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Des Moines, Iowa  
Permit No. 8

February 17, 2010 Volume 14, Issue 3

# THE Caller

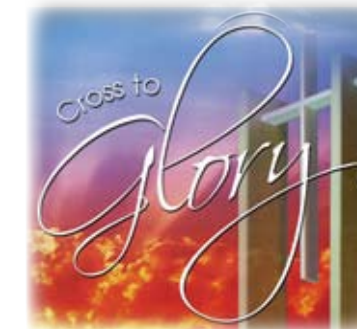


WEST DES MOINES CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWS AND INFORMATION

## LENT 2010: CROSS TO GLORY From Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday

by Rev. Alison Robuck

Lent is a season of reflection; a time to ponder the meaning of our personal lives and the depths of our faith. It is a time to reexamine our commitment to the One who calls us from the dark places in our lives into the light in which only Christ can shine. It is a time to remember the journey Jesus took, which ended on the cross on Good Friday.



Our theme during this season of Lent is *Cross to Glory*, a time when we recall that journey and the divine gifts of hope and redemption we have received through Christ.

Lent provides an opportunity for us to *give up something* in reverence and to once again discipline our lives so that we might focus our attention on God's call in our lives. However, sometimes we focus so much time and energy on the "giving up" that we lose sight of the importance of the *why* in the first place.

Rather than *giving up something* this Lent, why not simply *add something* to your life. Add a time of intentional prayer or time with your Bible each day...perhaps challenge yourself to perform a random act of kindness each day...or maybe you could simply write down five things for which you are grateful for each day of Lent.

And while you are pondering how you will experience the Cross to Glory during this Lenten journey, why not begin by planning to attend our special Lenten services:

**Ash Wednesday Service**, February 17 at 6:30 p.m. in The Sanctuary  
**Maundy Thursday Service**, April 1 at 7 p.m. in The Sanctuary  
**Elders Time of Prayer**, Good Friday, April 2, 5:30 to 7 p.m. in The Sanctuary  
**Easter Egg Hunt**, Saturday, April 3 at 11 a.m.  
**Easter Sunday**, April 4, 8:45 and 11 a.m. worship; breakfast served 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

The 40 days of Lent is a meaningful, annual walk of faith. We do hope that you will make worship a priority as we journey together toward the Cross to Glory.

## Week of Compassion: More Than Just 7 Days

by Rev. Alison Robuck

Several weeks ago, WDMCC responded to the Haiti earthquake by collecting an emergency offering of almost \$4,000. This and other donations collected from Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) churches have aided in the construction of temporary water systems and have provided water purification materials, tents, and food. In addition to our monetary aid, we completed 31 hygiene kits and 4 baby kits. We'll continue assembling kits as long as there is a need.

Although our response to Haiti has been tremendous, let's not forget the ongoing work of Week of Compassion throughout the world 365 days a year. On February 28, we'll celebrate Jesus' call to "Tend my sheep" by receiving our annual WOC offering to meet the needs of the least of these brothers and sisters around the world. Children will bring forward their special offering boxes to be dedicated on that special Sunday.

Let us remember that the needs of God's children are great, not only in Haiti, but also throughout the world. Let us respond generously to Jesus' call!

## Valley's A Capella Choir Sings February 21

On Sunday, February 21, WDMCC is pleased to welcome Valley's A Capella choir, which will sing during the 8:45 a.m. service.

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship at 8:45 and 11 a.m. Church School at 10 a.m.

### SERMON TOPICS

<b>February 21</b> Dr. Randy Ehrhardt	<i>A Fork in the Road</i> Luke 4:1-13
<b>February 28</b> Rev. Alison Robuck	<i>Feed &amp; Follow!</i> John 21:15-19
<b>March 7</b> Dr. Jim Kratz	<i>The Grace of Judgment</i> Luke 13:6-9



Our mission at  
West Des Moines Christian Church

### WDMCC STAFF

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*The Caller* is published by West Des Moines Christian Church.  
The next *Caller* mails March 3.  
Submission deadline is February 22.

Submit articles to caller@wdmcc.org or TLFlowa@aol.com.

Editor: Terri Fredrickson  
Designer: Joy Butler

## Lenten Dinner Series Begins February 17

Join us for the all-church Lenten dinners in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesdays February 17 to March 24. Appetizers are served at 5:15 p.m., dinner begins at 5:45 p.m., and the program follows immediately. A freewill offering (suggested donation is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children under 12) is collected.

*Weekly menu also features hot dogs and chips for kids of all ages, salad bar, and beverages.*

**February 17 Menu:** Scalloped potatoes/ham, green beans, dinner roll, dessert  
**Ash Wednesday Service @ 6:30 p.m.**

**February 24**  
**Menu:** Lasagna, garlic toast, chocolate dessert  
**Program:** A Capella Reign

**March 3**  
**Menu:** Taco bar with choice of toppings, dessert  
**Program:** Children & Youth Choirs

**March 10**  
**Menu:** Grilled chicken on pasta with alfredo or marinara sauce, California blend vegetables, fruity angel delight  
**Program:** Choirs Night with Chancel Choir, Vision, Unspoken Praise, and Resonance

## Easter Egg Hunt Donations Needed

Church Growth will be holding an Easter Egg Hunt for the children of WDMCC and the community on Saturday, April 3. To make this a successful event, donations of plastic eggs and individually wrapped candy are much appreciated. Place your donations in the designated boxes in The Gathering and Fellowship Hall. Questions? Call the church office.

## Movie Night Features *The Ultimate Gift*

Join Children's Ministries and Disciple Enrichment for an all-church movie event! Showtime is Friday, February 26 at 7 p.m. in the Youth Room. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. *The Ultimate Gift* is an award-winning movie based on the best-selling book by Jim Stovall.

Jason had a very simple relationship with his impossibly wealthy grandfather Howard "Red" Stevens. He hated him. No heart-to-heart talks, no warm fuzzies. He figured that when Red died, the whole "reading of the will" thing would be another simple cash transaction, that his grandfather's money would allow him to continue living in the lifestyle to which he had become accustomed. Red instead devised a plan for Jason to experience a crash course on life: 12 tasks, which Red called "gifts," each challenging Jason in an improbable way, the accumulation of which would change him forever. *The Ultimate Gift* stars Abigail Breslin, James Garner, Brian Dennehy and Drew Fuller as Jason.

Bring your whole family for this inspirational hit! Free popcorn!

## How Wednesday Night Dinners Got Started

In 1987, Rev. Eugene Dye (former WDMCC pastor) asked me to serve as kitchen hostess to prepare funeral luncheons and Wednesday night dinners because it was difficult to find volunteers. For a few years, we had eight dinners in the fall and spring before switching to six dinners in 1997.

I recorded each menu, including a list of items purchased, the cost, and how many people were served. At first about 130 people attended; the numbers increased from 160 to more than 200. I have six spiral notebooks filled with the records of Lenten Dinners, plus hundreds of other church and nonchurch meals served at WDMCC.

On March 7, 1990, we had a big ice storm and the electricity went out around 4:30 p.m. We served a candlelight dinner for the 52 people who came. Needless to say, we refrigerated a lot of leftover food and scheduled cleanup for the next day. At our Centennial Dinner on June 2, 1990, we served homemade chicken and noodles (21 pounds of noodles, 48 pounds of shredded cabbage, and 40 pounds of peeled potatoes) to 283 people. The chicken and noodle dinners were always very popular.

**THE CONTENTS OF SOME PAGES IN THIS NEWSLETTER HAVE BEEN REMOVED TO PROTECT THE PRIVACY OF THOSE IN OUR CONGREGATION.**

So, my friends, this is my recollection of "the good old days" at the beginning of our Wednesday night dinners. We enjoyed serving our Lord and our congregation in this way for many, many years. May He continue to bless you and yours as He has blessed me and the many faithful WDMCC kitchen crews.

## Help Wanted: Child Care and Meal Delivery

Do you love children and available to provide child care for church functions during the day? Contact Martha McDanel for information about this paid position. In addition, more volunteers are needed to deliver Lenten Dinner meals to homebound members on Wednesdays February 17 to March 24. Contact the church office for details.

## ACTIVITY GROUPS GUIDE

**Acclamation**  
(small, mixed adult choir)

**Benediction**  
(small male adult choir)

**Chancel Choir**  
(Adult choir)

**Children in Faith**  
(grades K-1)

**Chi Rho**  
(grades 6-8)

**Chore Corps**  
men's indoor/outdoor maintenance task group

**Connections**  
(to age 50)

**Crafts Therapy**  
women making crafts for annual bazaar

**CYF**  
(Christian Youth Fellowship-grades 9-12)

**Disciples Dinners**  
(approx 30-60 years)

**Exhaltation**  
(small female adult choir)

**Friends in Faith**  
(grades 2-5)

**Game Day**  
(open to all ages to play a variety of games)

**Golden Mixers**  
(ages 50+)

**Helping Hands**  
(women assisting with church housekeeping)

**Music Ministry Outreach**  
("caroling" hymns to shut-ins)

**New Possibilities**  
(for single, widowed and divorced women)

**Prayer Shawl group**  
women of all ages

**Parents Night Out**  
a kid sitting co-op

**Quilt Group**  
(All interested in quilting)

**Resonance**  
(adult handbells)

**Rock of Ages**  
(multi-instrumental band)

**Tuesday Tunes**  
(old-fashioned hymn sing)

**Unspoken Praise**  
(sign language choir)

**VA/Caller**  
(Volunteer Action - anyone can help)

**Vision**  
(adult contemporary choir)

**Women's Current Issues Group**  
(Women of all ages)

**YES**  
(Young Energetic Srs-age 50+)

**Young Adult Ministries or Group**  
(20-30ish, singles and couples)

**Youth choir**  
(grades 6-12)

**YM**  
(Youth Ministry)

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## 2010 General Operating Income

Total Receipts In January .....	\$56,252.48
Needed Year To Date .....	\$53,157.67

## Continuing The Journey Campaign

Amount Received in January .....	\$9,080.19
Total Received To Date .....	\$147,428.70
% of Pledges Paid To Date.....	56.22%

## Remembering In Our Daily Prayers

Our thoughts and prayers are with members recovering from illness, surgery, and accidents; residing in in-care facilities; serving in the military; mourning the loss of loved ones; and celebrating life's special milestones. If you have a special prayer request for *The Caller*, please email [caller@wdmcc.org](mailto:caller@wdmcc.org) or call the church office. Due to HIPPA laws, we can only publish requests received from you or your immediate family members. If you'd like your prayer request added to the Elders Prayer Chain, contact Bernie Perdue.

Dear God, For those we have not remembered, we pray that you do remember them by name and give them peace and comfort. Amen.

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### WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Church Ladies meets Monday, February 22 @ 6:30 p.m. at Cindy Stefani's home (12087 Lincoln Ave., Clive). Bring a snack to share for a night of casual fellowship.

Monday Night Bible Study resumes March 1 @ 7 p.m. in the Library for a continuation of the study A Hop, Skip, and A Jump through the Bible.

Women's Issues meets Thursday, March 4 in the library @ 7 p.m. The book to be discussed is *Sarah's Key* by Tatiana de Rosnay.

Quilt Group meets March 6 from 9 to 11 a.m. in FH-303 for a learning session. Bring needle and thread. No quilting experience necessary; there are jobs for all skill levels. Our primary mission is completing quilts for the IHN children. Newcomers welcome.

### DISCIPLES DINERS

February 27 Is Invite a Friend Night! Be sure to invite a guest to this month's event. Disciples Diners, which meets the fourth Saturday, is an opportunity for groups of 6 to 10 adults (men and women; singles and couples; the more diversity the better) to dine together, taking turns hosting a simple potluck. To sign up to host or attend, contact Martha McDanel.

### SOCIAL CONCERNS

Watch the *Bulletin* and *Caller* for details about personal care items that will be collected Sundays in March and the March 28 spring clothing drive. Among the items needed are 20 bath towels and clean spring and summer clothes in good condition.

### February is Unspoken Praise Month

If you've ever wanted to be a part of Music and Fine Arts Ministries, but don't sing or play an instrument, Unspoken Praise is for you! Unspoken Praise, which is led by Deb Chiafos, rehearses on Wednesdays from 6 to 6:45 p.m.\* All ages and skill levels are encouraged to participate in this growing ministry. Visit one or more rehearsals in February to see if Unspoken Praise is for you! Questions? Contact Scott Stilwell.

\* During Lenten dinners, they meet from 6:45-7:30 p.m.

### Ramsey Guild Membership Drive

Ramsey Guild's annual membership drive provides residents of Ramsey Village in Des Moines with extras such as birthday parties, ice cream socials, out-to-lunch funds, newspaper subscriptions, and bingo games. Ramsey Guild also helps make life easier for some residents through the purchase of patient lifts, wheelchairs, large screen TVs, and card tables.

While most of the Ramsey Guild ministry is through voluntary contribution of time and talents, many people choose to support the Ramsey Guild by donating \$1 per person. Stop by The Gathering February 28 and March 7 to learn more about Ramsey Guild.

**Youth Calendar**

- Sunday, February 21**  
4p Youth Choir  
5p Boy/Girl Night
- Saturday, February 27**  
7:50a Meet at WDMCC  
8:30a Meals from the Heartland
- Sunday, February 28**  
4p Youth Choir  
5p Ministry Teams
- Sunday, March 7**  
4p Youth Choir  
5p Chi Rho/CYF

**Youth To Prepare Food For Haiti February 27**

On Saturday, February 27, Chi Rho and CYF youth will be going to Meals from the Heartland at Lutheran Church of Hope to package food for the Haiti earthquake survivors. (Youth will sign up during February 21 Youth Group.) On Saturday morning we'll load the bus at WDMCC at 7:50 a.m. for a morning of mission. Please wear comfortable shoes. We'll return to WDMCC by 9:50 a.m.

**Volunteer For VBS**

Do you want to be one of the first to volunteer for a week of fun ministering to children?

Vacation Bible School is July 26-30 from 9 a.m. to noon. You can help plan a center or be a guide that takes groups of children around to the various centers throughout the morning.

Prayerfully consider if this important ministry should be included in your summer plans.

Contact the Martha McDanel if you have questions.

**Week of Compassion Coin Collection February 28**

by Martha McDanel

In his final moments with his disciples, the Good Shepherd asks Peter, "Do you love me?" "Yes," Peter replies. Then, "Feed my lambs," Jesus tells him. "Tend my sheep." Three times, Jesus passionately repeats his instruction, pressing his followers: If you love me, take care of the people I love. Live your love for me by actively tending these for whom I have sacrificed everything. (John 21:15-19)

Children have an opportunity to participate in Week of Compassion by collecting coins to present as their offering during the children's sermon on February 28. *Kids Helping Kids* collection boxes and donation calendars are available in the Gym Building foyer. Or children may bring their coins (or checks in envelopes) for dedication that morning. Questions? Call Martha McDanel.

**Friends In Faith Family Movie March 10**

Join Friends in Faith for the premier of a brand-new Veggie Tales movie *Pistachio: The Little Boy That Woodn't* on Wednesday, March 10 from 4:30 to 5:45 p.m. This is a great family event!

The movie is based on Ephesians 6:1-3 "Honor your father and mother." This is the first commandment with a promise: If you honor your father and mother things will go well for you and you will have a long life on earth.

*Pistachio* will be sure to bring laughter along with children learning the important lesson of listening to their parents. Contact Martha McDanel, Scott Stilwell, or Pam Redford (pdredford@gmail.com) for more information.

*Children's choirs will practice from 4 to 4:30 p.m. with snacks and the movie afterward.*

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**Wednesday, February 17**

- Ash Wednesday**  
7a Men's Current Issues @ Panera  
8:30a Volunteer Action/ Caller  
1p Disciples Women  
4p Friends in Faith  
5:45p Lenten Dinner  
6:30p Ash Wednesday Service  
7p Unspoken Praise  
7p Resonance 7p Chancel Choir  
7p Couples Bible Study  
7:30p Basketball

**Thursday, February 18**

- 7:30a Chore Corps  
9a Crafts Therapy  
5-8:30p Gym in use  
5:30p Weight Watchers

**Friday, February 19**

- 6p Parents Night Out

**Saturday, February 20**

- 8:30a Disciples Men Breakfast  
8:30a-12:30p Gym in use  
9a Prayer Shawl Ministry  
10a Music Ministry Outreach  
4-6p Gym in use

**Sunday, February 21**

- 8a Vision  
8:45a and 11a Worship  
10a Church School  
1-3p Gym in use  
4p Youth Choir 5p Youth Group

**Monday, February 22**

- Caller Deadline**  
7:30a Chore Corps  
9a Helping Hands  
9:30a Staff Meeting  
10a Regional Vitality Group  
6p Church Ladies @ Stefani's  
6p Volleyball

**Tuesday, February 23**

- 1p Tuesday Tunes  
6p US Mission Trip Meeting  
6-7p Gym in use  
7p Brass Rehearsal  
7p Elders Meeting

**Wednesday, February 24**

- 7a Men's Current Issues @ Panera  
11:30a New Possibilities @ Mama Lacona's  
4p Friends in Faith  
5:45p Lenten Dinner  
6:30p Resonance 6:45p Unspoken Praise  
7p Chancel Choir  
7p Couples Bible Study  
7:30p Basketball

**Thursday, February 25**

- 7:30a Chore Corps  
9a Crafts Therapy  
1:30-3:30p Meals from the Heartland  
5:30p Weight Watchers  
7p Capital Campaign Meeting

**Friday, February 26**

- 6:30p Family Movie Night

**Saturday, February 27**

- 8:30a Youth @ Meals from the Heartland  
9-10a Gym in use  
6p Disciple Diners

**Sunday, February 28**

- 8a Vision  
8:45a and 11a Worship  
10a Church School  
10a Visitor Information Meeting  
1-3p Gym in use  
4p Youth Choir 5p Youth Group

**Monday, March 1**

- 7:30a Chore Corps  
9a Helping Hands  
9:30a Staff Meeting  
6p Volleyball  
7p Bible Study  
7p Bazaar Steering Committee

**Tuesday, March 2**

- 5:30p Social Concerns Meeting  
7p Brass Rehearsal

**Wednesday, March 3**

- 7a Men's Current Issues @ Panera  
8:30a Volunteer Action/ Caller  
4p Friends in Faith  
5:45p Lenten Dinner  
6:30p Resonance  
6:45p Unspoken Praise  
7p Couples Bible Study  
7p Chancel Choir  
7:30p Basketball

**Thursday, March 4**

- 7:30a Chore Corps  
9a Crafts Therapy  
5:30 Church Growth Meeting  
5:30p Weight Watchers  
7p Women's Current Issues Book Group

**Friday, March 5**

- 9a New Possibilities @ Hy-Vee

**Saturday, March 6**

- US Mission Team Departs**  
7:45a YES Breakfast @ Hy-Vee  
9a Quilt Group

**Sunday, March 7**

- US Mission Trip**  
8a Vision  
8:45a and 11a Worship  
10a Church School  
1-3p Gym in use  
1-4p Girl Scouts  
4p Youth Choir 5p Youth Group

**Monday, March 8**

- US Mission Trip**  
7:30a Chore Corps  
9a Helping Hands  
9:30a Staff Meeting  
6:30-9p Rooms 302/303 in use  
7p Bible Study

**Tuesday, March 9**

- US Mission Trip**  
7p Brass Rehearsal

**Food Pantry Sundays**

**When:** Every Sunday in February. Bring 5 to 10 items to help us reach our goal of 2,500.

- |                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| <b>March 21</b> | <b>August 15</b>    |
| <b>April 18</b> | <b>September 19</b> |
| <b>May 16</b>   | <b>October 17</b>   |
| <b>June 20</b>  | <b>November 21</b>  |
| <b>July 18</b>  | <b>December 19</b>  |

**Give Cash:** \$1 donated will buy one-third more food, which is purchased at wholesale prices.

**Give Food:** Most-needed items are canned fruits & vegetables (15 oz.), macaroni/spaghetti, canned spaghetti sauce, cereal (hot & cold), fruit & vegetable juice, instant potatoes, macaroni & cheese dinners, pasta, peanut butter, rice (1 lb.), saltines, tuna, canned soup, stew, chili, instant formula, and diapers. (No glass containers except for baby food.)

**Give Bags:** Paper and plastic are needed by DMARC Food Pantry.