



March, 2011

# THE PORTLIGHT

A newsletter for members and friends of the Portland Avenue United Methodist Church  
8000 Portland Ave. So., Bloomington MN 55420 Telephone 952-888-6070



## SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find;  
knock and the door will be opened to you. ~Matthew 7:7

*Open Hearts Open Minds Open Doors*



Pastor's  
Message

Dear Friends,

As many of you know, the mission trip to Haiti I was to go on in February has been postponed to a later date, due to the unpredictable political situation. It has been eleven years since I've been to Haiti and I still hold the Haitian people in my heart. I've heard some argue that all the money that these work teams spend on airfare, etc. would be better used if it was just sent directly to the place in need. But trips like these are not just about money. They are about presence and relationships. The following was a post on my Facebook wall that expresses the "why" of participating on work teams:

"This is a ministry of presence. In a way we represent the thousands of people who donated money to the Haitian people but we have to go and look people in the eye, and hold their hand, and hug them and pray with them and sing with them in celebration of the life God has called us all to live. No amount of money can do that." —Reason for coming to Haiti, from Phil Bandy CA-NV Conference of the UM Church.

This is true of any outreach effort, as we do so in Jesus' name. Let us be the hands, feet, eyes, ears, arms and the heart of Jesus in this world.

Blessings,

## Joint Lenten Services with Hillcrest and Church of Peace UMCs

We will once again join with our sister United Methodist congregations to observe Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday along with the Wednesday evenings in Lent for supper and worship.

The Wednesday evening worship services will center around a theater style drama, called, "*Seek and You Will Find*," a six-week Lenten series by Linda Tippett. The "Seeker," (whose identity will be revealed in the last script), questions six "ordinary" biblical people who tell how Jesus touched their lives.



### WORSHIP SCHEDULE for LENT

**Themes included: love,  
pride, betrayal, denial,  
forgiveness and truth.**

- Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday at PAUMC  
6:00 PM supper, 6:45 PM Worship
- Wednesday, Mar. 16<sup>th</sup> – Hillcrest UMC  
6:00 PM supper, 6:45 PM Worship
- Wednesday, Mar. 23<sup>rd</sup> – Church of Peace UMC  
6:00 PM supper, 6:45 PM Worship
- Wednesday, Mar. 30<sup>th</sup> – PAUMC  
6:00 PM supper, 6:45 PM Worship
- Wednesday, April 6 – Hillcrest UMC  
6:00 PM supper, 6:45 PM Worship
- Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> – Church of Peace UMC  
6:00 PM supper, 6:45 PM Worship
- Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup> – Maundy Thursday Service at Church of PUMC  
No Supper, 7:00 PM Worship with joint Choir cantata
- Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> – Good Friday Service at Hillcrest UMC  
No Supper, 7:00 PM Worship Service of Tenebrae

Church of Peace is located at 6345 Xerxes Ave. S., Richfield.  
Hillcrest UMC is located at 9100 Russell Ave. S., Bloomington.



## EASTER FLOWER ORDERS

Order blanks for Easter flowers will be available in the narthex from Sunday, March 13, through Sunday, March 27. Orders can also be placed by calling the church office. In an effort to save money, copies will not be put in the weekly bulletin.

The same flowers, at the same price, as last year are available:

<b>Easter Lilies</b>	<b>\$7.25</b>
<b>Tulips – Red, Purple &amp; Yellow</b>	<b>\$6.75</b>
<b>Mums – Purple &amp; Yellow</b>	<b>\$8.00</b>
<b>Pink Hydrangea</b>	<b>\$12.00</b>



Flowers can be taken home after the 10:00 Easter service.

### *New Member's Seminar Sunday, March 6th*

*by Suzanne Mades*

On Sunday, March 6, right after worship, there will be a new member orientation in the Wesley Room. A light lunch will be served and we will be finished about 1:15 PM. I invite anyone who is interested, whether you wish to become a member at this time or not. Attending does not obligate you to join but allows you to make a more informed decision. This session will give a broad overview of United Methodist history and theology, the opportunities for spiritual growth and Christian service through Portland Avenue UMC, and will give you an opportunity to meet other new people. PAUMC members are invited to come as well to meet and welcome new people who have been worshipping with us.

Please let me know if you are able to attend (952-888-6070 or [Suzanne@portumc.comcastbiz.net](mailto:Suzanne@portumc.comcastbiz.net)). If you wish to join but are unable to come, let me know as well and we can make other arrangements.

# Adult Fellowship Activities

*by Suzanne Makes*

It has been good to see the resurgence of adult fellowship activities – going to see the Church Basement Ladies in January and the Valentine’s Brunch in February. And there are lots of other ideas floating around that sound like great fun. I’ve asked Barb Andrus to be the Adult Fellowship Coordinator of these activities. What this means is that if any person or group of people have an idea or wish to plan a fellowship activity, go through Barb to schedule it. She will make sure it is not conflicting with any other church activities as well as make sure that there aren’t 5 fellowship activities being planned in one month and nothing for the next 6 months. This does not mean she organizes these activities, unless, of course there is one she wishes to spearhead. It means she makes sure adult fellowship activities are happening on a somewhat regular basis.

**One of the strengths of PAUMC is our relationships with each other. Having fun together is a wonderful way to strengthen these relationships as well as welcome new people into our midst.**

## Join the Conspiracy of Kindness Your kindness can change the world!

This is the worship theme of our Lenten journey that leads us to Easter. As Mother Theresa said, “Preach the Gospel at all times, use word if necessary.” We know that acts of generosity, love and compassion communicate the love of God in Christ more effectively than words ever could. And so we will conspire together to preach the gospel through our acts of love. Conspiracy means “to breathe with” and so we join God’s Spirit to breathe out the love of God into a world that desperately needs to know God’s love.



I will be reorganizing the lists for the prayer chain. If anyone would like to be on the prayer chain either as a caller or by Email call me at 651 683 9418 or by Email at russncarol@pobox.com

~Carol Cox

### March Schedule for Greeters and Ushers

Date	Ushers	Greeters
3/06	Bruce Benson, Peggy/Rod Bacheller	Barb/Clint Andrus;
3/13	Ellen/Dave Smith, Kathy/Steve Soucy	Fran/Cy Carpenter;
3/20	Bruce Benson, Sharon Beckler, Wayne Andersen	Denise/Jeff Carroll
3/27	Bruce Benson, Jerry Solheim Peggy/Rod Bacheller	Marilyn Bodin, Lee Grady

**Next *Portlight* deadline: April 15, 2011**

Items for the newsletter, including photos, may be submitted by leaving them in the *Portlight* mailbox or by e-mailing them to:

**barbarad@charter.net or sjrich1@comcast.net**

# Feeding the Homeless at Simpson Shelter Tuesday, March 29, 2011

<sup>31</sup> “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. <sup>34</sup> “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. <sup>35</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, <sup>36</sup> I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ <sup>37</sup> “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? <sup>39</sup> When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ <sup>40</sup> “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

Matthew 25:31-46 (NIV)

*We have* the privilege of feeding 125 guests of the Simpson Homeless Shelter at the end of the month. Let's all work together to make it a special meal for everyone! A sign-up sheet will be available in March asking for people who can help with the shopping, with the cooking, and with serving the meal and cleaning up afterwards. Monetary contributions will also be welcome. The menu has not been set yet but it will feature plenty of warm and tasty food. Questions or want to volunteer early? Call Chris Seidel (612) 722-7591.





Morning Bazaar workshop will begin on Thursday, March 3 at 9:30 - 11:30. The more the merrier. Come and have some fun, and some yummy treats, now and again!

*Many* think of self-denial as giving up something during the Lenten season. Others have said that it is to be dead to self, or even to hate self. I disagree with these opinions. When Jesus referred to self-denial (Mark 8:34), he was not talking about denying ourselves some luxury item or denying the reality of self or the needs of self. Rather, he was focusing on the importance of renouncing self as the center of our life and actions.

In other words, self-denial is the decision of each of his followers to give over to God his body, career, money and time. A true disciple is willing to shift the spiritual center of gravity in his life. Self-denial is the sustained willingness to say no to oneself in order to say yes to God.

~Bill Hull

## Minnesota Foodshare March 2011

Minnesota Foodshare is a food drive which is held during the month of March to restock Minnesota's 300 food shelves. We have an opportunity to restock VEAP's food shelves right here in Bloomington. Items needed are: Tuna, Cereal, Rice, Boxed Dinners, Cream Soup, Canned Vegetables, Boxed Pasta, and Dry Beans. Of course monetary donations are always welcomed, and we thank you for your past donations.



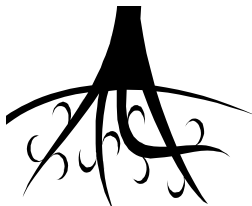
# GROWTH FUNDRAISING CONTINUES WITH NO COST TO YOU!

**Here's how it works.** Buy gift cards at church from America's favorite and most trusted retailers, stores you would shop at anyway, and the church makes a profit! Cards may be purchased each Sunday through the Great Lakes Scrip program, and participating retailers pay back a percentage to PAUMC.

Cub and Rainbow, for instance, will pay 4% to PAUMC on all gift cards purchased through this program. That may not sound like a lot, but look at these numbers: The average family spends \$125.00 per week on groceries. If 75 church families all purchased their groceries this way, they would raise \$260.00 per family, for a total of \$19,500.00 PAUMC profit. For exactly what you spend on groceries anyway!



Generously  
Reaching  
Out  
With  
Thoughtful  
Hearts



Here are just a few of the retailers involved in the program, and the percentage of your purchases returned to PAUMC:

Applebee's	8%	Kwik Trip Gas	4%
Auto Zone	8%	L.L. Bean pays	15%
B.Dalton Booksellers	9%	Lands End	16%
Barnes & Noble	9%	Macy's	10%
Bloomingdales	12%	Marathon Gas	3%
CVS Pharmacy	6%	Marshalls	7%
Dicks Sporting Goods	8%	Old Navy	9%
Great Clips	8%	PetSmart	4%
Herbergers	8%	Sams Club	2%
Holiday Station Stores	2%	SuperAmerica	4%
Home Depot pays	5%	Starbucks	7%
(pays a 1% bonus this mo.)		Sports Authority	8%
Home Goods pays	7%	Walgreens	6%
J. Crew pays	13%	Walmart	2%
KMart	4%	AND MANY MORE. . .	

Contact Kathy Swenson 952-884-4889 ([swenkath@gmail.com](mailto:swenkath@gmail.com)) or  
Ellen Smith 952-884-8609 ([dsmith1482@aol.com](mailto:dsmith1482@aol.com)).  
Write your check on SUNDAY, we will place your order,  
and you will have your cards the next week!



*from our*  
**Members**

**Norma Farmer**, former long-time PAUMC member, is now a resident of Lakeside Nursing Home in Pine City. Norma was admitted on 12/31/10 to a private room. Norma has dementia, macular degeneration and hearing loss, but is ambulatory without the aid of wheelchair or walker. She is enjoying all the numerous activities the nursing home offers, together with frequent and usually daily visits from her daughters, grandchildren and great grandchildren. The family is very fortunate that Norma is in such close proximity to much of her family in Pine City and also the 1st Presbyterian Church, of which she has been a member for many years. If you would like to send Norma a card, the address is:

**Norma Farmer  
Lakeside Nursing Home  
29 6th Avenue, S.E.  
Room 105  
Pine City, MN 55063**

**A Note of Thanks to  
the PAUMC Congregation**

*A sincere thanks for all your prayers, cards and phone calls over the past 2 months. Thank you to those who made my prayer shawl.*

*I feel wrapped in love when I wear it. Thanks as well to Pastor Suzanne for her calls and visits. I'm still working on my walking and gaining my strength.*

*Again, thanks and love.  
Marlene Sorensen*

**“A Common Word”**

has become the world's leading interfaith dialogue initiative between Christians and Muslims

**Here is the official website of A Common Word**

<http://www.acommonword.com>



## YOUTH GROUP SPRING SCHEDULE

We are so excited to have you interested in this safe Christian environment for Junior High-High School youth. We would love for you to attend. Bring friends! All are welcome.

*Youth group meets from 6:00-8:30 PM at Hillcrest UMC on the Sundays listed, unless otherwise noted on the schedule!*

**Questions?** Contact Tyler Gubsch  
Tylerathillcrest@gmail.com

February 20	Meeting	
March 5	Feed My Starving Children MobilePack Event	Drive to Mall of America, RSVP by February 13
March 19-20	Spring Retreat	
April 3	Youth Room Reclamation	All youth should be present
May 1	Meeting	
May 29 <sup>th</sup>	Event	
Date TBA	End of Year Party	

It is a mistake not to face our doubts courageously.  
~Jimmy Carter, Living Faith