

February, 2012

North West Word

..newsletter of the NorthWest Association of the WI Conference **UCC**



Dear friends,

I just have to tell you; We visited the United Church of Christ of Port St. Lucie and experienced an "extravagant" welcome, Florida-style! We arrived for Sunday worship on the motorcycle and were warmly greeted by an elderly lady, and long-time member, who told us how she had ridden a motorcycle when she was younger and invited us to walk to the sanctuary with her. The ushers were courteous and helped us find a seat. Those who sat near us were smiling and welcoming...and invited us to stay for coffee following worship. We were invited to join the choir (rehearsals on Saturday mornings at 10!) and one lady offered to pick us up for choir rehearsal. We were asked where we were from and how long we would be here, by many "snowbirds" like ourselves. There were about 150 people in attendance as we celebrated a Baptism and the shared Communion. The choir was wonderful, the organist well-accomplished and the pastor, new to the area, would be installed in two weeks.

Being a stranger in a strange place never felt so good! I would just like to remind you to continue your extravagant welcome each day in as many ways as you can imagine. Expect strangers .

Mary Jo Laabs, editor

Wisconsin Conference Staff Roles and Contact Information-2011-2012

Rev. David Moyer, Conference Minister: dmoyer@wcucc.org 608-846-7880, extension 211 for voicemail after hours; **Cell phone/ text messages: 608-630-3177.** Broad direction of Conference. Board of Directors actions. Budget. Setting of OCWM goals. National UCC connections. Ecumenical connections and international partnerships with Honduras and Germany. Search and Call in specific congregations. Organizational and administrative questions.

Rev. Joanne Thomson, Associate Conference Minister: jthomson@wcucc.org 608-846-7880. Church Development and Renewal including grants for church development programs

and consultation on development, evangelism, welcoming. Search and Call in specific congregations.

Rev. Arthur Wille, Associate Conference Minister: awille@wcucc.org **Cell/direct number: 608-630-3134.** Church and Ministry staffing for Northwest and Northeast Associations. Support to Executive Committees in NE and NW. Pastoral issues, support for pastors, consultation to congregations with questions, conflicts or other issues. Initial call for Search and Call in the NE and NW Associations (staff will consult and divide up Search and Call responsibilities). Development of teams of "Associates" to assist in pastoral, search, and consulting with churches.

Rev. Kent Ulery, Interim Associate Conference Minister: Cell/direct number: 608-630-5376. Church and Ministry staffing for Southwest and Southeast Associations. Support to Executive Committees in SE and SW. Pastoral issues, support for pastors, consultation to congregations with questions, conflicts or other issues. Initial call for Search and Call in the SE and SW Associations (staff will consult and divide up Search and Call responsibilities). Development of teams of "Associates" to assist in pastoral, search, and consulting with churches.

Rev. Deb Payden, Director of Lay Academy: dpayden@wcucc.org **608-846-7880 to leave messages-Deb works mainly from home- or 414-762-0207 to reach her at home.** Questions about Lay Academy programs, upcoming programs. Online programs such as "History and Polity". Future Lay Academy scheduling.

Lisa Hart, Coordinator for Youth Ministry: lhart@wcucc.org **608-846-7880.** Planning and staffing of Conference-wide Youth Ministry programs and trips to National and Regional Youth events. Support to local church youth leaders. Communication about youth events. Planning of Youth Ministry Lay Academy with Lay Academy Director.

Vicki Graff, Financial and Data Management Director: vgraff@wcucc.org **608-846-7880.** Financial management, including budget development and control, investments, financial reports, recording OCWM, working with auditors. Health Insurance program. Database and financial software management.

Tracy Hauge, Assistant to the Financial and Data Management Director: thauge@wcucc.org **608-846-7880.** Day to day recording of financial transactions, check preparation, billing. Overall support to the Health Insurance program. Recording of OCWM goals and giving. Capital and special campaign record-keeping. Association financial management/check writing and recording. Financial record-keeping for registration for events and Annual Meeting.

Deb Simon, Director of Communication and Outreach: dsimon@wcucc.org **608-846-7880.** Deb will begin December 1, 2011. Overall strategic responsibility for communications and support services to congregations. Wisconsin Conference Life editor. Development and supervision of web page and social media. Trost Center staff management. Executive Assistant support to the Conference Minister. Annual Meeting. Computer systems.

Liisa Analore, Communication and Outreach Coordinator: lanalore@wcucc.org **608-846-7880.** Support to Joanne Thomson, Lisa Hart, and Deb Payden. Registrations for events, including Lay Academy, evangelism and church development events, etc. Technical and production work for Wisconsin Conference Life, Association program brochures, email communications, social media etc. Support for WebEx and other online meetings and seminars.

Susan Taylor, Communication and Outreach Support Specialist: staylor@wcucc.org **608-846-7880.** Administrative support to Art Wille and Kent Ulery. Administrative support to the four Associations, including calendars, mailings, brochures (working with technical assistance of Liisa Analore), meeting reminders, etc. Coordinator of Search and Call, including keeping track of churches seeking and the file of ministerial profiles, communication with search committees and candidates, etc.

Information Needed for Narrative Directory

The Historical Committee of the Conference plans to publish a *Narrative Directory of Congregations in the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ*. One page will be reserved for each church in the Wisconsin Conference. This page will include a picture of the outside of each church and its history. Our target date for distribution is the 50th Anniversary of the Wisconsin Conference in 2012.

The *Narrative Directory* page for each church could include some of the following:

1. The picture should be a clear, focused photo or ink drawing of the **outside** of your church.
2. Your church address, phone number, website, e-mail address, and directions to your church.
3. What was the denomination of your church when it started?
4. A brief summary of your church's history, including the year organized (founded) and churches that have merged, yoked or are now sharing ministers with yours.
5. Any groups, youth, Sunday school, choirs, contemporary worship service, etc.
6. Does your church have a pipe organ, worship band, hand bells, etc.?
7. Is your church on the State or National Register, or the oldest in your community?
8. Include any outreach ministries.
9. Each church will be allowed one page for the write-up, address, and picture.
10. The directory page size will be 8 ½ x 11 inches with page numbers centered at the bottom.

Twenty Northwest Association churches have now submitted their profiles. If your church is not on this list, why not volunteer to write a profile and send it to Rev. James D. Mohr, 35 Hewett St., Neillsville, WI 54456 or via email to jmohr@tds.net.

Antigo Faith

Bloomer First

Cable

Dorchester Peace UCC

Eagle River First

Eau Claire First

Eau Claire Truax

La Crosse First

La Crosse Trinity

La Pointe St. John's

Land O Lakes Ely Memorial

Marshfield St Paul's

Mellen Congregational

Neillsville UCC

Nekoosa UCC

Phelps UCC

River Falls First

Schofield Peace

Sparta

Stratford Ebenezer

Wausau Grace

Wausau St. Paul's

Wisconsin Rapids First

...be the next on this list!

Did You Know?

... that St. Paul's UCC, Wausau, has been nominated for Small Business of the Year 2011 in Wausau's Chamber of Commerce's -new Non-Profit Division?

Pastor Phil's leadership and faith has not only been noticed locally by the Wausau Chamber of Commerce, but also nationally by the "Heritage Registry of Who's Who" which recently included him in their 2011 Edition.

Congratulations Pastor Phil & St. Paul's UCC!

News from Prescott:

On January 15th, 2012, Rev. Matthew Schneider-Adams was re-installed as Pastor of the United Church of Christ in Prescott. Chris Meyers served as the NW Association Representative, Rev. Sue S-A was the liturgist, Rev. Amy Fondroy Eich (Joy ELCA, Prescott) gave the charge to the pastor, and Rev. Charles Wolf (retired, most recently served at Plymouth Congregational UCC in Madison) gave the charge to the congregation. With a variety of musicians and youth participants, with an excellent supper after the service, it was a beautiful celebration! Special thanks go to the church folks who set up a large screen TV downstairs so that the Packers could be cheered, then prayed for, and finally prayed over...

God's blessings to you, Matt, and to our brothers and sisters in faith in Prescott in your mutual ministry!

Fleeced!

The Confirmation Co-operative of First-Colby, Peace-Dorchester, Christ-Athens and Community-Medford will be gathering on Saturday, February 11, 2012 at Christ United Church in Athens to tie fleece blankets and make pillows for foster kids. This mission came about at the October Confirmation Retreat at Moon Beach. In a brainstorming session, Pastors Cathy Hinman and Marlea Gilbert, parent Laura Ulrich, and students Emma Schlais, Lynn Fischer and Nate Morse came up with the idea of blankets and pillows because both of the girls have made them for themselves and friends. We considered all kinds of people to give them to and with prayerful consideration we agreed to give them to kids in the foster system.

In order to have a successful event, we will need donations of fleece blankets/material, people with their sewing machines, fluff for the pillows, thread, scissors, kids and adults to assemble the blankets and pillows, and maybe even some snack food, just because! Donations of money may be made to any member of the confirmation class or Pastors Cathy Hinman, Bonnie Jacque-Gorecki and Bill Wineke (who is the new interim at Colby & Athens). We'd also like to donate new or gently loved stuffed animals, too. There is nothing more important than to know someone cares when one is afraid and confused.

If you have made a bunch of fleece blankets and have any pointers to share please send an email to medforducc@tds.net.

What are you doing in February of 2013???? Would you like to do something life changing??? Community UCC, Medford is gathering a bunch of people for February 1 - 10 and traveling to Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, La. to work in their food shelf, continue work others have begun remodeling or creating housing, etc. We will also have time for some sight seeing and an evening in New Orleans. If you would like more information and to reserve your spot contact medforducc@tds.net and remember scholarship funds are available through the Division of Church in the World of the Northwest Association. \$50 is needed to reserve your place on this important trip!!

Submitted by Rev. Cathy Hinman

Upcoming Events

...Please send news of meetings and church events to be added to this space.

Northwest Association Annual Meeting: April 28, 2012, in Wisconsin Rapids

How to survive winter....

Winter Weather Survival Kit - Everyone should carry a winter survival kit in their vehicle. In an emergency it could save your life and the lives of your passengers. It should include:

- **windshield scraper and small broom**
- **flashlight with extra batteries**
- **shovel**
- **water**
- **snack food including energy bars and raisins**
- **matches and small candles**
- **extra hats, socks and mittens**
- **first aid kit with pocket knife**
- **necessary medications**
- **blankets or sleeping bag**
- **road salt, sand or cat litter for traction**
- **booster cables**
- **emergency flares and reflectors**
- **fluorescent distress flag and a whistle to attract attention**
- **This information thanks to Trinity UCC in La Crosse.**

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