



Christians Encounter Christ Omaha Metro Area Newsletter

November/December 2008

Volume 18 Issue 4

Welcome New 4th Dayers!!

Men

October 3 - 5, 2008

Tom Bedel
Tim Brust
Jim Daskiewicz
Heath Griffen
Chaun Heywood
Mike Hugo
Anthony Lempke
Steve Medina
Jack Miller
Tommy Nastase
Lloyd Pierre
Bob Ramakers
Skip Rono
Todd Steffes
Nate Witt

Women

October 17-19, 2008

Robin Andrews
Vivian Brust
Mary Clausen
Linda Daskiewicz
Darlene Drefs
Mary Lou Flearl
Katherine Griffen
Sally Hansen
Regina Heywood
Cheryl Hugo
Cathy Hula
Mary Ann Medina
Theresa Miller
Shelly Niewohner
Brenda Novak
Deanna Piere
Stephanie Prost
Michelle Ramaekers
Kathy Ricketts
Eileen Rooney
Cheryl Sindelar
Joan Steffes
Kathy Stow
Denise Wharton
Becca Witt

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From the Outgoing President

*"These things I have
spoken to you, so that in
Me you may have peace.
In the world you have
tribulation, but take
courage; I have
overcome the world."*

John 16:33

*And do not be conformed to this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,
so that you may prove what the will of God is,
that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Romans 12:2

From the President

Helen Andrews

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Men's Spring Weekend
March 13-15, 2009

Women's Spring Weekend
March 27-29, 2009

Location:

*The Archdiocesan Retreat and Conference Center (ARCC)
3330 North 60th Street (Bldg D)*

Fourth Day Mass:

6:30 pm Sunday

Palanca:

Palanca is our individual support to each other. The Lever that holds us up through our weekend and through our lives.

Please drop off palanca Friday evening until noon Sunday at the main door of the ARCC in the white Palanca box.

Upcoming Weekends:

Spring of 2009

Men March 13 -15

Women March 27-29

Fall of 2009

Men October 2-4

Women October 16-18

Me? A Leader?

In November of 1988 I made my CEC weekend. I remember thinking as each woman got up to give her talk, "I'll never do that". I certainly did not consider myself a leader, and, I don't think I even wanted to be a leader. Here I am, 20 years later, ready to begin my term as President of this community. "God does not call the qualified, He qualifies the called".

Each of us is called to do God's will and He will give us the graces we need to do His work. When I was asked to consider running for Vice President last year I was less than enthusiastic. It was not that I did not have a commitment to this community, or, that I did not want to serve this community. I was not sure I was capable of taking on the responsibility. I can honestly say over the last year God has showed me His plan and how He will work through me. He will guide me as I do His will this year.

As I assume the role of President, I ask each of you to pray for me, that I do God's will as I lead us, and, that I am open to the needs of this community.

The CEC community, by our "yes" to God's call, must proclaim the kingdom of God to our world. We can do this in many ways as we heard on our weekends. How are you called to proclaim God's work? We are all leaders. We lead first and foremost by example. What do our families, friends and co-workers see in us? How do we show God's love to those around us? I challenge each of you to assume the role of leader. Lead by example and action so that God's kingdom grows, but, also, let's make our CEC community a vibrant and easily recognized part of this archdioceses and the Omaha area.

I also challenge you to consider becoming part of the Omaha Area Leadership Council (OALC). Anyone who has made a CEC weekend is eligible to be part of the OALC. We as a community grow and remain vibrant because of the dedication of those who serve on this council. I have served on the OALC for over 10 years. Though I am committed to serving this community in anyway I can, I would like to see new members join the council. CEC needs to hear from you!

Thank you to the newly elected members; Chris Peters, Vice President; Mary Ann Kosmicki, Treasurer; Chris Powers, Secretary. Thank you for your "yes". Together you and I are called to do God's work, remember, "God does not call the qualified, He qualifies the called". How is He calling you?

Your sister in Christ,
Helen

From Post CEC Committee

*Carol Windler
Brenda Benskin*

On November 2nd a Potluck dinner was held at Mary Our Queen to honor the Deacons in the CEC Community. About 60 people were in attendance. The newly ordained Deacons and their wives within the CEC Community are:

Al & Helen Belcher, Edward & Kathy Bevan, Steve & Laurie Floersch, Tim & Teri Mulcahy, David & Cheryl Probst, and Jay & Mary Ann Reilly.

Upcoming Events:

The Spring Game Night and Potluck Dinner will be held shortly after the Spring 2009 weekends. Date, time, and location to be determined.

Questions concerning these events can be addressed to Brenda Benskin at brendablee2000@yahoo.com

DeColores!
Carol & Brenda

Special Note

The CEC Workshop date has changed to February 22, 2009, at St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton Parish Center from 1:30 pm to 3:30 p.m. More details to follow.

De Colores from the CEC G & G Praise Music Guys & Gals

We have been doing CEC music events almost from that day, a year ago, that we first thought it up. It is a hoot of fun and we learn some new songs or refresh some old ones each Saturday. A Barber Shop Conference room is so inviting and we R-2. Come Visit/Sing/Play/Plan/Laugh or just drink coffee and eat donut holes. Place: 7101 Mercy Road in the Mid-America-Plaza Bldg. on the East end LL. Grady's Hair Shop.

Phone on M-F, 397-5548 for INFO, because the Barber Shop is closed on Saturday for our good old-fashion gospel or all the way forward to recent contemporary church music. You bring it we can probably learn it and use it at a gig on the list. Com' on give it up, try us soon.

Bring your strings etceteras if you want. We need more young folks that can retrieve our dropped Guitar-Picks from the floor. LOL-Harhar.

Bob Gaddie Sr and/or Steve Grady G&G (Gray hair & Geezers)
Email: gaddie2@Q.com clangrady@cox.net

CEC Registrar

Art Beccard
1407 Lake Vista Circle
Papillion, NE 68046
402-592-5862
acbeccard@cox.net

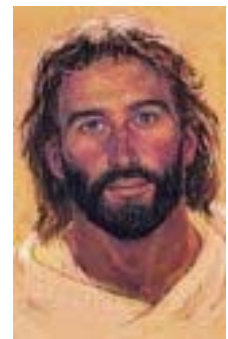
Prayer Line Information:

Contact Teri Rieck at 402-330-3595
for prayer requests or to be
added to the prayer chain.
dtrieck@cox.net

*And God heard them, for
their prayer reached heaven.
2 Chronicles 30:27*

*"Come to Me, all who are
weary and heavy-laden,
and I will give you rest."*

Matthew 11:28



From Pre CEC Chair

Dave Eastlack

When you choose to sponsor, you give people an opportunity to grow in their love for Christ and to rededicate themselves to His service. Consider the words printed on the cross you received on your weekend, "Christ is counting on you."

Jesus called us to be His witnesses (Acts 1:6-8), but that is not a call to convert others. Conversion is the responsibility of the Holy Spirit (*John 16:8-11*). That means that we need not measure our success in witnessing by the number who respond. If that were the case, Jesus would have often been considered a failure: many who heard Him, and even some who followed Him, turned out to be uninterested (*John 6:60-66*).

The fact is that people are in various conditions when it comes to their spiritual matters, as Jesus' parable of the four kinds of soils illustrate (*Mark 4:3-20*). One thing we as "farmers" can't do is change the soil. But we can offer good seed and do the best we can to nurture whatever faith sprouts up (*1 Cor 3:7-9*). One way to do that is by continually working out our faith in day-to-day life (*Phil 2:12-13; James 2:14-26*), making it available for others to consider rather than hiding it (*Mark 4:21-23*). How others react is between them and God.



That's not to suggest that we should be detached or uncaring about others and their responses. Scripture challenges us to love others as we love ourselves. We need to make a friend, be a friend, and then bring that friend to Christ. As a friend, we can then make available to them our experience of faith. We can do this by making ourselves available to God to be used with anybody, anywhere, anytime (*1 Cor 9:19-23*).

We ought to avoid the trap of evaluating our faith by how others respond to us. The Spirit of God converts people, we don't. If we do, our converts are on shaky ground.

Speak to God about people before you speak to people about God. Our success as Disciples of Christ is not dependent on numbers or quality but rather on our faithfulness to God's call.

De Colores!
David Eastlack

OALC Officers:

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Damzuer@aol.com

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Four newsletters are published per year. (Approx. Jan, Apr, Oct & Dec)
If you do not have access to the internet or have email access only, please contact me for an electronic or paper version of this Newsletter.

Special note to Ultreya REPS

Please send ALL Attendance Sheets to:
Rick L. France
4633 N 81 St
Omaha, Ne 68134
Home Phone 572-8957
RLFrance_68134@yahoo.com

Are You Called?

The other morning, at the end of Mass, I heard an appeal to help those in need in our Omaha community. I had been praying about my role in my community; mainly my role as President of this CEC community. As I listened to this woman speak of the needs of those without adequate shelter, clothing and food, my thoughts shifted to my call to Christian action. What are my opportunities and my responsibilities? I cannot do it all, but, I can do something.

The Action talk calls each of us to do what we can with God’s love in our actions. This is the season when we are all aware of opportunities for action, but, shouldn’t our action be constant?

I would challenge you and your groups to consider action that spreads God’s love to our world. I know it is often easier to identify the obstacles as to why we can’t do something rather than to discover the action we can do. There are many worthy causes that we can become involved in. I was originally going to name several, but, decided against this. You and your group will find the appropriate action if you pray about this.

I am going to make one recommendation we can all do. Please consider joining the CEC prayer chain. We all pray, and praying for the needs of those requesting prayer can be as simple as praying a “Hail Mary” or “Our Father” with their needs in mind. To join the prayer chain, contact Teri Rieck at dtrieck@cox.net. Praying for one another is the greatest action any of us can do. Are you called to do something?

Your sister in Christ,
Helen Andrews

“In this life we cannot do great things. We can only do small things with great love.”

“It is not the magnitude of our actions but the amount of love that is put into them that matters.”

Mother Teresa

OMAHA AREA LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The Omaha Area Leadership Council meets monthly. Meetings are at Mary Our Queen from 7:00pm - 9:00pm. *All are welcome to attend.*

2008 December 14 at Helen Andrews’ home

2009 Meeting Dates:

January 11	June & July no meeting
February 22 & Workshop at SEA	August 9
March 8	September 20
April 19	October 11
May 17	November 8
	December 13



OALC Meetings:

The Omaha Area Leadership Council meets monthly. You are welcome to attend. The next meeting will be March 9th, 2008.

Upcoming CEC Events

October 5 Men’s Closing
October 19th Women’s Closing
Mass times are scheduled for 6:30 p.m. in the Archdiocese Retreat & Conference Center, 3330 North 60th Street, Building D.
November 2 Deacon’s Pot Luck Dinner at Mary Our Queen

ULTREYAS

Date	Time	Church Location	Representative
1 ST Friday	7:30 p.m.	St. Margaret Mary - Suneg Center - 61 st & Dodge	Dave & Mary Egan 491-3031
1 st Saturday	9:00 a.m.	St. Patrick’s Church - Community Center - Fremont	Kathy Luther 721-9587
2 nd Friday	7:30 p.m.	St. Philip Neri - Basement - 8200 N 30 th , (side door)	Rick Bellino 558-1037
3 rd Friday	8:00 p.m.	Mary Our Queen - Parish Center - 3535 S 119 th	Peg Whitaker 691-0488
3 rd Saturday	7:00 p.m.	St. Elizabeth Ann - Parish Center - 114 th and Fort	Brenda Benskin 706-7043
4 th Thursday	7:30 p.m.	Sts. Peter & Paul - Church Cafeteria 5904 S 36 th St	Nick Rasmussen 551-9008

CEC develops in adult Christians an awareness of their power and mission to become leaders in the work of evangelization, and provides support to sustain them as they persevere in their work as Christian leaven in family, civic, social and economic life. This support is provided through their ongoing participation in the 4th day reunions. In a Group Reunion, 4-5 people meet weekly to reflect, pray and encourage each other in their discipleship. Ultreya is a reunion of the larger 4th Day Community. At an Ultreya, the community spirit of the weekend is continued through group reunion, witness, reflection on the witness, shared prayer and fellowship.

From CEC Committee Chair

Mary Ann Gaddie

Nothing to Report

DeColores!
Mary Ann

From the Outgoing President

Mike Langenegger

*"God has told you what is good; and what is it that the Lord asks of you?
Only to act justly, love mercy and to walk humbly before your God." (Micah 6:8)*

Looking back over this past year has been introspective for me. As my term comes to an end, a new beginning awaits me. There are so many people to thank for stepping up and filling roles that it really made it easy to serve. I would like to thank those involved in the Omaha Area Leadership Council (OALC) for their dedication and hard work in keeping the CEC community strong and vibrant. Past roles are:

- Helen Andrews, Vice President; a tremendous help to me with keeping meetings on track.
- LaDonna France, Treasurer; her accounting skills were greatly appreciated.
- Chris Powers, OALC Secretary; her skills at taking minutes provided accurate records of our meetings.
- Mary Ann Gaddie, CEC Chair; she and her committee did a great job of identifying future Coordinators and Assistant Coordinators.
- Dave Eastlack, Pre-CEC Chair; worked with Art Beccard to have a smooth registration process for our candidates.
- Brenda Benskin and Carol Windler, Post CEC Chairs; gave the community numerous options for spiritual growth and fun.
- Bob Gaddie, Sr., Communications; his fantastic job of getting information out about upcoming events and CEC happenings kept the community well informed.

'Thank you' cannot fully express my appreciation to the Spiritual Directors, Priests, Coordinators, Assistant Coordinators, Team Members and Candidates who participated in the spring and Fall Weekends in 2008. Without the time, treasures and talents of these volunteers, this movement would not succeed in our mission of bringing others closer to Christ.

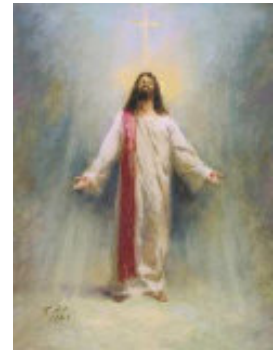
Over the past year all of the Ultreya Representatives have been replaced. My sincere "thank you" to those who have served and those who have stepped forward to take over.

I would also like to thank all of the candidates that volunteered to run for office in 2009. It is within this spirit that we will continue to move forward as a community.

De Colores!

*"Do not fear, for I am
with you; do not
anxiously look about you,
for I am your God. I will
strengthen you, surely I
will help you, surely I will
uphold you with My
righteous right hand."*

Isaiah 41:10



*Applying all diligence,
in your faith supply
moral excellence,
and in your moral excellence,
knowledge,
and in your knowledge,
self-control,
and in your self-control,
perseverance,
and in your perseverance,
godliness,
and in your godliness,
brotherly kindness,
and in your brotherly kindness,
love.
For...these qualities are yours and
are increasing.*

2 Peter 1:5-8

This newsletter is by and for the members of the Omaha Metro Area Christians Encounter Christ Movement.
Its purpose is to keep members informed about CEC events.

De Colores!