



August 2011

The Peace Visitor

Dear Friends,

One of the first tools I bought while I was in High School was a Craftsman twelve-foot tape measure. It had a shiny metal case and a lifetime guarantee. I have no idea where it might be. I haven't even thought about it for years. But Nate gave me a new twelve-foot tape this last week. It was so compact and lightweight that for some reason I remembered my old tape and wondered if I could find one like it on ebay. I didn't but I did find out that the metal tape measure was first invented in 1829 by one James Chesterman who made 'flat wire' for hoop skirts. When hoop skirts went out of fashion he turned this 'flat wire' into measuring tapes! Then in 1868 Alvin Fellows patented the case and spring mechanism that allowed the tapes to be held in place and then retracted. But it wasn't until the 1940s that these handy tools outsold the folding wooden ruler carpenters used. Seventy years for the idea to catch on!

Seventy years! I start getting impatient in about two minutes if I have to stand in line. I don't need to have immediate gratification in every part of my life. At least I hope not. But I am a shopper who wants to find what I am looking for when I go to the store. I am a consumer who somehow believes that newer, shinier, and faster is better, even if I can't afford it.

Then my devotions took me to Psalm 27:13. "I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living! Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; yea, wait for the LORD." Oh I remember now. Everything doesn't have to be instantaneous. Everything doesn't have to happen immediately because I want it to. Everything isn't up to me. What is up to me is that I believe, and trust, and wait for the LORD. What is up to me is that in my waiting I learn to focus on how to listen, how to love, and how to be what Jesus wants me to be.

I guess that is not a bad plan for the rest of the summer. "Wait for the LORD be strong and let your heart take courage."

Shalom,
Pastor Hal

Peace United Church of Christ

There are no council minutes this month because Council did not meet.

The Renewal Committee was the only committee that met in July.

On Wednesday July 13th, Pastor Hal Spann, Brad Hanson, Dennis Clark and Ann Grunke met to discuss the status of pledges for the elevator fund. Pledges are considerably less than they were for our last elevator pledge drive in 2007 and this is worrisome because \$138,550.00 remains on our mortgage obligation. We agreed to call people who have not pledged to provide an opportunity for them to ask questions about the pledge drive and voice concerns.

Ann Grunke

News we've been waiting for!



Congratulations to Kayla & Don Manea Jr. on the birth of twins, Hailey Annette & Mackenzie Genevieve. Congratulations, too, to big sister Jasmine, Grandparents, Don & Alina and Great-grandmother Genevieve Manea. The girls were born on July 21st, each weighing in over 6 pounds. Just to add a little extra joy, the baby girls were born on Great-grandma Genny's birthday!

Correction from the July Visitor about Rev. Victor Grupe. Rev. Grupe served Maple Lake, Annandale, Eden Valley and Forest City, in 1893 (not Forest Lake as stated in the Council Minutes).

Rev. Grupe lived in Maple Lake. I was confirmed by him in 1943 at St. Matthew's United Church of Christ in Forest City. Fourteen of us met for confirmation classes in the church basement around a coal burning furnace – it got pretty cold at times.

Forest City is still a very active country church, located south of Litchfield and south of Watkins on Highway 24.

I would love to go back and visit sometime if anyone is interested in driving down there.

Phyllis Hartwig

Happy August Birthday!



Jerrad Nieland – 1
Dorothy Zika – 1
Bill Golden – 2
Emilee Hoff – 5
Deloris Olson – 8
Livia Foss – 8
Melanie Thares – 8
Mark Hoff – 9
Curt Hutchens – 10
Ann Meyer – 15
Sibyl Pelz – 16
Fred Grunke – 19
Alex Trueman – 22
Doris Busse – 26
Betsy Dablow – 26
Elmer Malinen – 29
Bev Killeen – 31



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*Are you able to visit or send
a note to these members
who are homebound, or
living in long-term care?*



*They would love
to hear from you.*



Joys & Concerns

Get Well: Janette Weis, Bernice Hofstater, Marlys Burke, Eleanor Conrad, Rollie Weis

Sympathy: Bill Golden

Please let the office know

*if there are mistakes on this page,
or information that should be added.*

Thanks!

**The 10 Commandments
of
GOD IS STILL LAUGHING . . .**

1. "Rejoice in the Lord always." ~ St. Paul
2. Laugh with God.
3. Don't laugh at God.
4. "Take time to loosen your bow." ~ St. Anthony
5. Humor your mother and your father.
6. "Life should be enjoyable; too often we think it's about achievement. The truth is that making life enjoyable is an achievement in itself." ~ Anonymous
7. "Never trust a theologian who doesn't have a sense of humor."
~ Elton Trueblood
8. "It is requisite for the relaxation of the mind that we make use, from time to time, of playful deeds and jokes." ~ Thomas Aquinas
9. "Walk cheerfully over the world." ~ George Fox
10. "Pray and let God worry." ~ Martin Luther

Adapted from the "God Is Still Laughing website"



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Annual Picnic and Potluck

August 14th
Riverside Park Pavilion
Worship 10:00 a.m.
Potluck Picnic 11:00 a.m.

The Picnic

A Jewish rabbi and a Catholic priest met at the town's annual 4th of July picnic. Old friends, they began their usual banter.

"This baked ham is really delicious," the priest teased the rabbi. "You really ought to try it. I know it's against your religion, but I can't understand why such a wonderful food should be forbidden! You don't know what you're missing. You just haven't lived until you've tried Mrs. Hall's prized Virginia Baked Ham. Tell me, Rabbi, when are you going to break down and try it?"

The rabbi grinned at the priest and said, "At your wedding!"

The Usher

An elderly woman walked into the local country church. The friendly usher greeted her at the door and helped her up the flight of steps.

"Where would you like to sit?" he asked politely.

"The front row, please," she answered.

"You really don't want to do that," the usher said. "The pastor is really boring."

"Do you happen to know who I am?" the woman inquired.

"No," he said.

"I'm the pastor's mother," she replied indignantly.

"Do you know who I am?" he asked.

"No," she said.

"Good," he answered.

The Twenty and the One

A well-worn one-dollar bill and a similarly distressed twenty-dollar bill arrived at a Federal Reserve Bank to be retired. As they moved along the conveyor belt to be burned, they struck up a conversation. The twenty-dollar bill reminisced about its travels all over the country.

"I've had a pretty good life," the twenty proclaimed. "Why I've been to Las Vegas and Atlantic City, the finest restaurants in New York, performances on Broadway, and even a cruise to the Caribbean ..."

"Wow!" said the one-dollar bill. "You've really had an exciting life!"

"So, tell me," says the twenty, "where have you been throughout your lifetime?"

The one dollar bill replies, "Oh, I've been to the Methodist Church, the Baptist Church, the Lutheran Church..."

The twenty-dollar bill interrupts, "What's a church?"

~ Submitted by Shirley Hoff

Share your Home Change the World

Youth for Understanding is Seeking Host Families for Exchange Students in the Central Minnesota Area

Youth For Understanding (YFU) is looking for local host families to host high school exchange students for the 2011-2012 school year. Host families provide a place to live and three meals a day plus the encouragement, advice and love to help their new family member through a semester or year in a new home. The students bring their own spending money and health insurance plus the willingness to be a good family member, following family rules and helping out with family responsibilities. YFU local representatives support the students and families to make sure it's a good experience for all involved. All kinds of families host, with and without children of all ages.

Youth For Understanding is a volunteer based organization and we are always looking for volunteers who enjoy working with teens and families to promote intercultural understanding. If you, or someone you know is interested in being a mentor to an exchange student, we have a place for you!

For more information to see if this might be right for you and your family or to request complete profiles and letters of students, contact the Local Field Director, Marilyn Hostetler at 800.872.0200 ext. 269, or email at mhostetler@yfu.org. More information is available on the YFU website at www.yfu-usa.org On the website, families can see photos and brief descriptions of unplaced students coming to the Heartland and fill out an online application.

Jessica Mckellip
Heartland District
Youth For Understanding

Norwegian Computer Virus

Varning: MinnySoda Compewtr Virus

Ve haf just sent you da NORVEGIAN VIRUS. Since we do not haf any programming experience and do not know how to actually damage your computir, dis Virus verks on da honor system. Please forward dis Virus to eferyvone on your mailing list and den manually delete all of da files on your hard drive.

Tank you for your cooperation,
Sven & Ole

(Submitted by Deloris Reich)



Stewardship Message

Teach Your Children Well

“When your children ask you...” Deuteronomy 6:20

Here we are at the end of school vacation, children still running around enjoying summer, while many of us in churches are starting to plan our Fall program for the children in our churches. It's a good time to ponder what we teach our children about generosity in all parts of their lives, including the church. How do we help them build Christian values about how they use their money that will carry them into adulthood? Do our Sunday School, Confirmation and Youth programs include discussions of giving and values about our attitudes toward our possessions? If they do not, how do we expect them to grow into adults who will not only give to their church, but also challenge our society's assumptions about wealth?

As Israel formed itself into a nation, leaders like Joshua and the prophets would occasionally say that the people were commanded to do something and then commanded to explain to their children why they did it. Children are naturally observant and inquisitive; knowing this, God encouraged leaders to take advantage of those qualities to instruct. Talk to your children or grandchildren, and to the children of your church, about why you give and how you make choices about using your money. When you do, you build a firm foundation for the future of God's work in the world.

Rochelle A. Stackhouse is the Senior Minister of The Church of the Redeemer, United Church of Christ, New Haven Connecticut.

August 2011

God is still speaking,



This resource is a free service and is made possible by your gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission.

Peace United Church of Christ

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