



VOYAGEUR

FEBRUARY 2015

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Church Family,

I spoke with our District Superintendent, Pastor Mark Miller last week. I have resigned and asked for a leave of absence to better care for myself and my depression as well as for my family. SO—Sunday, January 25th was my last Sunday with you.

The last week of January will be my last in the office. When I say “leave of absence”, it means that I will not be returning as your pastor. Pastor Miller will be working closely with the leadership of this church to identify the right pastor to come here next .

Even though this past year has been difficult and painful for me in some ways, I need to tell you I feel blessed and privileged to have been in ministry with you. I am grateful for the work we have done together and for the love you have shared with me and Greg and our precious boys.

I know that you will remember me—us!—in your prayers, so I thank you in advance for that. I have one thing to ask of you: that you will commit yourselves to begin now in praying for the person that God has prepared and will provide to lead this congregation forward. Please pray, too, that this congregation will be READY, that everything that is not of Christ will be set aside for the sake of this church's ministry and faithful witness.

Just a few words to update Congregation on what the Trustees group is doing. As of January we have three new members added to our committee. Dave Dahlberg whom most all of you know. Jeff Anderson and Roy Miller have also volunteered to help us out. They are both new to our Congregation in the past year. For 2015 Mike Albrecht and Seth Knudson are co-chairs and Jeff Anderson is Secretary. We have a very enthusiastic group that is willing to help when needed. I want to thank all of the current Trustees for their help with the decisions to keep our facility operating in the best possible manner regarding maintenance and building use.

I would like to extend a big thank you to Vic Mosser and Bill Pirkl for their hard work over the last three years which ended on 12/31/14. Vic was the Chair for the past 2 years and was very instrumental in accomplishing a lot of needed upgrades. Bill Pirkl helped out whenever asked and was always cheerful to work with.

For 2015 we do not have any major projects that need to be done, at least not that we are aware of now. With the tight budget we will have for 2015, we are working to try and lower utility bills and reduce our carbon footprint. We are taking part in what is an organization called Cool Congregations. It is a faith based group that the Minnesota Conference has endorsed and challenged all congregations to be a part of. UMC Bemidji's facility is very heavy on the energy side. To try and reduce usage you may have noticed that it is a little cooler in the building. I have turned down all the thermostats a few degrees to conserve energy. In February we will be installing programmable thermostats and set them to adjust the temperature based on room usage. For cooling in the summer, the air conditioning will be put on Ripple and will be turned off for short periods of time when there are peak load conditions. We will also be adding a couple handicap parking spots next summer when they can be properly marked. There are two existing spots that need new signs and will be replaced soon.

Mike Albrecht, Seth Knudson, Co-Chairs Board of Trustees.

BEMIDJI UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE
January 11, 2015

Convened with a responsive welcome led by Pastor Gay Albers at 11:50 AM. Lay Leader Randy Burg led an opening prayer, followed by Pastor Albers' reading from Scripture.

Randy chaired the action items section of the agenda as follows:

Reviewed the list of lay leadership. Added Chair Judy Magness under the SPRC listing, opened the floor for nominations. Judy expressed willingness to also serve as our Hamline representative. Vic Mosser moved to elect those nominated in the document; Ruth Howe seconded. Mike Albrecht noted that, although not listed on one of the forms, Roy Miller is willing to serve on the Board of Trustees. Judy Magness corrected two of the class listings for SPRC - Molly Miron's class should be 2017, and Marcia Roline's 2016 (both shown in the class of 2015). Molly should also be listed as our Servants of Shelter (SOS) liaison. Question called, unanimous approval of the motion.

Pastor Gay reviewed the non-responsives report. No one is on the second-year list to be recommended for removal, five names on the first-year list. Membership encouraged to be in touch with those five, let them know they are missed and find out what their feelings are regarding church membership. Doug Miron moved to accept the report; seconded by John Robinson. Question called, unanimous approval of the motion.

Dana Danielson (Chair, Finance) reviewed the budget report. Anticipated total income for 2015 \$216,103; total anticipated expenses \$244,532. Shortfall of \$28,429 results, much of this amount represents our apportionment line item. Evan Hazard move to accept the 2015 budget; Sandra Kranz seconded. Kari Knudson asked if the apportionment amnesty program (if apportionments met for 3 years, all remaining unpaid are forgiven) was still in use by Annual Conference. Doubtful, as the cushion which allowed for that program no longer exists, since apportionments were re-calculated with reductions. Further discussion included the per capita amount (\$96.70), how apportionment dollars are used by the Conference, what reserves are available should we choose to utilize them to meet projected shortfall, and clarification of fund integrity (dollars pledged specifically for Building Fund campaigns cannot be used for other areas). Question - if we spend down our reserves now, how do we finance the future? It was pointed out that our Sunday School numbers are significantly lower this year, so what is our future as a church? The big question is not about dollars, it's about ministry. At the end of discussions, Doug Miron reiterated a motion to approve the 2015 budget; seconded by Kari Knudson. A leap of faith, as it were. Question called, unanimous approval of the motion.

Pastor Gay briefly outlined the Healthy Church Initiative

Vic Mosser highlighted the Trustees report, reaffirmed that a sufficient balance remains in the Building Fund to deal with issues that may arise in the coming year.

SPRC issues: Housekeeping/custodial tasks (interior and exterior) are not consistently being completed appropriately. SPRC will be looking at the secretarial/bookkeeping job description and functions, as our current staffer will be moving in 2015.

Reports from Missions (Molly Miron) and Membership (Randy Burg) were highlighted and discussed briefly. Again, concerns regarding attendance were discussed.

Pastor Gay led a responsive benediction, following which the Church Conference was adjourned at 1:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Lueben, Church Council Secretary

ATTENDING: SanDee Danes & Chris Kreiner, Dave & Angie Dahlberg, Betty & Gail Brooks, Seth, Kari, William & Annika* Knudson, Marcia Roline, Terry Bradley, Ken & Deanna Nichols, Dave, Dana & Carson Danielson, John Herath, Molly & Doug Miron, Teresa Thomas, Lorne & Verna Lofberg, Mike & Rita Albrecht, Ruth Howe & Merrill Thiel, John Robinson, Randy Burg, Vic Mosser & Sandra Kranz, David & Nancy Holles, Judy Magness, Dorothy Larson, Linda Wagner, Evan Hazard, George Stowe, Tony & Carla Nicholson, and Helen LeClaire.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, REMINDERS, COMMUNITY EVENTS, DATES, ETC.

**Church Office winter hours
9:00am—3:00pm Mon—Fri**

Phone: 218-751-3503

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 March 2015 newsletter are due in the office no later than **9:00am on Tuesday, February 17, 2015.**

Any announcements you wish to have in the Sunday bulletin must be called in, emailed, or delivered to the office by **9:00am on Thursdays.**

THANK YOU!



BMW Sunday The Bemidji Methodist Women are working on a wonderful worship service for February 8. Carole Rieke will bring us the morning message. There will be special music along with our choir. There is always a bit of surprise to see who has been chosen for the Service Awards, but there will be a very special surprise this year. The ladies appreciate your support in the past and thank you for your continued support.

Save the date! Bishop Ough will be visting our district on February 28 and March 1.

All laity and clergy are invited to meet with him and hear his inspiring message to our district. He will be at Grand Rapids UMC on Saturday, February 28th at 1 pm, and at Alexandria UMC on Sunday March 1st at 3pm.

Charity will be out of the office February 20–March 6. Krista and volunteers will be covering the office in her absence.

Email Addresses: Church Office, Charity: umcbji@paulbunyan.net
Krista Coyle: kcoyle@paulbunyan.net

Mailing Address: PO Box 607, Bemidji, MN 56619

Street Address: 924 Beltrami Avenue NW, Bemidji MN 56601

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Please celebrate and pray for these people on their birthday.

3 Dawn Cullifer
Jenny Frenzel

4 Henry Bellefy
Beverly Leet

5 Karren Clark
Sharon Israelson

8 Maury Sullivan

9 Wag Collins
Jan Lohstreter

10 Rita Albrecht
Claire Coyle
Sharon Ruberg

12 Marjory Beck
Terry Bradley
Angie Dahlberg

14 Ian Hess

15 Bernice Matt
Barb Pommerening
Bruno Porro

16 John Herath

17 Velma Wesloh

18 Betty Brooks
Bev Bryant

19 William Bruers
Daniel Roberts

23 Lee Ann Hess
Verna Lofberg
Becky Lueben

25 Justin St. Pierre

27 Kennedy Frenzel
Weezie Johnson

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.

FEBRUARY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 COMMUNION SUNDAY FOOD SHELF SUNDAY 9:15 Adult Forum 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Youth Chili Feed	2 6:00 Exercise Class	3 Noon and 5:30 Yoga 5:30 AA 6:00 Voyageurs Harmony Chorus Practice 6:30 Faith and Fellowship	4 10:00 ROMEOs at Sanford Health 6:30 Youth Group 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	5 5:00 Soup Kitchen 5:00 Lotus Zen Meditation	6 6:00 Exercise Class 7:30 Square Dance	7 9:30 Yoga
8 BMW Sunday 9:15 Adult Forum 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Youth Caramel Rolls	9 6:00 Exercise Class	10 1:00 Staff Mtg Noon and 5:30 Yoga 3:00 Girl Scouts 5:30 AA 6:00 Voyageurs Harmony Chorus Practice 6:00 Boy Scouts 6:30 Trustees Meeting	11 10:00 ROMEOs at Sanford Health 6:30 Youth Group 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	12 5:00 Soup Kitchen 5:00 Lotus Zen Meditation 6:00 Exercise Class	13	14 9:30 Yoga 10:00 Prayer Shawl Meeting 5:30 Adult Game Night
15 9:15 Adult Forum 10:30 Worship Service	16 6:00 Exercise Class	17 1:00 Staff Mtg Noon and 5:30 Yoga Noon Coat of Many Colors Meeting 3:00 Girl Scouts 5:30 AA 6:00 Voyageurs Harmony Chorus Practice 6:30 Trustees Meeting	18 9:15 BMW 10:00 ROMEOs at Sanford Health 6:30 Youth Group 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	19 5:00 Soup Kitchen 5:00 Lotus Zen Meditation 6:00 Exercise Class	20 7:30 Square Dance	21 9:30 Yoga
22 9:15 Adult Forum 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Youth Caramel Rolls 2:00 Square Dance	23	24 1:00 Staff Mtg Noon and 5:30 Yoga 3:00 Girl Scouts 5:30 AA 6:00 Voyageurs Harmony Chorus Practice 7:00 Square Dance Lessons	25 10:00 ROMEOs at Sanford Health 6:30 Youth Group 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	26 5:00 Soup Kitchen 5:00 Lotus Zen Meditation 5:00 Stamping Group	27	28 9:30 Yoga

Worship Service Volunteers February 2015

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	<i>Coordinator: Michelle Crow</i>	GREETERS
February 1: <i>Jeff Anderson and Michelle Crow</i>		February 1: <i>Finnegan family</i>
February 8: <i>Ruth Howe and Sharon Israelson</i>		February 8: <i>Helen LeClaire and Deanna Nichols</i>
February 15: <i>Charlene Anderson and Marcia Roline</i>		February 15: <i>Tony and Carla Nicholson</i>
February 22: <i>Kristi Norland and Caitlin Pickett</i>		February 22: <i>Kristy Whitson and James Banks</i>
READERS:	<i>Coordinator Becky Lueben</i>	COFFEE SERVERS:
		<i>Coordinator Skippy Larson</i>
February 1: <i>Linda Wagner</i>		February 1: <i>Lorne and Verna Lofberg</i>
February 8: <i>Judy Dvorak</i>		February 8: <i>Ginger Tibbetts and De Pickett</i>
February 15: <i>Molly Miron</i>		February 15: <i>Jan Miller and Nancy Holles</i>
February 22: <i>Judy Comstock Magness</i>		February 22: <i>Ken and Deanna Nichols</i>

ATTENTION ALL METHODIST WOMEN

THE BEMIDJI METHODIST WOMEN will meet in the church lounge on February 18, 2015 at 9:15 A.M. Refreshments will be served.

Hostesses: Verna Lofberg and Sandy Sterr

PROGRAM: "Off the Wall" with Jean Slinkman, coordinator . Everyone bring something to share: an item with a meaning or special story.

DEVOTIONS: Carol Rieke

MEETING: President Verna Lofberg will conduct a short meeting.

Old Business: Nuts, BMW Sunday, and Coffee Servers for February

New Business: Sunshine, Pledges, Special Missions, and World Day of Prayer; Friday, March 6

COME AND JOIN US FOR A FUN TIME!



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THOSE. . .

... recovering **from surgery**: Doug Miron, Doris Pierce, Jean Slinkman, Kristi St. Pierre

... at **Neilson Place**: Henrietta Britton, Trudy Ditty

... at **Trillium**: Nelle May, Marjory Beck

... at **Windsong**: Bill Britton, Jean Leaf, Verona Haluptzok, Wag and Alice Collins, Eunice Flynn, Marian Blehm, Lucille Kinnard, Dick and Jean Slinkman, Marion Janikowski

... at **Birch Haven**: Doris Pierce

... at **Tamarack**: Betty Howard

... at **Havenwood Care Center**: Patty Boyer, Mary Conner, Grace Daniels, Joyce Daniel, Lois Statton

... at **Cedar Cottage**: Dorothea Metzger

... at **Goldpine #4**: Laura Hays, Dorothy Sathre, Harold Fruetel

... at **Eagle's View**: Robert Ray

... in nursing care in **Staples**: Betty Roline (*Marcia's mother in law*)

... recovering at **home**: Kathleen Magsam, Jim Howard, Erin Jacobsom

... at rehab in **Rochester**: Barbara Geving

...anticipating **surgery**: Lorna Sullivan

... undergoing **cancer treatment**: Chris Shomenta, Kelly Fuhrman, Anita Sundstrom (*sister of Jennifer Jorstad*), Mary Hoody, Sharon Vick, Nancy Larson, Xavier (16 year old), Homer Hough

... in need of **special prayers**: Monique Krotzer, Danny Stowe, Gracie Albrecht, Gail Sorenson's family, Will Whitson, Alice Stevenson, Kim (*Kyle Baldeshwiler's mom*), Nancy Swenson.



United Methodist Church Bemidji, MN

We now offer electronic giving!

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Easy to set up!

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Please visit www.bemidjiumc.com
to register your account!

If you need help registering your account,
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BEMIDJI UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

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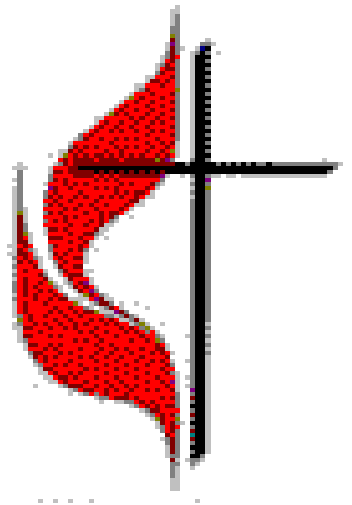
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Return Service Requested

FEBRUARY 2015 VOYAGEUR
Published Monthly

open hearts
open minds
open doors



The people of the United Methodist Church

Church Staff

Krista Coyle
Ministries Coordinator

Charity Yoder-Smith
Secretary/Bookkeeper

Dave Vick
Custodian

Patty Smith
Housekeeping

Cynthia White
Organist

Linda Wagner
Chancel Choir Director

Virginia Youngdahl
Parish Nurse