

THE PORTLIGHT

A newsletter for members and friends of Portland Avenue United Methodist Church



Children, Youth & Family Ministries

Garage & Bake Sale

April 8 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
April 9 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

You can help to make this annual fundraiser a success! Bring in your household items, clothing and toys that are still in good condition. Donations will be accepted here at The PORT April 5, 6 and 7 during office hours (9:00 am -3:00 pm). Bring bake sale donations on Thursday, April 7. Help is needed with set-up, pricing, working during the sale and clean-up.

Need more information? Contact:

Beth Cameron 612-558-4974 beth.cameron@hines.com
Janene Haugen 952-997-7512 janenehaugen@charter.net

April 2016

Our Mission

"To grow followers of Jesus who change the world."

Our Vision

"To be a safe harbor along life's journey."

The **PORT**
A safe harbor along life's journey.

2016 Garage & Bake Sale

Pastor's Message *Rev. Carol Zaagsma*

Spring is my favorite season, and I'm finding myself particularly excited about its arrival this year...not because it marks the end of another long winter...and certainly not because I'm anxious to get out there to pull dandelions! This year's excitement stems from an experiment last year with a vegetable garden.

Last year marked the addition of one of those above-ground garden boxes, along with two big planters to my back yard. Quite a few bunnies like to romp in my yard, so I knew I needed to grow things they like to eat out of their reach. I planted cucumbers, beans, peas and a pepper plant in the garden box, while the big planters each received tomato plants.

I can't say my garden was all that successful. It worked out well in that the rabbits did not eat the plants; but the truth is that my 2015 garden didn't really yield much to eat. I'm hoping for better things this year, and am anxious to get started! I'm also looking forward to another summer Farmer's Market here at The PORT, where all of us gardeners can share our harvest.

References to gardening are commonplace in the bible. Isaiah writes, "...you will be like a watered garden, like a flowing spring whose waters never run dry." (Isaiah 58:11) Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower...Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit." (John 15:1-2)

Gardening is also a common metaphor for one's spiritual journey. Wayne Muller, in his book *How, Then, Shall We Live?*, encourages us to move beyond the preparatory part of gardening...to move beyond the tilling of the soil and the removal of rocks, and to plant what

we love in the garden of our lives...to plant seeds that, when we harvest them, will bring us great joy and provide us with delight.

It has always struck me that Mary, when weeping outside the open tomb on Easter morning, supposed Jesus to be the gardener. And this stirs my imagination. I begin to imagine the excitement of Jesus in the planting of seeds in the Kingdom of God...the anticipation of Jesus in the waiting for the ground to thaw and the germination period to pass, making way for new growth to poke up through the soil of the Kingdom of God...and the joy and delight of Jesus in seeing those in the Kingdom of God grow to their full height and potential.

As the celebration of Easter continues in the coming weeks, may we nurture the seeds planted deep within, encourage the growth that comes with the passing of the seasons, and remain open to the transformation that comes when we invite Jesus as gardener of our lives.

Growing with you,

Pastor Carol



New Member Orientation

Membership Orientation April 20 (7 pm)

Have you been visiting The PORT for a while and wonder what membership is all about? If so, come to membership orientation on Wednesday, April 20, from 7:00 - 8:00 pm.

We will talk about the United Methodist denomination and about the specific ministries here at The PORT.

If you're interested in learning more, even if you choose not to join right now, then come to meet with others who are also exploring. RSVP in the office or with Pastor Carol at (952) 888-6070 or carol.zaagsma@paumc.org.

April 2016



April Youth Activities

April 2 - 7:00 pm - Spring Lock-In @ Hillcrest UMC

April 24 - 6:30 - 8:00 pm @ Hillcrest UMC

Youth Spring Plant Sale

- April 3 Jeremiah & Rylie
- April 10 Emma & Luke
- April 17 Katelyn & Carl
- April 24 Oliver & Janea



It's time to start planning your garden! Order forms are available for the Youth Spring Plant sale until **April 24**. Pick one up today in the narthex. You can see the directory of annuals, perennials, patio pots, hanging baskets, vegetables and herbs at www.pahls.com. Plants will be delivered on **May 7** at PAUMC.

Buying plants is a great way to help provide a meaningful summer camp experience for our youth, as proceeds go directly for scholarships.



April Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	April 3	April 10	April 17	April 24
Coffee & Treats	Laurette Lawson	Kathy Soucy	The Hansons	Carol Cox
Greeters	Marilyn Anderson	Jonathan & Katherine Minks	Jocelyne & Josiah Medzagoh	Mike & Lori Moreland
Ushers	Bruce Benson, Beth Cameron, Myron & Ginny Karki	Guy Moore, Bob Deese, Steve & Kathy Soucy	Guy Moore, Scott Rice, Dave & Linda Schesso	Guy Moore, Pat Ekstrom, Myron & Ginny Karki
Welcomers	Marilyn Anderson	Carol Emdy	Claire & John Perry	Neil Anderson
Reader	Steve Soucy	Scott Rice	Neil Anderson	Tim Hagerty
Sound	Eric Richardson-Mahre	Dave Smith	Tim Madsen	Eric Richardson-Mahre
Media	Tim Madsen	Dave Smith	Dave Smith	Barb Andrus
Nursery	Mary Lou Johnson	Janet Rush	Denise Carroll	Linda Lounsbury
Closer	Barb Deese	Steve Knopp	Paul Richardson	Tom Wellman
Communion Stewards	John & Claire Perry	<p>Want to serve on Sunday mornings? Let the office know and we'll put you in touch with the appropriate coordinator</p>		
Communion Servers	Steve & Kathy Soucy, Mary Nelson, Verne Witt			



Daniel Godwin Medje Dedication

Daniel Godwin Medje was introduced to the congregation and dedicated with a blessing in worship on March 6. His parents are Frederick and Gloria Wilson-Bahun. Daniel's big sister is Shiloh. Gloria's mother Nora was here from France, along with Frederick's MN family: parents, Godwin and Friedoline, and sisters, Laurette Lawson and Jocelyne Medzagoh and their families.

Mason Daniel Smith Baptism

We celebrated the baptism of Mason Daniel Smith on Sunday, March 13.

Parents are Dan and Alisa Smith, and big sister is Olivia.

Grandparents include Dave and Ellen Smith, and David & Sandy Ruiz. Mason's Godparents are Natalie (Alisa's sister) & Greg Mednikov.



Prayer Vigil Held March 23

All Minnesota United Methodists were invited to participate in a 24-hour prayer vigil on March 23 to pray for the upcoming United Methodist General Conference in May, where delegates will gather from around the world to decide on important matters related to our denomination. The Wesley Room and Sanctuary were both open from 8 am – 8 pm for prayer here or at home, with a sign-up sheet sectioned off in 30-minute time slots. 32 people from The PORT signed up to pray during our vigil, so that we had at least one person praying for that entire block of time. In the days since, several participants have commented to Pastor Carol about how meaningful this prayer vigil was for them.



Reach Renew Rejoice Presentation April 17 at 11:15 AM

The Minnesota Conference's vision is for all congregations to live out God's call to grow in love of God and neighbor, reach new people, and heal a broken world.

In 2014, the Minnesota Conference began a seven-year plan for congregational development with two key components: starting new churches and growing existing churches. The plan is already yielding fruit across Minnesota with new churches planted, new church services started, and congregations being revitalized.

Stay after worship Sunday, April 17, to hear about this plan and to see how The PORT might do our part in offering support while also exploring how we might benefit from some of the resources it is making available for churches in our conference.

Our District Superintendent, Rev. Dan Johnson, will be here to lead the presentation, which will go from 11:15-12:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Cornerstone Meal

Work with the Mission Outreach Committee to bring a warm and nutritious meal to women and children staying at Cornerstone Shelter in Bloomington on Tuesday, April 5. We're looking for 2-3 volunteers to help cook at church that afternoon; 4 for serving the meal at 4:30 pm; and 2 for cleanup at 5:30 pm. Please see Larry Stalberger (952) 888-7676 or Pat Ekstrom (952) 884-6781 to sign up to help.

Native American Ministries Day

Most Americans today recognize that the history following the arrival of the large canoes bore little resemblance to the one all Christians identify as Creator. That's why the people of The United Methodist Church, Native and non-Native, are creating a new history. Through Native American Ministries Sunday, we're able to equip and empower Native American pastors, congregations and seminary students to do what only they can do: authentically worship and serve Jesus. Today's Native Americans with many languages, many unique cultures honor their heritage and live as Jesus-followers led by a rotation of primarily native pastors.

Native American Ministries Day is one of six special United Methodist offerings we participate in each year. Special offering envelopes will be included in the worship bulletins on Sunday, April 10.

Health kits

Our Minnesota Annual Conference has a goal of preparing 10,000 health kits to be given by the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to people around the world who have been forced to leave their homes due to natural disaster or human conflict.

Can you imagine leaving your home and all of its contents on short notice in order to keep your family safe? This happens for refugees and survivors of tornados, earthquakes, and floods around the world. But we can help bring a little bit of comfort in these situations through the gift of a health kit. Would you consider making one? Here's how (all items must be new and packaged as specified):

- 1 hand towel 15"x25" to 17"x27", new and unwashed (cleaning and microfiber towels not acceptable)
- 1 washcloth, new and unwashed
- 1 comb (sturdy and 6" or longer; no pocket combs or picks)
- 1 metal nail file or clipper (no emery boards)
- 1 bath-size soap 3 oz. or larger in original packaging (no Ivory or Jergens due to moisture content)
- 1 adult size toothbrush in original packaging
- 6 adhesive bandages (3/4" to 1" size common household Band-Aids)
- 1 gallon-size plastic sealable bag



Assembly Instructions:

Lay out the hand towel flat on a table. Lay the washcloth flat in the center of the hand towel. Place all remaining items on top of the washcloth. Fold over the sides of the hand towel to cover all of the items. Fold over one end of the hand towel so that it covers all of the items. Grasp the bundle of items tightly and roll over the remainder of the hand towel tightly. Place the tightly rolled bundle in the plastic bag. Remove as much air as possible and seal the bag.

We'll be collecting completed health kits in April and May, so please bring to church by Memorial Day. Note that it is important to remove all packaging except where noted above. All health kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items – nothing more. Toothpaste is purchased just before distribution to ensure it has not expired.

Please do not include any personal notes, money or additional materials in the kits, as these things must be painstakingly removed and will only delay the shipment.

Mission Outreach

The PORT supports VEAP during MN Foodshare Month

8 volunteers from The PORT went to the VEAP warehouse on Tuesday, March 15, to sort goods in preparation for distribution at the food shelf. We packaged potatoes, onions, diapers and toilet paper from large bundles to individual packages. It was a great way to see what happens to items from donation to distribution.



During the month of March, we also held a “healthy beans (not jelly beans!)” drive, collecting beans of all varieties to donate to VEAP food shelf. Over the course of the month, our collection bin was filled to overflowing!



Feed My Starving Children Volunteer Opportunity April 23

Saturday, April 23rd is your next opportunity to assist in packaging food for FMSC. Our group is scheduled from 9:00 am to 11:00 am at the Eagan location (990 Lone Oak Road). Steve Soucy will have a sign up list available in the narthex beginning with the first Sunday in April. Should you be in need of transportation please let Steve know and he'll make arrangements.

We celebrate YOU during April

If your birthday isn't on our list, **please let us know**, so we can update our records for next year.

3 - Dorothy Chamberlain	18 - Michael Cameron,
4 - Martin Thames	Bob Haugen,
6 - Jeff Chamberlain	Kelly Roach
7 - Dave Schesso	21 - Verne Witt
8 - Scott Cameron	22 - Sena Bruce
15 - Jarek Haugen	26 - Pat Ekstrom
16 - Katelyn Hagerty	



Caregivers Support Group Meeting

In talking to several people here at The Port, it appears that there is some interest in forming a support group for caregivers. We will have a meeting on Sunday, April 24th following worship. This meeting will be to discuss logistics - who, what, where, when of the group. If interested, we would love to have you join us. If you have questions, call Linda Schesso. 952 445-2240

Daniel Plan Small Group Meeting

The Daniel Plan Small Group will hold an organizational meeting on Thursday, April 14, from 6:30 – 8:00 pm to discuss frequency and time for meetings going forward. Please read Chapter 1: "How It All Began" in Rick Warren's book *The Daniel Plan: 40 Days to a Healthier Life*. Many participants in last year's Daniel Plan Small Group are interested in regular meetings again, but the group is open to new participants, with this being a new start for everyone.

From the Mailbox

Address Change

Frederick & Gloria Wilson-Bahun
1716 Philipp Drive
Shakopee, MN 55379

From the Chamberlain Family

Dorothy Chamberlain and family would like to thank Pastor Carol, Leann Olsen, Paul Herrmann and the members of Portland Avenue United Methodist Church for those who came to Mark's memorial service on March 5th and for all the cards and prayers we received from the congregation.

Thank You!

From Heather Anderson

My Dear friends,

My beloved father, Corliss Anderson, passed away peacefully, surrounded by family members on Saturday, March 12, 2016. He fought a courageous, lengthy battle with Alzheimer's.

My entire family and I would like to thank our congregation members at "The Port" for all of your kind words, thoughts and prayers during these past several difficult months. God Bless you.

Fondly,
Heather

A Memorial Visitation for Corliss will be held in Barrington, Illinois on Sunday, April 24, 2016 from 1:30-4:00 pm. Formal service to follow.



*Paul
Richardson*



It all began on August 22, 1931, when Paul became the first born child to his parents. He was the only boy in the family with two younger sisters.

I learned early on in our conversation/interview pretty much what shaped Paul's life. In part it had to do with singing in the church choir. There happened to be a cute little fifteen year old blonde that caught Paul's eye. Her name...Shirley! It's interesting how things can shape someone's life, particularly at such a young age. Paul and Shirley both sang in the choir at Trinity Methodist Church in St. Paul. Ironically, Duane Ellenson sang in the same choir. Paul was motivated to become a part of the Youth Group at Trinity, in part, because he was able to get the car where he was able to pick up Shirley, to attend the meetings.

Having already graduated from Murray High School in Saint Paul, he enrolled at the University of Minnesota where he received his degree in Mechanical Engineering. While attending the U of M, Paul was enrolled in the ROTC and upon graduation, was Commissioned in the Air Force.

Paul and Shirley married at the age of 21, having dated for six years prior to marriage, giving ample time to achieve lifetime goals they'd set to ensure a secure future. Further, it gave Paul and Shirley time to truly "date" rather than simply attend choir and youth group meetings together.

Scott, their first born, arrived 3 weeks prior to Paul being placed on Active Duty as an Air Craft Maintenance Officer assigned to the Strategic Air Command in Idaho. So, there they were, all packed up and ready for a November trek through the Black Hills (and the snow) on their way to Idaho with their young family. Within a two year time period, Paul also had a brief stint with the Air Force in North Africa. Second child, Kathy, was born 3 weeks before he completed his military service and so Paul, Shirley, two year old Scott and 3 week old Kathy, made the trip back to Minnesota.

Out of the Air Force now, Paul began sending applications for employment all over the country. As luck would have it, he was offered a job with St Paul's UNIVAC where he spent 26 years as a Design Engineer. One of his proudest accomplishments was being a part of the design and development team that built new control boards for ships and is still utilized on every ship built today. Paul then moved on to a new challenge, with a new company where he'd been hired to design and build Laser Printers. He was there for another 5 successful years.

I asked Paul how he and his family had found PAUMC. Paul stated that with his employment being located where it was, Bloomington was a good fit. Once there, it was natural for them to join and support the nearest Methodist Church. Through the years, a total of five children were born to Paul and Shirley. All of the children were baptized here, confirmed here, attended Sunday School, some married here and a new generation of Richardson's now attend PAUMC.

The Richardson family is heavily involved in much of the music that occurs here at The Port: Paul is one of The Messengers Quartet, he also sings in the church choir, and has done numerous solos. He is one of the Trustees serving as facilitator on various projects. Paul enjoys working on the 'technical' things like lighting, telephones, heating systems, re-doing the Court-yard.....and I could go on and on and on.

One of the beautiful aspects of the Richardson family, was the team that was formed way back when Paul and Shirley met back in St. Paul. Their lives were completely in tune with each other as were their voices in the choir. Married for 62 fun filled, productive years prior to Shirley's sudden death 3 years ago, they were a couple that many would love to replicate in their own marriages. Many, in fact MOST people that attend The PORT say it's "Family." Well, family is there for the good times, the bad times and all the times in-between! When a transition is required, we are there to assist. Family/friendships are for life.

A lot of you see Paul Richardson and Mary Nelson together socially. With the loss of their respective spouses, they hold each others hand as they continue living life to the fullest each knowing that their spouses were all friends, part of the family, and would be so happy that life goes on!

A Match Made in Heaven: Ralph and Pearl Shoemaker Share a Lifetime of Love and Passion for Education

Editor's Note: Rev. Shoemaker was pastor of Portland Avenue United Methodist Church from 1968 - 1974.

He and his wife Pearl were recently featured in the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry Africa University newsletter. This article is reprinted with permission.

For Ralph and Pearl, it was love at first sight. He had just returned home to Washington, DC in 1946 after having served four years in the U. S. Army. Pearl, who was born and reared in St. Paul, Minnesota, had recently relocated to Washington, DC to join her parents and her brother who had moved there. She had earned her B. A. degree in music from Hamline University and her Master of Nursing degree from Case Western Reserve University.

They met at a Methodist Sunday School teachers conference where Pearl had been asked to fill in as substitute organist. Ralph's sister encouraged him to attend the conference with the admonition to "find a nice Methodist girl to marry." Ralph returned home a week later to declare, "I've found her!" They were married six months later at Congress Heights Methodist Church, and later reared three children to adulthood.

The attraction between Ralph and Pearl was immediate because they had so much in common. Both grew up in the Methodist Church---she at Hamline Methodist Church and he at Rhode Island Avenue Methodist Protestant Church. Music played a large part in their lives. Pearl was a piano virtuoso. Her parents discovered her affinity for music at a very early age and bought her a piano so that she could develop her gift.

As a young man, Ralph sang with the Washington Choral Society and a light opera company. In later years, Ralph would often say that he knew Pearl was "the one" because God knew that he would never make anything of his life without Pearl at his side supporting and encouraging him.

The GI Bill enabled Ralph to enroll in college at Hamline University where he earned his Bachelor of Arts

degree in philosophy. Later, he enrolled at Drew Theological Seminary and earned his Master of Divinity degree. He was ordained in the Minnesota Annual Conference and enjoyed a long, fulfilling, and illustrious career in the ministry. Pearl continued her nursing and music careers, and taught piano lessons until the age of 91.

Pearl died in April 2011 at the age of 94, and Ralph died in March 2015, approximately 45 days after reaching his 100th birthday.

In reflecting upon her parents' lives and legacies, their daughter Jan Warren said, "Family, music, and travel were the great joys of mom's life. Dad shared those same loves, but it was serving others that brought him the greatest joy."

Ralph and Pearl included Africa University in their estate plans because of their passion for Africa and for higher education. At Ralph's death, an endowed scholarship was established in their memory to educate the young men and women of Africa for generations to come. What a wonderful legacy to leave!

Elaine Jenkins, Director of Planned Giving, Africa University Development Office



Rev. Ralph and Pearl Shoemaker

Bits and Pieces

Free Showing of the Documentary *Alive Inside*

Don't miss this joyous cinematic exploration of music's capacity to reawaken our souls and uncover the deepest parts of our humanity. The showing will be April 5, 7:00 pm at Walker Methodist Chapel (3737 Bryant Ave South, Minneapolis).



Emma Norton Services Annual Dinner and Silent Auction

You are cordially invited to join Emma Norton Services on April 18th in celebrating our lifelong partnership with the United Methodist Church and United Methodist Women. You'll enjoy an evening of dinner, entertainment, philanthropy and have a chance to bid on a fantastic selection of silent auction items including theater tickets, gift certificates, homemade treats and much more. The silent auction begins at 5:30 with a dinner at 6:30 and program following.

Register online at www.emmanorton.org by April 8th. The event will be held at the Minneapolis Marriott Northwest (7025 Northland Drive North, Brooklyn Park).

Hospice Volunteer Training

Methodist Hospital Hospice will be providing training sessions in May for new volunteers providing respite care to caregivers who are caring for terminally ill loved ones in their own homes, or visit terminally ill patients to provide comfort. If interested contact Libby Swanson at 952-993-5381.

Images from Easter



April



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>3</p> <p>8:30am Handbells Rhl 8:45am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship/ Communion 11:15am Confirmation</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9-3 Garage Sale donations drop-off 4:30pm Cornerstone Meal 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9-3 Garage Sale donations drop-off 1:30pm Pastor Carol's Small Group 7:00pm Choir Rehl</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9-3 Garage & Bake Sale donations drop-off 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9-5 Children, Youth & Family Ministries Garage & Bake Sale</p>	<p>9</p> <p>8-12 Children, Youth & Family Ministries Garage & Bake Sale</p>
<p>10</p> <p>8:30am Handbells Rhl 8:45am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:15am Congregational Care Mtg</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:00pm Ministry Leaders Mtg</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:00pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehl</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp 6:30pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Daniel Plan Small Group</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17</p> <p>8:30am Handbells Rhl 8:45am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:15am Reach, Renew, Rejoice</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:00pm Choir Rehl 7:00pm New Member Class</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9-11 PAUMC Volunteers at Feed My Starving Children</p>
<p>24</p> <p>8:00am Handbells Rhi 8:45am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:15am Caregivers Support Interact Mtg</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:00pm Church Council Mtg</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp</p>	<p>27</p> <p>1:30pm Book Club 6:00pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehl</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp 6:30pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>

Portland Avenue United Methodist Church
8000 Portland Ave. S., Bloomington, MN 55420



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE EXPEDITE

Join us for worship on Sundays at 10:00 am
(Sunday School for all ages at 8:45; Coffee Fellowship at 9:30)

Staff

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Dale Miller (Accompanist) miller.daler@gmail.com

Judy Richardson-Mahre (SonRise Singers Director) jembrm@charter.net

Mary Nelson (Handbells Director) nelsonc2m@aol.com

Paul Herrmann (Custodian) 612-916-3376

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