

FAITH MESSENGER

Faith United Methodist Church

May 2013

Volume 2013

Issue 4



In this issue:

We have been talking about HCI since September. On Sunday the congregation voted 67 to 3 to accept the five recommendations from our consultants, and they are as follows:

1. **Develop a “Sticky Vision” for Equipping the Next Generation to be a United Methodist Presence and Witness in Waseca:** This is the first and most important strategic step for everything else is shaped by your vision. It will be important to complete this before the end of the summer, 2013.
2. **Leverage Your High Potential Signature Ministries:** The strategic action step would be to form a task group by June, 2013 to identify key signature ministries/opportunities (e.g. fair, pre-school, boaters on lake, fireworks, trunk or treat, food at faith) and determine how to make them “wow” experiences and key outreach events.
3. **Making Discipleship the Heart of the Church:** We ask that you do two specific things:

A. Enter Into a Season of Spiritual Preparation in September/October 2013: Our suggestion for this congregation, at this time, is the John Ortberg study: “If You Want to Walk on Water, You Need to Get Out of the Boat”, although most any study with a strong spiritual focus would work. This would be a 60-day study that would combine a Sunday morning preaching

series with a series of small groups that would focus on the topics covered in the sermon series.

B. Develop a Clear Process and Pathways for Connecting People to Christ, Growing People in Christ and Helping People Live For Christ: This could be developed after the vision work is completed in late summer/early fall of 2013.

4. **Redecorate Your Facility to Be Welcoming to the Next Generation:** Again, you have a wonderful building that you are not leveraging to its fullest. We have several specific suggestions of what you can do if you seek to reach the next generation:

A. Create Signage that Welcomes: Help people know where to go. One of your mystery guests parked in the parking lot, came through the nearest door, which was to the fellowship hall, and had no idea how to get to the sanctuary.

B. Make the Upper Room the Nursery: If you care about kids and want young families, then the nursery needs to be located close to the sanctuary so parent can have visual contact with their children. It needs to be clean, colorful and staffed. Hiring a consistent, trained staff person and supplementing them with volunteers is a best practice.

(Continued on page 2.)

Healthy Church Initiative Update	1-2
UMW Notes from Berts	2
Prayer Requests and Announcements	3
Pentecost Sunday, Church Gardens, Faith Crafters and Stitchers, UMCOR Update	4
Vacation Bible School Registration Information	5-6
Parish Nurse Notes, Elizabeth Circle, Ruth Circle, Mary Circle	7
Garage Sale and Bake Sale	7
Birthdays, Anniversaries, Helpers	Included with Calendar

Calendar Correction: Youth Group has been moved. It will now be held on **May 8th** and **May 22nd** from **6:30 p.m.– 8:30 p.m. at the Parsonage.** The date on the Calendar was printed incorrectly at press time. Thank you.



(Continued from page 1.)

C. Take the Feel of the Upper Room into the

Rest of the Church: The colors and furniture of this room speaks welcome and a modern church. So what would it look like to create a different feel in your fellowship hall by creating conversation corners of chairs and couches, smaller coffee tables and chairs versus large round tables, warm colors on the wall, and carpeting on the floor with a children's play corner?

D. Extend the Church to the Lake: So how can you bring the motif of the lake into the church so that the whole campus from parking lot to building to grounds becomes an extension of each other and seen as your ministry campus.

5. Renovate Worship: At this time you don't have the capacity/need to start a second worship service, but you do need to renovate your current worship service so it is livelier and more engaging for multiple generations. We don't have a particular style to recommend. As a congregation, you will need to do some research, learn and experiment to see what worship voice, heart and style speaks to the people already here and those of the next generation we want to reach. A strategic step for moving forward is to form a task force team for renovating worship by late fall/early winter of 2013.

Conclusion:

The congregation also needs to understand that embarking on this journey means becoming a multi-faceted congregation (review church size information on the transition from pastoral to program sized churches) and it requires putting our personal preferences aside for the sake of the next generation. If we can do that, we will live and leave a great legacy in Waseca. The mission of God will be extended in our community, and we will have created a culture where the current generation is always reaching back and investing in the next generation.

This is how we have the future with hope that God intends. We believe this congregation has the capacity and resources to achieve this vision.

We have now taken the first step of faith on the way to becoming a church that will equip the next generation to be disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The next major step will be to meet with Pastor Dale Arendt, our HCI consultant, for a **Strategic Planning Weekend** on **May 3rd and 4th**. At that time, we will begin the process of planning how we will implement these recommendations over the next two to three years.

Please keep praying for God's guidance as this process goes forward.

Pastor Victor

United Methodist Women: Notes from Berts

May 2013

Spring Luncheon

The Spring Luncheon, which was held on Wednesday April 3, was great. We had more people attend than previous years, and noted that people appeared to enjoy visiting with each other. Thanks to each and every one of you who helped to make it a success.

Southern Prairie Spring gathering, 'Living the Heart of God: Telling the Story' is scheduled for April 26 in Buffalo Lake and April 27th in Heron Lake. Let us know if you would like to attend either of these events.

Circle Meetings

Don't forget, if you are interested in joining or would like to visit a circle meeting, contact a UMW member.

Mother's Day, May 12th. This is a good day for the women to wear a hat.

Collector's Showcase and Potluck is Sunday May 26th. This is an opportunity to bring something you collect and display it in the fellowship hall. In the past, we have had hats, stuffed animals, music boxes, decoys, ties, comic books, Kennedy items, Lincoln items, Elvis items, match books, and vehicles. Do look and see what you could contribute. It's great seeing everyone visiting and talking about their collections. The potluck is always tasty too.

Spiritual Growth Retreat, 'Kaleidoscope of Prayer' will be held **May 3rd and 4th** in Paynesville. Preregistration is due by April 20th. The spiritual leader is Elizabeth Macaulay from Minneapolis and the music leader will be Debra Brecht from Waterville. More information will be available at the circle meetings.

May 20th is the next United Methodist Women unit meeting. It will be held at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Mary Circle will be hosting the event. Members are asked to bring a toy or to help furnish the revitalized nursery.

You can obtain more information on UMW online at: www.umwonline.net.



Lord! Please hear our prayer...



Remember our Church Members & Friends who are less mobile and are unable to join us as often as they have, or would like, including:

Koda Living Community, Owatonna: Elaine Flathers

Colony Court Memory & Care Suites: Ann Swenson, Rosalind Peterson, Gerri Peterson

Lakeshore Inn: Florence Gutknecht, Hazel Henkensiefken, Don Lohse

Latham Place: Emily Miller, Liz Corchran, Millie Groh

Morrow Home, Sparta, WI: Marlene Rietfort

Tower Light, St. Louis Park: Darlene Lynch

Those who are ill, injured or homebound: Jim Keller, Willie Mahler, Jerry Krause, David Frederickson, Emily Miller

On the Bulletin Board

To save on postage and paper, be sure to check out the bulletin board. Some items will only be posted there.

Announcements

American Flags Flown



Donated By:

Bruce and Mary Stauffer

In Honor of:

Roger and David Stauffer

Who Served In:

Korea and Vietnam

Newsletter Cost Alert:

For the May 2013 Faith Messenger and onward:

Due to the rising cost of mailing, Faith UMC will be limiting the number of articles produced in the newsletter. This announcement is to let everyone who submits articles for the newsletter know that they may be abbreviated. Thank you,

Kim Maas

Administrative Assistant

MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITY

Who: Ages 12 - 99

When: June 9 - June 15

Where: Midwest Mission Distribution Center, Chatham IL

What: Help at the Center to assemble needed items: flood buckets, health kits, school desks, school bags, etc.

How: Drive down on Sunday and return on Saturday.

Cost: \$15 a night, share gas and food expense plus \$50

Contact: Char Frankenberry by May 15th. 507-676-3544

UMCOR Update: Peace with Justice Offering Benefits Local Communities

Thanks to the generosity of local United Methodist congregations, through the yearly Peace with Justice special offering, hundreds of children and youth had a safe, healthy environment in which to spend six weeks of their summer vacation. Freedom Schools are one of the main projects supported by the Peace with Justice Sunday offering in West Ohio.

Freedom Schools are 6-week summer literacy programs intended to nurture a love of reading and empower students to reach their full potential. The program is offered at no cost to low-income families and provides breakfast, lunch, and transportation for each student.

In the summer of 2012, Freedom Schools impacted the lives of over 500 students! Freedom School sites work hard to ensure each child is equipped with the necessary skills to succeed in life. The program boosts student motivation to read, generates a more positive attitude toward learning, and connects the needs of children and families to the resources of their communities.

Freedom Schools give children and youth a safe space in which they can risk being vulnerable, showing their true selves to people who care about them. At the University Districts Freedom School, students in grades 9-12 spent their six weeks engaging in a social action project. In the spirit of the Freedom Schools' mission and history, they wanted to address a pressing community need in the Columbus area and see their literacy skills in action – reading, writing and dialoging about something that mattered to them, and those around them.

The students decided to focus on increasing access to community sports because they saw it as a way to combat obesity in their neighborhood and to get young people to connect face-to-face instead of just online. In order to address this need, they first identified key players, which included community partners and leaders, who could make a difference in their social action project.

They then practiced interviewing strategies with Freedom Schools staff so they would know how to ask open-ended questions and identify themes that might help in their argument. The result of the project is a DVD that highlights this important community need through many voices.

As congregations and individuals consider giving to the Peace with Justice Offering, remember the remarkable difference churches have already made in the lives of

these young people! Children who may have gone hungry were fed. Students who might have dropped out of school were inspired to carry on. Girls with low self-esteem were encouraged to see themselves as God does. Lives have been changed!

Please consider giving to and promoting the Peace with Justice Offering in your congregation, or find out how you can get involved in a Freedom School in your neighborhood!

— story from the West Ohio AC website

Let's "COLOR THE SKY"!

When was the last time you flew a kite?

On **Pentecost Sunday, May 19th**, we will celebrate the birthday of the church. Various languages were spoken and understood, tongues of fire came down, and God's Holy Spirit blew through the town, energizing His people. For our part, we want to "color the sky" that morning as we hope for a "mighty wind" to carry our kites high into the sky. After the worship service, you are invited to help the children enjoy this activity. Then come into the Fellowship Hall to enjoy a Potluck meal together.



Church Gardens

It's that time of year again to begin planning the church gardens. Anyone interested in contributing funds toward the cost of plants and other garden supplies is welcome to place an envelope marked "**Church Gardens**" with your donation in the offering plate on any Sunday morning. Donations will certainly be appreciated. If you have questions, please call Clair Voshell at 835-4122. We will be on the Waseca Garden Walk this summer. Thank you.

Faith Crafters and Stitchers

Faith Crafters and Stitchers plan to meet on the second Friday of each month from **9:30–11:30 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. This month's meeting will be on May 10th. All women are invited to bring their craft and sewing projects and join in the fun work and fellowship time. If you have any please questions call Sandy Voshell at 835-4122.





VBS Is Coming!!

Come along to SonWest Roundup VBS and ride the trail through the Old Testament stories of Moses. Your buckaroos will love this colorful Old West town of Dirt Clod and the heart-racin' activities like games, crafts, music, skits, Bible stories and mighty tasty snacks! All of this fun is designed to lead kids to Jesus and God's ultimate plan for salvation. So saddle up your horses and bring your kids on a lifesaving adventure!

Dates: Monday, June 10th – Friday, June 14th, 2013

Time: 8:00 am – Noon

Ages: 3 (as of January 1, 2013 and potty trained) through Grade 6

Place: Evangelical United Methodist Church, 309 6th St. NE

SonWest Roundup will be a joint effort between Evangelical UMC and Faith UMC. We will be collecting non-perishable food items for the local food shelf during the week. We will also be taking a daily offering...watch for details on what mission project will receive the offering.

Betty is looking for the following items to use in decorating the church during the week of VBS:

Cowboy boots/hats Red/Blue bandanas Lanterns
 Clean burlap gunny sacks Small wooden "keg" barrels
 Wooden or metal sawhorses
 Anything "Old West"

(Be sure to put your names on your items so they can be returned to you!)

For the craft area, Ilene is looking for heavy rug yarn in a variety of colors...short lengths (3 feet) left from reams of yarn would be great!

Volunteers are needed: Preschool Teacher, Kindergarten Teacher, Classroom Assistants, Kitchen Staff, and Recreation Staff. Please consider joining the with us and having a great week helping the kids grow in their faith journeys (and yours!!)

Contacts for Evangelical UMC:

Betty Gransee Donna Lines
 835-2978 835-4687
 Church Office:
 835-4774

Contacts for Faith UMC:

Linda Lohse Julie Blom
 835-1917 837-4046
 Church Office:
 835-3167

2013 VBS Registration

SonWest Roundup: A Rip-Roaring Good Time with Jesus!

Please read carefully and check all that apply.

____ Yes Our child/children/grandchildren will be able to come to Vacation Bible School Monday – Friday, June 10th – 14th. If yes, will they come all week or just certain days. (It would be helpful to know this so we can prepare crafts, etc. ahead of time.)
All week _____ Certain days (please list dates): _____

____ No Our child/children/grandchildren will not be able to attend Vacation Bible School Monday – Friday, June 10th – 14th.

*Names and ages of child/children as of June 1, 2013. PLEASE INCLUDE DATE OF BIRTH (Use back for more room, if needed.)

*Grades just completed by June 1, 2013:

*Any kind of allergies that we should be aware of; any medications or special medical instructions. (Continued on back, if needed.)

*Emergency numbers, including cell phone numbers, where we can reach you or other guardian. (Please print clearly.)

*Name of family doctor and location (city) _____

**Parent's or Guardian's Signature _____

***Parent's address: (please print clearly)

*Will your child/children need a ride to or from V.B.S. Yes _____ No _____

(Please explain) _____

*Will your child/children be able to attend our V.B.S. Program on Friday night, June 14th at 7:00 p.m.? Yes _____ No _____

Thanks so much for sending your children/grandchildren/friends to our
Vacation Bible School!
Please return on or before May 1, 2013.

Parish Nurse's Notes

"The Four Things That Matter Most"

By Ira Byock, M.D.

"Four Simple Phrases:

"Please forgive me."

"I forgive you."

"Thank you."

"I love you."

These phrases carry enormous power. In many ways, they contain the most powerful words in our language. These four phrases provide us with a clear path to emotional wellness; they guide us through the thickest of interpersonal difficulties to a conscious way of living that is full of integrity and grace."

This book "The Four Things That Matter Most" is a must read. It's inspiring and thoughtful. Each day is precious and we need to keep our relationships current and positive. No regrets! Then, "I should have and I could have" won't be necessary. Even if you don't find time to read the book, take these four simple phrases and use them liberally in your day to day life. You'll feel better and so will those around you.

Jesus' words from the cross - Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34) are profound and are as profound today as 2,000 years ago. Gratitude, forgiveness, and love are a constant theme throughout the Gospels. Thank you God for your Son, Jesus Christ.

Peace and Grace,

Sherry Scholljegerdes, RN

Your Parish Nurse



Elizabeth Circle

Elizabeth Circle will meet on **Wednesday, May 15,** at **3:00 p.m. in the Upper Room.** Our hostess will be Shirley Hansen with Sandy Voshell leading devotions. Guests and visitors always welcome!

Mary Circle

UMW Mary Circle will meet on **Monday, May 20,** at **4:00 p.m.** in the church kitchen. The Mary Circle will host the UMW Unit Meeting on **May 20th at 6:00 p.m.**

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle will meet on **Wednesday, May 15th,** at **9:30 a.m.** The location is yet to be determined.

Garage Sale and Bake Sale

On May 4th, 8:00 a.m., the Relay for Life Cancer Walk will be having a garage sale and bake sale at Faith United Methodist Church. Set-up is going to be Friday night, May 3 at 5:00 p.m. All proceeds will go to the Cancer Walk fund. We need clothes, furniture, jewelry, lamps, etc. that you would like to get rid of. Please, bring these items to the church fellowship hall on Friday night. If you can't come on Friday, please call Vada Dahnert at **507-833-5477** or Dave Baldini at **507-835-3697** and they will pick them up. We will accept monetary donations and will also be selling luminaries.





Faith United Methodist Church

"Faith by the lake ~ and beyond!"

801 Fourth Ave. NE

Phone: 507-835-3167

Fax: 507-835-5400

E-mail: faithwaseca@gmail.com

www.faithwasecaumc.com

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Waseca, MN
56093

Change Service Requested

Join us for:

Healthy Church Initiative

Strategic Planning Workshop

with Consultant, Pastor Dale Arendt

at Faith United Methodist Church

May 3rd, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

May 4th, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.