

# Focus

August 2012

www.daleheightspc.org

# Pastor Marilyn's Monthly Musings

# Dale Heights Staff

Pastor: Rev. Marilyn Gamm

Transformation Coach: Clara Thompson

Music Director/ Administrative Assistant: Maggie Rogers

Financial Secretary: Dick Corey

Custodian: Rick Geiger

# Calendar

 If you receive the Focus electronically, you can access the calendar separately by clicking on the appropriate link (i.e. "May Calendar") on
 the Newsletter page of the website. The calendar page will still be available in paper form. As I'm writing this month's musings our Transformation Team has just begun leading us in receiving and discussing our draft Guiding Vision Statement in various group opportunities. If you have not participated in one of these opportunities, I encourage you to do so in order that we may hear reactions to this draft document from as many of you as possible before our Vision Panel begins making any revisions to it.

At least in part in response to having heard throughout our transformation process the desire to do more with and for our near neighbors, on Saturday, August 4 our church will be hosting a Halfway Through the Summer Construction Party for our neighborhood. Sandy Weigt and Wendy Weber welcome any help you may be able to provide in hosting our near neighbors.

Also in August we will be saying a 9-12 month au revoir to Sandy Weigt as she heads to Connecticut to care for her grandson. Although she assures us she's coming back and we believe her and are counting on her doing so, please let Sandy know how much you appreciate all of the many and varied ways she has provided leadership, support and encouragement in our Dale Heights family.

During the just ended General Assembly meeting in Pittsburgh I was officially elected to a four-year term on what is now called the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Although I've already attended two PMA meetings as an appointed member, I'll be getting my official orientation with the other newly-elected members during August as well. I continue to be most excited about the PMA's 1,001 New Worshiping Communities movement over the next 10 years, which was officially approved during the General Assembly meeting. I think this is a wonderfully creative opportunity in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and hope and pray it will not only ignite new, but reenergize the ministries of established worshiping communities like Dale Heights as well.

See you in church, and in mission and ministry in our community! Shalom in Christ Jesus—Marilyn

#### Focus

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#### Liturgists for August

August 5	Tom Jones
August 12	Dick Corey
August 19	Rick Shannon
August 26	Otty Schaefer

#### **August New Beginnings**

The August New Beginnings Lunch will be Tuesday, August 21st at 11:30 at Perkins, 5237 University Ave. Please call or e-mail Mary Towne at 831-6635 or <u>marytown@chorus.net</u> for reservations. Thank you. Ushers for August

- Aug 5Marcia Holman, Gale Oakes, Wendy WeberAug 12Joan Hicks, Bonnie Savonne, Otty Schaefer
- Aug 19 Vreni Straubhaar, Janice Krall, Rick Shannon
- Aug 26 Rick Geiger, Mike Holland, Tom Jones

#### **Nursery Available**

Children at Dale Heights are always welcome and encouraged to attend and participate in Sunday worship. The nursery is available when parents have a need to take their children out of church for whatever reason, but it is not staffed.

If you did not get to sing your favorite hymns during our annual Hymn Festival in June do not despair—you may yet get to sing them sometime this summer!

For the rest of the summer Pastor Marilyn is as much as possible selecting hymns for worship from those you voted for but did not make it into the Hymn Festival.

# Inquiring Into Membership Conversations

Persons interested in becoming members of Dale Heights are invited to make an appointment with Pastor Marilyn at a mutually convenient time throughout the month. "What evidences have you seen of God at work in your life this week?"

## **Church Women United**

The Fellowship of the Least Coin is a worldwide ecumenical prayer movement for peace and reconciliation started in 1956 by Shanti Solomon of India. Christian women around the world seek fellowship and commit themselves to reconcile any strained relationships in their lives. It is not a fundraising project but a fellowship of prayer. Even the poorest person can be a part. To this day, each of us put the smallest-value coin in the jar (penny in U.S.) as we pray for peace. Each year the coins are forwarded to self-help projects somewhere in the world. An international committee from the four regions of the world meets annually to review grant applications for worthy projects. This year's recipients have yet to be announced.

# Halfway Through the Summer Construction The first half of the summer of 2012 has been challenging. We have had construction on University Avenue and it has Halfway Through the Sponsored by Dale Heights

When: Saturday, August 4th Between 2:00 and 4:00 pm

Where: Front lawn of Dale Heights Church 5501 University Avenue at Norman Way (in case of rain, the church basement)

What to expect:

Ice cream sundaes! Watermelon! (donated by Brennan's) Water activities to help cool off! Other surprises!

Donations to the Middleton Outreach Ministry school backpack drive will be accepted at this event.

Come, Cooloff, Meetyour neighbors,

been hot!

Please come to a community

Avenue construction being

halfway done and try to cool

off. There is no registration needed and the event is free.

celebration of the University

ENJOY!

# **Dale Heights Guiding Vision Statement DRAFT**

#### WE ARE A PEOPLE OF SALT AND LIGHT LIVING FOR THE WORLD:

Bold in action, resisting despair, advocating for those whose voices go unheard, seeking peaceful resolution rather than escalation of conflict, challenging our culture of materialism with one of contentment and creativity, countering the culture of arrogance with one of humility, we speak into our culture the truths of Jesus Christ. We trust in God's faithfulness, and trust that as a church we are in company with a God that never sleeps; therefore, we strive to be this church of the Living God, the church needed in our world.

Acknowledging our relationship with God, we are called to worship in the spirit of love. God gathers us together in a wide variety of planned and unplanned encounters in which we experience and offer reconciliation and hope in a world that desperately yearns for both. With a broad definition of worship, we are a place for all to rest when weary, to come and be transformed to our very roots, to learn faith, love and hope, and to radiate these gifts.

Called to get to work, we are an open-minded and caring church, which desires to act as though we are in the world that God intended. Governed by that desire, recognizing people's essential needs, among them food, fellowship and spiritual connection, we will continue our tradition of outreach mission projects and continue to look for and identify areas of need where we can serve as the Holy Spirit moves among us.

We will let people know: we are a church in and for the neighborhood, an intimate and diverse place where "everybody knows your name." God is already at work in our community, guiding our congregation as we seek to discern our part in that mission. We are asking, "How shall we reflect God's amazing grace?"

#### WE ARE A PEOPLE OF SALT AND LIGHT LIVING OUT "Jesus' vision of right relationships":

We embrace Jesus' commandment to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength—and our neighbors as ourselves. Given a clear mandate, we are called to love boldly and to act faithfully. With each opportunity where we can choose our actions, we are heartened by the reminder that as we love, the world comes closer to what God intends.

Our first and foremost relationship is the one between each of us and God. As individuals in the church we accept the responsibility of learning, practicing and growing in our faith, doing all we can to deepen our relationship with God. God is invisible, made visible in Jesus Christ, made visible in us. In relationship with our loving Creator we live in hope and joy and experience peace.

We claim God's loving acceptance of all as a cornerstone on which we build. All are equal and equally welcomed to the banquet—young, old or in-between, receiving encouragement from God's love and through Jesus' teachings. Because we are taught that Jesus wanted people to know each other and care for each other and encourage each other, we continue to look for opportunities to do exactly this. We are all on individual trajectories yet we strive to listen to and support one another. Sometimes this will be difficult and require all of our strength and mind and reliance on the many ways God interacts with us as we go through passages of sickness, need, betrayal and death. We will also be guided by Jesus' admonition to love our enemies. And each time we encounter other human beings, we endeavor to look for the Christ in them.

Recognizing Christ with outstretched arms, we seek to stretch our own arms out to the world, embracing all. We will live and act in the spirit of that powerful image.

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# Dale Heights Guiding Vision Statement DRAFT (continued)

#### WE ARE A PEOPLE OF SALT AND LIGHT ENVISIONING HOW OUR CHURCH PRAYS AND ACTS:

Bold in prayer we come to the glorious well of living water that nourishes and heals. We pray with the expectation that prayer will move aside all that stands between us and God. Our prayers equip us to live in harmony with one another and with the earth; to accept all, forgive all and live in hope. We believe that praying and acting will make a difference in the world.

It has been said, "Pray as if everything depends on God; act as if everything depends on us." We believe that praying and acting are well-considered together. Acting flows out of prayer, and prayer supports and fine tunes acting. Our models for praying and acting are informed by the Scriptures' teachings about God, in Jesus' words and actions, and in the apostles' words and actions. Our models for praying and acting may also be witnessed in each another. Through our prayerful actions, we are God's loving hands on earth.

In prayer we encounter an awesome, living God, a burning bush experience. We praise and give thanks. We ask for and receive forgiveness and ask for the strength to let go of anything that prevents our forgiving others or holds us back from living our faith. In the communal experience we gain from the closeness of others. In private times of prayer we can say what we would say to no other, and even in our doubt we can bask in the atmosphere of indescribable love and acceptance and clear and sound guidance. We endeavor to pray and act so that we do not live in darkness, but in the light of God.

We are a people bold in action, empowered by our relationships with the living and loving God, a gathered and sent community seeking to be faithful witnesses through prayer and action. We look to break the bonds of despair. We look to knock fear out of the ballpark. We say to hopelessness— "begone!"—we are following One who carries hope like a glorious banner for all to see and who offers courage to work for right relationships in the church, our families, our community and our world. In a world of doubt and fear we choose to trust and hope.

The Vision Statement Draft printed above is the product of many meetings held by the Vision Panel over the last few months of our on-going transformation journey. A huge thank you to our Vision Panel: Joan Hicks, Jennifer Jones and Gale Oakes. They took the information gathered from the Vision Wall and created this expression of what it is to be called by God to be a people of salt and light living for the sake of the world God loves. Thank you to all who posted information on the vision wall.



The statement has been used as our Affirmation of Faith during worship services in July. We are in the process of having meetings to prayerfully study and react to the Vision Statement. Please continue to study and pray about it.

Thanks for your continued prayers for the Vision Panel and the Transformation Team.

# English Books Collection for Purunchojang Church in South Korea Through Sunday, August 5

Sah-lang Church Pastor Gam has invited Dale Heights and John Knox Presbytery to join with his congregation in an English books collection for a church's library in Daegue, South Korea. According to a letter from the Daegue Church Pastor any kind of used or new book, religious or non-religious, textbooks, novels, etc. written in English is welcome. The deadline for collecting the books here at Dale Heights in the Concourse is next Sunday, August 5.

Pasted below is an excerpt from the threepage letter's appeal for these books:

"For the last couple of decades, Korea has been swept by English education fever.... However, books published in English are hard to find in the libraries.... Hence, we decided that a large collection of books published in English would add value to our library, and attract non-believers to the library and eventually to the Lord.... This library is the first church operating public library that is accredited by the government. The city government. ... also agreed that it would authorize and support us to open and operate the proposed English book only library if we can collect 30,000 to 50,000 English books including used ones. . . . I and the brothers and sisters at Purunchojang Church have been praying to the Lord for His help and guidance.... [W]e [are asking for your] help. . . ."

## August Worship Messages

**Sunday, August 5**—10th Sunday after Pentecost—"Seeking the Bread of Life" - John 6:24-35— Communion

Sunday, August 12—11th Sunday after Pentecost—"Questioning the Bread of Life" - John 6:35, 41-51
Sunday, August 19—12th Sunday after Pentecost—"Being Drunk on . . . God's Spirit"—Ephesians 5:15-20
Sunday, August 26—13th Sunday after Pentecost—"Proclaiming the Gospel of Peace" - Ephesians 6:10-20

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#### **Music News**

I attended the American Guild of Organists National Convention at the beginning of July and had a wonderful time. I learned a lot and got many choral music samples that I'll use in choosing future pieces for the Dale Heights choir.

Speaking of choir, the choral season here will start back up with our first rehearsal on **August 29th** at **7:30pm**. Rehearsals will be on Wednesdays at 7:30pm this year, and we welcome any and all who wish to join. We are especially looking for women's voices this year! If you have questions about joining choir, please see Maggie.

> Cereal Pasta Spaghetti sauce Peanut butter Fruit juice Jelly Cooking oil Sugar Toothbrushes Toothpaste

**MOM** Needs:

#### Wednesday Lunch & Learn

Our Wednesday Lunch & Learn group continues studying the biblical book of Genesis. Genesis, meaning "origin," is a book of stories of God's early dealings with the world and, in particular, with the early Israelite, or Hebrew, people. We are exploring together 2-5 chapters covering particular stories per week through the summer and early fall.

Join us when and as you are able – we begin gathering for fellowship at 11:45 a.m., with class beginning at 12 Noon, Wednesdays!

#### MOM SEEKING CHILDREN'S CLOTHING

#### DONATIONS

Help Middleton Outreach Ministry clients stretch their budgets by providing access, free of charge, to good quality children's clothing. As part of MOM's annual School Supply program in August, we will offer clothing for school-aged children. Please help us by donating good quality clothing for school aged children (K-12). As you clean out your closets or shop for new clothes, remember those trying to make ends meet by donating clothing that kids can wear to school. Donations can be dropped off at the MOM Distribution Center, 8710 Montclair Avenue, Middleton on Mondays-Thursdays, 10-2 and Fridays/Saturdays 9-12.

#### See next page for MOM School. Supply Drive List

#### August Birthdays

August 3	Grant Lembcke
August 5	Trudi Gebhardt
August 6	Kelsey Shannon
August 8	Lenore Mercer
	Carl Metzloff
August 11	Bill Holman
August 18	Jackie Howard
August 19	Janice Krall
August 23	Sam Roecker
August 25	Sasha Jakovich (2006)
August 27	Frank Rodriguez
	Jane Williams
August 28	Amy Schendel
August Anniversaries	
August 11	Dale Buske and Gale Oakes
August 17	Bill and Norma Sebert
August 18	Janet and Tom Jones
August 31	Vicki and Gerry Klump

# Personal Safety and Belongings Reminder

For your personal safety, whenever you are working alone in the church, or during the week after your group has gathered, please ensure that the building doors are locked.

Please do not ever leave your wallets, purses, or other valuable personal belongings unattended in or around the church. In late May a Sah-lang Church member's wallet was stolen from her purse while she was teaching Sunday School.

# SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

D

Middleton Outreach Ministry is leading a community-wide effort to prevent homelessness and end hunger for people throughout Middleton, West Madison and Cross Plains. Through the support of business partners, area schools and faith communities, as well as numerous individuals and service organizations, MOM provides - free of charge - food, clothing, housing assistance, emergency financial assistance, and special services for seniors.

The School Supply Program makes it possible for kids to have the items they need to succeed and for families to save their limited resources for necessary expenses such as rent.

With your help in 2011, we sent nearly 700 students to school with full new backpacks, ready to succeed. Let's show them again how much we care.

# **Top Ten Needs**

Markers – thick & thin Pocket folders – glossy Pocket folders – with & without prongs Spiral Notebooks – college ruled Spiral notebooks – wide ruled Colored Pencils 3-Ring Binders – 1" & 1.5" only 3-Ring binder dividers XL High School Backpacks Erasers

# Also Needed

Pencils Red pens Compass Protractors Dry Erase Markers Pencil Sharpeners Sharpies - black 3x5 lined index cards

Liquid glue Glue Sticks Scissors Graph Paper Pencil Cases/Boxes

Please bring items to MOM by August 17, 2012 7432 Hubbard Ave, Middleton 9 am-4:30 pm M-F

> Financial donations for MOM to purchase School Supplies also accepted

Middleton Outreach Ministry

# Session Highlights July 15, 2012

- During the Clerk of Session report, approved the May 20, 2012 state Session meeting minutes
- During the Property & Finance Committee report, heard a brief report on the June and year-to-date financials, and also reviewed a comparison with the same period last year; approved asking that in the next budget cycle a line item be added for hiring outside contractors to do some needed maintenance projects with the funds to come either from the operating budget or memorial funds; continued discussing replacing the parking lots; heard an update on replacing the sanctuary sound system; and heard an update on the church redecorating projects
- Received the monthly Pastor's report
- During the Christian Education Ministry Team report heard that the Sunday morning adult and children's church school are off for the summer with thanks to all who taught this past year; heard an update on the Wednesday Lunch & Learn; and that the Team will be meeting in August to make fall plans
- During the Personnel Committee report learned all employee and volunteer background checks are current; that Bill Mercer has tendered his resignation from the committee; and that the committee will be meeting July 29 at 11:30 a.m.
- During the Transformation Team report received and discussed the draft Guiding Vision Statement; approved a motion expressing heartfelt thanks to the Vision Panel for all their time and work on the draft Guiding Vision Statement; and called a Session meeting for Sunday, September 23 at 6:30 p.m. to meet with Coach Clara Thompson on identifying our Key Result Areas
- During the Outreach & Mission Committee report heard about plans for a Halfway Through the Road Construction Ice Cream Social for the Neighborhood August 4 from 2:00-4:00 p.m.; that a green cleaners blog has been set up and is being reviewed before linking it to the Dale Heights website; that more of their funds have been allocated; and that plans are underway to host three potluck program speakers this fall
- During the Worship & Music Committee report heard about a request for another Church in the Concourse sometime this year; that Pastor Marilyn and Craig Howard are now looking for a fall date to do a pulpit exchange; and that the next meeting is August 12 at 11:30 a.m.
- During the Care & Fellowship Committee report heard that the next meeting is August 15 at 7:00 p.m.
- During the Nominating Committee report noted it needs to meet in August or September
- During miscellaneous business, received with regret and appreciation for her service Sandy Weigt's resignation from Session, effective August 20, 2012
- The next Session meeting was set for Sunday, August 19, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. with Sandy Weigt leading devotions.

# Property & Finance Committee Highlights

## July 10, 2012

- Memorial Gardens: meeting set for Thursday, July 12, to select bulbs for fall planting in the Todd memorial garden. To do: Inventory number of replacement garden plaques needed. Regular watering of the new gardens has kept the plants healthy despite the drought.
- Sanctuary air conditioning is still functioning; bid check and concourse thermostat check pending.
- Redecorating task force: fellowship hall stairwell banner has been finished; next up: installation.
- 2012 University Ave reconstruction is not ahead of schedule. Received report of meeting with Kevin from AECON regarding construction progress. Noted: Degree of slope by Brennan's; birch tree by Norman Way may survive; city laid new asphalt by our driveway apron. Parisi Construction will "return to original condition" the roughly 10-15 foot wide area outside the Shirley-Dawn Jorgenson Memorial Garden. Committee agreed on terminating an asphalt path at Brennan's rather than at the University Ave sidewalk. Steps on the slope were also discussed. Committee member will approach Brennan's regarding their interest in sharing some costs.
- Received report that a mobile A/C floor unit has been purchased for the use of the MATC classroom.
- New toilet has been purchased for the office area women's restroom: cost \$579.
- Estimate will be obtained for concrete repair by office entrance.
- Capital Campaign for parking lot will begin in July.
- Committee members will read Stewardship materials soon and begin thinking about the fall campaign.
- Concourse A/C condensate line has been cleared. This should stop the leaking. Ceiling will need to be sheetrocked and painted to repair damage.
- Financial reports reviewed for period ending June 30, 2012. Year-to-date net budgeted income is \$5,368. Two local outreach funds (Dyslexia and Scouts) will be disbursed this month. Extra \$160 on Music Director Continuing Education will be covered by the church, since in previous years not all allotted funds were used.
- Next meeting Tuesday, August 14, 2012, 7:00 pm.

#### **Outreach & Mission Committee Highlights**

#### July 15, 2012

- Your Outreach and Mission Committee has disbursed monies to designated organizations.
- The next Outreach potluck will be in September, with the topic and date TBA. Possible potluck ideas include: having the executive directors of MOM and IHN come give a talk, and having a student from Pres House talk about the Heifer Project.
- The next time we host The Road Home is in August. It is a blessing and privilege to meet and minister to these guests in a small way. Watch and listen for the next time we host guests as a buddy church to St. Luke's.
- Finalized plans for the "Halfway Through the Summer Construction" Ice Cream Social.
- Next meeting will be Sunday, September 16, 2012 at 11:30am.

# A Season of Civility

#### July 18, 2012



## A Season of Civility

Are you weary of the increasing polarization in our public discourse at the very time we need government leadership to address our biggest problems? You can help begin a different kind of conversation in our congregations and communities. We should neither remain silent nor go along with the prevailing Civility bitterness in our politics. We must create "safe spaces" for respectful conversations across the partisan divides. And we must move beyond the walls of our

congregations include everyone in our local communities in this dialogue. The Wisconsin Council of Churches, the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee and other partners are sponsoring a "Season of Civility." Read on to learn about some of the components of this program and how you and your congregation can participate.

## Call for a Season of Civility in Wisconsin from our State's Religious Leaders

Thirty-six regional and statewide religious leaders have called upon the citizens of our state to enter a "Season of Civility" amidst the partisan rancor of the recent recall campaigns and the anticipated divisiveness of the fall election cycle. Read full statement at wcoc@wichurches.org along with a full list of signatories.

#### Regional Training Workshops

The WCC and Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee are hosting four workshops, including one in Madison, to prepare teams of clergy and lay leaders to engage members their congregations in respectful dialogue.

Led by Rev. Winton Boyd and Barbara Hummel, trained facilitators from Parker Palmer's Center for Courage and Renewal, the workshops will be held:

Madison: Saturday, August 25th 9 am - 3 pm , Check in at 8:30 - Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ, 1501 Gilbert Road, Madison

Winton Boyd has been Senior Pastor at Orchard Ridge UCC church in Madison, WI since 1999. In this position and previous positions in Fresho, CA and Minneapolis, MN he has functioned as a retreat leader, conflict mediator, service trip coordinator, youth worker, spiritual guide, and community organizer. He has facilitated programs through the Center for Courage & Renewal since 2007.





Barbara Hummel works with leaders and all kinds of brganizations to help them be more authentic and effective. In addition to her work with organizations, for the past ten years she has facilitated both Courage

to Teach and Courage to Lead retreats in the Midwest, and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Center for Courage and Renewal. Barb has a master's degree in counseling. She is an active member of

Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ in Madison, Wisconsin.

Cost: \$20 per person before August 17; \$25 per person after August 17 - see registration brochure and form at wcoc@wichurches.org or in the Concourse.

We pray and work together for the unity and renewal of the Church and the healing and reconciliation of the world.

# Read through the Bible in 1 Year!

Some Tips for reading through the Bible: READ...the passage for the day, listening closely for what God is saying. EXPLORE...what the Bible has to say by asking questions. ACT...on the truth by finding one thing you can DO. PRAY... the verses you have just read back to God

# Wisdom for Life

August-1 Isaiah 1-4 August-2 Isaiah 5-9 August-3 Isaiah 10-14 August-4 Isaiah 15-21 August-5 Isaiah 22-26 August-6 Isaiah 27-31 August-7 Isaiah 32-37 August-8 Isaiah 38-42 August-9 Isaiah 38-42 August-10 Isaiah 43-46 August-10 Isaiah 47-51 August-11 Isaiah 52-57 August-12 Isaiah 58-63 August-13 Isaiah 64-66



# **Tears for God's People**

Aug-14 Jeremiah 1-3 August-15 Jeremiah 4-6 August-16 Jeremiah 7-10 August-17 Jeremiah 11-14 August-18 Jeremiah 15-18 August-19 Jeremiah 19-22 August-20 Jeremiah 23-25 August-21 Jeremiah 26-28 August-22 Jeremiah 29-31 August-23 Jeremiah 32-33 August-24 Jeremiah 34-36 August-25 Jeremiah 37-40 August-26 Jeremiah 41-44 August-27 Jeremiah 45-48 August-28 Jeremiah 49-50 August-29 Jeremiah 51-52 August-30 Lamentations 1-2 August 31 Lamentations 3-5

Check out our website:

www.daleheightspc.org

#### Sunday Schedule

9:00-10:00am

Christian Education for all ages 10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship Dale Heights Mission Statement: Our open-minded congregation affirms and celebrates God's gifts of love and grace. We seek to share God's love by inviting others to join us in following Jesus and by serving those in need in our community and world.

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