

“Go For the Corn” From the Pastor’s Desk

I learned how to ride a bike before my feet could reach the pedals. Once I could reach the handlebars my brother would put me on the seat of his bike and push me. Then he would let me go and as long as I could balance I was fine, but every one of those early lessons ended badly! The end result was that I not only learned how to balance and steer, I also learned how to fall. I do not, under any circumstances, recommend this as a safe and appropriate way to teach children how to ride a bike. At a minimum, have a bike that is sized so that the child can sit on the seat and reach the pedals AND a helmet!

Our son, Jack, was remembering his own bike riding lessons recently and I learned that perfection is always a matter of perspective. After my own experience, I thought I had come up with the perfect arrangement for learning how to ride. We lived on the edge of a farm and our backyard was a hayfield surrounded by cornfields. With bikes the right size and helmets, the hayfield was the perfect place for building up pedaling strength while providing a much softer landing than the road or our gravel driveway. It wasn’t long before the kids were looking for more of a challenge so we said that when they could reach the corn without stopping (about 150 yards) we would go biking on the C&O Canal along the Potomac River. “Go for the corn!” became our rallying cry and it was great fun cheering them on as they got stronger and closer to the corn.

I will never forget seeing Jack make it to the almost-mature corn for the first time. Pedaling like mad, with his head down, hitting the corn at full speed and going

flying off his bike. It all depends upon how one understands the rule about “without stopping”!

I have been thinking about this quite a bit lately thanks to participating in Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University and also “Marriage Built to Last”. It’s not only about communication. It is also about expectations and interpretations and perspective. We will be offering Financial Peace University again starting in the Fall and I want to encourage folks of all ages to seriously consider taking the course. Some of it is “old news” and some of it is very challenging for most of us, but all of it is helpful sooner or later! Please let me know if you are interested so that I can provide as much information about the class as possible to you between now and the start of the class in September.

With the 4th of July right around the corner, it feels as if summer is almost over (or is that just me?). My prayer is that your summer is filled with family and fun and wonder-filled moments of discovery for everyone at every age.

Grace and peace, in Christ,
Don



NEWS

A stewardship message

Summer is here and we all go to church at the same time. It is fun to see everyone, but 9:30 a.m. is a little late for me, 9 a.m. would be better. I don't want to serve on the team that sets the time, so I go at 9:30 a.m. and I don't complain (much).

The other day I was volunteering at the visitor's center for National Trails Day. We thought that someone would be there making hot dogs. Many people were disappointed and asked where lunch was. My reply was always the same, "we are a group of volunteers who put together this day and I guess someone forgot to contact volunteers to make the lunch." Oh well, everyone survived, and those needing lunch went to town for food. The point of this is that if you are not satisfied with something, do something about it.

Volunteer to help make changes. Summer is a great time to start something new. If you do not like the attitude of the middle schoolers, volunteer for Kidventure. You can meet the kids and influence their behavior. If you do not like the way young children run down the halls, help with Bible School. If you want to meet with friends for lunch—help make it happen by helping plan or clean up. Are you worried about families being hungry? Join Bread for the World or help at the food pantry. If you are worried, about people getting medical care, see how you can help the free clinic. If you want to offer transportation to the clinic, job interviews or shopping, contact interfaith caregivers. If you are concerned about the environment, contact Sustainable Dunn or Friends of the Trails to offer your services.

You know this list of ways to change your life, can go on forever! It is up to you to choose what you feel most passionately about and then help make the changes you want to see. The trick is to not volunteer for too much! Have fun, meet new people, and try something new to help make changes in your world.

Also -Just a note also about summer and giving - Everyone has been very generous in their giving this

year, but summer tends to find us all out of town and busy with relatives, wedding, and reunions. I am using the automatic bill pay services from my bank, so I do not get behind in my pledge and don't have to think about mailing a check, plus it's free! Check it out at your bank or credit union.

Jane Butsic

Financial Footnotes

Whew, where is the time going? Once again it is time for financial statements to be mailed out. We hope to have them in the mail by the end of July. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to give Lynn or Carol a call. The finance ministry team is thankful for the gifts that you so willingly share with your church. Summer/vacation time can often interrupt our giving schedules so we appreciate being included in your summer plans.

Lynn Klatt, Finance Ministry Team

Another Prayer Opportunity

You are invited to be a part of a Covenant Prayer Group which will meet at the church at 12 noon every Tuesday beginning on September 7.

The Upper Room Prayer Center in Nashville receives 350,000 prayer requests every year. Covenant Prayer Groups all over the world are sent several of these requests each week to include in their prayers.

If you would like to be part of this exciting new ministry, please contact Sallie Ward at 235-3956 or sallie@wwt.net



All Summer! 55+ Lunch

Thursday, July 22, Noon

Thursday, August 26, Noon

Great food

Great Conversation

\$3 donation to cover costs

Open to anyone 55 or older.

Sign up today on hall table

Or phone church office 235-0654

Barber shoppers

July 18. The Northern Lights Barber shoppers aka Church Singers Chorus will be singing for our worship service this Sunday. It will be a fun service.

Newsletter

The deadline for the September newsletter is at noon on August 18. September is always such a busy time, don't be late.

Summer Developers Program for Children

Thank you for your donation for the Summer Developers program. In 2009 we provided funding for Summer Developers ministries in 19 ethnic churches. We heard many stories of how the summer developers reached out and found many children in the community, and how many of the families became involved in the church because of the positive experiences.

- From an Annual Conference Report by Rafael Cubilette, Chair of Ethnic Local Church Committee



Golfers sought for 4th Annual Fore! Golf Scramble September 12

Everybody is invited to participate in the 4th Annual Fore! Golf Scramble on Sunday, September 12, at Menomonie Golf & Country Club. Fore! is organized by our church in cooperation with Menomonie Golf & Country Club to benefit the Dunn County Interfaith Food Pantry. The golf scramble starts at 3 p.m. with a shot gun start and four golfers per team. Single golfers will be placed on a team.

This is a "fun outing," so golfers of all levels are encouraged to participate. There will be prizes for the three teams with the lowest scores. There will also be individual skill contests. In addition, there will be many door prizes donated by local businesses.

Cost per golfer is \$20, which includes 9 holes of golf and a meal. Bring a non-perishable food item for the food pantry for a "mulligan."

Make all checks out to "Interfaith Food Pantry." Entry forms are available at Menomonie Golf and Country Club and here at the church.

Each hole will have sponsors from local businesses.

"The purpose of this golf outing is to raise funds for the food pantry and to promote healthy living as we spend the afternoon with good friends on the long, wide fairways of God's creation," says Sally Casper, one of the organizers of the scramble. Last year, Fore! raised \$1500 and ten bags of food and personal care items for the food pantry. It would really be great to see a large number from our congregation supporting this fundraiser. Menomonie Golf and Country Club is located at 802 Heller Road. Call the club at 235-3595 or the church at 235-0654 for more information. We hope to see you there.

United Methodist Women- Executive team meetings

Thursday, August 5 at 5-6:15 p.m. at The Oaks,
1320 12th Ave. E., with a finger food potluck.

Fall Fest

Thursday, November 4, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at United
Methodist Church, 2703 Bongey Dr., Menomonie.
The United Methodist Women's Fall Fest will
feature a Meatball Dinner - with mashed potatoes,
salads, and dessert. The Fall Fest will include a
Craft Sale* and a Harvest Produce** Sale.

The goal of the Fall Fest is to raise funds for local
and worldwide mission projects that help women,
children and youth. Local projects supported will be
Interfaith Food Pantry, House of Hope (homeless
shelter), Bridge to Hope (domestic abuse shelter)
and the free Dunn County Health Clinic.

* Crafts - i.e., Christmas tree ornaments, doll
clothes, dish cloths, table runners, refrigerator
magnets.

** Harvest Produce - i.e., cranberries, squash, jams,
relishes, houseplants, canned fruit.

Pillowcase Dresses

We are making pillowcase dresses for Hope Mission
Centre in a slum of Nairobi, Kenya. The mission
helps very low income families there by providing
education, meals, and clothes for the children. The
pattern for the dresses can be found at
[www.dressagirlaroundtheworld.com/pillowcasedress
espattern.htm](http://www.dressagirlaroundtheworld.com/pillowcasedress
espattern.htm) or in the United Methodist Women
mailbox in the office.

Hope Mission Centre was started by Jo Kilde, a
native of Kenya & now a member of Colfax United
Methodist Church. Since 2004, the Centre has had a
school for children 3 to 10 years of age.

Shakers

We are still accepting empty frozen juice cans - with
lids. Please bring them to church and put them in a
labeled box under the coat racks in the hallway

OPERATION BACK TO SCHOOL



Operation Back to School

Our church is supporting Operation: Back to
School, a cooperative program organized by the
Dunn County Emergency Food and Shelter
Collaborative to assist families with school
supplies for the coming school year.

Our church is a collection site for school supplies,
such as backpacks, notebooks, pens, pencils,
crayons, markers, rulers, erasers, glue, etc.
A collection box will be in the entryway from
Sunday, July 18 through Sunday, August 8 to
collect your donations. The supplies will be
distributed to families on Tuesday, August 17.
Last year our church collected many school
supplies for area students.

In Menomonie, 589 students were helped by this
city-wide program. Watch for Back to School
sales at local stores early in August to save
money on your donations.

Thank you for your help with this project.

Celebration of Life

Sunday, September 12. Celebrating the lives of
members who turn 80 years young this year.
Please contact Martha, in the office, or call, Mary
Wolf (235-1709) if you are turning 80 this year.
We want to include you in the celebration.



EDUCATION

Nursery

Childcare is available in the nursery from 9:15 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. each Sunday during the summer.



Vacation Bible School

What: ReNew™ (The Green VBS)

When: July 25-29, 2010: 5-8 pm nightly

Who: Kids from age 3 - 5th grade

Where: 1st Congregational UCC (by BK)

Cost: \$18/child or \$50/family

(cost includes meal, snack, & materials for 5 nights)

Scholarships are available through Menomonie UMC's Education Team.

ReNew™ is a 5-day walk through the Parable of the Sower, complete with evening meal, music, crafts, games, science, snacks, and lots of fun. ReNew™ invites kids to learn about Jesus, build community, and become stewards of God's wonderful creation.

ReNew™ is a cooperative production of the Menomonie United Methodist Church and the 1st Congregational United Church of Christ.

Registration forms are available at the church or through Kris Ann Riedmann at 715.235.0654, ext. 2 or pamperedka@yahoo.com.

Calling VBS Volunteers

Volunteering for VBS is a fun, fulfilling and fruitful short-term ministry with long-term effects. This year's VBS has an environmental emphasis, and we are looking for folks in many different areas - Games, Crafts, Preschool, Snacks, Meal Planning, Serving Meals, Decorating, Registration, Promotion, Shepherding, Check-In, Set up, Clean up, Food Donations, etc.

If you'd like to help in any way, contact Kris Ann Riedmann at 715.235.0654, ext. 2 or pamperedka@yahoo.com.

Painters Needed for VBS Backdrop

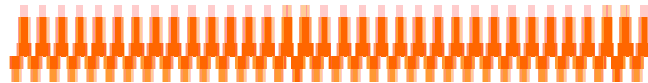


If you can manage a paintbrush, we need you! We are looking for volunteers to paint backdrops for VBS. All ages are invited!!! For details, contact Kris Ann Riedmann at 715.235.0654, ext. 2.

Can You Lend or Donate ... ?

- *Watering cans
- *Fabric (all sizes)
- *Fake plants/trees
- *Garden magazines
- *Cardboard boxes
- *Baskets/crates
- *Seed packets
- *Fruit/Veggies (real/fake)
- *World globes
- *Egg cartons
- *Bird seed
- *Toy birds/insects

We would love to use these for VBS decorating. If you'd like to lend/donate any of the above, please leave the item(s) in Kris Ann's office at the church with a note indicating whether you would like it/them returned after VBS.



Kidventures - July 19-22, 2010

A Faith Adventure for 4th- 8th graders

Meal and Adventure nightly, 5-8:15 p.m.

\$25/all 4 nights OR \$10/night

Scholarships are available through Menomonie UMC's Education Team.



Activities include the ropes course at UW- Stout, a scavenger hunt at the Environmental Site, a trip to Refuge Farms, and canoeing on the Red Cedar River.

Kidventures is a cooperative venture of the United Methodist Church, 1st Congregational United Church of Christ, Peace Lutheran Church, and Grace Episcopal Church, all of Menomonie.

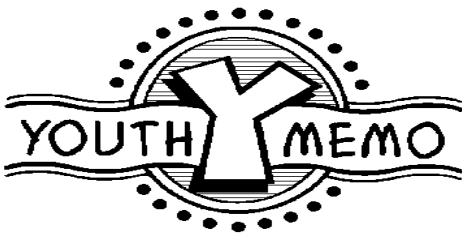
For information on registration or scholarships, contact Kris Ann Riedmann at pamperedka@yahoo.com or 715.235.0654, ext. 2.

Kidventures Seeks Canoes and Canoeists

Do you canoe ... or have a canoe? Kidventures is looking for both canoes and adult canoeists for the evening of Thursday, July 22. We will need at least 10 adult canoeists and as many canoes. Both our volunteers AND our young people had SO much fun with this last year!



To volunteer your time and/or your canoe, contact Kris Ann Riedmann at pamperedka@yahoo.com or 715.235.0654, ext. 2.



United Methodist Youth Group

The Youth group enjoyed a final gathering on Wednesday, May 26, with a picnic at Riverside Park followed by nine holes of disc golf at the Brickyard course. An unprecedented turnout of sixteen youth and three adults (from Menomonie UMC, Grace Episcopal, and Glenwood City UMC) made for a wonderful close to the season.

An outpouring of drivers on Saturday, August 28 for the Kiwanis paper drive would be really welcomed and appreciated. This is a wonderful opportunity to cruise the streets of Menomonie, and meet the youth. If you are interested, willing, and able, please call Bill or Anita at 235-0961. We meet at the church at 9 a.m. for this 'road rally of sorts' and, previously, have been on our way home again in less than two hours. If you have papers, but live outside of the city limits, please feel free to bring the papers to the church the week prior to August 28, or contact us regarding a pick-up.



Bill and Anita Wiese

Campus Ministry

While most are still thinking about the summer sun, enjoying the music at the band shell, and relaxing during the long evenings, Campus Ministry is already planning for the fall semester at Stout. When the students come to town, we "hit the ground running."

During the weekend of August 6-8, we will plan our retreat at a cabin near Warren, WI with students from the Lutheran Campus Ministry as they plan, also. This will give us the opportunity to plan together as our calendars fill with 2010-2011 campus activities.

Sunday, September 5 is Move In Day. Again, as in previous years, I will greet students and their families in the parking lot at the Johnson Field House with water and cookies. **Can you help by baking homemade cookies?**



Backyard Bash is held on the evening of Tuesday, September 7, and is an opportunity for students to sign up for and get information about campus organizations. Campus Ministry will set up cookies (hopefully there will be some left from Move In Day) and games.

On Wednesday, September 8, is Meet Menomonie, an opportunity for students to learn what businesses and organizations Menomonie has to offer them during the school year. We are still trying to decide what to give to the more than 500 students that come through the Johnson Field House. We need at least 150 items to give away. Typical give-aways are pencils, pens, note pads, and muffins. We need something creative to remind students that Menomonie UMC and THE PLACE are here in Menomonie for them. **Any ideas?** Please share them with Yvonne.

So, while you relax and enjoy your summer, please take a minute to mark your August and September calendars with the many opportunities you have to make your campus ministry even better during the 2010-2011 school year.

Blessings, Yvonne Cox, Campus Ministry Coordinator