



# The Methodist Messenger

July 2010

First United Methodist Church, Fargo, ND

## The Pastor's word

Pastor Rich Zeck

I'm not a good vacation planner. I enjoy setting a date at the last minute and just going. This type of planning kind of makes it hard on the family though. After July 4, I'm going to take a few weeks of vacation time to recharge my batteries. I have no real plans yet. The older boys and I are heading to Storm Mountain Camp for a week. While Addison is attending the Big Horn Mountains Camp to go backpacking, Carter and I will stay at the Storm Mountain camp for a week. It is a great camp. It should be fun.

I think the boys and their little sister are secretly planning a family trip along with their mother to go to Valley Fair in Shakopee, MN. I do not do rides well! My hope is that we can take a day while we are in the Cities to go to the Zoo. I would love to attend a Cubs game but they are winning so few games this year it might be better to attend a few Red Hawks games instead. Bonnie and I had tickets and were hoping to go to the U2 Concert in the Cities as well, but the lead singer had back surgery and the concert tour got cancelled.

I do know one thing that I have planned ... some reading that involves my favorite piece of furniture - my hammock (see the article on the next page for my summer reading list). But this is the type of vacation I like - no -planning needed other than a diet Coke, a good book and just head to the backyard, though the state bird of Minnesota (the mosquito) might get in the way of that!

Whatever you do for vacation this summer make sure it involves something that recharges your batteries. In the Gospels Jesus often slipped away to recharge. I figure if he needed to do this, so do I. In July I will attempt to do just that. I pray all of us will find some time to refresh and renew our souls. And don't forget to worship... even when you're on vacation. If I can, I like to attend two or three worship services a weekend when I'm on vacation. But then again I don't have to listen to myself.☺ Take some time ... refresh and renew your spirit.

## Summer church office hours

Our downtown church office summer hours are *Monday-Thursdays 8:00am to 4:00pm*, and *Fridays 8:00am to 12:00 noon*. The downtown church office will be closed on Monday, July 5th.

# Church Council minutes

May 25, 2010

The Prayer of St Francis was read by Char Koll.

## New business

Wade Miller spoke on Pastor Rich Zeck's behalf – Rich's son, Foster, is having a hard day. Please lift up Foster in your prayers – mom is gone, school is ending, his routine is being disrupted. Wade read Exodus Chapter 18:13-23. This scripture is about Moses working alone to help others and his father says let others help you. 80/20 rule; 20% of people do most of the work. Neat ministries are starting to bloom but the tough part is how to manage & handle this. New ministries will begin coming to Church Council with their ideas. The Church Council can decide if this is the direction they would like our church to go and then give its support. Lay lead people are starting to come up with ideas and wondering how to make it happen. If we want our ministries to grow we need to be a 'permission giving church'. If a new ministry is in line with the mission and vision of our church then Church Council should consider supporting it. Wade suggested trying out a new ministry and then evaluating it. Sometimes you have to give them permission. Ministries will come to Church Council in the hope that Church Council will empower these groups and entrust the groups to make their ministry happen. Members of Church Council need to be aware of what is happening at church whether it's a Wednesday night, Thursday morning, the Gardening Community, etc., in order to make wise decisions about supporting new ministries. If you're interested in learning more about this theory just borrow "Sacred Cows Make Gourmet Burgers" from Pastor Rich. Be sure to read Chapter 5, "Permission-Giving Churches".

## Prayers & joys:

Prayers for Foster Zeck. Today is Rich & Bonnie Zeck's anniversary but Bonnie's in CA helping her mother who broke her hip and Rich is home caring for their children (his mother is also helping him). It's hard not being together on your anniversary.

Joys – LuAnn & Dave Franzen's anniversary was May 24th  
Larry & Mary Seim's anniversary is May 30<sup>th</sup>

The meeting adjourned at 7pm and the members went outside the church building to do a service project. The work included weeding, trimming bushes, cutting dead limbs out of the trees, spraying for weeds and sweeping part of the parking lot. We worked until 8:15 pm.

Chairpersons: LuAnn Franzen & Char Koll

Recorder: Yvonne Smith

Attendance: LuAnn Franzen, Char Koll, Sara North, Larry Seim, Dave Franzen, Cal Messersmith, Mark Gemar, Wade Miller, Alan Fricker, Janel Pender, Darlene Berndt, Yvonne Smith

## Summer reading

### Janet Miller

Need some suggestions for summer reading? Here are a few from the Women's Shelf in the church library.

*Cecilia's Year* by Susan and Denise Gonzales Abraham is a recommended youth book for 2010. All ages would find this diary-like novelette calm reading and informative about a Mexican-American household in the early nineteenth century. Cecilia's dreams are not those of her humble family, but she surmounts the odds during that last year of elementary school, and as the authors tell us allow her educational and career goals to be fulfilled. It is easy and light reading for kids and adults.

*Too Many Irons in the Fire, and They are all Smoking* by Cynthia Bon Hopson will keep you laughing and yet nodding your head in agreement. The author has formatted her booklet in a devotional style with Scripture, quotes and prayers, but amid the serious message is a deep sense of humor that keeps you wanting more. You know what she is talking about, because you have been there.

And now for some more in depth reading, I would recommend *The Other Game: Lessons from How Life is Played in Mexican Villages* by Phil Dahl-Bredine and Stephen Hicken. The two writers have worked with indigenous villagers in Oaxaca in southern Mexico. Here they have learned about how descendants of original inhabitants sustain themselves and maintain a unique culture of family and economics. The book is divided into three sections. The first deals with the contrast of culture from that of the United States and learning to trust and be trusted. Secondly, the book examines the history and culture of the village people, citing actual stories of persons the authors have come to know. Probably the last portion is most important as it attempts to relate what the world can learn about living with less, utilizing what nature has provided and challenging us all how to make our planet more sustainable. It is not easy reading, but it is exciting in its own way. I think you will be glad that you read it!

## Summer Bible study

Pastor Rich is going to lead a summer Bible Study at 6:15pm on each Wednesday in August. Just bring your Bible and meet him on the front steps of the downtown church (corner of 1<sup>st</sup> Ave & 9<sup>th</sup> St S). We will get a little sunshine at the same time we open up the scriptures. Join him August 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> for 45 minutes of a simple summer Bible Study.

## Financial information

For those who have asked for information about the finances of the church, you may find that information on the shelf at the Welcome Centers. The figures are through May, 2010. Any questions you may call the church office at 232-4416.

## July worship schedule

Pastor Rich is on vacation for most of the month of July. We want to thank Pastors: Dave Andrews, Chuck Belzer, Janet Miller, Wade and Theta Miller, Ray Branstiter and our District Superintendent, Marilyn Spurrell, for filling in at the worship services.

Remember worship in July is as follows:

### THE GATHERING -

Come As You Are	Recovery Worship
5:30 p.m. Saturdays	10:00 a.m. Sundays

### DOWNTOWN -

Worship each Sunday  
8:00 a.m. Praise and Prayer  
9:00 a.m. Family Faith  
10:00 a.m. Traditional  
12:30 p.m. Native American Worship in the Wesley Center.

## Rich's summer reading list

This summer Pastor Rich is reading three books. If you find one or more of these titles are of interest to you, then by all means join him in reading them. In August he is planning to have a few get-together opportunities to meet with those of you who read the book(s) and have a book discussion. The three books he is reading are as follows:

"God is Not One" by Stephen Prothero  
"Mandela's Way: Fifteen Lessons on Life, Love, and Courage" by Richard Stenge  
"Finding Jesus on the Metro" by Paul Nixon

Pick up a copy or download it to your Kindle and join him in a little summer reading.

## Disaster response update-call for aid

Many communities and rural areas of North and South Dakota have witnessed the destructive power of flooding, winds and tornadoes. The Dakotas Conference is responding by providing flood buckets and health kits as requested by some Red Cross chapters.

How can United Methodists respond to these disasters? Financial gifts are vitally important in disaster response. 100% of your gifts to "*Spring/Summer Storms 2010*" will be used to support our response efforts to victims of these disasters throughout the Dakotas. If you wish to contribute to this effort, please write on the memo line of your check "*Spring/Summer Storms 2010*" and First Church will forward your gift to the Conference.

## Coming in July

2010 Dakotas Conference School of Christian Mission "Faith – Hope – Love in Action"  
Southern Site – Dakota Wesleyan University July 8-11.  
Northern Site – Jamestown College July 15-18

Brochures available on bulletin board at both Welcome Centers. (Note deadline dates on form for registrations at both sites.)

## Growing Together community garden news

Growing Together Community Garden is growing again. Growing Together is sponsored by First United Methodist and Olivet Lutheran churches and is located at The Gathering (25th St and 40th Ave). We meet every Thursday at 5pm. We garden from 5-6:30pm and then share a meal. We need volunteers to help with gardening, transportation, child care, and meal preparation. Last year, the gardens at Crossroads and The Gathering provided over 10,000lbs. of produce for volunteers, Daily Bread, the New Life Center and 12 refugee families. For more information, contact Linda Bates at [lleighbates@gmail.com](mailto:lleighbates@gmail.com)

## Congratulations to:

Emery Miles Knudtson, son of Alex and Kristen Knudtson who was baptized on Sat. June 12th.

Brenna Leigh Smith, daughter of Cindy and Josh Smith who was baptized on Sun. June 13th.

## Sympathies to:

Art and Evie Dockter on the death of Art's brother, Jacob Dockter, from McClusky, ND who passed away May 24.

Gary & Deb Brooks and family, on the death of Gary's mother, Shirley Brooks, who passed away May 27.

Joan Lazorenko and family on death of husband and father, Peter Lazorenko. "Pete" died May 26.

Brian and Teresa Sonsthagen and family on the death of Teresa's brother, Clayton Foell, who died in Arizona on Sunday, June 13.

## **We saw the path most traveled**

**Jim Dustin**

The words "the path" can conjure up many different images. There is the right path, the path to the lake, the path to the barn, or even the path behind the house. "If you are walking down the right path and are willing to keep walking, eventually you'll make progress"-Barack Obama. "Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail"-Ralph Waldo Emerson. And of course, there's Robert Frost's *The Road Less Traveled*. (I know it says "road" but haven't you, in your mind's eye, always seen a path?

On Monday I saw a path which will come to my mind now when ever the word is spoken. Eileen and I visited the Spirit Lake Ministry Center and, more specifically, a site for Sidewalk Sunday School on the reservation. The site was at the playground which had been constructed by a group of people including some from Fargo First. The site was teeming with children who came to see Mike and Libby Flowers and a team of volunteers from Michigan and to learn Jesus loves them. We saw a little girl run across the road and jump in the Libby's arms. I could imagine that little girl thinking "Libby loves me and so does Jesus". While the little ones did crafts on the trailer the older ones played games. All this time children were on the swings and slide. As Eileen and I headed for home we drove around the area which housed the playground. At one place I looked back only to see a well worn path from a house to the swings. A path like that would have taken years and hundreds of little foot steps to develop. There it was, a path most traveled, that is making all the difference. Children of the Harvest Ministries is making a difference in the lives of these little ones on the reservation. Let's remember to support these missionaries from our church.

**IF YOUR GROUP WOULD LIKE TO TAKE A DAY TRIP TO SPIRIT LAKE MINISTRIES  
CONTACT JIM DUSTIN.....**

## **Medical lending closet equipment available**

Did you know that First Church has a small medical needs lending closet that is available to First Church family and friends? We have some walkers, canes, crutches, a couple wheel chairs, a few shower chairs of various kinds and a couple toilet seat risers. First Church family and friends are welcome to use them for as long as needed. We also take donations of this kind of equipment if you no longer have need them. Talk to Garilyn McColm, our Parish Nurse, or check with the church office 232-4416.

## **Shoebox Christmas**

It's not too soon to be thinking about and getting gifts for this ministry of the children of the Spirit Lake Nation and other Dakotas reservations. Gifts that are age appropriate for children ranging from infants to young teenagers are always appreciated. If you have any questions, please call Mike Flowers at (701) 799-1174 or Libby Flowers at (701) 799-0227, or contact the church office at 701-232-4416

# **The Methodist Messenger**

First United Methodist Church  
906 First Avenue South  
Fargo, ND 58103-1796

**Non-Profit  
US Postage Paid  
Permit 1052  
Fargo ND**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**July 2010  
Volume 55, #6**

**The Methodist Messenger** is a monthly publication (except January) of the First United Methodist Church, 906 First Avenue South and 3910 25<sup>th</sup> Street South, Fargo, ND 58103.  
Phone: 701-232-4416. Church website & email: [firstumc@firstumcfargo.org](mailto:firstumc@firstumcfargo.org)  
Methodist Messenger email: [methodistmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:methodistmessenger@gmail.com)

### *First United Methodist Church Staff*

Senior Pastor: Rich Zeck ([pastorrwzeck@firstumcfargo.org](mailto:pastorrwzeck@firstumcfargo.org))  
Lay Leaders & Members: Sue Stephens, Jay & Janet Dreschel, Cal & Lois Messersmith, Neil Jordheim, Kay Braun  
Visitation Pastor: Charles Belzer  
Administrative Secretary: Clarice Michel ([michelc@firstumcfargo.org](mailto:michelc@firstumcfargo.org))  
Executive Secretary to the Senior Pastor: Yvonne Smith ([dysmith@firstumcfargo.org](mailto:dysmith@firstumcfargo.org))  
Director of Youth Discipleship: Wade Miller ([wade@firstumcfargo.org](mailto:wade@firstumcfargo.org))  
Family Faith Director: Brenda Goodman ([bgoodman@firstumcfargo.org](mailto:bgoodman@firstumcfargo.org))  
United Campus Ministry: Theta Miller ([revtheta@fmucm.org](mailto:revtheta@fmucm.org))  
Financial & Membership Secretary: Phyllis Crowe  
Treasurer: Larry Seim  
Bookkeeper: Tami Platfers  
Stephen Leaders: Janet Geston, Linda Bates, Pam Kruse, Pastor Rich Zeck  
Parish Nurse: Garilyn McColm  
Webmaster: Teresa Sonsthagen  
Custodian: Jim Coyne  
Messenger Editors: Alan Fricker ([methodistmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:methodistmessenger@gmail.com))

### **Downtown Church Office Summer Hours:**

**June 1-September 3: Monday-Thursday 8:00am-4:00pm; Friday 8:00am-noon.  
Normal office hours resume in September.**