



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

*A Welcoming  
Congregation*

# Parish Paper

January 2011

Vol. 39, 1



On Sunday, January 23, our congregation will gather after worship to hold its Annual Meeting. On the agenda are the budget for 2011, the slate of nominees for offices, boards and committees, and other issues which members may bring to the meeting.

A light brunch will be served by council members beginning at 9:45 a.m. followed by a shortened Worship Service and then our meeting.

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 5.**



**Reminder:**  
*Change in  
Worship  
Time!*

**Beginning  
Sunday, January 2, 2011**

**WORSHIP time in Gaylord begins at 11:00 a.m.**

**Fellowship Hour at 9:45 a.m.**

**Sunday School will begin at 10:00 a.m.**

**Ushers:** Albert Meyer, Allan Meyer  
Diane and Darrel Mosel  
**Greeters:** Howard and Fran Armstrong  
1-2, 1-9, 1-16  
Mark Pauly and Dylan Pauly  
1-23, 1-30  
**Acolyte:** Ethan Pomplun

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**Fellowship Hour:**

January 2 ..... Sneltsjes and Johnson  
January 9 ..... open  
January 16 ..... open  
January 23 ..... Annual Meeting - Council  
January 30 ..... open

**Lectionary Readings for January**

**Jan. 2, 2011: Second Sunday after Christmas**  
Jer. 31:7-14, Psalm 147:12-20, Ephesians 1:3-14,  
John 1:(1-9), 10-18. UCC Theme: Epiphany  
Celebration.

**Jan. 9, 2011: Baptism of Christ**  
Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 29, Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3:13-  
17. UCC Theme: Possibilities Unfolding.

**Jan. 16, 2011: Second Sunday after Epiphany**  
Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 40:1-11, 1 Cor. 1:1-9, John 1:29-  
42. UCC Theme: All That We Are.

**Jan. 23, 2011: Third Sunday after Epiphany**  
Isaiah 9:1-4, Psalm 27:1,4-9, 1 Corinthians 1:10-18,  
Matthew 4:12-23. UCC Theme: Called Together.

**Jan. 30, 2011: Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**  
Micah 6:1-8, Psalm 15, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, Matthew  
5:1-12. UCC Theme: The Vision Beautiful

**Remembered in prayer last month:**

Clayton Johnson, Luther Kolstad, Meredith Johnson,  
Jill Schlichting and Ethel Plaman. Continue to pray for  
those serving in the military, those who have lost a  
loved one, have been ill or are home bound.

**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 Jan Carlson (237-2424) or Barb  
Sneltsjes (237-2208) or the church office.

**Reception of New Members**

On Sunday, January 9 during our regular worship  
service, we will be welcoming several new members  
into our church family. If you are interested in  
becoming a member at Gaylord United Church of Christ  
please contact the church office or Pastor Hank.

**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. 19th.**

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**Missing Pronouns**

You cannot pray the Lord's Prayer and even once  
say I.  
You cannot pray the Lord's Prayer and even once  
say My.  
Nor can you pray the Lord's Prayer and not pray  
for one another,  
To ask God for "our" daily bread, you must include  
your brother.  
For others are included ... in each and every plea,  
From the beginning to the end of it,  
it does not once say Me.

## From the Pastor

The days of Christmastide in the church year include the lesser known accounts of the early days of the Holy Family -- "The Presentation in the Temple" (Luke 2: 21-40) and the "Flight Into Egypt" (Matthew 2: 13-15). These biblical accounts have special meaning in terms of the holy uniqueness of the Christ-child for God's people in the first century but also for us today. Epiphany (based on Matthew 2:1-12) "The Light to the Gentiles revealed to the Magi" is observed on January 6. A copy of "A Thrill of Hope, Art and Reflections" on these scriptural events is on the table in the Fellowship Hall for your perusal.

The turning of a New Year of course brings with it such wonderful themes as renewal and redemption, hope and beginning anew. We make resolutions as part of our on-going need for transformation. Here are special words from a Maya Angelou poem, "On the Pulse of the Morning" to inspire us into a new year and a new day!

*On the Pulse of the Morning: "Lift up your hearts. Each new hour holds new chances for a new beginning. Do not be wedded forever to fear, yoked eternally to brutishness ... Here on the pulse of this new day, You may have the grace to look up and out and into your sister's eyes, and into your brother's face, your country, and say simply, very simply, with hope—Good morning."*

*Happy New Year ♪ Happy New Year ♪ Happy New Year*

Thanks to everyone who helped make our Advent and Christmas season a special time of God's blessing!

Thanks to: our Children and Youth who shared in the Hanging of the Greens Service and Children's Christmas Program; those who hosted the women's Creative Christmas gathering; those who brought the beautiful tree into our sanctuary; those who provided wonderful music during the services; those who helped with gifts for people with special needs and those who helped in any other way. Thank You!

### **Thinking at all about Summer during January?**

Well..... Pilgrim Point Camp has been a key part of Outdoor Ministry in the Minnesota Conference for half a century. This year there is new programming for local churches who may wish to spend a week-end at the Point. If you are interested in an Inter-generational Gaylord UCC and New Ulm UCC weekend (and maybe with a couple of other churches) please refer to the Sign-Up Sheet in the Fellowship Hall (ASAP) as we are looking at a couple of possible dates in July. There would be a cost for food/lodging (we will try to get some figures out ASAP). The Pilgrim Point Camp staff will provide our programming. We'll keep you updated.

Applications for Ashley Fund Grants for Youth programming are now available. If you have an interest or idea please talk to someone from the Board of Christian Education soon. There is a limited time frame for submission.

### ***Blessings in 2011,***

Pastor Hank's usual office hours or visiting hours during the week are typically Wednesdays from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Thursdays from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Friday afternoons as needed. He is tentatively scheduled to be gone January 28—February 2 for Continuing Education. If you are in need of emergency Pastoral Care please contact Gail Estenson.

You can reach Pastor Hank by calling the church office 237-2595 or his cell 507-217-9848.

**No matter who you are or where you are in life's journey, you are welcome here!**



## Women's Fellowship News

Women's Fellowship sponsored a new event this December. CREATIVE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION was suggested and organized by Candy Swenson. We were invited to host a table, decorate it and prepare and serve something to our invited guests. The response was very positive from hostesses and guests alike.

We were fortunate to have music provided by Kaitlyn Reid, Marissa Eckberg and McKenzie Eckberg. The three young women played piano, violin and sang for us throughout our Creative Christmas Celebration.

Author, Margie Nelsen, and illustrator, Karen Annexstad joined us to share their new Christmas book "Snuggie and the Christmas Stockings" which could be purchased with individualized greeting and autograph. Jane Peterson read the Christmas Story from Scripture and Liz Reishus and Gail Estenson provided a dialog between Martha and Mary about the virtues of hard work and attentiveness. Barb Sneltsjes gave the table prayer and the hostesses served their guests a wonderful array of delectable treats.

We thank everyone who participated and attended. And we especially thank Candy Swenson for suggesting, organizing and encouraging all of us. We are fortunate to have our own "Martha Stewart" right here at Gaylord United Church of Christ. We are also blessed with many creative hostesses who willingly shared their time and talents for this event. And our appreciative guests made the Creative Christmas Celebration a huge success.

Women's Fellowship will meet at 6:30 p.m. on **Monday, January 10** to undecorate the church. Anyone interested in helping is welcome to come. Coffee will be served by Gail Estenson when we are finished.

Priscilla Circle will not meet in January. Come join us for our regular meeting on February 17 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 \$263.00, thanks in part to a generous donation we received from Clara Merkel Hebeisen.

Our next collection will be on January 9<sup>th</sup> and will be for the Sibley County Salvation Army.

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

### Meals on Wheels Schedule for January 2011

Jan. 3 - 7	Dick Estenson and Ewald Keller
Jan. 10 - 14	Barb and Arlen Sneltsjes
Jan. 17 - 21	Dayle and Harriet Troidahl
Jan. 24 - 28	Aggie and Peter Schue
Jan. 31	Eunice Gasow and Kathy Tourtellott

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

### From The Heart offering schedule for 2011

#### Helping those in need

Our tentative schedule for From the Heart offerings for 2011 is as follows:

January 9	Salvation Army
February 6	Souper Bowl of Caring (Food Shelf)
March 13	Sibley Co. Food Shelf – matching funds this month
April 10	One Great Hour of Sharing
May 8	Strengthen the Church
June 12	Salvation Army
July 10	Gaylord UCC scholarship fund
August 14	Sibley Co. Food Shelf
September 11	Open – (Habitat for Humanity?)
October 9	Neighbors in Need
November 13	Sibley Co. Food Shelf
December 11	Christmas Fund

From the Heart



## ***“Do It Anyway”***

People are often unreasonable,  
illogical and self centered;  
Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of  
selfish, ulterior motives;  
Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some  
false friends and some true enemies;  
Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may  
cheat you;  
Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone  
could destroy overnight;  
Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness,  
they may be jealous;  
Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often  
forget tomorrow;  
Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it  
may never be enough;  
Give the world the best you've got  
anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you  
and your God;  
It was never between you and them anyway.



## Letter from Pilgrim Point

Dear Friends and Supporters of Pilgrim Point,

We had the opportunity this year to seek guidance, gather feedback, and start the process of re-inventing and re-invigorating a place, a program, an experience, that has been such an important part of our fellow congregants' lives and those of their family members.

Pilgrim Point has always been a sacred place and we are reminded of that as we drive down the lane that separates us from our busy lives in the outside world to this very special place. We have recently been challenged and humbled with the realization that we have not been the best stewards of this space.

Our response has been to create a new vision and operating model. We began with identifying the essence of the Pilgrim Point experience, learning that it is much more than just a beautiful setting on the lake with quaint, well-worn buildings. It is much more than just a gathering spot for children, adults and families to come every summer and have fun. The Pilgrim Point experience is about creating rich memories, strong relationships and loyal allegiances among those who have been blessed to participate.

Our vision is to create what we have come to term, "The Pilgrim Point Way."

Our plans to re-invigorate Pilgrim Point are summarized in our goals for 2011:

- ◆ To have a hospitable, professional and welcoming staff that hosts the Pilgrim Point experience through active leadership and programming support;
- ◆ To have inspiring conference-sponsored programs that draw significantly greater participation from our youth and adults;
- ◆ Have an emphasis on congregation-focused inter-generational camps and retreats;
- ◆ Have greater ownership by our congregations in the improvement and enhancement of the property.

It is with deep gratitude for your past contributions that we ask for your continued trust and support so that we may continue down this path of renewal and ensure that Pilgrim Point will remain an opportunity

for future generations to understand and know "The Pilgrim Point Way."

Please consider helping us through your prayers, financial support of the camp and participation in our programs. To become a "Supporter of Pilgrim Point Camps and Retreats" visit our website at [pilgrim-point.org](http://pilgrim-point.org) which will give you multiple giving options. Thank You for your support.



Our Church Council is looking into the possibility of have a weekend retreat this summer at Pilgrim Point Camp, possibly joined with New Ulm UCC.

Watch for more information in the coming months.



### Mark your calendar for some tentatively scheduled Camps & Retreats:

Middle School Week: July 10 – 16, 2011

Senior High Week: July 31 – August 6, 2011

Men's Retreat: September 9 – 11, 2011 **NEW**

Women's Retreat: September 16 – 18, 2011

Watch for more information next month.



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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.

Coffee-Fellowship Hour 9:45 a.m.  
Sunday School—10:00 a.m. Sept.—May  
Sunday Worship—11:00 a.m.  
Communion is the 1st Sunday of the month  
Pastor - Rev. Hank Campbell  
Council President - Darrel Mosel  
Church Secretary - Cindy Johnson

### January Birthdays

01..... Eunice Gasow  
01..... Megan Meyer  
02..... Liz Kuphal  
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