

The Visitor

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February 2010
Issue #2 - 10

*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.*

Shirley's Share

Living with the Lord's Prayer" is the theme for Lent this year. "Lent?" you say? Yes, it begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17. And Easter is Sunday, April 4. This title, "Living with the Lord's Prayer," is meant to have a number of meanings. We intend to work our way through the petitions of the Lord's Prayer, examining one each week through study, prayer, worship, and preaching. And we would like to find ways to live our lives "into" that prayer through study. For our study we will use the book *Lenten Journey*, which is part of the *Book of Faith* series. That study will be held on Wednesday evenings, beginning February 24. You are invited to come for soup (beginning at 5:30), attend the study, and then worship together in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. You can also come just for the study, just for worship, or just for soup!

For those who would prefer not to go out at night or who find a noon service more convenient, we will continue to have our half-hour worship service in the Chapel at noon each Wednesday, with soup to follow.

Ash Wednesday services (February 17) will be at 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. There is no soup and no study on that day—simply worship, with both the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.

I am also excited to announce that we have filled two important staff positions. Scott Rohr began his duties as Minister of Worship and Music during the last week in January. What a way to begin—with the ordination of Diane Greve! An exciting Sunday indeed!

And our new Church Administrator is Gayle Bidne. Gayle is actually "coming home" to University Luther-

an Church of Hope, because she attended here as a child. Gayle, also, began her work here during the last week of January. Welcome to both Scott and Gayle! I am looking forward to working with them, and I invite you to take time to meet them and tell them about yourself.

Finally, for the year 2009 the congregation did not end financially in the "black" but rather in the "red"—meaning that we fell about \$11,000 short of our goal. We anticipate that 2010 will be a tight year, and we ask that you would be faithful in your giving and generous in your pledging. We are at full staff now, and staff is the largest percentage of our budget. Our staff works incredibly hard on behalf of Christ's work in this place, and your support in every way is always appreciated, including your giving, your volunteering, and your notes of appreciation.

PAX

—Pastor Craig Shirley

Global Mission Update

Now that University Lutheran Church of Hope's Chapel and Parsonage building project in Malawi is nearing completion, the Global Mission Group is considering the possibility of a new mission project. With this in mind we have invited the Minneapolis Area Synod's Companion Synod Coordinator, Kris Perry, to join us during the Adult Forum on March 7. She will update us on the Synod's mission work and suggest ways in which Hope might participate in these activities. Please plan to attend this forum as we look ahead to our next mission project.

—Jerry Johnson, (johns018@umn.edu)

People of Hope

As many of you know, **Don Millam** had colon cancer surgery in July of 2006. Doctors have been watching him closely ever since. Recently he learned from his doctors that his cancer has spread to his liver, where he has a small tumor. Don and Elaine are getting a second opinion from the oncologists at the Mayo Clinic, and will let them recommend surgery and chemotherapy schedules.

A CaringBridge website has been set up to give family and friends ongoing progress reports on his treatment and progress. Don and Elaine welcome your visits to the site, your comments, and your prayers: <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/donmillam> There is a box to check if you would like to be notified of updates to the site.

Elaine says, “We are very grateful for all of the support and encouragement we are receiving from friends and family. It feels like a huge safety net of love and care....for that we are both so very thankful. Blessings to all of you.”

Marjorie Haddad had surgery at University Hospital in December, and (finally!) came home from rehab on January 15. Her brother was with her for a time, and brought her dog to Florida with him for the winter.

Kathy Carpenter has completed four of her eight chemotherapy treatments (as of January 18) after her breast cancer surgery, and is looking forward to having them behind her. She appreciates all of the support she is receiving from Hope members and asks for your continued prayers for her and her daughters **Emma and Anna**.

Diane Greve was consecrated as a deaconess in 1972. She has now completed the requirements to move from “lay” deaconess to “ordained”. She is has been authorized by the ELCA for word and sacrament ministry, and will be ordained on January 31 at the 10:30 service. Diane has served in a diaconal role as chaplain at Fairview Hospital, and now will be ordained for that position by Bishop Craig Johnson.

—Ruth Fingerson

Book Collection for Southeast READS

The Southeast Minneapolis Council on Learning is collecting new and used children’s books to distribute to children at Luxton and Van Cleve Community Parks and the before- and after-school programs at Marcy and Pratt Schools. Both picture books and chapter books are welcome. Please put books into the collection box under the table in the Library. This will be the third year that we have organized this collection. We have contributed more than 400 books to this project and received much appreciation from the Southeast Minneapolis Council on Learning. Book collection will continue until Easter.

Greeting from Our New Administrator

I am grateful for this opportunity to introduce myself. I am Gayle Bidne, your new Church Administrator. I feel honored and privileged to join all of you at University Lutheran Church of Hope.

As a child, I was a member here until my family moved to a new city. There is a sense of “coming home again” as I walk through the building.

I enjoyed meeting several of you during the interview process, and I look forward to meeting many of you in the weeks and months ahead.

Craig Wiester leaves big shoes to fill. I am most appreciative of his cooperation and graciousness as he hands off his role to me.

Pastor Craig Shirley has made this transition easier for me, for which I am most grateful.

My prior experience includes 32 years at the Board of Pensions of the ELCA as an Information Technology manager. For the past four years I have been the Church Business Administrator for Gethsemane Lutheran Church and School in Maplewood, another ELCA congregation, one that has a K-8 school.

My husband and I are members of St. Mark’s Episcopal Cathedral in Minneapolis.

Please stop by and introduce yourself to me.

—Gayle Bidne

From the Visitation Pastor

Winter reading is a good thing. Our recent weather has certainly encouraged it. A recommended book has been *Letters To a Young Poet*, by Rainer Maria Rilke. We have to do difficult things, he says. It isn't always possible or even helpful to do the easier way—the easiest side of easy, as he describes it. How often I see this in the people of Hope whom I visit. At times in their lives, this may be the decision to stay in their homes or to leave them. Or when the need for another level of care comes, it is often very hard to accept. It can be difficult when family members have differing views on how to provide care. After a psychologist had met with my mother for two hours, our family needed to hear her diagnosis. After hearing she was in the middle stage of dementia, we were finally on the same page. For some, it may be the decision to give up the keys to the car. Or whether or not to try a treatment again, in hopes of a different outcome. These can be hard, difficult transitions.

In this February month of love, I read Rilke's words: *"It is good to love: but love is difficult. For one human being to love another human being: that is perhaps the most difficult task that has been entrusted to us, the ultimate task."* If we take it to another level, perhaps one of the most difficult things to believe is how we are loved by God. We know the familiar verses: *"God is love."* *"Beloved let us love one another, for love is of God."* I thought about this when I was wrestling again this year with the message I wanted to use on my Christmas card. The picture on the front was taken in my new art class. I am standing at the easel, putting finishing touches on my painting. From a mixture of readings, the message came. It is about loving God enough to entrust God with my life. Every day is a new challenge.

"We can't know what is in God's mind and what He is creating with the materials of our lives. So rest our souls, knowing that God has been at work and in ways we have least suspected; for the picture in our thinking and the work with which He is engaged are often very different. He makes no idle strokes and every stroke is part of the whole."

May you feel God's love surround you.

—Pastor Esther

New Books in the Hope Library

The Cross and the Grail: Esoteric Christianity for the 21st Century, by Robert Ellwood

The Hunger of the Heart: A Call to Spiritual Growth, by Ron DelBene, with Mary and Herb Montgomery

The First Christmas: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Birth, by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan

The Gnostic Bible, edited by Willis Barnstone and Marvin Meyer

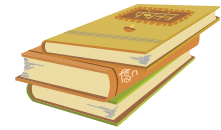
The Complete World of the Dead Sea Scrolls, by Phyllip R. Davies, George J. Brooke, and Phillip R. Callaway

Who Told You That You Were Naked? Freedom from Judgment, Guilt and Fear of Punishment, by John Jacob Raub

No Hope Senior Club in February

There will be no luncheon or program in February, since our regular gathering date falls on Ash Wednesday, February 17.

Seniors are encouraged to attend the Ash Wednesday Worship Service at 12:00 noon in Thorpe Chapel.



Hope Book Club

The Hope Book Club will meet on **Sunday, February 21, at 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge**, to discuss *The Evolution of God*, by Robert Wright.

"In 'The Evolution of God,' Robert Wright tells the story of how God grew up....His views are provocative and controversial. There is something here to annoy almost everyone. In sharp contrast to many contemporary secularists, Wright is bullish about monotheism....In 'The Evolution of God,' Wright tells a similar story from a religious standpoint, proposing that the increasing goodness of God reflects the increasing goodness of our species." *New York Times* review.

March 14: *The Purpose Driven Life: What on Earth am I Here For?* by Rick Warren.

Please call Sonja Peterson at (612) 789-0397 if you have questions or book suggestions.



Faith Formation News for All Ages

Sunday School: (for children ages three through grade six)

Date	Gospel Reading	Godly Play Story	Faith Weavers Lesson	Theme of the day
Feb 7	Luke 5:1-11 Miraculous catch of fish	Fishers of Men	Winter week 10 Fishermen are astonished by a miraculous catch. Luke 5:1-11	We show love for Jesus by obeying him.
February 14	Luke 9:28-36 Transfiguration	Prayer Partner Event	Prayer Partner Event	God loves us all.
February 21	Lent Luke 4:1-13 Temptation of Jesus	Transfiguration	Winter week 11 Moses and Elijah appear with Jesus. Luke 9:28-36	Jesus showed that he is God's son.
Feb 28	Luke 13:31-35 Lament over Jerusalem	Jesus Heals a Little Girl	Winter week 13 Jesus teaches about loving enemies. Luke 6:27-38	Jesus says to treat others the way we want to be treated.

Sunday Morning Confirmation

Grade 7 meets with Tim Gustafson in room 101, with a focus on the Ten Commandments.

Grade 8 meets with Adam Morton in room 107, with a focus on Martin Luther.

Confirmation Saturday class will be held on February 20, with a focus on Moses and the new nation coming out of Egypt.

Sunday morning High School Discussion for students in grades 9-12 will be held in the Youth Room with Jack Dant, Jen Dotson, and Matt Fleming.

Adult Forums

February 7 – Meet Scott Rohr, the new Minister of Music and Worship. Scott will tell about himself and guide a conversation about music. He would like to hear about people's memories of their worship and music experiences as he gets to know the people of University Lutheran Church of Hope.

February 14 – Special Event for all ages in the Fellowship hall – Chillion Leach, an artist and art servant, will lead this

interactive program to create visual prayers to be placed around the building. No art talent or skill is needed. This will also be a chance for Prayer Partners to meet each other.

February 21 & 28 – “The Winter of Our Grief.” There are many feelings and challenges when we or others close to us are in the depths of grief. How we care for ourselves or give care to others can have an impact for years to come. We will look at the changing nature of grief and hear stories about “helpful” and “not so helpful” words and actions. We will also explore how unique grief is to each person and situation. This two-week session will be led by Pastor Esther Dant.

Prayer Partners for Lent

Would you be a prayer partner for a child or youth from our congregation? The Children’s Ministry Team has set a goal this year of recruiting 50 people who have been confirmed and are willing to pray weekly during Lent for a child or youth. We are asking that you pray once a week or more during Lent, which begins on February 17, and send them a greeting card at Easter. To volunteer, contact Diane Shallue at (612) 331-5988, ext. 19, or at dianes@ulch.org

Special Event on February 14 for all ages: Prayer Partners will meet each other on Sunday, February 14, during the special intergenerational event at 9:25 a.m. in Fellowship Hall with Chillion Leach, an artist and art servant.

Let Us Pray: A Lenten Journey through The Lord’s Prayer

Deepen your relationship with God through an exploration of prayer during Lent. Join the Lenten journey, with worship on Ash Wednesday, February 17. Then, beginning on February 24, come for soup at 5:30 p.m., adult and youth discussion at 6:00 p.m., and worship at 7:00 p.m.

Adults will explore the seven petitions of the Lord’s Prayer and find new meaning in this simple yet radical prayer. Engaging discussion and presentations by members of the staff will enrich your understanding of this important prayer.

Adults will have the opportunity to purchase *The Book of Faith 40 Day Lenten Journey*, which is a devotional resource connecting forty personal daily readings with the study of Scripture. These books will be available for purchase for \$10 each. The adult discussion and worship will follow the weekly themes in this book, but using the book is not required for participation. The book is for personal spiritual growth.

The youth will discuss the similarities and differences in prayers of different faiths such as Buddhism, Islam, Catholicism, Judaism, and more. This discussion will be led by Matt Fleming. The season will culminate on Good Friday, with a walkabout journey around our neighborhood in which we will invite members of other faiths to pray with us for hope and reconciliation on our streets and in our hearts.



Bread for the World Workshops

Bread for the World, a Christian organization that advocates for federal legislation to help hungry and poor people in this nation and throughout the world, is holding their annual workshops in February. Bridging the Gap—Making Work Pay is the title for this year’s workshops, which will be addressing the Earned Income Tax Credit that is to expire this year. The EITC is a tax credit that helps to bridge the gap by putting money back into the hands of low-income workers. It is vital for low-paid workers to receive this credit: it helps with groceries, back rent, and car repairs that make it possible for them to get to work.

There will be three workshops to choose from: **Saturday, February 20** at Colonial Church of Edina, 9:00-11:30 a.m.; **Sunday, February 21** at St. Peter Claver Catholic Church, St. Paul, 3:30-4:30 p.m.; and **Monday, February 22** at Bethel University, St. Paul, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

The keynote speaker this year is to be Nancy Maeker, the Director of A Minnesota Without Poverty.

—Donna Neste

President's Perspective



What a year it's been! My year as Congregation President is quickly coming to a close, and it seems like there's so much left to do; however, in retrospect, *much* has been accomplished. In the past year, this congregation has hired 5 new staff members (out of our total of 8), successfully continued our ongoing Capital Campaign, engaged in a variety of service and social justice efforts, and continued to enjoy vibrant, creative, and joy-filled worship led by a wonderfully diverse cross-section of our members.

Not long after the 2009 Annual Meeting, the Vision & Governance Board established three mission objectives for the year—topics on which to concentrate efforts, pray, and commit resources. With great thanksgiving I can report that we have made progress in all areas:

1. **Addressing Economic Impacts of the Recession**—An ongoing support group has been meeting regularly for those in job transition. This support group has been a resource and comfort in difficult times for the growing number of unemployed members of our congregation. Efforts are also underway to compile and add job-search related resources and links to our web site.

2. **Inreach / Outreach** – Small Group Ministry emerged as a goal of this area, and we have seen the development of a Small Group Task Force and the continued growth in small group activities such as Hope Connections.

3. **Staffing for Youth Ministry and Ministry to Young Adults** –We have welcomed both Matt Fleming and Jen Dotson as new Youth and Young Adult ministers, respectively. Both programs continue with lively activities and ongoing efforts to engage youth and young adults in many aspects of congregational life.

This year as president of the Congregation has been many things – *busy*, enlightening, tiring, heartwarming, frustrating, and educational, to name a few. I feel blessed to be a part of our solid history of faithful service and ministry to the local and global communities. A new crop of leaders will emerge at the Annual Meeting on February 7, and I ask that you will continue to support and pray for them. Thank you for your support during my year of service; I have been blessed.

—Jack Dant, Congregation President

Women's Intergenerational Retreat, February 27–28

"In Praise of Women: Healing All Generations" – Led by member Beata Rydeen, M.A. in Women's Studies and certified coach

When: February 27-28, 2010, Saturday 9:00 a.m. – Sunday 11:30 a.m. (3 meals included)

Cost: \$117 (scholarship money available) — *Saturday only* – \$25 (includes lunch; add \$10 more for dinner)

Where: Dunrovin Retreat Center (near Stillwater). **Single rooms.**

Also at the retreat: Sign up for 1-hour personal coaching session with Beata (for the first three to sign up), take the Myers-Briggs Personal Inventory, receive a massage on Saturday afternoon, and participate in yoga on Saturday night.

Registration will begin on January 10th by Fellowship Hall. If you would like more information and/or would like to register earlier, contact Ann Beane at spiritbeane@yahoo.com.

Questions for Beata should be directed to www.beatarydeen.com.

Deadline for registration is February 14.

Vocation in Uncertain Times

The Vocation in Uncertain Times breakfast group will meet two times in February: at 7:45 a.m. on Friday, February 5 and Friday, February 19. Please note the **change of days to Friday**. This is a totally informal group that gets together a couple of mornings each month for coffee and/or breakfast at Perkins in Roseville, right next to the Target store at Snelling and County Road B. Participants come from a wide range of ages, backgrounds, and experiences. We talk about everything from family news to hobbies to the headlines, but also about the challenges of being unemployed, underemployed, or being in other kinds of job-related transitions and new vocational experiences. At our next meeting on February 5 we are going to trade experiences and advice on “Search Strategies” and “Follow Up.” Everyone is welcome. Call or email Garvin Davenport at (651) 645-9708, or at pastpresident@ulch.org if you are interested or if you have questions. Or just show up at the Roseville Perkins on the 5th and/or the 19th.

Treasurer’s Report

Operations

Typically there is an increase in giving in December, which we appreciate but find hard to predict. Based on the average monthly general giving through October, the December increase was \$15,367, compared with a budgeted increase of \$19,626. This year, expenses have typically been under budget. But in December, expenses were above budget at \$47,283, versus a budget of \$42,533. An unusual expense item was exterior building repairs (\$5,518). The result was a net income for December of \$14,343, versus a budgeted net income of \$23,057. When combined with the \$2,585 that we were under budget for net income at the end of November, the result is a deficit for the year of \$11,299.

A summary of actual numbers for December and Year to Date are as follows:

	December		Year to Date		Over/(under)
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	
General Giving and Holiday	54,962	59,218	471,034	497,621	(26,607)
Rental and Extraordinary	6,644	6,372	61,171	63,491	(2,320)
Total Revenue	61,606	65,589	532,205	561,112	(28,907)
Total Expenses	47,263	42,533	543,504	561,112	(17,608)
Net Income	14,343	23,057	(11,299)	0	(11,299)

Invitation to Hope

Contributions to the Capital Campaign are proceeding well, with pledged giving at the end of December standing at \$268,977. When we include \$19,033 in giving that was not pledged, the total is \$288,010. Again, we can blame the economy for the total pledges to the campaign slipping a little, to \$455,188 from the previously reported \$461,064.

—Mike Fingerson, Treasurer

Staff

Pastors:

Craig Shirley
Esther Dant

Cantor: Scott Rohr

Director of Education and Adult Small-Group Ministries:

Diane Shallue

Youth Director:

Matthew Fleming

Director of Young Adult Ministries:

Jennifer Dotson

Administrator:

Craig Wiester

Weekend Custodian:

William Frank

Working in partnership with Lutheran Campus Ministry Staff:

Eva Jensen
Kate Reuer

Vision & Governance Board

Officers:

President: Jack Dant

Vice President: Gregg Landmark

Past President: Garvin Davenport

Treasurer: Mike Fingerson

Ministry Areas:

Worship & Music: Uli Koester

Youth & Young Adults: Ann Beane

Education: Dan O'Loughlin

Hope in the World: JoAnn Bablitch

Relational Ministries:

Renée Real-Banas

Support Areas:

Operations:

Mike Fingerson,
Garvin Davenport

Leadership Development

& Communications:

Jack Dant; Gregg Landmark

The Visitor

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

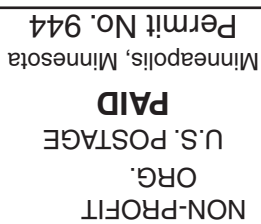
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Vision & Governance Board Highlights

The Vision & Governance Board of University Lutheran Church of Hope held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on January 12, 2010.

➤ Treasurer Mike Fingerson reported that the year closed out approximately \$11,000 short of meeting budget. The board further discussed budget items with an eye toward next year's financial picture.

➤ Pastor Shirley discussed the increasing need for volunteers in a variety of areas in congregational life. The Board discussed that this could be mentioned at the Annual Meeting and also considered that it may be an area on which to concentrate in the coming year.

➤ Past President Garvin Davenport conveyed a recommendation from the Personnel Committee that an offer be extended to Gayle Bidne for the position of Church Administrator. The motion was seconded and carried. Gayle has since accepted the offer, and will begin her employment with us on approximately January 27th. Welcome, Gayle!

➤ The Board reviewed the final draft of proposed changes to the Bylaws that will be presented to the Congregation for a vote at the Annual Meeting. The changes were approved.

➤ Treasurer Mike Fingerson led a discussion of the 2010 budget. Mike presented a proposal constructed from the input of the various Ministry and Support Areas, as well as recommendations from Personnel. The group discussed the options at hand, given an apparent gap between anticipated giving and anticipated expenses. Mike was asked to continue to fine-tune numbers and report back the effect of including 1% and 2% staffing raises. Final budget proposals will be completed via email in preparation for the Annual Meeting.

➤ Jack Dant discussed preparations for the Annual Meeting, noting that Ministry and Support Area reports are due to Craig Wiester no later than January 27.

➤ Hope in the World's JoAnn Bablitch presented a brief report on her thoughts and the activities in this area. She requested input on how best to proceed in the coming year, and proposed three efforts: bringing involved persons together to coordinate efforts, communicating activities to the congregation, and seeking a narrowing of efforts to improve effectiveness of service.

➤ Updates on the three Mission Objectives:

➤ A Small Group Ministry Team has had their first meeting, where they began the process of capturing information about all small group activities and planning for future activities.

➤ The Young Adult group recently held a Christmas Clean-up and painting day. Thanks to all who participated. The Senior High Youth are planning a Winter Retreat at the cabin of Karen Johnson and are working on plans for a service trip next summer.

➤ The support group for those affected by the economic recession is meeting again after a break for the holidays; contact Pastor Shirley or Garvin Davenport for more information.

➤ Jack Dant thanked Craig Wiester for his many years of service to the Congregation, Board, and staff. Craig will be missed greatly. Jack went on to thank and acknowledge those departing the Board at the Annual Meeting: Treasurer Mike Fingerson, Education's Dan O'Loughlin, and Garvin Davenport—who graciously agreed to step in as a replacement for Past President Bob Moluf. Bob was recognized as well; the group expressed great appreciation for all that he has done and continues to do.

—Jack Dant,
Congregation President