



FROM THE MODERATOR ~ Mark Scott

As this "Link" goes to press we are witnessing some beginnings and endings. In addition to the beginning of school and the end of summer breaks, Council recently held a special meeting to approve the recommendation from our hard-working Personnel Committee to hire Lori Heutmaker as our new Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries. Lori has deep experience with youth ministry, most recently with Wayzata Community Church and particularly in conjunction with the Minnesota Conference UCC. She is currently attending United Theological Seminary. She brings remarkable knowledge and professionalism to this position and is looking forward to returning to, in her words, "ministry that allows for fuller experience with the wider congregation...[and]... intergenerational ministry." We are very blessed to have found her, and I look forward to seeing her flourish with us!

Another "ending" of note is the resignation of Stephanie Wikstrom. While sudden, this doesn't necessarily come as a huge shock. Part of our budgeting process last year included a recommendation that we increase the salary for our Organist/Choir Director to be more in line with what the going rate is for this type of position. While compensation was not the only factor in Stephanie's departure, it likely played a role we did not fully address in 2010. Although this vacancy is an inconvenience at this time of the year, we now have an opportunity to reevaluate this position and find someone who is a good match for our music ministry. I welcome supporting our interim process and participating in an extension of our special music offerings in the coming months.

Staffing changes have been more than many of us would have wanted during the past few years but I have no doubt that we are moving in the correct direction. All of the changes we have experienced are leading to a strong staff and ministry for our future as SAPUCC. I honestly believe there is the hand of God directing us through these - and all the other - changes in our lives. I invite you to embrace these good changes as we move forward together.



PASTOR'S COLUMN ~ Rev. Victoria Wilgocki

NAMES, FACES, COMMUNITY

Part of being in community is doing the sometimes hard and often holy work of “hello” and “goodbye.” It is part of the movement of our lives together as people of faith who live in covenant.

This month we say goodbye to Organist and Choir Director Stephanie Wikstrom as she moves on to other music ministry opportunities. We are grateful for her time with us and wish her success in her new setting.

This month we say hello to SAPUCCers who've been out of town for much of the summer. We say hello to first-time and returning Sunday School teachers. We say hello to our new Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries.

We also say “hello” to ministries that resume after taking a break during the summer months – Faith & Life Forum, Bible Study led by Ken Gowdy, and Meet and Eat.

My husband Rick and I say hello to a new Sunday Nanny who will transport and watch over our sons Noah and Truman on Sunday mornings. Her name is Michelle Goldak, and she is one of Noah's former preschool teachers. Please welcome her to SAPUCC.

And all of us are called to welcome the stranger into our midst ... people who are visiting here for the first, second or third time, people who are seeking spiritual nourishment, ways to be of service to others, educational forums and dialogue, meaningful worship, life-giving relationships and a good dose of joy. Do you remember what it was like the first time you came to SAPUCC? How did you feel? What did you want to find out? Who greeted you with warmth and respect? Welcoming guests and visitors is an on-going spiritual practice, so I invite us all to brush up on our intentional hospitality this Fall.

Names. Faces. They are the cornerstones of community.

Shalom,

WELCOME, LORI HEUTMAKER

With eager and glad hearts, we welcome Lori Heutmaker (HOOT-mah-ker) as our new Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries. Her first day of work is September 1st.

Lori comes to us with significant higher education and a rich employment history. She is currently a student at United Theological Seminary in the Master of Divinity degree program. She was most recently employed as the Director of Middle School Ministry at Wayzata Community Church in Wayzata. Prior to that, she was the Administrative Assistant to Wade Zick, Ashley Minister of Faith Formation for Children and Youth at the Minnesota Conference UCC, and from 2004-2006, she served as the Director of Christian Education at Emerson Congregational UCC in Richfield. She is dedicated to the life of the local church and the United Church of Christ as a denomination.

Lori is a certified facilitator of the OWL (Our Whole Lives) Human Sexuality Curriculum co-produced by the UCC and the Unitarian Church, was a participant in a 13-week anti-racism course, and recently traveled to China and France in connection with her ministry. On top of all that, she plays the saxophone! She lives in south Minneapolis and has a son and daughter – Sam, age 15, and Quinn, age 11.

Please extend the gift of hospitality to Lori as we forge new relationships and begin this new ministry together.

THANK YOU, SEARCH TEAM

Marilyn Benson, Wendy Berg and Paul Scherrer served on the Search Team for the Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries. I am proud of the work we did together. I am glad for the productive and lively meetings we had. Above all, I am deeply grateful for the intellect, heart, intuition, humor, truth-telling, and keen listening that Paul, Wendy and Marilyn brought to the process.

Many thanks, also, to 10th graders Kari Quinn, Emma Radtke and Claire Radtke who participated in the interviews with our final candidates. Their presence and feedback was a valuable and fun part of the process. Please join me in thanking the Search Team and these 10th graders for their ministry among us. ~ Pastor Victoria

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

~ Lori Heutmaker

The selection process for the Director of CYFM with St. Anthony Park UCC gave me a wonderful insight into the congregation. I was greeted warmly in my initial interview, but was happily surprised to see three youth on the interviewing panel. I had been informed that one youth would serve, which I was thrilled to know, but to have three present with exceptional questions spoke to me of your commitment to youth. That told me I was in the right place. I appreciated the intention paired with the detailed job description—I admit my prayers ramped up a notch for a good fit with you!

My opportunity to be in worship with the congregation in July was a delight. I was greeted immediately and by every person that walked by me. I have been a visitor and staff in many churches around the state, so I've had plenty of opportunity to decide what I think the "radical hospitality" is that the UCC hopes each congregation practices. And unflinchingly, I found it here. I shared with Pastor Victoria afterwards that I felt a harmony amongst you, and I think that allows you to be open and welcoming to each person who comes through the door. I am now pleased to say that my journey will be joining yours, and I look forward to listening how the Spirit might be working with us together.

MEET & EAT IS BACK

Starting Wednesday, September 8 at 6:00 PM, and thereafter on the first Wednesday of each month, all are welcome to gather for Meet & Eat in the downstairs dining hall. Meet & Eat is a potluck feast, a great opportunity to share some wonderful food and have a casual mid-week visit with others in the congregation.

Sometimes after worship on Sundays, Fellowship Hour seems too brief or hectic to have more than fleeting conversations. So make a date to share a relaxed meal with other SAPUCCers on Wednesdays once a month. Many thanks to Sue Grove and Paul Scherrer who are hosting Meet and Eat again this year.

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 be a part of this support group or learn more, please contact Pastor Victoria at pastor@sapucc.org, 651 646-7173 or in person.

IN MINISTRY WITH SPACC

by Louise Mullan

I am our congregation's representative to the St. Paul Area Council of Churches, and as such, I thought I'd report on a few key things:

St. Paul Area Council of Churches (SPACC) is a non-profit interfaith organization with which our congregation is strongly affiliated. We support SPACC financially, this year with a \$2,400 pledge.

SPACC includes numerous programs for persons in St. Paul who need assistance. Some examples are:

- **The Food Shelf for the Department of Indian Work.** This is where the food goes that we collect on the table opposite the elevator.
- **School Tools.** SPACC distributes donated school supplies to St. Paul schools and agencies that support parents or guardians who cannot afford the required school supplies for their children
- **Project Home.** For over ten years, our church has provided volunteers at least one month each year. Project Home houses families with children who are temporarily homeless and are in the process of finding rental housing they can afford.

Intrigued? Want to find out more? How can you get connected? Here are two opportunities:

Discover SPACC

"Discover SPACC" is a free program and tour that highlights SPACC's mission, programs and successes. Find out what SPACC is doing in our community. September 16, September 30 and October 21 (usually third Thursday of the month), 11:00 AM-12 Noon at their offices, 1671 Summit Avenue, St. Paul.

Bringing Faith to Life!

"Bringing Faith to Life!," an annual breakfast meeting and fundraiser, will be held on Thursday, October 14, 7:30-8:30 AM (check-in beginning at 7:00 AM) at the Midland Hills Country Club, 2001 Fulham Street, St. Paul. The breakfast is underwritten by corporate donors and is free of charge to all attendees. The program will include two videos about SPACC programs and their impact on the lives of people served, a speaker, comments from two young adults who have received assistance, and an opportunity to make a financial contribution to the work of SPACC, though there is no obligation. For more information, please contact me 651 645-1917 lmullan@umn.edu or David Misemer who is on the SPACC Board of Directors 651 779-0349 misemer@msn.com.

SANCTUARY CHOIR and SPECIAL MUSIC

Given that we are in flux with the Organist/Choir Director staff position, the Sanctuary Choir will rehearse and sing once a month throughout fall. The first rehearsal will be on Wednesday, September 8, 6:30-8:00 PM (note the earlier start time) and Pastor Victoria will lead the rehearsal. The choir will sing in worship on "Rally Sunday," September 12. Whether you're a long-time choir member or would like to sing this one time for fun, fellowship and to make a joyful noise during worship, please know that your voice and spirit are welcome. For the remaining Sundays of the month, we welcome members and friends to sign up to provide special music -- solos, duets, ensembles, vocal or instrumental. Please sign up on the Kiosk.

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 again on Thursday, September 9, 10:00-11:30 AM in the Parlor. Newcomers are always welcome.

CONFIRMATION AT-A-GLANCE

The confirmation class will meet after worship twice this fall.

September 19 and 26:

- >Lunch
- >Planning the October 10th confirmation worship service
- >What comes next? Life at SAPUCC after confirmation class

Confirmation Sunday will be October 10, 2010.
That's right, mark your calendars for 10-10-10!

FRIDAY NIGHT OUT – OCTOBER 1

“HEART TO HEART: DEALING WITH DIFFERENCES IN INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS”

- 5:15 PM Spaghetti supper
6:00-7:45 PM “Heart To Heart: Dealing with Differences in Intimate Relationships” presentation and discussion for adults
Activities for children and youth

How do partners make time for each other amidst multiple demands and responsibilities? What are some key differences between partners that cause stress or disharmony in their relationship? How do partners respond to each other regarding these differences? Is it with 1) rejection, 2) tolerance, 3) acceptance, or 4) understanding and empathy? What can couples do to move toward more acceptance and understanding?

Allen R. Desmond and Cheri Desmond-May will lead the program. Cheri is a Licensed Psychologist and Certified Imago Couple's Therapist with over 30 years of clinical experience, practicing in St. Anthony Park. Allen is a recently retired attorney. Both are Heart to Heart team leaders. Cheri and Allen have been married for 24 years and have actively participated in an on-going couple's group for the last 20 years. This group has been based on the Marriage Encounter model—an interactive exploration of relationship struggles and strengths. Please join us for this Friday Night Out.

- Share a hearty, healthy meal
- Older children and youth participate in games and activities together
- Childcare is provided for younger children in the nursery
- Free and open to the public
- Invite a friend, neighbor, co-worker or others who may be interested

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We have a great group of Sunday School teachers lined up to teach this fall. We invite parents and any one else from the congregation to sit in on a class anytime! We use a Montessori-inspired approach called "Godly Play" through first grade and also some in the second and third grade class. We use the lectionary based "Seasons of the Spirit" curriculum with older children.

- Godly Play I, age three through preschool: Marge Grahn-Bowman and Sharon Wagener will rotate as storytellers. Shirley Gowdy, Wendy Berg and Emma Radtke will rotate as door persons and assistants.
- Godly Play II, Kindergarten/1st grade: Marilyn Benson, Beth Magistad and Sharon Wagener will rotate as storytellers. Paul Scherrer, Jane Clements and Claire Radtke will rotate as door persons and assistants.
- 2nd/3rd grade: Maja Beckstrom and Ted Dedon
- 4th/5th grade: Jennifer Torkelson as lead teacher with Sue Grove, Sara Quinn and Mary Divine as assistants.
- 6th/7th grade: Ellen Snoxell as lead teacher with Dan Stark and Kathy McIntosh as assistants.

Background checks are being performed on all Sunday School leaders to ensure a safe environment for all.

ADULT EDUCATION

The **Faith & Life Forum** will resume meeting on Sunday, September 12 in the Parlor, 8:45-9:30 AM, for a time of reflecting on the lectionary (appointed scripture readings).

The next **Bible Study** class, led by Ken Gowdy, will be held on Sunday, September 12, 3:00-4:30 PM in the Parlor. The group will continue its study of the Gospel According to Luke.

CROP WALK

Get your sneakers ready! CROP WALK is scheduled for 1:00 PM on Sunday, October 10th at Cherokee Park United Church on St. Paul's West Side. CROP WALK is an annual fundraiser for Church World Service, an international aid and development agency. Walkers ask sponsors to support them financially for the 2½ or 5 mile walk.

Since the Walk falls on 10/10/10, our theme this year is... 10! In 2009 SAPUCC contributed \$907. If we can increase that amount by 10%... if ten walkers find ten sponsors willing to pledge \$10 a piece... that \$1,000 will go a long way toward alleviating hunger in places like Pakistan.

Dave Letizke is the man to see about CROP WALK. He can be seen at church or contacted at djleitzke@iphouse.com or at 651-652-9732. He'll call you if you don't call him first.

Women

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. September meetings are on the 11th and 25th. 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.

CIRCLE MEETINGS

LUCY COMINGS CIRCLE will schedule their next meeting soon. Watch the cream sheet and the church website for details.

JOHANNA CIRCLE will meet on Friday, September 17, 11:00 AM at Byerly's in Roseville.



October LINK deadline:

Wednesday

September 22

9:00 AM

Cream Sheet deadline:


Wednesdays

9:00 AM

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



P R A Y E R C H A I N

Remember we have an active **Prayer Chain**. If you have joys or concerns call Lee Heilman 651-644-0400, the Pastor, or the Church Office.

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.

THANK YOU FROM...

- Many thanks for cards and prayers coming my way after my knee surgery. It lifted my spirits and reminded me you are all Blessings in my life.
~ Sharon Creamer
- Wendell and I want to thank members of the congregation for all their cards, calls, food and prayers since I had hip replacement surgery and Wendell had a procedure to "cement" the fractured discs in his vertebrae. We are both back home and doing well. I'm using a walker and hope to graduate to a cane soon. Total recovery will take a couple of months so far as the hip is concerned. ~ Marjorie DeBoer
- Everyone who donated items or cash to "School Tools," and to Mary Easter who delivered our 6 full bags of school supplies and 7 backpacks to the St. Paul Area Council of Churches on August 30th
- Mike Smith for obtaining and installing the new digital recorder to record worship services (the tape deck finally died)
- Mike Smith and Scouts from Troop #17 for painting the church office and pastor's office – a wonderful sunny yellow!
- The Board of Christian Education for creating and organizing the summer programming for children and youth, and the following SAPUCCers for sharing one of their skills or interests with the kids and how it connects to their faith:
 - Lauren Davis and Maja Beckstrom – gardening
 - Rick Prescott – recorded sounds
 - Marge Grahn-Bowman – Godly Play story
 - Dan Larson – architecture
 - Mike Smith – string instruments
 - Nancy Feinthel – Reiki
 - Kay Blair – fossils and bones
 - Ginnie Sem – miniatures
 - Barb Billington – science (pill bugs!)
 - Marilyn Benson and Tim Wulling – energy use and conservation

THANK YOU TO...

- Marge Grahn-Bowman, Marilyn Benson and Tim Wulling for their ministry of hospitality. They did a major cleaning, organizing and fixing-up of Lori's office prior to her first day of work.
- Everyone who beautified the summer by singing or playing instruments as special music during worship
- Everyone who beautified the summer by tending the front flower gardens
- Dave Leitzke for mowing the lawn and overseeing the grounds all summer long
- Everyone who volunteered with Project Home in August, providing direct ministry to temporarily homeless families



CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

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

Church Council -- Special Meeting

August 17, 2010, 6:30 pm

Minutes

Council members present: Mark Scott (Moderator), Beth Magistad (Moderator-Elect), Chris Jacobson (At-large), Wendy Berg (Christian Education), Ronna Smitherman (Diaconate), Paula Swanson (Mission & Witness), Leslie Amundson (Stewardship)

Ex officio members absent: Pastor Victoria Wilgocki.

Others present: Paul Scherrer (Personnel Committee)

Council members absent: Carole Smith (Treasurer), Tim Wulling (Clerk), Dan Larson (At-large), Gaye Larson (Women's Fellowship), Steve Magistad (Church Growth), Charlotte Osborn (Community Life), Jim Snoxell (Trustees)

Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm (by Mark). A quorum was declared by substitute clerk, Leslie Amundson.

The purpose of this special meeting is to approve the selection of Lori Heutmaker for the position of Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries.

The Search Committee was comprised of Wendy Berg, Marilyn Benson, Victoria Wilgocki (Pastor), and Paul Scherrer (Personnel Committee). Interviews were also attended by Kari Quinn, and Emma and Claire Radke. There were 11 applicants, and interviews with three. The committee chose two finalists, who interviewed with Victoria for and also presented children's time during worship.

Paul gave further details about the search committee's deliberations. Lori was chosen for the level and quality of experience she has in the UCC, including training in the "Our Whole Lives" curriculum and experience with the Ashley grant. She is a student at United Theological Seminary. The recommendation to offer the position to Lori was unanimous.

MOTION: The Personnel Committee recommends Lori Heutmaker as the St Anthony Park United Church of Christ Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries under the terms and conditions set forth in the attached employment agreement. PASSED by voice vote.

Ronna thanked the committee for their work.

Adjournment: 7:30 pm

Submitted by Leslie Amundson, substitute clerk



CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

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

Church Council -- Special Meeting

August 31, 2010, 6:00 pm

Minutes

Council members present: Mark Scott (Moderator), Carole Smith (Treasurer), Tim Wulling (Clerk), Chris Jacobson (At-large), Wendy Berg (Christian Education), Steve Magistad (Church Growth), Ronna Smitherman (Diaconate), Paula Swanson (Mission & Witness), Leslie Amundson (Stewardship).

Ex officio members absent: None.

Others present: Paul Scherrer (Personnel Committee)

Council members absent: Beth Magistad (Moderator-Elect), Dan Larson (At-large), Gaye Larson (Women's Fellowship), Charlotte Osborn (Community Life), Jim Snoxell (Trustees)

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm (by Mark). A quorum was declared.

The purpose of this special meeting is to approve the selection of Lori Heutmaker for the position of Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries. This is to confirm the action of the August 17th special Council meeting which, it turned out, did not have a quorum.

The Search Committee was comprised of Wendy Berg, Marilyn Benson, Victoria Wilgocki (Pastor), and Paul Scherrer (Personnel Committee). Interviews were also attended by Kari Quinn, and Emma and Claire Radke. There were 11 applicants, and interviews with three. The committee chose two finalists, who interviewed with Victoria for and also presented children's time during worship.

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MOTION: The Personnel Committee recommends Lori Heutmaker be hired as the St Anthony Park United Church of Christ Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries under the terms and conditions set forth in the attached employment agreement. PASSED by voice vote.

Adjournment: 6:05 pm

Submitted by Tim Wulling, clerk

BUDGET ACTIVITY as of July 31, 2010

	<u>Current YTD</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>
INCOME:		
Pledges	\$ 105,712	\$ 105,597
Other Income	<u>\$ 19,803</u>	<u>\$ 23,070</u>
	\$ 125,515	\$ 128,667
EXPENSE:		
Total Expended	<u>\$ 126,419</u>	<u>\$ 136,022</u>
NET:	\$ -904	\$ -7,355