

# The Tidings

*Rev. Jamie P. Washam, Pastor*

*Underwood Memorial Baptist Church  
1916 Wauwatosa Avenue  
Wauwatosa, WI 53213  
(414) 258-4246  
Email: [underwoodchurch.com](mailto:underwoodchurch.com)*

**April 2008**

*"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

May is an exciting time at Underwood Memorial Baptist Church. The campaign to *Render Away From Caesar* is in full swing. Check out the website and blogspot to see where other folks plan to allocate their tax rebate checks, and add your own ideas while you are there. [www.renderawayfromcaesar.org](http://www.renderawayfromcaesar.org)

Choirfest celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> year on Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. Plan to attend, sing, and fellowship with your brother and sister Baptists from around the region!

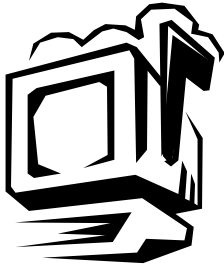
Come the day before, Saturday, May 3, from 9 - noon to help tidy up the church grounds during our clean up day. The work is easier and more fun, the more folks we have here. Mark your calendars now!

Don't miss the opportunity to hear Dr. Ken Stone lecture at UMBC. He will be here on Wednesday, May 7, from 9 – 3:15 speaking on *Subversive Books of the Bible for Subversive People of Faith: Ruth, Esther, Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes, and Lamentations*. Underwood Church people get more than half off of the registration fee, so sign up now! More information is on the bulletin board.

Mid-May, a small crew from UMBC will travel to Baton Rouge, LA as a part of the American Baptist collaboration with Habitat for Humanity home build project. Please pray for this team, and all who will work on these homes. Particularly, pray for the people who will live in these homes, as their communities are slowly coming back to life.

On Saturday, May 31, Underwood will host a screening of the documentary, *For the Bible Tells Me So*. A number of area foster parents will be in attendance. This is an opportunity to see an excellent film, and to share the ways God leads this congregation to practice God's radically inclusive love. I've included a synopsis of the film below. All are welcome to attend.

*Can the love between two people ever be an abomination? Is the chasm separating gays and lesbians and Christianity too wide to cross? Is the Bible an excuse to hate? Through the experiences of five very normal, very Christian, very American families -- including those of former House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt and Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson -- we discover how insightful people of faith handle the realization of having a gay child. Informed by such respected voices as Bishop Desmond Tutu, Harvard's Peter Gomes, Orthodox Rabbi Steve Greenberg and Reverend Jimmy Creech, FOR THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO offers healing, clarity and understanding to anyone caught in the crosshairs of scripture and sexual identity.*



## BULLETIN BOARD

### DEAR UNDERWOOD CHURCH

Thank you for your prayers, concern and cards during my recent surgery.

Wyla Wong

### THANK YOU'S

Thank you so much for your generous donation of \$1000 to **Project Focal Point**. The continuous generosity of Underwood Baptist Church has allowed us to remain a viable part of this community.

Executive Director, Vicki L. Boston

**Hunger Task Force** greatly appreciates your help in relieving hunger throughout the greater Milwaukee area.

Executive Director, Sherrie Tussler

Thank you to the Underwood Congregation for the generous gifts to the **World Mission Offering** in 2007. Every dollar of your church's World Mission Offering goes 100% to support the work of missionaries and international partners.

Yours in Christian Mission, Reid S Trulson

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Underwood Church welcomes new members Anna and Scott Oakes into our church family.

### WANTED: GRADUATES

Are you aware of someone graduating this year, from high school, college, tech school, etc.? Please contact the church office. We plan to recognize these students and their achievements.

CHOIRFEST MAY 4<sup>th</sup> 7PM  
UNDERWOOD  
BAPTIST CHURCH

## VIVA TEEN TALENT SHOW

The VIVATEens talent show is less than a month away! It will be held on **Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>**, during the Pointless Potluck. Come and see the talented VIVAs show off their amazing abilities! The event is free, though donations will be gratefully accepted.

The VIVATEens are also planning a community clean up project as part of the annual Great American Clean up coordinated in Milwaukee by Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful. We invite anyone and everyone to join us on Saturday, May 24 for this activity. We have not yet selected a site for our clean up, but it will either be in Milwaukee or Wauwatosa. We plan to conduct our clean up in the morning and will be done by Noon. Please speak to any VIVATEen about joining in on the clean up effort, and let us know if you have a site in mind. VIVATEens will announce further details as they become available.

Finally, the VTEens will be coordinating the next Market Day sale which will begin in mid May for a June pick up. Proceeds will support VIVATEen activities. Stay tuned for additional information about the upcoming Market Day Fundraiser, and plan to support the VIVATEens with a plentiful purchase!

ANNUAL MEETING  
SUNDAY, MAY 18



THE

We'll soon have two new books in our library for your reading pleasure. Small Group I read and discussed the now presidential candidate, Barack Obama's book, ***The Audacity of Hope***, last year. Someone recently donated a copy to our library. I think you will find it an interesting read, even if he is not your "candidate."

A recent new author in our library collection, Kim Vogel Sawyer, has written a new novel, ***My Heart Remembers***. One reviewer states, "Kim Vogel Sawyer's characters are so real they will step off the page into the reader's heart." I concur with that statement. If you like historical prairie stories you will enjoy this book. Watch for these new books on the new book table.

We seem to have trouble with our DVDs walking off without people signing them out. In addition to the missing ***Chronicles of Narnia*** and ***Mama Heidi***, now the two disc DVD set, ***Walking the Bible***, is AWOL. If you have any of these DVDs, please return them ASAP. No questions will be asked.

*Carolyn Sanders*, Librarian

THE LIBRARY CORNER

## WALK THE LABYRINTH

Have you ever walked a labyrinth? This ancient meditative practice is a wonderful experience! On **May 28<sup>th</sup>** at 6 pm, you can have a labyrinth experience right here at our own church. The labyrinth is an ancient pattern found in cultures around the world in many different forms. The labyrinth became part of the Christian prayer life in the middle ages. It was incorporated into cathedrals in Europe. The one remaining is at Chartes. Labyrinths have experienced a revival in the 1990s. People walk the labyrinth to quiet their mind, find insight, and to meditate.

When the Wellness Committee did a survey of the congregation's interests in Wellness a large number of the congregation wanted to walk the labyrinth.

Speaker Rev. Karen Hagen of Tippecanoe Presbyterian Church and Living Waters Contemplative Life Center will speak to us about the labyrinth's history, the process of walking the labyrinth and give us a few meditations that we may use during our walk. Rev. Hagen will join us for a potluck and you will have an opportunity to walk the labyrinth. We are renting a portable labyrinth from Wauwatosa Presbyterian Church for a week. We will also provide additional opportunities to walk the labyrinth.

Learn about the labyrinth, enjoy fellowship and food, and walk the labyrinth, at 6 pm May 28<sup>th</sup>. Please bring a potluck dish to share and a donation to defray the cost of renting the labyrinth.

## DONATIONS NEEDED FOR REFUGEES

The Refugee and Immigrant Services Program at Lutheran Social Services (LSS) of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan is collecting donations for newly arriving refugees who fled persecution in their home countries. LSS currently resettles refugees from Afghanistan, Burma, Iraq, Liberia and Somalia. Refugees arrive with very few possessions, so your donation will contribute significantly to their new lives in the United States. We are in need of twin/full bed sets, twin box springs, dining tables with chairs, folding chairs, coffee tables, dressers, lamps, vacuum cleaners and televisions. Your help and resources would be deeply appreciated. For more information, contact Ako Hasegawa of LSS at (414) 325-3063 or e-mail [ahasegaw@lsswis.org](mailto:ahasegaw@lsswis.org).

### ITEMS FOR NEW REFUGEE FAMILIES

WE now have a box on the mission table to receive your items brought in for the Burmese refugee families arriving in May. Lutheran Social Services will appreciate any items you donate. Call Ako Hasegawa at (414) 325-3063 for further information.

- **Pillows, Blankets/Comforters, Towels**
- **Light bulbs, Telephones, Alarm clocks**
- **Can openers, Scissors, Dish soap, Cutting boards**
- **Bathroom/kitchen cleanser, Kitchen sponges**
- **Laundry detergent, Laundry baskets, Shower curtains with rings**
- **Large wastebaskets, Brooms, Large trash bags**
- **Shampoo, Sanitary napkins**
- **Pots & pans, Dish sets**

Why not pick up some items the next time you shop and bring next Sunday. Thank you.

## TOSA FOOD PANTRY NEEDS DONATIONS

As you can imagine, with food prices rising and unemployment situations worsening, the Wauwatosa Food Pantry is about as busy as it's ever been. The pantry is finding it hard to keep their shelves fully stocked, and are asking for our help. We can help with cash donations, food donations, or, by shopping at Pick 'n Save! Here's How...

The first Sunday of each month, Underwood Memorial Baptist Church holds a collection of food and cash to support the pantry. You'll see a table set up with a sign and a basket. Please place your food and cash donations at the table. These items are especially needed: canned fruit, cream soups (no tomato, please - they already have enough!), pancake mix and syrup.

You can also support the Wauwatosa Food Pantry every time you shop at Pick 'n Save. If you don't already designate a charity to receive 1% of your grocery bill, you can designate the food pantry. If you have already named a charity, that's ok, you are allowed up to three! Here's the simple process: sign up at the customer service desk to designate the Wauwatosa Food Pantry. Their We Care Number is 835100. Then, each time you shop, just use your Advantage Card, and the Pantry gets a donation. It's that easy!

Thanks again for your ongoing generous support of the Wauwatosa Food Pantry!

Dear Pastor Jamie,

Julie and I felt truly blessed to be guests at your church last Sunday. Listening to your services online is meaningful but feeling the warmth emanating from the membership of your congregation is something that is very difficult to put into words.

Several members approached us like Llew, Chad, and several others whose names I can't remember. I was especially amazed at how open people were during the "Prayer Concerns" time during the service. That truly demonstrates the cohesiveness that your family of God feels for each other. People wear a lot of masks in life, but it seems like people feel comfortable enough to check their masks at the door at your place of worship. After all, it's only between God and us anyway!

Again this year, the Viva teens were so inspiring! It's so amazing to see how well grounded and talented these girls are, and I'm sure a lot of it mirrors the leadership you provide for them as well as their parents! Much preparation and practice goes into making a service like this succeed, and I'm sure that you must have been very proud.

I don't like singling people out, because it takes away from the others; however, I have mention two of the girls. First, I'd like to talk about Valentina. To stand up and give a sermon the way she did is no easy task, yet she was so animated and her oratory gift is remarkable. Secondly, I would like to mention Sarah. With an angelic voice like hers as well as her ease at public speaking, I really think that she should consider divinity school! She would really be a wonderful minister!

After I printed a copy of the poem "Anyway" last May after listening to the girls Podcast, my wife noticed it asking me what that was all about (especially since I had never shown much interest in religion). I told her that I really enjoyed what you had to say in your sermons, and I let her listen to the Viva girls service. Although she was shocked that I was listening to a religious service, she said that the message conveyed by the girls was right!

I can't really understand how I was led to your church podcasts, but obviously God is leading me there for a reason. As it is said in Matthew 7:7, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."

Jamie, thank you so much for the offer to join members of your church and you for lunch. After talking about it, we decided to head to the ballgame given the time and my inexperience driving in Milwaukee. We were both very impressed with your Family of God, and we won't soon forget our visit to Underwood!

Sincerely,

David R. Lawrence  
Massena, New York

## MISSION UPDATE

The first mission campaign for the year is the **America for Christ** offering taken during the month of March. Our goal this year was \$1200. Thanks, Underwood family; we exceeded our goal by over \$100. The final total was **\$1308.26**.

During April we have had a respite from special mission offerings. However, during May we feature the annual **Blankets of Hope** offering to honor or memorialize our mothers. Mother's Day this year is May 11. Watch for the opportunity to give to this Church World Service promotion.

The major mission campaign for June is **One Great Hour of Sharing**. Promotional materials will be arriving soon. Also in addition to donating to this special campaign, you will have the opportunity to provide **Tools of Hope**, another Church World Service event. This occasion especially honors or memorializes our fathers on Father's Day.

# PRAYER CONCERNS

**Members:** Tifuh Amba, Eva Berry, Jim Christenson, Bette Day, Carole Elizabeth, Eleanor Fitch, Marge Gaeth, Alison Hochmuth and her family, Joyce Johnson, Jack Kearnan, Janice Melcher, Maggi Monahan, Pat Ransom, Virginia Reininger, Charlyn-Mai Roberts, Carolyn and Joe Sanders, Dee Schowalter, Adina Tarpley, Dereck Vernon, Llew Walker, Shari West, Lisa Wilkening, Tim Wilkening, Wyla Wong.

**Friends and Others Known to the Church Family:** Tifuh Amba's mom, aunt, Anne Marie, sister, Mourine Amba; Pam Clark's mom, Wilma Clark; Carole Elizabeth's friends, Gary, Terry, & Anne Marie; 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; Phyllis Smith; John & Bonnie Sorenson's daughter-in-law, Jennifer; Larry Stussy; 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.

**Sympathy:** Long time member Goldie Sanford passed away on Monday, April 1, 2008. Underwood Church extends sympathy to her son, Jon Sanford, and his wife, Louise.

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**March 2008**

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

## RENDER AWAY FROM CAESAR

Each Wednesday during Lent, an odd dozen or so gathered to eat, study, and be together. We read George Williamson's book, *Radicals! An Anabaptist Manifesto to the Current World Crisis*. Our discussions stirred up questions:

What does it really mean to be free? Is it the ability to buy whatever you want, when you want, to drive what you will, to consume whatever you want when you want? Is this freedom? Is freedom the opposite of slavery? Occupation? Fascism? Communism? Terrorism? Are these the opposites of freedom? What do we know of God and freedom – what does scripture teach, what does Jesus say about freedom? As we read it, God requires us to seek justice and love mercy, Jesus tells us to know the truth, for the truth will set us free. Jesus teaches that whatever we do (or don't do) to the ones who have nothing, the ones many think are nothing, however we treat those are how we treat God. How can you claim to love God, who you can't see, while abusing your sister or brother, here, who you can see? Put your money where your mouth is. For everyone to have enough, some need more, while others need to give up and share out what they have. This is freedom – living beyond the mastery of possessions, beyond reductionist labels, beyond the fear of death, into real lived life. True freedom is for all to live as God intends, this is heaven come to earth. We all must work together to make it. How do you insist and create this freedom for all?

The government promised all citizens \$300 - \$600 tax rebate checks beginning in May. Politicians hope the economy gets stimulated before the elections, and tell us this ought to do the trick. We wondered how buying new plasma screen TVs would really help people do better. One Wednesday evening, someone challenged us to put our tax checks somewhere really useful, to really stimulate the economy, and further, to boost the community by giving our money to someone who really made a difference. Render Away from Caesar. We talked about community gardens, microlending, putting in a playground in a peace park in El Salvador, all work rooted in justice. We decided to pray on it, and see where the Spirit led. You better be ready when you make that your prayer. We told the rest of the church. The ideas kept coming: job training programs for women coming out of abusive places, Habitat for Humanity, Doctors without Borders, and solar cookers for women in refugee camps in Chad. It became clear that there was no way to make this about one thing. Not all can give \$600, but everyone can pray and pay attention to where their gift could really make a difference. Some can give \$30 for a cooker; others may sweeten the \$600 pot with more to give.

A list appears in this *Tidings* and is growing on the website and blogspot. Feel free to browse, and jump in. Tell us where your tax money's going:

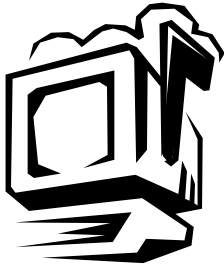
<http://renderawayfromcaesar.org/>

The blog: <http://renderawayfromcaesar.blogspot.com/>

To post a blog, just send an email to [spiritcircle.rafc@blogger.com](mailto:spiritcircle.rafc@blogger.com)

Right now, the list gives ideas of where all our tax monies could go (think of it as your opportunity to allocate public funds).

Around June 1, assuming the checks really are in the mail, we'll begin posting where it all went, and where it keeps going. And growing.



## BULLETIN BOARD

### THANK YOU

Dear Friends & Family of Underwood,  
Thank you for your kind words of sympathy upon the death of my brother. It is a blessing and a comfort to know that others are caring in a time of need.

Dee Schowalter

### AMERICAN BAPTIST MEN'S SPRING RETREAT

**Saturday, April 4-5, 2008**

Camp Tamarack, Waupaca, WI  
8 p.m. Friday to 3 p.m. Saturday

Sam Brink, Retreat Leader

Mark Weisser, Music Leader

Please see bulletin board for more details.

### WISCONSIN AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

May 30 – June 1, 2008

Green Lake Conference Center

Keynote speakers

Terri Simpkins and Trinetta McCray

Musician - Mary Schecher

Please see bulletin board for more details.

### WELCOME NEW MEMBER

The Underwood Church family welcomes Erika Manning. Erika invited everyone to her home for a luncheon after the worship service. From South Carolina, Erika is a neurosurgical resident and a world class weight lifter!

### JOHN CROSSAN TO SPEAK

Best-selling author and scholar, John Dominic Crossan, will speak on "God and the Violence of Civilization", during a two-day workshop, on April 18-19, at St Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church in Wauwatosa. Registration and a fee is required for the Saturday portion. More details can be found on the bulletin board or by calling St. Matthew's church office at 414-774-0441.

### CHOIRFEST 2008

The 25<sup>th</sup> annual Choirfest will be held at Underwood Baptist Church on **May 4, 2008**. The choirs are asked to participate in the 4 p.m. rehearsal. At 5:30 p.m. Underwood will provide supper for the many participating choirs, The concert begins at **7 p.m.** Fellowship and refreshments will follow the concert.

### CAMP TAMARACK HAPPY 50<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY!

There is a camping experience for every age, from 5 to 95. Check out all the possibilities on the bulletin board. The early bird registration deadline is **April 30<sup>th</sup>**. Check the bulletin board for the camp Wish List, the 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration, and Mini Mission Weekend. Ask Robin, in the church office, for registration forms.

# NATIONAL MINISTRIES & HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

***We hope to send two teams to Baton Rouge, Louisiana this spring. If you are interested in participating, please see Pastor Jamie ASAP.***

***April 28-May 3*** (frame exterior and interior walls, raise roof trusses and roof decking, install windows, doors, and vinyl siding)

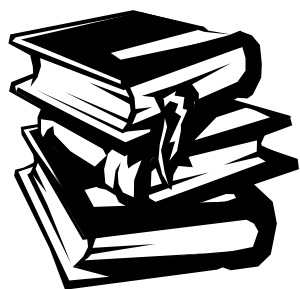
***May 12-17*** (finish vinyl siding, tape and float sheetrock, paint, do trim work, install cabinets and landscape)

Volunteers must be at least 16 years of age, and no construction skills are required, but any knowledge of or experience with construction is appreciated. The cost to participate is \$100 per volunteer. This fee includes housing, as well as lunch, snacks, and drinks daily. Volunteers provide their own transportation.

## MIRABILE DICTU! (LATIN for "LES MISERABLE!")

Fifteen Ways to Stay Miserable:

1. Wait for others to make you happy.
2. Blame everyone else for your unhappiness.
3. Use "if only" whenever you can, regarding time, money or friends.
4. Compare what you have with what others have.
5. Always be serious.
6. Take responsibility for everything all the time.
7. Try to please everybody all the time (never say "no").
8. Help others, but don't let anyone help you.
9. Consider your own wants unimportant.
10. If anyone compliments you, discount it.
11. If anyone says anything bad about you, exaggerate it.
12. Always stay calm and cool.
13. Resist change to the death.
14. Strive for absolute perfection.
15. Always live in the past or in the future.



## THE LIBRARY CORNER

I am pleased to tell you about a wonderful book purchased for the library. Enthusiastic recommendations for this book come from Bonnie Sorenson, Lisa Wilkening and me.

***Three Cups of Tea***, written by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin, is "the inspiring account of how one man can make a difference" (*The Oregonian*). Greg Mortenson, a former mountaineer turned humanitarian, is building schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan where there were none before.

It is one of those beautifully written books that you don't want to put down. There is a new adventure on nearly every page.

Two new nutrition books are recent additions, as well. The dietitian who spoke at the recent Chili lunch (sponsored by the Wellness Committee) donated two suitable books to encourage healthy eating.

Have a problem eater in your home? Check out ***Secrets of Feeding a Healthy Family*** by Ellyn Satter. Even if you don't have a problem eater, there are other great ideas and helps, as well as delicious recipes in this book.

If you are diabetic, you might like to check out ***Exchange Lists for Weight Management*** from the American Diabetes Association. It will be helpful in your quest to maintain your weight goals.

When was the last time you browsed in our library?

*Carolyn Sanders*, Librarian

## COUNTDOWN TO RUMMAGE SALE

Only 37 days (from March 20<sup>th</sup>)! Yes, the annual **Underwood Rummage Sale** is scheduled for Saturday, **April 26<sup>th</sup>** from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The money received from this effort goes to special mission projects. Last year we netted over \$2,400.

Here's what you can do before then:

- *Decide on items to donate*
- *Decide what sweets you can make for the bake sale*
- *Decide on when you can help out -- we will need lots and lots of help, especially in setting up the days and evenings prior to the sale*

We'll accept the usual rummage stuff: furniture, kitchen items, appliances, books, jewelry, toys, games, linens, knick knacks, antiques, etc., all in good condition, of course.

Something new is added this year. A "baby world" will be set up on the stage to feature baby furniture, toys and clothing for children up to age 5. **NO OTHER CLOTHING WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

As the date approaches, you may start bringing your items to church and putting them on the stage or in the left area in front of the stage.

Watch for further information in the bulletin. You can start signing up after Easter. Young or old, we can use your help!

**April 26<sup>th</sup>** will be here before we know it.

# PRAYER CONCERNS

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**Friends and Others Known to the Church Family:** Tifuh Amba's mom, aunt, Anne Marie, sister, Mourine Amba; Pam Clark's mom, Wilma Clark; Carole Elizabeth's friends, Gary, Terry, & AnneMarie; Nancy Fritter's mom, Jean Thomas; Allison Hochmuth's mother and grandpa; 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; John & Bonnie Sorenson's daughter-in-law, Jennifer; 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.

## INTERFAITH EARTH NETWORK CONFERENCE

**Sunday-Monday, April 13-14, 2008**

Theme: Water

Urban Ecology Center, Riverside Park

1500 E Park Place, Milwaukee 53211 (414-964-8505)

The Interfaith Earth Network is having a conference on April 13-14, with water as the theme. We are a group of many congregations who wish to build community by coming together and learning about the environment, and ways our faith calls us to act as advocates and protectors of the Earth, it's life forms and resources.

You are warmly invited to come! Please go to [www.interfaithconference.org](http://www.interfaithconference.org) for our schedule. A registration packet will also be up on the website, so you can register, if you plan to attend.

More information can be found on the church bulletin board.

**Labyrinth Walking:** The Wellness Committee is working to bring a Labyrinth experience to the Church. We are hoping to have this event during April.

The labyrinth is an ancient pattern found in cultures around the world in many different forms. The Labyrinth became part of the Christian prayer life in the middle Ages. It was incorporated into Cathedrals in Europe. The one remaining is at Chartes. Labyrinths have experienced a revival in the Nineteen Nineties. People walk the labyrinth to quiet their mind, find insight, and to meditate. The labyrinth has one path with no dead ends. The path winds back and forth, providing perhaps a mirror for our lives. As you walk in you let go of the days details, in the center mediate or pray, on the way out one follows the same path.. You may find yourself changed in some way. Look for details of a Labyrinth experience in the weeks ahead.

# RENDER AWAY FROM CAESAR!

Some projects, organizations, and ideas that will help 'stimulate the economy' in a grass roots, just, Baptist way. "Render Away From Caesar" your tax rebate check! Check out the website for more. [www.renderawayfromcaesar.blogspot.com](http://www.renderawayfromcaesar.blogspot.com)

## **Put in a Playground in the Peace Park in El Puente de Cuscatlan, El Salvador**

A group from Underwood traveled to El Salvador last summer to help build a retaining wall for a Peace Park. The site overlooks the River Lempa, and includes an enormous and beautiful tree where peace accords were signed after the Salvadoran civil war. The park is a place where the community gathers, the Baptist church holds services, where the women's cooperative meets to work, and where children from the school across the street, and surrounding area play. Help them build a playground for the children. The materials and labor will come from El Salvador. The total cost is \$3,600. We've already raised over \$600. Checks can be made to Underwood Memorial Baptist Church, please indicate El Salvador Peace Park in the memo line.

[www.underwoodchurch.com](http://www.underwoodchurch.com)

## **Buy a Solar Cooker for a Family from Darfur**

**\$30 SOLAR COOKER** Donation Provides:

- 2 Solar Cookers per family
- 2 Pots
- 2 Pot Holders
- Year supply of plastic bags
- Skills Training for refugee women and girls

<http://www.jewishworldwatch.org/donate/solarcookerproject.html>

## **Milwaukee Urban Gardens**

Community gardens play an important role in urban rejuvenation and neighborhood stability. By their very nature, they are centers of community activity, creating places with lasting value and civic meaning. Milwaukee Urban Gardens acquires and preserves land and partners with neighborhood residents to develop and maintain community gardens to enhance the quality of life.

[www.Milwaukeeurbangardens.org](http://www.Milwaukeeurbangardens.org)

## **Meta House for their Vocational Education Program**

Meta House is a gender-specific treatment facility that offers a variety of programs to assist women in recovery, keeping or regaining custody of their children and building a better life through life and skills training and therapy. Their Vocational Education Program certainly stimulates the economy by training and educating these women to reenter the workforce. Many of our old clients now hold great jobs at companies like Harley Davidson due to a combined effort of treatment and training, and can better care for themselves and their families.

[www.metahouse.org](http://www.metahouse.org)

## **Hearts with Haiti**

Support the vision and ministry of the St. Joseph's Family in Haiti, through Nurture, Advocacy, Fundraising, Administration, and Leadership Development. The St. Joseph's Family includes the St. Joseph's Home for Boys in Port-au-Prince, Wings of Hope in Ferathe, and Trinity House in Jacmel. (Pictures of friends from Milwaukee and Haiti are on the UMBC website.) The three homes serve more than 60 children. Graduates from the first home, St. Joseph's Home for Boys, run a home for disabled children called Wings of Hope outside Port-au-Prince and a home for young boys called Trinity House in a small coastal town. They plan to build a bakery at Trinity House to teach life skills, provide food, and a source of income.

[www.heartswithhaiti.org](http://www.heartswithhaiti.org)

## RENDER AWAY FROM CAESAR! *continued*

### **Habitat for Humanity**

[www.habitat.org](http://www.habitat.org)

### **Heifer Project**

[www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org)

### **National Religious Campaign Against Torture**

<http://www.nrcat.org/>

### **The Center for Victims of Torture**

The CVT provides clinics for those who were tortured. Centers are in Minneapolis, where last year 250 people received care, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, where 2000 survivors were served. They partner with American Jewish World Service, National Religious Campaign Against Torture, Evangelicals for Human Rights, and key leaders from the military, foreign policy, and security policy sectors.

717 E. River Parkway, Minneapolis, MN 55455

[www.cvt.org](http://www.cvt.org)

### **Human Rights Watch**

Won Nobel Peace Prize for work on removing land mines and cluster munitions worldwide; the good work goes on

350 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, 34<sup>th</sup> floor, New York, New York, 10118-3299

[www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org)

### **Doctors Without Borders**

[www.doctorswithoutborders.org](http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org)

### **Kiva Microlending**

[www.kiva.org](http://www.kiva.org)

### **Church World Service**

Provides food, shelter, and healthcare at refugee camps; helps people around the world develop economically through self-help groups, microlending, literacy classes, well digs, equipping women and men with needed tools, etc.

[www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org)

### **Amnesty International**

Won Nobel Peace Prize for raising awareness of abuses around the world; ongoing letter writing campaign by people concerned to put pressure on those incarcerating political prisoners, focusing on the abuse and torture of innocent freedom fighters. Their efforts won the release of numerous prisoners. Portion of work focuses on women and girls imprisoned and tortured. Address contribution to Violence Against Women for this particular program.

[www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org)

# LABYRINTH WALKING

The Wellness Committee is working to bring a Labyrinth experience to the Church. We are hoping to have this event during April.

The labyrinth is an ancient pattern found in cultures around the world in many different forms. The Labyrinth became part of the Christian prayer life in the middle Ages. It was incorporated into Cathedrals in Europe. The one remaining is at Chartes, France. Labyrinths have experienced a revival in the Nineteen Nineties. People walk the labyrinth to quiet their mind, find insight, and to meditate. The labyrinth has one path with no dead ends. The path winds back and forth, providing perhaps a mirror for our lives. As you walk in you let go of the days details, in the center mediate or pray, on the way out one follows the same path. You may find yourself changed in some way. Look for details of a Labyrinth experience in the weeks ahead.