

# The Tidings

*Rev. Jamie P. Washam, Pastor*

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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."*

**December 2007**

## *From the Pastor*

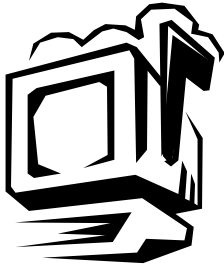
### This House is God's House ~ This House is Your House

Who does the church belong to? Who ~ and what ~ is the church? Who makes the decisions, who does the work, and how does that get decided?

We are all the church. No one person or group calls the shots; direction comes from the Spirit working through the body, and the body is every one of us. A lot of people have keys to the church. A lot of invisible and overt work goes on to keep the church afloat.

People contribute in all manner of ways: some people teach classes, others sing, or balance the books or fix leaky roofs. Do you see something that needs to get done? Be the one to do it! Just like at home, it only gets done if you do it. Church cannot function when ten percent of the people pull ninety percent of the weight. Perhaps you have skills you would like to share with the church, or maybe you want to learn new ones. Speak up, and get busy. This is the way we remain healthy and strong. No one is served when only a few know how the boiler works (do you know where the boiler is?) or when everyone assumes that things are someone else's responsibility. I have this recurring image in my mind of a truck painting stripes down the middle of a highway. The workers come across road kill in the middle of the road, shrug, and paint over it saying, "It's not my job!"

Church is amazing, because it functions by and for volunteers. We each bring our particular gifts and vision to the community, and all are better for it. How do you plan to share with the Underwood family? Have you made your pledge for 2008? Church doesn't just happen. Church isn't an afterthought; we are called to bring our whole body, mind, and spirit to God, not to check them at the door. So, congratulations, church. You are all the deciders-in-chief! Look around you, and let's get it done.



## BULLETIN BOARD

### COOKIE THANK YOUS

Thank you so much for the delicious holiday cookies from the church! They made my St. Nick's day very special! Hope all is well in Wauwatosa. Thanks again. God Bless,  
Kelsey Morin

Thank you so much for the package of cookies this holiday season. It brought me great joy in knowing that a wonderful group of people care so much for me. Needless to say, my roommates and I enjoyed the wonderful cookies, and created a great study break for us. May you all have a Merry Christmas and a warm holiday season. Thanks again,  
Caitlin Schneider

Thanks for the cookies! They're just what I needed since finals have started! I've been writing my senior paper on the 1980s Sanctuary Movement, a religious social movement that provided sanctuary for refugees from Central America so they would not be deported. The American Baptists helped the cause move forward with advocacy and assistance to refugees and their case is cited in my paper. (Maybe they baked cookies too!) Anyway, thank you again!  
Adrian Ody-Weis

Thank you very much for the Christmas cookies and other treats. They disappeared rather quickly when they were discovered. I look forward to seeing everyone when I return for break. Thanks again.  
Jordan Olsen

Please thank the congregation for the cookie tin for me. I shared them with my lab mates and we all really enjoyed them! I hope everything is well. Ryan Jeske

The Christmas cookies made my (and my roommates) day. So far, they've been my lunch and dinner today, and I think they even help me study...maybe we should turn this into a monthly treat. Just a suggestion. Looking forward to seeing everyone over break!  
Love, Emily Olsen

### WELCOMENEW MEMBERS

The Underwood Church family welcomes new members Tim, Lynn and Amanda Smith, Adina Tarpley and Carole Elizabeth.



### YOU'RE INVITED

To a coffee hour following worship  
on **January 6<sup>th</sup>**  
to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday of  
**MARGARET JESKE**



### CHRISTMAS VOICES

Thanks to all our Christmas Carolers: Janice Melcher, Ahayama Perry, Nicole Robinson, Yvonne Robinson, Carolyn Sanders, Joe Sanders, Bethany Sherry, Sandy Sherry, Lucy Walker, Paul Walker, and Jamie Washam.

### EMAIL LIST

Underwood Memorial Baptist Church is putting together a church email list. If you would like to communicate electronically with the church, please email your address to [office@underwoodchurch.com](mailto:office@underwoodchurch.com) or write it on the pew pad. Thank you!



## THE LIBRARY CORNER

We have good news for all you Jan Karon fans. The author of the nine books in the *New York Times* bestselling Mitford novels has started a new series featuring Father Tim. Yes, the new ***Home to Holly Springs*** book is out. A copy was donated anonymously to the library. (Thank you, whoever you are!)

The jacket reads: "Thirty-five years have passed since Father Tim Kavanagh left his Mississippi hometown, determined not to return.

"Then he receives a handwritten note postmarked Holly Springs. Cryptic and unsigned, it says only, '*Come home.*'

These two words compel him to make the most disturbing journey of his life. They also lead him to a truth that will change his life – forever."

This is a spellbinding book, full of twists and turns. I found it hard to put down, just like her earlier novels. Watch for it soon.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a very happy 2008. Make a New Year's resolution to read more next year. Why not start by checking out a book from Underwood's library soon?

*Carolyn Sanders*, Librarian

## SUCCESSFUL WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

Thirty women and young girls attended the annual Women's Christmas Brunch on Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. The tables were beautifully decorated by Judy Chan and Dee Schowalter, while Grace Morgan and Hanie Lykins prepared tasty food for all to enjoy.

The group sang Christmas carols accompanied by Sandy Sherry, and Marilyn Carrington gave a short Christmas reading. Everyone enjoyed the piano solos by Nora Garski and Allison Gleesing. Jessica Gleesing sang the words to one of the songs her sister played.

A stirring report of the week they spent in St. Bernard's parish in Louisiana, as part of a Habitat for Humanity Rebuild crew, was given by Barb Morgan and Deanna D'Abbraccio. Filming of Hurricane Katrina by first-responders showed the terrible devastation in the parish (like our counties). The pictures taken one year later by second responders indicated how little progress was made in one year's time. The Habitat crew worked hard, but had times of fun as well, as indicated by the pictures they shared.

Barb and Deanna encouraged those present to consider volunteering for a future rebuild team. There is plenty of work to be done.

Thank you to all who made this year's brunch a successful event.

# 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; Steve Heimerl's brother-in-law, Frank Slayton; 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; Shari West's friends, and all soldiers on active duty; Keith & Virginia Wick's nephew, Leo; Wendy Whitaker.

# SALVADORAN PLAYGROUND UPDATE

After prayer and reflection, we modified our playground building strategy. Spending \$10,000 in the U.S. to build and ship equipment to El Salvador did not seem like the best use of our resources. Instead, we will buy materials in El Salvador, and pay local carpenters and metal workers to build the playground on site. This way, our gift will help the local community from the ground up. We are getting estimates for this re-envisioned playground now. Work can begin once the funds are in place. Thank you for the contributions you've already made and thank you for your ongoing commitment to build a dream of peace and play with and for our Salvadoran brothers and sisters.

# GIFT POINSETTIAS

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Weldon & Virginia Fikes	In honor of Underwood's pastor & their granddaughter, Jamie P. Washam
Nancy Fritter	In memory of her father, Kenneth Thomas
Kathleen Hanold	In memory of her mother & father
Steve & Robert Heimerl, & Lindsey & Ben Hahn	In memory of Nancy Marie Heimerl, & Sadie & Herb Sleik
Gloria Henderson & Jackie Villwock	In memory of Jack & Regina Villwock, & Carter Paulus
Dan & Gloria Henderson, & Jane & John Palmert	In memory of Barbara Henderson & Richard Henderson
Margaret Jeske	In memory of family members
The Keys Family	In memory of grandparents, Betty Blish, & George & Georgia Smith
Sammie Luckow	In honor of Florence Wagner, Kristine Luckow & Joyce Loomis
Hanie Lykins	In memory of daughter, Margretta Rosenow
Marilynn Mee	In honor of mother, Delia Schowalter In memory of grandmas, Rose Mee & Reta Burt Allen
Martha Merkt	In honor of Underwood's pastors, past & present
Cyndie Ody-Weis	In honor of her children, Adrian, Ayla and Alex
John & Jane Palmert	In memory of Steven & Betty Palmert
Laura Perez	In memory of a courageous friend, Linda Santos
Pat Ransom	In memory of her parents, Claude & Jeannette Ransom
Doreen Reitmeyer	In memory of her parents, Art & Bea Decker In honor of Carol Sroor
The Rosenow & Torbenson Families	In memory of Margretta Rosenow & Edward Rosenow
Joe & Carolyn Sanders	In honor of son, Steven
Phyllis & Ken Smith	In memory of their son, Andrew
NJ Unaka & Jamie Washam	In memory of Gene & Liz Washam, Bryce Fikes & Johanna Unaka
Helen Weiland	In memory of Al Scheibe
Key Wells	In memory of her father, Alois Blonigen

Many Thanks to our Advent Candle lighters this season:

The Torbenson Family, the Keys Family, Marilyn Mee & Delia Schowalter, Bonnie & John Sorenson, & the Vernon Family

# HERE'S HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

To continue maintaining our church building, we need your help. The Facilities Committee, with the guidance of the Ministry Council, has decided on a reorganization of the committee to do two things: 1, to keep up with all the work involved and 2, to get more of you involved in the upkeep of this building.

We're asking for volunteers to oversee parts of the job of maintaining this building and the equipment within it. Some of the work involves taking and making phone calls, and some of the work involves some expertise (some expertise we lack on this committee).

Please take a look at this list and see where you can help. Please contact Eric Olsen with questions or offers of help.

These first four jobs mostly involve taking maintenance calls (taking calls from church members or the office, and calling the appropriate contractors or people).

- Furnace & Air Conditioning
- Roof & Window
- Electrical & Plumbing
- Stable House

These next three jobs do involve taking maintenance calls, but also require some expertise. Most of this expertise is sought in the Computer category. We are looking for someone who works well with PCs to help Robin and Jamie troubleshoot problems, talk to the service provider, and work with issues such as email spam. The Web page is already handled by Chad, and while Eric and Chad run the sound system, we would like a third person to help out. The system is easy to learn.

- Computer, Internet Services
- Web Page & Podcast Publications (Handled by Chad Kafka.)
- Sound System & Recording

Finally, there is the job of overseeing the lawn care and snow removal. This involves working with the lawn/snow boy and the plowing contractor—overseeing their work and providing them feedback. It also involves maintenance of the lawn mower and snow blower.

- Lawn Care & Snow Removal

# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR OWN GRACE MORGAN!

December 6<sup>th</sup> Grace Morgan was honored at the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Luncheon for the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee. She received the Frank Zeidler Award, an honor given each year to an individual whose present and past activities contribute to the religious communities' presence and involvement in social issues. Grace was cheered on by family members, church family, and many Habitat friends. Thank you Grace for all your spirited service to this and the wider community!