

SPIRIT

Alive

Make a Difference... at First

Vol. 34, No 7.

First United Methodist Church of Green Bay

August/September 2011

First Preschool Resumes for Fall!

As we say good-bye to summer, we prepare for our new preschool groups, and wish our five-year-old students well as they go off to kindergarten. Our summer program has been filled with walks to city parks, lemonade stands, open swim at the YWCA, Vacation Bible School, the Summer Reading Program and Story Time at Central Library. We also enjoyed several special field trips including the Barlow Planetarium and the Neville Public Museum. All of the children also participated in a musical performance "Friend Like Me! A Tribute to Disney". First Kids Summer program is open to children ages 2-10.

Special thanks to our summer volunteers, **Sue Hickey** and **Amy Ruiz**. Volunteers are always a welcome addition to our preschool and day care. Please let us know if you are interested in volunteering in a classroom or with the infants/toddlers at The Baby Place, flexible scheduling too!

Below you will find information on all of our programming. Your children will receive quality care and education in a Christian Environment.

Our **Preschool Program** provides each child with experiences that encourage:

- ◆ Spiritual Growth
- ◆ Intellectual Growth
- ◆ Social Interaction
- ◆ Physical Growth
- ◆ Positive Self-Image



Little Lambs is a special preschool program designed specifically for children 2 – 3 years. Teacher-assisted activities promote positive social skills and learning.

Preschool sessions for three and four-year-old children emphasize group interaction and social development through age-appropriate activities. Music, art, sensory play and Bible time are just a few of the activities offered.

The **Pre-K** class reinforces social skills and focuses on kindergarten readiness by using play to teach early reading and math skills. Our carefully selected program also includes Spanish with **Kris Searle**, Weekly Reader, and a special handwriting curriculum.

First Day Care operates year round proving quality care and education in a Christian environment. Children ages 2 - 5 are served in the lower level of First United Methodist Church. Open Monday – Friday from 6:15 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. All students attending First Day Care will attend Preschool sessions at no additional cost.

Special offerings for preschool age day care students include:

- Swimming Lessons @ YWCA
- Kiddy Keys (**Donna Wilkinson**)
- Kids on the Move
- Stretch-N-Grow

The Baby Place- Our new infant and toddler day care opened in July. Located in the Ziemer building, we are licensed for 9 children serving ages 6 weeks to two years. We welcome families from First Church as well as anyone from the community.

Call or e-mail **Anita Ebenhoe** to set up a tour or for enrollment information at (920) 437-0736 or aebenhoe@fumcgb.org. Also visit our Facebook page called First Preschool Green Bay.

Lots of hugs!
Anita

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Preparing for Worship in September



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.

Our Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) shares a staffing update

1. SPRC regrets to share that **Joy Rockstroh** has resigned from her position of Children's Discipleship Coordinator. We appreciate all of her creative energy and ability to lead our children as they begin their faith journey. God's blessings to Joy as she pursues new opportunities!
2. First UMC is seeking an energetic, faith-filled individual to join the Discipleship Team as our **Children's Discipleship Coordinator**, leading our children's ministry program on a year-round basis in a part-time 15 hours/week position. A degree in education or equivalent experience is desired with an ability to work in a team environment. Duties include coordinating all aspects of Sunday School for ages 2 – Grade 5, supporting special programs involving children throughout the calendar year and promoting/publicizing children's programming. Resumes should be

September 4

Communion

Sermon Title: Then Sings My Soul

Preacher: Rev. David Kalas

Scripture: Psalm 98

One of the all-time favorite hymns will be our theme and our role model as we explore what prompts our souls to sing.

September 11

Sermon Title: A Glimpse of Heaven

Preacher: Rev. David Kalas

Scripture: Daniel 2:36-45

Can you picture heaven? What it will look like? What will life be like there? Our aim is to catch a glimpse of it together this Sunday!

submitted to the church office. Contact **Jamie Babbitts**, Chairperson SPRC at (920) 498-2304 to learn more.

3. SPRC is very pleased to announce that **John Plier** has accepted the position of Sanctuary Choir Director to begin September 1 in preparation for fall worship. John comes to us with previous experience as a church choral director as well as a strong vocal performance and teaching background. John shared that he is looking forward to leading the Sanctuary Choir as well as becoming engaged with our church community. Welcome John!

September 18

Sermon Title: Our Unknown God

Preacher: Rev. David Kalas

Scripture: Acts 17:22-31

God is invisible, holy and eternal. If He chose to hide Himself, we could not find Him and could not know Him. But hear the good news of how He has revealed Himself to us!

September 25

Sermon Title: Sticks, Brothers and Other Miracles

Preacher: Rev. David Kalas

Scripture: Exodus 4:1-17

The story of Moses is familiar to us. And it's not just familiar because we know it well. We'll discover that it's familiar because it is our story, too.

The church and office will be closed on Monday, September 5 in observance of Labor Day.



Looking Forward

By Rev. David Kalas
Lead Pastor

“I could see the handwriting on the wall.” That phrase has worked its way from the Old Testament right into our modern vernacular. The image originates in a story from the book of Daniel, though I expect that a great many people use the phrase without having any idea about its source. We use it nowadays to refer to the moment when the future became apparent to us.

“When the boss gave the big project to the other guy, I could see the writing on the wall.”
“When the girl I liked started sitting at a different table in the school cafeteria, I could see the writing on the wall.”
“When the coach sent in someone else to pitch the ninth inning, I could see the writing on the wall.”

It’s a phrase we use to capture the moment when the future became apparent to us. And, when we use it, we are usually referring to

some unhappy turn of events, an unfortunate future. That usage is certainly in keeping with the original context in the book of Daniel, for the handwriting on the wall was an ominous sign for King Belshazzar.

But not for me!

Our whole family saw the handwriting on the wall as soon as we arrived in Green Bay back in July. The writing was bright and colorful, and the message was clear: *“Welcome!”*

We saw it written on the church sign outside, and we saw it written all over the wall in the Gathering Area inside. It was warm, it was cheerful, and it was truly welcoming.

And then, beyond what I saw on the wall, there is all the good that I have seen within the walls of this church. I see a bright and committed staff, with whom it is a pleasure to serve. I see marvelously capable and dedicated lay leadership. I see a conscientious and eager congregation. I see a big-hearted church family. And I see souls that have an appetite for the things of God.

From the writing I saw on the wall to all that I have seen within the walls, the future is apparent to me. I can’t make out all the details of that future, of course, but I believe that I can see it in broad strokes. It looks to me like a future full of Christian love, close fellowship, dynamic growth, and effective service. It looks like a beautiful future, and I’m looking forward to it!

Monthly Finance Report

The following numbers represents the financial results for the church for the seven months ending **July 2011:**

Expected Revenue to date:

\$415,059

Actual Revenue to date:

\$411,219

Expected Expenses to date:

\$488,037

Actual Expenses to date:

\$454,298

In summary, through July the net deficit for the church totaled \$43,079 compared to a budgeted net deficit for the first seven months of \$72,978. Please be advised that although expenses are lower than expected on a year to date basis, we fully expect expenses to increase once fall programming begins. Furthermore, as previously reported we need to raise an additional \$85,000 in revenue above and beyond the 2011 pledge amounts in order to meet our full year budget for First Church which shows an ending net deficit of \$27,477.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Carrie Stargardt at 920-785-0635.



The Loose Coin Offering for September supports our two **United Methodist Camps** here in Wisconsin — Pine Lake Camp and Lake Lucerne Camp. Our camp and retreat ministries have been a part of the Wisconsin United Methodist Church for more than 50 years. To keep this heritage alive and to build for tomorrow our camps are always looking for support. Gifts and donations have helped our camps become what they are today. Generous people help the camps share God’s natural creation and build a strong camp and retreat ministry. Lives are changed when folks attend our camps.

Let God change the world through you and your change.

The Loose Coin Offering for July, which was in support of our own Kelly DeCaster, as a missionary in Central America, East Asia and Africa, collected \$2,737.13.

Focusing on Why

By Deacon Steve Meyer, EPH President

Editor's Note: First United Methodist Church is a sponsoring member of The Ecumenical Partnership for Housing (EPH). Through a community-based collaboration between area churches and The Salvation Army, homeless families receive transitional housing, case management, mentorship, educational support and budget counseling. To learn more, visit the EPH website at www.ephgb.org.

It is very easy to get bogged down in the whats. What's on the to-do list? What's next? What's needed? What's the problem? What are the plans? What are the outcomes? The everyday whats demand attention and absorb energy, and if we're not careful, they become overwhelming.

The problem with the whats is that they're all external. They steal focus away from the whys; our real motivation. Why is something important? Why are we doing this? Why would I invest time, energy or resources into something? The struggle between whats and whys is something EPH clients, donors and volunteers all share in common. Whether it is a client focused on what needs to be done to meet case management goals, an EPH house coordinator going through the list of what needs to be done to get a property ready for a new family, or a donor wondering what EPH is doing with the money, we all expend a lot of brain energy on the pragmatic and logical questions which do, in fact, need to be addressed.

But it is life-giving to also expend some heart energy on the whys. The whys give meaning to the whats. We encourage clients to focus on case management goals because it's how they love their children, because it builds a sense of self-worth and accomplishment, and because it provides healthy parental role-modeling. We encourage our

coordinators to be enriched by why they're getting a house ready – to welcome a hurting family into security and hope, to build a nest for love to grow, to provide a dwelling for Christ cleverly disguised as a homeless child. And we invite our generous donors to ponder why they give – to fulfill the great commandment to love others, to share their own gifts with those in need, to make a positive impact on lives that will ripple for generations to come.

We cannot escape the whats, nor would we ever want to. But I hope you find time or make time to step back and remind yourself of the whys. EPH is an excellent organization with impressive collaboration and amazing results not because of what we do, but because of why we do it. Together, we raise people up, give them hope, believe in the dignity of each person, and put love into our community. Thank you!

WOW meetings begin in September

Women of the Word (WOW) will begin meeting weekly on **Monday, September 12** in Room Z120 from 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Reverend David Kalas will join us on the 12th for an informal discussion. On September 19, WOW will begin a 12-week study *Real Women Real Faith: Life-changing stories from the Bible for Women Today*. The first book of this two book series with DVD focuses on women of the Old Testament. The second book focuses on women of the New Testament. Each study lasts 6 weeks. The books are \$10 each. Contact Bonnie Veitch (337-6480), Donna Wilkinson (391-0734), or Karen Wojahn (662-0799) with questions.



4th Annual Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary Scholarship Ride

Get ready for the 4th Annual GETS Scholarship Ride! The purpose of the ride is to raise awareness of our connection with Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary as well as to raise scholarship money for Garrett seminary students. Scholarships are essential to ensuring future pastors for our churches. Our ride will be **Saturday, September 17**, rain or shine.

The bicycles will be riding between Peshtigo and Marinette. Bicyclists will meet at the Peshtigo UMC at 10:00 a.m. Rev. Warren Waddell, pastor of FUMC Marinette and Garrett graduate, will lead the bicyclists. We will all meet (motorcycles and bicycles) for lunch at the Marinette United Methodist Church.

The motorcycles will meet at St. Paul's UMC at 7:30 a.m. (west side of Green Bay) and will be riding up to the Oconto Falls UMC for coffee and rolls. From there we'll head north and back down along the Menomonie River and join the bicyclists for lunch.

Do you like to bicycle? Do you like to motorcycle? Are you interested in supporting our future pastors? If the answer(s) are yes, please mark your calendar for **Saturday, September 17**. If you would like to register for the ride, or have any questions, please contact Dave or Diane Pietenpol at (920)434-3619.

*GETS – Giving to Educate
Theological Students*



Five out of Five

By Rev. Dave Wilkinson
Associate Clergy

Do you remember those Trident commercials that would say, “Four out of five dentists recommend sugarless gum for their patients who chew gum”? I always wondered what the fifth dentist recommended — rock candy?

A newspaper columnist and author I follow- Derek Maul -said that over several years he interviewed over one hundred Christian ministers and published almost as many news stories about their work. Without exception these spiritual leaders always defined the process of spiritual formation directly in terms of our relationship with Christ.

One United Methodist pastor said it well: “My growth as a Christian happens in direct proportion to my willingness to place myself in proximity to Jesus.”

Derek Maul also noted that these clergy were unequivocal — five out of five — regarding our need

to be saturated with the Word of God. “Actually, that’s one of the primary ways I get to know God,” one Lutheran pastor told Maul. “God reveals His character specifically through the inspired words of the Bible. Sometimes when I read the Gospels it’s like having Jesus Himself sitting in an easy chair and sharing His heart with me one-on-one.” (Source: [Get Real - A Spiritual Journey for Men](#) by Derek Maul)

I would have to agree with Maul’s findings. If I take a hard look at my spiritual life, the times that I am growing are in direct correlation and proportion to the times I am in the proximity of Jesus as revealed in God’s Word. When I find my spiritual growth stunted, it is related to wandering away from Jesus to go it alone and wandering away from being fed by God’s inspired Word.

In the busyness of life

and school and family and work it’s easy to get distracted with good things, not to mention the toxic distractions that also surround us. My thoughts and actions easily go in directions I might not intentionally choose. But when we routinely feed on God’s Word, we find the relationship and direction that sustains and guides us.

For example, I woke up this morning thinking about some negative things from the day before. It bothered me that that is what occupied my brain. Quickly a verse from Scripture came to mind: “Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” (Philippians 4:8) A Scriptural reminder helped me to get my mind off of the

toxic and onto the healthy. But without reading God’s Word, studying the Scriptures and hearing the Bible preached, that would not have been possible for me, and I might still be ruminating on the negative.

This fall I would encourage you to put yourself in the proximity of Jesus. Practice a daily pattern of Bible reading. Take advantage of Biblically-based small groups. Listen to Pastor David’s sermons, and if you can’t be in worship Sunday, then catch the live stream or the recorded sermons on our website.

John Stott, a British evangelist who recently passed away at the age of 90, wrote, “If the Bible is indeed God’s Word written, we should spare no pains and grudge no effort to discover what He said (and says) in Scripture.”

Fall Fiesta of Fun!

I have a favor to ask of all my church family. I find Wednesday evenings to be the longest night of the week. You are half way through your work or school week, there is nothing good on TV, and that great book you picked up over the weekend is just about finished. So why not join us at church. This fall the Adult Discipleship Committee is offering a series of Wednesday evening events. There should be something for everyone. We will be having an acoustic musical jam session, crafts, a healthy living lifestyle class, spiritual classes, and even something just for the men. So here is the favor. On **September 7** come to the church at 6:00 p.m. and enjoy a walking taco for dinner and checkout all the offerings that we have come up with. There will be activities scheduled for our children so you can just wander around and check things out during our **Fall Fiesta of Fun**.

Scott Huntley
Adult Discipleship Council Chair

PRAYER CORNER

By Tina Novak

For more years than I can count now, I have wanted a family of my own. I cannot tell you how long and hard I prayed for this and I asked very specifically. When I continued to hear nothing, I got very angry at God. I never stopped coming to church but I certainly stopped praying and asking. What was the point? Surely if He was going to answer my prayer, He would have by now. How was it that He could say no to someone with such a big heart to open to a child?

I never thought I would get past the sadness of it. A friend gave me some words of wisdom: "...but we cannot give up on God...He certainly won't give up on us. So keep on praying. And keep on loving God. He will be there for you, of that I have no doubt..." And so finally, last fall things finally began to change. Zander Lambrecht was born and Marc and Kathryn asked us to be his Godparents. Shortly thereafter my husband Tom came to me wanting to talk about adoption. Slowly, I stopped crying over what had never been and began to see how it could yet happen. Today I know it will happen. We don't know exactly when we will get a child, but we have started the adoption journey that will get us to the child that was meant for us all along. It will be a tough road, but one that will be worth it.

Thanks be to God.



KenyaHELP HARAMBEE "An Evening for Education"

Saturday, September 17, 2011
National Railroad Museum
2285 South Broadway, Green Bay, WI
6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
\$35 per ticket

The second annual Harambee (Swahili for "All Pulling Together") will be held at the National Railroad Museum. Plan to attend this fun and meaningful evening to learn about the KenyaHELP Scholarship program and how it has helped over 100 students to receive a high school education in Meru, Kenya.

There will be appetizers, music, and entertainment from Daddy D's and a silent auction to raise funds for Post Secondary Scholarship grants.

You will have an opportunity to see some of the students in videos testify as to how your support of KenyaHELP has made a difference in their lives. Call Jill Thiede at (920) 436-0135 for tickets.

Have you purchased SCRIP yet?

By Denise Myers
Volunteer Scrip Coordinator

If you plan to buy groceries, go out to eat, gas up your car, visit a department store, pharmacy or discount store in the next few weeks, consider paying with SCRIP and you will benefit First Church.

The SCRIP program here at First Church has been in existence for about fifteen years. SCRIP is a gift certificate program created as an effective method for non-profit organizations to raise money. Through this program, each time a member of First Church shops at one of the participating grocery, pharmacy, restaurant or retail establishments, and uses SCRIP, First Church earns money. Anywhere from 2 to 20% of the purchase price is retained by First Church when you use SCRIP (gift certificates). In other words, if you spend \$500 in SCRIP per month in grocery and department stores, First Church receives \$25 as a charitable contribution.

SCRIP are gift certificates or gift cards from participating merchants. It is just like using cash. You simply fill out an order form choosing the merchants and denominations of gift certificates you wish to purchase. Payment can be made with cash or check made out to FUMC SCRIP at the time of purchase. If your gift cards are in stock, you will receive them right away. If not, they will be ordered and are usually available in three days.

Several groups at First Church have benefitted from the profits of SCRIP over the years—Dorothy Rosenberg GoodWill Place, Children's Council, Youth, UMW, KenyaHelp, Lithuania Mission Teams, and the Preschool. The more you buy, the more we give out in profit!

SCRIP is available for purchase in the church office on Sunday mornings and during the week during normal office hours. SCRIP gift cards also make great gifts. Check out the complete list in the church office and make your purchase today!



Do not fear

By Joy Rockstroh
Editor's Note: Joy Rockstroh recently resigned as Children's Discipleship Coordinator. We wish her well as she moves on to new things. She shares this final column.

I would want nothing more than to teach kids to trust in their Lord. In today's world, it may be hard to trust. People get hurt, betrayed, or disappointed. It's hard to tell children that "that is a part of life, that we will experience pain here on earth, but as well as great joy." It is hard to tarnish an innocent child's world by exposing them to pain, which all parents will try to prevent as long as they live. But the truth is, there is sin and pain in our world and we will experience it at one time or another, child or adult. However, our saving grace is that we have a healing God that is with us always to protect, comfort, and walk with us through good times and bad. The key to feeling God's strong and unfailing hand upon

yours in all journeys through life is to trust that it's there. Believing that God is always with you, taking care of you, and putting you back together after the storm is God's promise. However, believing is not the same as trusting. We can believe in God but still govern our own life. We can believe in God but not trust in Him enough to let Him live within us. I want to help children trust in God; allow Him to touch their lives, share with them His love, and to give them strength, confidence, and unwavering faith all their lives.

How can I do this for children? It's not an easy task. I can't make children believe and I can't make them trust. But I can show them the joys and truth of God's unfailing love and the beauty that God provides in trusting in Him. More than anything, I can't teach or show a child to trust if I don't trust myself. I am not perfect and I do get scared and back off from our Lord just like any other person; but I try my best to live by my faith and trust in my Lord with all of my heart. As many of you may know, I try and live by my favorite verse *Matthew 16:25*: "Whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it." I choose not to live the life that I choose for myself, but to live the life God has chosen for me. I can't do this without trusting in Him. I catch myself from time to time doing God's job,

planning my life, living for myself. I have to consciously tell myself sometimes to trust God and live for Him instead of me. And I would desire to live no other way. Regardless of how scary it may be to trust God, I need to live fearlessly for God and for His children, so they can see Him in me. "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with My righteous right hand" (*Isaiah 41:10*).

There are many ways in which anyone can share God's love with children (through Bible stories, activities, games, movies, plays, arts and crafts, testimonies, etc.) but, the strongest way, and the way in which God desires, is for us to show one another God's love and trust. God's love is seen in a smile, felt in a gentle touch, comforted with a hug, celebrated in a high five, and trusted in by the holding of a hand. You can't feel God's love unless you allow Him to touch you, and you can't allow His touch until you trust Him. Allow God to speak and live through you to touch many lives, including God's young children, who need you the most. The only way to do this is to trust. "

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight" (*Proverbs 3:5-6*).

Upcoming dates of importance

Sunday School

Sunday, Sept. 11, 9:15 a.m. Sunday School begins for all ages. Ages 2-5 meet downstairs in the church, rooms marked accordingly. Grades 1-5 meet each week on the church's second floor in Temple Tales. Middle School and High School youth meet downstairs in the Ziemer Building with fellowship time beginning each week at 9:00 a.m.

Youth Group

Wednesday, Sept. 14, 6:00 p.m. Youth Group for Middle School and High School begins. Grades 6 and 7 will meet in The House and grades 8-12 will meet downstairs in the Ziemer.

Confirmation

Tuesday, September 20: 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall. Release of the new FUMC iConfirmApp v20.11! Two versions are available. The FUMC iConfirmApp v20.11 Basic is available for release on **Tuesday, September 20**. Parents, freshmen and mentors are invited for the release for your iFaith Journey. Meet in Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m. for some iFellowship and iEats. We'll kick-off and register you for the new iConfirmApp v20.11 Basic. The Full Version will be available on **Wednesday, September 28**, see Fall Supplement for details! RSVP to **Lina Green**, lgreen@fumcgb.org or (920) 437-9252, ext. 126. Lina can help place you with a mentor too!



UMW News

Fall Luncheon

All are invited to the UMW Fall Luncheon on **Tuesday, October 11** at 11:45 a.m. The program will be given by KenyaHELP. Share in the excitement as you hear the amazing good news of this "home-grown" mission project. Plan to come for the good food, fellowship and inspiration. More details to come!

School of Christian Mission

"All Things Made New" was the theme and seven women from our church attended. They enjoyed the fellowship, mission inspiration and education! The 3 specific Social Action Goals for our Wisconsin Conference this year are:

1. Support and provide information on Hmong House of Good News, Harbor House and Northcott Neighborhood House.
2. Be active in addressing Health Issues and Domestic Violence.
3. Raise awareness of the problem of Human Trafficking.

Evelyn's Book Club

Evelyn's Book Club will meet on **Friday, September 30** at 12:30 p.m. at the Clarion. The chosen book is *Stones for Schools : Promoting Peace with Books, Not Bombs, in Afghanistan and Pakistan* by Greg Mortenson. 10 copies and an Audio book are available at the Brown County Library. For reservations call Bev Smith at (920)336-3597.

Children's Book Giveaway

On **Tuesday, September 20** from 8:45 a.m. until 11:00 a.m., we will be sharing healthy snacks and helping Good Will Place clients choose children's books for their family. If you would like to help, call Mary Dorchester at (920) 468-6155. We have a need for used books for infants and young children. Please place them in the donation box in the church entry, thank you.

Mission Day in Milwaukee

One of our mission projects is the Hmong House of Good News housed at the Central United Methodist Church on Wisconsin Avenue. This UMW Mission project offers services for the Hmong elderly who suffer from depression, limited English speaking skills and isolation. Each participant gave a moving testimony (translated) of the many ways this mission has improved their lives. The project needs support and one way to help it is to save caps from the milk and juice purchased at Kwik-Trip. Save the lids and place them in the label collection envelopes in the Gathering Area.

Fellowship Groups

Check the fall activity schedule and plan to attend a Fellowship Group that fits your schedule!

Mark your calendars

Local:

September 20- Children's Book Giveaway- 8:45 a.m. -11:00 a.m.

September 30- Evelyn's Book Club- 12:30 p.m. at the Clarion.

October 11- Fall Luncheon- 11:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

District & State:

September 24 - UMW Nicolet District Annual Celebration and Officer Training at Seymour UM Church

October 21-22 - UMW Wisconsin Conference Annual Gathering at Black River Falls

UMW Bridge Marathon

Interested in playing bridge? Please call Mary Berken at (920) 433-0210 to join in fellowship and fun by playing bridge on the **fourth Monday** of the month at 9:00 a.m. beginning in September. The games take place in Wesley Hall.



Sewing Machine Needed

Do you, a family member or friend have a portable sewing machine (in good working condition) that hasn't been used lately and is just taking up space? Consider donating it to the First Quilters quilting group. We are hoping to eventually open our group up to the Navarino Neighborhood and pantry clients. To do that we will need to have sewing machines available for use by those who come. Also needed: an iron and ironing board, fabric and other sewing supplies.

If you have any items for donation, or have questions please call: Elizabeth Keppers, cell (920) 606-2812, kepperskreations@yahoo.com

First Quilters

First Quilters organized in the spring of 2011 to bring together people who share a common love of quilting and to share/learn more about quilting and the quilting world. We offer an opportunity for people new to quilting to learn from our experienced members. We are looking to the future and an opportunity to participate in community service projects which benefit those in need. Monthly meetings are held both morning and evening, check your bulletin. For more information contact: Betsy Erickson, (920) 465-8786, Elizabeth Keppers, cell (920) 606-2812, or Tina Uffelman, (920) 499-9844.



Lithuania Partnership Spring Cleaning Fundraising was a success!

The Lithuania Partnership Committee would like to thank everybody who participated in the fundraising events supporting the 2011 mission trip. The Spring Cleaning raised over \$1500, the Serogy's candy bar sales raised over \$900, and the Festival Brat stand raised \$340. We would like to give Dave Wilkinson a special thank you for donating \$1 for every brat sold to someone saying, "Deacon Dave sent me!" In addition to these fundraisers, you contributed to our mission by giving to the loose coin offering and SCRIP sales during the month of May.

Some of the money raised was used to cover expenses such as craft items for the children's Vacation Bible School, construction materials for church renovations in Pilviskiai, and a fieldtrip for their church members to Trakai...all wonderful opportunities for the team to share God's love with the Lithuanian church in fellowship, hard work, and fun. The team was in mission July 18-27. Thanks, also for your prayers for the team during their travels and mission work.

In Christ,
Bill Mobley
Chair, Lithuania Partnership Committee

My Lithuania Mission Experience

Amid the mission reminders: Litas (currency) pictures, devotionals and Vacation Bible School projects lays my open Bible. I've marked *1 Corinthians 1:3*. I've read many parts of this Bible many times; I've read this verse many times but no other time with more clarity than when I was with new friends in Pilviskiai. "Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ," Paul writes.

I questioned my mission to Lithuania, "What can I bring to the people? How can I encourage them?" I asked Shannon Mobley and Jeannie Reimer. Bring the love of others, be there with them, create relationships, they encouraged.

So, I did. I conducted Vacation Bible School; I played with the kids; and I took pictures. I gave the children gifts we brought; gifts you gave us to give them. Their eyes filled with wonder. Sidewalk chalk, Frisbees, hacky sacks and a parachute were all new to them. These things brought them joy, but our gift of time was the gift they really wanted. Indre wanted to hold my hand; Elvis wanted to speak English; Paula wanted to play games and do crafts.

So my work has begun; I've given my hand, my ear and time. Now I'll work on the relationships, strengthening them with prayer and letters. "My love to all of you in Christ Jesus," Paul finishes, *1 Corinthians 16:22* I think I'll start another letter.

Blessings,
Beth Huntley



By Vicki Hoell, Director

Our pantry is currently averaging seven new families a week! Due to this increase, it is especially important to remember our clients this fall. Cans of soup with meat and vegetables provides a balanced meal for a family. Tomato products are always in demand along with ravioli, spaghetti, spaghetti, canned fruit, vegetables, bagged/boxed pasta, potato mixes, and rice.

These people are no different than you or I. The other day Pantry had closed and I heard a knock on the door. It was a gentleman inquiring if we had any steel toed shoes. I invited him in and told him we could look. Sure enough, the Lord provided him with a pair of work shoes thanks to your generous donations. I was also able to give him two new pairs of socks and wished him a good day. He turned and said, "Miss, you have made my day blessed." Please know your gifts are appreciated. He was to start his new job the next day! Please keep in mind those less fortunate than yourself this fall. Thank you for your continued support!

Announcing the 2011 college scholarship recipient

The Elmo Reed Scholarship of \$1,000 was given to **Meredith Hansen**. She attends St. Norbert College with a primary focus on Psychology/Social Work with a Spanish emphasis. Meredith has volunteered her Spanish speaking skills at our pantry for several years which is very helpful to pantry staff and their clients! Congratulations!

This month we give thanks to...

Dave and Dawn Rentmeester for cooking at the NEW Community Shelter in May. Also thanks to **Joan Harvey and the Peterson/Woehler UMW group** for providing desserts for 200 patrons. Kudos also to **Dave and Chris Hemstreet, Judy and Carl Groomwald** and their granddaughter, **Abby** for serving the meal.



Thank you, too, goes to **Julie Aderhold** for planning and coordinating the July First Church effort of feeding at the NEW Community Shelter. **Julie was assisted by family members Craig, Andrew and Lauren; as well as Peter Holzworth; and Nancy, Calvin and Patrick Albers.** They were helped by **friends of Julie's as well: Amy, Annika and Hanna Van Rossum and Jean Anderson.** Desserts were provided by the **Albers, Holzworth, Key, Magnin and Aderhold families.** Over 200 meals were provided.

The people who helped on the design and construction of the new modular platforms for Fresh Bread worship: **Tom & Tina Novak, Marc Lambrecht, Dave Oberneder, Dave Hemstreet, Bruce & Suellen Cantrall, Jay Van Zeeland,** and **Don Heaster.** In addition, **Carol Casey** for doing the sewing of the new backdrops and **Carol Casey and Geri Lewis-Nytes** on collaborating on decor.

Sarah Legois for delivering our church's Back-to-School donations to East High School.

Many thanks to **Jeane Stoll** who has coordinated volunteers from our church who made sandwiches and packed lunch bags for children at the Salvation Army's Camp Hope summer program. Jeane has coordinated this mission work with our church for 18 years. This past June, the Salvation Army tried a new program having the school system provide the lunches, and therefore eliminating the need for volunteers. Thank you, Jeane, and to all those who have participated in this program in the past.

Lynda Hansen and Ellen Hanchek and our **Meal Ministry Team** for preparing and delivering meals to members who are just coming home from the hospital or who may be experiencing other types of family crisis. A big THANK YOU to these people who volunteered to lead our **Summer Interest Group** programs: **Brad Jorgensen, Jane Eberly, Lina Green, Barb Mohr, Tina Uffelman, Bev Smith, Kathy Daley, Jane Jones, Jenny Schroeder, Mary Dorchester.** Also, thank you to the organizers: **Mary Dorchester, Ruth Wiersman and Tina Uffelman,** and to all those who signed up and participated in this year's programs. Summer Interest Groups were sponsored and organized by the United Methodist Women.

This month we received thanks from...

Kelly DeCaster, recipient of the July Loose Coin offering for her year-long mission program: "Thank you for your help and support of my ministry. I was incredibly encouraged by the congregation response and your excitement for me! My mission blog is kellydecaster.theworldrace.org. This will be a good way to communicate with me as it is easy for readers to post questions or comments. In Christ... Kelly."

How to be a green family

Caring for creation is where we turn words into deeds. We're called to use our resources wisely and not consume more than we need. Here are some ways you can be responsible:

1. Give thanks for God's beautiful creation and help care for it. "*The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it.*" *Psalm 24:1*

2. Spend time in nature "*being still and knowing God.*" *Psalm 46:10*

3. Recycle More: Everyone can help.

4. Reuse bags on shopping trips. Donate bags to be reused at our Food Pantry each week.

5. Conserve water when showering or brushing your teeth. Save water from rain barrels and dehumidifiers to water plants. Use tap instead of bottled water.

6. See how trips can be combined and keep a list of all your errands in one area. Drive the speed limit and slow down before coming to stop signs and traffic lights to conserve gas.

7. Seek sources that support creation care such as:
earthcareonline.org/
earthministry.org/
sierraclub.org/partnerships/faith
Adapted from *The Green Bible/New Revised Standard Version (2008)*



Happy Birthday to our Treasured Members (80 years and beyond)!

September:

9/14	Priscilla Olbrantz
9/15	Betty Richtman
9/21	Evelyn Eyermann
9/21	Dorothy Tiede
9/22	Nancy Stiles
9/23	Joyce Klunk
9/28	Mardell Hall
9/29	Helen Wright

Each month we publish names of our Treasured Members celebrating birthdays. Church members and friends are encouraged to send cards or to make personal calls to these individuals listed. Three times a year we celebrate birthdays during coffee fellowship. The next celebration will be in church on **Sunday, September 18**. If you are aware of birthdays that were inadvertently forgotten, please contact the office with the information.

Please consider how you might participate with the Caring Ministry outreach efforts. Opportunities include providing rides to church or to appointments, making visits to homebound members, helping with minor home repair projects ("Helping Hands" Ministry), or helping with lawn care or snow removal. Please contact a member of the Caring Ministry steering committee to get involved.

Caring Ministry steering team members include: Les Van Vonderer (983-2933), Ruth Wiersma (468-5562), Pat Murphy (465-0240), Julie Van Klooster (825-1122), Bev Smith (336-3597), Susan Miller (498-2063), and Carol VanScyoc (437-0829).

Baptisms

Wyatt Cole Lonzo was baptized on August 14 by Rev. David Kalas. Wyatt was born to Kathryn and Nick on November 19, 2010. Sponsors are Ryan Mills and Mandy Lemerond.

Weddings

Daren Willems and Lindsey Higgins were married on July 1, 2011 by Rev. Dave Wilkinson.

Andrew Kabele and Tonya Henkel were married on July 23, 2011 by Rev. Dave Wilkinson.



Biblical Softball 2011 season ends.

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. We finished the season without any injuries or bench clearing brawls. We made new friendships and recharged old ones. We had new youth on the team and held on to some of our *veteran* players. A huge thank you goes out to our fantastic, loyal supporters who came out in hot weather and bugs to cheer us on! Coach Mitch and Coach Mike M. are right; Green Bay does have the best fans in the world! Oh, and why is it Biblical softball? In terms of this seasons final standings, "The last shall be First and the First shall be last." There's always next year. Spring training starts in eight months...

Staff

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Good Will Place Director:

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Lay Leaders:

Jerry Bannon (Coordinator)
Bill Appel (Worship)
Pat Heil (Discipleship)
Beth Huntley (Hospitality)
Nancy Albers (Missions)

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Bishop Linda Lee visits the Nicolet/Winnebago region

Sunday, September 11, 2011
The Family Church
2318 American Drive, Neenah
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Clergy and laity are invited to come and share in the theme of “BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY.” Bishop Lee will speak, but the day will be interactive. Congregations and circuits are being invited to witness on the theme.

Out of courtesy for our host church and presenters, please RSVP to our church office (437-9252) **by SEPTEMBER 6**, your intention to attend this gathering.

Directions:

From the North: Highway 41 to County BB Exit (Prospect Avenue). Right on BB (Prospect), left on American Ave. Proceed to church about ½ mile.

From the South: Highway 41 to the County BB Exit (Prospect Avenue). Left on BB (Prospect Avenue), left on American Avenue. Proceed to church about ½ mile.

**Watch for the Fall
Program Supplement
available at church and
online.**