

SPIRIT

Alive

Make a Difference... at First

Vol. 34, No 9.

First United Methodist Church of Green Bay

November 2011

In this issue, and as a reminder, you will find brief descriptions of the helping ministries available here at First Church. There are many ways you can contribute to the success of these ministries. First, you can pray for their success. You can praise God for working through the congregation so that these ministries exist. You can volunteer to become involved. You can ask for help for yourself from one of these ministries. And, you can encourage a member of your church family to use these services if they are in need. You may also make a referral on behalf of another by contacting the Pastors and church staff.

Intercessory Prayer/Study Group

All are welcome at any time to join this confidential prayer time. People mention new prayer requests and former requests are updated. Currently the group is studying *Barclay's Commentary on the Book of Revelation*. The previous studies have centered on books by authors such as Max Lucado, John Ortberg, and Randy Alcorn. Meets **Mondays**, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. in Wesley Hall. Contact: Gerry Christoph, (920) 432-0732

Women's Weekly Prayer Group

Women meet at McDonald's over coffee to read a short devotional and pray for all the concerns of our hearts, families, churches and world. Meets **Wednesdays**, 6:30 a.m. - 7:30 a.m. at McDonald's, 1903 S. Webster, in Allouez. Can't be there? Join our email prayer ministry. Contact: Geri Lewis-Nytes, gamageri@yahoo.com, (920) 469-0495



The Green Bay Chapter of The Compassionate Friends (TCF)

The Compassionate Friends is a non-profit, self-help support group for families who are grieving the death of a child of any age, from any cause. There are no fees and all bereaved family members are welcome. TCF exists to support and assist parents, siblings and other family members in their grief, and to foster their physical and emotional health. Monthly chapter meetings offer friendship, caring and a safe place to talk. Monthly newsletters also offer support. In addition, on the 2nd Sunday of December, bereaved parents gather at First Church at 7:00 p.m. to participate in a world-wide candle lighting event. Meets on the **third Thursday** each month, 7:00 p.m. in Wesley Hall. Contact: Donna Wilkinson, dpwilkins@aol.com, (920) 391-0734

Treasured Members Ministry (formerly known as "Caring Ministry")

The Treasured Members Ministry team works to assist church members who are unable to access church activities with services such as communion, visitation, and

transportation to church activities. We celebrate birthdays of our Treasured Members (ages 80 and beyond) by publishing birthdays in *Spirit Alive*, and hosting coffee fellowship three Sundays each year. Contact: Les Van Vonderen, (920) 983-2933

Meal Ministry

Our goal is to provide care for church members by providing a meal or baked goods. We serve church members or families of church members who have been hospitalized, are ill, having a difficult time, birth of a child or need/want personal contact from a Meal Ministry team member. The team might also provide a meal to non-church members in crisis. Although we do not have regular meeting times, we always welcome new volunteers who would like to help. Contact: Lynda Hansen, (920) 434-8587 or Ellen Hanchek, (920) 469-0034. (See article on page 4 for the history of this ministry titled 'Mary Jo's Gift'.)

(Continued on page 4)

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Preparing for Worship in November



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.

November 6 - All Saints

We will remember in worship the saints who have died this past year.

Sermon Title: God in a Box
Preacher: Rev. David Kalas
Scripture: 1 Samuel 4:1-9
Communion

The central character in this story is a strange one, and it ends up being a rather sad story. Perhaps that is always bound to be the case when the wrong character is the central character.

November 13

Sermon Title: Looking for a Good Response
Preacher: Rev. David Kalas
Scripture: Deuteronomy 16:9-17, Malachi 3:6-12, 1 Corinthians 16:1-3, 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

This Sunday makes the culmination of our church's financial campaign. Yet, as Pastor David teaches this Sunday, we will discover that there is so much more involved than just the church budget.

November 20

Sermon Title: Contentmentgiving
Preacher: Rev. David Kalas
Scripture: Philippians 4:10-20

We can't go straight from the bedroom to the dining room on Thanksgiving Day. Hours in the kitchen are required in between. And perhaps we cannot jump right from our usual attitude to giving thanks, either. Something essential (and elusive) must come first.

November 27- Advent 1

Sermon Title: The Gift We Don't Deserve
Preacher: Rev. Dave Wilkinson
Scripture: Isaiah 64:1-9

Isaiah makes an anguished cry or plea to God to make His presence felt among His people. As we begin Advent we anticipate the presence of the One who can save us, because, as Isaiah declares, we are helpless to save ourselves.



The Loose Coin Offering for the month of November will help **The Good Will Place** fill a special need. The funds will be used to purchase gloves, hats and scarves for clients. So let your jingle ring and help others stay warm this winter.

Let God change the world through you and your change!

The Loose Coin Offering for September, which was to support our two **Wisconsin United Methodist Camps- Pine Lake Camp and Lake Lucerne Camp-** which have been part of our state-wide church for over 50 years, raised \$653.10

The church office will be closed on Thursday, November 24 and Friday, November 25 in observance of Thanksgiving. No Sunday School November 27.





A hand to the hurt

By Rev. David Kalas
Lead Pastor

I cut myself shaving one recent morning. And as soon as I felt that distinctive sting, my other hand – the one without the razor – immediately reached up to the wounded spot. It was so instantaneous that it could hardly be considered a conscious action. It was a reflex.

After the hurt had passed, I pondered that reflex a bit. It occurred to me that this is my response to all sorts of hurts. I remember an occasion, for example, when I badly sprained an ankle during a pick-up football game. And what was my posture as I sat on the ground in pain? I was leaning forward so that my hands could hold the aching ankle. Likewise when someone accidentally poked me in the eye during a basketball game: immediately, my hand went up to cover the injured eye.

You see it in other instances, as well. The man with a headache instinctively rubs his own temples or

forehead. The child with a stomachache lies with her hand on her midsection. The guy with a sore throat unconsciously puts a hand to his neck again and again throughout the day. And the pregnant woman with an aching back keeps one hand back there as she stands and walks and works.

Some of this hand-to-the-hurt reflex, I suppose, is a kind of delayed reaction. That is to say, we are inclined to use our hands to protect ourselves. We would use our hands to guard some part of our bodies from being hurt, if we could see the hurt coming. Perhaps, therefore, we reach to the wounded spot as a kind of tardy defense mechanism.

At the same time, though, we also discover that the hand does, in fact, help the hurt. Applying pressure to the wound, rubbing the ache, massaging the pain: these are all ways that our hands genuinely help us when we are hurt.

As my hand instinctively reached to where I had cut myself, I remembered the Apostle Paul’s very helpful picture of the church. *“All of you,”* he said, *“are Christ’s body, and each one is a part of it”* (1 Corinthians 12:27 TEV). Paul goes on to explain that the different parts of the body have different functions, but that there remains among those parts a unity and mutuality. *“And so there is no division in the body,”* he says, *“but all its different parts have the same concern for one*

another. If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness” (1 Corinthians 12:25-26 TEV).

In my early months here at First Church, I have seen the hand-to-the-hurt reflex that occurs within this body.

I have seen the Meal Ministry mobilize to meet the needs of church members in grief, in need, in recovery. I have witnessed the attentive care of the Caring Ministries team. I have heard of the profound support offered and shared by the members of the Compassionate Friends group. Helping Hands and Stephen Ministers, intercessory prayer and prayer shawls, countless cards and calls – these are all ways that the members

of this body reach out to help the hurt.

In a perfect world, of course, there would be no hurts, no injuries, no grief or pain. We anticipate that good prospect in heaven. In the meantime, though, in a world full of hurts, it’s a beautiful thing to be part of a body that has such a helpful reflex. We thank God for hands in this body that touch us where we hurt.

Monthly Finance Report

The following numbers represents the financial results for the church for the nine months ending **September 2011:**

Expected Revenue to date: \$523,391

Actual Revenue to date: \$497,784

Expected Expenses to date: \$622,878

Actual Expenses to date: \$567,014

In summary, through September the net deficit for the church totaled \$69,230 compared to a budgeted net deficit for the first nine months of \$99,487. Please be advised that although expenses are lower than expected on a year to date basis, we fully expect expenses to increase due to fall programming and end of year expenses.

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

What is a lopper?

By Nancy Albers
Missions Lay Leader

It was just one of the several tools used by our volunteers to clear a pathway. I never knew that a long-handled clipper had a name of its own.

On Saturday, September 24 three church families traveled to Pine Lake United Methodist Camp in Westfield. Our mission was to clear down trees from roadways and pathways, split and stack wood, and dig and prepare a place for a new fire pit.

With great weather and physical help of the Key, Huntley and Albers families we were able to accomplish what we set out to do. We worked hard, had fun and welcomed a break to enjoy a meal prepared by the staff at Pine Lake Camp.



Several members of our group said they would be interested in a return trip. The camp is still in need of volunteer lumber jacks. Plans are in the works to gather a crew for some spring cleaning. If you would like to be on the list of volunteers, please contact the church office or Nancy Albers.



Mary Jo's Gift

By Sandy Meyer

Ten or so years ago, a class called Network, led by Rev. Dave Wilkinson, sparked a wonderful ministry in the church. The class members were challenged to discover their strengths and gifts and then to consider using them to contribute to the community. Mary Jo Solie responded "I really enjoy cooking for friends and neighbors." She approached Rev. Karen Ebert with the idea of caring for people in transition or need by bringing them a home-cooked meal. Rev. Ebert supported her wholeheartedly. Mary Jo recruited others and the Meal Ministry was born.

Audrey Olson remembers Mary Jo asking her to join her and Audrey was firm with her "No!" But within the conversation the "no" became "yes". To Audrey "it has been a blessing in my life" and a special friendship has continued to this day.

Mary Jo remembers being gifted with an apple peeler and someone donating a bushel of apples, so the committee had a happy afternoon in her kitchen baking apple pies to be frozen for future meals.

Later Mary Jo turned over the coordinating duties to Katharine Kulkoski. Katharine felt drawn to the ministry because she was a recipient when she had surgery. Mary Jo was the first person to visit her with a hot meal and a warm smile. "It's not only a help but a very nice way to reach out to people" says Katharine, "and I also enjoy cooking." During Katharine's six years of service, Mary Jo also continued to cook, bake and give with love.

The Meal Ministry team of volunteers is now being led by Lynda Hansen, assisted by Audrey's daughter, Ellen Hanchek. Mary Jo is still baking desserts! Lynda and Ellen encourage anyone who knows of someone who could benefit from a meal to please contact church staff.



(Continued from *Caring Ministries*, front page)

Cancer Support Network

The Cancer Support Network strives to help our members who are diagnosed with cancer be matched with a cancer survivor, who can support them. If you are a survivor who would like to volunteer, a patient who wants a match, or just in need of more information, please ask! Contact: Lina Green, (920) 437-9252, lgreen@fumcgb.org

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry is a lay ministry of Christians caring for one another. Volunteer church members have undergone 50 plus hours of instruction on crucial issues related to confidentiality, counseling and Christian support and prayer. Trained Stephen Ministers provide one-to-one support and a listening ear for those experiencing life's difficulties. Stephen ministers are assigned care receivers after referrals have been made to the clergy. Contact: Les Van Vonderen, (920) 983-2933



Vital Worship

By Rev. Dave Wilkinson
Associate Clergy

According to the Towers Watson Research that mined data from over 32,000 United Methodist Churches in the United States, they discovered that only 15% received a vitality index of 8-9 which ranked them in the “High-Vital” category. One of the factors that was found to affect overall vitality in a congregation was worship. Primarily, for larger congregations with an average worship attendance of 350 or more (that’s us), having a mix of contemporary and traditional services affected both the overall vitality of the congregation and the engagement factor of its members.

It goes without saying (but I will anyway), **worship is essential to our faith as Christians.** From the first words in Genesis to John Wesley’s methods for growing towards God to the contemporary praise song that declares “Come, now

is the time to worship”, the importance of meaningful worship cuts to the very core of who we are and how God wants us to encounter Him.

If worship is honor, reverence and adoration of our living God, somehow, we have not conveyed the message to our neighbors, friends, coworkers, and communities that our living God is worthy of our time, our reverence and our adoration. When was the last time you invited someone to join you in worship?

For John Wesley, worship was an essential means of experiencing God’s grace. Wesley went so far as to taking worship to the streets. If the people wouldn’t come to worship God, he would go and proclaim the gospel message to the people, no matter where they were. Wesley believed in worship as a means of grace and corporate worship was key to accountability of a disciple’s growing relationship with God. The United Methodist Book of Worship states that: “*Our worship in both its diversity and its unity is an encounter with the living God through the risen Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. When the people of God gather, the Spirit is free to move them to worship in diverse ways, according to their needs. We rejoice that congregations of large and small membership, in different regions, in*

different communities, of different racial and ethnic composition, and with distinctive local traditions can each worship in a style that enables the people to feel at home.”

These words witness to the value that we place on communal worship — whether labeled “traditional” or “contemporary” or some other designation — that brings us closer to our experience with the living God.

As people of faith, we must respond with faithfulness and perseverance, inviting others to come to know God, testifying to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the living God.

“One day every tongue will confess You are God.

One day every knee will bow.

Still the greatest treasure remains

For those who gladly choose You now.

Come, now is the time to worship.

Come, now is the time to give your heart.

Come, just as you are to worship.

Come, just as you are before your God, Come.”

(from “Come, Now Is the Time to Worship” by Brian Doerksen)



Pumpkin cook off

The town of Morton, Illinois, the self-declared pumpkin capital of the world, has held a Pumpkin Festival since 1966.

Do you make the best pumpkin recipe in the mid-west? Well, it is time to put your recipe to the test!

On Sunday, **November 6**, at noon (Packers are away and don’t play until 3:15 p.m.) we will have a pumpkin cook off. Sign up to participate as a contestant or as judge in the YCCOM or via email to Lina Green, lgreen@fumcgb.org. Also, we would like to know if you plan to attend so contestants know how much to make.

We will also have a pumpkin trivia contest, so make sure you study the bulletin, This Week @ First and Spirit Alive to get the answers to the questions!

Calling all Active Seniors!

The November program will be **November 10** at noon. AAA will be our guest. Please RSVP to Lina Green by November 4. Cost for lunch is \$5.



Use SCRIP for holiday gifts!

Looking for gift ideas? Christmas is only weeks away! If you usually purchase gift cards as gifts, consider purchasing your gift cards through SCRIP. SCRIP gift cards/certificates are available for department stores, restaurants, book and toy stores, grocery stores and many others!

Earn dollars for First Church as you Christmas shop! Check out the complete list of SCRIP gift cards/certificates in the church office. Place your orders early to assure delivery for the holidays.



First Church parking

It has been brought to the attention of the trustees that we could use a few more handicapped parking spaces on Sunday mornings. Signs to save a few more spaces will be coming, but in the meantime let's try to be a little more aware of how it would benefit others if we who are able parked further away. Please leave spaces near the entrances for those that need them, especially so on rainy, snowy or icy days.

Think of church as Lambeau- how many blocks would you be willing to walk? We have free parking agreements with the YWCA and Press Gazette to park across Madison St. We are also welcome to use the Feld building lot across Monroe St. If you are able, please use those lots to help others. THANK YOU!



New Pastors appointed to our Sister Church in Lithuania

By Jolita and Andrew Erbele

Dear Green Bay UMC,

Greetings from the pastors of Pilviskiai UMC! Our names are Jolita and Andrew Erbele. Jolita is Lithuanian and is excited to share the love of Christ with the Pilviskiai community. Andrew is American and is attempting to learn Lithuanian. Together we graduated from Asbury Seminary in August. Now we are learning about our church and the activities that are taking place in its life. We also have a three year old daughter who keeps us on our toes and is a joy in our daily lives.

We want to take this chance to say thank you for your continued support of our church. Everyone at Pilviskiai UMC thinks fondly and warmly of Green Bay UMC and the special place it holds in the life of our church. We are grateful for everything you have done and are doing for our church and community. There is barely a Sunday that we do not pray for you. Green Bay has a place of great love in our hearts because of everything you've done for us. We know for sure that without you we would not be a church as we are now.

In the life of our church several things are happening. First, we were officially installed by the District Superintendent as local pastors on September 11, 2011. We began working in the church in early September and are currently learning about the events and everything that takes place here.

On October 9, 2011, our church had a celebration of eight years in our current location and building. This was a chance for the church to celebrate with other Methodist Churches around Lithuania.

We also reopened youth meetings this week. We had three youth that came and we are very hopeful for the continuum. We are planning to start with

children in the very near future and are also planning to start a women's psychological group once again.

Every week we visit with the elderly and sick in our area. We are so thankful that we can support the ones who are really lacking the basic things with some medicine and food.

Please visit our church's webpage which we just reopened at www.pilviskaiumc.wordpress.com.



We will try to keep it updated and put more information there on a regular basis. You also can read more about us at: www.erbele.org

Thank you so much for the love you share with Pilviskiai United Methodist Church in Lithuania!

With Christian Love,
Jolita and Andrew Erbele



Continuing the legacy

By Beth Huntley
Children's Discipleship
Coordinator

Tears sprang to my eyes, a lump presented in my throat as all assembled recited The Lord's Prayer. I heard the deep resonating voice of Pastor David; I heard the breathless high voices of the children echoing the words. I heard mothers and fathers and a grandmother sharing their faith, strong in voice leading their children. I heard Janelle Maricque clearly leading the prayer and workshop. No one wanted to leave the Bibles behind; all the third graders wanted to delve into the Testaments, search for the maps and answer questions that accompany the stories. What a miraculous evening!

It is this legacy of our Children's Ministry at First Church that I am honored to lead and coordinate. The Annual Bible Workshop and presentation happened October 7 and 9, but the legacy of our ministry happens every week.

Aunties and Uncles to all of our children, the parents and shepherds, rotation leaders and volunteers come in to teach, mentor and model Christ to our children. These volunteers have prayed and heeded the call to serve. What a miraculous event!

As I continue my work with the children at First Church, but now as a staff member, I ask that you keep

the legacy of our Children's Ministry in your prayers. Pray for the teachers that they listen for the wisdom of our Heavenly Father, pray for the shepherds that they serve with joy and patience, and pray for the volunteers that their work is pleasing to Him. Pray that we all heed the Spirit. Pray the joyful noises that you hear from upstairs mean that His work

is being done and the children are witnessing the legacy of the Children's Ministry.

What a miraculous opportunity!



A new year has begun

By Anita Ebenhoe
Preschool and Daycare Director

Things are off to a great start at First Preschool and Daycare this fall! Everyone has been busy getting used to their new classrooms and routines. It was great to see so many familiar faces back after the summer break, and we welcomed many new friends this year as well. The children are quickly making new friends, and are enjoying learning about their best friend, Jesus.

The children spent the month of October learning about pumpkins, safety, leaves, and trees. On October 4, the 3-year-old, multi-age, and pre-K classes enjoyed a field trip to Gehring Farm Pumpkin Patch. Students got to feed the farm animals, enjoy a hayride through the forest, and pick their own pumpkin. On

October 11, the Green Bay Fire Department visited and all the children were able to see the fire truck up close and learn about fire safety. The children have also been preparing to celebrate at their Fall Harvest Party on October 26. What fun to see all the children parade around the church in their costumes!

We'd like to send a big "thank you" to this year's wonderful classroom volunteers: Kris Searle, Sue Hickey, Barb Hayes, Leah Hutchins, Polly Carlson, Betty Jameson and Cathy Martin. Our preschool teachers are also working with two student teachers from NWTC. We are happy to have Mai (3-year-old classroom) and Lizzy (multi-age class) helping us as they learn from our children and teachers.

Thank you also to the preschool board members for volunteering their time this year: Jane Jones, Carson Brigham, Jackie Bradley, Erin Christensen, Betsy Chatham, Tim LaPlant, Heidi Peed, and Christine Finstad. Keep in mind, we will be looking for board members in the spring for the 2012-2013 school year. Please see Jane Jones or Carson Brigham if you are interested.

There are a few fundraising events taking place this fall. Currently, we have "God's Creation" calendars available for purchase in the church office on a first come, first serve basis. The calendars cost \$6 each, and a portion of the proceeds benefits First Preschool. We will also be selling Marcus Theater movie tickets now through November 3. The movie tickets will be available in early December for the holidays! Order forms are available in the church office or preschool for anyone interested.

We are looking for some volunteers to be "rocking Grandmas" at The Baby Place. Please get in touch with Anita for more information.

If you have any questions or interest in our programs, please contact me at (920) 437-0736, or via email at preschool@fumcgb.org to set up a tour or receive more information.



UMW News

Cookie Walk- Sunday morning, December 4

It's time to start checking your Christmas Cookie recipes and plan to bake and/or purchase your holiday cookies. The Annual Cookie Walk will be held on Sunday morning,

December 4. All church members are invited to bake and purchase cookies. Proceeds go to missions that benefit families, women and children, such as: Northcott Neighborhood House, UM Children's Service, Children's Promise, Bellin College of Nursing Scholarship and many others. Bring your baked cookies to the big kitchen Friday, **December 2,** 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Day Care door needs to stay locked so please bring your cookies to the big kitchen through the Gathering Area. Join us for our Cookie Laying Out Party, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Call Mary Harrison (432-4776) if you can bake or help.

Advent Service and Tea

UMW are sponsoring the Women's Advent Service to be held on Wednesday, **November 30** at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. This service replaces the UMW Christmas Tea. After the service, there will be a "tea" in Fellowship Hall. Last year, everyone enjoyed the many tables set by women from the congregation who used their own table settings and centerpieces. We plan to continue the tradition this year. Hostesses for the tea and ushers and greeters for the service are needed. Please see article on back page.

Fair Trade in Wesley Hall

Fair Trade coffee, tea, and chocolate are available for purchase in Wesley Hall. Place your check or cash in the large envelope. The coffee growers and farmers receive a fair income for their work. They rely on our purchases to care for their families and educate their children. Rooibos Tea is a new product for sale. Rooibos (pronounced Roy-Boss) has long been enjoyed as a fruity, mild-flavored beverage by the local indigenous people where it is grown in South Africa. Recent discovery of its high antioxidant polyphenolic content with no caffeine has resulted in its rapid growth in popularity in the West. The mild flavor of Rooibos (Red Bush) has made it a very popular ingredient in many herbal tea blends.

With cooler weather, Fair Trade chocolate bars will now be available. Why do we need Fair Trade chocolate? Child labor, forced labor, and child trafficking in the cocoa industry are rampant. In West Africa, children are forced to harvest cocoa for long hours, kept out of school, and paid little or nothing at all for their work. They are abused, exploited, and suffer lasting physical and psychological damage. Cocoa farmers use child labor because it's cheap, and it allows them to pass that savings onto distributors and buyers. Buyers look for cheap cocoa because major chocolate companies want to buy the cheapest cocoa available. Chocolate companies are buying bargain basement cocoa because consumers like you and I are looking for cheap chocolate. Fair Trade cocoa helps end that cycle. If consumers buy more Fair Trade chocolate, companies will buy more Fair Trade cocoa.

In order to be the suppliers of that cocoa, farm owners will need Fair Trade certification. That means not using children or slave laborers, hiring adults and paying them a living wage. Families in the community have more money, children are in school, and

you're eating slave-free chocolate with health-giving properties.

Good Will Place Children's Book Giveaway

Tuesday, **November 15** is the date for our next Children's Book Giveaway. We have continually been blessed by the Good Will Place clients who tell us about their children and grandchildren and how much they like to read. One mom offered to bring the book back once her children had read it, so someone else could enjoy it. We consider it a privilege to be in mission "with" our neighbors in need. Your book donations, especially those for very young children, are truly appreciated by pantry clients. Please place them in the box at the church entry. Books that would be suitable for gift giving are also needed at this time of year.

Evelyn's Book Club

We will meet on Friday, **November 11,** at 12:30 p.m. at the Clarion Inn. The chosen book is *The Journey* by Glory E. Dharmaraj, based on forgiveness. It is this year's Spiritual Growth Study, which was taught by Rev. Grace Imathiu, at the School of Christian mission. Call Chris Hemstreet, (920) 468-7404, for a copy. For reservations, call Bev Smith, (920) 336-3597.

Our Thanks

Thanks to those who baked cookies this month to be packed and delivered to the ships in our Green Bay ports by the **Seafarers Ministry.**

We also wish to thank the presenters at the fall luncheon from **KenyaHelp.** Their story is so inspiring and we are grateful for the program and, especially, for all they have done to help our brothers and sisters in Kenya to be successful in life!

Thanks to all who planned and helped to make **UMW Sunday** a success!



November 6

First Book Club

The First Book Club will meet on Thursday, **November 10** at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Barbara and Wayne Mohr, 4458 Indian Trail, Green Bay. We will be viewing the documentary “Waiting for Superman” which will be followed by a group discussion about our educational system. Everyone is invited.

You're invited to Thanksgiving dinner!

Holidays are a time for family, friends, food, and fun. Is your family out of town and your schedule doesn't allow you to travel? Or is making a complete Thanksgiving dinner too much?

Please come and celebrate Thanksgiving with our family on **Thursday, November 24**. Please call Geri Lewis-Nytes at (920) 469-0495 before Sunday, November 20 so we can set a place for you.



PRAYER CORNER

By Geri Lewis-Nytes

OK, I admit I collect rocks. Not pretty shiny stones, but rocks from places I have been. Often they are half buried in dirt ranging in size from small, smooth pebbles to heavy, bookend-holding boulders. There's the jagged white marble from Catawba Island, Ohio, the sandstone from the Mississippi River, and the motley layered one from my Antigo, Wisconsin garden.

Especially in the Psalms, God is often referred to as a rock. Psalm 18:2 states: *“The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.”*

When Lee began his journey through cancer, a group of friends prayed over and anointed not only him but a rock—a weathered-smooth, man's palm-sized piece of granite from Door County. Lee said it was God's rock to give him strength. He used it as a prayer rock to remind him that God and others were with him. Most of the time, Lee's prayer rock was under his pillow or on the nightstand no matter where he was—home or hospital. That particular rock has been given to his sister. At the Celebration of his Life, small stones with a cross were handed out. These were not to remember Lee, but a reminder to pray and to remember that the Lord is our rock—our undergirding strength.

Ironically, a few days later, a devotional referred to 1 Samuel 7:2-15. It refers to Samuel who called the Israelites to gather, fast, and return to the Lord with their whole heart. On the very day they were imploring the Lord, the Philistines—their enemy—advanced to wage battle on them. The Lord thundered loudly and in the confusion, the Israelites not only defeated the Philistines, but pursued them a great distance. Taking a stone and prominently placing it between two cities, Samuel named it Ebenezer. Meaning “stone of help”, Samuel explained that *“to this point has the Lord helped us”*.

I think it's time to collect another rock—my Ebenezer.

Operation Christmas Child

First Church is again participating in this unique mission project of Christian relief for children around the world. Make it a family project and let your children do the shopping for a variety of gifts that will bring delight to a child.

To sponsor a box, all you need to do is sign out a box in the Gathering Area and follow the guidelines provided, returning the filled box before the deadline of November 13.

This year, if you pay the \$7 shipping fee online at the Samaritan's Purse website, you will receive a special barcoded label to put on the box which will enable you to follow your box via the internet to its destination. Go to www.samaritanpurse.org for instructions, more information, or to view inspirational videos along with your family!

If you have any questions, please contact the church office, (920) 437-9252, or Anne Tennis at (920) 432-1351.





The Good Will Place Pantry is in constant need of double-handled paper bags and medium or large plastic shopping bags. We're also in need of paper products such as toilet paper and paper toweling. Donations of shampoo, conditioner, and bath soap are regularly needed as well.

As colder weather approaches, please remember those less fortunate with donations of warm clothing, including adult hats gloves, mittens, and scarves.

Pantry staff and clients appreciate your support!

8th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship

- Tuesday, **November 22** at 7:00 p.m.
- Union Congregational United Church of Christ, 716 South Madison Street
- Preacher: James P. Neilson, O. Praem, Assistant Professor of Art, St. Norbert College
- All Choir Members welcome to a rehearsal at 6:00 p.m.
- Share a pie at the Pie Potluck following worship (no lard in the crust, please)
- Offering benefits St. John Homeless Shelter
- Sponsored by Gathered in Faith Together (GIFT): Congregation Cnesses Israel Synagogue, First United Methodist Church, Grace Lutheran Church, St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Church, St. Matthew's Catholic Church, Union Congregational United Church of Christ.



This month we give thanks to...

Denise Myers for her service and commitment in coordinating our SCRIP program.

Brad Jorgensen for digitally preparing the audio and video sermons for our website each week.

Vicki Hoell, Elizabeth Wikum, Bonnie Vincent and all of our **Dorothy A. Rosenberg Good Will Place volunteer staff** who make a difference in the lives of our pantry clients with their caring attitudes, friendly smiles, and endless dedication throughout the year.

Thank you also to all church members and friends who volunteered their help during the **Boy Scout Food Drive** benefitting our pantry!

Our Liturgists who help lead us in worship each week. We are blessed to have many volunteers willing to read the Scripture in worship.

Eileen Ireland for preparing reminder postcards for those scheduled to serve in worship.

Ernest Harvey for responding to the *You Can Count on Me* and vacuuming the sanctuary each week this summer.

Mike Bradley and John Shuck for their time and service assisting with various maintenance needs around the church.

All those who have helped with the **set-up** and **tear-down** at the YWCA for **Fresh Bread** contemporary worship. In the three years since moving to the YWCA we estimate that it has taken about 1250 person hours per year for this, or a total of 3750 hours. That is figured at about 25 person hours per week for set-up and tear-down. Without your dedication and service, worship at the YWCA would not have been possible, thank you!

This month we received thanks from...

Beth Huntley: "I would like to thank **Jane Jones, Dawn Rentmeester, Kris Searle** and **Dana Farra** for their diligent and beautiful work to begin Sunday School this year. The cupcakes and I appreciate everything that you do! Through the Children's Discipleship Council, teachers were recruited, shepherds were procured and parents encouraged. The Council's ongoing commitment to Children's Discipleship is apparent in everything that they do; to join, ask Diane Wilson, chair or Beth Huntley, Children's Discipleship Coordinator."

First Quilters: "Thank you to all who donated sewing machines, fabric, an ironing board, thread and other sewing notions to First Quilters. Our outreach goal is to eventually share our quilting and sewing skills with those in our church neighborhood, and with Good Will Place Pantry clients. With your donations we are one step closer to achieving our goals, thank you!"

Treasured Members

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

November:

11/02	Betty Mae Haverkorn
11/06	Margie Lightner
11/06	Char Hughes
11/10	Rita Whiteman
11/10	Edythe Bennie
11/11	Alice Steinbrinck
11/11	Dorothy Rosenberg
11/15	Gladys Garrity
11/19	Mary Von Heimburg
11/23	Myron Tursky
11/26	Beulah Berg
11/30	Virginia Von Haden

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. 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 Treasured Members 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 help with lawn care or snow removal. Please contact a member of the Treasured Members Ministry steering committee to get involved.

Treasured Members Ministry steering team members include: Les Van Vonderen (983-2933), Betty Jameson (437-3675), Ruth Wiersma (468-5562), Pat Murphy (465-0240), Julie Van Klooster (825-1122), Bev Smith (336-3597), Susan Miller (498-2063), Carol VanScyoc (437-0829) and Ernest Harvey (544-9118).

Births

Allyson Grace Perra was born to Eric and Stephanie on September 21.

Simone Dominique De Agostini was born to Heather and Carlos in Quito, Ecuador on September 25. Proud grandparents are Pat and Barb Hayes.

Benjamin Dale Jorgensen was born to Brad and Michelle on September 29.

Baptisms

Maxwell David Christoff, son of Brian and Bethany (Hemstreet) Christoff, was baptized on October 9. Max was born October 9, 2010.

Deaths

Bernice Sucha passed away on September 25, 2011.

Wayne Muck passed away on September 30, 2011.

Esther Bredael passed away on October 12, 2011.

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

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Good Will Place Director:

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Lay Leaders:

Jerry Bannon (Coordinator)

Bill Appel (Worship)

Pat Heil (Discipleship)

Nancy Albers (Missions)

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Women's Advent Service - "Angels, God's Messengers"

Does the holiday season mean added hubbub with presents to purchase, cookies to bake and parties to attend? We invite you to pause from your busy holiday routine and

begin the Advent season by attending this special service with an Advent message, scripture, music and prayer. The theme is "Angel's, God's Messengers". Mark your calendars and invite your friends to the 2nd Annual Women's Advent Service to be held in the sanctuary on Wednesday, **November 30** at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served following the service in Fellowship Hall.

Offerings will be accepted for Children's Bibles for our partner church in Lithuania. No reservations necessary. Anyone needing a ride can call Mary Dorchester at (920) 468-6155 or Joan Harvey at (920)544-9188. See UMW article on page 8 for more details.



Let's come together
as ONE congregation and CELEBRATE our blessings,
our success and our church family!

Plan to join everyone for a pot-luck dinner buffet,
fellowship, and program.

A Celebration

Sunday, November 13, 2011

6:00 p.m, at the YWCA.

The main entrée and beverages will be provided.
Please RSVP with the number of guests and the dish you
are sharing to lgreen@fumcgb.org, (920) 437-9252, or in
the 'You Can Count On Me' bulletin insert by
November 7.

It is a great time to be at FIRST
and to CELEBRATE the love of God with one another!