

The Church Bell

The Newsletter of the

United Church of Christ, Congregational

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June 2010

INFORMATIONAL MEETING – SUNDAY, JUNE 6

Our church has been given the unexpected option of purchasing the property immediately to our west. Many of you know that this is not the first time the church has thought about buying this land, and we want to carefully consider what it could mean for the future of the Vermillion UCC if we owned more of the space around us.

On Sunday May 23 the Cabinet, hoping to streamline the decision-making about this purchase, authorized the moderator to create a task force to investigate the possibility of acquiring adjoining properties. I appointed John Grayson and Doug Tuve from our Trustees, George Schlenker from the Diaconate, Jen Jost, and Susan Tuve, with Steve Miller and myself as ex-officio members. We also expect to call on church members and friends who can be resources for us in areas such as construction and demolition, real estate, law, zoning, and finance.

The task force will hold an informational meeting after worship on Sunday, June 6 to present their findings to that point. I have called a congregational meeting for Sunday, June 20 after worship for a vote on the task force's final proposal. I realize that a summer meeting of such magnitude is unusual (and perhaps unprecedented) but so is the opportunity we have been given. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

I believe that this discussion gives us the starting point we have needed to enter into long-term planning/visioning for this congregation. I encourage our entire church family to start dreaming about what the Vermillion UCC could be and do if we were to escape our current physical boundaries.

Becky Rider, Moderator

JUNE WORSHIP SCHEDULE

June 6

"Songs of the Heart"

Psalm 100 and 23

VBS program

Communion

June 20

"Deep to Deep"

Psalm 42

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June 13

"The Life I Now Live"

Galatians 5: 15-21

June 27

"Making Up Your Mind"

Luke 9:51-62

WHAT A WEEK!

Many thanks to all those who helped make our Summer Faith Education School a marvelous success this week as we celebrated the "Songs of the Heart." Ninety young people and 40 adults were present throughout the week!!! Shepherds and singers, storytellers and servers, musicians and crafters, cookies and bakers – all the time and energy donated is deeply appreciated.

“ENCOUNTERS”

by Elaine Miller, Assistant Pastor

“Go toward the light.” That sentence was given an interesting turn recently while sitting with Nancy Zuercher and Alice Barnes at the funeral service of Gina Zuercher’s mom, Minerva Ter Wee. Generally speaking, it makes me think about stories told by people who have had near-death experiences. On this day, it became something entirely different.

The three of us, Alice, Nancy and I, were seated in the second row. It was a good spot to see and hear everything. At the end of the service the congregation waited respectfully for the bereaved to depart following the closing prayer. At that point, a curious sight caught my eye. The brilliant sunshine was reflecting through the widely opened doorway behind us, creating a movie-like screen on the front wall of the sanctuary. I saw the shadow of each person as they were leaving the building. It was possible to distinguish all sizes and shapes from the shoulders up, as well as identify the forms of small children being carried by their parents. The outlines melded together below the shoulders, moving as one body - into the light. I turned to Nancy and said, “Look at that! They, WE, are all going towards the light!” That is what we as people of faith are trying to do each and every day. We turn towards the light, the light of God’s love, and then, moving as one, minds and bodies altogether, take that love out to everyone, everywhere. Some days the light is a torch bringing desperately needed hope into the darkness. Other days the light is right there in the midst of life’s celebrations.

“Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.’”
John 8:12

WELCOME TABLE

We invite you to join us on Monday, June 7th to serve the Welcome Table. This is a great opportunity for our church family to serve the community. We will need volunteers to serve, make cakes or donate money for buns and coleslaw. You may sign up at Coffee Hi. The sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board. Thank you!

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 2010 South Dakota Conference UCC Annual Meeting will be hosted by First Congregational UCC in Watertown, SD beginning Friday, June 11th through Sunday, June 13th around the theme “Be Now Our Vision.” Placerville’s 90th anniversary will be celebrated! Howard and Marj Coker, Mary Edelen, Elaine and Steve will represent us in Watertown.

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.

A WORD OF THANKS

My thanks to each and every person who helped make Ordination Day a wonderful time of celebration. Thank you for your good wishes, prayers and remembrances. The new stole means a lot to me with its embroidered pictures of children of the world. I love it! My special thanks go to Steve, Julie, Beth, Gretchen and Parker for their great help in quickly coordinating the many details. It will be a day to remember for all of us. Thank you!
Elaine

JUNE CALENDAR

Tuesday, June 1

9:00 am Vacation Bible School
7:00 pm Boy Scouts (every Tuesday)

Wednesday, June 2

9:00 am Vacation Bible School

Thursday, June 3

9:00 am Vacation Bible School

Friday, June 4

9:00 am Vacation Bible School

Sunday, June 6

10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Hi
Informational Meeting

Sunday, June 13

10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Hi

Thursday, June 17

7:30 pm Trustees meeting

Sunday, June 20

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

Thursday, June 24

4:00 pm PALS

Sunday, June 27

10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Hi