

# THE VOICE

MAY 2011

A Publication of The United Church of Mapleton

Rev. Carl DeLine

507-524-3141

www.unitedchurchmapleton.org

# PASTORS CHAIR

A child shall lead them.

Who would've thought a lost sock would have created such a conversation. Easter Sunday morning was visited with a special moment of spontaneity. As families came to visit they brought their children with them. These little ones came forward to the front of the church without any reservation for the children's story. The simple question about a lost sock prompted what would become a visual illustration of the gentleness of the Spirit of God.

At one point I knew I had lost control of this moment with the children. At another point it was obvious that God had control of this moment. As various children responded with their viewpoints and their own stories one very clear message came through. The message of Jesus coming back after his death, his burial, and his resurrection was made clear as children talked about what they had lost and ultimately what was found.

Jesus came out of the tomb and appeared to Mary and then to the disciples. To Mary and to the disciples Jesus was lost; he was not to be found. In the midst of their fears, in the midst of their worst imagination Jesus was not where they thought he should be. Instead he came back and he found them.

The story is simple; a sock was put into the washing machine. It disappeared. One child told of a lost wallet (it was found in the washing machine), another about a lost toy, another about one of a lost sock. All the children chimed in with a sense of something to add as they understood that I had lost my sock. When I opened the washing machine with a whole different load of clothes in it, there at the conclusion of the wash cycle was my lost sock staring at me as if I was the one who had been lost and was now found.

The message of Easter is indeed about God finding us. It is the message of God seeking us in the life of Jesus Christ and ultimately after the death, burial, and the resurrection. The apostle Paul reminds us—where is thy sting? Jesus accompanied by these children declares the joy of that which was lost and is now found.

# **AMEN**

#### Rev. Carl DeLine

DATE	MAY 1	MAY 8	MAY 15	MAY 22	MAY 29
GREETERS	HUGO & PAT JOHN	DAWN DIETZ	DELBERT & ELLA CONRAD	RANDY & LINDA CUMMING	BOB & GERI HOWIESON
COFFEE HOUR	DIACONATE		THE WELL YOUTH CENTER	CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	LOAVES & FISHES
HEAD USHER	BOB SHUBERT	BOB SHUBERT	BOB SHUBERT	BOB SHUBERT	BOB SHUBERT

# OFFICIAL BOARD MEETING NOTES

March 2011

Meeting called to order at 7:45 p.m. Moderator shared a devotional thought on "Bib or Apron". Agenda approved as emailed with no changes. February minutes approved as presented.

# **Board Reports**

**Treasurer** – Reported a balance of \$39,278.04. **Deacons** – Topics discussed at last meeting were education, request by Moderator for a pulpit committee and procedures for weddings.

**Pastoral Relations** – This has become more of a discussion group. Members are reading a book to help the Pastoral Relations Committee understand their duties and responsibilities. They are considering the possibility of hosting a workshop, inviting other congregations, which would look at issues related to pastoral relations and the roles of Committees.

**Trustees** – Work needs to be done ASAP on personnel job descriptions and a facility use policy. W.J. presented information on new heating controls for the church. Schmidt's has completed the eaves, gutters and fascia work.

Women's Fellowship – The last meeting was devoted to cleaning the kitchen. A Sunshine committee is being formed to send cards/items to shut-ins or those with ill health. The checking account has been closed and funds transferred to the General Fund account

Christian Education – A Palm Sunday brunch will be provided by the Bd of Christian Ed. Looking at special events within the church, ie., Day of Prayer for Japan (provided by Missions and Bd of Christian Ed), marriage workshops.

Missions – The Women's Fellowship is taking over the responsibility of White Cross and Cordova; 5 packages have been mailed to the Congo and Haiti; Country Neighbors is ripping bandages; Pat will put a listing of all the missions we, as a church, support; the Blankets Plus collection was \$330.00, which will be used for 66 blankets to be sent to Japan.

**Pastor** – Reported there are approximately 105 members actively attending church out of a possibility of 700 plus. This means there are 105 resources to call on for projects. A new Resource Directory is being built to encompass a radius of 25 to 50 miles. The Website has been receiving inquiries to use the confirmation program by other congregations and individuals.

Personnel policies and building policies have been turned over to the Trustees. Discussions are being held regarding a 12 month calendar of events to be facilitated by the 3 boards – Trustees, Deacons, Christian Education.

**Resource Directory** – J.J. reported. She has been talking to several area churches and has been receiving much helpful information and resources for projects and events we can use at the United Church. The information is on the Website. We will be able to share staff, music, resources with other churches like ours.

**Pulpit Committee** – Moderator reported that he had received 48 names from the OB members. These individuals have not been contacted. Moderator passed out a sheet with the names, and each member present was to choose 7 from the list. Moderator will then combine the results.

**Ambiance Work Group** – This is more than a decoration committee. It will not encompass any thing external unless it will add to the religious feeling (manger scene at Christmas).

**Goals** – Moderator asked each member to rank the importance of the goals. After completion, these were handed back to Moderator.

**New Directory** – Pictures have been taken after church last several Sundays. They have a home-built lighting framework that could be set up and left from week to week. A room was designated on the main floor for this purpose.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by K. Treanor, Acting Secretary

# PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Pastoral Relations Committee will meet on Tuesday, May 10th at 6:00pm in Pastor's Office. The agenda includes selecting quotes for the first nine chapters of the Schaller book which would be appropriate for presenting to the congregation in future issues of The Voice and to read the remainder of Schaller's book.

# PULPIT COMMITTEE

The Pulpit Committee (also referred to as the Search committee) has been selected. Members include Warren Alleven, Dave Byram (committee secretary), Ruth Cumming (committee Chaplin), Doug Fritz, Lisa Shubert (committee chairperson), Sam Shubert and Bruce Stanton.

The committee has met with our UCC representative, Rev. Elena Larssen for direction on what to expect, what is needed and how to get started. She provided a manual to guide the committee through the process and answered many questions. Marshall Peters, our ABC representative, had been invited to this meeting but was unable to attend due to prior commitments. He will meet with the committee in May. The Pulpit Committee will work with both Elena and Marshall in the search process.

The committee is scheduled to meet again on Sunday, May 1st following the worship service. We will be starting our work on creating a profile of the United Church of Mapleton. In order to find the right "pastoral fit" for our church, as a congregation, we need to define a) who we currently are, b) who we want to be in the future, and c) what characteristics are needed in a pastor to accomplish this. In the next couple of months, the committee will be conducting surveys/questionnaires to help gather this information. Be assured, the committee is committed to providing confidentiality to all information being submitted to them whether in person, via email or as part of the survey.

Should you have any questions, concerns or comments you would like to share with the committee, please feel free to contact any member. Please keep this committee and the process of finding a new pastor in your prayers.

Lisa Shubert, Chair



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.

# **COACH'S CORNER**

Ouestion number 1.

Question number 2.

Ouestion number 3.

Question number 4.

These questions are found on the United Church of Mapleton web site:

http://unitedchurchmapleton.org/

Please take time and read these questions. If you do not have a computer please find someone with a laptop computer or one in their home that you can be comfortable to sit at and use. Also, the church here has a computer station you can use.

Next month be prepared to read some of the answers people share.

Rev. Carl DeLine

# I HEARD A FOREST PRAYING

In 1937 popular songwriter Peter De Rose (whose famous tunes include "Deep Purple") composed a musical setting for a poem by Sam M. Lewis. De Rose divided the four stanzas into three sections: "The Dream," "The Prayer," and "The Awakening." These divisions point out the contrast between the inherent nobility of trees and the heartbreaking uses man makes of them- a tree was the cross for the Son of Man: forests are made into battlefields. (Interestingly enough, De Rose was later to compose a musical setting for a distinctly militaristic poem by Gen. George S. Patton Jr.) "I Heard a Forest Praying" was unique among De Rose's songs, which were mostly romantic ballads. He and his wife, May Singhi Breen, used to sing his romantic songs on their radio show in the 1920's and 1930's, a show that earned them the sobriquet of "The Sweethearts of the Air."

I heard a forest praying, The trees were cold and bare What was the forest saying, Let me repeat their prayer

Trees make a playground for children, Trees hide a lovers lane Trees have been kind to the old folks, Trees have not lived in vain

Man turned the fields of the forest Into a battlefield grim Man took a tree, an innocent tree, And made a cross for Him!

I heard a forest praying
I heard the heavens weep,
Just as the dawn was graying
And night went home to sleep.

# **BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Christian Education continues to plan for growth at The United Church of Mapleton, with the main goal being that of life-long learning. In response to these fast-changing times, the C.E. Board, with the guidance of Pastor Carl DeLine and Moderator Hugo John, is searching for relevant curricula with appropriate and current delivery systems for all age groups and individuals. Specifically for Sunday School, for young children up to Grade Six, curriculum is being developed that follows the church lectionary. This curriculum will be placed on the church website and will be accessible to all who sign up to use this website. In this way, interesting materials will be made available to our children online – thus creating a "virtual" Christian classroom. Then, when children come to Sunday School at The United Church, they will experience more interactive games, crafts and activities to reinforce the online material.

This web-based experiment will also be applied to Adult Christian Education, including Bible studies, and possibly marriage preparation and marriage enrichment courses.

Christian Education will approach each subject matter with a "fresh start" philosophy. Short-term curricula will include topics such as "Church Architecture and its religious implications," "Religions of the World," "Marriage Enrichment" and "Prayer and Creating/Composing Prayers."

The Board of Christian Education, along with the Missions Committee, sponsored our first "Day of Prayer" – (with a focus on Japan) during holy week. This event was very meaningful for many, and we wish to express appreciation to all who participated. Other special one-or-two-day events are being planned for this year, including a "Workshop on Resources for Seniors" and a "Family Camping Retreat."

This year, the traditional **Palm Sunday Brunch** was very well received. The food was excellent, and the youth and children were terrific helpers and servers. Many thanks to all of you who helped make this year's brunch a success. Over \$300 was gleaned to help defray the cost for our youth to attend camp and other retreat and mission trip opportunities this summer. Thanks again to all of you!

Pam Foster, Chair Christian Education



# MAY 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 E-mail: secretary@unitedchurchmapleton.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion Greeters: Pat & Hugo John Girl Scouts Spaghetti Dinner 11:30-1:30pm	2	3 Loaves & Fishes 3:00 to 6:00pm  7:30pm Coached by Grace Support	4 1:00pm Quilting	5	6	7 Loaves & Fishes 10:00am to Noon
8 Mother's Day Greeters: Dawn Dietz Swimming at LCRC 1-4pm	9	10 6:00pm PRC 7:30pm Coached by Grace Support Group	11 1:00pm Quilting 7:00pm Deacons	12	13	14
15Dr. Rev. Marshall Peters Greeters: Delbert & Ella Conrad Potatoes for Japan 10:30am	16 6:30pm Women's Fellowship	17 7:30pm Coached by Grace Support Group	18 1:00pm Quilting 7:30pm Trustees	19	20 Relay for Life	21
22 Greeters: Randy & Linda Cumming	23	24 7:30pm Coached by Grace Support Group	25 1:00pm Quilting 7:00pm Official Board	26	27	28
29 Greeters: Bob & Geri Howieson	30	31 7:30pm Coached by Grace Support Group				

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

# MODERATORS COMMENTS

It has been a wonderful Lenten and Easter Season in our United Church. Pastor Carl's Lenten meditations brought new meaning to many. Holy Week Services were an excellent capstone to our Lenten services. Our thanks go out to all who made these services possible and, especially to our Ambiance Committee. Their efforts to provide symbolic décor for the season added greatly to our Services. For me, personally, this is one of my most memorable Lenten/Easter Seasons.

Our Pulpit Committee is out of the gate and moving, it is a great group. We all are thankful for them accepting the work load and the responsibility necessary for this task. At our Easter Sunday service there was a special Litany to commission the Pulpit Committee. This commissioning was also a Covenant among the Pulpit Committee, the Congregation and our Denominations for mutual prayers for guidance from the Holy Spirit and assistance from all when requested.

The Official Board continues its work on the goals they established for the coming year. It is expected that there will be a detailed policy document on facility use ready for presentation to the Congregation. This will permit consistent standards and rules for all users of our facilities.

Progress is being made on a Comprehensive Christian Education program as well as on the Personnel Policy.

There continues to be good progress in our Church and we remain thankful for all the blessings we receive from being a part of God's Congregation. It is good to see our Snow Bird members again migrating north to home; WELCOME BACK!

Hugo John, Moderator

# WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Women's Fellowship meeting for May will be on Monday, May 16th at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a short business meeting followed by a presentation open to the public. The topic will be organ donations and transplant recipients, presented by Mark Aune (brother of Kathy Cox). There will be refreshments served after the presentation. Everyone is welcome.

Respectfully Submitted: Kathie T., Secretary

# **DEACONS MEETING**

The Deacons met in the Overflow Room on Wednesday, April 13 after the All Boards meeting in the Fellowship Hall. Five members were present.

Jack began the meeting with a devotional on The Way of the Cross. Jack reported that progress is being made taking pictures of the next pictorial directory. At present, pictures are being taken after services on Sunday. We may schedule picture-taking sessions later on to finish up the progress. Members may also submit their own photos if they so choose.

We reviewed the plans for our worship services during Holy Week. We will be having services on Wednesday, Communion on Maundy Thursday evening, and the traditional Good Friday service.

The Music Committee has planned for Special Music on Palm Sunday and organized a choir to sing on Easter Sunday.

A Pastoral Search Committee has now been formed. We thank them for accepting this challenge, and are committed to supporting them however we can.

Jack will provide services at the Mapleton Community Home on Palm Sunday.

Communion servers for May are Dawn, Ruth, and Dan. Norma will provide the unleavened bread.

We discussed the handling of the Deacons' Fund in light of changes that have come about since it was established. We tabled any action until our next meeting.

Our next regular Deacons meeting will be on May 11, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned.

Jack Madsen, Chair

# MISSIONS ~ CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

Your support for Church World Service work around the world and in the U.S. is urgently needed.

At the United Church within this first week of May, we will collect specific items to assemble Hygiene Kits, Baby Care Kits, and Emergency Clean-up Buckets. Items may be brought to the church foyer or to the kit assembly tables at the east end of the dining hall. The following items are needed.

Hygiene Kit: In the face of natural disasters, violence, or grinding poverty, Hygiene Kits can mean the difference between sickness and health for struggling families.

One hand towel measuring approximately 16" x 28" (no fingertip or bath towels)

One washcloth

One wide-tooth comb

One nail clipper

One bar of soap (bath size in wrapper) One toothbrush (in original packaging)

Six standard size Band-Aids®

Place all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure, remove excess air from bag, and seal. Please do not add toothpaste to the Hygiene Kit. Cartons of toothpaste that have an extended expiration date will be added to Hygiene Kit shipments just prior to shipment.

Hygiene Kit value: \$10

**Processing/Shipping Cost:** \$2 per Kit

**Baby Care Kit:** In areas of extreme poverty or following a natural disaster, Baby Care Kits help young mothers care for their newborn babies.

Six cloth diapers

Two T-shirts or undershirts (no onesies)

Two washcloths

Two gowns or sleepers

Two diaper pins

One sweater or sweatshirt

(Can be hand knitted or crocheted)

Two receiving blankets (one can be a hand-

knitted or crocheted baby blanket)

Items must be new and under 12 months in size. Wrap items inside one of the receiving blankets and secure with both diaper pins.

**Baby Care Kit value:** \$39

Processing/Shipping Cost: \$2 per Kit

Emergency Clean-up Bucket: These supplies enable people to begin the overwhelming job of cleaning up after a flood, hurricane, tornado, or other disaster here in the United States.

One five-gallon bucket with re-sealable lid

Five scouring pads

Seven sponges, assorted sizes

One scrub brush

Eighteen cleaning towels (reusable, like Easy

Wipes®)

One 50-78 oz. box dry laundry detergent One 12 oz. bottle of liquid concentrated house-

hold cleaner (like Lysol®)

One 25 oz. bottle liquid disinfectant dish soap

(like Dawn®)

One package of 48-50 clothespins

Clothesline, two 50 ft, or one 100 ft.

Five dust masks

Two pairs latex gloves (like Playtex®)

One pair work gloves
28-bag roll of heavy-duty trash bags

(30-45 gallon)

One 6-9 oz. bottle of insect repellent

(pump, drops or lotion, not aerosol)

Please provide all liquids in new, unopened plastic bottles. Be sure to send only new materials. Place all items in the plastic bucket, making sure they are packed securely to avoid damage during shipment, and seal lid with packing tape. *Note:* Because of the volatility of the contents, Emergency Clean-up Kits are not shipped internationally.

Clean-up Bucket value: \$56

Processing/Shipping Cost: \$3 per Bucket

We can help Church World Service by assembling small packages of supplies to be shipped to people in need (Japan, Haiti, or around the world) for immediate response after disaster in another part of the world or in the U.S.

# **CHURCH WORLD SERVICE UPDATES**

# "Still Humanitarian Gaps in Japan Relief" Thursday, April 21, 2011

Although overall relief efforts now are moving ahead as planned along Japan's quake and tsunamidecimated northeast coast, CWS and its Japanese partners are working to fill gaps, providing food, water, health and medical services, hygiene items, clothing and fuel.

Because of the severity and the scope of the crisis CWS has expanded its U.S. fund raising appeal, to support its response, which centers on emergency relief support to some 25,000 individuals living at 100 evacuation sites in northeastern Japan's Miyagi, Fukushima, Iwate, Ibaragi and Tochigi prefectures.

Takeshi Komino, CWS head of emergency response for the Asia/Pacific Region, said four 10-ton trucks were loaded with supplies in Tokyo and delivered to at least 10,000 people in Miyagi's Ishinomaki and Kesunnuma cities. An estimated 135,000 people are living in registered evacuation sites across Japan; thousands more may be living in unregistered sites.

#### Haiti

Church World Service responded immediately after the Jan. 12 earthquake in Haiti, and CWS is committed to serving the survivors in the long process of rebuilding and recovery. Herode Guillomettre, president of the Christian Center for Integrated Development urged CWS and its supporters to "continue to stand behind the Haitian people, by developing a relationship that goes beyond partnership." He wants the Haitian people to be active in their own development, to end their dependency.

Currently, more than a year since the January 2010 earthquake in Haiti, hundreds of thousands of people are still living in tents in Port-au-Prince and other locations. With local partners, CWS is supporting several long-term initiatives in Haiti.

# Response to Nature's Fury Ramps Up in U.S.

High winds, tornadoes, floods and wildfires continue to hammer several regions of the United States, causing severe damage and loss of life. Government officials are assessing the full extent of damage to the communities affected, and CWS Emergency

Response Specialists are working with FEMA and area-specific disaster relief organizations to determine how best to help. States affected include: North Carolina, Alabama, Georgia, Virginia, Wisconsin, South Dakota, Illinois, Missouri, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky, Arkansas, Texas, New Mexico, Minnesota, North Dakkota, New York, Iowa, and Virginia.

In addition to providing hygiene kits, emergency clean-up buckets and blankets are needed. CWS will also help communities develop long-term recovery plans as requested

www.churchworldservice.org



# POTATOES FOR JAPAN

What: Potato Bar With All The Toppings When: Sunday, May 15th from 10:30am to12:30pm

The United Church of Mapleton is hosting a Potato Bar on Sunday, May 15th. Included in the menu will be Baked Potatoes, Assorted Toppings, including pulled pork from ToKen, chili, diced ham, taco meat, broccoli, and cheese, milk, lemonade, and coffee. All proceeds from this Free-Will Offering will go directly to help the people of Japan.

We are looking for volunteers to help with this event. We will be contacting the Service Circle Callers to seek your help. There are many ways to get involved and help make a difference. Please say "YES" when you are contacted.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 15th. Join us for a time of food and fellowship, and help us to continue to reach out to the people of Japan during this time of great need

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Pat Carter at 524-4740.

# **NEWS AND EVENTS**

**THANK YOU** to those who purchased Lilies for our Easter celebration: David & Roberta Ward, Jola Walker, Kermit & Mabelle Larson, Wally & Joyce Johnson, Hugo & Pat John, Greg & Kris Doering, Mike & Julie Johnson, Kathy Kunkel, and Marlin & Marlene Kunard.

THE MISSION COMMITTEE would like to thank everyone that gave to the America for Christ/ABC Resources Mission Offering. \$637 was the total amount that we received. Our goal was \$600 so we feel that God is truly working through this congregation to help better the lives of people around the world. Thank you again for responding in such a positive way.

**THE MISSION COMMITTEE** will be meeting on Monday, May 16th at 5:30 pm prior to Women's Fellowship.

#### LOAVES & FISHES

The United Church is scheduled to work at the Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf on Tuesday, May 3rd from 3:00 to 6:00pm and Saturday, May 7th from 10:00am to noon. Please contact Kathie if you are interested in volunteering.

# **SPAGHETTI DINNER**

The Girl Scouts are hosting a Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, May 1st from 11:30am to 1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall at the United Church. Come and support your local Girl Scouts for day camp.

# 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. Blue bags with a fish logo will be available at Mapleton Drug and Dietz Fods. 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.

# 7TH ANNUAL SENIOR EXPO

The Verizon Wireless Center is proud to host the 7th Annual Senior Expo. The Senior Expo aims to promote a healthier and safer lifestyle for those 55-plus. This year's Senior Expo will be held on Tuesday, May 17th from 9:00am to 3:00pm at the Verizon Wireless Civic Center. Don Shelby will be our keynote speaker from 2:30 to 3:30pm.

A big "THANK YOU" to the newly organized Ambiance Committee for their many hours of planning and creating a meaningful look for holy week. It was extremely realistic and moving. There have been numerous positive comments about their efforts. Thank you so much!

A special **THANK YOU** to those who assisted with the **Palm Sunday Brunch**, especially the children and youth. The food was wonderful and the service especially nice. Over \$300 was raised for special camp and retreat opportunities for our youth. And a big thank you to members of the congregation for their support by taking part in the brunch.

# YOUTH ACTIVITY

# Swimming at Lake Crystal Rec Center

The Doerings invite you to join them on Sunday, May 8th from 1:00 to 4:00pm. Cost is \$3 - \$6 depending on how many people go and if you want to use the slide or not. Any child 5 and under will need to have an adult come with them. You may bring a friend too. We may need volunteer drivers as well. There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board.

#### **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.



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

**MAY 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

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