

The Visitor

601 - 13th Avenue SE
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414-1437
Tel. (612) 331-5988 Fax (612) 623-0693
www.ulch.org



July 2007
Issue #7 - 07

*University Lutheran Church of Hope
is a welcoming, Christian community of faith
centered in God's grace and
called to demonstrate God's love for the world.*

President's Page: Congregational Meeting Results

Thank you to everyone who attended the June 10 congregational meeting. I am excited about the results and the new things we are doing within University Lutheran Church of Hope!

A New Mission Statement

At the meeting, the congregation voted to return the proposed mission statement to the Mission Renewal Task Force to better incorporate the concept of Christ, after which the statement would be automatically adopted. I am pleased to report that the members of the Task Force have completed their task, and the new statement has been adopted. It can be found elsewhere in this issue of *The Visitor*.

A New Staffing Structure

As I stated at both the congregational meeting in June and the Mission Renewal gatherings in May, the bylaws of University Lutheran Church of Hope grant the Board of Commissioners the authority to determine staffing levels without a congregational vote. The overwhelming majority of those persons present during our May gatherings indicated they trusted the Board to make appropriate staffing decisions, and they did not wish to have a congregational vote that might prove divisive. Consequently, the congregation did not vote on the proposed staffing structure at the June meeting. The Board has voted to adopt the staffing structure as a strategic plan, to be implemented over the next two years through natural attrition. That means that, as current members of our staff move on to new calls, we will transition into the new structure.

A New Governance Structure

The congregation also voted to adopt the new governance structure proposed by the Staffing & Governance Sub-Team of the Mission Renewal Task Force. One of the biggest distinctions between the old structure and the new is that members of the Board will no longer be expected to chair Commissions as they now do; instead, each Board member will serve as a liaison to a particular ministry area that is comprised of teams and task forces which are chaired by other people. While the Board itself will be smaller under the new model, we will need additional members to step up to chair the teams and task forces that would formerly have been led by a Board member under the Commission structure.

The congregation voted to allow the Board to transition into the new model over the next year, and to return to the congregation at a special meeting in June 2008 to present a new set of bylaws reflecting the new structure. During the transition period the Board anticipates there will be challenges and issues to address, and we hope that members of the congregation will prayerfully consider how they can play a role in the new structure.

Stay tuned for further updates as we embark on this journey together, and please feel free to contact me at (612) 302-8732 or President@ulch.org with your questions and concerns.

—Karmi Anna Mattson,
Congregational President

Thank You

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, and support during Garvin's recovery from surgery. It was a great help and comfort to know that so many were thinking of us.

—Garvin and Bern Davenport

Thank You

I wish to thank everyone who sent me cards, notes, prayers, and get-well wishes after my mishap.

—Inga Saari

Church Picnic

Mark you calendars! The church picnic is July 22. Everyone is invited, and please feel free to invite a friend! Bring a dish to share (we will grill burgers and veggie burgers at the picnic). The picnic will be after the service at the church.

ALSO, if you have a grill you can bring and/or can help grill, please email Sarah Burson at serosedesign@yahoo.com.

Thanks!

—Sarah Burson

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

As Congregational President, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Mission Renewal Task Force and its Sub-Teams for all their hard work over the past two years. They have been asked to tackle very difficult issues, and they have done so in a thorough, respectful, and prayerful way. Their dedication and commitment to University Lutheran Church of Hope is inspiring. I would particularly like to single out Lisa Morse for her immeasurable contributions of time and effort to reinvigorate our congregation.

Thank you!

—Karmi Anna Mattson,
Congregational President

Global Mission Update

The year's mission activities, which began last September when seven members and friends of University Lutheran Church of Hope traveled to Malawi, culminated on Sunday morning, June 10, when Bishop Joseph Bvumbwe of the Evangelical Lutheran in Church in Malawi and his wife Maria visited. They had breakfast with fifteen members of the Mission Group, and then participated in the worship service.

During the service the bishop was presented with three gifts for his congregations in Malawi: First, more than 150 baby caps knit by several Hope women were presented to him; second, the choir presented him with their new CD; and third, he was presented with a check for \$18,000, to be used for building a parish center and parsonage at Nthuchila in the Mulanje district of Malawi.

Money for the parish center and parsonage came from two sources. Half of the funding was a very generous contribution by a current member of Hope, and the other half was a grant from the Einar and Mimi Johnson Memorial Fund. Eric Johnson, Einar and Mimi's son, and his wife represented the family at the service.

Following the presentations, Bishop Bvumbwe preached the sermon. As someone mentioned, we were privileged to hear from the German Lutheran Church on June 3, and then from the Lutheran Church in Africa a week later. Thus we experienced the roots of our Lutheranism one week and its "future" the next.

As we look forward to the coming year, please consider joining the Mission Group. It is an informal group made up of those with an interest in Hope's mission to the world at large.

—Jerry Johnson



Faith Formation Opportunities

Summer Reading Program



You can still participate in the Summer Reading Program and bring your friends. This is a wonderful way to invite neighbors or co-workers to church. Sessions continue each Sunday in July. This is a relaxed, flexible program. Come to one or more sessions. This program is funded with a grant from the Hope Church Trust.

8:40 a.m. Continental breakfast

9:00 a.m. Discussion and activities for each age group, with child care provided. (Reservations for child care are requested. Call (612) 331-6988, ext 19, and leave a message that specifies the Sundays on which you will need child care.)

10:00 a.m. Worship

Adults: Discuss *Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt*, a novel by Anne Rice on July 1 & 8. The second book will be *The Myth of a Christian Nation: How the Quest for Political Power is Destroying the Church*, by Pastor Gregory Boyd, to be discussed on July 15, 22, & 29. You can read some or all or each book. Adults will meet in the Heritage Hall.

Youth (entering grades 7–12) *Movies and Faith* – The youth will watch clips of movies and discuss faith-related themes that appear in them. Rebecca Tetlie and Bruce Eldevik are the facilitators. Each week there will be a different movie. Meet in the Youth Room.

Grades 4-6 (entering in the fall) will read a few excerpts from books and do activities. A different person will plan the stories and activities for each week. See the information below on special programs for July 8 & 15. Meet in Room 205.

Children age 4 through grade 3 will have story time, with different people reading books each week and planning games and crafts centered around the story books. Meet in the Music Studio upstairs. See below for a special program on July 15.

Calling all kids! Special activities for children are planned during the Summer Reading Program:

June 24 – Storyteller extraordinaire Willie Brennaman from the Red Balloon Book Shop will be in the Music Studio to read and tell stories for children grade 3 and younger. Children age 4 and younger are welcome with a parent or grandparent.

July 8 – Willie Brennaman will be here again, but this time to spin yarns and tales with the children in grades 4-6. This will be held in Room 205.

July 15 – *The Puppet Lady: Merlajean Gartland*—who was recently featured in the Minneapolis StarTribune—will entertain all the children grade 6 and younger with puppets and stories. Children age 4 and younger are welcome to attend with an adult. This event will be held in the Music Studio.

Music & Arts Camp August 19–22

Registrations for Music & Arts Camp are requested by July 15. There will be experiences in vocal instruction; playing handbells, chimes & Orff instruments; and in art and drama. Cost: \$25 per student. This is for young people grades 2 through 9. High school students are invited to participate as assistants. Schedule: Sunday from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.; Monday through Wednesday from 6:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Please invite your friends, as non-members are welcome.

New Curriculum for Sunday School

FaithWeavers will be the new curriculum for Grades 2-6. The FaithWeaver Curriculum brings families together by focusing on the same Bible lesson for every family member, to create meaningful conversations about faith and life. The “Driving Home the Point” take-home piece will help all ages talk about the Bible lesson on their way home. There will be an introductory session for parents and teachers on Tuesday, August 21 from 6:30–8:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please put this date on your calendar.

Godly Play Workshop

A Godly Play Workshop for teachers, parents, and friends, as well as for members of other congregations, will be held on Saturday, September 8 from 9:00 a.m.–noon in Fellowship Hall and Heritage Hall. There is no charge for University Lutheran Church of Hope members; the cost is \$25 per person for others.

—Diane Shallue



Book Club: Year of the Classics!

Join us on Sunday, July 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge to discuss:

A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court, by Mark Twain.

Our line-up for the rest of the year is:

August 12, *Walden*, Henry David Thoreau

September 9, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, Harriet Beecher Stowe

October 14, *1984*, George Orwell

November 11, *The Scarlet Letter*, Nathaniel Hawthorne

December 9, *Winter of Our Discontent*, John Steinbeck

If you have questions please call Sonja Peterson at (612) 789-0397.

—Sonja Peterson

Rummage Sale Funds Meeting

The meeting at which rummage sale workers will select from among the proposals for funding from the rummage sale revenues will be held at 9:30 a.m. on **Thursday, July 5.**

Any worker for the sale is encouraged to attend and help to decide how our earnings should be spent.

Workers include not only those who work at the sale itself, but also those who work on publicity, hauling before the sale, and other behind-the-scenes work.

The annual rummage sale will be held September 13–15. Please begin setting aside donations for the sale.

Thanks to all of you who work, donate, and spread enthusiasm for this community event.

The sale is a community service that brings many different people together. It is also a good way to recycle the things that we no longer need, but which are still in good condition.

—Ruth Fingerson,
(651) 633-5316, Rfingerson@comcast.net

The Treasurer's Report

Up-to-Date Contributions Report (Includes all sources: Envelopes, Electronic, and Holiday)

Year to date: through 5/31 \$ 225,662 Needed per budget \$ 234,372

Action steps for all of us:

- Update your electronic giving amount to reflect your pledge.
- Adjust *your* contributions % to help us meet **our goal of a 7.4% increase.**
Help us catch up.

2007 presents new challenges for revenue

Our past success

Our 2006 contributions increased 14%

(base of 2.5% and Baker's Dozen. 10.5%=13%) = 1% over goal.

The 14 % increase is outstanding

The revenue increase was \$ 65,226

Our 2007 giving has increased 6.5%

May contributions helped to close the gap

Our challenge

2007 budget increase is 7.3% over 2006 base

This year's increase is 1/2 *as much*

Revenue increase this year is \$ 34,400

Thank you

We have \$ 8,709 to catch up, to budget

General Fund

2007 Revenue Comparison of Actual to Budget: Each Month & Year to Date As of May 31, 2007

<i>Month</i>	<i>Sunday #</i>	<i>Actual Month</i>	<i>Budget Month</i>	<i>Year to Date</i>		<i>Over (under) Budget</i>
				<i>Actual</i>	<i>Budget</i>	
January		\$ 39,250	45,352	\$ 39,250	\$ 45,352	\$ (6,102)
February		46,284	47,963	85,534	93,315	(7,781)
March		40,851	44,355	126,385	137,670	(11,285)
April	5	50,923	53,768	177,308	191,438	(14,129)
May		49,631	42,934	225,662	234,372	(8,709)
June	*		41,167		275,539	
July	5		48,259		323,798	
August			40,624		364,422	
September	5		53,749		418,177	
October	*		44,171		462,342	
November			41,496		503,838	
December	5		<u>60,850</u>		<u>564,687</u>	
Totals		\$	564,687			

—Norris Waalen, Treasurer

University Lutheran Church of Hope Board of Commissioners Meeting

June 13, 2007

Present: Pastor Craig Shirley, Administrator Craig Wiester, Worship's James Hlavka, Treasurer Norris Waalen, Care & Nurture's Sharla Aaseng, President Karmi Mattson, Kirsten Mebust presenting an ISALAH proposal, Education's Lisa Morse, Past-President Garvin Davenport, Outreach's Marty Lewis-Hunstiger, & Vice President Bob Moluf.

Absent: Pastor Kwanza Yu, Facilities' Fred Kreider, Stewardship's Tim Gustafson, & Social Justice's Karen Westwood.

President Karmi Mattson started the meeting at 7:00 p.m. We went around the table with brief check-ins. Karmi went on to distribute agendas and to remind us of the minutes approval process.

ISALAH Inreach Proposal. Kirsten Mebust led us in an exercise leading up to the ISALAH inreach proposal, which she presented. She distributed a sheet with two variations on her proposal and asked the Board for their consideration, with a decision to be made at the July Board meeting. Pastor Craig Shirley moved we adopt this idea, but starting with Proposal 2, targeting a group of people who have joined University Lutheran Church of Hope within the last five years, and expanding into the general congregation afterwards as time allows. We need to have newcomers aware of opportunities for not only service, but also fellowship, with other members of the church. The Board was asked to think about the questions posed by the ISALAH Core Team. We tabled this discussion until next month. Kirsten then left the meeting.

Worship Service Times. Lisa Morse discussed the Mission Renewal Task Force Worship Sub-Team's proposal on Worship Service Time Recommendations. The proposal offered two alternative scheduling scenarios, each aimed at ending the second service earlier and reducing the lull that typically occurs between the early service and the start of education activities. The proposal laid out the advantages and disadvantages associated with each scenario. It recommended that the Board adopt one of the scenarios and implement the schedule on a trial basis beginning fall 2007 through spring 2008, at which time the effectiveness of the schedule would be re-evaluated by the Board. The discussion went for some time, with many observations and opinions offered. Past President Garvin Davenport moved we adopt scenario B, with the First Service from 8:15 until 9:00; Education Hour from 9:15 until 10:15; and the Second Service from 10:30 until 11:30. This was seconded. Spirited debate continued. We agreed to stop debate and move on to the motion. There was some continued discussion as we attempted to clarify the process of discussion. Pastor Craig Shirley reminded us that there is a "Scenario C"— to keep on doing what we are doing now.

Due to misunderstandings of the meaning of stopping debate, we returned to the motion to stop debate. That motion passed by a 2/3 vote.

Voting on Schedule Scenario B, the motion passed by a split vote.

This new schedule will be implemented in the fall of 2007, the week following Rally Day.

Rally Day. Lisa Morse presented a proposal on Rally Day Planning. She made it clear that this is solely her idea from a Mission Renewal perspective; she has had some discussion with the Education Commission but not in great detail. She was not expecting a vote on her proposal here today, but felt we needed to get started if we elect to make some substantial changes to our traditional procedures. We had some discussion. There was a consensus that members of the Board were behind the idea of making a big splash. That day, according to the proposal, would be the last single-service Sunday; education time would provide an opportunity for kids to "meet your teacher." The emphasis would be on creating more visibility for Hope, highlighting ministry areas, offering fun events/activities to invite others to, and creating opportunities to generate revenue. Karmi Mattson, Marty Lewis-Hunstiger, and Craig Shirley agreed to be a part of a Rally Day Planning Team. Lisa Morse will head this up.

Mission Statement. As per Sunday's congregational meeting, the Mission Renewal Task Force modified the proposed mission statement to incorporate clearer emphasis on Christ in the mission language. Lisa provided the Board with the revised language. As it was voted in on Sunday, this altered statement is accepted.

Governance Structure. President Karmi Mattson asked Board members to think about what the new structure means to each of them; is a person's true calling being on the governing board, or running a committee? Individuals' thoughts on this will shape how the Board begins to transition from the model we are currently in to the model that the congregation has agreed to try out over the next year.

Budget. Treasurer Norris Waalen presented the budget reports. He reviewed some of the questions raised at Sunday's congregational meeting. President Karmi Mattson asked about pulling statistics from our database on giving; Administrator Craig Wiester indicated he can do this; Norris asked Craig to clear his methodology with him first.

Norris spoke of some of the budgeting difficulties involving using prior years' figures, particularly December figures, for comparison. We had some discussion about how and whether we can make meaningful inferences on any end-of-the-year budget projections. Pastor Craig Shirley remarked on the overall positive tone of the membership at the congregational meeting.

Norris led us through the financial reports for the end of May. He encouraged us all to find ways to spend less in accomplishing our plans. He concluded we are in reasonable shape for the shape we're in.

Pastor Craig Shirley mentioned that Pastor Mary Halvorson from Grace University Lutheran Church requested that University Lutheran Church of Hope and Grace have a joint advertisement in a directory that will go to all students on campus. Pastor Shirley did not have any information on the cost; the Board asked him to explore cost and use his best judgment on "bang for the buck."

Bob Moluf distributed his revised draft of a Confidential Information Policy and requested that the Board review this for next month.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

STAFF

Pastors: **Craig Shirley, Kwanza Yu**
Cantor: **Timothy Strand**
Director of Education: **Diane Shallue**
Youth Director:
Administrator: **Craig Wiester**
Working in partnership with Lutheran Campus
Ministry Staff: **Jerie Smith**

LEADERSHIP

President: **Karmi Mattson**
Vice President: **Bob Moluf**
Past-President: **Garvin Davenport**
Secretary-Treasurer: **Norris Waalen**

COMMISSIONS

Care & Nurture: **Sharla Aaseng**
Congregational Life:
Education: **Lisa Morse**
Outreach & Evangelism: **Marty Lewis-Hunstiger**
Facilities: **Fred Kreider**
Stewardship: **Timothy Gustafson**
Social Justice: **Donna Neste, Karen Westwood**
Worship: **James Hlavka**

THE VISITOR

The Visitor is published monthly by University Lutheran Church of Hope, located at 601 13th Ave. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414-1437.

Articles for *The Visitor* may be submitted via email or in the church office. They must be signed. Send submissions and correspondence to: **visitor@ulch.org**. Articles may be edited for length.

The deadline for submitting articles is the 15th of every month (for the following month's issue).

The current issue of *The Visitor* is always available at <http://www.ulch.org/images/TheVisitor.pdf>. Back issues are available by contacting the church office.



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YOUTH UPDATE

EVENT INFORMATION

SUNDAY SOCIALS

Out to lunch!

3rd Sunday of every month after worship
July 15
August 19
September 16

7-12th Grade Youth
and Families are
encouraged to join!

LOAVES AND FISHES

www.loavesandfishesmn.org

4th Wednesday of every month, 4:30–8 p.m.
July 25
August 22
September 26

Meet at Holy Rosary
at 4:20 p.m., and after
serving we will go to
a coffee shop for
discussion

SUMMER EVENTS *NEW!*

Sunday Focus on Film and Faith—all Sundays in July

What does faith have to do with the problems of everyday life? Starting this Sunday, youth will meet in the Youth Room to discuss the movie *Quiz Show*, a 1994 film directed by Robert Redford. Join us for a light breakfast at 8:40 a.m., then at 9:00 in the Youth Room to watch movie scenes, explore Christian themes, and get involved in thought-provoking discussion. Hope you can come! For more information, contact Bruce Eldevik, Rebecca Tetlie, Anna Bablitch, Gier Abrahamson, Jonathan Tetlie, or Lette Pignatello.

NEW!

Tuesday, July 10, 7–9 p.m. — High School Youth Planning for the Coming Year

High school *youth* and *parents* are invited to Jack Dant's home for planning for the coming year. This is your chance to share your ideas!

RSVP to Jack – jdant@comcast.net

Jack's address – 1992 James Ave., St. Paul 55105

NEW!

Courtyard Bonfire Gatherings — Wednesdays July 11 and August 8, 7:30–9:30 p.m.

Come and hang out in the courtyard – stay connected over the summer!

July 29–August 4

Mission Trip to Queens, New York

In preparation for trip: Mission trip retreat on Thursday, June 28, 5:30–9:00 p.m.

Talk to Jack Dant or Pastor Shirley

CAMP AMNICON TRIPS for SUMMER 2007

Grades 9–12

White Water in the Northland
July 22–27 (Sun–Fri)

There's still room, if you're interested!

Contact Mary Lincoln at
lincschneid@msn.com

Grade 8

Advanced Flambeau River Ramble
July 29 - August 3 (Sun–Fri)

Grade 7

Northland River Trip
July 22–27 (Sun–Fri)

Mark Your Calendars

September 8–9, Service Retreat for 7th & 8th Grade and High School Youth

Dream Team – 2nd Tuesday of each month – change for next meeting - Tuesday, July 24 - All are welcome!
God's peace!

—Ann Beane, spiritbeane@yahoo.com