

Preparing for Lent 2010



Fat Tuesday

February 16 is Fat Tuesday.

We will get ready for Lent with balloons, beads, masks, coins, candy, and even a clown! Pancakes, sausage, applesauce, and drinks will be served in Fellowship Hall from 6 to 7 p.m. There will be a *Pancake Flipping Time* for all who want to participate.

Join your church family for this fun event; friends are welcome too!!

Prices are: **Adults-\$2, Kids \$1**, pay at the door. We are thankful to the men of Couples in Christ who will be doing the cooking.

The Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, is called Shrove Tuesday. Long ago on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday people went to church to confess their sins. The old English word for confess was shrive. The people shrove for forgiveness of their sins. People who gave up eating meat and other foods containing fat during Lent then used up all of the fats in their home the day before Ash Wednesday. Shrove Tuesday eventually became a day for celebrating and feasting because fats and rich food would not be enjoyed again until Easter Day.

Ash Wednesday

The Ash Wednesday service will be held in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. on February 17. The confirmation students will assist in worship leadership and the Bell Choir will provide special music. The imposition of ashes will be observed.

In ancient days, following horrible natural disasters, Christians would take time for solemn prayer. Their observance recognized the cooperation between God and humanity in the process of caring for creation. During the Ash Wednesday service special prayers will be offered for seed, soil and water. Each participant will plant a seed to take home.

God's Renewed Creation: Call to Hope and Action

In a statement that says, "We cannot help the world until we change our way of being in it," the United Methodist Council of Bishops have invited all United Methodists to study and prayer this Lent. They are providing all United Methodist congregations with a study guide which focuses on three interconnected global threats to God's good creation:

- ~ Pandemic poverty and disease
- ~ Environmental degradation
- ~ The proliferation of weapons and violence

Information on group study times will be available through the church office.

24 Hours That Changed the World

Join Rev. Dave and Donna Wilkinson on a video journey through the last day of Christ's life based on Adam Hamilton's powerful book *24 Hours That Changed the World*. Hamilton is Senior Pastor of the fast growing Church of the Resurrection (UMC) in Kansas City.

Last year Dave and Donna co-led a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Through this video series we will travel to the Holy Land with Adam Hamilton to visit the sites where those earth-shaking events took place. We will walk where Jesus walked and see what he may have seen, along the road that led to the pain and triumph of the cross. The Wilkinsons will relate some of their own experiences in the Holy Land each *(continued on page 3)*

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Preparing for Worship in Lent



In **February** our Loose Coin Offering is going to support the **Ecumenical Partnership for Housing (EPH)**. EPH is a not-for-profit organization of churches working together to help homeless families. EPH has been providing transitional housing since 1992. With the recent addition of another home, EPH now owns or manages eleven family-size apartments in quiet neighborhoods close to local schools that serve as transitional housing for families in need.

The Loose Coin Offering for the month of **March** will provide **camp scholarships for the Hmong youth from the New Faith Hmong Ministry** which shares St. Paul's UMC building on the west side of Green Bay. Pastor Nhia Wahn Her and his wife, Mao, report that previous scholarships, paid for by our congregation's Loose Coin Offering, were a blessing to the young teenagers in their church, who would otherwise not have been able to afford to attend the United Methodist church camp at Lake Lucerne. It gave them a wonderful opportunity to learn about Jesus Christ, invite him into their lives and, in some cases, to be baptized. The camp experience also provides an evangelical tool to invite others who haven't had the opportunity to experience the love of Christ. They are very grateful for the generosity of our church members.

Lenten Sermon Series:



Walking with Jesus from Temptation to Passion

During the season of Lent we will take a journey out of our ordinary lives to go with Jesus from the wilderness to the cross. We will risk leaving our safe, comfortable places to follow him.

February 21

Preacher: Sarah Johnsen

Text: Luke 4: 1-13

"Jesus... was led by the Spirit in the wilderness."

February 28

Preacher: Sarah Johnsen

Text: Luke 13: 31-35

"Today, tomorrow and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem."

Sunday Worship Schedule

Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary at 8:00 and 9:15 a.m.

Fresh Bread Contemporary Worship at the YWCA at 10:30 a.m.

March 7

Guest Preacher: Scott Carnes

Scott is a student at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary. He was Director of Youth Ministries at First Church from 2005 to 2007.

March 14

Preacher: Paul Johnsen

Text: Luke 15: 1-3; 11b -32

"Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him."

March 21

Preacher: Sarah Johnsen

Text: John: 12: 1-8

"Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead."

March 28 - Palm Sunday

Preacher: Sarah Johnsen

Text: Luke 22: 14-20

"When the hour came, he took his place at the table."

Live video streaming available
For Lent we are offering a new service of live video streaming of the 9:15 worship service. For linking information go to www.fumcgb.org.



The Church is more than a budget

By Rev. Paul Johnsen
Lead Pastor

At worship on Sunday, January 31, Tim LaPlant, our Treasurer, made it clear that our church is more than a budget. We focus on worshipping God, offering hospitality to all and giving our youth opportunities to grow in faith. We strive to be in mission in our own neighborhood, around the country and the world. When God calls, we respond. We live our vision: "Our Doors will Always Be Open." That is who we are!

The annual church budget is a tool. It helps us prioritize. Our Finance Committee invited groups and committees across the congregation to dream and tell us what they need. All these dreams were assembled into our new budget.

For 2010, the Church Council has approved a budget of \$839,462. This represents an increase of \$14,000 over 2009. Given that many of our areas

under-spent their 2009 budget, we will need an increase in giving of \$36,000. Yes, this is a lot but it is within our reach!

In 2010 salaries for pastors and staff will mostly remain the same. Any increases will be due to increasing health insurance costs.

While we have budgeted 90 percent of our total Conference Apportionment, the Church Council decided that our goal is to pay 100 percent in 2010. Our Apportionments connect us with all United Methodists. As United Methodists, we know there is so much more we can do together than we could ever do alone. For example, the United Methodist structure and our giving make it easy for us to respond quickly and efficiently to any type of disaster.

This year our congregation needs to invest more in growing and developing our strategies of Vital Worship, Hospitality First and Youth Ministry. But our desire to grow must be matched by our commitment and our financial resources. Our ministries are too important to be cut back. While we appreciate the prudent spending in 2009, 2010 is a new year and we need to be willing to move forward.

This year, keep First United Methodist Church in your prayers. Pray that we will be faithful to God; that we will move forward, take risks and do whatever God asks. Tim LaPlant is

Active Seniors to learn about Bay Area Humane Society

Mark your calendar and plan to join the Active Seniors on the second Thursday of each month for their luncheons and informative programs. **Thursday, March 11**, Stephen Heaven, Executive Director, Bay Area Humane Society, will present an exciting program to the Active Seniors. Stephen became the Executive Director in November 2008. Stephen comes from an unusually diverse background - spending 15 years as a police officer in England, the last eight of which were as a K9 officer.

Arrive at 11:30 a.m. to socialize and take in the smells of the bountiful lunch being prepared for you. The lunch, served at noon, is \$4.50 per person.

Because our cooks need to know how many people to plan on, luncheon reservations are *DUE at the church office, by telephone 437- 9252 or online on the Monday prior to the luncheon*. After that deadline, you are still welcome to come for the program, but a lunch for you cannot be guaranteed. Again, please sign-up early.

24 Hours That Changed the World

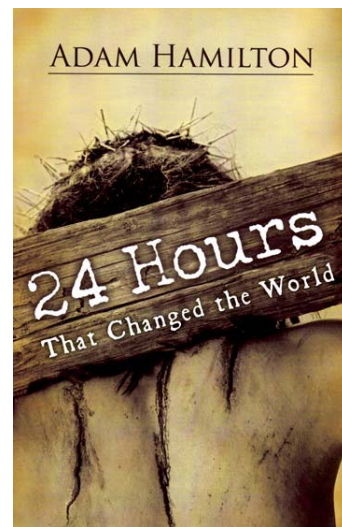
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week as well. Music will be a part of this experience as it was a part of their trip experience.

This journey will take place Wednesdays during Lent at 7:00 p.m. The group will first gather on February 17 with the Ash Wednesday service, then meet following the service to begin the journey of *24 Hours That Changed the World*. The first week the group will meet until 9:00 p.m. Subsequent weeks we will conclude by 8:30 p.m. Room 108 will be the gathering place for the journey.

Make the Lenten season special this year by experiencing *24 Hours That Changed the World*.

absolutely correct. The Church is more than a budget. Together, we discover that every single day!



Confirmation Class served dinner at N.E.W. Community Shelter

In November we had a great crew and the dinner went smoothly. One of the young men at the shelter commented that it was "the best meal he has had at the shelter in a few months." That was quite a tribute to our crew. Also, we provided a plentiful supply of desserts. We had enough extra after the meal that the shelter used them for lunches for some of the residents for the next few days. I was very proud of our students. In addition to providing a great meal, their hospitality was outstanding as they served the meal. Many thanks and kudos to all! If you see any of the students, please thank them!

Thanks to Les (Van Vonderen) and Peggy (Welsh) for their guidance. Great "how to" sheet!

Thanks to the whole crew -
Nick Dykema
Brian Zak
RWEakin
Kaitlyn Poellot
Robert Sabatka
Maddie Seifert
Bruce and Marcus and Robert Cantrall
Chris Diekvoss
Pat and Patrick Heil
Scott Houle
Jill Thiede
Robin Zak
EVERYONE who made cookies, brownies, bars!



Get to know our 2010 Ministry Leadership

CHURCH COUNCIL

Chair: Dave Pietenpol
Treasurer: Tim LaPlant
UMW: Mary Dorchester
Youth Ministry: Pat Heil

Lay Leader Coordinator: Jerry Bannon
Recording Secretary: TBD
Mission Commission: Ernest Harvey
Children's Council: Diane Wilson

Lay Members of Annual Conference and on Council (term ends 2012)
At-large members: Mitch Farra and Dana Farra, (Julie VanKlooster, alternate)

Young Adult Representatives on Council

2010: Kim Insley 2011: Brad Jorgensen 2012: TBD

Congregational Representatives on Council

2010: Jerry Potts, Ed Hanchek 2011: TBD 2012: Bridget Skaleski

Staff Parish Relations Committee

Chair (on Council): Mike Kulkoski

Lay Leader: Jerry Bannon

2010: Jane Sweazy, Peggy Schroeder, Larry Sarver

2011: Emily Johnson (Young Adult Rep), Mike Kulkoski, Renee Lower

2012: Dave Zochert, Jill Thiede, Peter Holzwarth

Stewardship & Finance Committee *(including Memorials & Gifts)*

Chair (on Council): Greg Lower

Treasurer: Tim LaPlant

2010: Sherry Johnson, Erick Wikum, Carol VanScyoc

2011: Greg Lower, Dave Arps, Scott Houle

2012: Rosie Jonas, Joe Malcore, Mark Babbitts, Dan Barnard

Board of Trustees

Chair (on Council): Mike Bradley

Legal Counsel to Board: Rick Wieting

2010: Mitch Farra, Carol Shield, Jim Magnin

2011: Susan Barnard, Rick Rickaby, Joel Dorchester

2012: Chad Doverspike, Jim Tubbs, Mike Bradley

Staff (on Council):

Rev. Paul Johnsen, Rev. Sarah Johnsen, Rev. Dave Wilkinson, Barb Hayes (Director of Children and Youth Ministries), Amy Dennis (Coordinator of Volunteer Ministries and Membership Care)

Nominations and Lay Leadership Committee

(to become Ex Officio including members from SPRC, Finance, Trustees, Council to serve annual terms at discretion of committee)

Chair: Rev. Paul Johnsen

2012 at large reps: Mary Harrison, Mary Hofmann

Lay Leaders: Jerry Bannon, Elizabeth Huntley, Patrick Heil, Bill Appel



We have many exciting events coming up for your youth to get involved with so please make note of these dates and contact me if you are interested in more information or in participating.

*Thank you!
Lisa
lmalmberg@fumcgb.org*

Youth Updates

By Lisa Malmberg, Coordinator of Youth Ministries

Youth Sledding Event: Sunday, February 21, 12:00 – 3:00 p.m. Pick up at church at 3:15 p.m.

This event may be cancelled if we don't get more snow. We are currently planning a movie night for Friday, February 19, 6:00 – 10:00 p.m. as a replacement event. Please check the website or 'This Week @First' for updates on sledding cancellation.

All of the youth are invited to go sledding at Triangle Sports Area located in Baird Park on Green Bay's east side. Tow ropes fees are \$2.25 and tube rental fees are \$1.25. Wooden, metal or hard plastic sleds, saucers, tobaggans, etc. are prohibited.

We will have lunch after Sunday School and leave from here. Please bring warm jackets, boots, snowpants etc.

We will also be in need of drivers and adult chaperones. Please contact Lisa if you able to help or are interested in attending. An RSVP, permission form and current medical release form will be required if parents are not in attendance.



30 Hour Famine: 6:00 p.m., Friday, March 12 to 6:00 p.m., Saturday, March 13

The participating youth stay at church from 6:00 p.m. March 12 until 6:00 p.m. March 13. They will start their fast after they eat lunch on Friday. Our packets have been ordered and once received the youth will start to collect pledges from family and friends.

Considering all that is going on in our world right now this is an excellent opportunity for youth to give back while also experiencing what it feels like to be truly 'hungry'. Please encourage your youth to participate in this event, it will something to remember!

More details to come!

All Youth Scavenger Hunt: Friday, April 16, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

We are going on a scavenger hunt! Not only will this be fun, but we will be helping put food on the shelves of the Goodwill Place pantry! The youth will be paired with an adult, given a list and a time limit to gather the food items listed and a few fun bonus items. There will be prizes for the winning teams!



The folks at the Goodwill Place are going to host a pizza party afterwards as a thank you to everyone participating so please RSVP to Lisa. We will also be taking cars on our hunt so permission forms are also necessary. Any adults who like to have fun should contact Lisa to be a team leader!

All Youth Great America Trip: Monday, June 15

We are planning a weekday road trip to Great America for all of our youth. We are hoping to get enough interest so that we can take a coach bus, no driving for anyone and the perfect chance to crash on the way back! We are looking for any college students or senior high youth (juniors and seniors only) to help chaperone. We are also hoping to hold a fundraiser to help offset expenses for anyone who wants to help or simply can't afford to go otherwise. This trip is for everyone and is going to be awesome! Put it on your calendar and plan for some fun.

Monthly Finance Report

To keep you, the congregation, informed on the church's current financial status, we provide a brief summary position for First Church in every issue of *Spirit Alive*. The following numbers are through **December 2009**.

Expected Revenue to date:
\$803,470

Actual Revenue to date:
\$805,660

Expected Expenses to date:
\$825,554

Actual Expenses to date:
\$789,819

In summary, through December income has exceeded expenses by \$15,840. (This amount is subject to year end final adjusting entries.) In the 2009 budget it was decided that conference apportionments would be set at \$98,156, representing 80% of the conference total for First Church. Due to a strong showing in offerings in December First Church was able to meet the \$98,156 budgeted for apportionments.

The **2010 budget** has been approved by Church Council. Expected revenue for 2010 is \$812,677 and expected expenses are \$839,462, resulting in a net loss of \$26,785 for 2010. Apportionments for 2010 has been budgeted at \$108,156, which represents 91% of the conference request. A 2010 budget summary is available for review by stopping in or calling the church office. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Carrie Stargardt in the church office at 437-9252.



Byron Center R.I.P. -- 1848 – 2009

By Bob Bryan

Let us celebrate the contribution that the Byron Center has made to the Methodist church for 162 years! The Center has been closed recently.

Church camps have been members of the American Camping Association for several decades. However, some histories of the camping movement in the United States have failed to recognize the significance of church camping. Some histories regard the Gunnery School Camp in Connecticut as the first organized camp. Frederick W. Gunn, the headmaster, led a 40 mile hiking camp in 1861; the boys were "playing soldier" at the start of the Civil war. Gunnery School camps continued until 1879. Both private camps and organizational camps, like those sponsored by the YWCA and the YMCA, were established later in the 19th century.

Christians had assembled for multi-day revival meetings since the early 1800s; they came in wagons and "camped out". Byron Center was established in 1848, the year that Wisconsin became a state. The Byron Center has been the longest continuously operated camp in the U.S.! In the early days, campers came by wagon, buggy and railroad.

I have a special appreciation for this historical note because of my past connections with the camping movement: Martha and I were co-program directors of several senior camps at Byron Center in the 90s; director of Sacramento Methodist Assembly of the New Mexico Conference of the United Methodist for 11 years (Martha was my co-director); director of several camps during my 33 year career in the YMCA; and "Visitor" (inspector) for the American Camping Association.

Easter Egg Hunt is coming April 3

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, April 3. Meet in Fellowship Hall at 10:30 a.m. to be entertained by Dan Kirk, "**The Juggler with the Yellow Shoes.**" Dan will perform for us doing juggling, comedy, prop manipulation and audience participation. Dan has been performing his show for 21 years, and was even featured on the cover of Guideposts magazine. He will also share a Christian message with the children.

The Easter Egg Hunt will follow in Jackson Park across the street regardless of the weather. Please dress your children appropriately. Remember to bring a basket to collect your eggs, and a donation for our food pantry. Children from one to eleven years old are welcome.

Sign up for the hunt at the information desk in the narthex. Cookies and milk will be served following the hunt. If you would like to contribute cookies, please call Barb Hayes at 437-9252. The Children's Council of FUMC sponsors the hunt.



Christians, Calendars, Seasons, and Lent

By Barb Hayes, Director of Children/Youth Ministries

When most of us think about time, we depend on our clocks and calendars to help us. The early Christians also kept calendars to know when to celebrate certain days. They set holy days to remember and teach important events in the life of Jesus. That is how the Christian calendar or year began. When Christians celebrate the church seasons, the story of their faith is told over and over again. Advent is the first season of the Christian year followed by the seasons of Christmas and then Epiphany. On February 17, 2010 the Christian year calendar continues with the season of Lent.

Lent is a period of forty-six calendar days beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending the Saturday before Easter. The season includes forty days and six Sundays. The days represent the forty days and nights Jesus spent

in the wilderness to prepare for his mission. It was the time when he met temptations and made decisions. For Jesus, that was a time of testing, a time to grow closer to God. Jesus centered his thoughts on God. He prayed and thought about what God wanted him to do. The last week of Lent, known as Holy Week, focuses on the last days of Jesus' life, beginning with his entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

Mardi Gras and Ash Wednesday both relate to Lent. Mardi Gras (French for Fat Tuesday) is the last day before Lent. Since Lent was traditionally a time of fasting, the day before it began was always a feast day. People had to use up eggs, butter and other perishables that would not last through the Lenten season, and "Fat Tuesday" was celebrated with many traditional and tasty baked goods.

The next day, Ash Wednesday, was the official beginning of Lent. The palms used the year before in the Palm Sunday observance were burned, and the ashes are used to make the sign of the cross on the foreheads of worshippers.

The word *Lent* comes from an old Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, which means springtime. The coming of springtime means the winter days are growing longer, and the earth is preparing for new life. In the church we celebrate the springtime of God's spirit. Purple is the

color for the season of Lent. Purple reminds us that we need to repent for, or be sorry for our sins. Purple also reminds everyone that Jesus was the King of Kings, for purple was the royal color of kings.

During Lent, the emphasis is on Jesus' commitment to God. For the Christian, Lent is a time for individual reflection on the decision to be faithful and on the task of being faithful to God. Boys and girls are sensitive to the story of Jesus' life and death. As children learn more about the seasons of the Christian

year, they are better able to relate the stories of Jesus' life to their own faithfulness to God.

This year the Children's Council will be giving each family a wooden cross. Each week of Lent there is a reading and a symbol to add. Our hope is this will help your children celebrate the Christian year and this season of Lent. Lent should be a special season because it leads to Easter. Easter is the greatest celebration in the Christian year because it reminds us of Jesus' resurrection. He lives again and promises us new life.



These books can provide comfort for children in times of uncertainty

Old Turtle by Douglas Wood

When all of creation argues over who God is, a wise old turtle steps in to silence the crowds and proclaim that "above all... and within all things... God IS." This nondenominational modern-day classic offers a ready platform for discussing beliefs and the need for peace and acceptance among the peoples of the world — a message that could not be more timely.

God's Paintbrush by Sandy Sasso

Sasso helps children explore God and their relationship to God through moments in their own lives.

The Runaway Bunny by Margaret Wise Brown

A little bunny keeps running away from his mother in an imaginative and imaginary game of verbal hide-and-seek; children will be profoundly comforted by this lovingly steadfast mother who finds her child every time.

Guess How Much I Love You by Sam McBratney

The story of the immeasurable love between a parent and a child.

The Fall of Freddie the Leaf by Leo Buscaglia

Inspiring and thought-provoking story of the delicate balance between life and death.

CORNER

PRAYER

We often have a kind of notion, as part of this highfalutin, noble picture of ourselves as pray-ers, that when we pray we need to be completely attentive and we need to be fully engaged and we need to be concentrating and we need to be focused. But the fact is, if prayer is our end of a relationship with God, that's not the way we are with the people we love a large portion of the time. We simply are in their presence. We're going about our lives at the same time in each other's presence, aware and sustained by each other, but not much more than that... However we are, however we think we ought to be in prayer, the fact is we just need to show up and do the best we can do. It's like being in a family.

— Roberta Bondi

Lord, during this Lenten season, help me to grow closer in my relationship with you through prayer. Help me to remember to pray when I'm walking or driving, when I'm at work or at school, when I'm happy or sad or frustrated or angry. Help me to remember to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17).



UMW members view a movie about the lost boys of Sudan -- "God Grew Tired of Us." (photo by Jeane Stoll)

The Good Will Place Pantry

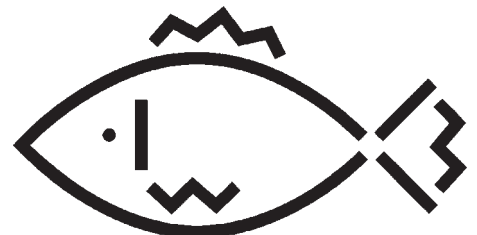
Thank you for your generosity

Belated Happy New Year from the Good Will Place Pantry! Thank you so much for your generous donations of food, clothing and personal hygiene products. It is through your generosity we are able to provide for our clients.

In mid January, we kicked off a "Food From the Heart" campaign. We are asking you to attach our "Food From the Heart" symbol which is attached to our bulletin on Sunday, to an item of food from our wish list below and bring it to church on February 14. If you would like to include your first name on the heart so our clients know you care about them, please do so.

Wish List:

Chicken Ramen Noodles, Spaghetti & Meatballs, Ravioli, Spam, Tuna, Beef-a-roni, Hamburger Helper, and Mac & Cheese



THE GOOD WILL PLACE

Younkers Coupon Sale

Please support in the Younkers Community Fund Raising Event. This savings event takes place Saturday, February 27. For a five dollar donation (cash or check made payable to FUMC with Good Will Pantry in Memo line), you receive a booklet good for ten dollars off an item plus numerous additional coupons for percentages off. In return, Younkers writes the Good Will Place a check for the entire five dollars you have donated to our charity by purchasing our booklets. Booklets will be available at the church office or you can contact Vicki Hoell at 465-1581.

Thanks again for all your support!

New Faith Hmong United Methodist Ministry

Time to order delicious homemade Egg Rolls

The Hmong women are making egg rolls to raise money for New Faith Hmong Ministry. The funds will be used to support all areas and activities in relation to the ministry. Your support in the past has benefited the ministry in numerous ways. Your continued support is greatly appreciated. Order forms are available in the church office. You may pick up your order on Saturday, March 6 at St. Paul's United Methodist Church.

Pastor Her's wife, Mao, is planning to attend Garrett Seminary in the fall. They have a daughter who will be a freshman at UW Oshkosh in the fall. They have asked if anyone in our church has a single or double bed and mattress which they no longer need. One of the families in their Hmong congregation has 4 daughters in college. They need beds for them to sleep on when they return home for breaks and summer. Call Mary or Phil Dorchester at 468-6155 if you have an available bed to donate.

News from United Methodist Women

With thoughts of warmer weather and the promise of Spring, the United Methodist Women of First Green Bay are busy making plans for fellowship, learning, worship and service.

Lenten Brunch and Meditation

You are invited to a Lenten Brunch and Meditation to be held on **Tuesday, March 9**. The brunch is scheduled for **11:30 a.m.**, to accommodate workers at the Good Will Place. Come for the fellowship, a delicious brunch, a Lenten message given by Sarah Johnsen and special music. Rakow/Kotas Fellowship Group will prepare the meal and a suggested \$4.00 donation for mission will be accepted. Please sign up online or in Room 106. As usual, you need not be a UMW member to attend. If you need a ride, call Mary Dorchester at 468-6155.

Children's Book Giveaway at Good Will Place

Any children's books that are no longer enjoyed by your family can be placed in the Good Will Place bin in the entry to the church. They will be lovingly passed on to our Good Will Place clients' families to be enjoyed! The next date for Fellowship Time/ Book Distribution will be on **Tuesday, March 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** in the Youth Room next to the Good Will Place. Volunteers are needed to donate healthy snacks and to distribute the books.

Evelyn's Book Club

Evelyn's Book Club selected the book *God's Politics: A New Vision for Faith and Politics in America* by Jim Wallis. In this book the author argues that America's separation of church and state doesn't require banishing moral and religious values from the public square. In fact, the very survival of America's social fabric depends on such values and vision to shape our politics. This book is in the 2007 Reading Program catalogue in the category of Social Action and is available in the Brown County library. Lunch and discussion will be at the Holiday Inn City Center on **Friday, March 19 at 12:30 p.m.** Call Bev Smith at 336-3597 so she can make a reservation for you.

For Christ's Sake, Turn the World Upside Down! Focus: Care for Creation

Gather, worship and celebrate God's gifts to us in creation at this UMW event to be held on **March 27 from 8:45 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.** at the First United Methodist Church in Madison. This event is sponsored by the Women's Division Green Team. Laura Pfeffer will be the guest speaker. Registration fee is \$10 which includes lunch and parking. Forms are available in Room 106 and the

deadline for registration is March 6. If you would like to attend, please put your name and phone number on the sign up sheet next to the registration forms, so car-pooling can be arranged. Since the event begins early on Saturday, some are planning to drive to Madison on Friday evening and stay overnight in a hotel.

Mother/Daughter/ Friends Tea

A special event is being planned for **Saturday afternoon, April 17** for young and old alike! This event is being jointly sponsored by UMW and the Hospitality Mission Team of our church. Mark your calendars and watch for further details. Plan to come and enjoy this intergenerational event with your daughter, mother, grandmother or friend.

UMW District Spring Retreat

The Spirituality of Power and Freedom is the theme for the Nicolet/Winnebago Spring Retreat to be held at Lake LuCerne Camp and Retreat Center on **April 23-24**. The fee for Saturday only is \$15 if registration is received before April 5. The fee includes lunch. Registration forms are available in Room 106.

Rakow/Kotas/Peterson/Woehler Lunch Bunch

Bring a sandwich and come to Room Z120 in the Ziemer building at **11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 6**. Dessert will be served. The wonderful team from the Good Will Place will join us and share information and inspiration for the amazing mission project which takes place every Tuesday. Although this will be our usual Fellowship group meeting, all are welcome and encouraged to attend. This program was originally scheduled for the Christmas Tea which was cancelled due to inclement weather.

General Information

Thanks to all UMW members who sold and purchased SCRIP for the month of January. The **SCRIP** project, organized and administered by Denise Myers, plays an important part in the ministries of our church.

Thanks, in advance, for all UMW members who will provide desserts for the **NEW Shelter** meals prepared and served by many members of our church. Thanks to Peggy VanVonderen for coordinating the meals.

Watch for the new **Prayer and Self Denial** calendars! Funds from this year's offering will be used to expand facilities for new and emerging mission programs supported by United Methodist Women internationally and nationally.

For more information about any activities or projects of United Methodist Women please call Mary Dorchester at 468-6155.

This month we received thanks from...

Regarding the live video streaming of the Christmas Eve services — Julie Gaston: “Thank you for having this available – my brother, who due to the weather, didn’t make it to town tonight really enjoyed watching and my dad and step mom who decided to stay in Arizona this holiday are enjoying it as I write.”

Forrest Kenworthy: I wanted to personally thank you for a great job streaming the Christmas Evening service. Kay and I were in Kokomo, Indiana. We went to the family’s Christmas Evening service. Upon returning to the house I saw the announcement again of the streaming of our own service. It was a most enjoyable service. It was good to be participating in our service even though we were not there and even though we had already been to another service. Like always, there is no place like home and First Church is our home.

(These are just two examples of the many responses we received.)

Shonna Fuerst: I would just like to thank everyone at FUMC for their kindness and generosity since I have been associated with the church. I have never met such a great bunch of people!

Josh & Jess Krowiorz: Please accept this donation from Jessica and myself. We thoroughly enjoyed being married in your beautiful church. We will cherish these memories forever!
(Married on New Year’s Eve)

Sue Christophersen, Church Walk Committee: I wish to thank you for your support, printing programs, hosting the fellowship and



everything else you did to make the 2009 Christmas Church Walk such a huge success. A special thanks to Diane Wilson.

Carol Lehman: I can’t say “thank you” often enough. The love gift was wonderful, as were the many good wishes. The 25 years I have spent as your organist were truly a blessing to me. I will forever cherish those years and the friendships I have made. May God continue to bless you.

Diane Pietenpol: Thank you to everyone who purchased items from the Christmas Giving Tree. Because of your generosity, the Good Will Place and the Ecumenical Partnership for Housing (EPH) received many items needed by their clients for homekeeping and personal hygiene care.

Jean Marsch, President of Green Bay Board of Education: On behalf of the Green Bay Area Public School District, I want to extend a special thank you for your generous gift of hats and mittens (value \$100) to be awarded to Howe Elementary School. The gift was presented to the School Board at its January 2010 meeting. The District sincerely appreciates receiving assistance from caring and concerned organizations in providing additional materials and enrichment for our students and staff and for our schools.

This month we give thanks to...

Don Heaster, Deacon Dave Wilkinson, and the ourchurchvideos.com staff for the extra work, right before Christmas, in putting together all the pieces for our live video streaming of our four Christmas Eve services.

Diane Wilson for helping to organize the Ecumenical Downtown Christmas Church Walk.

Karen Chriske for coordinating Church Street.

Heather Robertson who helped Peggy Welsh and Les VanVonderen cook and serve the January 26th meal at the NEW Shelter. **Rosie Jonas, Carol Selius, Tim Toepel and Janis Schneider** also served and brought desserts for the 175 meals that were provided by FUMC that evening. Kudos to all who made this mission possible.

Donna Wilkinson, Pat Heil, Doug Dickinson, Dave Hemstreet, and Libby Dorn for sharing their heartfelt, personal faith journeys as part of our *3:16 The Numbers of Hope* series at Fresh Bread Worship. (Their messages can be viewed on our website -- www.fumcgb.org -- by clicking Videos@First, then Channels, then Contemporary Worship.)

Any fact facing us is not as important as our attitude toward it, for that determines our success or failure.

— Norman Vincent Peale

Baptisms

Leo Santiago Saxton was baptized on December 20. Leo was born to Gabriel Saxton-Ruiz and Kari Saxton on April 7, 2009.

Anna Claire Larsen was baptized on December 27. Anna was born to Mary Larsen and Kent Larsen on December 8, 1998. Sponsors are Rachel and Natalie Larsen.

Deaths

Thelma Frances (Fran) Johnson passed away on Christmas Day, 2009 in Destin, Florida. We extend our sympathy to her family.

Irene Weniger passed away on December 30. We extend sympathy to Emmett and family.

Harry Benjamin passed away on January 17. We extend our sympathy to Harry's family.

Spirit Alive is a monthly newsletter of First UMC of Green Bay. Material submitted for the April publication is due in the church office by **12 noon** on Wednesday, **March 10**. When submitting articles via e-mail, please send to: spiritalive@fumcgb.org

Couples in Christ offers study and fellowship

Couples in Christ is discussing the study "Take It To The Limit" by Andy Stanley. Couples are welcome to join us on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month in Fellowship Hall from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. During our meetings, school-age children enjoy swimming at the YWCA and younger children are cared for in the nursery by volunteers. Many families meet up at church at 5:30 to share dinner before our activities begin. Contact Chad or Sara Doverspike at 405-9340 or fivegbspikes@att.net if you have any questions. New couples are encouraged to participate.

Celebrate God's Love with Potluck on February 14

The Valentine's Day all-church potluck will take place in Fellowship Hall following the Fresh Bread service at 11:45 a.m. Bring a dish to share. (Students need not bring anything but themselves.) Utensils and drinks will be provided. All are welcome to come and celebrate God's love on Valentine's Day. Sponsored by the Fresh Bread Planning Team.

Do you enjoy good food? Meeting new friends? Reconnecting with old ones?

Then our new dinner club is for you—meet new people and get to know others within our church family. Sharing a meal sparks conversation and goodwill. Please join the hospitality team sponsored "Breaking Bread Dinner Club." Its simple! You'll be matched with a group of six to eight people, couples and singles, to meet in a host home. The focus is on fellowship with each guest contributing to the feast. Sign up to host or be a guest. Hosts provide their home, entree and beverage. Guests will be assigned appetizer and bread, salad and/or vegetable and dessert to complement the meal. Our first dinner club will be **Saturday evening, February 20, at 6:00 p.m.** with a "Comfort Foods to Keep You Warm" theme. **Sign up by February 15 in Room 106.** For more information, contact Renee Lower at 429-9471 or Reneelo@aol.com.

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Vicki Hoell, Karen Chrisce

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Rev. Ken Mortonson
Rev. Linda Pliska
Rev. Norman Stephenson
Rev. Jenny Temple Schroeder

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Bill Appel (Worship)
Pat Heil (Youth)
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Easter Food Box Ministry Live a Little!

By Diane Pietenpol

Recently, the following quote from John Bunyan came across my desk. *“You have not lived until you have done something for someone who cannot repay you.”* This Lenten season, you are being challenged to “live a little” by adopting an area family in need through First Church’s Easter Food Box ministry.

Every Lenten season we receive referrals from eight Green Bay elementary schools and the McKinney-Vento Homeless Program, as well as from members of the First Church congregation. We usually receive 45-55 referrals. Because of current economic conditions, we are expecting the numbers to be on the higher end.

How can you “live?” Actually selecting a family and personally shopping for them is the most rewarding. (You will be provided with a list of food suggestions.) However, not everyone may be financially able to do this. But if one thinks creatively, perhaps the cost of a food box could be shared with a church friend, a neighbor (who need not be a First Church member), co-worker, your book club, a Bible study group, or a Circle group, just to name a few.

If doing the actual shopping is a problem, consider a cash donation to the Food Box Ministry. Donations big and small help make sure all referred families receive food at Easter.

Donations of time are needed as well. We need people to assist with the packing of boxes for families not adopted. Volunteers for the Saturday morning delivery are greatly needed. (The response for delivery volunteers this past Thanksgiving was tremendous!)

You may request to adopt a family; make a cash donation; and/or volunteer your time by filling out a “You Can Count on Me” insert in upcoming Sunday bulletins or by contacting Diane Pietenpol at 434-3619 or e-mailing davdiane@aol.com with the subject line “Easter Food Boxes.”

The packing of food boxes will take place **Friday, March 26** at 1:00 p.m. Delivery will be **Saturday morning, March 27** (time to be determined).

Adopt an area family in need and “live a little!”

