

The Church Bell

The Newsletter of the

United Church of Christ, Congregational

226 East Main Street, Vermillion, South Dakota 57069
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May 2009

“ENCOUNTERS”

by Elaine Miller, Assistant Pastor

I received my first piece of child art last Sunday since beginning here at Vermillion UCC. The sermon started off with, “I have the heart of an artist – but not the hands.” I also mentioned that my flowers and trees are like the efforts of an 8 year old. Then, following the service, one of our young theologians (about 8 or 9 years old) handed me her drawing of “The Angel of Hope.”

What a thrill! First of all, it was a signal that I have become one who can be trusted with such gifts. It takes time to build those relationships. Secondly, the sketch is quite good. It is a wonderful portrayal of an angel and can be viewed on the corkboard in my office. Most importantly, though, was that I’d forgotten how Sunday morning worship reaches the kids. What they experience is usually quite different than the adult pew population. This was an excellent reminder that our children are unique spiritual beings who we are charged with nurturing their faith. Of course, in the process, the grown-up soul is fed as well.

“...and a little child shall lead them.” (poem of the future peaceful kingdom – Isaiah 11:1-9)

MAY WORSHIP 2009

May 3

“Pursued by Goodness”

Psalm 23

Orchestra

Communion

May 10

“More Fruit”

John 15:1-8

May 17

“The Debate about Clapping”

Psalm 98

May 24

“Our Way in the Wilderness”

Psalm 78

May 31

“Speaking Spirit-ese”

Acts 2:1-21

WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP

Women's Fellowship will be meeting at 9:30 am on Thursday, May 7th. Edith Siegrist and Dorothy Blair will be hostesses and Jill Macy will have devotions. In lieu of a program, we will have a “chit-chat session”. This will be our last meeting until fall.

SUMMER FAITH EDUCATION

Our CE Board has announced plans for our annual Summer Faith Education School for children. On June 8-12, 2009, we will gather the children of the church to celebrate using Bible stories of fellowship around the theme, “Promises to Keep.” This week-long program is full of opportunities for our children to share songs and stories, games and crafts, drama and dance, laughter and love. There will be a VBS planning meeting on Wednesday, May 13, 2009 at 5:30 pm. Anyone interested in helping with VBS is encouraged to come.

CHURCH WIDE WORK DAY – SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2009

Well, it is really only a **Saturday morning** starting at **9:00 and ending at 12:00**. We need EVERYONE, because we are doing a church wide inventory as recommended by our insurance company. We have a generous memorial for landscaping, so bring your gloves and garden tools. Make sure you put a label on everything so we can get it back to you. If the weather is bad, we will just work inside and reschedule the outside work. It would be nice to know how many people we can count on, so please let the church know at uccv@uccvermillion.org. If you don't call, but wake up that morning and the spirit moves you, come anyway. Kids can help too. **Many hands make easy work**. Donuts, coffee and water provided.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations and blessings to these high school seniors who will be graduating on May 24, 2009. They are: Greg Anderson, Shannon Jepsen, Tyler Johnson, Tia Krier, Leah Miller, Michael Oberle, Cassie Schaffer, Shanon Skillman, Tyler Steele, Tony Thomas, and Tyler Vlasman.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry group will gather at the church at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, May 20th. Those who wish, may bring a sack lunch. This will probably be our last get together till fall. Everyone is welcome.

CONFIRMATION TRIP AND CELEBRATION

On May 28, 2009, 16 travelers from our Confirmation class will be heading for Chicago on their confirmation adventure. This trip will include work at a shelter, visits to several different spiritual and faith communities, as well as an overnight at a Trappist monastery. Thanks for all the support that has made this trip possible. On Sunday, June 21, 2009, our Confirmation class will be finishing up two years of careful work, and we will celebrate the rite of Confirmation. This is a very moving and uplifting ceremony. Please come and show your support to these young people as they formally choose to make a commitment of faith within our church family.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE MEETING

The 2009 South Dakota Conference UCC Annual Meeting will be held in Huron, SD beginning Friday, June 12th through Sunday, June 14th. Our theme this year is "Getting Across aGAPe" and several guests from our National UCC office will be leading us throughout the weekend. If you are interested in attending our State Conference, please let us know soon – we will be happy to make reservations for you.

WAKONDA UCC TO CELEBRATE 125TH ANNIVERSARY

A day of grand celebration is planned for July 26, 2009, in recognition of the Wakonda United Church of Christ, Congregational's **125th Anniversary**. It will begin with a festive worship service at 10:30 am, followed by a catered noon meal and an afternoon program of "Memories." There will be good speakers, good music and a good time for all. The Celebration Committee (of course, that's the entire membership) invites our sister church, Vermillion UCC, to attend our festivities. We are excited and hope many will join us for the day. Notes of special remembrances are welcomed and can be sent to: Lois Dwyer, PO Box 436, Wakonda, SD 57073.

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).

VCT

Vermillion Community Theatre will be hosting their summer children's workshop June 1st thru the 6th with performances on Friday evening and Saturday afternoon. To sign up, come find us at the summer sign up at the Armory. Vermillion Community Theatre will hold auditions for our summer show at the end of May. Watch the web page for more details: vermillioncommunitytheatre.org.

The United Church of Christ Congregational

is pleased to invite you to

Promises to Keep: Building our Foundation

A Summer Faith Education School for Children

Stories and Songs

Food and Fun

Games and Crafts

Drama and Dance

Laughter and Loving

June 8-12, 2009 (Monday - Friday)

9:00 - 11:30 am

226 East Main Street - Vermillion

All children of the Vermillion community ages 3-12 are welcome to join us as we learn and explore the promises we make to one another which become our foundation as a family of faith

Please come and register on Monday, June 8th at 9:00 am. Admission is free!

There will be a celebration of our adventure at our morning worship on Sunday, June 14th.
Please call our church (624-3120) if you have questions.

Please share this brochure with children in your neighborhood.

MAY CALENDAR

Sunday, May 3

9:00 am Adult Bible Study
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Hi
Diaconate
5:30 pm Confirmation
7:00 pm Unitarian Fellowship

Tuesday, May 5

6:00 pm B.C.
7:00 pm Boy Scouts (every Tuesday)

Wednesday, May 6

7:00 pm Adult Choir
10:00 pm Last Taize

Thursday, May 7

9:30 am Women's Fellowship

Sunday, May 10

9:00 am Adult Bible Study
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Hi
5:30 pm Confirmation

Tuesday, May 12

6:00 pm Last B.C.

Wednesday, May 13

5:30 pm VBS Planning meeting
7:00 pm Adult Choir

Thursday, May 14

6:00 pm MOPS

Saturday, May 16

9:00 am Church Wide Work Day

Sunday, May 17

9:00 am Adult Bible Study
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Hi
VBS Work Day
5:30 pm Confirmation
7:00 pm Unitarian Fellowship

Wednesday, May 20

12 noon Prayer Shawl Group
7:00 pm Adult Choir
Baccalaureate Service
At VHS Theatre

Thursday, May 21

5:00 pm PALS
7:00 pm Trustees meeting

Sunday, May 24

9:00 am Adult Bible Study
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Hi
Cabinet

Thursday, May 28

Confirmation Trip departs

Sunday, May 31

10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Hi

