

# 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 2010

### HAIL AND FAREWELL

This past month we received great news that our own Dr. Larry Schou had been appointed the new Dean of Fine Arts at USD. This is a well deserved appointment that is a very exciting opportunity for Larry. Unfortunately this also meant that our Diaconate Board received with great reluctance his resignation as the organist on our wonderful Music Team. Larry has served us "on the bench" faithfully and artistically since the fall of 2006. He will be deeply missed but we wish him well in his new role at the U. Serendipitously for us, Parker Knox, who is an active member and musician both in our church and our community, has graciously accepted the opportunity to become our new organist. We are delighted to welcome Parker!

### ECCLESIASTICAL COUNCIL

Sunday was a day of special grace, blessing and joy for Pastor Elaine and the UCC congregations in Vermillion and Wakonda. The Two Rivers Association met at the Springfield UCC in the afternoon. The ecclesiastical examination, which took about an hour, went very well and the delegates approved Elaine for ordination by unanimous vote. About 15 members of our church family were present to lend their support, as well as a number from Wakonda. This event was a "first" for the South Dakota UCC Conference following the pronouncement which acknowledged and supported multiple paths to ministry, not just the usual route of seminary education. A Service of Ordination is to take place at a later date in our home church and will be a special time of joy and celebration. Our heartfelt congratulations to Elaine on having passed this last hurdle prior to ordination!

### "ENCOUNTERS"

by Elaine Miller, Assistant Pastor

The month of April held a lot of adventure for me – some planned, some not. The eruption of the volcano in Iceland (Eyjafjallajokull) stranded hundreds of thousands of people when the airspace over Europe was closed. There was silence in the sky even over military posts and bases in Germany (though it didn't stop the ground artillery units from shooting off their house-rattling rounds....BOOM!!)

When I finally landed in Sioux Falls on April 22, seven days later than anticipated, it felt kind of like being Dorothy in, "The Wizard of Oz." "Auntie Em, I kept trying to get home to you but there was this volcano, and there was this big ash cloud, and then there were no planes flying....but all of that doesn't matter now. I'm home!" The adventure continued when three days later I stood before the Two Rivers Association to be examined for "fitness for ordination." What an overwhelming experience it was to be asked questions of belief and theological understanding, to be grounded in spirit enough to respond coherently, and to receive affirmation when the vote to move forward to ordination was a unanimous "Yes."

What was encountered through all of this was a lesson we easily forget in our desire to have these perfect lives: we really are not in control as much as we would like to believe. A second part to that lesson is that those out-of-our-control moments are O.K. They can be opportunities to rediscover the Spirit that is at work, in a variety of ways, through the grace-filled support and care of our brothers and sisters in faith. Thank you to each and everyone for your thoughts, prayers, and understanding. May we seek always to be vessels of love and hope to one another as we continue in this faith journey.

## MAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

May 2

“Living the Future”

**Revelation 21:1-6**

*Communion*

-  
May 9

“Where the Heart Is”

**Revelation 21:22-22:5**

*Baptism*

*Trust Fund Offering*

May 16

“Farewell Discourse”

**John 17:20-26**

May 23

“What Changed?”

**Acts 2:1-21**

May 30

“Hope Does Not Disappoint”

**Romans 5:1-5**

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's Fellowship will meet Thursday morning, May 6th at 9:30 at Dakota Gardens. Dorothy Blair and Edith Siegrist will be hostesses. In lieu of a program, we will have a “chit-chat session”.

## REMEMBER THE TRUST FUND – MAY 9

The purpose of our Trust Fund is to provide funding for “the maintenance, repair and improvement of the church structure and its surrounding grounds.” Recent projects benefitting from the fund include a major upgrade to our sound-system, some organ refurbishment and new bells for the bell choir, outdoor beautification and some paving for the west parking lot, more new tables and chairs for the basement as well as furnace improvements. The amounts contributed to the fund are invested in perpetuity. Each year the trust fund committee authorizes a percentage of the value of the fund to be used to support different capital improvements to our facilities. Current gifts are always welcome and to that end a simple special offering will be taken on **May 9<sup>th</sup>** during worship to benefit the fund. Members and friends of the church are also asked to consider making a gift through their will or estate plan. Gifts to the Trust Fund have and will make a wonderful difference in the life of this congregation. If you have questions please contact any member of our Trust Fund committee.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations and blessings to these high school seniors who will be graduating on May 16, 2010. They are: Chase Allen, Sarah Day, Ryun Fischbach, Patrick Haught, Amanda Jacobson, Molly LeCates, Sam Miller, Michael Nelson, Sarah Nygaard, Willy Schaffer, Aaron Steele, Hillary Stern, Tim Tigert, Erik Ustad and Michael Walker.

## FINALS WEEK TREATS FOR USD STUDENTS

We are looking for good cookies and bars! With your help, the World Service and Social Concerns board would like to provide goodie plates to our USD students during finals week. Please bring 2 dozen (colorful if possible) homemade cookies or bars to the church by 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 1st. We will be presenting them to our students on Sunday, May 2nd. Students, come and get your goodies!

## 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> around the theme “Be Now Our Vision.” Placerville’s 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be celebrated!

## WELCOME TABLE

We invite you to join us Monday, June 7<sup>th</sup> to serve the Welcome Table. This is a great opportunity for our church family to serve the community. We will need donations of food and/or money and also volunteers to prepare the food, serve and clean up that evening. Watch for more details in the church bulletin and for sign-up sheets at Coffee Hi in late May and early June!

## MAY CALENDAR

### Sunday, May 2

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

### Monday, May 3

6:00 pm VBS Planning meeting

### Tuesday, May 4

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

### Wednesday, May 5

7:00 pm Adult Choir

### Thursday, May 6

9:30 am Women's Fellowship

### Sunday, May 9

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

### Wednesday, May 12

7:00 pm Adult Choir

### Thursday, May 13

9:30 am PALS  
6:00 pm MOPS

### Saturday, May 15

9:00 am All Church Clean Up Day  
Trustees meeting

### Sunday, May 16

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

### Wednesday, May 19

7:00 pm Adult Choir

### Sunday, May 23

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

### Wednesday, May 26

7:00 pm Adult Choir

### Sunday, May 30

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

## VERMILLION COMMUNITY THEATRE

Auditions for the VCT summer musical "Oklahoma" will be May 10<sup>th</sup> and May 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00. Please go to [vermillioncommunitytheatre.org](http://vermillioncommunitytheatre.org) for more information.

## 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.

The Food pantry can also use volunteers to help unload the trucks. If you can donate an hour of time on Saturday, May 8th, please contact Linda Kogel at [kogellaw@gmail.com](mailto:kogellaw@gmail.com) or call 670-1090. Thanks.

## CHURCH WIDE WORK DAY – SATURDAY, MAY 15, 2010

Well, it is really only a **Saturday morning** starting at **9:00 and ending at 12:00**. We need EVERYONE to come and lend a hand. 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. Kids can help too. **Many hands make easy work**. Donuts, coffee and water provided.

*The United Church of Christ*  
*Congregational*

is pleased to invite you to

**Songs of the Heart**

A Summer Faith Education School for Children

*Stories and Songs*  
*Food and Fun*  
*Games and Crafts*  
*Drama and Dance*  
*Laughter and Loving*

June 1-4, 2010 (Tuesday - 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 beautiful poetry of our beloved psalms. This ancient gift of word and music continues to inspire our family of faith.

Please come and register on Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 am. Admission is free!  
There will be a celebration of our adventure at our morning worship on Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>.  
Please call our church (624-3120) if you have questions.

*Please share this brochure with children in your neighborhood.*