

# The Church Bell

The Newsletter of the

## United Church of Christ, Congregational

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### July-August 2010

Hi Friends,

On Sunday morning June 20<sup>th</sup>, our church held a special congregational meeting and made some important decisions about the future of our church. Please see the minutes of this meeting on page 2 of this issue of the Bell to learn about our discussion. This is all very exciting but now the real work begins. How do we live faithfully into this new opportunity? Before we can decide WHAT to do with the new land – we need to know WHO we want to be in the years ahead? Remember - we can only become what we can imagine. This is a wonderful chance for some careful and prayerful discernment followed by long range and strategic planning. I am constantly amazed by the resources in our congregation and I can't wait to see where we are headed. Let's get to it!

#### JULY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

July 4

"Patriot's Dream"

**Psalm 30**

*Communion*

-  
July 11

"A Good Question"

**Luke 10:25-37**

July 18

"Pass the Word"

**Psalm 78**

July 25

"What Kind of Kiss?"

**Psalm 85**

#### AUGUST WORSHIP SCHEDULE

August 1

"Chasing after Wind"

**Eccl 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23**

*Communion*

*Baptism*

-  
August 8

"No Bull!"

**Psalm 50**

*Baptism*

August 15

"Why Then, O Lord?"

**Psalm 80**

*Baptism*

August 22

"Leads Me into Life"

**Psalm 103**

*Baptism*

August 29

"Testing the Waters"

**Psalm 81**

#### VERMILLION COMMUNITY THEATRE

Vermillion Community Theatre is excited to announce that our summer production "Oklahoma" will be running July 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm, July 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm, July 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm and July 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm at the Vermillion High School auditorium. Tickets are available at Nook and Cranny or at the door.

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
UCC, CONGREGATIONAL - VERMILLION, SD  
JUNE 20, 2010**

The meeting was called to order by Becky Rider, Moderator and began with prayer led by Pastor Steve Miller. The Moderator declared a quorum of more than 40 members present.

Doug Tuve, representing the Trustees, read the following unanimous motion from the Board of Trustees: that the Board of Trustees be authorized to borrow up to \$150,000 for the purpose of acquiring property directly west of our church building and directly west of our parking lot, including the careful removal of all structures on the land in preparation for future growth.

Moderator Rider provided some background information. Greg Card approached the church to inquire as to our interest in the possible purchase of the house and land directly west of the church. He is asking \$90,000 (as is). A task force was created by the Cabinet during their meeting on May 23 to explore possibilities of land acquisition. Members of the task force included Doug and Susan Tuve, John Grayson, Jen Jost and George Schlenker, with Becky Rider and Steve Miller serving as ex officio members. After inspecting the property and considering a number of options, the task force recommended that the house be removed. In addition, the task force approached the Chandlers about the property directly west of our parking lot. That house is scheduled for removal this summer. After their careful consideration, the Chandlers have generously offered to donate the property (as is) to the church.

Moderator Rider then asked for discussion of the motion.

- Interest rate on a loan of \$150,000 would be about 5.7%. Monthly payments would be about \$1,250 for a 15 yr. loan; \$1,650 for a 10 yr. loan, \$2,200 for a 5 yr. loan.
- A 15 year loan would increase our annual budget by about \$15,000.
- Servicing the loan would require adjustments to this year's budget for payments beginning in August or September. There have already been some offers to contribute to this added expense.
- Demolition expenses for the 2 properties would be about \$10,000 each, or both for \$15,000. The option of selling anything of value would be explored before bulldozing.
- The demolition contract would include making the property landscape ready.
- Greg Card's asking price is the amount needed to cover his mortgage on the property.
- The property immediately west of our church building was never used by the gas station to the west of it.
- The Trustees are not proposing a capital campaign be undertaken at this time. They suggest that it follow a visioning process.
- Barry Vickrey, speaking as Chair of Stewardship, is not concerned about raising the required funds. He anticipates there would be significant one time gifts reducing the amount carried in the on-going budget.
- The acquisition of both of these properties provides a catalyst for long term planning and visioning for the future of our church. It also provides significant opportunity for future generations of this church.

Lee McCahren/Steve Ward moved/seconded the previous question. Motion passed.

Paper ballots were distributed, collected and tabulated. There were 69 votes for the motion and 4 against the motion. The motion passed.

Pastor Elaine Miller offered a closing prayer. Moderator Rider thanked the members of the task force for their thorough and expeditious work. Barry Vickrey/Pat Flanigan moved/seconded adjournment. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karon Fuller, Clerk

## **“ENCOUNTERS”**

**by Elaine Miller, Assistant Pastor**

There was open golf at the Beresford course on this last Monday of June so I decided it was time to take the new clubs out for nine holes. I like to golf but don't get out there often enough to be very good at it. The round went better than expected, especially since I forgot to take a scorecard.

My husband was just coming in from a little garden work when I got home. We chatted a bit regarding improvement in my game (this is kind of like asking a fisherman how big the fish was that got away). And then he asked if I'd checked the beets in the garden. I said, "Yes, I did, just a couple of days ago. They were coming along nicely." "Well," he replied, "go have a look at them right now."

I dutifully walked out to the garden, surveyed the dirt where they were planted. There was nothing there. So, I looked next to the green beans, and the peas, and still saw nothing. I got the hoe and dug in the soil where two days before the leafy, green and red plants were nicely maturing, and I FOUND NOTHING! There were absolutely no leaves, stems, or roots left of the beets! It was as if they had never been there at all.

We are pretty sure it was the rabbits because they're not keen on anything else growing out there. What a disappointment to raise healthy, hearty plants only to have them provide a tasty night-time meal for the bunnies. There are many things in life that we cannot control.

This has caused me to think about real disappointment and sacrifice that many people are experiencing right now, far worse than losing beets to rabbits. The oil spill in the Gulf has far-reaching effects. The death toll of U.S. and other soldiers in Afghanistan is the highest since that war began. The economic struggle around this country often is visited more heavily upon the poor and children.

Our mealtime will not suffer without those delicious red vegetables. As a matter of fact, it is likely a farmers' market vendor will make a little money off of us. Life's inconveniences can be turned into hope for all when we find ways to help: be a volunteer at your neighborhood school, regularly contribute food to the Food Pantry, and send a care package to a soldier. The possibilities are endless.

*May you remember something important enough today to put all your little inconveniences in perspective.*

## **BACKPACK PROGRAM**

The World Service and Social Concerns Board is beginning to make plans to take part in the Welcome Table's Backpack Program to aid students in acquiring the required school supplies for school for this coming year. As Vermillion schools start on August 19<sup>th</sup> we hope to have donations and/or supplies to the WSSC before this date. We will again have bags with the grade and a male or female student listed on it for those who wish to purchase supplies. We also will need donations to fill in bags with supplies. The backpacks are provided by the Welcome Table. Look for a sign up list on the bulletin board in the church basement the last week in July. Donations may be made at any time and sent to the church. Please specify the Backpack Program. Thanking you in advance, WSSC

## **VERMILLION FOOD PANTRY**

Food items most needed at the Food Pantry (located at Trinity Lutheran Church, 816 E. Clark Street): jelly/jam, cold cereal, instant potatoes, boxes of stuffing mixes, Jell-O and pudding mixes, soda/graham crackers, scalloped potatoes, cake mixes, hand soaps, peanut butter, pancake mixes, muffin mixes, shampoo, toilet paper – 4 roll packs wrapped, canned pears, creamed corn, canned white potatoes, creamed soups, macaroni, microwave popcorn, syrup, Pork N Beans, applesauce, Tuna/Hamburger Helper, assorted vegetables, vegetable and assorted soup, spaghetti noodles and sauce, family size tooth paste, sugar, small cans tuna/chicken, white rice, catsup, tomatoes, chicken noodle soup, tooth brushes individually wrapped and flour.

### JULY CALENDAR

#### Sunday, July 4

10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Coffee Hi  
Diaconate meeting

#### Tuesday, July 6

7:00 pm Boy Scouts (every Tuesday)

#### Sunday, July 11

10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Coffee Hi

#### Thursday, July 15

9:30 am PALS  
7:30 pm Trustees meeting

#### Sunday, July 18

10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Coffee Hi

#### Sunday, July 25

10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Coffee Hi

### AUGUST CALENDAR

#### Sunday, August 1

10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Coffee Hi  
Diaconate meeting

#### Tuesday, August 3

7:00 pm Boy Scouts (every Tuesday)

#### Thursday, August 5

4:00 pm PALS

#### Sunday, August 8

10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Coffee Hi

#### Sunday, August 15

10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Coffee Hi

#### Thursday, August 19

7:30 pm Trustees meeting

#### Sunday, August 22

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

#### Sunday, August 29

10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Coffee Hi