

# THE VOICE

A Publication of The United Church of Mapleton

Rev. Carl DeLine

507-524-3141

www.unitedchurchmapleton.org

## APRIL LENTEN SCHEDULE

Wednesday, April 6th	7:00pm Service
Wednesday, April 13th	7:00pm Service
Sunday, April 17th	Palm Sunday Service
Wednesday, April 20th	7:00pm Service
Friday, April 22nd	Good Friday Service
Sunday, April 24th	Easter Sunday

## MONTHLY

◆ 1st Sunday	Communion Loaves & Fishes Collection
◆ 2nd Wednesday	Meeting of Diaconate
◆ Mon before 3rd Wed	Women's Fellowship
◆ 3rd Wednesday	Trustees Meeting
◆ 3rd Sunday	Noisy Well Collection
◆ 4th Monday	Official Board Meeting

An **ALL BOARDS AND COMMITTEES** Meeting will be held on **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13th** following the 7:00pm Lenten Service.

## PASTORS CHAIR

Earthquakes, tsunamis, tornadoes, blizzards, flooding, and windstorms all seem to be the order of the day. In the midst of this chaos, crisis confronts the global community. We are often caught in the middle of this wondering what our next step will be.

From a coaching perspective I encourage you to see things as if you were sitting in the highest tree branch you trust. Take time to look down, take time to look around, see what needs to be done. At the United Church of Mapleton we are stepping into our next task. We have been working with the boards to develop a communication process and a twelve-month calendar.

You have heard Jack talk about taking pictures. Perhaps you have received a telephone call about getting your picture taken. This is all part of the next step. Not only will we create a directory, we will be telling a history. "AFFIRMING THE FAITH" will be the title of the new directory. It will contain the following items: pictures, history, copies of historical documents, information, and also a document that reiterates the faith and understanding of those who were the founders of this congregation. Their words will become the basis for a new document. This new document will be a statement of faith by you the present congregation. The United Church of Mapleton has a strong past. As this document is put together it will lay the groundwork for a strong future.

Please take time to go into your files and "dig up" as much as you can. We want your help tell the story of this congregation. The future will be ours to claim. Let us claim it together.

Rev. Carl DeLine

DATE	APRIL 3	APRIL 10	APRIL 17	APRIL 24
<b>GREETERS</b>	DOUG & LAURA FRITZ	DAVID & ROBERTA WARD	JEFF & JODIE GERDTS	CLINT LINDEMANN
<b>COFFEE HOUR</b>	DIACONATE	AMBIENCE COMMITTEE	THE WELL YOUTH CENTER	CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
<b>HEAD USHER</b>	DON FOSTER	DON FOSTER	DON FOSTER	DON FOSTER

## OFFICIAL BOARD MEETING NOTES

February 21st, 2011

Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm. Moderator shared a devotional thought from Proverbs 11. Agenda approved as emailed with no changes. M/S/P to accept the January 2011 minutes as presented.

No Reports.

Pastor referred to the Coaches Corner in the upcoming Voice newsletter, which highlights the use of computers to communicate with each other in between official meetings.

### **New Business—**

Moderator reflected back over the last year and now we need to set goals for our church. This evening we will be working through several discussion points and coming up with some goals. Moderator handed out several sheets with tentative ideas for goals. Discussion point one—setting up our pulpit committee by March 15th, if possible. Much discussion on how to enlist help from our congregation and getting everyone excited in our search. This team is needed in place for us to complete a church profile by September 1st. Moderator asked that the OB start thinking about possible candidates and to bring names to the next meeting. We need to select the team and start working.

Other goals talked about were Christian Education Program Development, Worship Committee, Role of our OB and Moderator, and job descriptions for staff. Moderator felt one of the most important roles for the OB would be to coordinate all committees and boards for better communications, with and between teams.

According to our Constitution, the Trustees are the ones responsible for keeping job descriptions up to date for all paid staff. Therefore, OB will need to push Trustees in completing the job descriptions for all staff ASAP.

M/S/P to add L. Schubert to our Christian Education Board.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40pm.

Respectfully submitted by L. M.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Board of Christian Education has held several short meetings during the month of March. Our Sunday School program continues to evolve in order to provide the best experience for all those involved - children and teachers. We have returned to a shorter time period for class and a division between upper and lower elementary for our younger children.

We are looking for volunteers who would be willing and committed to build a program for junior high. There are several potential students in this age category. Please call Pam Foster at 524-2185 if you would like to explore this avenue of church involvement. We need you; and, the youth of our church need you. And perhaps, a one-Sunday a month commitment would be perfect for you. Thank you so much for your consideration of our request.

At this time we are discussing programming on many platforms. One is C.E. sponsored events, specifically a **marriage workshop**, a **day of prayer for Japan**, a **family retreat at a local camp**, and a **Resources for Seniors Workshop**. Dates will be provided in the next issue of The Voice.

We are now in the midst of Lent and so our immediate focus is on Palm Sunday and Easter. Once again Christian Education, coordinated by Linda Whitney, is sponsoring a **Palm Sunday Brunch**, which will take place immediately after morning worship at 10:00 a.m. We hope many of you will be able to participate in this very enjoyable event. Bring a friend or relative to share in our fellowship.

Pam Foster, C.E. Chair



**How Easter is calculated:**

In Protestant and Roman Catholic Churches, Easter is observed on the Sunday after the first full moon after the first day of spring. This full moon may occur anytime between March 21 and April 18. Therefore, Easter cannot be earlier than March 22 or later than April 25!

**THANK YOU FROM THE ODD FELLOWS**

The Odd Fellows would like to thank the members of the United Church for their generous support at our annual pancake breakfast. We would also like to express our appreciation for the use of church facilities. Because of your generosity, area youth will have a great time this summer at **Camp Fa Ho Cha**. Thanks so much!

**PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH**

Sunday School and the Board of Christian Education will sponsor a Brunch on Palm Sunday, April 17th. The menu will include scrambled eggs with ham, cheesy potatoes, muffins, milk, orange juice, and coffee. A free will donation will be collected, with proceeds going towards youth activities including camps, missions trips, etc. Mark your calendar!

**EASTER LILIES**



Anyone who wishes to order an Easter Lily from the Plaid Piper may sign up on the sheet on the upstairs bulletin board. The cost is \$14. If you wish to purchase a lily and deliver it on your own, you may also do so. The lilies need to be delivered to the church no later than noon on Saturday, April 23rd. You may leave the lilies for services after Easter; however, they need to be removed before May 22nd.



**P R A Y E R C H A I N**

To request prayers, and/or for more information about our **Prayer Chain**, please call Marlin Kunard at 524-4433. Also, anyone who would like to participate in the Prayer Chain, please let us know. Thank you.

**AMBIANCE WORK GROUP**

The newly formed Ambiance Work Group has been busy the past month getting organized and ready for the Lenten season. Many meetings/work sessions have been held, with input and direction from Pastor Carl and the Moderator. Our main objective is to create a spiritual atmosphere where the service will be a more worshipful experience. Some slight changes in "decorations" have been made to prepare for the Lenten time, and more items will be completed closer to Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

It has been decided and approved that there will be no decorations on the sills of the stained glass windows in the sanctuary, with the exception of battery operated candles for Christmas Eve. Future projects include organizing the many decorations/flower arrangements/holiday props that are in several closets throughout the church, as well as providing appropriate banners, colors, and decorations for each of the spiritual holidays.

If anyone has questions or suggestions, please contact Marlene, Pam, or Kathie.

**WISDOM SEEKERS PRESENT**

a one Day Event.....April 26, 2011  
8:30am to 3:30pm

Forest Lake Camp & Conference Center  
Pella, Iowa

**THEME- JUSTICE???**

**SPEAKERS:**

**June & Dr. Marshall Peters**

"The Middle East—A Commission for Peace"

**Suzie Wright**, FBC Dubuque

"Reflections of NightLight Ministry—  
human trafficking in Thailand"

**Rev Regan Stoops**—Devotions

Registration- \$10 per person or \$15 per couple  
plus \$10 for lunch.

Send checks to Arlan Van Dusseldorp by April 18  
402 E. 3rd St. Pella, IA 50219

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Women's Fellowship (W.F) met at 6:00pm on March 14th with 14 members present. Devotions were provided on "Where Has the Spirit Placed You."

The Secretary's report was read and approved.

The W.F. bank account has been closed, and the funds have been transferred into the General Fund. Discussion followed regarding the procedures for reporting activity, paying expenses, and depositing funds. The Treasurer's report was approved.

The W.F. is accepting the responsibility of the Cordova and White Cross mission requests. The America for Christ offering is being collected through March. We will be sending a check to Liberia, as well as items collected to Oklahoma.

Stephanie Caldwell's quilt was delivered to her.

Officers will be elected at our next meeting. The positions include President, Vice President, Secretary, Missions, Circle and Wedding.

The W.F. approved the formation of a Sunshine committee to provide cheer and encouragement to those who are shut-in or have ill health. All W.F. members are asked to bring cards and envelopes which may be used. Anyone with names of people to be contacted should give the names to Maggie, who will forward them to the contact person.

An open invitation has been extended to Ruth DeLine to any and all W.F. meetings/gatherings.

The next W.F. meeting will be an **afternoon meeting on Monday, April 18th at 1:30pm.**

Meeting Adjourned.

After meeting adjournment, members got busy and cleaned the kitchen area. Much was accomplished, as well as a good deal of fellowship and chatter. A huge "THANK YOU" to all members who helped in this endeavor.

We encourage all women to attend our meetings. If you have questions regarding our Women's Fellowship, please call Linda W. (524-3037), Joyce J. (524-3727) or Ruth C. (524-3666).

Respectfully Submitted: Kathie T., Secretary

## SISTERS IN GRACE PRESENTS

### "You are Enough"

Thursday, April 7th from 6:30pm to 9:30pm

Hosted by Messiah Lutheran Church  
1706 Lee Blvd, North Mankato

Free Admission ~ Bring a Girlfriend  
Light Refreshments will be provided

## KJLY Christian Radio

Presents

### A Day for Women "Super Woman of God"

~ Leaping Life in a Single Bound ~

With Motivational Speaker and Author

**Vicki Tiede**

**Saturday, April 9th 8:00am to 4:00pm**

Hillside Church, Mankato

(502 South Victory Drive)

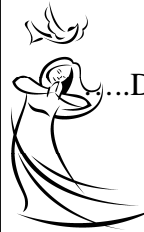
\*\* \$25 for the Entire Day \*\*

Registration at 8:00am

Space is Limited ~ Call Today

507-526-3233 or register online at [www.kjly.com](http://www.kjly.com)

## WOMEN



...DESTINED FOR GOD'S PURPOSE

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

**Saturday, April 30, 2011**

**9:15am to 3:00pm**

**Calvary Baptist Church**

2016 Bridge Avenue Albert Lea, MN

**Guest Speaker:** Mercy Gonzalez-Barnes

Missionary in Baja California, Mexico

Cost: \$6

Reservations by April 20th.

RSVP to Janet Levine

415 Lynwood Albert Lea, MN 56007

ph. 507-377-1865 e-mail: [justjan8535@live.com](mailto:justjan8535@live.com)



# APRIL 2011

Sunday Worship: 9:00am  
 Sunday School: 9:15am  
 Coffee Hour: 10:00am  
 Adult Group: 10:30am

Phone: 507-524-3141

website: [www.unitedchurchmapleton.org](http://www.unitedchurchmapleton.org)

E-mail: [secretary@unitedchurchmapleton.org](mailto:secretary@unitedchurchmapleton.org)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 <b>Communion</b> Loaves & Fishes Collection	4	5 6:30am Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder	6 1:00pm Quilting  7:00pm Lenten Service	7	8	9 Community Breakfast @ St. Johns
10	11	12 6:30am Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder	13 1:00pm Quilting 7:00pm Lenten Service 7:30pm All Boards Meeting	14	15	16
17 <b>Palm Sunday Brunch</b> 11:00am Service at Community Home	18 1:30pm Women's Fellowship Meeting	19 6:30am Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder	20 1:00pm Quilting 7:00pm Lenten Service 7:30pm Official Board Meeting	21	22 1:00pm Good Friday Service	23
24 <b>Easter Sunday</b>	25	26 6:30am Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder	27 1:00pm Quilting	28	29	30

**Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary to those celebrating during the month of April.**

## MODERATORS COMMENTS

As you read this issue of the VOICE you will see that there is considerable activity going on in our various Boards, Committees, Groups, etc. All of these efforts have the ultimate aim of making our Church and its members, better followers of Christ's teachings and reaching out to serve all aspects of our community.

We have some very important decisions facing our congregation over the next year. Questions of: What kind of a Church are we?; What kind of a Church do we wish to become?; and, What kind of a Church does God want us to be? These questions, along some of their ramifications, are being discussed at 10:30 in the Overflow Room, and are led by Pastor Carl.

A specific item which has been discussed is: Are we, The United Church, a Chaplain Base Design Church (sometimes called a single cell church) or are we a Program Base Design Church? The more basic question: Which do we want to become? In the Chaplain Base design you will find the priority given to a nurturing environment while the Program Base design give priority to programs and activities.

These and other issues have led to delightful and lively discussions. Please feel join with us on any Sunday.

We expect to announce the membership of the Pulpit Committee within the next 2 weeks. I will be contacting the nominated individuals during the coming weeks. This will be a very important undertaking in the life of our Church. I personally request your cooperation in filling out the membership of this Committee. Further, your prayers are request for the people who will serve and for the upcoming work they will undertake.

I continue to feel very positive about our Church, its activities and its growth in faith.

Hugo John, Moderator

## DEACONS MEETING

The march meeting of the Deacons was held in the overflow room after the Ash Wednesday Lenten Service with six members present and two guests.

After calling the meeting to order, Jack gave a brief devotion on reconciliation and healing, citing Louis Cooperberg, a Jewish doctor called upon to treat injured Nazis at the end of WWII. The message of Easter is the message of healing for those who "want to be healed." (John 5:6)

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Pastor Carl spoke about the possibilities available to us through the use of computers and the internet. Computers are available for use in the former church office, and he has established the means of secure communication by way of Google Docs to serve our needs of planning and communication.

Hugo brought up our need to develop a written policy for the use of our church building and facilities. This is currently being worked on. He also requested that each submit a list of 14 people we feel would be good candidates to serve on the Pulpit Search Committee. This will be worked on at the Official Board Meeting on March 23.

Tim and Jack Madsen are in the process of taking pictures of our congregation for a new pictorial directory.

Schedules for those serving at Communion and Coffee Hour were distributed.

Jack reported that he has received help from the Historical Society on gathering information and historical recording of senior members of our congregation. He will be pursuing this with the help of the Historical Society in the coming months.

Sharon requested that a Treasurer's Report on the Deacons' fund be given at our regular monthly meetings.

The remaining schedule for our United Church providing services at the Community Home are April 17, June 19, August 21, October 16, and December 18. Jack will be taking care of this.

Our next meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2011. The Meeting was adjourned.

Jack Madsen, Chair

# NEWS AND EVENTS

## HAPPENINGS AT THE WELL

The Well Youth Center, a non-profit youth organization, open for all youth grades 4-12 in the Maple River area, offers an after school snack/beverage, fun with friends, crafts, games, and homework help, all under the supervision of adult volunteers in a safe environment.

### **Monday, April 4th:**

Starting at 5:00pm Wellness Project Sessions

### **Tuesday, April 5th: open from 3:00 to 5:00pm**

Starting at 5:00pm Wellness Project Sessions

### **Wednesday, April 6th: open from 3:00 to 5:00pm**

Starting at 5:00pm Wellness Project Sessions

### **Thursday, April 7th: open from 3:00 to 5:00pm**

Starting at 5:00pm Wellness Project Sessions

### **Friday, April 8th: open from 3:00 to 5:00pm**

## COMMUNITY CLOSET

Looking for great bargains? Find plenty at the Community Closet, located above the Plaid Piper. If you know of a non-profit group that is looking for a fund raiser, why not man the store on a Saturday and your group will reap the benefits from that days sales. For more information, call or e-mail Gay Rice at 524-4040 or gaypr30@aol.com Also, if you have donations for the closet, leave them inside the door. All donations are greatly appreciated.

## MAPLETON SERTOMA CLUB

Mapleton Sertoma Club will be working with the Loaves & Fishes Food shelf by picking up food and supplies beginning at 9:00am on the first Saturday of each month, beginning April 2nd. Blue bags with a fish logo will be available at Mapleton Drug. Please pick up a bag, fill with food/supplies, and then hang on your front door or put on your doorstep so that it is visible from the street for Sertoma members to pick up. Another bag will be left for next month's donation. The Mapleton Sertoma Club and Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf thank you for your generosity. If you have any questions, call Lee Ek at 524-4467.

## COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Join us for a community breakfast on Saturday, April 9th from 8:30am to 10:30am at St. John's Lutheran, Mapleton. All are welcome!

## SPRINGFEST

Sunday, April 10th from 10:30am to 1:00pm  
Jackson Lake Lutheran Church ~ Amboy, MN  
Luncheon buffet; \$8.00 adult, \$4.00 children  
Children 5 and under are free  
Hot beef and turkey sandwiches, salads, baked goods, and craft sale.  
Please bring your friends and family.

## DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS

Dollars for Scholars is hosting a scholarship supper on Monday, April 11th from 5:00 to 7:00pm at St. Teresa's Catholic Church. Free will offering will be taken with proceeds going towards scholarships for students furthering their education after high school. Come support our local students.

## FRIENDS OF UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY

You are invited to come and celebrate with us as our students tell of their wonderful work on behalf of Habitat for Humanity. Please show your support for these fine young students by attending the banquet and supporting the ongoing work of the MSU Habitat Campus Chapters.  
Please RSVP by April 6th to 345-7806.

17th Annual M.S.U. Habitat for Humanity Banquet  
Monday, April 11th from 6:00 to 8:00pm  
First Congregational U.C.C. Church  
150 Stadium Court, Mankato

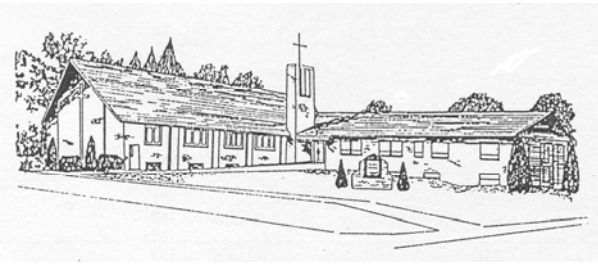
Beauford United Methodist Church

## RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE

Friday, April 15th from 12:00 to 7:00pm

We are known for our great prices and awesome baked goods!

Come check us out—it's worth the drive!



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Mapleton, MN 56065  
Permit No. 5

The "Voice" of  
The United Church of Mapleton  
P.O. Box 413; 201 Troendle Street SW  
Mapleton, MN 56065

**APRIL 2011**

Address Service is Requested

"The Mission of The United Church of Mapleton is to Worship, Teach, and Serve in the traditions of our distinctive congregational heritage according to the teachings of Jesus Christ, for the benefit of all."



The United Church  
of Mapleton  
P.O. Box 413  
Mapleton, MN 56065



## TREATS FOR TROOPS

Dear Mission (for soldiers) Friends,

The “Treats For Troops” project is under way again. Soldiers’ and sailors’ names and addresses are being updated, so please inform me if you know of someone recently entering the service. I am including a list of suggested items for you to duplicate and post or hand out. Remember, no chocolate or peanut butter items can be sent, and small sized containers are best. We are thankful for monetary donations as well. The cost for 1 box is \$12.50 international, and \$14.50 stateside.

I think it would be nice to “personalize” more of the boxes. If you know of any of these Troops, or his or her family, please find out some of their “favorites.” What are their favorite candies, what do they like to read, do they do puzzles, etc. Also, please give me your thoughts on including anything specific for the spouses of those stateside, and what those items might be. I appreciate your input.

We will do the boxing on Saturday, May 7th at 9am at St. John’s in Mapleton. There will be donuts and coffee. We had a great crew last fall, so I hope you can all be there again!

This is a great mission, made even more special with all of the auxiliaries and churches in the Maple River area participating. For any questions, names, and favorite lists, call me at 278-3142.

Sincerely,  
Jan Brindley

### TREAT SUGGESTIONS

Hot cocoa mix	Foot Powder	Magazines
Soup Mix	Hand Sanitizer	Batteries
Cereal Bars	Deodorant	Cards & Dice
Fruit roll-ups	Cough Drops	Sudoku puzzles
Energy bars	Hard Candy	Books on CD
Skittles	Face Wipes	Music CD’s
Easy Mac	Pop Tarts	Ramen noodles
Baby wipes	Icy Hot	Pillow cases
Jelly Beans	Instant Coffee	Single Sheets
Jerky	Popcorn	Gummie bears
Licorice	Bouncy balls	Stress balls
Jaw Breakers	Paperback Books	Sunflower seeds

## COACHES CORNER

We are well into the season of Lent. It is a time to consider and think deeply about the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ. In many ways Jesus lived his life as if He were living out the religious expectations of the society around Him. It is during Lent we discover the tension within us when we think about walking in the steps of Jesus.

To follow in the steps of Jesus is to look to the gospel writers and to see how unique this person “Jesus” was. As an infant and as a young child, the Scripture reminds us that he grew strong. These same stories indicate that his strengths grew beyond the physical into the spiritual.

He chose a group of people known as the disciples to walk alongside of Him. He desired to train them that they would understand what religion was all about. He taught them the Scriptures, he taught them relationships, and he taught them about committing themselves to a special project. This project would lead Jesus and these disciples to the foot of the cross. They would know passion and they would understand what it would be to be passionate.

When in your life have you seen people being passionate about what they believe? Who are those people in your life who illustrate “passion” so that it leaves an indelible etching in your mind?

When was the last time that you were passionate about something that you knew you had to take a stand? When was the last time when you were asked to stretch out beyond your comfort zone and know that you were standing at the foot of the cross?

May God bless you as you celebrate “His” passion with those around you.

AMEN

Rev. Carl DeLine

## MISSION ACTIVITIES

The subject arose recently; “just what is our Church doing in its outreach and stewardship for our community, state, country and globally?” So following is a list, sorry if we left something or someone out.

### **LOCAL MISSIONS and OUTREACH**

Loaves and Fishes Food Shelf  
Meals on Wheels Delivery  
Treats for Troops  
Bundle Me Warm  
Salvation Army  
(Bell Ringing, Quilts, and Donations)  
MRCI Volunteering and donations  
The Well  
(Noisy Collection, X-Mas, School supplies, quilts)  
Sharing Tree  
Community Closet  
Community Home  
(X-mas gifts, Tissue, Volunteering, quilts)  
Community Shut-ins (Tissue)  
CADA House (Quilts)  
Country Neighbors (Quilts)  
Gifts to Newly Married Couples of the Church  
(Special Quilts)

### **REGIONAL, NATIONAL and INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS**

Special Denomination Offerings (4 per Year) For March it is America for Christ and Strengthen the Church  
Cordova, Alaska Baptist for its Mission Bazaar  
White Cross Rolled bandages for Haiti and Oklahoma Children’s Indian Mission  
Church World Service (Kits and Blankets) Recent one day collection for Blankets for Japan, \$330.00 to CWS  
Budgeted funds to each Denomination for outreach programs at the State, National and International levels.

I believe our United Church can be proud of its role and contributions in its Mission and Outreach programs. A frequent comment by those participating in these endeavors relates to the personal reward of sharing their time and talents and the fellowship that often accompany the activity.

Pat John, Missions Committee

## THE UNITED CHURCH

### GOALS FOR 2011

A series of goals were put together with the objective of accomplishing most of them by the end of this year. These goals were discussed by the Official Board and touch on many aspects of our Church’s life. We will keep our members informed of progress on these issues as we work through them. Please contact any of the Official Board members if you would like to discuss any aspects of these. Following is the ranking of the 9 goals as developed by the Official Board.

1. Selection and activation of Pulpit Committee.
2. Preparations of Job Descriptions and full implementation of Personnel Guidelines.
3. Definition of Role of Official Board and Moderator
4. Development and Implementation Christian Education Program
5. Development of Greater Lay leadership and Participation.
6. Facility Use Policy and Implementation
7. Worship sub-committee implementation
8. Constitution Revision
9. Payment of per-capita dues to our Denominations