

The Church Bell

The Newsletter of the

United Church of Christ, Congregational

226 East Main Street, Vermillion, South Dakota 57069

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October 2011

STEWARDSHIP DRIVE

In the September 25 sermon on Psalm 8, Pastor Steve Miller challenged us to find more “Wow!” moments and to use the “dominion” God has given us to “take care of the house, so others can be safe, cared for, fed, and loved.” On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, I want to suggest that one way you can do both is through your financial support of the Church.

I’m sure all of you have had “Wow!” moments because of the ministry of the Church. It may have been the insight you received from a sermon or a study group. Or it may have been the inspiration from a choral anthem. Perhaps it was because you saw that the Church cared for you or a loved one, through a visit and through prayer, in a time of need. My most recent “Wow!” moment came from sitting close enough to the front of the Church to see the expressions on our children’s faces during the children’s sermon.

Those “Wow!” moments are a sign that God cares for us by creating the wonderful world in which we live. God also gives us the responsibility, as Steve put it, “to create an opportunity for someone else to thrive.” Through our Church, as we learned during our recent Mission Fair, the “someone else” can be as close as hungry children in Clay County or as far away as people ravaged by poverty and disease in East Timor.

In October, the Stewardship Committee will be asking you to make your financial commitment to the Church for 2012. As you consider your pledge, please think about how fortunate we are to be part of a fellowship of faith that provides us “Wow!” moments and gives us the opportunity to provide those moments—and the love of God they represent—to others.

Barry Vickrey, Chair, Stewardship Committee

OCTOBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

October 2

“All God’s Critters”

Psalm 148

Communion

Baptism

October 9

“It’s a Wonderful, Wonderful World!”

Leviticus 26:3-13

LAF Celebration

October 16

“A Weighty Decision”

Joshua 2

October 23

“Standing on Giants”

Luke 19:1-9

New Members

October 30

“Laughter and Mysticism”

Romans 12: 1-8

LONG RANGE PLANNING CONTINUES THIS FALL
HAVE YOU DONE YOUR HOMEWORK???
IT IS TIME TO TALK!!!

It is time for us to gather for some great conversations about the future of our church! During the last two weeks of October (21st-30th), we will hold 12 cottage meetings, inviting all members and friends of our church to come to **one** of those meetings and share ideas, concerns, hopes and dreams for the future of our family of faith. There will be meetings held at a wide variety of times and locations in order to allow you to find a meeting that fits into your schedule. Please sign up for a meeting by going to our UCC website (uccvermillion.org) or by calling the church office 624-3120. **That scheduling will begin on October 10th!**

Don't forget to check out the "New Dimensions" link on our UCC website (uccvermillion.org). This section of the website features essays by members and friends sharing their own visions and ideas, as well as some carefully researched creative ministries happening in other communities of faith. Hard copies are also available in the church office. This will provide wonderful background for our cottage meetings.

NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday morning October 23, 2011, we will be receiving new members into our church family. There will be an orientation gathering on Sunday, October 16th, at 7:00 pm in the Mayflower Room. If you are interested in membership or know of someone who might be, please contact Steve, Elaine or any member of our Diaconate Board.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's Fellowship will be meeting on Thursday, October 6th at 9:30 am. We will be meeting to discuss the coming year.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED – IMAGINING ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban multi-tribal UCC congregation. Neighbors in Need helps make another world possible. We will be including a special NIN offering on October 9, 2011 as part of our LAF Celebration. For more information about Neighbors in Need you may go to <http://www.ucc.org/nin/>.

VERMILLION FOOD PANTRY

Most needed items at the Food Pantry (located at Trinity Lutheran Church, 816 E. Clark Street) are: peanut butter, cereal, all canned vegetables – especially corn, all canned fruits – other than applesauce, any flavor chunky soups, regular size soups – tomato, chicken noodle, creamed, pasta – spaghetti or noodles, and chili and chili beans.

4th ANNUAL MEGAN'S RUN

The 4th Annual Megan's Run will be taking place on October 9, 2011 beginning at 2:00 pm at the National Guard Armory (603 Princeton). Registration forms may be downloaded at www.vermillionparksandrec.com or picked up at the Vermillion Recreation Office, Vermillion Public Library or Vermillion City Hall. There is a \$20 individual or \$50 per family (3 or more members) fee which includes a t-shirt. Refreshments will be served.

“Encounters”

by Elaine Miller, Assistant Pastor

The first thing I will do here is to say “Thank you!” – to my colleague, Steve Miller, for putting together a finely-timed worship service and helping me find ways around obstacles in preparation for our Mission Fair on Sept. 18th; and to the World Service and Social Concerns Committee for all they did to make it a fun, informative experience; and finally, on behalf of WSSC, to thank all of you who welcomed, listened, blessed and sang to our missionaries in East Timor, Dr. Monica and Tom Liddle, through the Skype conversation that morning (Thank you! to John Grayson, Jason Askew and the guys from Dakota PC for making that happen). They spoke to us from their hearts of what it is like to live and work among the people of Lospalos, East Timor, people they have quickly come to love and who love them right back.

The goal of helping our congregation see the many ways it has been, is and could yet be involved in mission and outreach, through a variety of visual displays, seems to have been accomplished – for now. The Committee would still like church members to respond to a couple of evaluating questions....so, if anyone who had a “Mission Fair Passport” would care to share their thoughts please send responses to: uccv@uccvermillion.org or dblair518@hotmail.com (Dorothy Blair, chair of WSSC):

1. Which offerings/outreach seem important to you?
2. Do you have an idea for a new mission or outreach possibility?

But perhaps the most important outcome was Tom’s response to our second question during Skyping, “What would you (Tom and Monica) most like us to convey to the kids in our congregation?” And he said, “The stories they are learning about God, Noah, Moses, Abraham and Sarah, Mary and Jesus, etc... are also being told and learned all the way over here on the other side of the world. Your kids are bound together with these kids despite many differences in language, culture, wealth, etc. How they decide to live their lives will affect these kids over here.”



Sunday School Class – Lospalos, East Timor

It seems like that’s what we try to do all the time, teach the children and remind ourselves of the importance of living in, and sharing with everyone, God’s great love, grace, peace and hope. Let us give thanks for the leading of God’s Spirit as together we continue to seek to follow in Christ’s way.

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Sunday, October 2

8:15 am Morning Prayer Service
9:00 am Adult Bible Study
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Hi – Trustees meeting
No Diaconate meeting
5:30 pm Confirmation Dinner /Meeting
7:00 pm UU Fellowship
8:00 pm Taize at Danforth Chapel

Tuesday, October 4

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

Wednesday, October 5

3:10 pm Jolley LAF
5:30 pm LAF
7:00 pm Adult Choir
8:30 pm Meditation

Thursday, October 6

9:30 am Women's Fellowship
11:30 am PALS

Friday, October 7

1:00 pm Baking Bandits (every Friday)

Sunday, October 9

8:15 am Morning Prayer Service
9:00 am Adult Bible Study
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Hi
5:30 pm Confirmation Dinner/Meeting
8:00 pm Taize at Danforth Chapel

Tuesday, October 11

6:00 pm B.C.

Wednesday, October 12

3:10 pm Jolley LAF
5:30 pm LAF
7:00 pm Adult Choir
8:30 pm Meditation

Sunday, October 16

8:15 am Morning Prayer Service
9:00 am Adult Bible Study
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Hi
Trustees, WSSC meetings
5:30 pm Confirmation Dinner/Meeting
7:00 pm New Member Orientation
UU Fellowship
8:00 pm Taize at Danforth Chapel

Tuesday, October 18

6:00 pm B.C.

Wednesday, October 19

3:10 pm Jolley LAF
5:30 pm LAF
7:00 pm Adult Choir
8:30 pm Meditation

Thursday, October 20

3:30 pm PALS

Sunday, October 23

8:15 am Morning Prayer Service
9:00 am Adult Bible Study
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Hi
Cabinet meeting
5:30 pm Confirmation Dinner/Meeting
8:00 pm Taize at Danforth Chapel

Tuesday, October 25

6:00 pm B.C.

Wednesday, October 26

3:10 pm NO Jolley LAF
5:30 pm NO LAF
7:00 pm Adult Choir
8:30 pm Meditation

Sunday, October 30

8:15 am Morning Prayer Service
9:00 am Adult Bible Study
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Hi
5:30 pm Confirmation Dinner/Meeting
8:00 pm Taize at Danforth Chapel