
UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF HOPE

The Visitor

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



February 2012
Issue #2-12

***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 – Annual Meetings and Synod Assemblies

Over the last several decades, basically since Baby Boomers became adults, many formal institutions and organizations have found themselves to be of less and less importance in people's lives. People no longer join things just because their parents did, or because it was expected, or because that was the thing to do. Institutions have become suspect, and sometimes even anathema, to the modern person.

Yet, there is no getting around the fact that the church is an institution. Churches have many variations and manifestations, but all churches are institutions. And, as such, they must learn how to serve the people who make them work while at the same time fulfilling the mission God has given them. This often involves formal congregational meetings. Here we hold our ANNUAL MEETING of the congregation and this is THE MOST IMPORTANT business meeting of the institution. It is meant for EVERYONE who is a member or a person who is interested in the life of University Lutheran Church of Hope.

Some years the meetings are relatively simple, and perhaps a bit boring. But most years there are major issues to be debated, big decisions to be made, and critical mission choices to be discussed. This year we are facing major issues revolving around staff, budget, building upkeep, and giving. The Vision & Governance Board has presented to the congregation a budget based upon pledging, and now it is up to the MEMBERSHIP to make a decision about the budget, and thereby the work of this congregation for the year 2012. Decisions concerning staffing, by-laws, leadership and outreach, as well as on-going programs of education, mission, worship, and fellowship will be presented and discussed. Please plan to attend. We begin with lunch (a Fellowship Meal) following the 10:30 a.m. service and the meeting begins at 12 NOON ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12th in Fellowship Hall. All members should be present. Nursery services will be available.

An important meeting of a broader institution will also be taking place this February. The Minneapolis Area Synod will meet in Assembly on Friday and Saturday, February 17 and 18th, in Shakopee, MN. Your voting delegates from University Lutheran Church of Hope to this two-day event are all staff members this year: Craig Shirley, Diane Shallue, Scott Rohr, and Matt Fleming. This meeting will also highlight issues around decreased funding to the Synod, and how that affects staff and mission. But perhaps the biggest item will be the election of a new bishop for the Minneapolis Area Synod.

Continued on page 2

Shirley's Share, continued

Why should you care about this? It may feel distant – just one more layer of bureaucracy. But the role and call of bishop has become more and more important through the years, as synods have taken on new challenges in issues of social justice, ecumenical relationships, mission outreach and growth, as well as national and international relationships from church to church and from church to state. Who leads us and who serves us as bishop shapes who we are to the larger community and to the state. As you know, our congregation has had several pastors move on to be synod bishops and even a national bishop. Hence you know the importance of these roles and the need to have a person of integrity and compassion filling them.

Last month we printed the names of candidate nominated at conference assembly. If you want to read more about them, go to <http://www.mpls-synod.org/assembly/bishopnominees> . If you have favorites, or if you want to express your own views on candidates or on the process, I invite you to speak with one of the delegates I have named above so that we can keep your thoughts and wishes in mind as we vote on this important position. And above all, keep all of the candidates, and all of us delegates, in your prayers this month.

Pax.

– Rev. Craig M. Shirley

Loaves & Fishes

In addition to providing warm and nutritious meals, the Loves & Fishes program has provided advocacy and referral services for 29 years! Housing, employment, transportation, utility assistance, and rent make up the majority of the inquiries. One-on-one relationships are the most effective means of influencing these referrals, so they are most likely to result in more short- and long-term self-sufficiency of the guests.

Learn more about Loaves & Fishes on Facebook or at <http://www.loavesandfishesmn.org>.

– JoAnn Bablitch

President's Perspective

Another year has come and gone at University Lutheran Church of Hope. During 2011 we again faced economic hardship, but our Congregation has set a course for future growth while maintaining its focus on ministry. We were fortunate to keep our existing wonderful staff, and to strengthen ties outside of our church.

Incoming President Mark Nelson has set up a task force to look at how we market ourselves to people who are church-shopping. This task force has sent out a few rounds of mailings to people who have recently moved into the area, from which we hope to get the most visitors. This is our first foray into more commercial marketing but we are optimistic that these efforts will result in more new faces in church on Sunday mornings.

Our ministry areas continued to do their good work this year. We also kicked off the next phase of our ongoing Capital Campaign during 2011.

The church was blessed to be visited last summer by Pastor Amson Hamman and his family from our sister congregation of St. Peter's Lutheran in Jos, Nigeria. Some of our members hosted and entertained them during their visit, and some of our members plan to join a synod trip to visit Nigeria during 2012.

Our remarkable staff has stayed constant during 2011. The three new staff who joined us in 2010, Gayle Bidne, Scott Rohr, and Josh Toufar, have fit in well with the rest of the staff. They and the other staff keep our church running smoothly and continue to improve our programming.

University Lutheran Church of Hope is poised to grow and renew its commitment to ministry during 2012 and beyond. With leaders such as Pastor Shirley, outgoing Past President Gregg Landmark, and incoming President Mark Nelson, we stand ready to continue the work done this year. Thank you to every volunteer who serves in any capacity. It is you who do the church's work of bringing the Good News to all the world!

May God bless University Lutheran Church of Hope and all of us during 2012!

– Dave Engebretson, Congregation President

Vision & Governance Board

The Vision & Governance Board of University Lutheran Church of Hope held its regularly-scheduled monthly meeting on January 10, 2012.

- Mark Nelson reminded the Board of mailings going out to “New Movers” beginning in January.
- The Board committed to continue staffing the Welcome Center on Sunday mornings.
- The Board discussed moving the coffee hour to after the 10:30 service and agreed that it is working well.
- Treasurer Kelli Johnson presented the December 2011 and overall 2011 financials.
- Dave Engebretson updated the Board on the proposed agenda for the upcoming Annual Meeting and reminded ministry area liaisons to submit their annual reports to Administrator Gayle Bidne.
- The Board voted on a budget to recommend to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

– Dave Engebretson, Congregation President

Facilities Temple Talk from January 15, 2012

This is a Temple Talk, and this is our “Temple”!

The Facilities Team is responsible for the buildings, grounds, and equipment. The building includes some nooks and crannies you may never see, but maybe have heard of: the mission room, boiler room, bell tower, tunnels, and dungeon! The grounds include the gardens, patio, courtyard, and parking lot. We deal with equipment for cleaning, mowing, and other janitorial services, plus kitchen equipment: freezers, refrigerators, dishwashers, and stoves.

Some things happen automatically, given that we have strong support from our church staff and a full-time weekday custodian. The Facilities Team also does as much as we can ourselves, to save costs – and you are welcome to join any of our advertised workdays. We strongly support the Garden Club, as they build and tend the gardens. We are trying to start up a Green Team, to help find ways to cut costs and be more ecological in our physical ministry. We are also considering other ways to make our church more attractive to its users. For example, paint can be a wonderful and low-cost decorating tool! Team members also volunteer and attend other local Green organization meetings, to learn and bring back information and ideas.

Despite our recent remodeling and other efforts, this is an old building and it needs a lot of care. The Facilities budget is the second largest of the church committees for several reasons. Our major expenses, in descending order of cost, include our contract janitorial service, heat, insurance premiums, electricity, sewer and water, boiler maintenance, elevator maintenance, and trash removal. We also have various inspection fees, snow plowing, and, of course, repairs, which usually pop up when we can least afford the expense!

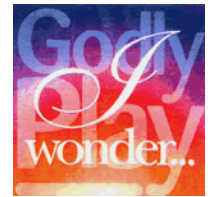
That brings us to the future. There are a lot of things we would like to do, if we had the money or the expertise of volunteers, and some that may need to be done even if we don't. Just for starters, the boilers are being patched together from cannibalized parts (7 out of the 8 boilers actually operate) and they will need to be replaced soon. The stained glass windows need repair and they need new coverings on the south side. The front and back wood sanctuary doors need replacement or refurbishment. The parking lot, whether we get the additional watershed features installed or not, will need resurfacing. The sanctuary needs painting. We recently learned that the elevators need to be brought up to code. The sanctuary needs a cooling system. And there are the assorted all-too-common leaks, breakdowns, and other repair events that happen with an old building.

As you have heard by now, dollars for 2012 are very tight so we will be very limited in what we can do to refresh/replace items. Keep any eye on opportunities to help out around the building and for requests for targeted donations for specific items that may break for which we don't have the money to repair or replace. At least the sanctuary has a new roof – for now!

– Kathy Knudson and Fred Kreider, Facilities Team



Faith Formation



Godly Play for children ages 3 through first grade creates a sacred space to hear Bible stories using objects and play. Students and teachers wonder together about the faith stories. Children are encouraged to respond to the stories on their own terms using art materials.



SPARK is a curriculum designed to activate faith in children in grades 2 – 6. Bible-centered, it encourages kids to open the Scriptures and explore God’s Word through a variety of age-appropriate activities designed to accommodate the multiple ways in which children learn.

Sunday Morning and Wednesday Evening Confirmation

Sunday morning classes meet to study about the Bible at 9:30 a.m. in room 205 with Alden Tetlie and Jim Gamble. No Sunday confirmation on February 26 – attend the Lenten Intergenerational Event instead.

Wednesday confirmation classes to study Luther’s Small Catechism meet on February 8 and 29 in room 205 with Pastor Craig Shirley and Matt Fleming.

Sunday Morning High School Discussion

Sunday morning High School Discussion for students in grades 9-12 meets in the Youth Room.

Sunday School Lessons and Gospel Texts for Worship

Date	Godly Play Story	SPARK Lesson	Gospel Lesson in Worship
Feb. 5	Jesus heals a man who cannot walk	Students go to Adult Forum about families with adopted children	Mark 1: 29 – 39 Jesus heals Simon’s mother-in-law
Feb. 12	Living water	Winter Week 8: Woman at the well	Mark 1: 40 – 45 Jesus heals a man with a skin disease
Feb. 19	Jesus calms a storm	Winter Week 9: The Storm	Mark 9: 2 – 9 Transfiguration of Our Lord
Feb. 26	Lenten Intergenerational Event	Lenten Intergenerational Event	First Sunday of Lent Mark 1: 9 – 15 Temptation of Jesus in the wilderness

Journey Into Lent

Come experience and participate in an Intergenerational Sunday School Activity for all ages, as we gather together to prepare for Lent. Learn about the history of Lent as a season of the church year; learn some simple Lenten music that will be used in worship throughout the season; create a rock with a mystery hidden inside; take a penny jar for Bread for the World (a Lenten discipline, culminating on Maundy Thursday); meet your prayer partner. All that and treats, too!

These activities will take place in Fellowship Hall on February 26, from 9:25 till 10:20 a.m. The entire congregation is encouraged to begin its Lenten journey by attending this event.

Adult Forums in Heritage Hall Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

February 5 – **Journeys to Birth Lands**

Four families from University Lutheran Church of Hope will be sharing highlights of their recent travels to the birth countries of their adoptive children. Families presenting are Kathy and Anna Carpenter (China), the Hougens (Guatemala), the Jorstad/Petersons (South Korea), and the Scipior/Frederik-sens (South Korea).

February 12 – **Music in Guyana**

Eric Sayre and his college roommate, Michael Murchison, went to Guyana, South America, to teach basic music instruction to youth. In the six months they spent in Guyana, 503 people received musical instruction, about two-thirds under age 18. While 161 learned the basics of the keyboard and 116 the guitar, Sayre and Murchison were particularly pleased that 53 Guyanese learned to play brass instruments. Come hear more about Eric's adventures in Guyana!

February 19 – **How do you like your media: fairly objective or objectively fair?**

Generally speaking, Americans hate their media, they hate their politicians, and they especially hate the way their media cover their politicians! So an election season is a great time to have a conversation about how well the news media serve our needs. Eric Ringham, a Hope member who spent 30 years at the Star Tribune before going to work for Minnesota Public Radio News, will offer some of his thoughts about media fairness and the pursuit of objectivity.

February 26 – **Intergenerational Event: Journey Into Lent**

The entire congregation is encouraged to begin its Lenten journey together at this special intergenerational event, from 9:25 to 10:20 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. See more details in a separate write-up above.

Acolyte Training

Fourth grade students will have acolyte training on February 12 and 26, guided by Jan Sanden. Students will meet in their Sunday School classroom. New acolytes will be commissioned during the 10:30 a.m. service on March 11. We welcome their increased involvement in our worship!



First Communion Instruction

First Communion Instruction for parents and children between the ages of 4 and 7 will be held on March 4 and 11 in the Conference Room. Pastor Craig Shirley and Diane Shallue will be the instructors. Registration is recommended. Please contact Diane Shallue to register at (612) 331-5988, ext. 19, or by writing to dianes@ulch.org.

Hope Book Club

Have you met Jack?

Room, by Emma Donoghue, is the remarkable story of Jack, a five-year-old boy who has lived his whole life in a single room. Room is home to Jack, but to Ma it's the prison where she's been held since she was nineteen – for seven long years. Through her fierce love for her son, she has created a life for him in that eleven-by-eleven-foot space. But Jack's curiosity is building alongside her own desperation – and she knows that Room cannot contain either indefinitely.... Told in the inventive, funny, and poignant voice of Jack, *Room* is a celebration of resilience - and a powerful story of a mother and son whose love lets them survive the impossible. <www.roomthebook.com>

Join the Hope Book Club at 7 p.m. on February 12th in the Hope library to discuss *Room*.

March 11: *The Book of the Dun Cow*, by Walter Wangerin.

Contact Sonja Peterson with questions or book ideas at (612) 789-0397 or speterson@dunnwald.com.

6th Grade Faith Formation Service Project

“Family Farm” from ELCA Good Gifts

The 6th grade (and one 7th grader) Sunday School class has chosen their 2012 service project to present to the congregation. This project has been a 6th grade class Faith Formation tradition for many years.

The money we raise this year will go towards funding a “Family farm.” Here is a description of this gift, from the ELCA Catalog: “A cow, a couple of goats, ten chicks, a duck, farming tools -- plus training and marketing -- can help a family farm its way to a fresh start”.

In addition to pooling our Sunday School offering money, we encourage all members to contribute in any way they can to this project. The cost of this gift is \$715. Checks can be made out to the ELCA (Evangelical Church of America). Please write “FAMILY FARM, 6th grade project” in the memo line. Watch for indicators around church of well we are doing raising money for this project! Thanks in advance for your generosity!

Blessings!

– Alex, Mateo, Suzie, Sam, Ted, Desiree, Sara, and teacher Ann Beane

Bread for the World Workshop and Offering of Letters

The 2012 Bread for the World workshop “Cut Hunger, Not Hunger Programs” will be held three times:

- Thursday, February 23, 9 a.m. - noon, Guardian Angels Catholic Church, 8260 4th Street N, Oakdale
- Saturday, February 25, 9 a.m. - noon, St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, 8400 France Ave. S., Bloomington
- Wednesday, February 29, 7 - 9 p.m., Bethel University, Eastlund Room in the Community Life Center, 3900 Bethel Dr., Arden Hills.

This year, Bread for the World members and advocates need to raise our voices more than ever. The deficit-reduction proposals Congress is considering could result in the most severe cuts to programs for hungry and poor people in Bread for the World's history.

Bread for the World's 2012 Offering of Letters overall campaign will help create a circle of protection around those most vulnerable by working to protect the funding of programs for hungry and poor people. The focus will be on four mini-campaigns: domestic nutrition assistance, poverty-focused foreign assistance, tax credits for low-income families, and international food aid.

University Lutheran Church of Hope will hold our annual Offering of Letters during the Adult Education hour on Sunday, March 11th, led by long-time Bread for the World activist Karen Fitzpatrick.

– Donna Neste

This Old House (of God)

When I first set foot into our sanctuary, I was struck by its grandeur. Dark wooden beams are illuminated by yellow and blue light filtering through the stained glass windows. My response was an audible “Wow!”

As a teaching assistant for a class called Reading the Audiences (a class in which students study area churches), I have had the opportunity to listen to stories about many Twin Cities area churches. The beauty of these spaces has been a recurring theme in these presentations, but so has their challenges. When cathedrals and churches were originally built throughout Minneapolis and Saint Paul, there was a need for a community space. Immigrants from Sweden, Norway, and Germany needed a place to gather for worship and a shared life. The buildings served as centers for entire communities.

But times have changed and some buildings have slowly moved from being assets for community development into burdens that are too expensive to maintain. There seems to be a tipping point when the people of the church cannot support the grand structures built by their ancestors. An example is clearly seen in Augustana Lutheran Church in downtown Minneapolis which is now selling its building because it can no longer fill the pews or pay to heat the space.

I am left with many questions. What purpose does the church *building* serve for the immediate neighborhood? Is it worth the costly upkeep of an old structure? How can we transform old structures to better serve the needs of present-day communities? In this time of budgets and pledges and cuts we must ask ourselves – Where is this tipping point for us?

– Matt Fleming, Youth Director

High School Retreat February 10-11

The High School youth group will spend time to learn about our personality types and the ways that they make us who we are. We will look at our strengths, how they make us tick, and how we interact with others. Hope member Beata Rydeen will lead a leadership workshop with us on Feb. 10-11 at Gustavus Adolphus College (in their wonderful retreat center). Join us for a time to get to know each other better and to learn more about yourself and your friends! The cost is only \$50 and there are scholarships available.

To attend, please RSVP to Matt Fleming (mattf@ulch.org) by February 1st.



High School youth are invited to spend February 20th working on interfaith service-learning projects throughout the Twin Cities, and reflecting and acting on the common values of service, justice, and hospitality across multiple faith traditions. This event includes an opening gathering with speakers and entertainment, multiple options for service projects in mixed-faith small groups, and workshops on interfaith understanding, social justice, leadership, arts, and activism.

To attend, sign up on the youth bulletin board or by sending e-mail to Matt Fleming (mattf@ulch.org) by February 5th.

Women's Intergenerational Retreat "Make of Yourself a Light"

Date: Sat. and Sun., Mar. 17-18, 2012 (possible Fri. night stay, the 16th)

Leader: Beata Rydeen, M.A. and Women's Transition Coach

Time: 9 a.m. Saturday to 11:30 a.m. Sunday (3 meals included)

Cost: \$123 (scholarship money pending)

Where: Dunrovin Retreat Center (near Stillwater). SINGLE ROOMS!

Also at the retreat: Sign up for massages and yoga on Saturday!

Registration begins Feb. 12 at the Welcome Center. If you would like more information, contact Ann Beane, spirit.beane@gmail.com, or Beata Rydeen, www.beatarydeen.com.

The deadline for registration is March 9th.

Senior Group Valentine Gathering

“*Friendship, The Spice of Life*” will be the theme of Hope Seniors’ Valentine Gathering on **February 15**. Pastor Kevin Doely, a musical ventriloquist from Plymouth, MN, will present a comedy show at 1:00 p.m. in Heritage hall, featuring old-fashioned routines from the Edgar Bergen/Charlie McCarthy/Mortimer Snerd era. For the past fifteen years, Pastor Doely has been using ventriloquism as a communication tool for his congregation, as well as entertaining and inspiring audiences of all ages in the metro area with his blend of comedy, storytelling, and music.

All seniors and friends are cordially invited to this fast-paced program with a message and lots of laughs!

A noon luncheon will be served in Fellowship Hall preceding the program. Please make reservations with your caller or by phoning Pastor Esther Dant at (651) 636-7834 or (612) 331-5988, ext 18, by **February 9**. If you need transportation, contact Ken Lynes at (612) 331-7429.



MLK Article by Scott Hvizdos Published in the Star Tribune

Scott Hvizdos wrote an exceptional article, "A day to celebrate deepest democracy," that was published on the Opinion Exchange page of the Star Tribune on January 16 [Martin Luther King, Jr. Day]. Be sure to read it!

www.startribune.com/opinion/otherviews/137320213.html

Congratulations, Scott!

Visitation Pastor

Lillian Lien’s daughter Jill has informed us that Lillian has been hospitalized due to Norovirus. It has spread through Lillian’s residence, The Lighthouse, and she has needed to be in isolation which is very hard on Lillian, her family, and her friends. When Norovirus spread through Jean Brandt’s floor recently, she was hospitalized and both of her daughters also became ill. Thankfully Jean is back in her room again. Bertha Hanson is her faithful visitor.

Eleanor Edstrom is also back in her home again, with the help of her son, David. Eleanor had been staying with her daughter in Bloomington following her hospitalization. She knows she has new limitations. The Morgans, Troy and Nancy, are old neighbors of the Edstroms and were asking about her. It is good that we remember all our members, especially those unable to attend services, and keep them in our prayers.

There were many good Christmas gatherings between our Friendly Visitors and those they visit. Mary Ann Teske tells of visiting Helen Good between Christmas and New Years. Mary Ann writes, “It was so good to see her and spend some time with her talking about our holidays. Her spirit was very positive and her health is stable – always a good thing.” It certainly is!

The Kautz/Koester family had a great time singing Christmas carols with Chia Teragawa and playing instrumental music. How she must have enjoyed it too! They noticed the poinsettia they had bought for her wasn’t in her room – it had been delivered but somehow ended up in the lobby, by the Christmas tree. They went home and returned to give Chia their own poinsettia. What a kind and loving family!

Compassion Care Ministry is going very well. February’s continuing education lecture by Bill Sanden is entitled “Taking Care of the Caregiver.” March features “Keeping our Ministry Healthy,” by Joan Campbell.

In thankfulness,

– Pastor Esther Dant

Nursery Changes

Bridgette Schneider who was the nursery attendant resigned effective January 30. A new person will be hired, but for fewer hours on Sundays. The nursery will have a paid attendant from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Parents are always welcome to use the nursery under their personal supervision. Until a new person is hired, parents and high school youth will fill in as volunteers. Please sign up for a shift on the clipboard located in the nursery. Contact Diane Shallue with questions.

Treasurer's Report

The month of December 2011 saw an uptick in giving totaling \$51,000, which was over \$6,500 more than budgeted. Thanks! This helped reduce the gap between the budget and actual giving, but we still ended the year of 2011 more than \$34,000 under budget. Our rental receipts also ended the year significantly under budget, leaving us with total income less than budgeted of \$44,000. Total expenses have been slightly under budget every month, but not nearly enough to cover the difference between budgeted giving and actual giving, so we ended 2011 with a loss of \$33,684. As mentioned in last month's Visitor article, with these significant losses for the past two years we felt a cash flow crunch during the year and had to transfer \$30,000 from savings to cover our expenses.

That being said, I would like to recognize everyone's generosity to the mission and operations of our church. During 2011 we received over \$500,000 in gifts to the general fund and to the capital campaign. It is a blessing to be part of vibrant, active church community that is willing to give so much of themselves and their treasures.

Detailed financial statements are available at: <http://www.ulch.org/CurrentFinancialReports.pdf>.

A summary of actual numbers for December 2011 and Overall 2011 vs. Budget are as follows:

	December 2011			Overall 2011		
	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
General giving & holiday	51,420	44,844	6,576	455,832	490,000	(34,168)
Rental & extraordinary	2,927	4,564	(1,637)	52,513	62,560	(10,047)
Total Revenue	54,347	49,408	4,939	508,345	552,560	(44,215)
Total Expenses	52,441	33,047	19,394	542,028	552,560	(10,532)
Net Income	1,906	16,361	(14,455)	(33,683)	-	(33,683)



Total giving to the Invitation to Hope 2 capital campaign during December 2011 was \$27,500. Total amount paid out of the capital campaign during December 2011 was \$6,919, to the mortgage.

If you have any questions/concerns/comments please call or send me e-mail at treasurer@ulch.org.

– Kelli Johnson, Treasurer

February 2012 calendar

Staff

Pastors:

Rev. Craig Shirley

Rev. Esther Dant

Cantor:

Scott Rohr

Director of Education and

Adult Small-Group Ministries:

Diane Shallue

Youth Director:

Matthew Fleming

Director of Young Adult Ministries:

Josh Toufar

Administrator:

Gayle Bidne

Custodian:

James Killen – weekdays

Working in partnership with

Lutheran Campus Ministry

Rev. Kate Reuer

Vision & Governance Board

Officers:

President: David Engebretson

Vice President: Mark Nelson

Past President: Gregg Landmark

Treasurer: Kelli Johnson

Ministry Areas:

Worship & Music: Uli Koester

Youth & Young Adults:

Cory and Katie Olson

Education: Madhu Bhat

Hope in the World: JoAnn Bablitch

Relational Ministries:

Renée Realbanas

Operations:

Kelli Johnson

Gregg Landmark

Leadership Development

& Communications:

David Engebretson

Mark Nelson

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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