



# The Visitor



January 2015

Issue #1-15

Complex world. Thoughtful church.

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*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.*

## Visitation Pastor – Quilts Shared at Nov. Senior Group Event

Last month we had a speaker, Bill Holmes, from Sharing and Caring Hands. During our lunch conversation we learned there was a need for warm blankets. The quilters' faces brightened. They had a closet full of lovely quilts needing to be shared ... and so they were. Bill's vehicle had ample room to hold them all and some blankets also. It made for a good day for everyone, especially for those beyond our walls who will wrap themselves in their warmth. Arloene Stephens added some thoughts:

*Between 2001 and 2011, 685 quilts were made and given to different places with most (550) to Central Lutheran Church where they are given out locally. Some went to Lutheran World Relief. In October 2014, 25 to 30 quilts were given to Sharing & Caring Hands.*

*The most recent quilters have been Ila Mae Langguth, Eleanor Edstrom, Marge Perko, Marian Jacobs, Arloene Stevens, and Carmen Macoskey. There were many very dedicated quilters before that. In previous years approximately 50 quilts were made each year.*

THANK YOU, THANK YOU,  
QUILTERS from us all!

– Pastor Esther Dant



## Treasurer's Report for November 2014

November giving was \$40,274.73 and our rental income was \$9,423.98 for total income of \$49,698.71. We are \$2,447.71 over our budget for November income but remain \$7,927.70 under our income budget for the Year-to-Date. General giving is \$13,656.16 under our projected budget Year-to-Date but our rental income has exceeded our budget by \$5,728.46 so far this year so, fortunately, our rental income is taking up some of the shortfall in general giving. **The decrease in giving is something we all need to be aware of as 2014 comes to an end. We lowered our giving budget for 2014 (vs. 2013) by \$9,400.00. In November our general giving exceeded budget expectations by \$1,419.73. Thank You!**

Our expenses for November were \$34,977.26. We budgeted \$44,055.58 in expenses so expenses were \$9,078.32 under budget for the month. Year-to-Date we are \$23,608.81 under budget for expenses.

Thank you again, for your financial gifts, and in all the other ways you contribute to the life and health of this congregation as it serves the community here in Southeast Minneapolis and around the world. It is wonderful to see our members contribute, not just their financial resources, but all of the volunteer hours that make this congregation a vibrant and thoughtful presence in the community.

### November 2014 and Year-to-Date Income and Expenses

Summary for 2014	Nov. 2014 Actuals	Nov. 2014 Budget	Nov. 2014 Over/(Under)	2014 Year-to-Date Actuals	2014 Year-to-Date Budget	2014 Year-to-Date Over/(Under)
General Giving	40,274.73	38,845.00	1,429.73	410,048.84	423,705.00	(13,656.16)
Rental Income	9,423.98	8,406.00	1,017.98	96,558.46	90,830.00	5,728.46
Ttl Income	49,698.71	47,251.00	2,447.71	506,607.30	514,535.00	(7,927.70)
Ttl Expense	34,977.26	44,055.58	(9,078.32)	497,498.45	521,107.26	(23,608.81)
Net Income	<b>14,721.45</b>	<b>3,195.42</b>	<b>11,526.03</b>	<b>9,108.85</b>	<b>(6,572.26)</b>	<b>15,681.11</b>



Total income for the Invitation to Hope 2 (I2H2) bridge campaign in November was \$6,471.21. We paid out \$6,918.89 for the mortgage and received \$209.16 for building improvements from PEASE Academy. Our total expense was \$6,709.73. Thus there was a net loss of \$238.52 for the month. Our building fund balance is \$200,086.62.

If you have any questions or comments please contact me at [treasurer@ulch.org](mailto:treasurer@ulch.org). Detailed financial statements for 2014 are available at <http://www.ulch.org/CurrentFinancialReports.pdf>.

– Tim Abrahamson, Treasurer

## Shirley's Share

Every year you hear me “harp” about percentage giving. I tell members to figure out what *percentage of your income* you are offering to the church for its work and ministry. I don't care whether you use gross income or net income – that is between you and God. But I do think it is a good exercise, a freeing exercise in many ways. It forces you to look at what you give monetarily in relation to all that you have been given. Remember it is all a gift from God, even if you earned it yourself.

During the month of January part of the capital campaign will include personal testimonials from members of the congregation about what they love about this congregation and why they give. I decided to use my column this month to share our story.

Carol and I weren't always tithers. The goal of 10% seemed beyond anything we could conceive as we began married life as a new pastor and a mom working very, very part time: buying our first home, raising two children, anticipating college expenses, beginning to save for retirement. All of those things seemed to make it impossible to tithe. But we set that tithe as our goal because people all along the line told us we could do it. Gradually, year by year, we increased **the percentage of what we gave to the work of the church** based on our income until we reached that goal of 10%.

Then came the capital campaign at University Lutheran Church of Hope some nine years ago. Once again we were challenged to give, but this time to give *beyond* what we already pledged to the yearly work of the congregation. Once again we wondered, “Can we do this? We have two in college. This is a more expensive place to live. Salaries are static.” But, once again, we were challenged (not guilted) to give it a try, with the assurance, “You won't miss it.” I'm not sure that is true, but I do know that we did meet the challenge and it has not diminished the things we like to do or the way we choose to live our lives. It has, in fact, enhanced our life!

As our congregation begins this new phase of giving for 2015, from our regular weekly offerings to support the day to day work of this congregation to the 3-year pledge you will make to support the capital improvements and ongoing mortgage, consider it a challenge to grow in your faith that God is Lord of all and that together as a congregation we can meet and exceed the goals we have set.

The challenge is before you in 2015. Through natural attrition and life-changing circumstances, the top two giving units in the congregation will be “moving on” this year. A third giving unit in the top ten range has already made changes. That presents an enormous challenge for the rest of us to step up. It would be delightful, but highly improbable, that any one or two giving units already in the congregation could meet the challenge of replacing those three exceptionally generous giving units as they move on in life. But it is possible for many of

you working together to meet the challenge that those departures produce. More than ever, folks who are at that point where the Shirleys were many years ago – just starting out, thinking you have little to offer in the light of such challenges, thinking that you can't possibly “give any more” – it is you who can make a tremendous difference in the future life of this congregation.

I urge you to consider carefully the financial and faith challenges that are before you. Consider it with as much care as anything you do this month.

Pax,

– Pastor Craig Shirley





## Faith Formation for All Ages on Sunday Mornings

On Sunday morning, there are classes and sessions for all ages. Clair Gustafson supervises the youngest members in the nursery on the second floor of the education wing. Below is information about education opportunities for groups from ages three and older.

### Creation Stations



#### Creation Stations

The goal of Creation Stations is to learn about the Bible through hands-on activities such as drama, cooking, crafts, music, and games. Fun and learning about the Bible can go together! These classes are for students in grades 1-6. Classes are held on Sunday mornings from 9:30 – 10:25 a.m.

- January 4 – The Lord is My Shepherd (Psalm 23)
- January 11 – Music with Rosalie Eldevik and Diane Shallue
- January 18 – The Lord is My Shepherd (continued)
- January 25 – All-Ages Event in Fellowship Hall

### Godly Play

Classes for children ages three through kindergarten are held on Sunday mornings from 9:30 – 10:25 a.m. in rooms 201-202. Godly Play creates sacred space to hear and learn Bible stories using objects and play. Students and teachers wonder together and then children are encouraged to respond to the stories on their own terms using art materials.

The structure of the Godly Play lesson models worship with Gathering time; Hearing the Story / Word; Response time / Offering; and Feast / Communion.



- January 4 – The Magi
- January 11 – Anna in the Temple
- January 18 – Jesus in the Temple
- January 25 – All-Ages Event in Fellowship Hall

### Youth Group

The Youth Group meets on Sunday mornings from 9:30 – 10:25 a.m. in the Youth Room with adult leaders Jack Dant and Leena Haugland Rapacz. The discussion will focus on topics of interest to the group. All students in grades 9 – 12 are welcome. On January 25 the Youth Group will attend the All-Ages Event in Fellowship Hall.



## Confirmation

Confirmation Sunday classes meet at 9:30 a.m. in rooms 203-204 with Kirsten Mebust with a focus on the Bible lessons used in worship. On January 25 Confirmation students will attend the All-Ages Event in Fellowship Hall. The Wednesday night classes meet on January 14 & 28 with a continued focus on Holy Communion and the Sacraments, with Pastor Craig Shirley and Youth Director Jim Vitale.

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## Adult Forums

**(9:30 – 10:25 a.m. in Heritage Hall, below the Sanctuary)**

January 4 – *Spirituality is Not Enough*. An *Animate Faith* DVD presentation with Lillian Daniel. Discussion led by Diane Shallue. Some questions to be explored: What does it mean to be spiritual? Is it the same as being religious? How do the seeds of faith take root and thrive? What role does organized religion play in helping – or hindering – growth in faith? In this age of religious pluralism, is it possible or even desirable to stick with our age-old traditions?

January 11 – *Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative*. Hear a presentation about the work of Beacon that partners with congregations in the Twin Cities to end homelessness through housing, shelter, and public advocacy. Families Moving Forward is now part of Beacon. Through FMF, volunteers from more than 60 congregations create shelter space at their congregations' sites. In addition to a safe place to sleep and a warm meal, volunteers share kindness and compassion with families experiencing homelessness. Completing the circle of support, Beacon's professional staff works closely with each family to address their unique barriers to stability so they may leave the shelter program for permanent housing.

January 18 – *The Call Committee*. Karen Westwood will report on the work of the call committee, current progress, what remains to be done, and a possible timeline for issuing a call.

January 25 – *Giving with a Cheerful Heart*. An all-ages event in Fellowship Hall with information and activities for everyone as we explore **Hope for the Future**. Don't miss the fun!

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## Baptismal Recognition and Blessing Sunday

On January 11 children who were baptized in 2014 will receive a special blessing and a gift from the congregation. We will also recognize and bless parents and godparents who are helping these children live out their baptismal promises to “live among God’s faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.”

Raising faithful children requires a community that supports and encourages parents and godparents as well. We look forward to remembering the promises of baptism on this special Sunday!

## “Good Idea” Mission Trip Event

For youth leaders and mission trip planners – gather together to meet other mission trip planners and share best practices. Hear from a panel of experienced Synod mission trip organizers and leaders on **Tuesday, January 27, from 7 to 9 p.m.** Location and more details to be announced in early January. Sponsored by the Minneapolis Area Synod Global Companion Table.

– Bruce Eldevik, Global Mission Team



## Thank You for Your Gifts of the Season

A huge "Thank You" to all the volunteers who made this Advent/Christmas season so wonderful: singers, ringers, instrumentalists, but also all the acolytes, the altar guild, lectors, assisting ministers, ushers, Communion servers, Communion clean-up folks, and greeters. And everyone involved in the Sunday School Pageant!

December is a month that demands extra rehearsals and extra services, which is sometimes exhausting. But these extras are also times when God truly comes near to us. University Lutheran Church of Hope couldn't possibly celebrate Christmas without all of you!

Many thanks for your gifts of time and energy during the busy month of December (and the whole year)!

– Luke Tegtmeier, Minister of Worship & Music

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## Pastor Shirley to Speak to Senior Group's New Year's Gathering

The next Senior Group gathering is Wednesday, January 21, 2015. We will begin at 12:00 p.m. with a luncheon in Fellowship Hall. The program will follow at 1:00 p.m. Our own Pastor Shirley will be presenting a very timely topic: *The ELCA Aging Clergy Wave (Retirement vs. ReFirement)*.

What happens when a pastor retires? We will discuss some of the implications of retiring for the pastor, the members of the congregation, and the future of the church. We will have a conversation using a recent article from *The Lutheran* and Pastor Shirley's plans for what comes next.

All seniors, congregation members, and friends are invited to this presentation. Please make reservations for the meal with your caller or by phoning Pastor Esther Dant at (612) 331-5988 \*818 or (651) 636-7834 by January 15. If you need transportation, contact Leona Reyelts at (612) 378-2444.

A Happy and Blessed New Year to all!



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## Property Report

Properties has passed the first round of receiving a major Natural Resources grant for improving our watershed runoff. We will find out more in February.

Now we are trying to locate where we dug in the courtyard (10 or 12 years ago) in order to make a switch from the sewer to a storm water runoff. That change was required by the city. If anybody can remember that location, please let me know.

Though our new heating and lighting systems are working, at times they still need a little tweaking. Let us know if you are aware of something that doesn't seem right.

If you are interested in helping with some of the projects around the building, please let me know. We would love to have you join our team!

– Fred Kreider, Properties

## Families Moving Forward (FMF) Returns in Feb.

First of all, thanks so much to those who took time out of their busy schedules to help host five families in November who are hopefully now en route to finding permanent housing.

Due to bus scheduling issues, University Lutheran Church of Hope will host FMF families again very soon – beginning the week of February 22. Please set aside some time to volunteer during that week.

When our guests were here in November, we had a more difficult than usual challenge finding volunteers to host in the evening and overnight. Pastor Shirley has issued a challenge to the congregation for the February hosting. If we are going to support this program in the future, as well as Loaves and Fishes, there is a need for new and fresh volunteers. If we do not fill the volunteer spots needed in February and it ends up being a few people doing all the work, the leadership will take that as an indication that we are no longer interested in housing the homeless in our building. And if our commitment is to come to an end with Families Moving Forward, Pastor Shirley wants this to happen on his “watch”, and not make it the responsibility of a new pastor.

Some of you have heard that we (Jo and Bryan) have come to the end of our shared coordination of FMF. We both intend to stay involved with FMF, just not as coordinators. Julie Paschke has graciously agreed to help coordinate the February visit. Please contact either one of us or Pastor Shirley if you are interested in leading this ministry at Hope into the future.

Once again, thanks for your help over these many years of providing warm meals, beds, and hospitality to our FMF guests.

– Jo Schroeder and Bryan Kufus,  
Co-Coordinator of FMF



## Annual Women’s Retreat: “Epiphany – Moving into the Light”

The following is an update about the Women’s Retreat. We’ve tweaked the title to be a bit more clear! This retreat will run **Saturday to Sunday, Jan. 31 to Feb. 1, 2015**, with a Friday overnight option, Jan. 30. Registration continues until Wednesday, Jan. 18. NO REFUNDS.

### Workshop

Discover and recognize your personal epiphanies, both small and large, and awaken to the limitless possibilities ahead of you in 2015. Set your intention for desired outcomes, shake loose any old or limiting beliefs, baggage, or boundaries. The only requirements are curiosity, fascination, and permission to explore and experience new ways of being.

### Details

Retreat timing: Saturday at 8:30 a.m. until Sunday at noon

Location: Dunrovin Retreat Center

Cost: Sat & Sun with 3 meals (lunch, dinner, Sunday brunch) – \$134.00 OR Saturday with lunch only – \$70.00 OR Saturday with lunch and dinner – \$82.00. Friday overnight option – add \$38.00.

Women of all ages are welcome. We will once again be making prayer shawls for this important University Lutheran Church of Hope ministry. OR, bring your own handiwork project to work on while we are together.

Questions? Contact Ann Beane [spirit.beane@gmail.com](mailto:spirit.beane@gmail.com) or Beata Rydeen [beatarydeen@comcast.net](mailto:beatarydeen@comcast.net).

## Annual High School Youth Group Retreat

Each year, the University Lutheran Church of Hope Youth Group spends a weekend on retreat, grappling with important issues involving faith and culture. These retreats provide youth a safe environment to relax, hang out, ask questions, and discuss matters relevant to their lives. Last year's discussion was centered on sexuality. This year the youth group will spend a day at Luther Seminary discussing matters of racial justice.

On January 19, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Luther Seminary is sponsoring its annual community-wide lecture and discussion series centered on race and Dr. King's lasting legacy. The event is free and open to all who wish to attend. In the current climate of racial tension across America, this lecture and discussion series could not be more poignant and important. The day begins with an opening plenary session led by Christena Cleveland, social psychologist and author of *Disunity in Christ: Uncovering the Hidden Forces that Keep Us Apart*. Alika Galloway, co-pastor of Kwanzaa Community Church in Minneapolis, will preach during a worship service, and David Preus, bishop emeritus of the American Lutheran Church, will lead a question and answer session.

Our youth will spend Sunday night at Hope relaxing, spending time together, and beginning a discussion of race and faith. On Monday morning we will travel to Luther Seminary to spend the day attending scheduled events. Luther Seminary will host a free community meal that day, which will provide our youth an opportunity to meet with seminary students and faculty, continue their discussions, and get a taste of the Luther Seminary environment. The Seminary has graciously extended us the use of a conference room and whatever else we need in order to take time, step away, and debrief as a small group.

January 19 is sure to be an exciting and important day for our youth group as we share in the discussion of our Christian faith and its relationship to racial justice in America. As always, if you have questions about the event, or anything pertaining to University Lutheran Church of Hope's youth program, please feel free to contact me.

– James Vitale, Youth Minister

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## Hope Book Club

Start the New Year with a good book! The Hope Book Club invites you to join us on Sunday, January 11, at 7 p.m. in the University of Hope Library to discuss *The Cross and the Switchblade*, by Rev. David Wilkerson and John and Elizabeth Sherrill.

This book is about a young preacher from the Pennsylvania hills comes to New York City and influences troubled teenagers with his inspirational message.

Next up, on February 8: *Don Quixote*, by Miguel de Cervantes.

Contact Sonja Peterson with book suggestions or questions by calling (612) 789-0397 or writing to [speterson@dunnwald.com](mailto:speterson@dunnwald.com).

*“Reading without reflecting is like eating without digesting.” – Edmund Burke*



## Stewardship Means Life Enhanced!

Pastor Shirley writes eloquently in his *Visitor* article this month about his family's struggle to tithe – with all the financial pressures coming from every direction. However he and his family discovered that when they came to the point of giving a true 10% tithe, and then were challenged to go even beyond that point by Hope's capital fund drive nine years ago, something unexpected happened. "I do know that we did meet the challenge and it has not diminished the things we like to do or the way we choose to live our lives. It has, in fact, enhanced life!"

I have given 3 sermons over the past 3 years about this very subject – life lived abundantly when you put your trust in God with your finances. Once you do that, giving 10% of all that God has given to you toward the work of God's Kingdom will come naturally, and truly enhance your life.

The annual median income for the metro area is \$70,000. Most of our congregation comes from the central cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, which might bring that annual median income down to around \$50,000. Some households make even less than that, but many make much more. So, for the sake of argument, let's assume that the annual median income of households in the congregation is in fact \$50,000. University Lutheran Church of Hope has 250 giving units. Based on a 10% tithe of that annual median income of the congregation's 250 households, that would come to one million two hundred fifty thousand dollars which would be more than double our present budget!

Imagine what we could do if every household tithed! We could not only meet our needs as a congregation and do so much more for those who worship here, but we could support far more generously the work of God's Kingdom outside our doors. Over the past several months I wrote a series of *Visitor* articles highlighting some organizations that do important justice work in helping to bring forth the Kingdom of God. My hope and prayer for University Lutheran Church of Hope is that some day all those important organizations, along with others, will receive financial support from this congregation.

More importantly, and you will get this when you begin to tithe, your heart will swell with gratitude for all God's blessings. You will become even more aware of the richness of life and the wonder of God's love. Tithing blesses you as much as it blesses others. Life will be enhanced!

– Donna Neste, Stewardship Committee

## President's Perspective

### *Happy New Year!*

By the time you read this, I trust that we will all be in the swing of a new year. I also expect that you will have heard about our new, three-year capital fundraising appeal, the project we are calling "Hope for the Future." The title may not be the most creative ever, but I quite like the call and challenge it presents to each and every member of our congregation.

While I don't consider myself a financial expert, I am proud of the work our capital committee and other financial folks in the congregation have done to prepare for this campaign. Our goals are ambitious, but our vision is clear. This process – which took shape over the fall, on the heels of our big congregational self-study last spring – has reminded me once again of what a privilege and pleasure it is to be part of this great and good community of God's people. I firmly believe that by the time we make good on this plan, we will have not only secured the long-term fiscal stability of the congregation but we will be prepared to welcome new pastoral leadership and to rise to meet new outreach opportunities in our changing neighborhood and world.

In a time when many urban churches are struggling – when churches of all sorts are struggling – we are a strong and vibrant congregation. This is a blessing! But we cannot be complacent! We've got challenges and opportunities in front of us and all around us, and nothing is automatic. Please join me in prayerfully considering your role in and contribution to the future of Hope.

– Doug Hartmann,  
Congregation President

## New Editors for *The Visitor* – The Torch is Passed

After five years as editor of *The Visitor*, James Flaten is passing the torch to Donna Neste and Marty Lewis-Hunstiger. Our gratitude goes to James for his faithful and creative service in this important job in the life of our congregation.

Donna will gather and compile the content for each issue, and Marty will do the layout. The deadline (the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month for the upcoming month's newsletter) will remain the same. Please continue to send all submissions to [Visitor@ulch.org](mailto:Visitor@ulch.org) or give a paper copy to Hope administrator Gayle Bidne by that date. We will print a combined issue for the summer months of June and July.

The print version of *The Visitor* will continue to be mailed to all members and friends of our congregation who wish to receive it that way. *The Visitor* is available also on-line at <http://www.ulch.org/connect/newsletter>. We currently bulk-mail approximately 350 print copies each month and would like to decrease that number in 2015 to save on paper, postage, and the work of assembling copies. Our goal is 200 printed copies, the minimum number for bulk mail rates. If you are currently receiving *The Visitor* in print form through the mail and are sure you would be able to stay just as connected by receiving it digitally as an e-mailed link each month, please consider making this change. You can notify Gayle Bidne of your wishes at (612) 331-5988 or [gayleb@ulch.org](mailto:gayleb@ulch.org).

– Marty Lewis-Hunstiger and Donna Neste, Editors



## Vision & Governance Board

The Vision & Governance Board of University Lutheran Church of Hope held its regularly-scheduled meeting on Tuesday, November 11, 2014. In addition to our usual business, the Board reviewed the “Ministry Site Profile” that the Call Committee is preparing for the Synod, as well as the communication plan and goals for our new “Hope for the Future” mission renewal campaign.

The second half of the meeting focused on fiscal issues, including a report on 2014 financials, options for refinancing our mortgage, and a preliminary budget outline for 2015. A formal budget proposal for the coming fiscal year will be finalized at our January Board meeting, then brought to the full congregational for affirmation at our Annual Meeting on February 8, 2015.

– Doug Hartmann, Congregation President

## Staff

### **Pastors:**

Rev. Craig Shirley

Rev. Esther Dant

### **Minister of Worship and Music:**

Luke Tegtmeier

### **Director of Education and**

#### **Adult Small-Group Ministries:**

Diane Shallue

### **Youth Director:**

James Vitale, Jr.

### **Administrator:**

Gayle Bidne

### **Custodian:**

Geremew Beshah – weekdays

### **Working in partnership with**

#### **Lutheran Campus Ministry**

Tim Schroeder

Rev. Kate Reuer Welton

## Vision & Governance Board

### **Officers:**

**President:** Doug Hartmann

**Vice President:** Beth Kautz

**Past President:** Karen Westwood

**Treasurer:** Tim Abrahamson

### **Ministry Areas:**

**Worship & Music:** Paul Odenbach

**Youth & Young Adults:**

Cory and Katie Olson

**Education:** Kirsten Mebust

**Hope in the World:** vacant

**Relational Ministries:**

Paige Whitney

### **Operations:**

Tim Abrahamson

Karen Westwood

**Leadership Development**

**& Communications:**

Doug Hartmann

Beth Kautz

## The Visitor

*The Visitor* is published monthly by University Lutheran Church of Hope, 601 13<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414-1437.

Articles for *The Visitor* may be submitted via e-mail or directly to the church office. They must be signed. Electronic submissions in either Microsoft® Word or plain text format are strongly preferred. Articles may be edited for length. Contributors are responsible for clearly identifying any material that is from published sources and for obtaining appropriate permission(s) to republish. Send submissions and correspondence to [visitor@ulch.org](mailto:visitor@ulch.org).

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

Copies of the current issue of *The Visitor*, as well as back issues, are at [www.ulch.org/VisitorArchive.asp](http://www.ulch.org/VisitorArchive.asp) or by contacting the church office.

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