

THE PORTLIGHT

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



One Great Day of Music

*Join us for a special, energizing and
life-giving Worship Service on
Sunday, May 21, 2017 at 10:00 am.*

May 2017

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.

I came across an article the other day that posed the question, "Why do pastors write so poorly for their own church newsletters?" The article was written by Lillian Daniel, a clergyperson I have admired since hearing her preach at the Festival of Homiletics a few years ago. Homiletics is a fancy word for "the art of preaching," and only the best of the best preachers are invited to preach at a Festival like this. So I read further with interest.

"I don't aspire to write like Paul in every newsletter," she confessed, "but I am humbled that 2,000 years later, we know him by his letters." I know that when mentoring a number of seminary students who are in the process toward becoming a pastor, I have personally had conversations with them about how important it is to use the pastor's page wisely with articles that inform about congregational matters, inspire toward something upcoming, or otherwise help the readers further along their path of spiritual formation.

However, "the front page, saved for the pastor," Lillian Daniel continued, "is often wasted on a throw away paragraph, a canned story from the Internet, or a few sentences from a reference book." She was perplexed by how often the pastor's article begins with a statistic ("Did you know 90% of Americans say they believe in God...") but then go nowhere...a phenomenon she has seen illustrated by some very fine and articulate preachers, time and time again.

Of course, she offered some convincing arguments about why this happens: pastors get busy; and they often pour their creativity into the weekly sermon. She ultimately suggests, "Sometimes another 250 words for the newsletter is more than we can scrape from an empty jar." I can certainly relate.

Since the intended audience for her article was pastors, she tried to impress upon her readers that "churches and clergy will be remembered historically not through their sermons, but through those dreaded pastor's pages. Fifty years from now, our sermons may or may not exist, but in churches large and small, a volunteer archivist will have piles of newsletters organized by date over the decades. Newer, web-based newsletters are going to have an even longer shelf life than the paper ones."

Irregardless of how long church newsletters are to be kept (which is permanently...as in forever...according to conference archival standards), I have always aspired to write something worth your time to read. It's a matter of my respect for you. It's also a matter of my care about your engagement within your church, and my care for your own spiritual growth. So, as a matter of principle, I spend a good amount of time ensuring all the content in your newsletter, including the pastor's page I write, contains something of substance that aims toward better engagement in the life of your church, celebrates what is happening here, or urges you to a deeper level of spiritual growth.

But there has been more than one occasion when I have wondered if such an effort is worth it. Like almost every pastor I've ever talked to, I wonder how much the church newsletter, including my pastor's message, actually gets read. I've even dreamed of planting a little statement in the middle of some article saying, "Are you still reading? If so, reply to receive a \$5 gift card."

So, I am actively inviting you to share with me about your level of engagement with my pastor's pages and the newsletter as a whole. I don't have a fancy internet survey set up, nor do I have listening post sessions scheduled. I just want to hear from you in a face to face conversation, in an email, or a handwritten and signed note about what you like or dislike about the newsletter, including the pastor's page, and why you do or don't read it.

I will listen to your feedback with interest and compassion, and will do my best to do so without a defensive spirit or posture (remember, I've poured a lot of energy into this publication every month, so it is a little personal). I will also make note of your feedback, so that I might evaluate all I hear to work with some of our leaders to either continue what we're doing if it is meaningful, or to make changes if it's not. So please, consider my request, and help me use my time for you in the most effective manner possible, by letting me know about your monthly Portlight's usefulness for you.

Journeying in faith with you,

Pastor Carol



May 2017

May 7 Madolyn & Joshua
 May 14 Janea & Oliver
 May 21 Katelyn & Jeremiah



Summer Schedule Begins

May 21 will be the last day of Sunday School and weekly Choir Rehearsals. These ministries will resume again in September. We'll enjoy summer music full of vocalists, instrumentalists, and small ensembles. See Peggy Larson to sign up to share your musical talents. And watch your newsletter for more information on an Outdoor Worship Sunday.

Youth News

May is our busiest month of our whole year together! Beginning with our Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser on May 6 that we are going to try for the first time ever at Portland UMC from 4:30-7pm! Come join us for fellowship, delicious spaghetti and savory breadsticks. It's a free will donation and all proceeds go to help the youth pay for Ultimate Challenge camp, retreats, lock ins and other group events we do throughout the year. If you aren't able to come to the dinner but would still like to donate to our youth that would be welcomed! The cost of camp this year is \$425. That may sound like a lot but when comparing to other camps like horse camp \$640 or an aviation camp \$750, it isn't too bad. Helping kids grow and connect with God is priceless! We then will be helping with the Hillcrest plant sale on May 11 and on May 13 with the Portland plant sale. Our last meeting will be on May 21 and we will talk about friendship. What does friendship mean to you? What expectations do you have of friends? How do we treat our friends?
 ~Melissa Kuyper

May Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	May 7	May 14	May 21	May 28
Coffee & Treats	(Volunteer needed)	(Volunteer needed)	(Volunteer needed)	N/A
Greeters	Daniel & Alisa Smith	Jeff & Denise Carroll	Floyd & Pat Ekstrom	Paul Richardson & Mary Nelson
Ushers	Wayne Andersen, Jack Cornforth, Beth & Scott Cameron	Linda & Dave Schesso, Bruce Benson, Scott Rice	Bruce Benson, Jocelyne Medzagoh, Myron & Ginny Karki	(No lead usher) Verne Witt, Jack Cornforth, Bob Deese
Welcomers	Bob & Barb Deese	Paul Richardson	Lynn Livingston	Ginny Karki
Reader	Nathan Peine	Ted Murphy	Guy Moore	Jeff Carroll
Sound	Eric Richardson-Mahre	Tim Madsen	Dave Smith	Tim Madsen
Media	Tim Madsen	Dave Smith	Dave Smith	Barb Andrus
Nursery	Mary Lou Johnson	Janet Rush	Denise Carroll	Linda Lounsbury
Closer	Floyd Ekstrom	Wayne Andersen	Floyd Ekstrom	Jeff Carroll
Communion Stewards	LaVonne Robinson & Peg Erstad	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p>Want to serve on Sunday mornings? Let the office know and we'll put you in touch with the appropriate coordinator</p> </div>		
Communion Servers	Linda Schesso, Darlene Wicks, Mary Nelson, Verne Witt			

Come One, Come All!



Sponsored by the Hillcrest-Portland Avenue UMC Youth Group

Saturday, May 6, 2017
4:30-7:00pm

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

FREE WILL DONATION

Mission Outreach

VEAP Update from Lenten Services

In each of the combined worship services with Portland Avenue, Hillcrest and Church of Peace UMCs during Lent, we received an offering for the VEAP food shelf. Here are the results of each service:

Ash Wednesday at Church of Peace: \$330.50

Maundy Thursday at Portland Avenue: \$208.00

Good Friday 1 PM at Church of Peace: \$180.00

Good Friday 7 PM at Hillcrest: \$227.53

Added all together, we sent a total of \$946.03 to VEAP (Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People) for distribution to people in need in Bloomington, Richfield and Edina.

2017 Love Offering-May 7

One of the great privileges at Annual Conference is for our lay member to take our love offering and add it to all the other church contributions. We make a great difference in the world this way! This year's offering will be shared in the following manner: 60% to United Methodist University of Sierra Leone School of Applied Health Sciences, where midwives, nurses and community health officers get their training. 30% will go locally to Emma Norton Service to help women, children and families achieve victory over homelessness, mental illness and chemical dependency. The remaining 10% is for Volunteers in Mission Scholarships.

We celebrate YOU during May

If you have a birthday during the month of April but your name isn't on our list, PLEASE LET US KNOW, so we can update our records for next year.



03 - Bob Deese	10 - Janene Haugen	14 - Chuck Bartels	23 - Evelyn Runck	25 - Jim Louisiana
05 - Tom Wellman	12 - Zoe Peine	16 - Mike Moreland	24 - Scott Swenson	28 - Sharon Beckler
06 - Amy Runck	14 - Laura Avery	18 - Rylie Rasmussen	Shiloh Wilson	29 - Amelia Swenson

Coffee Fellowship

A big thank you to everyone who supported coffee fellowship with homemade and store-bought goodies throughout the program year. Having these treats really goes a long way in creating a hospitable atmosphere, and is greatly appreciated by those who gather for conversation, coffee or juice, and a little something to eat before worship. We'll take a break after May 21.

Address Updates

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

Martin & Jody Thames
7601 Lyndale Ave. S Unit #134
Richfield, MN 55423

Lifetouch Photo Directories



Our photo directories have arrived here at church! A copy of the directory was printed for each household that took their picture, plus a few more for new members as they join. Each household copy is in an envelope with a mailing label on it, so save us the postage and pick up your copy when you come to church on Sunday.

Thank You from Ardy Anderson

Thanks to everyone for all your prayers, cards and visits while I've been recovering from my surgery and broken femur. I'm coming along pretty well and will soon be done with my physical therapy. Hope to be back in circulation soon. Thanks to Pastor Carol for her kind visits, communion and prayers. Very much appreciated. It's wonderful to have such a caring church family. Thanks again to everyone.

Bazaar Committee

2016 Bazaar Results

The 2016 Bazaar earned a bit more than \$11,000! Thanks to all who made it happen! 10% will go to Outreach, as is our custom. In addition, a total of \$4,740 will go to specific requests from the Ministry groups:

- Trustees requested \$1,800 for roof repair on the Fellowship Hall. Another \$600 is needed to re-caulk the Sanctuary skylight to eliminate leakage.
- A new safe was purchased for \$600 by the Trustees to securely store important church documents.
- The Worship Committee requested \$700 to repair our organ, an important part of worship services.
- Evangelism & Church Growth asked for \$190 to

replace pens in the pews.

- We plan to once again offer a Training Camp for school kids, reconfigured and called Kick Start to School. This is a similar program we did a few years ago to help prepare kids for the upcoming school year. Pastor requested \$250 as seed money for this program.
- As you know, we regularly participate in Feed My Starving Children. While we willingly do the manual labor of packaging the meals, there is a need to pay for the materials that go into the meals. We will dedicate \$600 for those costs over the year.

So the total of \$4,740 will be provided from the 2016 Bazaar fund for these worthy needs. ~Russ Cox

Trustees

Eagle Scout Project Update

Blake Mahre shared with the congregation in an open meeting on Sunday, April 2, and gained approval for his design plan for landscaping along the west side and southeast corner of our building.

Installation of the new plants and mulch is scheduled for Saturday, May 20 from noon to 6:00 pm. Dirt will be delivered the weekend before to fill in where the ground is now uneven.

Fundraising will continue between now and the end of May to fund the dirt first, then edging and mulch, and then plants. Watch the fundraising progress on the thermometer chart hanging in the narthex. Help Blake climb to the goal of his completed project by making your donation payable to PAUMC, with "landscaping project" in the memo. All donations are tax deductible.

Thanks so much for your continued prayers and support of this project, our church and our youth!

Bits and Pieces

Jewelry Sale at Walker Methodist

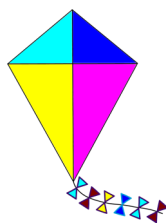
The Walker Methodist Health Center Auxiliary will be hosting a three day jewelry sale Thursday and Friday May, 4 & 5 from 8 am - 5 pm, and on Saturday, May 6 from 8 am - 3 pm (3737 Bryant Ave. S., Minneapolis). Come for some good finds, and to help a great cause! Items such as bracelets, necklaces, earrings, brooches, pendants, rings, and more will be available. All proceeds will be used to fund programs and activities for Walker Methodist Health Center Residents.

Schedule of Free Music Events by Normandale Community College

- Monday, May 1, 2017 at 7:30 pm
Jazz Combo
- Thursday, May 4, 2017 at 7:30 pm
Concert Band & Jazz Ensemble (Concert played at Lorenz Auditorium Fine Arts Building).
- Friday, May 5, 2017 at 7:30 pm
Concert Choir & Vocal Ensemble (Concert played at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 8600 Fremont Avenue South, Bloomington).

Kite Day Celebration

On Saturday, May 20 from 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm you are invited to Valley View Playfield (9000 Portland Avenue, Bloomington) for a Kite Day Celebration.



Kite flyers of all ages are invited to attend. In addition to kite flying there will be live entertainment, activities and more! Free kites will be given to those 18 and younger while supplies last. This community event is hosted by the City of Bloomington - Human Services Division. For more information please call 952.563.8733 or email human-services@BloomingtonMN.gov.

Music for a Festival



The Medalist Concert Band, with Jerry Luckhardt Conducting, will present "Music for a Festival," on Sunday, May 21, 2017 beginning at 4:00 pm, at Schneider Theater, located in the Bloomington Center for the Arts (1800 Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington). This is a band Pastor Carol plays with. Tickets are \$14 for adults, and \$12 for seniors and folks under 25. For tickets please call 952.563.8575 or visit www.MedalistsBand.com.

Unsung Heroes

Alive & Kickin will be presenting the rockin' senior ensemble "Unsung Heroes" June 9 - 18, 2017, at Schneider Theater (1800 W Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington). Throughout the show the senior ensemble will honor their heroes and lift their voices to celebrate the personal hero in all of us. Come see why it's "cool" to grow older. For tickets (\$28 for seniors) or more information please call 952.563.8575 or visit AliveandKickinMN.org.

MAY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 6:00pm Calm Parenting Support Group 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	3 6:15pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	4 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp	5	6 9:00am-12:00pm Spring Clean-up 4:30pm-7pm Spaghetti Dinner
7 8:45am Handbells 8:45am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship/ Communion	8	9 6:00pm Trustees Meeting 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp	10 6:15pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	11 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp	12	13
14 Mother's Day 8:45am Handbells 8:45am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:15 Mission Outreach	15 Newsletter Deadline	16 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp	17 6:15pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	18 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp	19	20 12:00pm-6:00pm Blake Mahre's Eagle Scout Project
21 One Great Day of Music 8:45am Handbells 8:45am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship 12:00pm-6:00pm Blake Mahre's Eagle Scout Project (if needed)	22	23 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp	24	25 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp 5:30pm Season End Choir Potluck at Paul Richardson's	26	27
28 10:00am Worship	29 Memorial Day	30 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp	31 6:30 pm Caregivers Support Group @ PAUMC			

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 (8:45 am) and Coffee Fellowship (9:30 am) - thru May 21, 2017

Staff

Rev. Carol Zaagsma (Pastor) carol.zaagsma@paumc.org (cell phone for emergencies 651-329-7878)
Camille Kratochvil (Administrative Assistant) paumc@paumc.org
Peggy Larson (Music Director) peggylarson@comcast.net
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

Church Office E-mail: PAUMC@paumc.org
PAUMC Website: www.paumc.org
www.facebook.com/pages/Portland-Avenue-United-Methodist-Church/109195009206962