



*February*

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

*A Welcoming  
Congregation*

# Parish Paper

February 2011

Vol. 39, 2

*Be My*  *Valentine*

*Come Enjoy Great Piano Music*

*by*

*Sandy Wentzloff*

*Sunday, February 13 - 2:30 p.m.*

*at*

*Gaylord United Church of Christ*

*Fellowship and Refreshments following.*

*Bring your sweetheart, family and friends.*

*All are Welcome!*



**Ushers:** Dale and Cindy Johnson

Sylvia Turbett

**Greeters:** Ewald and Ruby Keller

2-6, 2-13

Kathy and Dale Tourtellott

2-20, 2-27

**Acolyte:** Cole Bruhn

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**Fellowship Hour:**

February 6 ..... Pauline and Chuck

February 13 ..... Jan and Mike Walsh

February 20 ..... Camp Sunday

February 27 ..... open

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**Lectionary Readings for February**

**Feb. 6, 2011: Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

Isaiah 58:1-9a, Psalm 112:1-9, 1 Corinthians 2:1-12, Matthew 5:13-20. UCC Theme: Restoring Beauty.

**Feb. 13, 2011: Sixth Sunday after Epiphany**

Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Psalm 119:1-8, 1 Corinthians 3:1-9, Matthew 5:21-37. UCC Theme: From the Heart.

**Feb. 20, 2011: Seventh Sunday after Epiphany**

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18, Psalm 119:33-40, 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23, Matthew 5:38-48. UCC Theme: Expanding Boundaries.

**Feb., 27, 2011: Eighth Sunday after Epiphany**

Isaiah 49:8-16a, Psalm 131, 1 Corinthians 4:1-5, Matthew 6:24-34. UCC Theme: Putting Love First.

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**Remembered in prayer last month:**

Joanne Kolstad and her family on the passing of her husband Luther on Jan. 14, the family of Ethel Plaman who passed away Jan. 15, Jesse Norman, Ethel Thomas, Gordon Gladden, victims of the tragic shooting in Tucson Arizona the “Week of Prayer for Christian Unity” January 18 – 25 and Martin Luther King Jr. National Observance - January 17.

Continue to pray for those serving in the military, those who have been ill or are home bound.

**Prayer Chain - Reaching Out.....Lifting Up**

**Call:** Jan Carlson at 237-2246 or  
Barb Sneltsjes at 237-2208

**Seminary Intern**

At our Annual meeting I presented the possibility of our church hosting a United Theological Seminary Seminarian for their required ministry experience in a local church. UTS periodically seeks local churches and pastors for participation in the program. I mentioned to UTS that Gaylord UCC might be interested in a seminarian desiring a Hispanic Ministry focus, and lo and behold there is a student who has requested this kind of setting. I will be meeting with her at UTS this month to see if it might be a fit. The cost to the Congregation for the Sept. to May, 9-month commitment, is \$2,000 plus mileage expense. This could be an exciting possibility for our Hispanic ministry outreach emphasis.

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**Upside Down**

“...love your enemies.” Matthew 5:38 - 48.

If you were to ask me who I am, I’d tell you that I’m a follower of Jesus. But I have to admit, at times following Him is a real challenge. He tells me to do things like rejoice when I’m persecuted (Matt. 5:11-12); to turn the other cheek (vv.38-39); to give to someone who wants to take from me (vv.40-42); to love my enemies, bless those who curse me, and do good to those who hate me (vv.43-44). This kind of lifestyle seems very upside down to me.

But I’ve come to realize that He’s not upside down—I am. We have all been born fallen and broken. Being twisted by sin, our first instincts are often wrong, which inevitably leaves a big mess.

We’re like toast slathered with jelly that has fallen upside down on the kitchen floor. Left to ourselves, we can make a pretty big mess of things. Then Jesus comes along, like a divine spatula, scrapes us off the floor of our sinful ways, and turns us right side up. And as we follow His right-side-up ways, we discover that turning the other cheek keeps us from getting caught in a brawl, that it is more blessed to give than to receive, and that dying to self is life at its best.

After all, His ways are not our ways (Isa. 55:8), and I’ve come to realize that His ways are always best!

*Our Daily Bread*



## FROM THE PASTOR

“What’s Next, God?” was the intriguing title of a Lenten devotional that recently came my way. In our own personal lives or in the life of the world, we may sometimes find ourselves asking that question. Whatever comes next, people of faith are able to journey forward with meaning and purpose by the grace of God. Remember Abraham who was called to a faith journey which meant saying goodbye to all his familiar surroundings, friends, and home which he had been blessed with, when he heard God tell him to go to “a land that I will show you.” Or what about Jonah who was called to speak the Word to the rebellious folk in mighty Nineveh, and on the way was thrown off a ship and got swallowed up by a big fish, aka whale. It’s “20 something” below zero with piles of snow – what’s next for this Minnesota winter? Even in the dead of winter when the cold, hard ice and snow covers much of our landscape, our God of living waters is ever alive below the surface providing nourishment and energy to the multitude of creatures of lakes and rivers which have adapted to some extent with this change of season. Even now we trust that God’s steadfast presence will bring a newfound season of warmth and new birth for body and soul.

In our Church Life, we are in a more lengthy in-between time of Epiphany before Lent begins on March 7<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday. Easter 2011 is April 24<sup>th</sup>.

The next newsletter will highlight Lenten happenings. But as we shared at Annual Meeting, there are some exciting new possibilities flowing into our church’s life together. “Extra, extra, read all about it!”

On Visiting. I am still in the process of trying to make a pastoral contact with all of our UCC Gaylord members/friends. Most of the folks I have contacted have been able to meet. If you have not been able to meet in the past, please let me know when a pastoral visit will work for you. If a visit is not necessary for you that is fine as well. I still have yet to make pastoral visits to the 2010 Church Council members. Hopefully by the end of 2011.

- ◆ Thanks to Council President, Darrel Mosel and the Church Council for their dedication and work this past year.
- ◆ Thanks for the kind thoughts and gifts from various members during Christmas and especially to the whole Gaylord UCC church family for the year-end gift.

And again, your kindness and welcome this past year has truly been a gift in my ministry!

*Blessing to all,*

*Pastor Hank*

**Note** - Tentative **March Council** meeting date will be March 23 (due to Ash Wednesday Service on March 9). **February Council** meeting will be Feb. 9 at 7:15 p.m. Church Boards are encouraged to select their Council Representative and Board Chair before the February meeting.

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 Groups



**Women's Fellowship** will meet at 12:00 p.m. on **Monday, February 14**. Bring a sack lunch and join us.

**Priscilla Circle** will meet on Thursday, February 17 at 2:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

Liz Kuphal will be serve the lunch.

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## **Boy Scout Sunday, February 6, 2011**

The Boy Scouts of America is the nation's foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training. In the future, Scouting will continue to: Offer young people responsible fun and adventure; Instill in young people lifetime values and develop in them ethical character as expressed in the Scout Oath and Law; Train young people in citizenship, service, and leadership; Serve America's communities and families with its quality, values-based program.

**Thank you to everyone who currently or over the years, has in some way contributed to the lives of boys and young men in our area through leadership, volunteerism and through your financial support.**

### **Scout Oath (or Promise)**

On my honor I will do my best  
To do my duty to God and my country  
and to obey the Scout Law;  
To help other people at all times;  
To keep myself physically strong,  
mentally awake, and morally straight.

### **Scout Law**

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.



**BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®**

## **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. 9                      \$166.75



On Sunday February 6<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 young people 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. Drop your donation in the soup pot as it goes around. 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  
Sibley County Food Shelf.**



**Thank You to everyone who has given so  
generously to the various  
Conference Offerings  
collected in 2010.**



**Our Church is  
5 for 5!**





We are inviting everyone to attend a work weekend in May or a camping weekend July 22-24 at Pilgrim Point this summer. Camp will provide activities, vespers, meals & hospitality, and you will still have plenty of time for relaxing, playing at the beach or ball field and creating your own experiences.

Work weekends are also being planned in May to get the camp ready for the summer.

**Join us on Camp Sunday, February 20, and sign up to attend a Camp!**

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

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## Lent

The Lenten Season begins on Ash Wednesday, March 9 and with that comes the Lenten Suppers and Wednesday evening Worship Services. Boards and Committees are invited to sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall to serve one of the suppers. Proceeds from the suppers are used to support our Pilgrim Point Camping ministry. The Camp Committee thanks you.

Lenten Evening Worship Services will include some short dramatic skit/reading parts. If you can help out please contact Pastor Hank.

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## New Member Welcome

On Sunday, January 9 we were happy to welcome into our church membership, Sara and Wade Evers and their son Alex; and Jan and Mike Walsh. Our blessings and prayers are with you as you continue on your faith journey with us.

If you are interested in joining our church, a New Member Sunday is being planned for this spring. Contact Pastor Hank if you are interested.

## New in the Library

### **“Lessons of the Heart, Celebrating the Rhythms of Life”** by Patrice Livingston

One of the key lessons the author has learned from life is the question: What have I learned from life? What can I learn from this experience? In her book she tells the reader many of her experiences and what "the Lesson" was. Surprise -- I found myself stepping back from my everyday experiences and saying, "Now what can I learn from this?" (Donated by Pastor Hank)

### **“The Comforting Whirlwind: God, Job, and the Scale of Creation”** by Bill McKibben

Journalist/environmentalist McKibben challenges current thinking about the environmental crisis in the West, a provocative reading of the book of Job. (Donated by Pastor Hank)

### **“Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places: A Conversation in Spiritual Theology”** by Eugene H. Peterson

Peterson begins his "work" defining spiritual theology. Spiritual theology, a common enough term simply stated, is a theology of the spiritual life--what the Bible teaches about how we love God and love others (Matthew 22:35-40). As Peterson puts it, "The single most important thing to understand in spiritual theology is that it is not about theology ... it is a cultivated disposition to live theology." (Donated by Pastor Hank)

### **“90 Minutes in Heaven: A True Story of Death & Life”** by Don Piper

Don Piper tells the story of his devastating car accident, his brief time in heaven and his return to a life full of pain and questions. Recommend for anybody with questions about faith, questions about prayer, questions about life and death and pain which we all face to some extent. (Large Print – Donated by Barb and Arlen Sneltsjes)

### **“The Christmas Journey”** by Donna VanLiere

A beautifully illustrated modern retelling of the Nativity story. (Donated by Gloria Sinell)

### **“Snuggie and the Christmas Stockings”** by Margie Nelsen. (Donated by the Author)



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This newsletter is a monthly publication of the  
United Church of Christ, Gaylord.

Articles and announcements are due the third  
Wednesday of the month.

Sunday Worship—11:00 a.m.

Communion is the 1st Sunday of the month.

Coffee-Fellowship Hour 9:45—10:45 a.m.

Sunday School—10:00 a.m. Sept.—May

Pastor - Rev. Hank Campbell

Council President - Gail Estenson

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  
26..... Gloria Sinell