

The Tidings

Rev. Jamie P. Washam, Pastor

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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

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

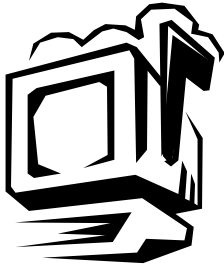
Come the day before, Saturday, May 3, from 9 - noon to help tidy up the church grounds during our clean up day. The work is easier and more fun, the more folks we have here. Mark your calendars now!

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 4th 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 7th**, 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 28th** 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 28th. 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.

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.