

# The Church Bell

The Newsletter of the

United Church of Christ, Congregational

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April 2010

## “ENCOUNTERS”

by Elaine Miller, Assistant Pastor

The 2005 General Synod approved a resolution which recognizes there are, “Multiple Paths of Preparation to Authorized Ministry.” I, and three other licensed ministers, received an invitation from the S.D. Conference Committee on Ministry (COM) two and a half years ago to become potential candidates for ordination through this process. You may recall that you, as the Vermillion UCC, gifted me with a month’s sabbatical in January 2009 to write ordination papers for that purpose. I’ve been patiently waiting since then to hear of the next step.

The phone call came in early February 2010 from the COM Registrar to say they were ready to meet with me. One of the tasks this Committee is charged with is to determine fitness of those who come before them with a call to ordained ministry. People such as me who come through a non-traditional path must be taken with all seriousness of thought and deliberation. I thought I was going to Chamberlain for an initial meeting. It unexpectedly turned into an interview with the most amazing results. The Committee voted to send me forward to stand as a candidate for an ecclesiastical council, an examination by delegates and members from the churches of the Association. It is there that a person is approved, or not, for ordination.

It is with both fear and excitement that I now tell you the ecclesiastical council and vote will take place at the Two Rivers Association Spring meeting. It will be held at the Springfield UCC Church on April 25, 2010. The meeting begins at 2:30 p.m. The exact time of the ecclesiastical council is not known as it depends on the agenda but it will be completed before 6 p.m. That’s dinner time! You, as both my congregation and church family, are surely one of the big reasons this opportunity has come about. You have stretched, challenged and encouraged me to grow in ways that are possible only by being here with all of you. Thank you for helping to affirm the ministry I share among you. If you are free on April 25, it would be a joy to have you with me.

***Editor’s Note:** Our Diaconate Board will be organizing rides to Springfield on April 25<sup>th</sup> for Elaine’s Ecclesiastical Council. If you are interested in attending, please contact the church office.*

## APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 4

Easter

“Do You Have Time?”

**Luke 24:13-35**

*Communion*

April 18

“About Face”

**Acts 9:1-20**

April 11

“To Ask or Not to Ask:

That is the Question”

**John 20:19-31**

April 25

“Wonderful Words of Life”

**Acts 9: 36-43**

### **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

Women's Fellowship will meet Thursday morning, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 in the Mayflower Room. Cyndy Chaney will have devotions and Nancy McCahren and Molly Walters will tell us about their Baltic trip.

### **APRIL-MAYFLOWER MONDAYS!**

Our Mayflower Monday gatherings will continue in April with a creative look at our own Christianity. How do we hold fast to the meaning and values of our faith in the midst of an incredibly diverse and ever-changing world? Perhaps first and more importantly, what are the deepest meanings and values of our faith to which we must hold fast? These lively discussions, which run from 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Monday nights, are open to all of our members and friends. Please join us.

### **ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

The 2010 South Dakota Conference UCC Annual Meeting will be hosted by First Congregational UCC in Watertown, SD beginning Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **2010 PLACERVILLE CAMP SCHEDULE**

The Summer Camp schedule for Placerville (our UCC church camp) has arrived with lots of opportunities. Brochures are available in the narthex and the church office for anyone who is interested.

<b><u>Dates</u></b>	<b><u>Event Name</u></b>	<b><u>Camp Fee before June 1</u></b>	<b><u>Camp Fee after June 1</u></b>	<b><u>Grade Completed</u></b>
June 14-18	Women's Camp	\$175	\$200	19 and up
June 14-18	Shining Stars	\$150	\$175	2 <sup>nd</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grades
June 14-18	God's Lambs	\$75	\$100	up to 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade
June 20-25	Seekers**	\$250	\$275	4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> Grades
June 25-27	Grand Camp	\$75/adult	\$60/youth \$100/\$85	
		For youth ages 3-10		
July 11-16	Faith Explorers**	\$250	\$275	6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> Grades
July 25-31	Family Camp	\$210	\$235	All
	\$15/year up to age 12 – \$700 Immediate Family Max Cost			
August 1-7	Crossroads**	\$280	\$305	9 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> Grades
Nov. 19-21	Fall Youth Event	\$80		7 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> Grades,
	- Deadline Nov. 10	\$50	Chaperones	

\*\* Transportation provided for additional fee for these camps only.

### **AUTOMATIC PLEDGE DEPOSITS AVAILABLE**

For every family, payment of their pledge to the church is an act of generosity and love. There is something symbolic about opening your hand and placing gifts in the plate as it is passed on Sunday. We recognize, however, that we are becoming a paperless world and many of our members would appreciate the opportunity to transfer funds electronically. Participation is totally voluntary, but those wishing to make a bank transfer should contact Beth Lewison, Parish Steward, at the church office for a form.

### **VERMILLION FOOD PANTRY**

Food items most needed at the Food Pantry (located at Trinity Lutheran Church, 816 E. Clark Street): jelly/jam, cold cereal, chili and chili beans, instant potatoes, box of stuffing mixes, Jell-O and pudding mixes, soda crackers, tomato soups, scalloped potatoes, cake mixes, hand soaps, peanut butter, fruit juices, chunky soups, pancake mixes, muffin mixes, motel shampoos, toilet paper – wrapped. We urgently need motel sized bottles of shampoo. If you have any from your travels, would you please turn them in as soon as possible to the Pantry. We use them in personal care packages for a family of one and for family of two. We have helped 257 persons receive food this winter! We fed 1,805 persons in 2009. Thanks you for your care and support! Mary Berglin.

### **UCC ORCHESTRA**

Traditionally we share the gift of orchestra music in the spring. This year we are changing our pattern and will share the UCC orchestra in the fall. Please watch for details. If you are interested in more information please talk with Steve or Becky Rider.

## APRIL CALENDAR

### Thursday, April 1

9:30 am Women's Fellowship  
8:00 pm Tenebrae Service  
9:00 pm Prayer Vigil begins

### Friday, April 2

Prayer Vigil continues

### Saturday, April 3

Prayer Vigil continues

### Sunday, April 4

6:15 am Sunrise Service at the River  
7:15 am Easter Breakfast at the River  
NO Adult Bible Study  
10:30 am Worship  
7:00 pm Unitarian Fellowship  
8:00 pm Taize

### Monday, April 5

7:00 pm Mayflower Mondays

### Tuesday, April 6

6:00 pm BC  
7:00 pm Boy Scouts (every Tuesday)

### Wednesday, April 7

5:30 pm CE/LAF Team meeting  
7:00 pm Adult Choir

### Thursday, April 8

10:00 am PALS  
6:00 pm MOPS

### Sunday, April 11

9:00 am Adult Bible Study  
10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Coffee Hi  
5:00 pm Confirmation  
7:45 pm V-III (High School Youth)  
8:00 pm Taize

### Monday, April 12

7:00 pm Mayflower Mondays

### Tuesday, April 13

6:00 pm BC

### Wednesday, April 14

7:00 pm Adult Choir

### Thursday, April 15

6:00 pm MOPS  
7:30 pm Trustees meeting

### Sunday, April 18

9:00 am Adult Bible Study  
10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Coffee Hi  
Cabinet meeting  
5:00 pm Confirmation  
7:00 pm Unitarian Fellowship  
7:45 pm V-III (High School Youth)  
8:00 pm Taize

### Monday, April 19

7:00 pm Mayflower Mondays

### Tuesday, April 20

6:00 pm BC

### Wednesday, April 21

7:00 pm Adult Choir

### Sunday, April 25

9:00 am Adult Bible Study  
10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Coffee Hi  
2:30 pm Ecclesiastical Council  
in Springfield, SD  
5:00 pm Confirmation  
7:45 pm V-III (High School Youth)  
8:00 pm Taize

### Monday, April 26

7:00 pm Mayflower Mondays

### Tuesday, April 27

6:00 pm BC

### Wednesday, April 28

7:00 pm Adult Choir

### Thursday, April 29

4:00 pm PALS