

Gaylord UCC Parish Paper

September 2013

Vol. 41, 9

“No Excuses Sunday” ~ “See Ya’ In Church!!!”

To make it possible for everyone to attend UCC this fall, there will be some special

“No Excuses Sundays.”

- ◆ Cots will be placed in the foyer for those who say “Sunday is my only day to sleep in.”
- ◆ We will have steel helmets for those who say “The roof would cave in if I ever went to church.”
- ◆ Blankets will be provided for those who think the church is too cold and fans will be provided for those who think the church is too hot.
- ◆ We will have hearing aids for those who say the preacher speaks too soft and cotton for those who say he preaches too loud.
- ◆ Some relatives will be in attendance for those who like to go visit their family on Sundays.
- ◆ There will be TV dinners for those who can’t go to church because they have to cook dinner.
- ◆ One section will be devoted to trees and grass for all those who like to see God in nature.
- ◆ Finally, the sanctuary will be decorated with both Christmas poinsettias and Easter lilies for those who have never seen the church without them. ~ Source Unknown

Just kidding. But now that we have your attention, and hopefully your worship commitment, we can only tell you that our steadfast God will be present each and every Sunday, with grace and truth. Our relationship with God involves the gathering of the faith community!

Some further thoughts from a recent MN Conference UCC “Revitalization” Workshop.

“Speak to a new person about a ‘happening’ at your church.”

“It takes about 6 people connections for a newcomer to return and stay.”

“Take off the bib and put on the apron.”

“Money follows mission.”

“Welcoming everyone from 2 to 102.”

Change in Worship Time at Gaylord UCC

September 1 – Dec. 29, 2013 (Unless otherwise stated)

Worship - 11:00 a.m.

Fellowship Hour - 9:45 a.m. Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.

Sept. 22 Outdoor Worship at Lynn-Hurly Farm begins at 10:00 a.m.

Ushers: Ted Pinske, Agnes Schue
Jane Peterson

Greeters: Harriet Troidahl
9-1, 9-8
Chip Wolverton, Cole and Ryan
9-15, 9-22, 9-29

Acolyte: Cole Bruhn



**Joint Worship
on the Farm**

UCC PICNIC SUNDAY WITH New Ulm UCC

Sept. 22 ~ Rain or shine

10:00 a.m. at the Linn/Hurley farm

1 ¼ miles East of Klossner on Highway 5

**Worship - Special Music - Potluck Lunch
and Children's Activities**

***In case of rain, we'll gather in the barn!**

Everyone is invited - Bring a Friend!!

****Bring a dish to pass, your own dishes and
a lawn chair.**

*****If you are interested in coming or would like
to car pool please sign up on the sheet in the
Fellowship Hall.**

Fellowship Hour:

September 1open
September 8open.
September 15 Rally Sunday – Board of Ed.
September 22 . Worship at the Lynn-Hurly Farm
September 29open

Lectionary Readings for September

Sept. 1, 2013: Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 12:1-14, Ps 149, Ps 119:33-40, Romans 13:8-14,
Matt 18:15-20. UCC Theme: First Sunday (Acts 17:22-
28).

Sept. 8, 2013: Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Ex 14:19-31, Ps 14, Ps 114, Romans 14:1-12. UCC
Theme: Land Sunday (PS139:7-12).

Sept. 15, 2013: Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Ex 16:2-15, Ps 105:1-6, Ps 37-45, John 3:4-11, Matt
20:1-16. UCC Theme: Wilderness/Outback Sunday
(Rom. 3:18-27).

Sept. 22, 2013: Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Ex 17:1-7, Ps 78:1-4, 12-16, 1Ezek 18:1-4, 25-32, Phil
2:1-13, Matt 21:23-32. UCC Theme: River Sunday (Rev
22:1-5).

Sept. 29, 2013: Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Ex 17:1-7, Ps 78:1-4, 12-16, 1Ezek 18:1-4, 25-32, Phil
2:1-13, Matt 21:23-32. UCC Theme: River Sunday (Rev
22:1-5).

Remember in prayer:

**Among those who were lifted up in prayer this past
month:** Pray for those who have been ill or are home
bound and those at Oak Terrace. Pray for Brit Keithahn,
Alex Thoele, Mark Thoele, May and Raymond Ysasaga
and others serving in the military.

Congratulations to Gail and Dick Estenson on the
birth of a new granddaughter, Piper Marie Price, born
08/12/2013 to Julie and Micah Price. She weighed 6.0
lbs and is 18 inches long.

News and Notes:

- ♦ **Church Secretary, Cindy Johnson**, will be out of the office Sept. 25 - 27th.
- ♦ **September 1 Worship with Communion 11 a.m.**
- ♦ **Sunday, September 15 is Rally Sunday beginning at 11:00 a.m.** Fellowship Time begins at 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, including a time for music will begin at 10:00.
- ♦ We will have a **Shared Ministry Worship Service and potluck with New Ulm UCC on September 22 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Lynn-Hurly Farm with a potluck lunch following
- ♦ **For the Birds Sunday with guest Speaker Al Batt** during our 11:00 a.m. Worship service.

Confirmation Begins

Confirmation will be led by Pastor Hank and will meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Our first meeting will be Wed., Sept. 25 at 4:00 p.m. to go over expectations, scheduling and planning for the year. If you have any questions contact Pastor Hank.

Sharing and Celebrating

A couple of good summer reads that I pass along:

- ◆ “The Whistling Season” by Ivan Doig, a fictional story of redemption about a unique community of homesteaders in Montana, and the rollicking antics, challenges and blessings of the town’s one room schoolhouse. I know some of you are veterans and alumni of a one room schoolhouse education, and this book will strike some familiar chords.
- ◆ “Waiting for Gospel” by theologian Douglas John Hall, who tackles a number of subjects: from offering clarity and a reality check to the predicament of the modern church...to what it means to be faithful in a global village of pluralism...to the mystery of discovering true identity and purpose in the human self.
- ◆ “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” by Eric Carle, an old favorite which I read in front of a video camera as part of a student’s “learning to read” project for elementary age students.
“Speaking of caterpillars, it’s discouraging to hear that a shortage of milkweed plants has impacted the numbers of monarch butterflies that will be born this year.”

This summer I’ve also been formulating a Sabbatical Plan for 2014, an opportunity that is part of my Pastoral Call every 6 years. Initially, the plan is to take 2 blocks of time -- one in the winter and one in the summer for serving at a couple of mission sites and for some intentional study in a ministry focus area with conversation, reading and writing. I still have special, inspiring memories from six years ago in Northern Ireland, learning about their journey of peace and reconciliation following “the Troubles.” I am truly grateful for this opportunity in reflection and renewal!

Blessings, Hank

Pastor’s usual office hours or visiting hours during the week are Wednesdays from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Thursdays from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Friday afternoons as needed. If you need to reach him call the church office 237-2595; cell 507-217-9848; home 507-354-5738.

Columnist

**Al
Batt**



**Come hear Guest Speaker
Al Batt share his message**

**“Look at the Birds: Creations Material
and Spiritual Lessons.”**

**Sunday, September 29 during our
11:00 a.m. Service.**

**Al will be available during our 9:45 a.m. coffee
hour to visit and answer your questions.**

Al Batt of rural Hartland, Minnesota is a writer, speaker, storyteller and humorist. Al writes four weekly humor and nature columns for many newspapers, and does a show three times per week about nature on a number of radio stations. He writes a number of popular cartoon strips that are syndicated nationally. He has written for a number of magazines and books, including the Chicken Soup For the Soul series. He is a columnist for Bird Watcher’s Digest and is a trustee of the American Bald Eagle Foundation in Haines, Alaska.

Rally Sunday

Sunday School will begin on
Sunday, September 15
with the Commissioning of our Sunday School
teachers during our
11:00 a.m. Worship
Service. All teachers, substitute teachers and
students are encouraged
to be present for this special service.
The Board of Christian Education will be serv-
ing Fellowship Hour!

**Sunday School, including a time for
music, will begin at 10:00 a.m.**

Hope to see you there!!

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hard to believe this great summer is coming to an end! Leaves are even beginning to turn, and preparations are being made for a new school year. Although the summer months were a break for many of us individually, the church as a whole has continued to work hard on many events and initiatives.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to another successful Ice Cream Social. Gaylord UCC was a fun place to be that Friday, and everyone enjoyed the delicious food. It was great to see so many members working together.

Phil Keithahn has been doing an awesome job leading the P.E.T. mission project. Bob Peterson from New Brighton has been instrumental in advising us on how to get started and get involved. Parade and booth volunteers did a good job getting the word out EGG weekend; we have several welders ready to start work! Thanks to everyone for their enthusiasm for this project. New Ulm UCC is also working to get involved with the P.E.T. mission, too.

Council is also moving ahead with work on a church website that will provide a place to connect and communicate with not only church members, but with the community at large. Please take time to take the brief survey included with this newsletter so we can get your ideas and input as we continue. Feel free to start up a conversation with any council member and give them your feedback, too.

As we plan for the re-start of Sunday School and Confirmation this month, please keep Pastor Hank, our teachers, mentors and students in your prayers. I hope everyone is looking forward to another wonderful year!

The next council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 11th at 5:00 pm. Anyone is welcome to join us! Pauline Marlinski, Council President.



It's a great new season for the UCC Choir!

**Choir will begin practice on September 4
starting at 6:30 p.m.**

We are hoping to sing on September 8.

Hope you can join us!

PETs (Personal Energy Transportation) Update

August has been a busy month for our PETs project. On Sunday August 4, Bob and Barb Peterson visited our church to share more information about PETs. You can go to <http://petmntc.org/> for more information about this project. Bob delivered 6 PETs to our church. The New Ulm UCC used one PET during the week while we retained 5 PETs for our use. The Gaylord Royalty Ambassadors used the PETs during EGGstravaganza week to ride around downtown Gaylord. We also had 5 students ride the PETs during the EGGstravaganza parade. Special thanks to Ryan Wolverton, Jaci Tourtellott, and Sam Thies for riding (hand-pedaling!) the PETs, while we had two Sibley East students who also volunteered to help us. Beth Wilson and Gail Estenson walked beside the PETs, handing out brochures and inviting people to see the PETs in the park following the parade.

On Wednesday evening, August 14, Bob Peterson came to the Council meeting to discuss the PETs. We have 3 people who have already volunteered to begin welding parts for the PETs, while many other individuals have expressed an interest in woodworking, sewing, painting, assembly, etc. On Tuesday, August 20, Kathy Tourtellott invited me to speak at the SERTOMA Club meeting about PETs. Several more individuals expressed a desire to help on this project.

For this fall, we are going to roll out the PET projects slowly, so we can learn and become comfortable with what we are supposed to complete. Bob Peterson even left 2 PETs for us to display in the church lobby. They are also available to anyone who wants to take them to show to another church, youth group, or service club. Please contact any member of the Church Council with your ideas. We'll also be building a sign-up sheet so we can contact people who are interested in participating in this project.

And if you want to make a financial donation to PETs, please designate your desires if you make out the check to the Gaylord UCC. Or you can also write a check directly to "PET-MN" and place your gift in the offering on Sunday. Every gift of \$250 will result in a brass plate being attached to the PET with the name of the person or group you want to honor.

Thanks again for your prayers, support, gifts, and willingness to become involved in a project that changes lives for people who need our help. Phil Keithahn

Women's Fellowship

Our Eggstravaganza Pie and Ice Cream Social was well attended and appreciated by all who enjoyed the delicious BBQ's and homemade desserts.

A special *thank you* is extended to all the women, men and youth who helped with the planning, purchasing, preparing and baking, serving and cleanup. At last count Women's Fellowship reports that approximately \$1200 was raised. **If you have not yet turned in the money pledged in lieu of baking or would like to make a donation you still have time!! Checks can be turned into Harriet Troidahl. Thank You.**

Women's Fellowship is in charge of serving lunch for the September 11 Bloodmobile. If you are able to help please contact Harriet.

**Our next meeting will be
Monday, September 9 at noon.**

Come join us!

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News from Priscilla Circle

During our Ice Cream social we sold one baby quilt, vintage aprons, several doll blankets and many dishcloths. If you are interested in purchasing dish cloths please contact Liz Kuphal.

**Our next meeting will be September 19th
at 2:00 p.m. in the Fireside room.**

Hostesses are Aggie Schue and Gloria Sinell

All women are invited to join us.

**Members are encouraged to bring
school supplies for Sibley East students.**

Update from the Deacons

The Ecumenical Worship in the Park on August 11 was well attended. Special thanks to Brian Brosz for his message in word and song. Also, thanks to those who provided treats that day. We thank Rev. Penny Entringer for leading our August 18 Worship Service. We are looking forward to our Shared Ministry Outdoor Worship and potluck with New Ulm UCC on Sept. 22.

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Men's Fellowship Corn Feed a big success Aug. 25th. The corn and bologna were great and thanks to those who brought salads and desserts to share. A great time was had by all! Men's Fellowship

Update from the Mission Board

Thank you for donating \$119.40 for the food shelf for our August From The Heart Offering. The August Ecumenical Worship at the GPL brought in \$595 for the food shelf. Also 23 lbs of food was taken to the food shelf. You have been very generous to our local families in need.

Our next From the Heart Offering will be September 8, with the offering going to the PET Project.

Special thanks to all the gardeners that produce fresh garden vegetables, and to the members that can donate and enjoy these vegetables! We have received \$182.15 from the garden produce brought in. This money will be used for scholarships for our own members seeking post secondary education.

During the month September we will continue collecting school supplies for students at Sibley East. There has been a nice amount of supplies collected so far, and we thank you for your donations. We are helping our local children by donating crayons, pens, pencils, markers, glue sticks, erasers, scissors, rulers and notebooks. Start your back to school shopping now! God bless you in your generous support!

There will be a sign-up sheet on the table in the Fellowship Hall in September for anyone able to help deliver Meals-On-Wheels in October.

Thank You

Dear UCC Mission Board and all members. Thank you very much for the scholarship. I greatly appreciate it and I will be using the money soon to buy my textbooks. Thanks again, Megan Meyer

Thank you to the Mission Board and all the members of the church for the scholarship I received. It means a lot to me to know that my church supports me in all my goals. Thank you once again for the scholarship and support. Abby Tourtellott.

Thank you for sponsoring the scholarship that I received. It will be a great help for the many college expenses. I will be beginning my third year at SDSU and am looking forward to the upcoming cross country and track seasons. Thanks again for the scholarship. Andrew Thies

Update on Church Website

During the August 14 Church Council meeting, Brian Maciej from Lime Valley Advertising in Mankato presented an outline for a new website for our church. After much discussion, the Council approved moving forward with this project with a budget not to exceed \$4,000. The funds for the website will be obtained from our Legacy Fund, which current and previous church members designated for expanding our church ministry. Phil Keithahn, Beth Wilson, Cindy Johnson, and others will be working with Brian and his team during this fall to design and build a website for our church.

If you have ideas for what we should put on the website, or if you have photos or other information that would be useful for friends, members, visitors, and potential members, please get that information to the church office.

Our goal is to have the website completed before the end of 2013. The initial outline for what our website will contain is summarized below:

Home Page

- ◆ Slideshow/Facebook Connect/Daily Devotional

Our Church

- ◆ Our Ministry and Message/Our History/Our Pastor/Church Staff

Worship and More

- ◆ Service Times/Sermons/Event Calendar

Media

- ◆ Videos/Audio/Photo Gallery

Get Involved

- ◆ Community Involvement/Volunteer Opportunities/Choir and Music/Topics of Discussion forum

Get in Touch

- ◆ Contact Gaylord UCC form/Location and Directions—map.

We welcome your input on this project, as it is important that we provide information that is helpful to people looking at our church.

Treasurer's Report

Financial results through July 31, 2013 are as follows:

- 2013 year-to-date (YTD) total income is \$62,089.66 compared to \$55,406.63 in 2012. Pledge payments are ahead of last year, primarily because several members paid most of their 2013 pledge during the first quarter.
- YTD administration expenses for 2013 totaled \$39,985.45, which was a decline of \$2,548.91

from 2012. 2012 administration expenses included \$4,592.29 for the former church parsonage. On the whole, administration expenses are tracking with our budgeted numbers for the year.

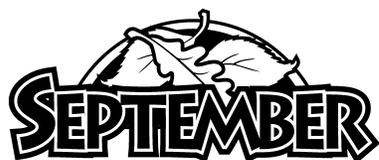
- YTD mission giving is similar to last year. We are current with OCWM, conference dues, and Pilgrim Point Camp. We have also paid \$975 scholarships to three church members. And our overall giving for unbudgeted mission work (food shelf, Salvation Army, etc.) is higher than last year, primarily because of our food shelf fundraiser.
- YTD expense by the Board of Deacons was \$3,508.48 compared to \$2,801.70 in 2012. The Pulpit Committee expenses accounted for most of the increase, through a combination of special speakers and timing differences for Pastor Hank's vacation.
- YTD Board of Education expenses are very close to budget and to the 2012 actual.
- YTD maintenance expenses for the Trustees of \$1,123.54 in 2013 is sharply below the \$2,256.23 in 2012 (which included furnace repairs of \$1,684.90).
- YTD operating expenses for the Trustees offset the favorable variance in maintenance expenses. Through July 31, 2013 total operating expenses of \$7,808.58 was \$1,110.21 higher than the \$6,698.37 for 2012, mostly due to an increase in Centerpoint Energy expenses of \$825.56.

Overall, the net income for 2013 of \$260.52 compares very favorably to a net loss of \$7,382.64 in 2012. The combination of church members paying their pledges in advance and the absence of the costs of owning the parsonage have helped our financial condition.

As you consider your pledge payments for the remainder of 2013 and also evaluate how much you can pledge in 2014, please give as God inspires you to support the ministries and missions of our church. We are expanding some programs and starting new programs in the next year, so your continued prayers, support, engagement, and financial generosity make it possible for us to continue connecting the resources of the Gaylord United Church of Christ with the needs of our friends, members, and the wider Gaylord community. THANK YOU for your gifts!

Phil Keithahn, Treasurer

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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 - 11:00 a.m.

Coffee-Fellowship Hour 9:45 a.m.

Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.

Communion is the 1st Sunday of the month

Pastor, Rev. Hank Campbell

Council President, Pauline Marlinski

Church Secretary, Cindy Johnson

September Birthdays

01..... Les Meyer
02..... Jeff Pomplun
03..... Ted Pinske
06..... Sandi Knoche
09..... Nancy Cowell
09..... William Pomplun
11..... Lorraine Walsh
15..... Darrel Mosel
17..... Neyland Ott
18..... Pastor Hank Campbell
19..... Beth Wilson
21..... Fran Armstrong
23..... Albert Meyer
23..... Peter Schue
26..... Howard Armstrong
28..... Jim Peterson
30..... Abby Tourtellott