



# VOYAGEUR

## MAY 2013

### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

We are just finishing (hopefully) a remodel of our upstairs bathroom. We chose some tile with variegated color—mostly mossy greens with some undertones of gold, brown, and terra cotta. I fell in love with the colors in the tile, and it became the center point for choosing wall color, cabinetry finish, countertop, and everything else. I didn't know from the outset what it would all look like, but the pieces and colors began to be “in conversation” with each other, developing into a whole *gradually*.

I am reminded that every project we do has to have a compelling center, a guiding point, in order for the process of “conversation” to develop around it. The continuing education event I just attended was titled “Holy Conversation: Strategic Planning as Spiritual Process”. Clearly, as disciples of Jesus Christ, our “compelling center” is to live as faithful followers.

*But what does that look like?*

In order to let God shape us into the people we are called to be, we have to do some reflection and get clear about ***our most compelling values and calling as a church!***

Ours is a church woven together of varied and beautiful souls, bound by the warp and weft of a gracious God. We are a church with many gifts and graces. We also face challenges financially with every budget we put together. As a group of members agreed recently, we are a mature congregation that needs to have intentional conversation—with one another, with God—about our future so that we can continue to be full of God's life, to be clear about our ministry in this place and time, and to be renewed by God's vision for us. Call it “visioning” or “Holy Conversation” or “strategic planning” – I call it essential.

Three primary questions to ponder and pray over:

**WHO ARE WE?** What is our unique history that makes us who we are as a congregation today? What are our gifts and graces? What are the choices that have shaped us as a church?

**WHY HAS GOD PLACED US HERE?** Are we a downtown congregation, or a congregation that happens to be downtown? What are our unique opportunities for ministry and service in Bemidji? On Beltrami Avenue? What are we called to do?

**WHO IS OUR NEIGHBOR?** Who have we been placed here to serve and love?

I hope you will each give time and thought to these questions as we enter a period of discernment for our church's on-going and future ministry: a “Holy Conversation”. God isn't finished with us yet!

*Pastor Hay*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS, REMINDERS, COMMUNITY EVENTS, DATES, ETC.**

**SUNDAY MORNING**

**WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30 / SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:45**

**OFFICE HOURS FOR PASTORAL AVAILABILITY: Tuesdays 1:00—3:00pm,  
Wednesdays and Thursdays 10:00am—noon, or by appointment.**

**Regular Church Office Hours  
9:00am—3:00pm Mon—Fri**

**Phone: 218-751-3503**

**FOR AFTER HOURS  
AND EMERGENCIES:**

**Rev. Gay Albers—766-7352**

If you wish for a pastoral home visit or hospital visit, or know someone who needs or desires a visit, please call the church office.

**JUST A REMINDER....**

Articles for the June 2013 newsletter are due in the office no later than 8:00am on Friday, May 24, 2012.

Any announcements you wish to have in the Sunday bulletin must be called in, emailed, or delivered to the office by noon on Thursdays.

**THANK YOU!**



*Thank you to everyone who has generously supported the organ renovation. If you have questions about the project or still wish to contribute by May 1st, please contact Terry Bradley at 751-6790.*

**Email Addresses:** Church Office, Charity: [umcbji@paulbunyan.net](mailto:umcbji@paulbunyan.net)

Pastor Gay: [galbers@paulbunyan.net](mailto:galbers@paulbunyan.net)

Krista Coyle: [kcoyle@paulbunyan.net](mailto:kcoyle@paulbunyan.net)

**Mailing Address:** PO Box 607, Bemidji, MN 56619

**Street Address:** 924 Beltrami Avenue, Bemidji MN 56601

# MAY 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 9:00 Adult Forum 10:30 Worship Service 10:45 Sunday School 3-4 Youth Choir 4:00 Confirmation Meeting	29 5:00 UMMHC family dinner	30 11:00 Staff Mtg Noon and 5:30 Yoga 5:30 AA 6:30 Square Dance Lessons	1 10:00 ROMEOS at Sanford Health 3:00 Bible Study 6:00 Visioning Meeting 6:30 Youth Group 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	2 5:00 Soup Kitchen	3 Noon Peace Prayer Group 6:30-8:00 Lotus Zen Meditation	4 9:30 Yoga
5 COMMUNION SUNDAY FOOD SHELF SUNDAY 9:00 Adult Forum 10:30 Worship Service 2:00 Square Dance	6 5:00 UMMHC family dinner	7 11:00 Staff Mtg Noon and 5:30 Yoga 5:30 AA 6:00 Faith and Fellowship 6:30 Square Dance Lessons	8 10:00 ROMEOS at Sanford Health 3:30 Bible Study 6:30 Youth Group 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	9 5:00 Soup Kitchen 6:30 SPRC Meeting	10 6:30-8:00 Lotus Zen Meditation	11 9:30 Yoga 10:00 Prayer Shawl Mtg
12 MOTHER'S DAY 9:00 Adult Forum 10:30 Worship Service 10:45 Sunday School 11:45 Mother's Day Brunch 3-4 Youth Choir Practice	13 5:00 UMMHC family dinner 6:00 Relay For Life Team Captain Meeting 7:00 Relay For Life Committee Meeting	14 11:00 Staff Mtg Noon and 5:30 Yoga 5:30 AA 6:30 Square Dance Lessons 6:30 Trustees Meeting	15 9:15 BMW 10:00 ROMEOS at Sanford Health 3:00 Bible Study 6:30 Youth Group 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	16 5:00 Soup Kitchen 6:30 Church Council Mtg	17 6:30-8:00 Lotus Zen Meditation	18 9:00 All Church clean up day 9:30 Yoga
19 PENTECOST SUNDAY GRADUATION AND SUNDAY SCHOOL RECOGNITION 9:00 Adult Forum 10:30 Worship Service 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Potluck Picnic 2:00 Square Dance 3:00 Bemidji Youth Orchestra	20	21 11:00 Staff Mtg Noon and 5:30 Yoga 5:30 AA 6:30 Square Dance Lessons	22 10:00 ROMEOS at Sanford Health 3:00 Bible Study 6:30 Youth Group 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	23 5:00 Soup Kitchen 5:00 Stamp- ing Group 6:30 Finance Meeting	24 6:30-8:00 Lotus Zen Meditation  <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	25 9:30 Yoga
26 9:00 Adult Forum 10:30 Worship Service 3-4 Youth Choir Practice	27 Memorial Day OFFICE CLOSED	28 11:00 Staff Mtg Noon and 5:30 Yoga 5:30 AA 6:30 Square Dance Lessons	29 10:00 ROMEOS at Sanford Health 3:00 Bible Study	30 5:00 BMW doing Soup Kitchen	31 6:30-8:00 Lotus Zen Meditation 7:00 Square Dance	1 9:30 Yoga

## Worship Service Volunteers May 2013

If you cannot fulfill your Sunday of volunteering please find a replacement and let the church office (751-3503) know who your replacement is.

### USHERS and GREETERS

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>May 5</u> Victor Mosser and Sandra Kranz</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>May 12</u> Jerry Pickett and Bunny Howe</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>May 19</u> Vince and Betty Freborg</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>May 26</u> Merril Thiel and Ruth Howe</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>May 5</u> George and Pam Stowe</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>May 12</u> Mark, Peggy, and Sarah Schultz</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>May 19</u> Jim and Ginger Tibbetts</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>May 26</u> Marion Janikowski</p>
---	--

*Usher and Greeter Coordinator: Michelle Crow*

### COMMUNION STEWARDS: *Volunteers Needed*

READERS	COFFEE SERVERS	NURSERY
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>May 5</u> Nancy Manley</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>May 12</u> Hope Sander</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>May 19</u> Michelle Crow</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>May 26</u> Tony Nicholson</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Reader Coordinator Becky Lueben</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>May 5</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>May 12</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>May 19</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>May 26</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Coffee Servers from choir Coordinator Skippy Larson</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>May 5</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>May 12</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>May 19</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>May 26</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Nursery Coordinator Dacia Dauner</i></p>

# MAY BIRTHDAYS

Please celebrate and pray for these people on their birthday.

# MAY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

3 Donald Hays  
Barbara Walters

4 Lorna Sullivan  
Larry Young

5 Marie Kastella

6 Kurt Kastella

9 Alec Hess

10 Hope Sander

12 Thomas D'Albani  
Terry Nelson

14 Richard Parkos

16 Glenn Seibel

17 Emerée Conner

18 Stephanie Jones  
Del Lyren

19 Keston Lee

21 William Knudson  
Joel Roberts

22 Kendall Dahlberg  
Ervin Jacobson  
Jean Leaf

24 Verona  
Haluptzok  
Charlie Jessen

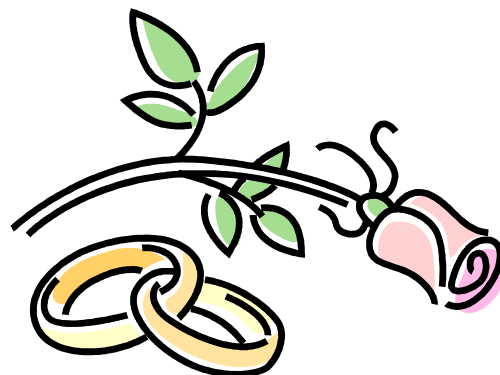
25 Margaret Skinner

26 Doris Pierce

28 Stacie Parkos

29 Darren Kimble  
Sherry Noska

31 Riley Howe



May 5  
Bill and Ruth Weis

May 19  
Terry and Patricia DeChaine

May 26  
Mike and Tricia Jessen



If your birthday or anniversary or the birthday or anniversary of a parishioner is missed here, please call Charity at the office so it will be included in the Sunday bulletin and future Voyagers.

## BEMIDJI METHODIST WOMEN

The Bemidji Methodist Women (BMW) will meet at 9:15am on Wednesday, May 15, 2013 in the church lounge. Refreshments will be served.

Program: Bemidji Public Library and the Red Door Book Store

Speaker: Barbara Johnston

Old Business—BMW Sunday service on April 14th

New business—Soup Kitchen May 30th and summer activities

Devotions: Lo Sorensen

Meeting: President, Verna Lofberg, will conduct a short meeting

Hostesses: Sue Cuperus and Lo Sorensen.



A big thanks to all our members for the excellent job they did on BMW Sunday. Thanks also to Linda Wagner and the choir and to Kari Knudson for doing the children's sermon. Congratulations to our Special Mission recipients, Vince Freborg and Lorne and Verna Lofberg. Good job everyone.

This will be our last meeting until September.

COME AND JOIN US ON THE 15TH!

## REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THOSE . . .

- ... at **Neilson Place**: Henrietta Britton, Trudy Ditty
- ... at **Trillium**: Nelle May, Marjory Beck
- ... at **Windsong**: Margaret Skinner, Bill Britton, Will and Jean Leaf, Verona Haluptzok, Wag and Alice Collins, Eunice Flynn, Marian Blehm
- ... at **Birch Haven**: Lois Statton
- ... at **Havenwood Care Center**: Patty Boyer, Ruth Blackburn
- ... at **Goldpine #4**: Laura Hays, Dorothy Sathre, Harold Fruetel
- ... at **Eagle's View Foster Home**: Robert Ray
- ... in nursing care in **Staples**: Betty Roline (Marcia's mother in law)
- ... undergoing cancer treatment: Chris Shomenta, Robert Smith, Sandra Herath
- ... recovering at home: Neil Bryant, Danny Stowe, Mary Hoody, Hedi Deeter
- ... in rehab: Kris Gebhard, son of Rev. Duane & Jennifer Gebhard, following a biking accident
- ... engaged in Missionary work: BUMC members Tessa Comstock and Marie Kastella.



From the district prayer list; please remember the following churches and pastors in your prayers:

May 1-7: Pengilly; Ruth Gangloff

May 8-14: Pepperton; Bob Cin

May 15-21: Grace Pequot Lakes

May 22-28: Perham; Rob Pesola Jr.

May 29-June 4: Pine River; Larry Hager



# Youth & Family News

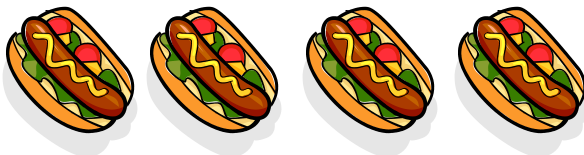
**May 2013**

## We Want Your JUNK!

Youth Group is hosting Holy Heaps again this year in the BUMC Parking lot on Saturday, June 15. With your help, it will be our best fundraiser of the year. If you have ANY "stuff" you want to get rid of, please consider donating it to the Youth Group. We will sell it at our booth during the Holy Heaps sale. Another way to participate is to rent a booth space to sell your own goods at the sale - booth rental is

\$20, but we do all the advertising and provide tables and water to all booth-renting BUMC participants. If that sounds like too much work, feel free to come and shop at the sale, and pick up a delicious home-made Youth Group caramel roll to snack on while you browse through all the potential treasures. After all, one man's junk is another man's treasure. You may donate items for Youth Group to sell ANY

TIME between now and the sale - Krista already has a discreet storage space set aside. Please contact Krista with other questions. Thanks for supporting BUMC Youth.



## Sunday School Picnic & Summer Plan

The Sunday School year is coming to an end. The last day of SS will be May 12. On Sunday, May 19, we will celebrate our SS teachers and students, and will also honor our High School Graduates at our annual Sunday School

Picnic after worship. We will provide hot dogs, buns, and fixings, and you may bring a festive side dish to share. All of our church family and friends are invited to be part of the picnic. We will NOT be having any kind of Summer Sunday

School - but we will have the basement nursery/daycare area available to families who want to bring kids of any age down for a break from church. SS will resume on Rally Day, which is scheduled for September 8.

### TAKE NOTE:

May 1

Visioning Meeting @ 7pm in Lounge - YG is attending this mtg

May 12

Mother's Day Brunch @ 11:30am in Lounge

May 18

Church cleanup day @ 9am in Lounge

May 19

Sunday School Picnic & Graduate Gala @ 11:30am outside

June 2

YAEC Meeting @ 11:30am in Chapel

June 5

Last Wed night Youth Group of the year @ 6:30pm in Upper Room

June 15

Holy Heaps @ 8am in BUMC parking lot



# Supporting Faith & Spiritual Growth in Families

We are working hard and making strides to make BUMC as family-friendly as we can. One aspect of this is finding ways to empower and support families as they grow together in faith, as adults teach kids important spiritual lessons, and as we all have deeper and more meaningful conversations about what it means to live out our faith today.

Starting April 28, Pastor Gay will place a new item in each Sunday's bulletin - "Faith Talks for Families." Each week will feature conversation starters for families to use as tools to work with their kids on themes we discuss during worship or based on the lectionary for that week. We would also love to hear other ways we can support your family's faith journey.



## Join us for a Brunch Honoring all Mothers!

Youth Group is hosting a Mother's Day Brunch after worship on May 12. We'll serve a scrumptious, elegant brunch that you can enjoy with your mom or in honor of your mom. Either way, we are celebrating our wonderful moms! A free-will offering will be taken to help defray food costs.

## VBS Scheduled, Seeking Volunteers



Vacation Bible School is set for July 15, 16, and 17. It will be held in the evenings, from 5 - 7:30pm, at the First Presbyterian Church. We are seeking at least 6 adult and 4 youth volunteers from BUMC to help make VBS happen. We need people willing to cook and serve meals, run the registration table on opening night, and willing to lead one station, where they will

teach the same lesson to groups who will rotate into each learning station. All curriculum is provided, but volunteers get to choose the activities they would like to do with their groups from multiple options available through the curriculum. If you are able to help with VBS in ANY WAY, please contact Krista at 751-3503 or at [kcoyle@paulbunyan.net](mailto:kcoyle@paulbunyan.net)



## May 24, 2013—A Special Date for Recollection and Reflection

Two hundred seventy-five years ago (1738) on May 24, John Wesley had a “heart warming” religious experience at a small Moravian meeting in Aldersgate Street, London, which changed the trajectory of his ministry—initiating what became the Methodist Movement (now spanning the entire globe, with over 76 million members in 138 countries).

One hundred fifteen years ago (1898) also on May 24, the first Methodist sermon was preached in Bemidji, Minnesota, evolving into the present day Bemidji United Methodist Church—a latter day manifestation of the Methodist Movement.

Wesley’s passion was to reach those most in need of hope, so he took to preaching wherever and whenever he could reach the masses—whether at the mine heads (at 5am), in the public square or open fields (even from his father’s grave stone when the Epworth parish church was closed to him). His concern for the poor led him to open free medical dispensaries, homes for orphans and widows, establish lending societies, and fight the slave trade.

It was serious business to be identified as a Methodist. There were riots instigated by those opposed to Wesley’s ministry and some followers were martyred!

Wesley gathered those who wished his spiritual guidance into small groups of a dozen or so members to meet weekly with an appointed leader for prayer, Bible study, and to inquire as to how each prospered spiritually (ie. to rebuke and /or encourage as indicated). To join, one needed only “to repent of his/her sins and wish to flee from the wrath to come.” To continue as a member, one was expected to follow the “Rules of the Society of the People called Methodists,” namely:

1. Do no harm.
2. Do good.
3. Stay in love with God (ie. Pray, read the scripture, attend the services of the church, commune regularly and perform other acts of devotion not unlike Jesus’ “Great Commandment” to love God and Neighbor).

As a congregation we will be observing a special “Wesley Day” event later in the year with fun, food, fellowship, and worship. We will also celebrate our local church’s one hundred fifteenth anniversary in November.

However, what better time than May 24, 2013 can we, as individuals, take the “Rules of the Society of the People called Methodist” seriously and deliberately concentrate on making them a more vital part of our lives? That would really make May 24, 2013 a special date for each of us!



## JOIN US FOR THE ALL CHURCH CLEAN UP DAY!

May 18th the board of Trustees need your help. After this long winter we need to clean up around the church. So, bring your rakes and cleaning supplies and we will have tasks inside and out that need to be done. We plan on starting at 9:00am. Hope to see you there!



*The Memorial Committee commissioned Mike Albrecht to custom build the two cabinets, the magazine rack, and the bulletin board which are located in the narthex. Thank you Mike for the beautiful pieces you designed and constructed.*

*Memorial Committee*

“Welcoming the Stranger as Jesus”

## VOLUNTEERS

Churches United asks each member church to provide at least one volunteer to work a minimum of 4 hours per month. First Presbyterian provides three! Ginny MacKinnon and Kathy Paulson, work each Thursday of the month and Cheryl Hiltz, Board Treasurer, works every Monday.

If your church does not have a volunteer please seek one out to commit to working at least one day a month. Not only does the volunteer assist in office duties and helping our clients, but can provide a birds-eye view into what we do to share with your congregation.

Tasks are easy and we allow the volunteer to help in the roles they feel most comfortable in. Some like data-entry, some filing, some interviewing the clients or sorting clothes and house-hold items.

We ask that the volunteer be able to work with other volunteers and complete the necessary office procedures and to demonstrate good communication skills. They should be able to relate to a wide variety of people of different ages, education levels, temperaments, races, and back-grounds.

We seek their active involvement by making recommendations for changes and improvements to policies, procedures, forms and other materials to be used by Churches United. This helps Churches United to work cooperatively with representatives of Social Service organizations, local businesses, churches and government agencies to promote a good working relationship between Churches United and our community.

After crunching through the Sunday, April 14th snow storm, Meals on Wheels were delivered by Jack and Sharon Israelson, Red Wilson, Vince Freborg, Merrill Thiel and Ruth Howe, Victor Mosser, Jerry Pickett, Gale Brooks, Aletta Anderson, John Holmstrom, and Tony Nicholson. Thank you all!

**A MESSAGE FROM KATHRYN**

**LARSEN**, daughter of Evan Hazard: Sometime during the last two weeks of May, Kathryn will be traveling, with her dog, to Bemidji to visit Evan. She is seeking dog-friendly accommodations – a camper, spare room, etc.—for herself and her friendly dog! If you or someone you know might be able to help them out, please call Kathryn at 847-340-9139. Thanks!



**A MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR NICK MATT** will be held over Memorial Day Weekend at the Matt's home church, Wesley UMC in Grand Forks. The service will be Sunday afternoon, May 26, 2013 (time to be announced). Be's mailing address is:

2132 Springwagon Ln.

O'Fallon, MN 63368

She can also be reached at (218)243-2235.

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION** is coming up May 29-31. Please hold in prayer the folks from our congregation who are going: Pastor Gay, Molly Miron, Melanie Hough, Tyler Hough, Elizabeth Bellefy, and Krista Coyle.

**SERVING IN CHRIST'S NAME** Thank you to George Stowe who has agreed to be the Chair of the Soup Kitchen Board!!! We need volunteers from the church who will "on-site liaisons" on Thursday evenings during the meal. Could this be a ministry for you? Please prayerfully consider being present to share a meal and to offer hospitality (and coordination!) on the part of our church, perhaps once a month. Call Pastor Gay with questions.

BEMIDJI UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH

924 Beltrami Ave  
PO Box 607  
Bemidji, MN 56619-0607

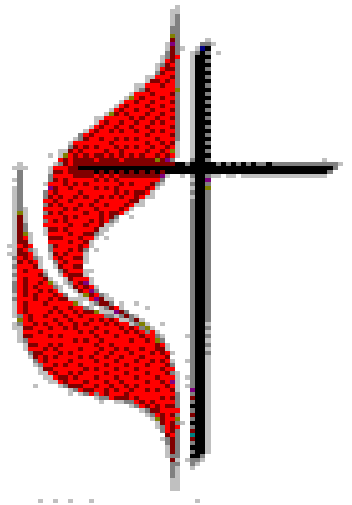
Office number: (218) 751-3503  
Email: [umcbji@paulbunyan.net](mailto:umcbji@paulbunyan.net)  
Web Site: [www.bemidjumc.com](http://www.bemidjumc.com)

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit Number 8  
Bemidji MN 56601

Return Service Requested

MAY 2013 VOYAGEUR  
Published Monthly

open hearts  
open minds  
open doors



The people of the United Methodist Church

Church Staff

Gay Albers  
*Pastor*

Krista Coyle  
*Ministries Coordinator*

Charity Yoder-Smith  
*Secretary/Bookkeeper*

Perry Schack  
*Caretaker/Custodian*

Patty Smith  
*Housekeeping*

Cynthia White  
*Organist*

Linda Wagner  
*Chancel Choir Director*

Virginia Youngdahl  
*Parish Nurse*