

# The Church Bell

The Newsletter of the

*United Church of Christ, Congregational*

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**July - August 2009**

## **“ENCOUNTERS”**

by Elaine Miller, Assistant Pastor

People’s stories never cease to amaze me, especially when they are told at unexpected times and in unanticipated places.

The woman who does my nails (now you know) is of Asian descent. That is an easy thing to ascertain by her features and her accent when speaking English. What I didn’t know until recently is that she is Amer-Asian. She is the child of a U.S. soldier and a Vietnamese mother. She was one of many who were essentially orphaned after the Vietnam War. She has lived in the U.S. for years, is married and has a son and stepdaughter. The remarkable part of her story came to light as she prepared to close up shop as soon as she had finished with me – only the third appointment on a typically busy day. She and twenty others, children and adults, were headed to a “family” gathering with other Amer-Asian people which was a five hour drive one way. They get together about once a month in what sounded like a great big support group meeting. She said each of the “orphans” knows what it’s like to be raised without their parents, in an unfamiliar land, and the importance of being kin to one another. These monthly reunions take place around the country, in even greater numbers when they meet in Washington, D.C. or other large cities.

I’d forgotten about this group of U.S. citizens and their earlier plight. Being reminded of it wasn’t what caused me pause. The real hook was when she told me 500 of “them” remain in Vietnam, and part of what those who live here do is to raise money so, “Someday, the rest can be here with us.”

Imagine that! A ready and willing family preparing the way for the arrival of their brothers and sisters and be within a warm, welcoming embrace. Gives me goosebumps!

Salaam!

Elaine

## **WHAT A WEEK!**

Many thanks to all those who helped make our Summer Faith Education School a marvelous success as we celebrated the “Promises to Keep: Building our Foundation.” Nearly 100 young people and 40 adults were present throughout the week!!! Shepherds and singers, storytellers and servers, dancers and signers, cookies and bakers – all the time and energy donated is deeply appreciated.

## **WAKONDA U.C.C. TO CELEBRATE 125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

Wakonda U.C.C. will celebrate their 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Sunday, July 26 with a special worship service at 10:30 a.m., followed by a catered meal at the new Legion Hall and will conclude with a program of music, memories and presentations back at the church. They are inviting their sister church, Vermillion U.C.C. to join them in this time of celebration. Please call JoAnn Ganschow by July 15<sup>th</sup> if you will join them for the noon meal: 605-267-2882.

## JULY – AUGUST WORSHIP SCHEDULE

July 5

“The Holy City”

**II Samuel 5: 1-10**

*Communion*

July 12

“Handle With Care”

**II Samuel 6: 1-19**

July 19

“Life in a Tent”

**II Samuel 7: 1-14a**

July 26

Worship in Wakonda

125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

August 2

“Hard to Understand”

**II Samuel 11:26-12:13a**

*Communion*

August 9

“Household Rules”

**Ephesians 4:25-5:2**

August 16

“Intoxicating”

**Ephesians 5: 15-20**

August 23

“How’s Your Punctuation?”

**1Kings 8: (1, 6, 10), 22-30, 41-43**

August 30

“Faith AND Works”

**James 1: 17-27**

### HELPING CHILDREN IN AFGHANISTAN

The World Service and Social Concerns committee recently learned of an opportunity to share leftover children’s clothing from garage sales or those the kids have just grown out of, with children in Afghanistan. Dennis Konkler, member of the Wakonda U.C.C., has a daughter serving in Special Forces there. Katie has seen the harsh weather conditions the children have to endure and is making it her mission to transport warm clothing to them. Please consider donating to this project by leaving clean, reasonably good pieces in Elaine’s office at any time. Thank you!

### VERMILLION FOOD PANTRY

Summer food needs are: canned fruits, Hamburger/Tuna Helper meals, Jell-O/Pudding mixes, tomato soups, chunky soups, fruit juices, family size instant potatoes, family size spaghetti sauce, tuna fish 6 oz./wet packs, bar soap, motel size shampoo, motel size conditioner, jelly/jams 18 oz., cold cereals, muffin/cake mixes, vegetable soups, chicken noodle/rice soups, rice side dishes, scalloped potatoes, spaghetti noodles/pasta, microwave popcorn, toilet paper (wrapped, 4 roll package), family size toothpaste, 18 oz. peanut butter, pancake mix/syrups, Pork n Beans, creamed soups, soda crackers, old fashioned rice 1# packages, canned Irish potatoes, beef stews, canned peas, and diapers (4, 5, 6 sizes).

### INFANT MASSAGE CLASSES

Kaitlin Fuller (daughter-in-law of Karon and Bob Fuller), a licensed massage therapist, is seeking parents interested in learning infant massage (birth to 6 months). The technique is taught in two 60-90 minute classes. Kaitlin will be in Vermillion on July 29 and 30 and is offering the classes at no cost. Massaging your baby is a beautiful and loving way to begin a lifelong relationship. It emotionally nourishes the baby, helps to strengthen and regulate the baby’s primary systems and releases the tension of daily stimuli. It is so simple in terms of technique, yet so powerful in what it conveys – your love, your understanding, and your attention. If you are interested, have questions, or would like an informative brochure, please contact Karon (624-3297) or Kaitlin (952-941-5150 or [fullerkm@hotmail.com](mailto:fullerkm@hotmail.com)).

### NOTE FROM THE TRUSTEES

Thank you for keeping your pledges current, this pledge year is going much better. Since we usually see a slow down in the summer months, we want to remind you to pay your pledges ahead if you will be out of town.

### JULY CALENDAR

#### Sunday, July 5

10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Coffee Hi  
2:30 pm Care Center Worship

#### Tuesday, July 7

7:00 pm Boy Scouts (every Tuesday)

#### Sunday, July 12

10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Coffee Hi

#### Thursday, July 16

7:00 pm Trustees meeting

#### Sunday, July 19

10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Coffee Hi

#### Sunday, July 26

10:30 am Worship at Wakonda UCC

### AUGUST CALENDAR

#### Sunday, August 2

10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Coffee Hi  
1:00 pm Clay County Jail Ministry

#### Tuesday, August 4

7:00 pm Boy Scouts (every Tuesday)

#### Sunday, August 9

10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Coffee Hi

#### Thursday, August 13

2:00 pm PALS

#### Sunday, August 16

10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Coffee Hi

#### Thursday, August 20

7:00 pm Trustees meeting

#### Sunday, August 23

10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Coffee Hi

#### Sunday, August 30

10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Coffee Hi  
Cabinet

### VERMILLION COMMUNITY THEATER

The Vermillion Community Theatre presents "In Every Generation" an original musical photograph written in honor of the Vermillion Sesquicentennial. Our writing team includes Steve Miller, Anthony Burbach, Kurt Hackemer and many others of the U.C.C. family. Performances are July 10-13 at the Vermillion High School Performing Arts Center. The Friday, Saturday and Monday shows will be at 7:30 pm. The Sunday matinee will be at 2:30 pm. Take your place in history and attend this very special event. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 K-12 and are available at Nook' n Cranny, Davis Pharmacy, HyVee and at the door. See the website [www.vermillioncommunitytheatre.org](http://www.vermillioncommunitytheatre.org) for more information.