



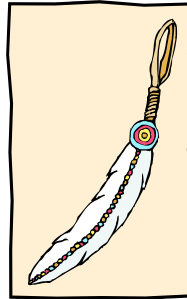
*Keeping in  
touch with the  
heart of the  
faith community  
of  
Gaylord  
United  
Church  
of  
Christ*

*A Welcoming  
Congregation*

# Parish Paper

October 2012

Vol. 40, 10



**Special Community Event at  
Gaylord UCC  
On Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>  
at 6:30 p.m.**

**Dr. Colette Hyman will be  
speaking on the  
“150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year of the  
US – Dakota War.”  
Refreshments will be served  
following the presentation.  
*All are Welcome.***

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**SCOTT SPARLIN**  
will be sharing his message on  
“Stewardship of Creation”  
and providing special music  
on Sunday, October 21st  
during our 9:00 a.m.  
Worship Service at  
Gaylord UCC.



Election Day  
Chili & Sandwich  
Fundraiser

**Election Day Tuesday,  
November 6, 2012**

**Women’s Fellowship  
invites the people  
of Gaylord UCC  
to share in the life of the Con-  
gregation as they develop plans  
for their Election Day  
Chili and Sandwich Lunch.**

**We hope that everyone is able to  
help in some way with the set up,  
cooking and baking, serving  
lunch, cleanup or can make a  
donation for our  
Election Day Event.**

**Please sign up on the sheet in the  
Fellowship Hall.  
*Thank You.***

**Ushers:** Mark Pauly, Dylan Pauly  
Don Swenson

**Greeters:** Marion Saxton, Ruby Keller  
10-7, 10-14  
Jane Peterson, Sylvia Turbett  
10-21, 10-28

**Acolyte:** Ethan Pomplun

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**Fellowship Hour:**

October 7.....open  
October 14.....open  
October 21.....open  
October 28..... Bonnie and Rueben Meyer

**Lectionary Readings for the Month of October**

**Oct. 7, 2012:** Job 1:1; 2:-1,10; Ps 26, Heb 1:1-4; Mark 10:2-16. UCC Theme: Enfolding Love.

**Oct. 14, 2012:** Job 23:1-9; Ps 22:1-15; Heb. 4:12-16, Mark 10:17-31. UCC Theme: What Must I Do?

**Oct. 21, 2012:** Job 38:1-7; 1 Ps 104:1-9; Heb 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45. UCC Theme: Great Service.

**Oct. 28, 2012:** Job 42:1-6, Ps 34:1-8; 1 Heb 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52. UCC Theme: Take Heart.

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**PRAYER CONCERNS**

**Among those who were lifted up in prayer this past month:** Pat Pinske, Nancy Cowell, Joanne Kolstad, American Indian Ministries and our UCC Visioning process.

**Pray for:** Brit Keithahn, Alex Thoele, Mark Thoele, May and Raymond Ysasaga, Tom Bartz (son-in-law to Sandy Wentzloff), Lee Dzubella (nephew to Pauline Marlinski), Daniel Britt and others in the military.

**Hi, My name is Alexander Thomas Bartz** and I was born on Aug 2nd 2011 and adopted by my new mommy and daddy Tom and Kari Bartz on Aug 26, 2012. My lucky grandparents are Gary and Sandy Wentzloff. We are so lucky and happy to have each other. Please make sure to say HI anytime you see me, I'd love to meet you all.

**Congratulations to Karen and Jim Peterson** on the birth of a Great Granddaughter. Emma Marie was born on Sept. 20th to Jeff and Erica (Peterson) Schumacher.

**Please call the Church Office...**

- ◆ **When your phone number, address or email address change so that church records can be updated.**
- ◆ 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.

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**UCC Happenings:**

- ◆ **Choir Practice** - Every Wednesday at 6:45 p.m. Come Join Us!
- ◆ **Church Council** - Wednesday, Oct. 10 at 7:15 p.m.
- ◆ **Meals on Wheels** - Our congregation will be delivering Meals on Wheels for the month of October.
- ◆ **Pastor Hank will be away Oct. 19-22.** Emergency pastoral needs should be directed to Deacons Aggie Schue or Dale Johnson.
- ◆ **Thanks to Scott Sparlin** for preaching and providing special music on Sunday, October 21.
- ◆ **Confirmation Class** will meet Wednesday, October 10 and 24 at 4:30 p.m.
- ◆ **Congregational meeting** Oct. 7 following our 9:00 a.m. Worship Service.
- ◆ **US– Dakota War Presentation** at Gaylord UCC 6:30 p.m. Oct. 14.
- ◆ **We will dedicate our new Clavinova on Oct. 28.**

**Wider Community Happenings:**

- ◆ You are invited to a reception celebrating the recent marriage of The Rev. Elena Larssen to The Rev. Mark Pettis. Sat. Oct. 13 from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. at Mayflower Community United Church of Christ in Minneapolis. RSVP to the Conference Office by Oct. 8th (612-871-0359).
- ◆ **Sibley East Music Booster Fall Brunch** - Sun. Oct. 14 serving in the High School Cafeteria in Arlington from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- ◆ **Zuhrah Shriners Pancake Breakfast** - Oct. 7 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Arlington Community Center.
- ◆ **Sibley Masonic Lodge is again selling poinsettias** for the holiday season. See the sheet in the Fellowship Hall to place your order by Oct. 21.

**Special Community Event at UCC - - On Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Dr. Colette Hyman will do a presentation at Gaylord UCC on the “150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year of the US – Dakota War”** Dr. Hyman is a History Professor at Winona State University and has led presentations and written articles for the Minnesota Historical Society over the years on various events and issues surrounding the U.S. - Dakota War and Native American history in Minnesota. Her most recent book is “Dakota Women’s Work.” Refreshments will be served and all are welcome.

**Scott Sparlin will be sharing his message on “Stewardship of Creation” and providing special music on Sunday, October 21st during our 9:00 a.m. Worship Service at Gaylord UCC.** Scott is the Executive Director of the Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River since 1989. He is Watershed Initiative Coordinator for the Friends of the Minnesota Valley in Bloomington, Past President of the New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen and has been awarded the DNR Meritorious Service Award. Scott is a professional songwriter and musician in varied genres of musical styles such as Rock, Blues, Bluegrass, Folk, Country and Ethnic Old Time. He has been known, more than once, to utter the words, “Ya Sure, Ya Betcha.”

**A Family Update:** Lately a number of folks have asked me what’s up with “My 3 Sons?” Tim is seeking his Masters Degree at the University of Texas-Austin, in Landscape Architecture, Brian is attending Augsburg College in Mpls. with a major in Sociology, Colin is attending American University in Washington D.C. with a major in Journalism. FYI -- they were sighted together in Church at last December’s Christmas Eve Services in both Gaylord and New Ulm.

**Jesus’ Family Update:** The Scriptures tell us that Jesus as a child grew up in the family of Mary and Joseph. An ancient manuscript just discovered gives new credence to the possibility that Jesus had a wife. The manuscript, which is not to be equated with the Biblical record, has been interpreted to say, “My wife... she will be able to be my disciple.” A Harvard professor, Karen King, says “This is the only extant ancient text which explicitly portrays Jesus as referring to a wife.” Scholars say this discovery may have implications for elevating the role of women in the life of parts of the church. Did he or didn’t he, have a wife. For me that is still a question. But either way it does not really make me change my following of Jesus.

**Marriage Equality:** I am including a summary report on page 6 of the “Conversations Affirming Marriage Equality” educational event at New Ulm UCC on Sept. 23. Rev. Rebecca Voelkel, a United Church of Christ pastor serving as Faith Works Director for the national GLBT Task Force, spoke to the primary biblical and theological understanding for marriage equality. Lori and Jeff Wilfahrt shared from their personal experience relating more to civic, political and constitutional values. Their son Andrew, who was homosexual, was killed as a soldier in combat in Iraq a few years ago. The report provides an educational understanding for responding faithfully in Church and society. I also have a couple of pastoral statements which lift up biblical and theological references for marriage equality which I will make available. Reformation Sunday (Oct. 30) is a good time to remember the “reforming” moments in church life, in the spirit of Jesus’ own reforming and fulfilling of the Law.

*“Equally spiritual, intelligent, committed and loving Christians come down on different places on the question of marriage equality.”*

- Carolyn Pressler (Seminary Professor at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities)

## ***Pastor Hank***

Pastor Hank will be away for Continuing Education from Oct. 19 - 22th. If you are in need of emergency pastoral care contact Deacons Aggie Schue or Dale Johnson.

Contact information for Pastor: church office 237-2595; cell 507-217-9848 or at home 507-354-573.

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

## OCTOBER PRESIDENT'S NOTES

September Council meeting was held on Wednesday the 12<sup>th</sup>.

The following items were discussed.

- ◆ Phil gave an update of finances through the end of August. Income and pledges are down, however expenses are down also. Phil has copies of the complete report available, if interested contact him or Cindy.
- ◆ Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Dr. Colette Hyman will do a presentation at church on the "150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year of the US – Dakota War." Refreshments will be served after.
- ◆ A TV was purchased and we are working at purchasing a cart for it.

- ◆ A Congregational meeting will be held on Sunday October 7<sup>th</sup> following our 9:00 a.m. service.

Topics to include:

- ◆ Chuck and Pauline will discuss with us the Revitalizing Small Rural Churches workshop they attended on July 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>.
  - ◆ Review members' ideas / data from May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  - ◆ Conversations and visioning.
  - ◆ Discussion will be continued at a November 18th Congregational meeting.
- ◆ The Minnesota Conference UCC is hosting a workshop featuring Michael Piazza, in St. Louis Park on October 27<sup>th</sup> from 10 - 4. There is information on table in Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in attending let me know.
  - ◆ We have a Shared Ministry meeting in New Ulm on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

If you have any suggestions, questions, or concerns, please contact me.

Our next Council meeting will be October 10<sup>th</sup>.

Council President, Mark Pauly



### “SHARED MINISTRIES OUTDOOR WORSHIP”

#### “Picnic - Farm Sunday on Sept 23”

Thanks again to Fran and Howard Armstrong for hosting this Outdoor Ministry event for both Gaylord and New Ulm UCC churches. Thanks also to Paul Wagenius for providing the kid's activities – rope making, hoop running and more. Thanks also to Barb and John Olson of New Ulm for the use of their cider press – lots of delicious cider was made amidst lots of interested wasps and yet nobody got stung. Thanks to the special music of Dick & Ian Kimmel and friends – they even played for a first ever church “line dance” during Worship. Good weather, good food, good fellowship and good Spirit were shared by all!

A suggestion has been made that each Church host a combined Worship Service sometime in 2013, as well! The Combined Shared Ministry teams will discuss the possibility among other ideas at their Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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#### Can you top this?

When my sister was about 3, my mom overheard her talking with a neighborhood friend. “My dad works for an insurance agency!” proclaimed the other girl. Clearly pleased with her status as a pastor's kid, my sister responded haughtily, “Well, my dad works for God!”  
—Heidi Mann

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#### Rocky paths

“If God sends us over rocky paths, he will provide us with sturdy shoes,” said 19th-century pastor Alexander MacLaren. Still, wouldn't most of us trade those shoes for a smooth road? We wonder why life is so hard and pray for an easier way. But a shortcut is often the wrong path. “It is through many persecutions that we must enter the kingdom of God,” we hear in Acts 14:22. Faith requires hardship to grow, and there are things we can't learn unless we endure tough times. Thanks be to God for providing exactly what we need, no matter what we face.

## Women's Fellowship

The September meeting was held on the 10<sup>th</sup> with the main topic of discussion being the Election Day Soup & Sandwich event. This is something our church has done in the past and it would require *participation by all church members*. The menu will be chili, sandwiches, and pumpkin and pecan pie, with beverages. A sign-up sheet will be available on the table in the Fellowship Hall and invitations will be sent to local area churches. *It is important that all church members participate in some way to make this a successful event on Election Day – November 6<sup>th</sup>!*

**Our next meeting will be on Monday, October 1st at 12:00 p.m. Come join us, all are welcome.**

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### Priscilla Circle

**will meet Thursday, October 18 at 2:00 p.m.**

**All the women of the church are invited to join us for our next meeting in the Fireside Room.**

**Hostess is: Frieda Schrupp**

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### **Living into faith.**

Tony Campolo tells of two young men who wanted to participate in Urban Promise, his inner-city ministry. Yet they had a concern: "We don't believe in God. Can we still serve?"

After pausing, Campolo answered: "Yes, you can serve with us, but you'll have to pretend you believe. You'll have to pray and worship with the group, go to Bible study, teach the kids about Jesus, go through the motions all summer long. If you'll do that, you may help."

By summer's end, these young men were no longer pretending; they'd come to truly believe in Jesus. Furthermore, both went on to become priests in the Church of England.

We often speak of "living out" our faith, but what about "living into" it? Sometimes belief leads to profound experiences; other times, what we experience leads to profound belief.

## Update from the Mission Board

The Mission Board would like to thank everyone who contributed to our September From the Heart offering for the Sibley County Food Shelf. We collected \$89. Our next From the Heart offering will be on October 14 for Neighbors in Need.

**Neighbors in Need (NIN)** is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

**We will continue to collect school supplies to be used at Sibley East for students in need. Supplies needed include:** Crayons, pens, pencils, colored pencils, pencil boxes and bags, markers, glue sticks, glue, erasers, scissors, rulers, notebooks, and two-pocket folders. Put your items in the box in the Fellowship Hall. *Thank you.*

There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Fellowship Hall for anyone able to drive for Meals on Wheel during October. We appreciate all who are willing to help with this worthy project.

Oct. 1 - 5	Ewald Keller and Dick Estenson
Oct. 8 - 12	open
Oct. 15 - 19	Harriet and Dayle Troidahl
Oct. 22 - 26	open
Oct. 29 - 31	open

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### **\*\*Volunteers needed:**

**Volunteers are needed to help with the audio/video systems during Worship Services. If you are interested in helping, contact Beth Wilson or Pastor Hank. Thanks.**



## **Volunteers needed**

## **SUMMARY OF “Marriage Equality” EDUCATIONAL EVENT at UCC New Ulm on Sept. 23, 2012**

Members and friends of the United Church of Christ in New Ulm listened to presenters concerning marriage equality and the constitutional amendment defining marriage.

The amendment states: “Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to provide that only a union of one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as marriage in Minnesota?”

The proposition has both legal and religious ramifications. A civil marriage is about equal access before the law for all citizens of this country. The religious aspect concerns the ability to hear the voice of God as we discern what is right in our hearts and in our actions.

Rev. Rebecca Voelkel, Faith Work Director for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in Minneapolis stated that marriage equality benefits society because it gives families greater economic and social stability which, in turn, gives the larger culture greater stability and grounding.

Rev. Voelkel stated that marriage in the Bible has many faces and that God is continually breaking into history, redeeming the world and revealing Godself. She spoke of worshipping the living God who revealed God’s self to our ancestors, who revealed God’s self in the person of Jesus Christ and who reveals God’s self in our worship and in our study and in our research and prayers.

For Rev Voelkel, the Biblical imperative is to follow Jesus’ commandment to love God and love your neighbor. The question becomes not whether a relationship is to be blessed based on the gender of each partner but whether a relationship is to be blessed based on the kind of love and justice that is exhibited by the individual partners and by the love and justice the relationship creates.

Lori and Jeff Wilfahrt spoke in support of their son Andrew and other members of the military who take an oath in support of freedom based on the constitution. Lori and Jeff stated that this amendment will deny and reduce the rights of a minority. Gay service members can now serve openly but they are denied the same spousal benefits extended to their straight colleagues. They stated that this vote is about freedom to marry and commit to the one you are in love with and protecting the constitution that our soldiers fight and die for.

Faith requires faithful action. As members of a Christian community that values the questions as well as the answers, what do you think about this? As we hear the voice of a Still speaking God, what does your faith, your life’s story and your prayer life tell you to do?

--Mission Priorities Committee New Ulm UCC





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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—9:00 a.m.

Coffee-Fellowship Hour 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School—10:00 a.m. Sept.—May

Communion is the 1st Sunday of the month

Pastor, Rev. Hank Campbell

Council President, Mark Pauly

Church Secretary, Cindy Johnson

## October Birthdays

01 ..... Kristin Schultz  
04 ..... Doug Solomonson  
10 ..... Andrew Thies  
11 ..... Darin Meyer  
21 ..... Denver Wentzloff  
22 ..... Brenda Meyer  
24 ..... Gail Estenson  
24 ..... Wanda Mead  
27 ..... Jon Custalow  
27 ..... Tim Custalow  
30 ..... Chris Mosel