



*Keeping in
touch with the
heart of the
faith community
of
Gaylord
United
Church
of Christ*

**OPEN HEARTS
OPEN DOORS**

*A Welcoming
Congregation*

Parish Paper

May 2009

Vol. 37, 5



Ushers: Deb and Jeff Meyer
Jason Meyer, Megan Meyer

Greeters: Frieda and Calvin Schrupp
5-3, 5-10, 5-17
Gloria Sinell, Helen Van Brunt
5-24, 5-31

Acolyte: Dylan Pauly

Fellowship Hour:

May 3open
May 10open
May 17 Board of Christian Education
May 24open
May 31open

Readings for the Month of May

May 3, 2009: Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23, 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18.
UCC Theme: Enfolded by Love.

May 10, 2009: Fifth Sunday of Easter
Mother's Day/Festival of the Christian Home
Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31, 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:
1-8. UCC theme: Abiding in Love.

May 17, 2009: Sixth Sunday of Easter
Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98, 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17.
UCC Theme: Friends Together.

May 24, 2009: Seventh Sunday of Easter
Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1, 1 John 5:9-13; John
17:6-19. UCC Theme: Guided in Prayer.

May 31, 2009: Pentecost Sunday
Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35 b, Romans 8:22-27;
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15. UCC Theme: Spirit for All.

Remember in prayer: Stacy Pauly recovering from surgery.
Our sympathy and prayers go out to the family of Lois Knoche who passed away April 17. A service of remembrance was held on Saturday, May 2.

Also pray for those who are home bound, have recently been ill or have lost a loved one.

We also pray for Brian Pfarr, Tom Bartz, son-in-law to Sandy Wentzloff and Mandy Kroells, niece to Sandy and others serving in our military services. Remember our Search Committee as they continue the process of looking for a new minister.

Congratulations to Tia Johnson and Jeff Papke on their upcoming wedding on May 16, our prayers and best wishes go with you.

A note from Jean: Dear Friends, it was a great lift for me to meet and greet so many of you during a recent visit. Your smiles and hugs assure me that the future will be ok! Love and prayers, Jean Feehan.



What does church mean to you? Mission? Compassion? Community? . . . Praise? Prayer? Peace? We could sit and ask that question and come up with as many different answers as people! But the value at the heart of every answer would likely be the same: Love. Our church is love. When I think about how the church's love – God's love – is transforming and nourishing, I want to share it. I want others to feel the blessings of grace and acceptance, to know the joy of service and the freedom to live fully in God's moment – whether it brings joy or sorrow, struggle or laughter. Each year, we receive a special offering that helps the church's love to **grow and thrive**. Called **Strengthen the Church**, this offering funds new congregations and renews existing ones. It supports programs for youth and young adults and nurtures current and future leaders. By giving to Strengthen the Church you ensure a vibrant church, share the Love, and strengthen the Church.

God's Love be with you, Mission Board.

Interim Pastor's Moment



As we move into the month of May, 2009 we find ourselves in the midst of the Easter Season with the 4th Sunday of Easter falling on May 3rd. Pentecost Sunday, which celebrates the birthday of the Church as found in the Book of Acts in Chapter 2, falls on May 31st.



We have a Memorial Service for Lois Knoche scheduled for Saturday, May 2nd at 11:00 a.m. at the United Church of Christ in Gaylord, MN. Our hearts go out to the family. The Rev. Keith W. Purscell, Interim pastor will be leading the service. The Rev. Don Britt will be sharing some of the memories of Lois Knoche during the service. There will be a lunch following the service.

The Search Committee

The Search Committee is continuing its work in seeking a pastor for the congregation. They have been in dialogue with a candidate discussing what arrangements are possible for the candidate and the congregation to come to a common agreement with regard to the possible call.

The congregation needs to be in prayer regarding the possibilities for a call. God needs to be the guide for everyone through the process.



A wedding is scheduled for Tia D. Johnson and Jeff F. Papke on Saturday May 16th at 6:00 p.m. We can hold Tia and Jeff in our prayers as they are planning the celebration of their wedding. We can also be in prayer that they will continue to grow together in their relationship.

The Minnesota Annual
Conference
of the United Church of Christ
Will gather on
Friday, Saturday, and Sunday
June 5, 6, & 7, 2009

A Note:

The Council has been receiving information regarding future plans for the Minnesota Conference that includes many pieces of information. One concern deals with the special needs of the Pilgrim Point Camp facility, and is it possible that there is a need for new insights and dreams for that ministry. The Pastor and the Council President are trying to put together some material that can be placed in the hands of our membership to understand the concerns. There may also be a Congregational meeting in late May where we can discuss these dreams and issues.

*Rev. Keith W. Purscell,
Interim Pastor*

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS

Where does the time go and how does it pass so swiftly? It may have seemed like a very long, cold winter to most; and it's wonderful to feel the warm spring sunshine and have more hours of daylight. But it seems that the time between Christmas and Easter went by so quickly that it's a blur. Is this a sign of age or perhaps of lives so busy that we hurry from one event to the next, barely having time to take in details or enjoy the moment? My hope and prayer this month is that each of you will allow yourselves time to feel the warmth of God's love through the sunshine. Take time to sit quietly, to calm the racing thoughts and empty your mind of all the lists of things to do. Breathe slowly and deeply. Ask God for His peace which passes all understanding.

A congregational meeting was held on March 29th to vote on whether to extend a call to Pastor Koepcke. Absentee ballots were available for those who could not attend the meeting. 50 ballots were cast with 48 voting to extend the call, one to not extend the call and one abstention. Pastor Koepcke was notified of the vote during a telephone conference with the Search Committee on April 13. Since that time, a compensation package was approved by the Council and forwarded to Pastor Koepcke. We continue to prayerfully await his decision on whether to accept our call.

Any suggestions for use of memorial money should be directed to the Finance & Stewardship Committee. A list will be compiled of items recommended by members, boards and committees and approved by the Finance & Stewardship Committee in conjunction with the Church Council. All ideas are welcome and no idea should be considered too small or insignificant. The list will provide a reference for those wishing to make memorial donations.

Gaylord UCC participated in the Gathering Showcase on Saturday, April 18th at the Sibley East Jr. High campus in Gaylord. Thanks to Liz Reishus and Jane Peterson for helping to design and assemble the candy bags; and to Beth Wilson and Cindy Johnson for the very nice brochure they produced. Also thanks to Jane and Beth for taking time to be available at the table. The event was well attended and it was nice to have Gaylord United Church of Christ represented.

We can look forward to the upcoming Polka Worship on May 17, 2009. It is truly a "joyful noise" when our hymns and worship music are played to polka music. Come, participate and ENJOY!!!

The Annual Meeting of the MN Conference will be held June 5, 6 & 7th at St. Ben's College near St. Cloud. The registration deadline is May 5. If you are interested in attending, please contact Pastor Purscell or me for more information. Our congregation will have two voting delegates.

Information will be made available for your review regarding Pilgrim Point Camp and a draft document which is included on the Minnesota Conference UCC website – uccmn.org.

Because of security concerns, a touchpad lock has been placed on the door to the Secretary's office. Anyone who needs to use the office is welcome to obtain the combination from Cindy, the Trustees, Ewald or Pastor Purscell.

All Board and Committee representatives are asked to send minutes or meeting notes to the Council Secretary via e-mail prior to the meetings held on the second Wednesday each month. This will provide an opportunity for members to read them and be prepared for any discussion and or action.

I wish each of you peace, the time to enjoy it, and God's blessings,

Gail Estenson, Council President

Next Council Meeting – Wednesday, May 13, 2009



Mission Board Scholarships

The Mission Board is again sponsoring the annual Scholarship award. Applications are on the table in the Fellowship Hall and should be filled out and returned by July 12. Recipients will be notified in mid August.



**The Trustees are sponsoring a
Spring Cleaning day on
Wednesday, May 6
starting at 4:30 p.m.
and could use your help!**

We will be cleaning inside and out, washing windows, cleaning the kitchen, straightening the nursery, etc. We will also be cleaning the basement in preparation for replacing the furnaces. If you have items in the basement you want to throw away or want saved please be there or let one of the trustees know what needs to be done.

The Trustees will be serving “world famous” hot-dogs and beans, cole slaw and ice cream cones as a reward for your hard work! Come join us.

The Trustees continue to be busy with projects around church. On Saturday, April 25th, with the help of several others, replaced the lighting in the Head Start Room and placed an opaque covering on the glass on their door. A motion light was placed in the courtyard for security purposes. The Fireside Room closet door was repaired, the door on the outside sign in front of church was repaired and the choir closet door is being repaired as well.

Thanks to all who helped to accomplish so much. Additional projects, including; painting, replacing additional lighting, etc., will be addressed as time allows.

Please contact one of the Trustees if you are interested in helping with future work projects.

Doug Solomonson, Dale Johnson, Chuck Klimmek, and Kevin Thies.

Women’s Fellowship will meet Monday, May 4, 2009 – 12:00 p.m. Bring a sack lunch and come join us.

Priscilla Circle members made spring tray favors for the residents of Oak Terrace. We are now collecting personal care items and children’s toys, diapers, etc. to donate to women and children who are staying at CADA House. The women are victims of abuse and many have to leave their homes quickly, often with nothing but the clothes on their backs. If any church members would like to add items to ours, please contact Sylvia Turbett or Fran Armstrong. We will be collecting until mid-May.

We are in the process of planning our spring outing which will be a trip to Henderson with a tour of the museum led by our own volunteer, Gloria Sinell, and have lunch at the Bittersweet restaurant. This will take place sometime in June. We welcome all women of the church to join us. More information will be in next month’s newsletter.



**Attention UCC Minnesota Conference
Congregations – Prepare for renewal!**

You are hereby called to the
Minnesota Conference Annual Meeting,
June 5-7, 2009, at the College of Saint Benedict,
St. Joseph, Minnesota.

Our theme this year will be
“Together, We Will Be Renewed!”

If you are interested in attending please
contact Gail Estenson, Council President



Five graduates from Gaylord UCC will be recognized during our 9:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, June 7. A reception in the Fellowship Hall will follow worship and will be hosted by the Deacons for:

Brock and Brady Meyer, sons of Les and Brenda, are both going to attend South Central Technical College in Mankato to pursue a degree in Agriculture. They enjoy doing snowboarding, wakeboarding, trap shooting and hunting with their dad.

Megan Meyer – daughter of Jeff and Deb, will be attending St. Scholastica in Duluth to pursue a degree in Physical Therapy. She participated in volleyball, basketball, softball, band, Jazz Band and a member of the National Honor Society and works part time.

Anthony Pomplun – son of Jeff and Sandra, will be attending South Dakota State University to pursue a major in History with a minor in Psychology. Anthony participated in plays, Knowledge Bowl, Speech and Show Choir and works part time.

Michael Schultz, son of Kristin and Denny, plans to attend South Dakota State University in pursuit of a degree in Landscape Architecture. SDSU is located in Brookings. School activities this school year included: National Honor Society, Concert Band, Jazz Band, Youth Service, Basketball (co-captain of team), Track (high jump and relays) and played on various AAU Basketball Teams.

Our prayers and good wishes go with all of you.

Thank You

Dear friends at Gaylord UCC, thank you for your thoughts, prayers, cards, and kind words through my two surgeries. Thank you for all the help you have given me with laundry, meals, dishes, rides, getting my mail, groceries, etc. Mere words cannot describe how much this has meant to me. Thank you again, May God bless you all. Jane Peterson

Dear Friends at Gaylord UCC:

Thank you for welcoming me in your worship on Sunday, April 19th. It was a pleasure to join with you in the ongoing celebration of Easter; to be in your lovely, light-filled sanctuary; to hear your very fine choir; and to share in prayer and reflection and fellowship with you both during and after the service. It was good to get a sense of your journey as a congregation.

I am truly grateful that some of you chose to give to United as part of your Sunday offering. Thank you for going that extra mile in support of our students and faculty and the ongoing work of the seminary. I hope that you will hold us in prayer over the coming year, and that we may do the same for you.

Many blessings, Kathleen Remund

Church Relations Coordinator, United Theological Seminary

Update from the Mission Board

The Mission Board would like to thank everyone for your generous donations to our From the Heart Offering. Some of our recent donations include:

Salvation Army	\$155.00
Food Shelf	\$608.95
Lenten Services, for scholarships	\$465.25
Coffee Hour, for scholarships	\$ 27.18
OGHS	\$147.00
Kids Against Hunger	\$ 10.00

120# of food was delivered to the Food Shelf.

From the Heart



The United Church of Christ
318 4th Street—P.O. Box 385
Gaylord, MN 55334
Return service requested



United Church of Christ
318 4th Street
P.O. Box 385
Gaylord, MN 55334-0385
507-237-2595 or 507-237-5846
Office—uccg@myclearwave.net
Pastor—uccgpstr@myclearwave.net

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 W. Purscell
Council President, Gail Estenson
Office Manager, Cindy Johnson

May Birthdays

04.....Lori Turbett
07.....Russ Messner
08..... Dick Estenson
08..... Sandra Pomplun
10..... Kathleen Thies
11.....Chip Wolverton
12.....Paula Troidahl
15.....Jaci Tourtellott
28.....Denise Tourtellott
30.....Kelsey Schultz