



Focus

For Members & Friends of Dale Heights Presbyterian Church

February 2010

Pastor Marilyn's Monthly Musings

As I'm putting together this month's *Focus* two countries in two parts of the world are much on my mind. The first is Haiti, devastated by its worst earthquake in 200 years on January 12, followed by a number of powerful after-shocks in the following weeks. The second is Malawi, whose people, culture and traditions will be a focus of our Lent and Easter observances this year. Both of these countries are among the poorest economically in the world, yet each are among the richest in the world in terms of their people's beauty, hospitality, and history.

The Republic of Haiti's regional, historical and ethnolinguistic position is unique for several reasons. It was the first independent nation in Latin America and the first black-led republic in the world when it gained independence as part of a successful slave rebellion in 1804. Despite having common cultural links with its Hispano-Caribbean neighbors, Haiti is the only predominantly Francophone independent nation in the Americas. It is one of only two independent nations in the Americas (along with Canada) that designate French as an official language; the other French-speaking areas are all overseas departments, or collectives, of France. Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere and has experienced political violence throughout its history. In the January 12 magnitude 7.0 earthquake, reportedly more than 150,000 people were killed, although the exact number is unknown and the reported number fluctuates, and a large number are homeless. The Presidential palace, Parliament and many other important structures were destroyed, along with countless homes and businesses.

Dale Heights will be joining other Madison area Presbyterians in receiving a special love offering for Haiti on February 14. You can read more about that elsewhere in this month's *Focus*.

The Republic of Malawi is a land-locked country in southeast Africa. Malawi was first settled during the 10th century and remained under native rule until 1891 when it was colonized by the British, who ruled the country until 1964. Malawi is among the world's least developed and most densely populated countries. The economy is heavily based in agriculture, with a largely rural population. The Malawian government faces challenges in growing the economy, improving education, health care and the environmental protection and becoming financially independent. Malawi has a low life expectancy and high infant mortality. There is a high prevalence of HIV/AIDS, which is a drain on the labor force and government expenditures. We will be learning much more about Malawi, her culture and foods during Lent, and will particularly observe some of her people's Holy Week and Easter celebrations.

See you in church!

Shalom in Christ Jesus,

Marilyn

February Worship Messages

February 7, 2010 - 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time - "Heading Out into Deep Water" -
Luke 5:1-11 - Communion

February 14, 2010 - Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday

Valentine's Day/Carnival Celebration -

"Coming Down from the Mountain" -

Luke 9:28-43 -

Haiti Relief Love Offering

February 17, 2010 - Ash Wednesday - "Repairing the World" - Isaiah 58:1-12 -
Voluntary Imposition of Ashes

February 21, 2010 - 1st Sunday in Lent - "Taking Up Something for Lent" - Luke 4:1-13

February 28, 2010 - 2nd Sunday in Lent - "Welcoming Jesus for Dinner" -
John 12:1-8

Ushers for February

Feb. 7 Communion Servers

Feb. 14 Youth and Sunday School

Feb. 21 Mary Towne, Gale Oakes,
Dale Buske

Feb. 28 Roy Lembcke,
Grant Lembcke, Anne Lembcke

Liturgists for February

Feb. 7 Kim Chan

Feb. 14 Otty Schaefer

Feb. 17 (Ash Wednesday)
Vreni Straubhaar

Feb. 21 Dick Corey

Feb. 28 Wendy Weber

Crown of Thorns Lenten Wreath

The season of Lent is a time of spiritual reflection for the Christian family. The roughness of the Lenten wreath symbolizes the suffering and scorn Jesus underwent for us. Each week a candle on the wreath is snuffed out as we move ever closer to the darkness of Good Friday.

During our Lenten journey, we make special sacrifices to remind us of Christ's suffering and sacrifice on the cross. Through our Lenten prayer and practices, we prepare to accept God's gift of purifying and transforming our souls to receive the new life of the Risen Christ at Easter.

Lenten Wreath

Readers and Candle Snuffers

Lent begins later this month and families and individuals willing to lead the Lenten wreath portion of Sunday morning worship are needed. Please let Marcia Holman know of your willingness to help, or sign up on the sheet in the Concourse. The first Sunday in Lent is February 21.



A Malawian Lent and Easter this Year!

This Lent and Easter Dale Heights will be learning about Malawi as a country, its people, its foods, and its traditions, especially as related to Lent and Easter. Watch the weekly bulletins and e-News for more details and information about how to be involved.

**Lord, when was it that we
saw you?** Matthew 25:37



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER
ASSISTANCE**
OUT OF CHAOS, HOME

AP Photo: Ivanoh Demers. Used with permission.

Presbyterians respond to the earthquake
GIVE, ACT, PRAY www.pcusa.org/pda

Madison Area Presbyterians to receive Love Offering for Haiti Relief Sunday, February 14

Our Session has approved receiving a special love offering for Haiti relief through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, along with other Madison area Presbyterian churches Sunday, February 14. You may make your offering anytime by noting on an offering envelope or in the memo line of a check that your gift is for Haiti relief.

As of January 26, 2010, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance had sent more than \$409,000 to meet immediate needs of food, water, shelter, and medical supplies. More than 35,000 hygiene and baby kits are being delivered.

What you can do

You can stand in the "GAP" for disaster survivors and help the church in this response.

GIVE. The generous sharing of your financial blessings through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering and special designated giving provide resources needed to assist with immediate and long-term recovery needs.

ACT. Stay informed and share information on the need with others. Sign up to receive PDA-RIN email notices to alert you of additional needs. Consider making Gift of the Heart hygiene kits. Shipments of hygiene kits have been and are being prepared by Church World Service to send to Haiti. When widespread disasters occur, there is usually a need to replenish the supply to ensure a sufficient quantity for future disaster situations.

PRAY. Please continue in prayer for all who have who lost friends and families, those who lost homes, and those seeking a sense of security after being affected by this tragic earthquake.

Dale Heights Carnival/Mardi Gras Celebration

On a related note, Haiti celebrates Carnival before Lent begins, and we will be celebrating Carnival on Sunday, February 14 before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday February 17. Bring and wear your Mardi Gras beads and masks as part of the fun!



Happy Birthday!

February 3 Marlowe Elizabeth Eldridge
February 28 Johanna Osten

Happy Anniversary

February 21 Joan and John Hicks

New Beginnings Monthly LUNCH!

New Beginnings will meet for lunch on the third Tuesday of the month. We will meet next on February 16 at 11:30 at the Blue Spoon Cafe, 2831 Parmenter St., Middleton.

Adult Church School

Our adult church school class continues most Sunday mornings.

Join us when and as you are able at 9:00 a.m. Sunday mornings!

Wednesday Lunch & Learn Class

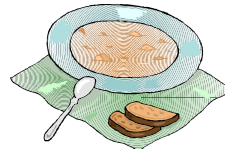
Our Wednesday Lunch & Learn class continues using the book *The Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew – Three Women Search for Understanding* by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver, and Priscilla Warner.

In *The Faith Club*, the authors wrestle with the issues of anti-Semitism, prejudice against Muslims, and preconceptions of Christians at a time when fundamentalists dominate the public face of Christianity.

Join us when and as you are able at 11:45 a.m. Wednesdays!

New Address Information for Marian & Rowland Todd

Allis Care Center
9047 W. Greenfield Avenue
West Allis, WI 53214
Cell Phone: 608-692-0461
e-mail: Marian.Todd@comcast.net



SOUPER Bowl of Caring Sunday, February 7

Souper Bowl Sunday is February 7, 2010. Since 1990, more than \$60 million has been raised for food banks, soup kitchens and other charities across the country. We have participated and given our donations to the Middleton Outreach Ministry. We will participate again.

Following worship on Sunday, February 7, will be a simple lunch of soup (vegetarian lentil and vegetable beef). Baskets will be at the end of the food table for your generous donations. All of the donations will be given to Middleton Outreach Ministry.

The prayer at that first Souper Bowl Sunday is a simple and still relevant prayer: "Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat."



Please join us for fellowship and good soup.

Dale Heights Knitters & Crocheters

Our Dale Heights members and friends are gathering Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. Come to both learn to knit or crochet, and also to work together on knitting or crocheting projects for mission - such as "healing shawls" and skull caps for soldiers' helmets.

To date we have completed and delivered 14 prayer shawls and 40 skull caps.

Everyone welcome to join us in this ministry.

Winter Weather & Flu Cancellations

Although we prefer not to have to cancel worship, sometimes we may have to do so.

When Pastor Marilyn has to cancel worship, she will do the following: send an email, put a cancellation notice on the website and change the answering machine by 8:00 a.m. on Sunday morning to indicate the cancellation.

If you are at all unsure about whether or not to come to church, please check your e-mail, check the website or call the church. Above all, play it safe.

Dale Heights Committees Want You!

Our Dale Heights committees and ministry teams are made up of members and friends who are interested in serving in those particular ministries and welcome new members at any time. When you are interested in serving with a committee or ministry team, please contact the chair or church office for current meeting times, or simply show up when one is announced.

The Christian Education Ministry Team

Chaired by Kim Chan

Meets as needed throughout the year

Coordinates Christian Education opportunities for children, youth, and adults on Sunday mornings, and at other times during the week and year

The Finance and Property Committee

Chaired by Dick Corey

Meets the second Monday each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge

Oversees the finances and investments of the church, and the maintenance of the church building and grounds.

The Care and Fellowship Committee

Co-Chaired by Mary Towne and Sandy Weigt

Meets as needed, and at least once a year in December

Leads the congregation in fellowship and building community, particularly on Sunday mornings and for some of the potlucks throughout the year

- Maintains the prayer tree ministry and the emergency calling list
- Coordinates rides for people to church and appointments
- Reviews the membership rolls annually for recommendations to the Session

The Mission and Outreach Committee

Chaired by Gale Oakes

Meets nearly monthly throughout the year

- Disburses its budget to local, regional, national and international mission, particularly to organizations in which Dale Heights members and friends are active
- Hosts potlucks and other adult forums throughout the year to educate and raise awareness among our members and friends about various organizations and causes
- Offers Minutes for Mission on various subjects during Sunday worship throughout the year

The Personnel Committee

Chaired by Sandy Weigt

Meets as needed, and at least once a year.

- Hires all church employees except the pastor, who is called by the congregation
- Reviews all employees', including the pastor's, wages and salaries annually
- Conducts annual and as needed other performance reviews with employees, including the pastor



More committees on next page

The Inviting and Welcoming Ministry Team

Chaired by Wendy Weber

Meets as needed

Develop and implement an overall, on-going inviting and welcoming strategy for the church

Oversees Sunday morning greeting program to welcome visitors

Trains members and friends to assist in the inviting and welcoming ministry in a variety of ways

The Worship and Music Committee

Chaired by Marcia Holman

Meets quarterly and as needed

- Coordinates the overall worship and music ministry, particularly special seasonal services, and the communion schedule
- Coordinates the Sunday and other special services Ushers, Communion Servers, and Liturgist

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Plan to join us on Friday morning, February 5, when Dale Heights hosts the Church Women United monthly forum. Refreshments will be served beginning at 9:00 a.m. followed by a presentation of "Utilizing Education to Reduce Poverty" by Dr. Carmen Porco, CEO of the Housing Ministries of American Baptists in Wisconsin.



Church Leader Training: "Living Faithfully in Challenging Times" Coming Up March 13

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the Madison Area Presbyterians church leader training Saturday, March 13 at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Madison.

This year's theme is "Living Faithfully in Challenging Times," with the Rev. Dr. Anna Case-Winters as the keynote speaker. She is a professor of Theology at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, and is author of *Divine Power: Traditional Understandings and Contemporary Challenges* (Westminster Press, 1990). Dr. Case-Winters brings tested wisdom to the issues that churches and leaders face today. In addition, a wide variety of workshops will help both new and experienced church officers become better equipped for faithful leadership in today's world.

While active Elders are particularly encouraged to attend, this church leader training is open to all.

Field Trip – Dead Sea Scrolls for Lent



Would you like to see the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit at the Milwaukee Public Museum but don't want to drive to Milwaukee? How about a carpool trip sometime during Lent? Tickets to the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit allow admission to the entire Museum for the day of your visit.

The Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit started January 22. 15 people are needed for group ticket rate: Adults \$20, Seniors (60+) Teens with school ID (13-17) \$18 for weekdays, \$24 and 22 respectively for weekends. If fewer than 15 are interested, add \$2 to each of the prices listed.

This great opportunity won't come again soon! Should the trip be on a weekday or weekend? Only you will decide by expressing your preference. Final guest number and full payment are due two weeks prior to the tour date, so time is of the essence.

To sign up contact Marcia Holman at 249-2233 or email wghmch@chorus.net.

Session Meeting Highlights – January 20, 2010

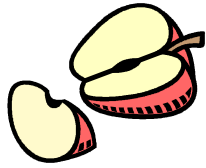
- Approved the December 15, 2009 Session meeting minutes
- Re-elected Mike Holland as Clerk of Session
- Signed up to serve on 2010 Committees and Ministry Teams
- Appointed Kim Chan and Bill Mercer to share serving as Elder Commissioner to Presbytery, with only one serving per Presbytery meeting
- During the Property and Finance Committee report, learned the furnace leaking significant carbon monoxide outside is to be replaced yet this month; learned that 2010 pledges continue to be estimated being around the same as for 2009; approved a “final” balanced 2010 operating budget of \$146,100; received a brief report on the December monthly and year-to-date financials, which showed a monthly net income of over \$1,800 and a year-ending net income of just over \$11,000, noting that a portion of that net income is an increase in the church’s investments market value, and includes a \$25,000 undesignated gift to the Memorial Fund; began discussion of possible ideas for using this generous gift; and approved a recommendation to establish a joint Dale Heights-Sah-lang painting and redecorating task force, accepting Jennifer Jones and Kim Chan’s offers to serve with a couple of to-be-identified people from the Sah-lang church
- Received the monthly Pastor’s report, and approved the Pastor’s 2010 Vacation and Study Leave schedule
- Heard a very preliminary report about the Presbytery having contracted with the Center for Parish Development to lead it in a transformational process, and expressed interest in learning more about what might be involved if Dale Heights became one of the Presbytery’s churches working with the Center
- During the Christian Education Ministry Team report, heard reports on the pre-school and adult Church School classes; heard an update on the Lunch & Learn study; and heard about plans to hold a summer farewell for Melanie Klump and Paul Holland before they leave for college
- During the Personnel Committee report, learned that background checks for all employees are current, and are on-going for new volunteers; and employee annual reviews for Pastor Marilyn, Maggie Rogers, and Judy Christie, with Rick Geiger’s still to be rescheduled
- There was no Inviting and Welcoming Ministry Team report
- During the Outreach and Mission Committee report, approved participating in plans for all Madison Area Presbyterian congregations to receive an offering for Haiti disaster relief through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance on a to-be-determined date
- During the Worship and Music Committee report, approved pending concurrence by the committee when it meets January 24 participating in a joint Maundy Thursday worship service at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Madison
- During the Care & Fellowship Committee report, approved a recommendation to move Chris and Doug McDermid, and Prudencio, Maria-Anita, and Maite Oyarbide to the Inactive Roll
- Discussed and distributed among Elders some reporting and clarification responsibilities when the 2009 Annual Report is presented during the annual Congregation/Corporation meeting January 31
- The next meeting will be February 24, 2010 with Caroline Pope leading devotions.

Property & Finance Committee Meeting Highlights – January 12, 2010

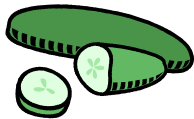
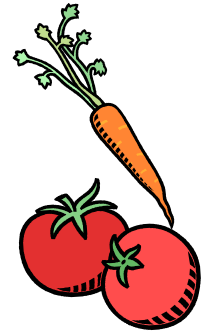
- Under Old Business noted that storm water management estimates are still being pursued; and that replacing the old fellowship hall furnace is still to be scheduled this month
- Discussed a request from one of the Madison Area Technical College teachers to be able to access our internet from their classroom
- Noted that W-2 and W-3 forms, 2009 tax statements, and Federal and Wisconsin withholding payments are all due this month
- Reviewed the financial status through December, which showed a net income of over \$1,800 and a year-ending net income of just over \$11,000, noting that a portion of that net income is an increase in the church's investments market value, and includes a \$25,000 undesignated gift to the Memorial Fund; began discussion of possible ideas for using this generous gift for recommendation to Session
- Reviewed a revised 2010 budget for recommendation to Session
- Discussed hard-wiring speakers for the Concourse and Nursery so that folks outside the sanctuary may still hear both the Dale Heights and Sah-lang worship services
- Approved recommending to Session the establishment of a joint Dale Heights and Sah-lang task force to plan redecorating the church through painting and artwork
- The next meeting will be February 9, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Worship & Music Committee Meeting Highlights – January 24, 2010

- Maggie Rogers reported that she will be gone March 7 & April 11. The choir will not sing on Feb. 21, March 7, & April 11. June 6 will be the choir's last Sunday until fall. Special music begins June 13. The Hymn Festival is tentatively scheduled for June 20.
- Learned about Pastor Marilyn's Session approved vacation & study leave times. Pulpit Supply to be arranged.
- Discussed Lent preparations: Feb. 17, Ash Wednesday will be our only Wednesday service. The April 1, Maundy Thursday joint service with other Presbyterian churches will be at Covenant PC. We will not have a Good Friday service on April 2, but other churches' schedules will be posted.
- Easter, April 4, celebrated "Malawi style" including special paraments, Malawian desserts for coffee hour, and perhaps Malawi music.
- Mary Towne will order palms & put out a sign up sheet for Easter flowers.
- Liturgists are scheduled through February. Lenten readers/candle snuffers are being recruited as well as liturgists for March & April.
- Several people whose names were suggested will be called re: taking charge of the usher schedule.
- Details are being researched for a possible carpool "Lenten Trip" to the Milwaukee Public Museum to see the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit. Details coming...
- The next meeting will be Sunday, April 25, 2010 at 11:15 a.m.



FOOD, FAITH AND EARTH DAY



2010



The Sacred Act of Eating

Sunday afternoon, April 25

First Unitarian Society, 900 University Bay Drive, Madison WI 53705

FEATURING

- ❖ **Keynote Address by Prof. Jack Kloppenburg**, Professor of Community and Environmental Sociology at UW-Madison and founder of REAP (Research, Education, Action, and Policy on Food Group). REAP publishes the annual Farm Fresh Atlas, organizes the annual Food for Thought Festival, developed the Wisconsin Homegrown Lunch farm-to-school project, and inaugurated the Buy Fresh, Buy Local initiative for Southern Wisconsin.
 - ❖ **Panelists responses** to Jack's address will provide insights on how faith traditions manifest the sacred act of eating
 - ❖ **Opportunities** for congregations to enrich their practice of earth stewardship
 - ❖ **Fellowship** with people of faith who share your concerns for the earth
 - ❖ **Community Meal** from locally-grown food prepared by chef Barbara Wright of The Dardanelles Restaurant.
-

*The event is free with the exception of the meal.
Ticket price will be announced in February.*

*For more details and reservations,
The Food, Faith, and Earth Day website and phone number
will soon be available.*

*During the celebration, a free will offering
will be taken for various organizations
that support local farmers and others in need.*

Read through the Bible in 1 Year!

Each month we are offering daily Bible reading suggestions which when you follow the guideline by this time next year you will have read the entire Bible!

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

The Story of Moses

Feb-1 Leviticus 1-3
Feb-2 Leviticus 4-6
Feb-3 Leviticus 7-8
Feb-4 Leviticus 9-10
Feb-5 Leviticus 11-13
Feb-6 Leviticus 14-15
Feb-7 Leviticus 16-18
Feb-8 Leviticus 19-21
Feb-9 Leviticus 22-23
Feb-10 Leviticus 24-25
Feb-11 Leviticus 26-27





Question: “What evidences have you seen of God at work in your life this week?”

Desert wanderings

Feb-12 Numbers 1-2
Feb-13 Numbers 3-4
Feb-14 Numbers 5-6
Feb-15 Numbers 7
Feb-16 Numbers 8-9
Feb-17 Numbers 10-11
Feb-18 Numbers 12-13
Feb-19 Numbers 14-15
Feb-20 Numbers 16-18
Feb-21 Numbers 19-20
Feb-22 Numbers 21-22
Feb-23 Numbers 23-25
Feb-24 Numbers 26-27
Feb-25 Numbers 28-29
Feb-26 Numbers 30-31
Feb-27 Numbers 32-33
Feb-28 Numbers 34-35
Feb-29 Catch up day!

February 2010

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|---|
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 Lunch & Learn 11:45 am | 4 Knitting/Crochet Group 10 am; Pastor Marilyn to COM Choir 7:30pm | 5 Church Women United 9:30 am | 6 |
| 7 Souper Bowl lunch/fund-raiser for MOM 11:30 am | 8 | 9 Property & Finance Committee 7 pm | 10 Lunch & Learn 11:45 am | 11 Knitting/ Crocheting Group 10 am; Choir 7:30pm | 12 | 13 Men's Breakfast 8 am |
| 14 Valentine's Day; Haiti Love Offering; Carnival Celebration | 15 | 16 Monthly Lunch 11:30 a.m Alz. Support 6:45 pm | 17 Lunch & Learn 11:45 am Bosom Buddies 6:45 pm Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm | 18 Knitting/ Crocheting Group 10 am; No Choir tonight | 19 | 20 John Knox Presbytery meeting @ Christ Presbyterian, Madison |
| 21 1 st Sunday in Lent | 22 | 23 | 24 Lunch & Learn 11:45 am; Session 7 pm | 25 Knitting/ Crocheting Group 10 am; Choir 7:30pm | 26 | 27 |
| 28 2 nd Sunday in Lent | MOM Pantry Needs for February Meals in a box Hamburger Helper, Tuna Helper, etc | | |  <i>Will March come in like a lamb or a lion?!</i> | | |

Community Activities Held At Dale Heights

Madison Sah-lang (Agape) Church

We are the nesting site for this evangelical church belonging to Presbyterian Church in America.

Furniture Loan for International Students:

Call Madison Friends of International Students office at 238-1046 for an appointment.

Breast Cancer Support Group:

Third Wednesday of the month, 6:45 p.m. in the lounge.

Wisconsin Tibetan Association:

Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. in the lounge.

Alzheimer's Support Group:

Third Tuesday of the month, 6:45 p.m. in the lounge

Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts:

There is a Girl Scouts and a Cub Scouts troops meeting at various times

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.*

Dale Heights Presbyterian Church

5501 University Ave.

Madison, WI 53705 233-0134

dalehghts@sbcglobal.net

www.daleheightspc.org

Sunday Schedule

9:00 a.m.

Christian Education

for all ages

May-September

10:00 a.m.

Worship

Child care provided

11:00 a.m.

Fellowship