



June 2011

The Peace Visitor

Dear Friends,

Some people have junk drawers, where “stuff” is kept until it is needed. The odd screwdriver, a set of pliers, a hammer or a wrench is kept along with a mismatched box of nails, screws, wire and tacks; sometimes glue, tape, paper clips, even a flashlight. No batteries can be found of course, unless they are the wrong size! An extension cord might take up residence but only if it is too frayed to be used and too good to throw away. Then, “I’ll fix it one of these days.” It is exciting to rummage through the drawer. There are always treasures old and new to be found!

Sometimes that is the way it is with our spiritual journey. It would be nice if the life of discipleship was all neat and tidy, if our growth in Christ was organized and predictable. I don’t find it to be that way. I start looking for spiritual peace and instead I find people in spiritual turmoil that can use help. I begin to search for comfort and discover that this is “one of those days” when it is time to fix the frayed cord of compassion. Instead of the glue of strength that I seek, I find the yo-yo string of discipleship that is so tangled up I must drop to my knees in a prayer of recognition.

My junk drawer “overfloweth”, but I have discovered that God can use every little piece of us, all of our “stuff” to bring us closer to Christ and closer to one another. Our spiritual journey is not a Sudoku. Our spiritual gifts are not laid out with directions. Our resources for discipleship are scattered about in our souls and in our hearts and we discover them at the oddest times, but always at the best time! Discipleship is a marvelous, exciting treasure hunt amongst the “stuff” of our life. We may be flustered, flabbergasted, even frustrated at times as we attempt to follow Jesus, but I try to remember to give thanks even then. Even though my junk drawers overfloweth, “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” That is what we find when we go digging for the treasure of the kingdom.

Shalom,
Pastor Hal

**Peace United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes**

May 19, 2011

Present: Pastor Hal Spann, Chet Johnson, Karen Johnson, Shirley Hoff, Mark Hoff, Brad Hanson, Lela Clark, Val Broste

Opening prayer led by Pastor Hal.

Secretary's Report: April meeting minutes approved as printed in the May Visitor.

Financial Secretary's Report: Received verbal report. The printed report will be reviewed for approval at next month's meeting. Income for April was about average. The Good Friday offerings were donated to Salvation Army and Anna Marie's Shelter.

Treasurer's Report: Overall things are in line with where we expect to be at this time. Per discussions with Linda, several accounting function adjustments will be performed to make the treasurer's report easier to understand. Report accepted as printed.

Pastor's Report: Since we met last we celebrated Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday with Sue Towler reading the part of Jesus' mother at the Cross, along with Communion and a Tenebrae. We hosted the community Good Friday service and had a good turn out. We held our Holy Saturday Prayer Vigil, and rejoiced Easter morning with breakfast and Communion. We worshiped on May 1 with the baptism of Benjamin Adam Loch and Communion. I led worship on May 8 and May 15.

I met with the folks from Minnesota Electronics about their audiovisual proposal on April 19. On April 20 Brad Hanson and I met with Andrew Borrows, from Multiple Concept Interiors about the carpet proposal. On April 21 a plumber replaced the valves in the toilets in the Women's Restroom in the downstairs Dining Hall area. On May 17 I met with Kevin Crow from Audio Video Electronics in Maple Grove for another proposal for audiovisual set up.

On May 4 I participated in a community prayer vigil on the steps of St. Mary's expressing concern for the budget cuts that directly affect the young, the poor and the elderly.

On April 16 and May 14, I met with Derek Blonigan and Jessica Miller about their wedding on July 30. I met with Matt Bjorge and Bridget Kiley on May 3 about their August 27 wedding. On May 4 I met with Juan Rivera and Kelly Reich about their October 22 wedding. On May 6 I met with Gerralt Bloch and Karly Hagebusch concerning their August 12 wedding. Then on May 12 I met with and Buddy Layne and Roxanne Ryan about their wedding ceremony on June 25.

Met with the Sunday morning Adult Group on April 17, May 1, May 8, and May 15. We are studying the book of Acts. May 22 will be the closing session for this year. On the Tuesday evenings of May 3, 10 and 17 we have been exploring the final chapters of the Horizons Book of Revelation study. We will finish on May 24.

Met with the Deacons on May 11. Met with Christian Education on May 12.

Visited Ron Vierkant in the hospital a couple of times and at Country Manor a couple of times. Visited Adam Euteneuer in the hospital a bunch of times. Visited Rose Gronou and Lillian Fors at Country Manor. Visited Helene Ringenger at St. Benedicts.

Helene Ringenberger passed away Monday morning. Met with Delores Honl and family on May 16 and 17. Her service will be at Williams Dingmann Friday May 20 at 4:00. Visitation starts at 2:00.

I am taking vacation the week of May 29. Jay Yunek, Lela Clark, and Wendy Forbregd will take over. I will be back for June 5.

The Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference is at St. Ben's on June 10, 11, & 12. Shirley and Eleanor will be our delegates. I will go on Saturday June 11. On June 12 we will welcome Jessica Hasslen to tell us about her missionary work

in Kenya. She is a Presbyterian but she has quite a story.

Respectfully Submitted
Hal Spann

Deacons: Met on 5/11. Pastor Hal informed the Deacons that he will be out of town the weekend of 5/29. In response, plans for the Deacon members to provide for Sunday Church Services were developed. The arrangements for communion on 6/5 were made. Baccalaureate activities were discussed and will occur on 6/5. Church Picnic scheduled for 8/14. Strengthen the church information will be presented on 6/5 and the offering will be on 6/12.

Trustees: Met on 5/19. There is a problem with the stucco on the NE corner of the building. We will need to get some contractors to look at this. Discussed the trustee's responsibilities in regard to the renovation fund.

Time, Talents and Treasure: No Meeting.

Christian Ed: Met on 5/12. We finalized preparation for 5/22 Sunday School Potluck on the Garth and set Baccalaureate date for June 5th during worship. Momentum for Sunday School kickoff in late August was discussed as were teaching opportunities over the next few years. Discussion was held for summer outings with younger and older kids with further consideration to be given at next meeting on June 9th.

Special Events: Will be providing cake for coffee hour on Baccalaureate Sunday.

Pastor Parish: No mtg.

Renewal Task Force: Brad will speak to the congregation on Sunday, May 22nd about the Renovation Campaign. He will be reviewing different options to consider for pledging toward the renovation fund.

Mission Committee: No meeting.

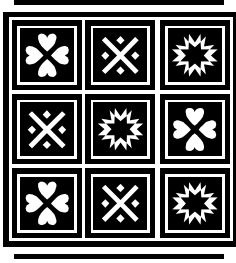
Reach Out: Met on 5/4. Potlucks are set for the weekend of May 20th – 22nd. New visitor bags are needed. Arrangements will be made to get these assembled.

Old Business: There has been no progress in filling open committee positions. We need to move forward with making a change to the number of members needed on some of the committees. Brad Hanson will review the current language regarding committees and make a recommendation for new language. This will be voted on at the annual congregational meeting.

Next meeting: June 16th at 7:00.

Meeting was adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Karen Johnson.



Quilt Retreat – The UCC June Quilt Retreat will be held June 16-19 at Linden Hill in Little Falls. It is sponsored by First Congregational UCC of Fairmont and Jan Shaffer will be the director. For more information see the poster on the bulletin board in the south hall, or call Jan at 507-526-3979. Come and bring a friend!



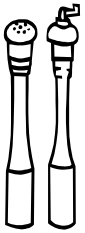
Family Camp at Pilgrim Point

Your family is invited to an intergenerational experience in an outdoor setting on Lake Ida near Alexandria. Camp runs from Sunday afternoon to Friday morning. For details and registration, see the following websites:

www.unionslp.com for July 17 – 22 Family Camp organized by Union Congregational UCC

www.sapucc.org for August 7 – 12 Family Camp organized by Mayflower UCC and St. Anthony Park UCC

www.PilgrimPoint.org for more about the camp facilities.



Thank you to the Reachout Committee for organizing the very successful at-home potlucks in May. Thank you also to all who agreed to host. What a nice way to get to know one another a little better.

Thank you for all the kind words, cards, notes and memorial gifts following the death of my mother. Mother passed away at home with all of her children and several grand-children with her. She was alert to her very last breath. We are grateful to have enjoyed her for nearly 93 years, and grateful to have the support of our church family.

Thank you for your kindness,
Ann Grunke & Family

Volunteers needed:



Habitat for Humanity is in need of someone to mow the lawn of one of their properties this summer. They own an unoccupied property in south St. Cloud that needs to have the grass cut on a regular basis. The volunteer would need to provide their own mower. If you are interested talk to Ann Grunke for more information. Thanks!

Happy June
Birthday!



Greg Petitto – 2
Hal Spann – 4
Kathy Lyon – 6
Roger Bratland – 7
Deb Yunek – 9
Sarah Petitto – 11
Roger Towler – 11
Clara Gerlich – 12
Lester Zika – 12
Ethan Foss – 13
Nate Spann – 14
Becky Nieland – 18
Cameron Werdlow – 21
June Gordon – 23
Jolene Foss – 25
Roger Binsfeld – 28
Mykayla Bluhm – 30

Charlotte Naegeli
900 14th Ave S
St. Cloud, MN 56301

Deloris Olson
835 N 31st Ave
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Laura Schroeder
5914 5th Ave NE
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

Lucy Siercks
1605 Goettens Way # 101
St. Cloud, MN 56301

Ron Vierkant
520 - 1st Street NE
Sartell, MN 56377

Betty Butterfield
1211 4th Ave N # 313
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

Betsy Dablow
12533 355th St
Avon, MN 56310

Lillian Fors
520 – 1st Street NE
Sartell, MN 56377

Winnie Galbraith
2509 15th Street N.
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Rose Gronau
520 – 1st Street NE
Sartell, MN 56377

Bernice Hofstater
358 3rd St. NE
Sartell, MN 56377

Lief Larsen
1790 W Mill Street
Paynesville, MN

*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.*



Joy's & Concerns

Get Well: Connie Taylor

Sympathy: Family of Leo Buechler

Family of Helene Ringenberger

Ann & Fred Grunke & Family

**Please note the change of address for
Ron Vierkant. He has moved to
Country Manor.**

Don't you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? 1 Corinthians 6:19-20



Regardless of age, weight or athletic ability, aerobic exercise is good for you. See why — then prepare yourself to get moving.

Aerobic exercise: Top 10 reasons to get physical

~ Mayo Clinic

Regardless of age, weight or athletic ability, aerobic activity is good for you. As your body adapts to regular aerobic exercise, you'll get stronger and fitter. Consider the following 10 ways that aerobic activity can help you feel better and enjoy life to the fullest.

Keep excess pounds at bay

Combined with a healthy diet, aerobic exercise helps you lose weight — and keep it off.

Increase your stamina

Aerobic exercise may make you tired in the short term. But over the long term, you'll enjoy increased stamina and reduced fatigue.

Ward off viral illnesses

Aerobic exercise activates your immune system. This leaves you less susceptible to minor viral illnesses, such as colds and flu.

Reduce your health risks

Aerobic exercise reduces the risk of many conditions, including obesity, heart disease, high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes, stroke and certain types of cancer. Weight-bearing aerobic exercises, such as walking, reduce the risk of osteoporosis.

Manage chronic conditions

Aerobic exercise helps lower high blood pressure and control blood sugar. If you've had a heart attack, aerobic exercise helps prevent subsequent attacks.

Strengthen your heart

A stronger heart doesn't need to beat as fast. A stronger heart also pumps blood more efficiently, which improves blood flow to all parts of your body.

Keep your arteries clear

Aerobic exercise boosts your high-density lipoprotein (HDL or "good") cholesterol and lowers your low-density lipoprotein (LDL or "bad") cholesterol. The potential result? Less buildup of plaques in your arteries.

Boost your mood

Aerobic exercise can ease the gloominess of depression, reduce the tension associated with anxiety and promote relaxation.

Stay active and independent as you age

Aerobic exercise keeps your muscles strong, which can help you maintain mobility as you get older. Aerobic exercise also keeps your mind sharp. At least 30 minutes of aerobic exercise three days a week seems to reduce cognitive decline in older adults.

Live longer

Studies show that people who participate in regular aerobic exercise live longer than those who don't exercise regularly. Take the first step Ready to get more active? Great. Just remember to start with small steps. If you've been inactive for a long time or if you have a chronic health condition, get your doctor's OK before you start.

EXERCISES TO AVOID

- 1. Jumping to conclusions**
- 2. Spinning your wheels**
- 3. Throwing your weight around**
- 4. Running down the other guy**
- 5. Climbing the walls**
- 6. Pushing your luck**
- 7. Carrying a grudge**
- 8. Flying off the handle**



Stewardship Message

Stewards of Good News

“Parthians, Medes, Elamites...” Acts 2:8

I like to think of the Day of Pentecost as the first recorded use of social media by the church! Instead of keeping the joy of the Spirit to themselves, the disciples were compelled, impelled and thrown pell-mell into communicating with lots of people they don't know in languages with which they are unfamiliar! You think learning the new languages of Twitter or Facebook is hard, try Parthian! Those disciples told the story of Jesus in new languages so that others might know the joy, power, forgiveness and love of God they had come to know as they worked with Jesus. They trusted the Spirit, and the Spirit gave them the power and courage to communicate in ways they had never imagined.

The Spirit can work in cyberspace in the 21st century just as effectively as in a courtyard in Jerusalem full of strangers in the first century. What the Spirit needs is willing disciples to tell the story and welcome those who seek. We need to remember that before we are stewards of church buildings or church budgets, we are stewards of a story, of grace, of hope. There are people out there in the streets of our cities and towns waiting to hear it. How can your church work to share the good news in languages that may be outside your familiar comfort zone?

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

June 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

Pastor: Rev. Hal Spann

Office: (320) 251-6289

Church Office Hours: Tuesday -Friday 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

email: Peaceucc1908@yahoo.com