



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

*A Welcoming  
Congregation*

# Parish Paper

February 2010      Vol. 38, 2

We are happy to announce that  
by unanimous vote, at the Annual Meeting  
held January 24, 2010,  
Gaylord UCC will enter into a cooperative ministry  
with New Ulm UCC.

Reverend Hank Campbell will begin preaching here on  
Sunday, February 14, 2010 at 11:00 a.m.

Ushers and Greeters –

Please plan to arrive at church between  
10:30 and 10:45 a.m. on your scheduled Sundays

Fellowship Hour – 9:45 to 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School – 10:00 to 10:45 a.m.

Your patience is appreciated as we determine  
if this schedule will work.

Please contact your Council Members  
if you have suggestions or concerns.

*Thank you.*

**Ushers:** Dale and Cindy Johnson  
Sylvia Turbett

**Greeters:** Ewald and Ruby Keller  
2-7, 2-14  
Kathy and Dale Tourtellott  
2-21, 2-28

**Acolyte:** Cole Bruhn

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**Fellowship Hour:**

February 7 ..... Karen and Jim Peterson  
February 14 ..... Tourtellott family  
February 21 ..... Jane Peterson and Aggie Schue  
February 28 ..... open



**Readings for the Month February**

**Feb. 7, 2010: Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

Isaiah 6:1-13, Psalm 138, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11,  
Luke 5:1-11. UCC Theme: Into the Deep.

**Feb. 14, 2010: Transfiguration Sunday**

Exodus 34:29-35, Psalm 99, 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2,  
Luke 9:28-36 (37-43). UCC Theme: Astounding Glory.

**Feb. 17, 2010: Ash Wednesday**

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, Psalm 51:1-17, 2 Corinthians 5:20b-  
6:10, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21.

**Feb. 21, 2010: First Sunday in Lent**

Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16, Romans  
10:8b-13, Luke 4:1-13. UCC Theme: Wilderness  
Companions.

**Feb., 28, 2010: Second Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18, Psalm 27, Philippians 3:17-4:1  
Luke 13:31-35. UCC Theme: Strong and Tender.

**Remember in prayer:** Barbara Max recovering from  
surgery.

Continue to pray for those who have lost a loved one,  
others who have been ill or are home bound.

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 - Reaching Out.....Lifting Up**

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 Sneltjes 237-2208

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**Equal Opportunity**

When young Kelli said her prayers each night, she  
would bless every family member, every friend and  
every pet (current or past). Toward the end of her  
prayers, she'd say, "And all girls."

One night her father asked his daughter why she always  
ended that way.

"Because," she replied, "everybody else always finishes  
their prayers by saying, 'All men.'"

**The role of faith**

"Fear imprisons, faith liberates;  
fear paralyzes, faith empowers;  
fear disheartens, faith encourages;  
fear sickens, faith heals;  
fear makes useless, faith makes serviceable —  
and, most of all,  
fear puts hopelessness at the heart of life,  
while faith rejoices in its God."

—Harry Emerson Fosdick



# God Comes to Make All Things New

**With God, we gain a new beginning, a new family, a new purpose, and a new power.**

## A New Beginning

One of the reasons people celebrate the beginning of a new year is because it promises a clean slate. That's why we make New Year's resolutions, out of our desire to start over. Sadly, though, most of the resolutions we make on January 1st are long abandoned by the middle of February.

But God promises that "if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17). That is, when we trust in Christ, God gives us a permanent fresh start, an everlasting new beginning, regardless of what we've done or who we've been. Our deep desire to "begin again" is satisfied once and for all because of what Christ has done for us on the cross.

## A New Family

"You are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household," Paul said. In other words, when God adopts us, we not only gain a Father, we gain a whole new family: the Church. The biblical word for "church" does not mean a building or institution, it means "the called out ones." It refers to those whom God calls out of slavery and into sonship. The Church, in other words, is people: people adopted by God, people who know God as their heavenly Father. When God saves sinners he saves them into a whole new community — the "family of God." As Frank Colquhoun wrote in his book *Total Christianity*, "When Christ saves a man he not only saves him from his sin, he saves him from his solitude." He brings us into meaningful fellowship with others who will help us along the way in our relationship with God.

## A New Purpose

Paul wrote, "Whether we eat or drink or whatever we do, we do it all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31). With God, we no longer have to settle for manufacturing our own fleeting legacies. He gives us a new reason to live—to glorify him. We live, in other words, for something huge and significant — to display God, to spread his fame, and to build his everlasting Kingdom. We become part of an infinitely larger story than our own personal history. We no longer have to work for our own puny causes, but for

God's universal cause. Paul said, "We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:10).

In his book *Orthodoxy*, G. K. Chesterton wrote, "How much larger your life would be if your self could become smaller in it." Nothing makes you more aware of your smallness and life's potential bigness than being in relationship with the Living God. God promises a big purposeful life to everyone who knows him.

## A New Power

When God enters into an everlasting relationship with us, he not only promises to pardon us for the past, he promises us a new power for the present. Just before Jesus ascended back into heaven after his resurrection, he told his disciples, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you" (Acts 1:8).

Most of us know we're imperfect and need to change. Most of us want to live better lives. But no matter how hard we try, we can't. We don't have the power to change.

But God does. In *The Contemporary Christian*, John Stott writes, "Is God really able to change human nature ... to make cruel people kind, selfish people unselfish, immoral people self-controlled, and sour people sweet? Is he able to take people who are dead to spiritual reality, and make them alive in Christ? Yes, he really is!" And when God's Holy Spirit enters us, we receive all the power we need to become the people God always intended for us to be. The Bible makes it clear that in Christ, God provides us with everything we need for godliness.

New, unimaginable changes await all God's children because God promises a new, unimaginable power.

Because God has given us a new beginning, a new family, a new purpose, and a new power, let us celebrate true newness. And in doing so we will point a watching world to the only One who can "make all things new."

From: Crosswalk – The Intersection of Faith and Life

## Women's Groups



**Women's Fellowship** will meet at 12:00 p.m. on **Monday, February 8.**

Bring a sack lunch and join us.

**Priscilla Circle** will meet on Thursday, February 18 at 2:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

Liz Kuphal will be serve the lunch.

## **Boy Scout Sunday, February 7, 2010**

### **100th Anniversary of the Boy Scout movement.**

Lord Robert Baden-Powell (1857-1941) was a lieutenant-general in the British Army who loved hiking and camping in the wilderness. He wrote a small handbook for soldiers called Aids to Scouting. It became so popular among teachers and youth leaders that he rewrote it with young people in mind. Scouting for Boys was immediately a best seller and led to the establishment of many Boy Scout groups in England.

Soon afterward, scouting groups began popping up across America. Churches were so supportive of the movement's values that many churches sponsored Scout troops — and still do.

The official beginning of Scouting in America was February 8, 1910. Each year, many churches recognize their Scouts on the Sunday before February 8.

The leaders of Boy Scouts of America have designated September 1, 2009, through December 31, 2010 as "A Year of Celebration." The year's highlight will be Jamboree 2010 (July 26–August 4, 2010), which promises to be the largest celebration of Scouting in America. More than 43,000 scouts and leaders are expected to attend the event at Fort A.P. Hill, a 76,000-acre camp outside Washington, D.C.

## **Update from the Mission Board**

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

Salvation Army - Jan. 10	\$217.00
Special Haiti offering so far	\$256.50



On Sunday February 7<sup>th</sup>, 140 million Americans will tune in to the Super Bowl football game. There will be parties with abundant food, friendship and fellowship. At the same time, there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and a warm meal. Please join others around the country as they demonstrate God's love by loving their neighbors through the **Souper Bowl of Caring**. It's a simple, yet significant act of caring for others.

**We encourage you to bring your loose change and drop your donation in the soup pot as the youth collect our next From The Heart Offering on February 7th. Help us "make a joyful noise unto the Lord"!**

Those who need help may not know that you care, but God will. And our young people are developing hearts for giving that can last a lifetime. Please support their efforts. **100% of your donation will go to the local Sibley County Food Shelf. Thank You.**

### **Relief for Victims of the**



### **Earthquake in Haiti**

Contributions can be sent directly to the Conference Office: Minnesota Conference UCC  
122 W Franklin Avenue #323  
Minneapolis, MN 55404

Make checks payable to "Wider Church Ministries" mark in the memo line: "Haiti." **As always, gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing for specific emergencies go 100% to that effort. You can also make out your check to Gaylord UCC/memo Haiti and we will see that the money gets to the Conference Office.**

## Lenten Gatherings at Gaylord UCC

"By His Stripes: Healing Wounded Relationships" a series of special services will be offered on Wednesdays during Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday, February 17 and continue through Wednesday, March 24. Each weekly worship message will address a vital relationship issue which relates to the biblical journey of Jesus to the cross. These 6 weekly issues are: Escalation, Invalidation, Negative Interpretation, Withdrawal, Unrealistic Expectations and Forgiveness/Absolution. There are also weekly "Take Home Exercises" for practical application.

May this unique Lenten journey renew our faith and our gratitude in the everlasting promises of God's restoring love.

We will gather together on Wednesdays for supper, fellowship and worship.

Our schedule is:

**5:00 - 6:15 p.m.      Supper**

**6:30 p.m.              Worship**

**Choir and clean-up follow**

### **The theme of this years Men's Lenten Breakfasts will be "The Sign of Jonah."**

**The schedule is: Thursday's at 7:00 a.m.**

Thurs., Feb. 18 - "God is calling" (Jonah 1:1-3) at Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Thurs., Feb. 25 - "Saved in the storm" (Jonah 1:4-16) at Assembly of God Church.

Thurs., March 4 - "Our providing God" (Jonah 1:17) at St. Michael's Catholic Church.

Thurs., March 11 - "Praying in the belly of the great big fish" (Jonah 2:1-10) at St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Thurs., March 18 - "The God of the second chance" (Jonah 3:1-4) at United Church of Christ.

Thurs., March 25 - "About face" (Jonah 3:5-10) at American Lutheran Church.

## FROM YOUR OUTGOING COUNCIL CHAIR & INCOMING VICE CHAIR

The past year was filled with high expectations, heart-felt emotions, hard work and, hopefully, some healing. Even though we faced the unimagined, we have been able to remain steadfast in our hope for a brighter future and our faith in God's vision for our congregation. We have much to look forward to, with the anticipation of Pastor Hank Campbell serving us beginning Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. There will be some changes to adjust to with worship at 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour and Sunday School will be held before worship, so we'll begin fellowship at 9:45 and Sunday School at 10:00, both to end at 10:45. Hopefully, these changes will turn out to be something we enjoy as we embrace the shared ministry with New Ulm United Church of Christ. Your Church Council would like to hear feedback from you in order to make adjustments as necessary and if possible. I have appreciated your support through the past year, through your expressions of encouragement and confidence in my abilities. I don't believe I've ever felt less adequate, yet I gained courage and strength through your caring words and gestures. And now, at the end of my term, I look back and know it was because of your support and our Lord's guidance that we are able to see a brighter future ahead. I know Darrel will be able to count on the same from our church family during 2010.

Even though I've passed the gavel to Darrel, I will continue to serve on the Council as Vice President and submit the monthly updates regarding our meetings and progress. It's something I enjoy and can, perhaps, share from a different perspective than last year. Finally, please continue to pray for our church, our Council and all members and friends, as well as our new pastor, Hank Campbell, and our brothers and sisters in Christ at New Ulm UCC. As we move forward with a shared ministry, let us keep our minds and hearts open, listening for God's direction and sharing His love with everyone we encounter.

*Gail Estenson*, Council Past President



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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, Darrel Mosel

Church Secretary, Cindy Johnson

## February Birthdays

01..... Brian Turbett  
02..... Agnes Schue  
08..... Tia Johnson  
11..... Ruth Klimmek  
17..... Candy Swenson  
23..... Joyce Hamman  
23..... Harriet Troidahl  
24..... Doris Wilson  
26..... Gloria Sinell