



April 2011

The Peace Visitor

Dear Friends,

I know you have seen and heard the story of the Sandhill Cranes. These remarkable birds that breed in Minnesota, commute great distances and even traverse continents, have three natural qualities. First of all, they rotate leadership. No single bird stays out in front of the formation all the time. Second, they choose a leader who can handle turbulence. And then third, all during the time one bird is leading; the rest are honking and signaling their affirmation. That, I think, is a very good example for Peace church.

As we wing our way through the final weeks of Lent and traverse our upcoming Capital Campaign we certainly are aware of the turbulence that accompanies any program in Christ's Church. It is more than symbolic that as Jesus' journey took him closer to Jerusalem the adoring crowds grew bigger and the threats grew more intense. Oh in our day we are not facing physical threats or material punishment, but the spiritual threats are just as pervasive. The doubts, the questions, and the fears that encroach upon our hearts when we think about following Jesus can be formidable. Even so the pressures on us about making another financial commitment can be immense. But maybe it is more than symbolic that as we edge toward Easter we remember the agonies of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. Our faith is born in suffering and sacrifice, and punctuated by abandonment and denial.

So these are the times when we need honk and signal our affirmation for one another. These are the times when our support and encouragement make a real difference. These are the times when our uncommon faith and mutual commitment can reflect the miracle of the resurrection in our lives.

We will be hearing about the Capital Campaign this month. We will be preparing for the Easter Morning Miracle. So come to worship and be fed and nurtured just like the Sandhill Cranes come to Minnesota to feed and nest.

Shalom,
Pastor Hal

Peace United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2011

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

Opening prayer led by Pastor Hal.

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

Financial Secretary's Report: Report accepted.

Treasurer's Report: We are slightly behind on pledges but overall doing fine.

Pastor's Report: In the last month I was here every week! I led worship on February 20 & 27 as well as March 6 & 13. We had communion on March 6.

On March 2, I attended the Ethics Committee meeting at St. Cloud Hospital.

The Reach Out Committee and the Deacons met before the Ash Wednesday Service on March 9.

We did meet for Ash Wednesday on March 9 and had communion. Our Lenten Series is from the set of reading by Susan Pargman entitled The Power of His Last Words.

March 16 was the first of our Lenten meals downstairs. Jon Tufte brought us the meditation and Lela Clark provided the meal. Thank you.

I met with Derek Blonigen and Jessica Miller a second time about their wedding that is scheduled for July 30.

Met with the Sunday morning Adult Group on February 20, 27, March 6 & March 13. We are clawing our way through the book of Acts.

Visited Rose Gronau and Lil Fors at Country Manor.

Deacons: Met on March 9th. We discussed Communion services and meal arrangements for Wednesday nights. Holy Saturday prayer vigil sign up sheet will be posted.

Trustees: Met on March 17th. Saturday, April 9th will be church cleaning day. Discussed insurance needs.

Time, Talents and Treasure: Did not meet. Jay Peterson has agreed to fill the open Trustee slot. Openings still remain on the Special Events and Mission committees.

Christian Ed: No Meeting. A meeting has been scheduled for April.

Special Events: No Meeting but will be coordinating flower orders for the Easter garden.

Pastor Parish: No meeting

Renewal Task Force: No meeting

Mission Committee: No meeting

Reach Out: Met on March 9th. Discussed a “getting to know you” questionnaire. Home potlucks will be coordinated for May 20, 21 and 22. We need members to host and attend small group dinners to help new church members get acquainted.

Other Business: Waiting on a date for the congregational meeting regarding the capital campaign from renewal task force.

Brief discussion about Pilgrim Point camp.

Next meeting 4/14 at 7:00

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

Minutes respectfully submitted by Karen Johnson.

Lenten Schedule



During Lent the Deacons will provide a light meal prior to worship on Wednesday evenings through April 13th. “The Power of His Last Words” by Susan Pargman will be presented during worship.

April 6th – Lenten Meal prepared by Jay & Deb Yunek – 5:30, Worship – 6:30:
“I Thirst” The Woman at the well / Shirley Hoff Downstairs

April 13th – Lenten Meal prepared by Roger Towler – 5:30, Worship – 6:30:
“Into Your Hands” Nicodemus / Clarence Giloy Downstairs

Palm Sunday, April 17th

Maundy Thursday, April 21st – Worship 7:00 p.m. with Communion:
“It is Finished” Mary, Mother of Jesus / Sue Towler Sanctuary

Good Friday, April 22nd – Worship location to be announced.

Holy Saturday April 23rd – Prayer Vigil, Sanctuary 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Easter, April 24 – Easter Breakfast 8:30 – 9:45 a.m., Worship 10:00 a.m.

Happy April Birthday!



Judy Studenski – 1
Linda Tramm – 1
Rachel Loch – 4
Jake Lehner – 4
Jeanenne Anhorn – 8
Mel Christen – 8
Alice Neil – 13
Kenan Anderson – 15
Jerry Studenski – 15
Jay Yunek – 17
Landon Miller – 18
Norma Dettmann – 22
Don Manea Jr. – 22
Connie Schultz – 22
Alexander Ampe – 23
Owen Pederson – 24
Jan Seibring – 27
Herman Schleicher – 28



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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

Baby Congratulations: Rachel & Adam Loch
Baby Congratulations: Roz Hoff & Shane Lee
Get Well – Jack Gburzynki
Thinking of You – Connie Taylor
Happy 100th Birthday – Helene Ringenberger



**Let's Reach Out to One Another
by Sharing a 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

**Spring Cleaning!
Saturday, April 9th
10:00 a.m.**

Please help spruce up the church.



**“Many hands make light work.”
~ John Heywood**

CONSIDER YOUR CALL FOR THE MISSION COMMITTEE

The **Mission Committee** is responsible for selecting and organizing at least one mission project for each year that will unite the entire congregation.

In recent years the **Mission Committee** has been responsible for helping the members of Peace UCC participate in:

- Kids Against Hunger,
- Minnesota Food Share,
- Habitat For Humanity,
- Salvation Army Bell Ringing,
- Salvation Army Angel Tree,
- Supplies for Anna Marie's Alliance,
- School Supplies for Lincoln School.

According to the Constitution the **Mission Committee** has six members serving two-year terms, three of which are elected each year. Right now there is an empty slot for this committee. This is a fun group that looks ahead in the church year and decides what projects to choose. A regular meeting date has not been announced but the work usually gets done around the table at Coffee Hour. If you are interested in helping with the hands on mission of Peace Church talk to Dorothy Zika, Pastor Hal, or Lisa Hanson.

Thank you,
Pastor Hal
& The Time, Talent, and Treasure Committee



Please Join Us for Easter Breakfast!
Sunday April 24th
8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

A full breakfast menu will be served.

Thank you,
The Special Events Committee



One Great Hour of Sharing

Every year since 1948 congregations in the United States have joined together to bring help and hope to people around the world who are in dire need. Joy and urgency propel the work of **One Great Hour of Sharing**. We remember our abundant blessings as we highlight some of the challenging situations in our world. This articulation helps us be generous in our giving.

The 2010 earthquake that rocked Haiti left more than one million people in need of shelter.

About 2.5 billion people lack adequate sanitation facilities and 1.1 billion people rely on unsafe drinking water.

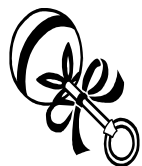
Four hundred thousand Chicago, Illinois residents live in so called 'food deserts' that is areas with no or limited access to grocery stores.

About 17.5 million children under the age of 18 have lost one or both parents to AIDS.

We have an opportunity to help. Enclosed are an offering envelope and a flyer with more information about **One Great Hour of Sharing**. You can return your gift to the church office or place it in the offering during worship. Please give generously.

Thank you.
The Deacons

Welcome to the World Boys!



Congratulations to Rachel & Adam Loch on the birth of Benjamin Adam Loch, born February 13, 2011 and weighing in at 6 pounds, 14 ounces. Proud family members include Grandpa Jaime Hoff & Aunties Katy Hoff & Emilee Symanietz.

Congratulations to Roz Hoff & Shane Lee on the birth of Xavier Lee Hoff, born March 7, 2011 and weighing in at 7 pounds 15 ounces. Proud family members include Grandpa Mark & Grandma Shirley Hoff and Great Grandma Eleanor Conrad.



Stewardship Message

Extravagant Generosity

“So Joseph took the body....and laid it in his own tomb.” Matthew 27:59-60

In the week beginning with Palm Sunday, the stories we read are full of people giving extravagantly. Think about it and you see giving everywhere. Someone gives Jesus a donkey to ride into Jerusalem, a valuable beast in that time. A woman buys expensive ointment to massage Jesus' tired body. Someone shares their house for Jesus and his disciples to celebrate Passover. His followers buy and prepare food for the feast. Jesus gives them bread and tells them he will soon give his body, his blood, his life for them. From the cross, Jesus gives the promise of forgiveness and eternal life to a thief. Then this lovely story in Matthew of a Pharisee named Joseph risking his reputation by giving his personal tomb for Jesus' burial. Then, in the resurrection, God not only gave Jesus life, but in so doing gave us forgiveness and a promise not to desert us, even when we desert God. Can there be a more extravagant gift?

How do we respond to all this generosity? It needs to be more than colored eggs and new clothes. It needs to be more than gardens of flowers in church and Easter baskets. How do we respond to all this generosity? With our own generous discipleship every day of our lives. Happy Easter.

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

April 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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