

# The Tidings

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*"We are living proof that Jesus Christ is our peace who makes  
strangers into friends, breaks down dividing walls and builds up real persons."*

## ***From the Pastor***

### **Meister Eckhardt (1260-1328)**

German mystic, scholar, and monk in the Dominican order

Translated by Daniel Landinsky

A hand in my soul can reach out and touch Jerusalem  
as my other hand tastes the beauty of the Rhine.

And my bare foot can stand upon the holy ashes of rain – each drop a fallen Phoenix –  
that sang out from the fire of union with clay.

The hills, the valleys, the beasts, the vineyards, the sacred meadows on our earth and body – they shall pass as  
all form does, tiring of the space within a cage;  
for all crowds the soul but the infinite.  
Ascenders to God we are.

Look though how we enrich this planet with our melting organic shadows, wondrous shadows are all but God.  
What a womb God has – what wild love God must have made to God's own self for days and days without  
stopping to have given birth to all you can imagine,  
and to all you cannot conceive.

Draw a circle around the frontiers of space, barely can God fit a toe there.  
All language has taken an oath to fail to describe God; any attempt to do so is the height of arrogance and will  
always declare some kind of war:  
the inner ones that undermine our strength, and the outer conflicts that maim red.

I cried out one night in the madness of separation from love, in the madness doing, of trying to add to the  
Perfect; for Perfect is All.

The awakened heart is like a luminous sphere – just giving without thought  
to any who may come close or gaze at it.  
The soul becomes blessedly lost to all but its own holy being.

When we cannot be who we are our divine senses become mute,  
mute and sick from the insanity of judging what God made Immaculate.

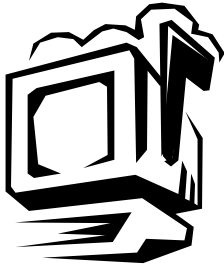
Who must God have made love to in order to have given birth to all this sound, to this sacred spectrum of  
color, scents, and music from the wind's body and existence's plea for mercy –  
that plea for the real mercy, unbearable joy?

Once we had four legs and tails so useful to balance our raid into heaven,  
and I found them again.

I am a swimming galaxy tonight. Angels prowl around me hoping I will toss them a fresh piece of light  
– here dears, here; my sack is full.

The universe rents space from me, and oceans are drawn from my well.  
How can that be?

For I can touch Jerusalem while my other hand tastes the beauty of the Rhine.  
Yes, I can kiss Jerusalem while my mouth tastes the wonders of the Rhine.



## BULLETIN BOARD

### COOKIE THANK YOUS

Dear Underwood

Thank you so much for the Christmas cookies. They helped make the Holiday season special and delicious. It's comforting to know that wonderful people like you are thinking of me. Thanks again!

Alison Jeske

Sorry this is extra late! But THANK YOU for the cookies they were GREAT! And my roommates enjoyed them as well! I hope you are all doing well in the New Year!

Ayla Ody-Weis

### BIRTHDAY THANK YOU

My journey through the "90s" has begun by me wishing to thank all members and friends who were involved in the success of my birthday celebration, January 6<sup>th</sup>, after the morning church service, my largest personal party ever. Also, I want to thank everyone who presented to me or sent birthday cards of congratulations and well wishes, giving me many wonderful memories for the future.

Margaret Jeske

### DEAR ELEMENTARY SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Thank-you so much for the Barns & Noble gift card! I will love spending it! Thank you to the kids who gave me other gifts, too! You are all very thoughtful and generous. You are a great class and it is a real treat to be your teacher!

Love, Pat

### DEAR UNDERWOOD FAMILY

Thanks to you all for the love and generosity poured out on us during this Christmas season, and all throughout the year. Being your pastor is the greatest gift.

With much love and appreciation, Jamie

**THANK YOU** for your support of food, mittens, scarves, gloves and hats for the Milwaukee Christian Center at Christmas time. We celebrate with joy, the wonderful people like you who share their blessings with the MCC. Kathy Baillargeon

### TOSA COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Thank you to everyone who helped fill the shelves at the Tosa Community Food Pantry for the holidays. November and December were the busiest ever for the pantry but our many faithful friends made Thanksgiving and Christmas a little better for the families who turned to the pantry for help. Thank you for responding in a big way; without your help we would have little to share with those in need.

### A HUGE THANK YOU

I would like to extend a huge Thank You to everyone who has participated in the music ministry here at Underwood Church, this past fall and winter! Thank you for sharing your talents and your joy of music with the Underwood community.

Emilie Rohde-Terrien

## FULFILL YOUR HEARTS DESIRE...

**Heart Sisters** [women with BIG hearts]  
a purposeful group of women at Underwood Baptist Church, fun-loving, mission-minded, caring and giving, meet quarterly...openings available – please apply in person at:

Heart Sisters

Valentine Tea

Saturday

February 16th

3:00 pm

Fireside Room

Please bring your own *special tea cup* and you may *dress up* if you'd like. We will continue the *Secret Heart Sisters!!* Please R.S.V.P. to Mary Ann Hand, Virginia Wick or Robin in the church office.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Underwood Church family welcomes Jeanne and Sarah Grisetti.

## WELCOME NEW BABY

Congratulations to Aaron and Maria Hand upon the birth of their first child. Leandro Santa Hand was born on December 31, 2007. Leandro is the grandson of Duane and Mary Ann Hand.

Orders will be taken **Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup> thru Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Order forms can be found in the Fireside Room. Delivery is **SATURDAY, March 8<sup>th</sup>**. Please call Kay Wells or Mary Ann Hand if you have any questions.

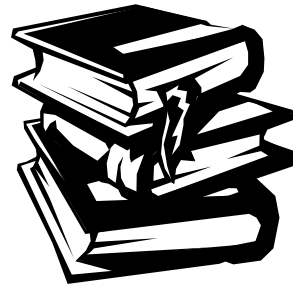
## SAVE THE DATE!

FEBRUARY 10

3 pm

## ACTS MISSIONAL ASSOCIATION MEETING Underwood Memorial Baptist Church

Come together with area American Baptists to celebrate past mission work and to collaborate on future service projects. Last year's meeting consisted of worship and sharing of ideas and resources. From that meeting came joint Vacation Bible Schools, resource information pertaining to important ministry concerns like mental health, and opportunities to participate in each other's ministries. Plan to attend and participate!



## THE LIBRARY CORNER

Your librarian is taking a short

vacation while she recuperates from her knee replacement surgery.

But, please, do not take a break from reading. Because Underwood's library is self-service, you can check out books while I am gone. I have asked someone to check to see if there are returned books to be re-shelved during my absence.

There are several recently donated books that I plan to read and process for the library during my confinement at home. That certainly appeals to me more than watching daytime television 😊.

I'll be back soon, hopefully more mobile than before.

*Carolyn Sanders*, Librarian

# PEACE PARK UPDATE

We are making good progress toward completing the Peace Park in El Salvador. Our missionary friend on the ground, Magda Aguirre, located local artisans who can construct the playground equipment for \$3600. This includes all parts and labor, and is a much better deal than our earlier estimates! This mission outreach is a wonderful opportunity to give a gift that benefits many people. Make a contribution in someone's honor, and we will provide a card describing the project and the site. Construction can begin once we have gathered the funds. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

## 2007 MISSION GOALS MET!

Congratulations, Underwood – thanks to you, we met and exceeded our mission goals this past year. As you know, American Baptist Churches hold four special mission campaigns each year as noted below.

<i>March</i>	<i>America for Christ</i>
<i>June</i>	<i>One Great Hour of Sharing</i>
<i>September</i>	<i>World Missions</i>
<i>December</i>	<i>Retired Ministers and Missionaries (RMMO)</i>

Additionally, we support Church World Service through their Tools and Blankets program (May and June) and the Crop Walk (October). We exceeded those goals also.

The total received for all special mission offerings was \$6,829.72. Those gifts are "over and above gifts" in addition to our yearly Underwood pledges.

For all who gave so generously for the specific offerings, **THANK YOU!** Give yourself a pat on the back for your generous spirits.  
-- The Missions Committee

# SILENT AUCTION

We are seeking items suitable for our Silent Auction that will take place in the Fireside Room, **March 2<sup>nd</sup> & March 9<sup>th</sup>**. All monies received become Camp Tamarack Scholarships for campers in our church. Below is a list of ideas of items that would do well at an auction. For more information or to arrange for a pick up, contact Sarah Torbenson at 414-333-3144 or [nakokitty@hotmail.com](mailto:nakokitty@hotmail.com)

### **Trips and Getaways**

Use of vacation home, Bed & Breakfast, Hotels and resorts, Airline tickets, Hot air balloon ride, Sailing or boat cruise

### **Sports and Sporting Events**

Pro Game tickets, Rounds of golf or tennis, Pro instruction, Skiing lessons, Sports memorabilia

### **Gift Certificates**

Restaurants, Books and CD's, Clothing and accessories, Beauty salon, Car wash

### **Cultural Events**

Concert tickets, Theater tickets, Movie tickets, Personal museum tour

### **Special Events**

Hosted dinner, Hosted kid's party, Catering, Music for a party

### **Electronics**

I-Pod, Digital camera, Laptop computer

### **Food and Drink**

Bottles of wine or spirits, Gourmet foods, Cooking lessons

### **Arts and Crafts**

Paintings, Drawings, Prints, Ceramics, Fine jewelry, Quilts and hangings, Handmade clothing, Art classes

### **House and Garden**

Antiques, Oriental carpets, Garden equipment, Appliances, Kitchen equipment

### **Professional Services**

Accountant, Personal trainer, Photographer, Interior designer, Landscape designer, Computer consultant, Massage therapist

Put your thinking cap on!

Spread the gospel. Promote peace with justice. Feed the hungry. Clothe the naked. Shelter the homeless. Care for the sick and marginalized. Welcome the strangers among us. Set at liberty those who are oppressed.

These Biblical mandates are shared by Baptists of all North American geographies, races, cultures and theologies. Members from all these groups will gather in Atlanta **Jan. 30-Feb. 1** and explore ways to accomplish – together – the goals that Jesus inspired in Luke 4:18-19. The New Baptist Covenant Celebration will be a history making event. More than 20,000 Baptists from across North America will gather in an unprecedented demonstration of Baptist unity. The event will culminate months of planning by leaders of more than 30 Baptist organizations who laid the groundwork for a new era of cooperation during a series of meetings at The Carter Center in 2006 and early 2007.

**PLENARY SPEAKERS:**

- |                  |                            |                                   |
|------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| _ Charles Adams  | _ Tony Campolo             |                                   |
| _ Jimmy Carter   | _ Bill Clinton             |                                   |
| _ Al Gore        | _ Lindsey Graham           |                                   |
| _ Chuck Grassley | _ Joel Gregory             |                                   |
| _ Bill Moyers    | _ Julie Pennington-Russell |                                   |
| _ William Shaw   | _ Marian Wright Edelman    | Plus 16 special interest sessions |

## PRAYER CONCERNS

**Members:** Tifuh Amba, Eva Berry, Jim Christenson, Bette Day, Marge Gaeth, Joyce Johnson, Jack Kearnan, Janice Melcher, Maggi Monahan, Pat Ransom, Virginia Reininger, Charlyn-Mai Roberts, Carolyn and Joe Sanders, Shari West, Dee Schowalter, Shirley Tupper, Llew Walker, Lisa Wilkening, Tim Wilkening.

**Friends and Others Known to the Church Family:** Tifuh Amba's mom, aunt, Anne Marie, sister, Mourine Amba; Pam Clark's mom, Wilma Clark; Nancy Fritter's mom, Jean Thomas; Margaret Jeske's cousin, Erwin Zapf; Chad & Sarah Kafka's friends, Brian & Anita; Sammie Luckow's father, William; Janice Melcher's friend, Kali; Grace Morgan's son, David; Sei Pramenko's sister, Masa; Julie Pruett's cousin, Lisa; Carolyn & Joe Sanders' daughter, Jenneane; Llew & Pat Walker's son, David; Anna Warren's friend, Meg Cobb; Shari West's friends, and all soldiers on active duty; Keith & Virginia Wick's nephew, Leo.

# LENTEN SERIES

## Feed your belly & Feed Your Soul

### FAT TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>

Lent is approaching fast

Many people fast during Lent. Before this starts, please join us for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Pancake Supper, on Fat Tuesday, **February 5<sup>th</sup>**. Supper starts at 6 p.m. (until 7:30 p.m.) in Fellowship Hall. The suggested cost is \$5 per person, with a \$10 maximum per family. The menu includes pancakes, sausage, fruit, dessert, coffee, milk and ????. Proceeds will be given to Hunger Task Force. Please sign up on the pew pads or call the church office.

### RADICALS!

Anabaptists and the Current World Crisis

### A Manifesto

Make plans to join in our Lenten study this February and March, leading up to Easter. We will have a simple meal at 6 pm, followed by a program at 7pm. This year, we will spend time looking at Rev. George Williamson, Jr.'s provocative book,

*Radicals! A Manifesto: Anabaptists and the Current World Crisis*

Please let us know if you plan to attend, so we can secure an adequate number of books.