

A JOYFUL NOISE !

April 2014

FROM OUR PASTOR

Such a wonderful mother-daughter banquet we had at our church last Friday evening. There was a vibrancy of spirit about the gathering that I have not seen at our church for quite awhile. And it was so good to see that... and feel it in the air. Since this was my first mother-daughter banquet, I had no idea that the men did the cooking. I had planned just to be there and possibly do what all good ministers do on these occasions... come forward and give a prayer before the meal begins. But guess what? Nobody asked me to give a prayer. Perhaps one of the women gave the prayer. Or, heaven forbid, maybe there was no prayer. Even so, I'm sure God was pleased with what was very visibly happening... a lot of laughter, a lot of sharing across the tables and a sense that there was something very good about being together that night.

Since I am neither a mother or a daughter, I soon went to where the men had gathered. The kitchen was the place and it was lively. About twelve men were preparing a rather exquisite meal, trying not to get in each other's way and succeeding at that task fairly well. Chicken in the oven, vegetables on the stove, desserts in the refrigerator. Some of us were new to the church kitchen and some were old hands there. But that didn't seem to matter; the old hands made the new hands feel welcome and showed them all the ropes, so to speak (or should I say, drawers and cabinets and sinks). I had several jobs throughout the night: ladling sauce onto bow tie noodles, placing croutons on salads, carrying trays of desserts out to the tables. But what I enjoyed most of all was not related to any of those tasks. What I enjoyed most was the fellowship in the kitchen. How often do a group of twelve men get together in a tight space to do something like that? Not every often. Maybe a work day at church... but even then, everybody is off doing their own thing. Some men in the kitchen that night I didn't know... but I went home knowing them. And, of course, there were men in the kitchen I did know. And I went home knowing them a little better. Good things happened at our church last Friday... both in the fellowship hall and in the kitchen. Thanks be to God.

Fred



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

The finest all-church offering in the United Church of Christ will be coming up very soon. On Mother's Day, May 11, as part of our regular offering collection, we will also receive all gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing. For almost seven decades, this offering has made a difference in the lives of people and communities around the world by pooling resources, leveraging funds and serving through

partnerships. One Great Hour of Sharing is an ecumenical effort designed to address the needs of refugees in the Middle East, hunger in sub-Saharan Africa and poverty here in our own land. By giving generously, you can empower people to learn a trade, raise their own food and grow in faith. Christ's work in the world healed the sick, fed the hungry and brought hope to communities burdened by challenges. Through us, that legacy can live on. Please give as generously as you are able. Offering envelopes are available in the church office . . . and they will also be in the church bulletins on Mother's Day and the preceding Sunday, May 4.

GIVE TO
ONE GREAT
HOUR OF
SHARING.



ALL-CHURCH SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY SUNDAY, MAY 18



There's work to be done both inside and outside to make our church sparkle. If everyone pitches in, it will go fast and afterwards we will enjoy hotdogs around a fire. Come join us!

News From the Women's Fellowship

There's no meeting in May, but Sarah Circle IV will meet at the church on Wednesday, May 21, at 11:00 a.m. Circle I will meet at the church on Wednesday, May 21, at 1:00 p.m.

We are going to have a junk sale on Saturday June 28th. Please keep this in mind as you do your spring cleaning.

Highlights from the Board of Trustees Meeting on April 21, 2014

The Board of Trustees met on April 21. Some of the building and grounds projects are in progress or will be soon. The landscaping crew started work along the front entrance and the new front door will be installed soon. Other projects will be done as soon as they can be scheduled. An all church spring clean-up day has been scheduled for Sunday, May 18 after church and coffee hour. After a few hours of work, hot dogs and the trimmings and a bon fire will be provided. The trustees also decided to allocate \$2500.00 to the Michigan Conference for OCWM.

Each month we feature one of the committees and boards that help to run the church. This month we bring you the **BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**.

The Board of Christian Education shall implement a program of religious education intended to meet the needs of the church and people of all ages, establishing appropriate policies relating thereto. Support for this ministry shall be provided primarily by a part-time Coordinator, assisted by the ministerial staff of the church, all of whom shall serve as ex-officio members of the Board. The Board shall also superintend the successful administration of the church Library. The Board shall meet monthly.

News From the Christian World Service Committee

We are encouraging members and friends of our congregation to participate the week of June 23 – 27 in “STAMP” to make housing SAFER, WARMER, and DRYER for local residents who cannot afford repairs. Both volunteers and donations are needed. The clients for this service have their need established by BACN or the Council on Aging.

Members of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church provide the leadership and organization in cooperation with Freedom Builders of Traverse City, using the tool truck from Central Methodist Church in TC. Everything is organized before the volunteers go to the site.

Both skilled and semi-skilled volunteers serve in the onsite construction group. There is also a need for onsite non-construction volunteers to do pre- and post- construction tasks, paint, remove debris, etc. A third group prepares meals at the St Andrews kitchen. Sending cookies for snacks is also a way to support this project.

STAMP takes on 15-20 projects each year. Many involve replacing exterior windows because they are a source of heat loss and/or leaking. They have also built entry ramps, repaired steps and porches, and installed storm doors. They try to avoid roofs, plumbing, and electrical repairs.

Jim Szczechowski (sha husky) from St. Andrews spoke to the committee about the program. He said they do not judge any clients. Also, they do not take anyone’s job. He also spoke of whole families participating; one family gathered to celebrate a birthday, and the whole family took on a project together.

The camaraderie is special. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are provided daily for the volunteers. On Wednesday night, the client families are invited to the dinner.

CHILDREN’S BOOK DEPOSIT

At the entryway from the parking lot, just inside the doors on the left, is a wooden cabinet labeled “Children’s Book Deposit.” The Christian World Service Board is working to enhance a new relationship between our church and Crystal Lake Elementary school by donating children’s books for their library or to be given directly to the students. Please bring books you would like to donate and use the new cabinet at the church.

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR MAY VOLUNTEERS -

	<u>COFFEE HOUR</u>	<u>NURSERY</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>
5/4	Deacons	Jean Bowers	Genny Bowman
5/11		Nancy Call	Pat and Earl Schopp
5/18	Esther Rodriguez	Kristi Johnson	The Mike Jones Family
5/25	Chris Stone	Chris Jones	

Head Usher: Trevor Danford

LIVING WITH LOSS: All of us carry and process the burden of grief from time to time in life. This group is now meeting monthly on the last Sunday of the month. If you or someone you know could benefit from being with others on this journey, please join us on the last Sunday of the month in the library after worship.

MEMORIAL GARDEN: On the north side of our church property is a beautiful memorial garden for members and friends of the church who would like their cremated ashes interred on our sacred grounds. For \$500 you may reserve a square-foot plot that covers future opening and closing as well as a memorial plaque to be placed on the stone along the walkway. Donations for perpetual care are welcomed.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Trish Manning
- 5 Betty Webb
- 6 Trevor Danford
- 7 Wade Peacock
- 7 Mickey Austin
- 7 John Hanmer
- 8 Mary Cornell
- 9 Taylor Johnson
- 9 Wally Edwards
- 12 Joe Wittbrodt
- 12 Katrina Smith
- 14 Peter Hopkins
- 15 Joanne Applehof
- 21 Sally Moss
- 22 Les Webb
- 23 Marilyn Sheets
- 25 Bill Bos
- 26 Rob Wolowiec
- 26 Sabra Danford
- 27 Kris Johnson
- 29 Ruth Blacklock
- 30 Larry Czap

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 John and Barbara Riegler
- 7 Don and Jean Voight
- 9 Al and Anne Young
- 13 John and Barbara Hanmer
- 13 Michael and Nancy Call
- 17 Scott and Kathy Neveu
- 23 Wayne and Marilee Strom
- 25 Jim and Alice Hinkamp
- 27 Larry and Nancy Czap

IN YOUR PRAYERS

You are invited to remember in your prayers some of our members who are home-bound, in assisted-living, or are facing health concerns. This month please remember: Pink Rearick at The Homesteader; Mary Hopkins at Paul Oliver Long Term Care; Gordon Nordbeck at The Maples; Rosemary Miller and Betty Hickman at The Pines; Helen Pickard and Pat Forrester in Traverse City; Homebound or facing health concerns: Marjorie Call, Buck Hall, Mona McElderry, Susan Lutes, Brenda Case, Gordon Nordbeck, Laura Brian, Jean Voight, Doii Burget, Carol Dye, Dee Lyons, and Joan and Jerry Richardson.

Reminder: If you, a loved one, or a church member you know is in the hospital, please let the church office know so that our pastor may visit. Due to privacy laws, hospitals no longer contact the churches to let them know church members are hospitalized. The church wants to know so that we can support you during this time of need.

UCC Sister Church of the Month

As part of our continuing efforts to work together as a community of faith, in worship we pray for UCC churches in our United Northern Association. You are invited in April to pray for the ongoing mission and ministries of the Houghton-Hancock, Portage Lake United Church.



Congratulations to Al and Anne Young as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary this month.

FLOWERS

There is a sign-up sheet outside the church office for altar flowers. If you would like to supply flowers, please sign up for a certain date. You may then bring in your own flowers or donate \$25 and we will order flowers from a local florist. If you would like the bulletin to reflect your donation, please let the church office know who the flowers honor or memorialize as well as identifying yourself as the donor.



MAY 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
				1 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 5:30 NA - Barn 6:30 - Kiwanis	2 12 Noon - LOWV Library	3
4 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	5 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12-5 - Bridge Club 5:30 Love, INC 7:00 AA - Barn	6 10:00 Yoga -Barn 5:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 WAA - Barn	7 12 Noon - AA-Barn	8 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 5:30 NA - Barn	9 12 N - LOWV Library	10
11 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING	12 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 11:00 Commodities Distribution 12-5 - Bridge Club 5:30 Love, INC	13 10 Yoga - Barn 5:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Council 7:00 WAA - Barn	14 12 Noon - AA-Barn 3:00 Deacons	15 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 5:30 NA - Barn 6:30 - Kiwanis	16 12 N - LOWV Library	17
18 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship SPRING CLEAN-UP	19 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12-5 - Bridge Club 5:00 Trustees 5:30 Love, INC 7:00 AA - Barn	20 10 Yoga - Barn 5:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 WAA - Barn	21 11:00 Sarah Circle IV 12 Noon - AA-Barn 1:00 Circle 1	22 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 5:30 NA - Barn	23 12 N - LOWV Library	24
25 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Living with Loss	26 MEMORIAL DAY 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12-5 - Bridge Club 7:00 AA - Barn	27 10 Yoga - Barn 5:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 WAA - Barn	28 12 Noon - AA-Barn	29 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 5:30 NA - Barn	30 12 N - LOWV Library	31

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A Joyful Noise! May 2014

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Chris Stone	Treasurer
Mary Rodriguez.. ..	Financial Secretary
James Sheets.....	Church Moderator
Jean Edwards.....	Newsletter Editor
Carolina Jones & Katrina Milks.....	Christian Ed Coordinators
Jessie Zeller	Custodian
Nancy Eggleston	Secretary

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