



FROM THE MODERATOR ~ Mark Scott

The past month has brought us much change, from a quick and welcome spring – with a week of late-autumn-like rain thrown in – and the wonderful greening up of our trees, lawns and gardens. We've also had the break-in, announcement of Kelly's resignation, the Mothers' Day tea, a wonderful listening session about our Mission & Witness ministries, the UCC ONA event, the "Story of Joseph" play presented by the 2nd and 3rd graders, and the third graders receiving Bibles, to name a few of the goings on in our congregation. We march further on into our year – change abounds and we find ourselves in another season before we realize it.

At the May Council meeting, Wendy Berg opened by reading some of her favorite poetry including a passage about the nature of days to pass unnoticed, unless a particular moment has marked significance for us. Of late, the Billington/Scott family has been rather over-committed, trying to fit multiple activities and commitments into our days. For us, when we are this busy, days run into each other and weeks pass quickly. We are particularly appreciative of help from family and friends as we manage somewhat unmanageable times. Then, we come to SAPUCC and are reminded of taking time to be in the moment and in fellowship, and to reflect.

A couple weeks ago, Victoria preached a sermon entitled "Show and Tell" (listen on-line at SAPUCC.org) in part about deciding what we can do and letting go of some things – finding balance when we find ourselves asking "how can we do it all..."? At the Mission & Witness listening session, the question was asked whether we do too much, not enough, or the right amount.

For each of us, the answer about our commitment as a church and in the rest of our lives is likely different at varying times. Only we can decide for ourselves whether we need to step up and become more active or relinquish some part of our lives. I am grateful for our church in giving me moments during the week to consider this question and appreciate the opportunity to both commit to more and the grace to pull back. I am also grateful for the ability to turn over my life and trust God to do for me what I cannot do for myself. May you find balance when you most need it.

Peace be with you!



PASTOR'S COLUMN ~ Rev. Victoria Wilgocki

Summertime often ushers in different rhythms, a different pace, a renewed perspective. This is true for the church, too.

After celebrating Pentecost, we now move into the long stretch of time in the liturgical calendar known as "Ordinary Time." "Ordinary Time" offers us space and time to ponder, imagine, create and dwell in God's presence.

On May 2nd, 28 SAPUCCers gathered in the parlor to speak and to listen to one another about our Mission & Witness ministries. Nothing was decided, no votes were taken, but strong themes and values emerged, including:

- ❖ We value having two avenues to care for people in need: 1) hands-on ministries and 2) direct financial support.
- ❖ Of the hands-on ministry, we value interacting with people in need, making face-to-face connections. We also value spending time with other SAPUCCers during hands-on ministry – having conversations as we work shoulder to shoulder in serving others.
- ❖ We value intergenerational opportunities to serve: children, youth, and adults of a variety of ages all engaged in mission and witness together.
- ❖ We value understanding the context for what we're doing, as well as time to process the experience afterwards.
- ❖ We acknowledge that acts of charity and mercy (ex. feeding and clothing people) are easier to do than acts of justice-making (ex. lobbying legislators) and systemic change (ex. dismantling racism). This does not mean we ought not do the harder work.

Where this congregation's Mission & Witness ministries go from here is yet to be seen, but we're on our way to new ventures. May this "Ordinary Time" be a time of pondering, imagining, creating and dwelling in God's presence as we shape the content of our ministries of service to others.

NEW MEMBER-INQUIRER GROUP MEETS JUNE 19 AND 27

- + Are you considering membership with St. Anthony Park UCC?
- + Curious about what that means (and doesn't mean)?
- + Would you like time to think about what you're seeking in a faith community?
- + Are you interested in learning some history – about this particular congregation and also the United Church of Christ as a denomination?
- + Would you like to meet other inquirers and members of the church and hear some of their stories?
- + Would you like to inquire about membership without being pressured to join?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions and would like to be a part of the group, please let me know – 651 646-7173, pastor@sapucc.org, or in person. The group will meet twice:

Part I on Saturday, June 19, 9:00-10:30 AM
Part II on Sunday, June 27, 11:30 AM-1:00 PM with lunch

Childcare can be provided with advance notice. Whether you've been attending St. Anthony Park UCC for a while or are newer to the community, please know that you are welcome.

~ Pastor Victoria



MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

SUMMER MUSIC

We are looking for groups or individuals who are interested in providing special music as part of our worship services during the summer. This can be instrumental or vocal in nature, and I will be glad to rehearse and accompany any individual or group who would need piano or organ accompaniment. Look for the summer music sign-up sheet on the kiosk.

~ Stephanie Wikstrom

CALLING ALL WOMEN WHO SING

If you are interested in joining the annual summer women's choir at SAPUCC, here is your opportunity! We will be singing during worship on Sunday, July 11th and would love to have any church women join in the singing. This is a one-time commitment and the only rehearsal will be Wednesday, July 7, 6:00-7:00 PM. The women's choir is a great chance to provide much-appreciated choral music during the summer. If you have any questions, please contact me, Stephanie Wikstrom, at sewikstrom@gmail.com.

SHARING OUR GIFTS - CHILDREN'S SUMMER PROGRAM

We have a great children's program in the works for summer. Members of the congregation have been invited to share an aspect of their work, hobby or volunteering and how it connects to their faith. How did Mike Smith learn how to repair violins and why does he love doing it? How have Marilyn Benson and Tim Wulling cut back on the electricity they use and why do they think it helps the environment? And who knew that Ginnie Sem creates miniature worlds with dollhouse-sized furniture?

The sessions will build friendships between adults and children, and help us explore how people with different gifts have found ways of contributing to the world. We'll meet every Sunday after the Time with Children, starting June 13, except the first Sunday of the month, when everyone worships together. The Nursery will be staffed every Sunday for children age three and younger. We hope to see lots of children this summer!

~ The Christian Education Board:

Maja Beckstrom
Marilyn Benson

Wendy Berg
Lauren Davis

Marge Grahn-Bowman

BREAKFAST CLUB

Breakfast Club – for both youth groups – will be on hiatus for the summer.

SEARCH FOR NEW DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

The search for a new staff person is underway. The following people are serving on the Search Committee: Marilyn Benson (CE), Wendy Berg (CE), Paul Scherrer (Personnel) and Victoria Wilgocki (Pastor). We will revisit and revise the position description, post the position opening, conduct interviews, contact references, and make a recommendation to the Personnel Committee. One or two youth will be invited to join us for the interview stage. Please keep the search process in your prayers.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN – JUNE 12

Start the summer with service to others. SAPUCC is scheduled to package food for international hunger relief at the Feed My Starving Children site in Eagan on Saturday, June 12, 2:00-4:00 PM. We have 20 volunteer slots. Transportation is on your own; we will meet at the site. Please sign up at the kiosk and take a copy of the driving directions. **Please note: Children must be entering 3rd grade this fall or older to participate.** This is a new policy from FMSC in response to concerns about younger children viewing the introductory video and also having trouble assembling the food packets.

LOAVES AND FISHES – JUNE 27 & JULY 25

Would you like to help cook and/or serve a meal at the Dorothy Day Center in St. Paul on Sunday, June 27 or Sunday, July 25? Ruthann Ryberg and Katie Herman are coordinating for June; Lee Heilman is coordinating for July. We need six volunteers to help prepare the meal from 2:00 - 4:00 PM, and 10-12 volunteers to serve the meal from 4:15 - 5:15 PM. Look for the sign up sheets on the kiosk.

GREEN ON THE SCREEN - SUMMER 2010

Arranged by the *Energy Resilience Group*, a subcommittee of the Community Council's Environment Committee. If questions, contact Marilyn Benson or Tim Wulling 651-644-6861.

June - Our Energy, Our Environment: Are alarm clocks ringing?

Join discussion prompted by two short videos: "Peak Oil" and "Kilowatt Ours."
Monday, June 14, 7:00 PM, at South SAP Recreation Center (890 Cromwell)
or Tuesday, June 15, 7:00 PM, at SAP United Methodist Church (2200 Hillside)

July - Rethinking Our Community with Peak Oil in Mind

Learn from the DVD "In Transition 1.0" how some towns are facing the end of cheap oil with practical, positive steps. Monday, July 12, 7:00 PM, at South SAP Recreation Center or Thursday, July 22, 7:00 PM, at SAP United Methodist Church

August - Environment & Energy: What can be done about Peak Oil?

Learn from Cuba's experience 20 years ago with the DVD "The Power of Community: How Cuba survived Peak Oil." Monday, August 23, 7:00 PM, at South SAP Recreation Center or Tuesday, August 24, 7:00 PM, at SAP United Methodist Church

PROPOSED RESOLUTION on "Marriage Equality for Couples Regardless of Gender"

Among the many "firsts" in the UCC, at General Synod in 2005, the UCC became the first Christian denomination to affirm marriage equality for couples regardless of gender. The Minnesota Conference's ONA/LGBT Team has proposed a similar resolution for consideration at the annual meeting, June 11-13, 2010. In accordance with UCC polity, the resolution "encourages member churches, after serious, respectful, and prayerful study, to consider adopting wedding policies that do not discriminate against couples based on gender". Three local churches have passed wedding policies in support of marriage equality, basically deciding to perform religious wedding services only; their pastors do not sign state marriage licenses for any couples. The ONA/LGBT team calls upon the MN Conference of the UCC to be a prophetic voice of inclusivity, radical hospitality, and advocacy for same-gender loving couples by supporting marriage equality. Your delegates to the annual meeting – Leslie Amundson, Beth Magistad, and Pastor Victoria – ask for your prayers and support as we consider this resolution at the annual meeting in June.

PRIDE

The annual PRIDE Festival for and with our LGBT community is Saturday-Sunday, June 26-27 in Minneapolis. While SAPUCC will not march in the parade this year, we encourage everyone to participate in the events of the weekend. It's a glorious celebration and time of witness, and all are invited to join in the fun!

UCC + UMC = JULY 18

On Sunday, July 18, we will welcome members and friends of St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church to our sanctuary as our two congregations worship together. Last summer, we renewed the tradition of an ecumenical worship service, and the Methodists hosted us. Now it's our turn to host them. We'll sing and pray and enjoy a time of fellowship afterwards. Rev. Donna Martinson and Victoria will co-lead the service.

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP BOARD

Look for changes in our Fall stewardship campaign. The Board of Stewardship has decided not to order pre-printed offering envelopes for 2011 due to the cost and waste. You may provide your own envelopes, or you may simply put your check in the offering plate. If you contribute cash, please be especially mindful to identify your name with your contribution. Extra plain envelopes will be available at the entrance to the sanctuary from the Fellowship Hall. Linda Dobosenski, our Office Manager, will be sure the right credit is recorded on your giving record. Also, a planned giving initiative – educating and inviting the congregation to consider leaving a gift to the church in your will or estate – is in process. We hope to distribute a brochure in the Fall, with some sessions scheduled to provide more information about planned giving.

FAREWELL & GODSPEED

After 22 years of employment at the University of Minnesota, Michael Gray-Jordan will retire in June. With his retirement comes another significant life transition – he will be moving to Portland, Maine on June 30th. Michael joined SAPUCC in March of 2009. For his time with us and our time with him, especially as a participant in the Depression Allies Group, we offer a prayer of gratitude. For his leave-taking from Minnesota and this congregation, we offer a prayer of blessing. Go in peace, Michael!

PAULA SWANSON IS WALKING AGAIN

Paula Swanson is walking in the Breast Cancer 3-Day again this year. Imagine, 60 miles in 3 days and she's going to do it again! Breast cancer personally affects 1 in 8 women & 1 in 1,000 men. The walk is in August and she is hoping to raise \$2,500. If interested in helping Paula reach her goal, and helping to put an end to breast cancer, you can find more information on the kiosk, at www.the3day.org/goto/paulaswanson or ask her.

DEPRESSION ALLIES

The Depression Allies is a support group, providing a time to gather with other SAPUCCers who are living with depression. The group offers a safe place to be heard, to listen, to offer and receive empathy, to offer one another "tools" for living with depression, to share personal stories, and to be fully oneself in the context of this community of faith. The group is open to any adults in the congregation who are living with depression. If you'd like to learn more, please contact Pastor Victoria.

Women

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's Fellowship will meet again in the fall on Tuesday, October 19, 11:00 AM. Johanna Circle will host.

JOHANNA CIRCLE will meet on Friday, June 4, 11:00 AM at Olive Garden in Roseville.

LUCY COMINGS CIRCLE will gather again in September.

WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL LIFE

The Women's Spiritual Life group meets on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month from 8:30-10:00 AM in the Parlor. June's dates are the 12th and 26th and July's dates are the 10th and 24th. We are discussing the book *An Altar In the World*, by Barbara Brown Taylor. We welcome all women.

Contacts: Ronna Smitherman 651 481-7255 or LaVonne Souther 651 646-6879



CAREGIVER GROUP

Participants in the caregiver group listen and share updates about loved ones as well as exchange ideas and resources for how to practice self-care in the midst of all the demands of caregiving.

The group, co-led by Ted Bowman and Victoria Wilgocki, offers support for people who have a loved one who is experiencing a decline in mental and/or physical health and well-being.

The Caregiver Support Group will meet on Thursday, June 10, 10:00-11:30 AM in the Parlor. Newcomers are always welcome.



August LINK deadline:
Wednesday
July 21
9:00 AM

Cream Sheet deadline:
Wednesdays
9:00 AM

COPE & HOPE

Support group for people
living with cancer or in
remission.
Cope & Hope meets
bi-monthly.

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Questions?
Call Marilyn Benson at
651 644-6861.



Remember we have an active
Prayer Chain. If you have joys or
concerns call Gwen Bacheller,
the Pastor, or the Church Office.

PASTOR'S HOURS & MORE

I work Sunday through Thursday;
Friday is my day off. I am available for
appointments during the day or early
evening. Please note that in an effort
to keep a clear boundary between my
work life and home life, I do not check
E-mail or voice mail from home. If
there is a pastoral emergency, please
do not hesitate to call me at home:
612-722-9411. Also please note that,
as a clergy person, I am a mandated
reporter of neglect or abuse of
children or vulnerable adults.

~ Pastor Victoria

NEED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE?

St. Anthony Park UCC has a Diaconate Fund that exists to assist members,
associate members and friends of the congregation who are facing financially
tough times. If you are in need, or know of someone who is in need, please
contact Pastor Victoria. Your request for financial assistance will remain
confidential, and the monies distributed are an out-right gift, not a loan.

THANK YOU TO

- Everyone who attended the Mission & Witness Listening Session
- The Sanctuary Choir, additional singers, and Steph Wikstrom for leading worship on the Choral "Requiem" Sunday
- Don Breneman for the photo shoots – taking photos of SAPUCC members and friends
- Dan Stark for preaching on Memorial Day weekend
- Paul Scherrer and Sue Grove for organizing and hosting another terrific season of Meet & Eat gatherings

THANK YOU FROM

- Many thanks to all our church friends who have extended wishes and love to both of us in so many ways.
~ Bob & Andy Banks
- Thank you to everyone who was a part and present at the time of Nevan's baptism. We are truly blessed to be a part of such an amazing church. ~ Laura Thole, Brandy McKay and baby Nevan
- We would like to extend our deep appreciation and gratitude to Victoria, Marilyn Benson and Katie Hermann for making such a wonderful 25th Wedding Anniversary Blessing for us on March 28th. We also want to thank everyone who came and to say that it was a very moving and special occasion for us. Thank You All!
~ Paul Scherrer and Sue Grove

TEA TIME APPRECIATION

By all standards, the tea, held on May 8, was a marvelous success! The faith community of Saint Anthony Park UCC was the context for wonderful food, fun, fellowship, and funding. The \$700 raised from the tea goes toward the fundraising line-item in our 2010 budget.

A particular word of appreciation is extended to Marge Grahn-Bowman for her contagious energy, gracious preparations, and happy spirit. Marge coordinated the event with the help of many, and we so we say THANK YOU to many others....

For attractive flyers: Shayne Lee

To shoppers, preparers, and cleanup crew: Beth Magistad, Leslie Amundson, Lee Heilman

To makers of scrumptious sandwiches: Shirley Gowdy, Louise Mullan, Leslie Amundson, Beth Magistad, Lee Heilman

To bakers of delicious scones: LaVonne Souther, Maja Beckstrom, Marilyn Benson

To attentive and attractive wait staff: David Leitzke, Gary Clements, Nancy Fruen, Beth Magistad

To a talented vocalist for a blessing and musical interlude of songs: Becca Emmons

To all who provided teapots and serving items

BLESSINGS ALL!



CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ
2129 Commonwealth Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55108

Church Council

May 18, 2010, 6:30 pm

Minutes of regular meeting

Council members present: Mark Scott (Moderator), Beth Magistad (Moderator-Elect), Carole Smith (Treasurer), Tim Wulling (Clerk), Chris Jacobson (At-large), Dan Larson (At-large), Wendy Berg (Christian Education), Ronna Smitherman (Diaconate), Paula Swanson (Mission & Witness), Leslie Amundson (Stewardship Board), Gaye Larson (Women's Fellowship).

Ex officio members present: Pastor Victoria Wilgocki.

Others present: None.

Council members absent: Steve Magistad (Church Growth), Charlotte Osborn (Community Life), Jim Snoxell (Trustees).

Meeting was called to order (Mark).

Agenda was set.

Meditation (Wendy).

Minutes of April 20 regular Council meeting were approved.

Treasurer's report (Carole). Our financial position is good.

Staff reports

Pastor's report was given by Victoria.

Confirmation Sunday will be Oct. 10.

Search committee for Director of Child and Youth Ministries comprises Marilyn Benson (CE), Wendy Berg (CE), Paul Scherrer (Personnel Committee), and Victoria (Pastor).

Current business

- 1. Annual meeting date:** January 23, 2011.
- 2. Gift for Kelly:** Beth initiated clarification.
- 3. Budget motion** (Carole). Should the budget be updated to include a new pledge made recently? Carole will confer with Trustees.

Board reports

Church Growth (Gaye). SAPUCC will run a small ad in *The Bugle* from July through December (about \$20-30 a month from Church Growth budget). The Board is organizing two social gatherings over the summer for visitors, newer members and other SAPUCCers. The Board is working on a brochure. It will be included in welcome bags that we will give to first-time visitors.

Stewardship (Leslie). The use of pre-printed offering envelopes will be discontinued as of January 2011. The envelopes are not necessary for office bookkeeping, are costly, and incur waste.

Womens' Fellowship (Gaye). They discussed the parlor's decor. They will have the carpet and furniture cleaned. They suggest a Ministry Team similar to the past House Committee to make recommendations for the parlor. Gaye will consult with Trustees about the Ministry Team.

Adjournment at 7:30 pm.

Submitted by Tim Wulling, clerk.

BUDGET ACTIVITY as of April 30, 2010		
	<u>Current YTD</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>
	INCOME:	
Pledges	<u>\$ 72,605</u>	<u>\$ 60,341</u>
Other Income	<u>\$ 16,360</u>	<u>\$ 12,842</u>
	<u>\$ 88,965</u>	<u>\$ 73,183</u>
	EXPENSE:	
Total Expended	<u>\$ 81,646</u>	<u>\$ 79,656</u>
NET:	<u>\$ 7,319</u>	<u>\$ -6,473</u>