



# May 2011

## The Peace Visitor

Dear Friends,

One afternoon Zeke heard a ruckus in his chicken yard and grabbed his shotgun. Zeke had very poor eyesight. But he came out on the porch, shouldered his gun, and fired. The trespassing dog scampered away untouched. But then Zeke came down off the porch and walked toward the clothesline that stood between his house and the chicken yard. When he inspected the clothes hanging on the line he realized he had intended to shoot the dog but instead shot his own underwear!

Some days are like that. We are in a hurry and don't even see the obstacles that right in front of us. Then hit something we weren't aiming for. Maybe its our spiritual eyesight. Maybe it is our spiritual memory. Maybe it is our spiritual impatience. St. Paul in Philippians 3:14 talks about pressing on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Being clear about our goal should clarify the obstacles; at least in theory.

What is our goal for Peace Church? If, for instance, our goal is to increase attendance do we get our members to come more often or do we invite our neighbors to come to worship? What are the obstacles we face? What keeps us from inviting people to worship with us? How well do we welcome new folk? Is our goal to make disciples for Jesus Christ? How well are we training ourselves and our fellow believers in the adult Christian life? What obstacles are we hitting? Do we recognize the obstacles or are we just shooting holes in clothes?

What are our goals? We are a generous, talkative, busy congregation. We are engaged but are we engaging? We are friendly but are we welcoming? We are busy but are we learning anything?

It is never a good plan to grow self satisfied and complacent. So as we move toward spring we should think about new plans and new programs for Peace UCC. Let us press on toward that goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. What is your goal? See you in church.

Shalom,  
Pastor Hal

**Peace United Church of Christ**  
**Council Meeting Minutes**  
**April 14, 2011**

Present: Pastor Hal Spann, Brad Hanson, Fred Grunke, Lela Clark, Chet Johnson, Karen Johnson

Opening prayer led by Pastor Hal.

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

Financial Secretary's Report: Report reviewed and accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Overall, the general fund is in good shape, however, it appears higher than expected due to one member paying their year's pledge up front.

Pastor's Report: Since we met last I led worship on March 20, March 27, April 3 and April 10. We had communion on April 3.

Our Wednesday Lenten Service was snowed out on March 23. But we met on March 30, April 6 and April 13. Our Lenten Series is from the set of reading by Susan Pargman entitled The Power of His Last Words. Thanks to everyone who has read. I read for a sick Chet Johnson on Ash Wednesday. Jon Tufte read. Lela Clark was snowed out, Val Broste, Shirley Hoff, and Clarence Giloy have read and Susie Towler will finish the series on Maundy Thursday.

On March 31 I attended a meeting of Isaiah concerning a program called Promise Neighborhood Project at Atonement Lutheran Church.

On April 1, I met with Buddy Layne and Roxanne Ryan about their wedding ceremony on June 25.

Met with the Sunday morning Adult Group on March 20, 27, April 3 & April 10. We are studying the book of Acts.

Visited Winnie Galbraith at home with Eleanor Conrad on March 24.

This Sunday is Palm Sunday. Thursday is Maundy Thursday. The service will be at 7:00 P.M. in the sanctuary with a Tenebrae and Communion. The Community Good Friday Service will be held at Peace UCC with First Methodist Church of the St. Cloud Region (They have changed their name.) First Presbyterian Church whose Pastor Ed Morgan is retiring at the end of May and Grace United Methodist. The Peace UCC choir will sing. Wendy Forbregd will have special music. I will preach.

Many spots are left on the Holy Saturday sign up sheet.

Respectfully Submitted  
Hal Spann

Deacons: Met on 4/13. Made plans for serving communion on Maundy Thursday, Easter Sunday and the first Sunday in May. The Deacons provided meals for the Lenten services.

Trustees: Met on 4/14. We have received an offer from a member to remove the Oak Tree by the East door. Spring cleaning took place on April 9<sup>th</sup>. We continued discussion on maintenance projects. Windows have been caulked.

Time, Talents and Treasure: No meeting.

Christian Ed: Met on 4/7. The Sunday school picnic is scheduled for the Garth on 5/22/2011 after church. This will be a side dish pot luck event with the committee providing grilled hamburgers & brats; dinnerware and beverages. The focus of the meeting was on preparations for a revitalized Sunday school program in the fall of 2011. An emphasis will be upon our younger children with singing and fun activities. After Easter, the congregation can enjoy previews on bulletin board displays and weekly program updates. The committee is very energized about getting our congregation involved in a community Sunday school program this fall. There will be no Sunday school on Easter Sunday. Hal intends to extend the adult study of the Book of Acts into later this spring. Preparations are beginning for the Christmas program in December. We intend to engage more children and their voices in song in this year's production. Our next meeting is scheduled for 5/12/2011.

Special Events: Met 4/10 to finalize the Easter breakfast. A summer garden party is being planned.

Pastor Parish: No meeting.

Renewal Task Force: Meeting in sub groups to pull together information on the capital campaign with debt reduction as the main focus. Working through the survey results and getting estimates on some of the projects. A plan will be presented to the congregation on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mission Committee: No meeting.

Reach Out: Met 4/13. Discussed the in-home pot lucks. Membership will not be a requirement in hopes of encouraging frequent visitors to meet Pucc members informally. Meals will be May 20 – 22. Slips will be in bulletins in late April or early May.

New business: Discussed need for a garden clean-up day.

Next meeting May 19th at 7:00

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

Minutes respectfully submitted by Karen Johnson.

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### **Consider Your Call for the Special Events Committee**

The **Special Events Committee** members are the party people of Peace UCC. They plan and we party. This is a group that usually meets on Sunday mornings around the little coffee pot in the kitchen just to think up fun things to do.

Typical events have been:

- Coordinating the flower orders for Easter Flower Garden
- Hosting the Easter Breakfast
- Planning the games for our Annual Picnic at Riverside Park
- Coordinating the Poinsettia orders for Christmas Season
- Planning other events that bring us together.

According to the Constitution the **Special Events Committee** has six members, three elected at each annual meeting for a two-year term. Currently there is a vacancy on the **Special Events Committee**. Since this is the crew in charge of the celebrations we need you to step forward and join in the fun. If you are interested in filling this vacant position please see Ann Grunke, or Dorothy Zika.

Thank you,  
Pastor Hal

**Happy May  
Birthday!**



Emily Robinson – 4  
Betty Butterfield – 6  
Rebecca Broste – 7  
Donald Manea Sr. – 7  
Gary Naegeli – 7  
Beverly Haehnel – 10  
Eleanor Conrad – 11  
Daniel Keller – 12  
Karen Johnson – 14  
Sage Kretsch – 20  
Ashley Speer – 21  
Mark Anhorn – 22  
Maureen Barthelemy – 22  
Olivia Spann – 23  
Russ Naegeli – 23  
Linda Vierkant – 24  
Lisa Winters – 25  
Steven Meyer – 26  
Sarah Trueman – 27  
Josh Hanson – 29  
Dorothy Sjobeck – 29

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

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

**Helene Ringenberger**  
1810 Minnesota Blvd. SE  
#306  
St. Cloud, MN 56304

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

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

**Ron Vierkant**  
520 - 1<sup>st</sup> Street NE  
Sartell, MN 56377

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

**Betsy Dablow**  
909 Dellwood St. # 214  
Cambridge, MN 55008

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

**Winnie Galbraith**  
2509 15<sup>th</sup> 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.*



***Joys & Concerns***

15 Easter Cards Sent

Jullian Euteneuer – Thinking of you

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



## 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](http://www.unionslp.com) for July 17 – 22 Family Camp organized by Union Congregational UCC

[www.sapucc.org](http://www.sapucc.org) for August 7 – 12 Family Camp organized by Mayflower UCC and St. Anthony Park UCC

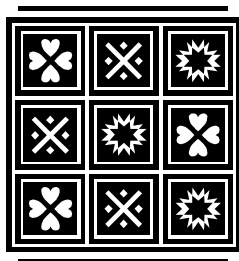
[www.PilgrimPoint.org](http://www.PilgrimPoint.org) for more about the camp facilities.



**The last day of Sunday School is May 22nd.** We will celebrate with a potluck & BBQ on the garth. Burgers, brats & beverages will be provided by Christian Ed. Please join us and bring a dish or two to share. Thanks!

## Please Share Your Recipes

Women's Fellowship is compiling a cookbook and needs your recipes. You can bring recipes to church and deposit them in the basket in the south hallway, or you can email them to Monica Peterson at [monicamp@charter.net](mailto:monicamp@charter.net).



**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!

**Thank you to all who contributed to the March Minnesota Food Share. We donated 279 pounds of food and \$516.00 to the Salvation Army Food Shelf.**

## **Let's Reach Out to One Another by Sharing an At-Home Potluck Meal**



**May 20 – 22, 2011**

Would you like to welcome people into your home for this event? Maybe you would like to attend and bring food? Either way, watch for more information in the April bulletins and let us know how you can participate. It's always a good time to share a meal with your Peace family and get to know one another better. Please join us for this special potluck.

Thank you,  
The Reachout Committee

### **CRAFTER'S PLANT SALE**



**Calling all gardeners and plant lovers!!!!** Coupons for bedding plants and hanging baskets are available from the Peace UCC Crafters. The coupons can be redeemed at Southway Greenhouse on Clearwater Road in St. Cloud. The cost is \$15.00 per coupon and they are used just like cash. The benefit of purchasing these coupons is that our church earns money for each coupon used. Last year we used the proceeds from the plant sale to purchase additional chairs for the downstairs fellowship room.

You may redeem these coupons any time during the month of May but we recommend shopping early for the best selection.

Thank you for supporting this project each year.

Please contact Phyllis Behrens, Karen Johnson, Harriet Lehner or Nona Peterson to purchase your coupons.

## Stewardship Message

### Small Gifts Count

*“...and whoever gives even a cup of cold water...”*  
*Matthew 10:42*

Recently I spent several hours as a patient in the emergency room of a city hospital. I was not in imminent danger of death and I did not come to the hospital in an ambulance, so I ranked fairly low on the priority list of the medical staff, and rightly so. I was, however, in some considerable pain as my tear-streaked face made clear to all who passed. No cubicles were available to me, so I sat on a gurney in a busy hallway watching the staff pass me by for several hours before I received pain medication.

Needless to say, I've had better nights. In the midst of the painful waiting, however, God showed up in the person of a young woman, an EMT by the badge on her jacket. She probably brought someone to the ER in her ambulance and was now walking through my hallway on the way out. She undoubtedly had much on her mind and important work to do. But she saw the pain in my face, and though she did not work in the ER, she took a moment to stop and ask me if I was going to be all right. She told me to hold on, that someone would help me. She gently touched my shoulder and looked in my eyes. She made a difference with a small gift: a touch, a word of comfort. Small gifts count!

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

*May 2011*

God is still speaking,



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

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## **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](mailto:Peaceucc1908@yahoo.com)