — in one form or another — is, **I'm of Christ.** To paraphrase the Apostle Paul, "Each of you say, 'I am a Catholic,' 'I am a Lutheran,' 'I am a Methodist,' 'I am a Baptist,' is Christ divided?" (1 Corinthians 1:12-13a)

We are not denominations. If we truly believe in Christ Jesus, then we are not Catholic, **we** are not Protestant, **we** are not whatever. **We are Christians.** Period. Denominations simply indicate which brand we prefer, like Coke or Pepsi.

Now for the challenge: every time someone asks you what denomination you are, what denomination you belong to, if you do not respond with something like, "I am a Christian, the brand of church I favor is Lutheran," then you need to donate your favorite "denomination" to the collection plate, not in place of what you normally give, but *in or above* what you normally give. And when I say **your favorite**, I mean a ten or a twenty ... or even a hundred, if that's what you normally favor (psst! — God knows your favorite!).

In short, stop being a brand and — above and beyond all else — be a Christian!

—Mike Downs



The Church of the Damascus Road Flash!

Issue 13.1

January 2010

The official publication of The Church of the Damascus Road, a Christian Community of Reconciliation, serving the inmate population of the correctional facilities at Rockwell City and Fort Dodge, Iowa.

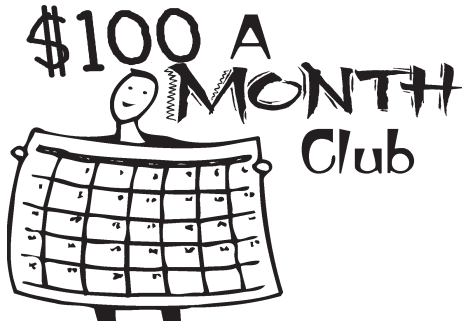
Rev. Paul Stone, Pastor
Carroll Lang, Editor

Anyone wishing to be on our mailing list may send name, address, and phone numbers to the address below, or by e-mail at: DamascusCh@aol.com. The Flash will be sent directly to your home. Our office is at St. Olaf Lutheran Church.

The Church of the Damascus Road
239 North 11th Street
Fort Dodge, IA 50501

Please Note:

Our mailing address for The Church of the Damascus Road no longer uses a Post Office Box - our address, as of August, is 239 North 11th Street, Fort Dodge, IA 50501. Please make changes in your address books and databases.



Donors of \$100 or More Per Month, both Churches & Individuals

- Bethany Lutheran, Emmetsburg
- Bethany Lutheran, Spencer
- Emanuel-St. John Lutheran, Lytton
- First Lutheran, Algona
- First Presbyterian, Fort Dodge
- Grace Lutheran, Fort Dodge
- Hardy Trinity Lutheran, Hardy
- New Covenant Christian, Fort Dodge
- Our Saviour's Lutheran, Humboldt
- St. John Lutheran, LeMars
- St. John Lutheran, Pomeroy
- St. Mark's Episcopal, Fort Dodge
- St. Olaf Lutheran, Fort Dodge
- St. Paul Lutheran, Palmer
- St. Paul Lutheran Treynor
- Stratford Ev. Lutheran, Stratford
- Trinity Lutheran, Spencer
- Washington Lutheran, Duncombe
- Zion St John Lutheran, Sheffield
- John & Marge Everts, Lytton
- Lucille Helmbrecht - Lytton
- Mark & Cheryl Juhl, Remsen
- Rev. Carroll & Judy Lang, Fort Dodge
- Adam & Inga Sanford, Allen, TX
- Melba Shelby, Fort Dodge
- Noel & Linda Singer, Webster City
- Rev. Paul Stone, Eagle Grove
- Sukup Family Foundation, Hampton
- Rollin & Cleo Swanson, Fort Dodge



RE-entry integration

Training Development

Our joint effort to create new training materials and techniques is nearing completion. Rev. Jim Davis, retired UMC pastor in Ames, and Gerry Kennedy, retired government training developer also from Ames have already held a training session using some of the new materials. We hope to finalize the process at our next meeting on January 20.



We still hope to identify willing persons in more communities around Iowa. Hopefully, people who hear Pastors Arnette Pint or Paul Stone when they visit various congregations on Sundays will respond. We now know of teams in Sioux City, Holstein, Spirit Lake, Spencer, Lytton, Fort Dodge, Humboldt, Forest City, Webster City, Nevada, Ames, Boone, Clarion, and Pocahontas. Women at the Well (Mitchellville) have teams in Des Moines and other communities as well.

We have heard of teams in Ottumwa, Davenport, Des Moines, Cedar Rapids and Council Bluffs, but we have no contact information.

We need your help in locating existing teams as well as finding more teams around the state. If you know of any or have an interest in this vital ministry, please give me a call at 515-571-6566 or email me at CDLNg@aol.com.

—Rev. Carroll Lang, NW IA Director



It's a Ministry, Not a Program



CROP Walk 2009

The 2009 Annual CoDR CROP Walk at NCCF was on Saturday, October 3 at 8:30am and at FDCF on Sunday, October 4.

There were 11 walkers at NCCF and \$79.00 was raised. There were 78 walkers at FDCF and \$53.72 was raised.

The purpose of a CROP Walk is to not only raise money to be used to alleviate world hunger, but also to raise awareness of all the people in poverty in Third World countries (and even here in the USA) who must often walk several miles just to get water and even farther to get food for their families. "We walk because they walk," showing our solidarity with those who have so much less than we do.



FDCF Walkers



NCCF Walkers

The Church of the Damascus Road
 239 North 11th Street
 Fort Dodge, IA 50501

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S.Postage
 PAID
 Fort Dodge,
 Iowa
 Permit #4

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Thanks for
 Supporting



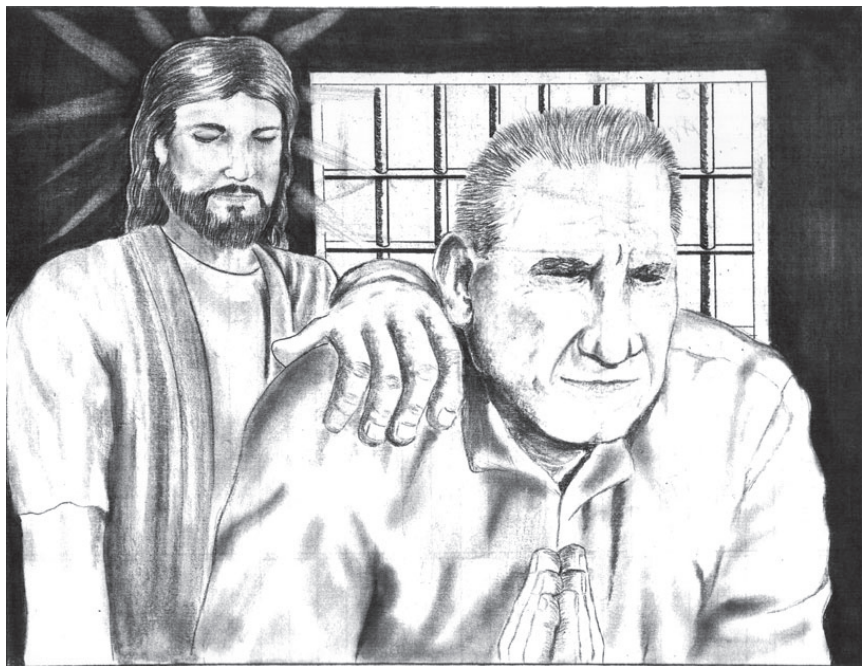
January 2010

Invite the Pastor

The worship services at The Church of the Damascus Road are scheduled on week-nights for two reasons. One is to enable people on the outside to worship with the inmates and not miss worship in their own congregations. The second is to enable the pastor of Damascus Road to visit area congregations on Sunday mornings. The pastor can give a brief update on the ministry, a sermon, a children's sermon, an adult forum, a children's Sunday school opening, a cross-generational class session, or any or all of the above, and is open to suggestions. All that is asked is that there be time to prepare.

Call 515-955-3579 or write to: The Church of the Damascus Road, Fort Dodge, IA 50501, or by e-mail at <DamascusCh@aol.com> to arrange for a visit to your congregation. The pastor speaks Episcopalian, Methodist, Baptist, United Church of Christ, Covenant, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Catholic, Evangelical, Reformed, Assembly of God, Mennonite, Nazarene, and a host of other denominations, independent, and non-denominational, too.

Artists' Corner



Prison Congregations' winner in 2009 Prison Art Contest.



All Readers: Send Contributions

The editor of this newsletter is inviting ALL READERS, inside and outside to send in articles, poetry, art work, and opinions for the newsletter. So don't be bashful.

NCCF Church Council
 Jason Smith President
 Arthur Bennett Vice President
 William Stark Secretary
 Lyle Harris Brian Seibold
 Rex Arrowsmith Michael Downs
 Jack Lamont Evan Peterson
 Charles Schauf Chester Polk
 Everett Graham

FDCF Church Council
 Paul Abbott President
 Jeremiah Janes Vice President
 Cody Anderson Secy/Story Tellers
 Raymond Reynolds Jeffrey Hardman
 Brandon Walstrom Jeffrey Hillman
 Nicholas Lytle Justin Welsch
 Nathan Herron

A note to secretaries and pastors—

Copy Me, Please!

We send our newsletter primarily to congregations. It's printed on white paper so it can be copied to include all or portions of it in your newsletter or bulletin, or simply made available to members of your congregation.

-- Pastor Paul Stone

Worship & Bible Study

FDCF Fort Dodge
 6:30pm Wednesdays Holy Communion
 6:00pm Fridays Prayer Team
 6:30pm Fridays Bible Study

NCCF Rockwell City
 6:30pm Tuesdays Bible Study
 6:30pm Thursdays Holy Communion