

The Dove Tale

United Methodist Church of Peace Richfield, Minnesota
Volume Nine February 2016 Issue 2

Men's Breakfast Group with Hats Heralds the New Year

Each month the group meets at the Fred Babcock VFW coffee shop in Richfield for 8:00 a.m. breakfast, last Saturday of the month. They greeted 2016 to begin their ninth year, same time, same place. Average attendance for the breakfast is 14. Cliff Best attended all twelve meetings in 2015. Humor and faith support accompany their breakfast; it's always fun! All men are welcome and invited to attend.



Clockwise are Andy Walters, Jerry Motz, Steve Rose, Ernie Parker, Larry Moore, Steve Marks, Cliff Best, and Chuck Hughes.

Upcoming Meetings

Staff Parish Relations Committee

February 4 @ 6:00 p.m.

Finance Committee

February 10 @ 6:00 p.m.

Church Council Meeting

February 11 @ 7:00 p.m.

Worship Committee

February 18 @ 6:00 p.m.

Quick Highlights

Senior Social

Wednesdays, February 3, 10, 17, & 24
@ 9:30 a.m.

Women's Bible Study

Thursdays, February 4 & 11 @ 1:00 p.m.

Annual Meatloaf Dinner

Sunday, February 7 @ Noon

Women's Breakfast

Monday, February 8 @ 9:00 a.m.

Ash Wednesday Worship

Wednesday, February 10 @ 6:30 p.m.

VEAP Food Pack

Sunday, February 14 @ 11:30 a.m.

Lenten Study

Mondays, February 15, 22, & 29
@ 7:00 p.m.

Plymouth Playhouse Outing

Sunday, February 21 @ 2:00 p.m.

Meals on Wheels Driving

Week of February 22-26

Men's Breakfast

Saturday February 27 @ 8:00 a.m.
@ Richfield Fred Babcock VFW

Pastor's Column

For many, January, February and March is a time of journeys. Our journeys may include the warmth-giving climes of Arizona, and Texas. Others define their mid-winter journeys by traipsing high and low over the many decks of a cruise ship in the Caribbean Sea or lounging on the ocean beaches of Mexico.

Whether your cold winter months includes a warm-weather journey or not, we have the opportunity to come together during February and March on our own personal Lenten journey with Jesus as our personal tour guide. As always, the journey begins Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent.

The forty days of Lent are set aside for us to prepare our hearts, minds and souls in a time of penance for celebrating Easter Sunday with the entirety of the Christendom. Did you know that the Sundays during Lent are not counted in its forty days? For Christians, "Sundays are always considered little Easters, [so] the penitential spirit of Lent should be tempered with joyful expectation of the Resurrection," (*United Methodist Book of Worship*, 320).

As followers of the Risen Lord, we journey with him during Lent from the upper room where Jesus washed his disciple's feet and instituted the Lord's Supper; to the garden where he is arrested; to the cross; to the borrowed tomb; and finally His resurrection.

As a local Christian community, we will have many opportunities to join with Christ as he makes His journey for our salvation. Our Lenten worship schedule is as follows:

- ✠ **Imposition of Ashes** on Ash Wednesday, February 10 @ 6:30 p.m. at Church of Peace. Hillcrest United Methodist Church and Portland Avenue United Methodist Church will join us in worship that evening.
- ✠ **Christ in the Passover** with missionary Liz Goldstein of Jews for Jesus on Saturday, March 19 at 4:00 p.m.. Church of Peace is hosting this presentation.
- ✠ **Holy Week Cantata** on Palm Sunday (March 20), presented by the Church of Peace Chancel Choir during our 10:30 a.m. worship service.
- ✠ **Maundy Thursday Worship @ 7:00 p.m.** (March 24) will be at Portland Avenue UMC with Hillcrest UMC joining us.
- ✠ **Good Friday Tenebrae Service @ 7:00 p.m.** (March 25) is at Hillcrest UMC, along with Portland Avenue UMC.
- ✠ **Easter Sunday Worship** (March 27) for Church of Peace begins at our normal service time of 10:30 a.m.

May God the Father—who sent His only Son to journey among us by the power of the Holy Spirit—open our hearts and minds to His great and never-ending love for each of us during this Lenten season!

In Him who loved us first,

Pastor Gerry

Church Council Updates

United Methodist Church of Peace

January 2016

Members Present: Connie Miller, Chairperson; Peg Bosshardt, Louise Hershey, Craig Miller, Len Pierce, Carol Rose, Steve Rose, and Pastor Gerry Vuchetich.

Our Council meeting opened with prayer by Pastor Gerry. The minutes from the December 2015 Church Council meeting were approved.

Finance Committee: Apportionments were paid in full for the fourth year in a row. This accomplishment releases Church of Peace from an outstanding debt of \$4,400 for previous years' apportionments not paid in full. Thanks to many generous givers, we celebrate! The 2016 budget includes receipt of 33 pledges. In 2015, 35 pledges were received. The Finance Committee believes our pledges with rental income will support our budget.

Staff Parish Relations Committee: A new membership class was scheduled and postponed until March in order to accommodate all of those wishing to join. Widespread seasonal illness has affected attendance in general.

Trustees: Zoe Child Care Academy has decided to install a heat line/inline water heater for the downstairs kitchen sink. The basement heat needs to be improved, so the Trustees are working on this. The office is keeping track of additional expenses. Space has been arranged for the choir to practice downstairs on Sunday mornings. Wayne Hershey has been working on the church phones and heating. Connections through Comcast may be considered in the spring. The Trustees have many projects and activities that are not always captured and reflected in our monthly minutes. We are very grateful for this team's dedication, knowledge and expertise to keep everything running smoothly and efficiently. What a great reflection of stewardship in every day life for God!

Worship Committee: The Ash Wednesday service is to be held at Church of Peace on Wednesday, February 10. Portland Avenue UMC and Hillcrest UMC have been invited to join us at 6:30 p.m. There will not be a meal served;

choir practice will be held following the service. Missionary, Liz Goldstein, will present *Christ in the Passover* on March 19. The Maundy Thursday service will be at Portland Avenue UMC, with a Tenebrae Service to be held at Hillcrest UMC on Good Friday.

Missions Committee: Funding is always appreciated for VEAP and SHOP food missions. In spite of careful planning, VEAP's inventory of our emergency grocery bags was depleted to 20. On January 10 we packed 50 bags, then again on January 17 we packed another 80 bags. Thanks to all the donations, no one went hungry.

Memorials Committee: .No report.

United Methodist Women: The women will cook and serve the annual meatloaf dinner fundraiser on Sunday, February 7. Several women will attend the UMW Twin Cities District Winter Gathering on January 30. A group social outing is offered for February 21, with tickets to Plymouth Playhouse available.

Pastor's Report: Average attendance in 2015 was 76, including SpLINT. Cold weather and illness prevented the new member class from beginning in January. It is now planned for March. Pastor Gerry will attend Bishop Ough's Pre-Lenten Retreat for pastors. Also, he will attend a seminar at Augsburg College on February 2. Pastor Don Eslinger will offer a Lenten book study to begin on Monday, February 15. On January 17, missionaries will share their story of outreach in Mongolia. Pastor Don Eslinger will preach on the last two Sundays in February while Pastor Gerry is on vacation. Committee appointments for 2016 have been made, with voting to take place at a church charge conference yet to be scheduled. We still seek a Lay Delegate to attend the Annual Conference in St. Cloud June 21-23. The meeting closed with prayer from Pastor Gerry.

For upcoming events, please refer to page one of the Dove Tale. The next Church Council meeting is Thursday, February 11 at 7:00 p.m.

Thank You—We want to thank the Church of Peace Hospitality group for their serving of the dinner we held following our little Tara Faye’s memorial service. Thank you, also to Pastor Gerry for his participation in the service for Tara on December 30.—

Angie & Seth Engman
Fred & Faye Sprecker and family

A New Women’s “Circle,” the Lydia Circle, at Church of Peace

The Ruth Circle and the Esther Circle have joined together in one new circle, the Lydia Circle. Lydia is mentioned in the Bible briefly, in Acts 16: 14-15. She was from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics and a worshipper of God who listened to Paul and was converted. She and her household were baptized following their conversion, and she insisted that Paul and his followers stay in her home, which they did. It was said that she was the first convert in Europe. We are excited about this new circle and plan to include many of the activities from both previous circles in our planning for 2016. We are always looking for new members and if you are looking for a circle to join, we would be happy for you to join in our activities. Please contact Louise Hershey if you wish to join or have questions.



Birthday Bags for VEAP

One of our upcoming activities is the assembly of *Birthday Bags* for the children in families who utilize services for VEAP. It is important for any of us, especially a child, to be able to celebrate a birthday, and we will be collecting cake mixes, frostings, candles, and small toys to put in these bags. We will assemble the bags on **Saturday, March 12** at the church, so we encourage you to start collecting the items mentioned. There will be more information about this event in upcoming bulletins.

GARAGE/BAKE SALE DATES-

The garage/bake sale dates have been set for 2016. They are **April 28-30**, with the set-up starting on **Sunday April 24th**. Please start putting aside the items you would like to donate to the sale, but please keep them until closer to the date of the sale. We have very limited storage area for your donations. More information will be posted as we get closer to the sale dates.



Christ in the Passover Returns

Jesus’ Last Supper was actually a Jewish Passover. Liz Goldstein, with Jews for Jesus, re-creates the traditional Passover service and explains how it foreshadowed Jesus’ death and resurrection in a presentation called “Christ in the Passover” here on Saturday, March 19 at 4:00 p.m. There is a free event open to all.

Liz will set a table with items traditionally used at the Passover meal and detail their spiritual significance. She will also explain the connection between the events of the first Passover in Egypt and the redemption that Jesus accomplished, as well as the deep bond between the ancient Passover feast and the Christian Communion celebration today.

Zoe Child Care Academy director Brandhi Thomas (left photo) judges the weight bearing load of a bridge during a bridge building contest. The students used jumbo craft sticks, holding them together with masking tape. At right are the bridge builders.

Great Northern Union Men's Chorus raises a joyful noise unto the Lord most Thursday evenings throughout the year in our Family Life Center. There is a lively spirit in the GNU as its new director, Douglas Carnes, brings out the best in each member's voice. Douglas joined GNU in July 2015 and is from New York.

Douglas Carnes, GNU director, wants to "Change the world through music."

Emergency Food Bag Ministry—January was a busy month for our Emergency Food Bag ministry, which packed and delivered 130 bags of food to VEAP, the Bloomington-based food shelf. Above, Sondra Simar, a visiting missionary recently returned from Mongolia and Steve Rose vie for the same space.



With all
the
trimmings

Invite your
friends and
family!

**Church of Peace
Annual Meatloaf Dinner
Sunday, February 7
@ Noon**

Adults \$10 Children under 12 \$5
Children under 5 eat free

Served by the United Methodist Women of
Church of Peace

Invite your friends and family!

February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 ***Chorus	3 9:30 am Senior Social 7 pm Choir	4 1 pm Women's Bible Study 6 pm SPRC ***Chorus	5	6
7 *Worship Noon Annual Meatloaf Dinner	8 9 am Women's Breakfast @ Orig. Pancake	9 ***Chorus	10 9:30 am Senior Social 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Worship	11 1 pm Women's Bible Study ***Chorus 7 pm Church Council	12	13
14 *Worship 11:30 am VEAP Pack	15 7 pm Bible Study	16 ***Chorus	17 9:30 am Senior Social 7 pm Choir	18 ***Chorus 6 pm Worship Committee	19	20
21 *Worship Plymouth Pl. Outing @ 2 pm Adv. Res.	22 MOW Driving 7 pm Bible Study	23 MOW Driving ***Chorus	24 MOW Driving 9:30 am Senior Social 7 pm Choir	25 MOW Driving ***Chorus	26 MOW Driving	27 8 am Men's Breakfast @ VFW
28 *Worship	29 7 pm Bible Study	<p>*Sunday Worship @ 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Sunday Classes: Adults @ 9:00 a.m. Children @ 9:15 a.m. Fellowship @ 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>***TC Show Chorus & GNU Chorus Rehearsals: Tuesdays & Thursdays @ 6:00 p.m. in FLC</p> <p>**Meals On Wheels Driving: February 22-26 @ 11:15 a.m.</p>				

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PEACE



Gerry Vuchetich, Pastor
6345 Xerxes Avenue South
Richfield, MN 55423-1038

Phone: (612) 866-0069
Email: churchoffice@umcop.com
Website: www.umcop.com



Northern Pines Youth Camp @ Park Rapids For Junior High Youth Grades 6-9 June 18-24 Camp #155

See Pastor Don Eslinger about this awesome experience for teenagers to learn about and experience Christ while enjoying creation and making new friends. Transportation is available from the south metro

Camp Minnesota 2016-All Ages!

Brochures are now available for the *Camp Minnesota* ministry of the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. Special details to know regarding camp are

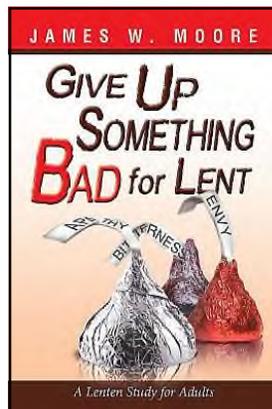
- Early Bird Discounts are available—Register for any Camp Minnesota camp at Northern Pines, Koronis, or Kowakan before April 1 and you will receive a \$25 store credit that can be used at camp for the canteen or the camp store.
- Camperships are available, (like a scholarship, but *to camp*) and are generally provided by your own local church.
- Camping information is available on a new website, www.campminnesota.org so check it out, but be sure to pick up the brochure from the church office.

February Birthdays*

13 Loretta Petersen

24 Carol Andoljsek

*Please contact the church office for corrections, additions, or deletions.



Lenten Book Study

Pastor Don Eslinger has planned to lead a special book study, so that you needn't give up your Monday night Bible group for Lent.

Everyone is welcome to join in and prepare to *Give Up Something Bad*

for Lent, as James M. Moore challenges readers in his book, which is the guide for this study. The author "invites everyone to seek God's help to focus on eliminating one habit or attitude that is destructive. Imagine giving up envy, jealousy, self-pity, apathy, procrastination, gossip, resentment, or negative thinking, how much better life would be". The book study will begin on **Monday, February 15** and meet for **6 Monday-night sessions, 7:00-8:30 p.m.** in the South Room at Church of Peace. To reserve your Lenten study book, please sign up on the list in the Narthex. There is a book and materials fee of \$10, payable when you pick up your book. Checks can be made out to Church of Peace. *There is preliminary reading assigned ahead of the first class meeting, with questions to be completed for discussion on February 15.* There is an assignment sheet for you to take when you pick up the book. Again, everyone is welcome to join the group for this meaningful study.

**Ash Wednesday Service with Imposition
of Ashes, February 10, 6:30 p.m.**