



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

*A Welcoming
Congregation*

Parish Paper

January 2010

Vol. 38, 1



On Sunday, January 24, our congregation will gather after worship to hold its annual meeting. On the agenda are the budget for 2010, the slate of nominees for offices, boards and committees, discuss and vote on the proposal for pastoral services, vote on the amendments to our constitution and by-laws **** (see below) **** and other issues which members may bring to the meeting.

Light refreshments will be served by council members.

During the meeting activities will be provided for the children.

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

Boards and committees are reminded to have their reports turned in to the church office by Wednesday, January 6.

****Notice to the Congregation regarding vote on amendments.**

Four years ago, at the 2006 Annual Meeting, the church amended its constitution and by-laws to provide that church boards, such as Diaconate, Trustees, Missions and Christian Education, would be elected every other year with half of the members up for election. This provision had a sunset clause to it which requires at the 2010 Annual Meeting, we either adopt these amendments permanently or the method of election reverts back to its former form. At this year's Annual Meeting the council will be recommending adoption of the amendments on a permanent basis. You are notified of this important decision to be made at the Annual Meeting and this matter will be up for a vote at that meeting.

Ushers: Diane and Darrel Mosel
Greeters: Jan and Dick Carlson
 1-3, 1-10
 Fran and Howard Armstrong
 1-17, 1-24, 1-31
Acolyte: Ethan Pomplun

Fellowship Hour:

January 3open
 January 10open
 January 17open
 January 24open
 January 31open

Readings for the Month of January

Jan. 3, 2010: Second Sunday after Christmas
 Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14, Ephesians 3:1-12
 Matthew 2:1-12. UCC Theme: Close to God's Heart.

Jan. 6, 2010: Epiphany
 Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14, Ephesians 3:1-12
 Matthew 2:1-12.

Jan. 10, 2010: The Baptism of Christ
 Isaiah 43:1-7, Psalm 29, Acts 8:14-17, Luke 3:15-17,
 21-22. UCC Theme: Affirmed by Love.

Jan. 17, 2010: Second Sunday after Epiphany
 Isaiah 62:1-5, Psalm 36:5-10, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11,
 John 2:1-11. UCC Theme: Extravagant Sign.

Jan. 24, 2010: Third Sunday after Epiphany
 Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10, Psalm 19, 1 Corinthians
 12:12-31a, Luke 4:14-21. UCC Theme: Good News,
 Good Ways.

Jan. 31, 2010: Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
 Jeremiah 1:4-10, Psalm 71:1-6, 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
 Luke 4:21-30. UCC Theme: Prophet on the Edge.

Pulpit Supply for January

January 03 - Rev. Guy Stone
 January 10 - Rev. Hank Campbell, New Ulm UCC
 January 17 - Rev. Penny Entringer
 January 24 - Rev. Penny Entringer
 January 31 - Rev. Penny Entringer

Be sure to worship with us on Sunday, January 10, when we will have Rev. Hank Campbell, pastor from New Ulm UCC, leading our worship service.

Remember in prayer: Barbara Max anticipating surgery on January 14 and Jesse Norman dealing with health issues. Our sympathy and prayers are with Meredith Johnson and her family, on the passing of Meredith's husband Roland, on Dec. 22. A memorial service was held on Sunday, Dec. 27.

Pray for Randy Pauly, Mark's brother; Brian Pfarr, son of Marian Pfarr Saxton; Tom Bartz, son-in-law to Sandy Wentzloff; Mandy Kroells, niece to Sandy; and Ben Huonder, grandson to Eunice and Alex Gasow along with others serving in our military services.

The Prayer Chain - Prayerfully supporting God's children who are in need of His comfort, love and strength, the Prayer Chain lifts to God specific requests, concerns and emergency situations as well as giving thanks and praise for blessings received. Prayer requests are kept confidential by prayer chain members. To find out how you can be part of the Prayer Chain ministry or to request prayer please contact one of the prayer chain captains or the church office.

Jan Carlson 237-2246
Barb Snelts 237-2208

Please call the Church Office...

- When you or a loved one are admitted to the hospital.
- When your group plans to hold a meeting, so it can be placed on the church calendar.
- When your phone number, address or email address change so that church records can be updated.

The deadline for articles and information for the February Newsletter is Wednesday, Jan. 20th.

A New Year Begins

2009 is gone, it is in the past, and now is history. Many of the happenings and events of the past year can now be considered “old news” or “old business” which can then be recorded behind the 2009 divider in the archives of the church. Many of these happenings and events could be filed under the subheading “transition” since many of the things we have done recently have been transitional in nature. Webster’s definition of the word transition is a shift, turn, development, transformation, realignment and change.

Many of the visionary words Webster used in his definition will become visible in the new year as we “shift” into gear and continue to “develop” and “realign” our goals and objectives to prepare and look forward to a new “transformation” within the church.

Let us “turn our eyes to God” and ask his presence as we prepare to usher in the new year.

Inviting Is Not Enough:

Growing the Church

Herb Miller, author of “Vital Congregations” and one of those semi-anonymous ‘church growth experts’ has written, “Encouraging church members to invite is not enough!” Growing the membership means motivating people to stay through:

- ◆ Quality worship;
- ◆ An appealing congregation;
- ◆ Caring and serving people outside our walls.

Quality Worship

“The first business of a church is to help people connect with God.” One of the most influential parts of worship is the music.

Inviting music is:

- ◆ Tuned into young adults - “Today’s young adults grew up with faster, more rhythmic music.”

- ◆ Feeling-oriented - Less formal, more spirited/spirit-led.
- ◆ Multigenerational - The slower paced “worship style that connects perfectly with the young adults who fought WWII and the Korean War” does not connect with three-fourths of the 21st century young adults; they go elsewhere or do not come at all. The goal, again, is to appeal across all musical boundary lines.

Appealing Congregational Character

An appealing congregation is built through:

- ◆ A spiritual focus on prayer.
- ◆ An atmosphere of love and caring.
- ◆ Skill in handling conflict—Growing churches do not evade or smother conflict, but handle conflict in positive ways: “they talk about differences openly, especially in governing boards and committee meetings.”

Extroverted Ministries

This means doing ministries that:

- ◆ Help hurting people. How? By avoiding the ‘sanctuary mentality’ - viewing the church as a place to which one withdraws. Instead, the goal is to “see the church as a base camp for ministry to a hurting community.”
- ◆ Spiritually transform peoples’ lives. “Many congregations shift their emphasis from making new disciples to serving present disciples.” Instead, believe and behave as if the church is for people who are not yet in it.

Think on and pray about how you can make these factors more fully a part of your congregation.

-excerpt “Vital Congregations”

On the threshold of a new year, it seems fitting to recall an Old Testament promise of God. It is this: 'Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold I am doing a new thing; ... I will make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.'

Isaiah 43:18-21

As we prepare for a new year and the upcoming annual meeting let us consider the definition of a church budget.

- ◆ It is the pastor preaching, visiting the sick and comforting the bereaved.
- ◆ It is the Sunday School teaching the Word of God to our children.
- ◆ It is the organ and piano playing, and the choir singing to the glory of God.
- ◆ It is the church building standing as a lighthouse in the midst of a dark world.
- ◆ It is missionaries sent to foreign lands to be the good news of Jesus Christ.
- ◆ It is schools, hospitals, children's homes, homes for the handicapped, ministering to those in need.

Most of all, perhaps the budget of the church is the total expression of our love for Christ, our compassion for humans, and our realization that God has suggested that we care.

Women's Groups



Women's Fellowship will meet at 7:00 p.m. on **Monday, January 11** to undecorate the church. Anyone interested in helping is welcome to come. Coffee will be served by Karen and Cindy when we are finished.

Priscilla Circle will not meet in January. Come join us for our regular meeting on February 21 at 2:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

Update from the Mission Board

On behalf of the retired UCC ministers and their spouses, to those of you who contributed to the Christmas Fund, we send you many thanks. We collected \$144.30, and more will be added, thanks to part of a generous check we received from Clara Merkel Hebeisen.

During November and December, 63 pounds of food were delivered to the Sibley County Food Shelf. It is also our responsibility to deliver Meals on Wheels in January.

Our congregation continues to be a very generous group of friends. Thank you for everything you do.

Meals on Wheels Schedule for January 2010

Jan. 4 - 8	Fran & Howard Armstrong
Jan. 11 - 15	Ewald Keller & Dick Estenson
Jan. 18 - 22	Harriet and Dayle Troidahl
Jan. 25 - 29	Joanne and Luther Kolstad

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

From The Heart offering schedule for 2010

Helping those in need

January 10	Salvation Army
February 7	Souper Bowl of Caring
March 14	Food Shelf
April 11	One Great Hour of Sharing
May 9	Strengthen the Church
June 13	Salvation Army
July 11	Food Shelf
August 8	Salvation Army
September 12	Food Shelf
October 10	Neighbors in Need
November 14	Salvation Army
December 12	Christmas Minister's Fund

Life Line Screening

Life Line Screening will be providing their affordable, non-invasive, painless health screenings for our community on January 28th at Gaylord United Church of Christ from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries, which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms, which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs, which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat, which is closely tied to stroke risk and osteoporosis screening.

Two lucky people from our congregation will be eligible to win a \$50 Screening Certificate to be used towards the Carotid Artery Screening. Drop your name into the box on the table in the Fellowship Hall.

The drawing will be held on Sunday, Jan. 24th.

Register for the Stroke, Vascular Disease and Heart Rhythm Package for \$149. The ultrasound screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. Add an osteoporosis screening for \$10 more and get all five tests for \$159.

Your health is in your hands, so call

1-800-324-1851 to pre-register.



Prayer, Love, Joy, Faith

My soul is so dry that by itself it cannot pray;
Yet you can squeeze from it the juice of a thousand prayers.

My soul is so parched that by itself it cannot love;
Yet you can draw from it boundless love for you and for my neighbor.

My soul is so cold that by itself it has no joy;
Yet you can light the fire of heavenly joy within me.

My soul is so feeble that by itself it has no faith;
Yet by your power my faith grows to a great height.
Thank you for prayer, for love, for joy, for faith.

Carthusian monk

Ash Wednesday

February 17, 2010, begins our Lenten Season. We will again be serving Lenten Suppers before services and would like to remind all individuals, boards, and committees to consider serving a supper. There will be a sign-up sheet on the counter by the kitchen. Serving will be from 5:00 p.m. until 6:15 p.m. with worship beginning at 6:30 p.m., choir practice will follow.

O Hatred, On Love

Martin Luther King Jr., born on January 15, 1929, will be remembered this year on January 18. Given the rancor rampant in today's world, it's fitting to recall King's words:

“Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life; love illumines it.”



Wisdom from a 3-year old!

The mother of a 3-year-old girl was teaching her daughter how to pray the Lord's Prayer. After a few nights of having the girl repeat the prayer after her, the mother asked the child if she would like to pray the prayer by herself. She did pretty well until just after she prayed, “and lead us not into temptation.” Instead of praying, “deliver us from evil,” she prayed, “deliver us from e-mail.”

When we see all the “spam” that comes into our e-mail boxes, who can deny the child's wisdom?



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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

Council President, Gail Estenson

Church Secretary, 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
 10.....Ruby Keller
 10.....Susan Tessmer
 11.....Bob Estenson
 13.....Dennis Mead
 15.....Liz Reishus
 15.....Fran Skarboe
 17.....Eric Thies
 22.....Sam Thies
 29.....Michael Schultz
 29.....Katie Turbett
 30.....Helen Van Brunt