

ANKENY CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

November, 2006

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From the Pastor

WAITING!!!!

As a child I remember that the most difficult part of Christmas was simply waiting for it to come. From Thanksgiving to December 25 seemed more like an eternity than a month. Days seemed like weeks. Weeks felt like seasons. Time seemed to stand still.

Waiting is foreign to our society. It seems unnatural. We hunger for immediate gratification. The idea of delayed satisfaction is a stranger to our thinking.

The symbols of our unwillingness to wait are all around us. Fast food chains boom because we don't have time to eat. We stand in crooked lines, then yell out an order, get it down in five minutes and then get back to the rat race. We haven't got time to sit down and read a book anymore. Perhaps it is a sign of the times that we have condensed versions of the Bible. In kitchens all over America there are gadgets to get the meal prepared quickly. I would guess Mr. Coffee started it all. Simply spoon in the coffee and pour water. The coffee is made before you can even find a cup. When we become sick we want to be

made well now, not later. Medicine, doctors, pastoral care and love are often rejected if they are not swift.

I, like you, accept most of our no—wait approach to life, with the exception of instant potatoes.... I can eat them, but I like homemade. But the truth is that, though we do not like waiting, waiting is a part of living. We must wait for payday, a break, quitting time, and for the mailman. When you do your Christmas shopping, you had certainly better be prepared to wait in a line to get checked out, wait to get a parking place, and wait through at least four red lights before making a left hand turn on a busy street.

But there are also very serious matters for which we wait. Some wait for health to return, some for the coming of food stamps, some for marriage or remarriage. We must wait for peace. A scared child waits for the coming of morning, and a scared adult awaits death. And an expectant mother waits for delivery. Waiting can be pure agony. It's like the jury is out.

The problem is that

scripture time and time again tells us that God's clock is wound in a different way. Time is different to God. We look at seconds; God looks at the ages. Waiting, not hurrying is one of God's characteristics. And this waiting God tells the people that often, they too must wait.

And that is where the story of Christmas really begins. It begins thousands of years before the birth of Christ. They longed for that one who would bring light out of darkness, and make the blind to see. They longed for that one who would turn their sorrow into joy, and vanquish their enemies. But, God said, you must wait. Let us look at how God's people have waited throughout the ages...

1. **Waiting in the Old Testament**
2. **John the Baptist's waiting**
3. **Waiting in Advent**

They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.
Love and Peace,
Pastor Mike

Church to have Chili Supper and Caroling on December 10

Jim Grove and Dee Reynolds will make the Chili. This will be good!

Friends, please take note and mark it down on your calendars to come to church and join us in singing on December 10th. This has been a tradition that has been long standing at the church and it is a good tradition. Beginning at 5p.m. and leaving from the

church, a group of us will likely go to *On with Life* and sing to elderly and shut-ins of our own congregation to spread a little Christmas cheer. Following the caroling, there will be a chili supper at church. For many years Fred Reynolds was there at church

dishing out that Chili. Though he will be missed, the tradition will live on thankfully. So come and eat at approximately 6p.m. If you want to just come to supper at 6, that is OK too! **J**

Youth doing good things at Christian Church

The plans for our youth Are to learn more about God

For many weeks since September, Jeremy and Megan Hackett have been attending the Ankeny Christian Church on Sunday Evenings for their youth activities. Megan Hackett participated in the Hunger Hike in Des Moines in October with a group of other 3 – 5th graders. The hike raised several thousand dollars to feed the hungry of Des Moines. One week, I

attended with Jeremy Hackett and they studied how to handle change? This is just one of the bible study activities with other 6 – 8th graders. They always begin with a short bible study. Some of the focuses have been: *How to deal with hard attitudes?* *How to live as a Christian in todays tough society* Some of the recreational activities that they have participated in are the

Trunk or Treat Halloween with cook out (at the cookout, they roasted hotdogs and made smores over open fire) , They have also played volleyball, dodgeball, and so on. For those who wish to attend and come, the invitation still stands through December. The activities always begin at 5p.m. on Sunday Nights.

Those we hold in prayer - Sharing of the community

Anita Davidson: Is going to doctors trying to understand why she is experiencing high blood pressure. Pray for wisdom and healing

Michael Bechtol – Prayers For continued support. There still remains a basket in the Narthex at church to send well wishes to Michael in this time of waiting. Michael awaits a heart transplant.

Morris Miller: We pray for Morris, the brother of David Miller who had a brain tumor removed which was malignant.

People who are in our

thoughts and prayers for mourning, healing, general care and care of family members:

Maurice & Esther Moeckly
Kent & Melinda Moeckly
David & Natalie Bellis
Kevin and Nadia Moeckly
Dee Reynolds
Jim & Rhonda Bingman
Roger & Terri Hansen
Sharon Ewing
Betty Romick
Dan & Megan Huffaker
Connie Burkholder
Ed DeYoung
Dennis & Harriet DenAdel
Eloise Hall
Virginia Linde
Lucille Liljegren

Louise Woods
Arlene Phelps

Will & Nan Beach For more information on how Will and Nan are doing with their new house in Statford, go to the Beach website at <http://evsnewhouse.blogspot.com/>

Kris Williams:
Congratulations to Kris who was awarded at Principal Financial Group for doing good work!!

Vicki Harmon: We celebrated the baptism of Vicki Harmon in church on November 5th. We welcome Vicki grateful to have her

Upcoming worship services during Advent

Sun., Nov. 26, 2006

Scripture: John 18:33-37

Sermon: *Tell it again*

Theme: A review of the life of Christ prompts affirmation of the sovereignty of Christ.

Sun. Dec. 3, 2006

Betty Jo Buckingham will be bringing our morning message as Pastor Mike is away. There will be a short drama: *Because I Love you* for the advent candle lighting and special music by Travis and Carissa from Living History Farms

Sun. Dec. 10, 2006

Drama for Advent

Candle Lighting: *Hope of Hopes*

Scripture: Luke 3:1-6

Sermon: *Take back your life and prepare for God.*

Theme: Get rid of all the personalities and competing interests that have claimed you and prepare for living with God.

Sun. Dec. 17, 2006

Drama for Advent

Candle Lighting: What's missing?

Scripture: Phillipians 4:4-7

Sermon: *The Lord is Near*

Theme: Christians may say that the Lord is near, but does their conduct display this belief.

Sun. Dec. 24

Drama for Advent

candlelighting: Peace in the Midst

Scripture: Luke 1:39-45

Sermon: For all who sometimes run

Theme: If we ever flee from God, God will go before us and meet us.

Christmas Program scheduled for December 17th.

Christmas Program this year will highlight the kids.

On December 17th at 7:00p.m. here at church, there will be a Christmas Program entitled "Christmas Letters"

Christmas Letters is a children's Christmas program. The program is written for 12 specific characters as well as shepherds and angels which

can be adults and/or children.

The play highlights the thoughts of letters written to all the characters of the Christmas story:

Joseph
Mary
Innkeeper
Shepherds
Angels

and their responses. It is thought provoking and delightful. The play concludes with a letter to Baby Jesus with the congregation singing. Please mark your calendars for this program and come. It should be a wonderful celebration of Christmas.

Dinner and movie night tentatively planned for Friday, January 5, 2006

For many weeks last year, the Young Adult group at church studied Dan Brown's book: *The Da Vinci Code*. I would like to extend a welcome to everyone in church to a Dinner and a movie at church on Friday, January 5, 2006.

The evening will begin with pizza at 5:30p.m. and then, promptly at 6:15p.m. we will begin the Movie: *The DaVinci Code* Though the movie has been labeled fiction, it still prompts questions about Christians and

faith. Afterward, around 8:30, we will discuss the film and the information that was presented. The evening should conclude at 9:00p.m.

Everyone is welcome to come to this event.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Nov. Birthdays

24 – Bette Wheeler

Dec. Birthdays

5 – Jim Bingman

5 - Diane DenAdel

11 – Dee Reynolds

12 –Rhonda Bingman

Nov. Anniversary

24 – Jean & Chuck Williams

Congratulations to all who are having birthdays and anniversaries!!!!

We celebrate our birthdays and Anniversaries with our church family and friends...'

Dramas will be highlighted in worship during Advent

On the first Sunday in Advent, which is December 3rd, John Brown will play the role of Joseph and come in and share a short drama entitled: *Because I Love you*. Joseph - John will then light the first candle of the advent wreath. On the second Sunday of advent, which is December 10th, the characters of the drama will be Mike Huffaker playing a shepherd, Vicki Harmon, playing a homeless person, Max Bechtol playing an alcoholic, and Terri Hansen playing a hurried shopper. The drama is entitled: *Hope of Hopes*. At the end of the drama: the shepherd- Mike will light the 2nd candle of the advent wreath. On the third Sunday in Advent, which is December 17th, Dee Reynolds will play the role of Elizabeth, Liz Bechtol will play the role of Moriah, and Vicki Harmon will play the role of Claudia in a drama entitled: *What's missing?* Elizabeth (Dee) will light the 3rd candle of advent. On the fourth Sunday in Advent, which is December 24th, Natalie Bellis will play the role of Mary in a drama entitled: *Peace in the midst*. Mary (Natalie) will then light the 4th candle of advent. At the end of worship on December 24th, we will celebrate the lighting of the Christ candle. Joseph – John Brown, Elizabeth-Dee, Mary – Natalie, and Shepherd – Pastor Mike will lead us in the final drama entitled: *And he shall be called*. Please note that there will be two advent candle dramas in worship on December 24th!!

Thanks to our Deacons.

As one who watched the behind the scenes care of our deacons during Vicki Harmon's baptism November 5th, and one who enjoyed a meal (Beef burgers) following worship on November 12th before council meeting and then the following week, enjoyed Love Feast

which was prepared and presented very well, I express appreciation to members of the deacon body of our church for all events which happened in November.

OPEN HOUSE AT THE PARSONAGE

On Sunday, December 10, 2006, Laura and I would like to invite you to the parsonage for a holiday Christmas open house following worship until 4p.m. Come as you please. There will be punch, cheese and crackers, vegetables and dip, and many baked goodies. Everyone in the church is welcome. You're your calendars and Come when you can.

**ANKENY CHURCH OF THE
BRETHREN**

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HOURS

Sunday School

9:15 A. M.

Worship:

10:20 A. M.

Office: Mon-Thurs.

9A.M. - 12 NOON

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.ankenycotb.org

Upcoming events in community to consider

Please make a note that every Sunday evening, there are youth activities at the Ankeny Christian Church beginning at 5p.m.:

Every Thursday Morning, Mens Fraternity meets at the Ankeny E Free Church at 6:00a.m.

November 29, 2006

Ankeny Ministerium Meeting at Our Lady's Heart Immaculate Church 11:30 a.m.

Sat. Dec. 2, 4 - 8p.m.

Sun. Dec. 3 8a.m.- 6p.m
Advent Open House at Holy Trinity Lutheran ch

December 29 & 30, 2006

Onefest at Unidoome in

Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Carnival with fun things for kids. This is a concert for the family where you can experience today's contemporary chritian artists such as Reliant K, Cheer up Charlie, and Mark Schultz. Call 877-216-3663 for details and tickets.

Upcoming events in Ankeny Church of the Brethren

Dec. 3, 2006 1st Sunday in Advent - Pastor Mike is gone. Betty Jo Buckingham will bring the morning message.

Dec. 7, 2006 Womens Fellowship 10a.m.

Dec. 10, 2006 Open

House at the Parsonage Noon - 4 Christmas Caroling and Chili Supper 5 - 7pm

Dec 17, 2006 Christmas program: Christmas Letters 7p.m.

Dec 21, 2006 Women's

Fellowship 10a.m.

Dec 24, 2006 Christmas Eve Service 6:30p.m.

Every Thursday in December 2006 No choir on Dec 28, 2006

About Our Organization...

The Ankeny Church of the Brethren is committed to helping people know the love of Jesus Christ. When you visit our service on Sunday, you will find

great worship music, relevant teaching from the bible, and a safe and loving place for your children. So, whether you are just beginning your spiritual

journey or you've been on this path a long time, we invite you to come discover everything that a relationship with Jesus Christ Means for life.

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417 S.E. Grant Street
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