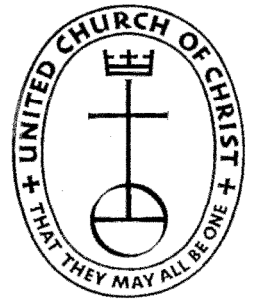


the Pilgrim Visitor

Congregational United Church of Christ March 2010

300 Maiden St. Mineral Point, WI 53565 * (608) 987-2025

www.mpucc.com



From the Pastor:

Haiti Relief Update

Over the last six weeks our two congregations have raised just over \$3500 for relief for the people of Haiti. I want to congratulate you and thank you for your generosity. I also know that many of you have donated to relief efforts through the American Red Cross and other organizations outside the church. Overall, the churches of the United Church of Christ have donated over 1.3 million dollars to the people of Haiti since the earthquake.

Let me share some of a report from UCC News about how those funds are being used.

The UCC is participating in what is known as the ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together). ACT Alliance members working in Haiti include the Lutheran World Federation, Norwegian Church Aid, Church World Service, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, Christian Reformed World Relief, the Committee Church of Sweden, and the United Church of Christ.

“The ACT Alliance has assisted more than 150,000 people with direct aid. Most of this aid has gone toward supplying fresh water, sanitation efforts, shelter, meals and food staples. Relief items and services including family kits, hygiene sets, medical assistance and health-clinic supplies continue to be distributed. As a vital participant in the ACT Alliance, the UCC is assisting some of the most vulnerable among the victims in Port-au-Prince, Gressier, Jacmel and Bainet in the south.”

More aid is clearly needed.

“The UN estimates that only 280,000 people – fewer than 25% of the targeted number – have received shelter material. Only 120,000 have received transitory shelter, much less the 620,000 who need it. Only 3,000 latrines have been provided to people in temporary settlements; often, 200 people have to share one toilet. Meanwhile, little is known about the thousands who have fled to rural areas.

Within the next month, ACT members will continue to increase the number of people benefitting from their activities with a continued focus on shelter, water, sanitation, psycho-social activities, food and non-food distributions. Meanwhile Church World Service Refugee Resettlement affiliates in Miami, Tampa, Atlanta, Philadelphia, Newark, New York City, and Boston are providing assistance to injured Haitians who have been medically evacuated to hospitals in these cities.”

This is a time when we can see clearly the benefit of being a part of a denomination like the United Church of Christ. An infrastructure for providing relief is in place that includes trusted partnerships with others who want to serve in the name of Christ. These are some of the sinews that hold together the diverse parts of the body of Christ. Thank God for our relationships and partnerships. We can do so much more together than we could ever hope to do on our own. Please continue to hold the people of Haiti in your prayers.

Pastor Todd

Interested in officially joining the church?

Contact Pastor Todd tslippert@mhc.net or 987-2025

New Orleans – With Gratitude

Members & friends of Plymouth,

We would like to thank you for your generous financial support of \$444 toward our 2010 mission trip to New Orleans (Hurricane Katrina). The trip was a great success, we had a good time, helped some wonderful people in their journey toward recovery and worked with some great UCC people in New Orleans.

The generosity of those who have supported our trip has been so outstanding that we were unable to spend all of the money that has been collected and donated. After discussion it was agreed upon by those who went on the trip that we should donate the surplus funds toward Haiti relief and towards further Katrina relief. Please accept the enclosed check for \$500 with the intention that it be donated in our church's name toward UCC Haiti relief.

Sincerely,

Chuck Steudel, et al

Dear Friends,

Dodgeville & Mineral Point UCC, (et al) rock! Hope your trip home was safe and pleasant. I wish I had had more time to commune with you. Please return for a visit when you can.

I am so elated re the tasks you were able to handle. But, more than that is the wonderful, warm, loving spirit of Christian (UCC) love that you left in my house! I felt it! It is real. It is profound.

Thank you for your hard work and for the gift of yourselves.

Fay

Volunteer Needed

One volunteer is needed to assist Gretchen Pearson with the UW Extension Partner Shares Program. The Partner Shares Program is sponsored by the Madison Area Community Supported Agriculture Coalition and provides Food Use & Preparation Workshops for a \$5 fee to the community. For information regarding this volunteer opportunity, please contact Gretchen Pearson at

Cedar Rapids, Iowa Flood Assistance June 13, 2008, the Cedar River crested to its highest level in Cedar Rapids history, 31.12 feet. The previous record reached only 20 feet. The flood waters penetrated 10 square miles or 14 percent of the city. This monumental flood impacted 7,198 parcels, including 5,390 houses and dislocating more than 18,000 residents. More than 300 City facilities were damaged by the flood, including the Central Fire Station, Police Headquarters, Public Library, Historic Paramount Theatre, City Bus Facility and the Veterans Memorial Building, which served as the home of City Hall.

Extensive building support is taking place April 12 through May 21. If you are interested in more information, please see Chuck Steudel or contact the church office at mpuc-christ@gmail.com or 987-2025

Mission/Partnership Notes March 2010

--One Great Hour of Sharing: OGHS is a UCC ministry providing emergency relief assistance. From support that has been provided, the UCC was able to initiate an immediate response to the Haiti earthquake disaster. Your donations help to see that this emergency fund is ready to respond year around. We will receive our OGHS on March 14th, or you may forward your donation to Marla Martin.

--Haiti Relief: Thank you for your free will offerings to be committed to Haiti Relief. Over \$700 has been donated. In addition, a check from the Mission Trip fund for \$500 was returned to our Mission Fund. It is earmarked to be forwarded to the Wisconsin Conference UCC for Haiti Relief. Thank you to this group in their efforts in New Orleans and for Haiti.

--Feed My Starving Children: We will be organizing a volunteer team to assist the Hidden Valley Church with their 'Feed My Starving Children' food packing project in March. Please note the dates of March 24-26, an announcement will be made at worship as to how you can be involved, or contact Greg W or Dick J to volunteer.

--Heifer Project International: We will be promoting Heifer Project during the Lenten Season. This will 'kick off' late in February, in the Sunday school with Greg Wilson. We will be asking for pledges from the congregation during Lent to help maximize the purchases.

--New Beginnings of Southwestern Wisconsin: A start up group located in Dodgeville, New Beginnings is looking for items to help families and individuals establish households. They are looking for beds, bedding, cribs, kitchen sets, kitchenware, and furniture. Please contact 574-1138 to make a donation or with questions.

--Equal Exchange/Fair Trade Coffee: thank you for your continued support by purchasing coffee, tea, chocolate, nuts from Equal Exchange. We try to keep a variety of products; coffees are available from light to dark roasts, in whole bean or ground. If you are looking for a particular brew, please contact Dick J.

---Food Pantry / WECARE: Just a reminder, our collection boxes for the Iowa County Food Pantry and for WECARE are located in the Chapel. Demand continues to be high for food donations.

--"Thank You's":

-letter from Church World Service, from our Holiday Fair

-note from Hodan Center

-note from recipients of Holiday Food Boxes

-note from Iowa County Social Services and the two families for Holiday Gifts

-letter from Chuck Steudel /New Orleans Mission Trip group, Thank for our support, including a return of \$500. From their group to go to Haiti relief.

Congregational United Church of Christ Council Meeting January 2010

Date: February 10, 2010

Members Present: Nancy Schmit, Todd Lippert, Greg Wilson, Karen Tennessen, Kandy Keuler, Fritz Aschli-
man, Jim Bennett, Lisa Howard

Also Present: Marla Martin

Greg called the meeting to order.

Todd gave the opening prayer.

Financial Report and Bills Payable

Marla presented the financial report and the bills payable. She mentioned that we have \$75,000 in checking, \$50,000 is from the Ivey Memorial. She also wanted a clarification on raises for 2010. The council reviewed each report. Fritz moved and Nancy seconded a motion to accept the financial report. Kandy moved and Nancy seconded a motion to approve the bills payable. Each motion was unanimously approved. We had a discussion about creating an endowment.

January Council Minutes

January council minutes were reviewed. Jim moved to accept the minutes. Fritz seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Pastor's Report

Todd mentioned that there has been an increase in Pastoral Care issues with both congregations; it includes hospitalizations and personal issues. He appreciates the way our congregations have kept him informed so he can respond quickly.

Todd provided us with the Lenten Schedule. It begins with the Ash Wednesday service in Mineral Point. The Maundy Thursday service is at Plymouth.

Todd is working on his Sabbatical Plans. His last Sunday is May 16. He will return to us on August 9 and will be in the pulpit on August 15.

Committee Reports

Building and Grounds

We discussed the overhangs (for the hundredth time), specifically the damage to the overhang on the east side of the building. The overhangs have not, for many years, kept water away from the doors or people. Damage to the overhang on the east side now dumps water directly on everyone's head during rain or thaw. We decided to make a bold move. Karen moved to take it down, and Lisa seconded the motion. Everyone agreed. At some point this spring, we will take down the east overhang and then wait and watch to see what happens.

Mission/Partnership reported by Greg Wilson

We received thank you notes from our giving tree families and food basket families.

The New Orleans group reported that people were very generous and they had still had \$500 after they completed their mission trip. The money will be donated to Haiti missions.

Our church has been invited to participate with Hidden Valley Church in their Feed My Starving Children food mission.

Greg shared a letter from a new organization in SW Wisconsin called New Beginnings. It assists people with household goods, furniture, etc.

See the Mission Column in the newsletter for more mission updates.

Worship Committee

Did not meet.

Congregational United Church of Christ Council Meeting (con't)

Christian Education reported by Karen Tennesen

Karen reported the spring curriculum is here. The kids made valentines and we delivered them to the Care Center. Mother's day will be the last Sunday for Sunday school this spring.

Finance reported by Nancy Schmit

The Finance Committee did some planning. We took a look at our list of accounts at a local bank and decided to do some clean-up on those accounts this year. There are names on the accounts that don't need to be there. We hope to start placing brass plates for the capital campaign this spring.

We discussed the creation of an endowment fund.

Membership/Fellowship

Did not meet.

Youth reported by Karen Tennesen

Karen gave us the following dates:

City wide garage sale is April 10

Pancake breakfast at St. Mary's/St. Paul's is April 11

Prom is April 17

Other Business

Nancy will give each council member a new copy of the constitution and e-mail a copy to Heather.

Our Next Council Meeting is Saturday, March 20 at 9 a.m. We will meet at the Brewer House.

Fritz moved to adjourn the meeting, Lisa seconded the motion.

Respectfully Submitted by Nancy Schmit

Beginning Balance 72,626.82

Income 10,318.16

Expenses 8,061.87 Ending Balance 75,984.96

Visiting Card List

Mae Kinsman
Sienna Crest Asst Living
210 Copper St
Mineral Point, WI 53565
987-7456
Merton & Alice Baker

975 N 5th Ave #107
St Charles, IL 60174
(630) 524-5248

Bob & Evelyn Ivey
730 Center St
Mineral Point, WI 53565
987-2116

Marge Johnson
Mineral Point Care Center
109 N Iowa St
Mineral Point, WI 53565

Prayers Requested

Patty Johnston's son, Jerry, is going through stem cell treatment. Prayers and cards are welcome.

There is also a caring bridge link:

www.caringbridge.org/visit/jerryjohnston/journal

Stanford Hospital
300 Pasteur Drive
Bone Marrow and Stem Cell Unit
Jerry Johnston, Rm # E123
Stanford, CA 94305

Food Pantry:

Specific needs include boxed desserts, peanut butter, beans, canned tuna, canned chicken

Ecumenical Children's Choir

2009 Theme: You Can Change the World!

Join us for “kickin” “rockin” worship music!

Just 2 Practices

March 15th 10:15-11:15

March 22nd 4:00-5:00

Would you like to sing a solo?
How about a fun song with a
group of your friends? Call
Ann for a private practice time.

Wednesday Evening Performance:

March 25th

6:30 Rehearsal 7:00 Performance

Location: UCC Church, Maiden St, Mineral Point

Ages: 3 years old through 6th grade

Why Ecumenical Children's Choir?

Confidence- instill confidence in children. Speaking (or singing) into a microphone is huge!
Can you do it?

Faith- Strengthening children's faith in God. Cause we can't do it without him!

Pride- Every Child needs to be involved in something they can be proud of.

And believe me you will be super proud of them as well!!

Directed By:
Ann Gorgen
Questions? Call Ann at
987-3311

March 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday school 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Childcare provided	1	2	3 6pm Lenten Potluck @ MP	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 6pm Lenten Potluck @ Plymouth	11	12	13 Pasty Sale
14	15	16	17 6pm Lenten Potluck @ Plymouth	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 7pm Ecumeni- cal Kids Choir @ MP	25	26	27
28						

Ushers & greeters

7	Phil Crawford	Karen Crawford	Fritz Aschlimann	Wanda Aschlimann
14			Carol Wasley	
21	Warren Howard	Lisa Howard	Sandy Weitzel	
28	Greg Wilson	Kandy Keuler	Dick Josh	

Lay Readers

7	
14	Karen Tennesen
21	Kandy Keuler
28	Anna Schmit

You are welcome here

Phone: 608-987-2025
E-mail: mpucchrist@gmail.com
Website: www.mpucc.com

Mineral Point, WI 53565
300 Maiden St.
United Church of Christ
Congregational



CUCC- MP Staff

Pastor

Rev. Todd Smith Lippert
office 987-2025
home 935-0001
Email tslippert@mhtc.net

Office Administrator

Heather Dampf
Office 987-2025
Email mpucc@gmail.com

Maintenance

Don Huxtable
Council Chair
Greg Wilson

Pasty Sale

Thank you to everyone who worked at the February pasty sale and to those who purchased pasties. We are very grateful to the many youth group members who helped.

The next pasty sale is scheduled for March 13. This will be the LAST pasty sale until September. Your standing order will be in effect unless you call Heather at 987-2025 to change your order.

Workers are needed for the March pasty sale. Workers are welcome at any time between 5 am and 9 am on Saturday. Even if you have never worked before, we will find a job for you. Contact Karen at 987-3285 or Deb at 987-3597 and let them know if you can help.

Thank you,
Karen Tennessen and Deb Ivey; Pasty Sale Organizers



Easter Choir Practice

Please join us for choir practice after worship on
March 21 and 28