



PARISH PAPER

The United Church of Christ + + +

Gaylord, MN

A Monthly Newsletter

January 2009

Volume 37,1



Ushers: Mike and Cheryl Messner
Diane and Darrel Mosel

Greeters: Jan and Dick Carlson
1-4, 1-11
Fran and Howard Armstrong
1-18, 1-25

Acolyte: Ethan Pomplun

Fellowship Hour:

January 4 Fran and Howard Armstrong
January 11 Mission Board
January 18 Annual Meeting
January 25 open



Sunday, January 18th, our congregation will gather after worship to hold its Annual Meeting. The Agenda will include the following items.

- (1) The budget for 2009.
- (2) Slate of nominees for offices, boards and committees.
- (3) Other issues which members are welcome to bring to the meeting.

After the meeting we will share in a pot-luck meal. Members are asked to bring a dish to pass. The Church Council will provide beverages, rolls and butter.

Boards and Committees are reminded to have their reports turned in to the church office by Wednesday, January 7.

During the meeting activities will be provided for the children.

Please plan to attend and be a very important part of the work of fulfilling the mission of this church.

Readings for the Month of January

Jan. 4, 2009: Second Sunday after Christmas
Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20, Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:(1-9), 10-18. UCC Theme: Another Road.

Jan. 11, 2009: The Baptism of Christ

Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29, Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11.
UCC Theme: Defining Moments.

Jan. 18, 2009: Second Sunday after Epiphany

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20); Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18,
1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51. UCC Theme:
Known and Loved.

Jan. 25, 2009: Third Sunday after Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12, 1 Corinthians 7:29-31;
Mark 1:14-20. UCC Theme: Follow Me.

Remember in prayer: Cal Schrupp undergoing tests. We pray for those who are home bound, have recently been ill or have lost a loved one. We also pray for those who are serving in our military services. Remember our Search Committee as they continue the process of looking for a new minister.

Thank You

We want to thank you all for the prayers, visits, telephone calls, and food that was brought to our home after we returned home from the hospital. May God bless each of you, Calvin and Frieda Schrupp.



My Morning Prayer

What guidance is God giving
For my living of this day?
Will I help someone who's needy?
Will I have kind words to say?

Will outrageous acts of kindness
Be the gifts that I can share?
Let YOUR will, God, be mine today,
Help me to love and care!

—Poems, Prayers and Hymns



Women's Fellowship will meet at 7:00 p.m. on **Monday, January 5** to undecorate the church. Anyone interested in helping is welcome to come. Coffee will be served by Karen and Cindy when we are done.

Meals on Wheels Schedule for January 2009

Jan. 2, 5 - 9	Fran & Howard Armstrong
Jan. 12 - 16	Ewald Keller & Dick Estenson
Jan. 19 - 23	Harriet and Dayle Troidahl
Jan. 26 - 30	Joanne and Luther Kolstad

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help with Meals on Wheels in January. Mission Board.

Congregational Care & Outreach

2008 was a challenging and interesting year for the members and friends of the Gaylord United Church of Christ. The CC&O Committee met monthly during the year. Our major event was the fall harvest dinner, which was hosted by Howard and Fran Armstrong. Almost 50 people attended this gathering and we were blessed with good weather, great food, and a relaxed environment. We hope to have at least one event each year for the Congregation.

In addition to this event, we discussed many ways in which we can come together as a united and uniting church in Gaylord. Kathy Tourtellott, Howard Armstrong, Nancy Cowell, and Phil Keithahn served on this committee throughout the year. Kathy has done an excellent job of sending out cards to members, remembering them on their birthdays and other special occasions. At each meeting, we discussed members who might be in need of assistance, and private follow-up contacts with those members was made. We feel it is important to continue reaching out to each other as we move through this interim period of transition.

We are looking for ideas of events or things that we can do in 2009 to help bring people together in a spirit of fellowship, friendship, and love. If you have an idea, please let us know. If you want to help us, we'll appreciate your assistance. We usually meet the first Monday of every month at 7am in the Fireside Room, so join us if you are able.



Highlights from our December meeting

- ◆ The 7th Street home continues to be listed for sale. No sales activity this past month. The home is secure, winterized, and being monitored regularly. The local real estate market continues to be very slow.
- ◆ Gail and Sue are following up on the Renew the Church that Pastor Keith and several members attended in November. A spiritual immersion period is recommended for members of the congregation that uses a book written, Unbinding the Gospel by Martha Grace Reese as the cornerstone of the study. Gail and Sue are ordering the book and hope to meet with members of the congregation in early February.
- ◆ Work continues for the 2009 budget. Pledges continue to be received but it is still too early to forecast income for 2009.
- ◆ Gail and Sue have formed a nominating committee to recruit members for the vacancies for council officers, boards and committees. Anyone interested in volunteering for a particular position should contact either Sue or Gail.
- ◆ The annual meeting has been set for Sunday, January 18 immediately following the morning worship service. A potluck lunch is planned following the meeting. The council will provide bread and drinks. All reports for the annual report should be turned into Cindy by January 7.
- ◆ A calling tree has been established to be used to reach actively attending members and friends in the event weather prohibits a regularly scheduled service. Pastor Keith and the Council President will be in conversation to determine if the service should be held. Members and friends will be called on Sunday morning if a worship service is cancelled. Phil Keithahn has volunteered to lead a worship service if Pastor Keith is unable to reach Gaylord for a service but where local members would be able to attend.
- ◆ The various boards of the church updated the council on their many projects.

◆ At this time of new beginnings, let us remember the joy and privilege we have in serving our Lord and in serving our church. Please contact a member of church council if you have any concerns or if there are any needs which you would like to have met.

◆ The next council meeting will be Wednesday, January 14, 7:30 p.m.

Sue Keithahn, Council President

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Dear Friends,

I find myself somewhat melancholy as my term as Council President ends. I am ending a period of time when I have been very actively working on critical issues facing our congregation having served on the first permanent search committee for more than two years and then serving three years on Church Council as VP and President. You can say that I have been in the “center of the storm” for a very long time now.

In many ways, I am aware of the many missteps that have been made during this time as well as the many feelings that have been hurt along the way. Most significantly, we have had two changes of pastors during this time that has been difficult on all of us. I am keenly aware that some decisions that I have been part of making have hurt members of the congregation and for that I am sorry and ask your forgiveness.

I remain deeply committed to the service of our church and know that many of you feel the same way. We love our Lord, we love our church, and we love each other. I hope each of you will pray for our church and for our new leadership. And finally, remember that service to our church is not only our responsibility but a blessing as well. There is no greater service to our Lord than through service to his church and to his children... each and every one of us.

Sue Keithahn

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This newsletter is a monthly publication of the United Church of Christ, Gaylord. Articles and announcements are due the second Wednesday of the month.

Sunday Worship—9:30 a.m.

Coffee-Fellowship Hour Follows Worship

Sunday School—10:45 a.m. Sept.—May

Communion is the 1st Sunday of the month

Interim Pastor, Rev. Keith Purscell

Council President, Sue Keithahn

Office Manager, Cindy Johnson

January Birthdays

01..... Eunice Gasow
01..... Megan Meyer
02..... Liz Kuphal
02..... Riley Norman
03..... Dale Johnson
04..... Doug Walsh
06..... Kati Klimmek
07..... Gary Wentzloff
08..... Helen Purscell
10..... Ruby Keller
10..... Susan Tessmer
11..... Bob Estenson
13..... Dennis Mead
15..... Liz Ott
15..... Fran Skarboe
17..... Eric Thies
22..... Sam Thies
29..... Michael Schultz
29..... Katie Turbett
30..... Helen Van Brunt