



For Members & Friends of Dale Heights Presbyterian Church

January 2011

Pastor Marilyn's Monthly Musings

Every new year brings changes to our lives, and this new year will be no exception. Change is a fact of human life. To be alive is to change over time, through physical, emotional, and spiritual growth, through education - both formal and informal, through experiences and relationships, and so on.

Change is also a fact of church life. Although not always visible in the moment, Dale Heights has been changing throughout its 54-year history, and I myself have seen a number of changes during my five years serving with you here in Madison.

This month Dale Heights will begin an intentional journey of change in which we will be seeking God's mission for our church family at this time and in this place. The goal is not change for change's sake, but rather to ask ourselves what it is God is calling our church family to be and do in our little corner of the world with the people we have and the people who may decide to join us along the way.

What I'm talking about is our Session's decision to participate in John Knox's Presbytery's transformational process through the Center for Parish Development. You can read more about what we think we're getting ourselves into elsewhere in this month's *Focus.* We have been assigned a Coach to work with us and to travel the journey with us the Rev. Clara Thompson, Honorably Retired. Clara will be receiving her training just ahead of ours every step of the way, journeying with us and guiding us, not in the outcomes, but in the processes leading to the outcomes.

In a separate but related decision, the Session and I have invited the Rev. Dietrich Gruen to serve with us for the next six months as our very part-time volunteer Parish Associate for Outreach and Mission.

The Session and I are very excited about both of these decisions! We don't know what the future holds for us or for Dale Heights, but we are stepping out in faith, trusting in the God who promises to go with us for wisdom and guidance along the way. Please pray with us for this journey, and please plan to participate as you are invited and are able along the way.

Happy New Year! And see you in church!

Shalom in Christ Jesus, Marilyn

January Worship Messages

January 2, 2011 - 2nd Sunday after Christmas/Epiphany of the Lord -"Kneeling Before the Christ Child" - Matthew 2:1-12 - Communion

January 9, 2011 - Baptism of the Lord Sunday - "Following God's Mission" from Acts of the Apostles 10:34-43 - Reaffirmation of Baptism -

Church Officer Installation - Commissioning Transformation Coordinating Team and Coach - Commissioning Parish Associate for Outreach and Mission

January 16, 2011 – 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time/Race Relations Sunday – "Having a Thoughtful Faith" – Micah 6:1-8

January 23, 2011 - 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - "Shining God's Light on Our World" -Isaiah 9:1-4 and Matthew 4:12-23

January 30, 2011 – 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time – "Looking Forward to God's Realm – Matthew 5:1-12

Ushers for January

Jan. 2 Communion Servers
Jan. 9 Keith Chan and Sandy Weigt
Jan. 16 Vreni Straubhaar and Otty
Schaefer
Jan. 23 Gale Oakes and Dale Buske
Jan. 30 TBD

Children's Christmas Sing-a-long Next Sunday, January 2

Instead of a Christmas Pageant, on Sunday January 2nd, 2011, during the children's sermon time, we will have a Children's Christmas Sing-a-long. The children and adults who were going to be in the pageant will lead the congregation in singing the songs we would have sung December 12.

The children will also be drawing a picture or writing a sentence about what they did for Christmas, and/or what Christmas means for them to share during the Children's time on January 2nd.

Un-Hanging of the Greens January 2

Our annual Un-Hanging of the Greens will follow worship Sunday, January 2. Many hands make light work – please help us take down the Advent and Christmas decorations.

Liturgists for January Jan. 2 Vreni Straubhaar Jan. 9 Barb Fleishman Jan. 16 Roy Lembcke Jan. 23 Rick Shannon Jan. 30 Kim Chan

Church Officer Installation & Commissioning of Transformation Coordinating Team & Coach, & Parish Associate Sunday, January 9

We will install newly-elected Elders Kim Chan and Barb Fleishman during morning worship Sunday, January 9. We will also commission our new Transformation Coordinating Team and Coach – the Rev. Clara Thompson, and new Parish Associate – the Rev. Dietrich Gruen – during morning worship Sunday, January 9.

Please read more about the transformation process and Parish Associate elsewhere in this month's *Focus*.

MOM Pantry Needs for January

Meals in a Can (beef stew, chili, hearty soups)

Happy Birthday!

January 5 Vicki Klump January 9 Andy Lembcke (2008) January 12 Keith Chan Michelle Shannon January 16 Amelia King January 18 Colleen Shannon Longua January 26 Jenny Dachel

Happy Anniversary!

January 1 Bill and Lenore Mercer January 17 Edi and Keith Chan

Annual Congregational/Corporation Meeting January 30, 2011

Our annual congregational/corporation meeting will follow morning worship Sunday, January 30, 2011.

Attention Committee Chairs!

Reports of the committees of Dale Heights Presbyterian Church for 2010 are needed for inclusion in the Annual Report which will be available at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on January 30, 2011. Reports are due in to Maggie by January 13.

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.

Everyone is welcome to join us in this ministry.

New Wednesday Lunch & Learn Classes

In preparation for our January 16 Race Relations Sunday potluck with Muslim speakers that you can read about elsewhere in this month's *Focus*, our Wednesday Lunch & Learn class will be spending three weeks in January studying Islam.

On January 5 we will study "Cartoons of Muhammad: Free Speech or Sacrilegious Offense." Then on January 12 and 19 we will be studying an "Introduction to the Koran."

For the remainder of January and through February for Race Relations Sunday and Black History Month we will then be reading from the book *Blood Done Sign My Name: A True Story* by former University of Wisconsin professor Timothy B. Tyson. This book examines the civil rights struggle in the South.

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

Weekly Church School

Our weekly Sunday School will resume January 2. The 2-7 year-old class meets from 9:15 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. in the Sunday School Wing. Join us as we share the stories of our faith as you and your children are able to participate. Thanks to our Children's Sunday School teachers! Meanwhile, the adult class is studying Harold Kushner's *When Bad Things Happen to Good People.* See Tom Jones if you would like to order a book. There is no charge. Everyone is welcome!

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.

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.

Welcome, Maggie!

We are pleased to announce that Maggie Rogers has accepted the position of Administrative Assistant in the Dale Heights office on a permanent basis. She has been helping out for a couple of months already. If you are in the building during her office hours, stick your head in the office and say hi!

Welcome, Dietrich!

We are also pleased to announce that the Rev. Dietrich Gruen has accepted an invitation from Pastor Marilyn and signed a six-month covenant agreement to serve without remuneration as Parish Associate for Outreach and Mission at Dale Heights. The covenant must still be approved by the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry, which meets January 13-14, so Dietrich is expected to officially begin at Dale Heights January 15.

The covenant calls for Dietrich to be at Dale Heights 1-2 times per month, serving as an ex-officio member of Outreach and Mission, helping to recruit new leadership and members, and serve as a resource in various mutually agreeable ways.

Dietrich is a former Executive Director for Middleton Outreach Ministry. We welcome his passion for outreach and mission, particularly among the least of these.

Winter Weather Cancellation Policy

Although we prefer not to have to cancel worship, sometimes winter weather makes it necessary. So we do have a plan in place for getting the word out if worship is cancelled.

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 email, check the website or call the church. **Above all, play it safe**.

Souper Bowl of Caring

February 6, 2011, is the Super Bowl. We don't know who will be playing this year.

February 6, 2011, is the Souper Bowl of Caring. We know there will again be a simple lunch of soup (plus some other stuff) following worship in the lower concourse. There will be a vegetarian and a non vegetarian soup on the menu. A free will donation will be taken and 100% of the donated money will go to the Middleton Outreach Ministry.

Last year \$10 million in dollars and food was collected for local hunger-relief charities. This year's goal is \$11 million collected for hunger-relief charities in local communities.

The simple prayer that was said at the first Souper Bowl of Caring continues to inspire: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat".

Hope to see you there.



January 16 Race Relations Potluck &

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED



January 15, 2011: You're invited to Church Women

United to celebrate Human "Women" Rights Day at Trinity UMC, 1123 Vilas Ave., at 9:00 a.m., for Welcome and Announcements. Breakfast will be served. At 9:30 a.m. Steve Schooler, Director of Porchlight, will provide a worship service. At 10:30 a.m. The Human Rights Award will be presented. It would be great if you could join us.

Ellie Metzloff, Cord Builder for CWU

Poinsettia Thanks!

Thank you to those who shared poinsettias during this Advent and Christmas season: Joan Hicks, Bonnie Savonne, Gale Oakes, Elizabeth Holland, Caroline Pope, Vreni Straubhaar, Sandy Weigt, Dick Corey, Gerry Klump, Margie Shumate, Bob Jorgenson & Wendy Weber, Ellie & Carl Metzloff, Otty Schaefer, Marcia Holman, Barb Fleishman, and Mary Towne.

Thanks also to those who provided Nativity sets: Jennifer Jones, Sandy Weigt, Wendy Weber, Marilyn Gamm, Kim Chan, Vreni Straubhaar, and Gale Oakes.



Program

Join us January 16 when we will host members of the Niagara Foundation as our Race Relations Sunday potluck program.

The Niagara Foundation is headquartered in Chicago with a Madison chapter, and its mission is to serve "societal peace, love, and friendship wisely and compassionately in support of human dignity and the common good by striving to bring forth the common values of humanity; values such as understanding, tolerance, respect, and compassion."

The Niagara Foundation's vision statement says: "In a world where even the farthest point is within an arm's reach, it is impossible to live anywhere without experiencing diversity. In order for everyone to live peacefully, it is important for individuals to rise above differences that drive us apart or against each other. Niagara Foundation envisions a community in which people from all walks of life interact with each other and cooperate to serve their communities, thereby strengthening civil society and promoting the development of human values."

The Niagara Foundation is a Muslim organization focusing on interfaith dialogue and mutual understanding. Please plan to join us for this important interfaith conversation Sunday, January 16. Please also be thoughtful about providing Kosher foods for our Muslim guests, who also plan to share some of their foods with us.

Invitation to be on the Prayer Tree

The power of prayer is remarkable. Someone notifies Pastor Marilyn of a prayer concern and she passes it on by e-mail. Those who do not have e-mail will be called with the prayer concern. Your responsibility is to keep the individual in your prayers. If you are not on the list and wish to be on the prayer tree, please let Sandy Weigt know by phone (238-9402) or e-mail d weigt@sbcglobal.net.

Session Meeting Highlights – November 30, 2010

- Approved the October 26, 2010 Session meeting minutes
- During the Property and Finance Committee report, received a brief report on the October monthly and year-to-date financials; and learned that overall 2011 financial pledges are looking about the same as for 2010
- > Received the monthly Pastor's report
- Approved participating in the Center for Parish Development Process through John Knox Presbytery for the next three years
- During the Christian Education Ministry Team report, heard reports on the fall Church School classes and the upcoming Christmas pageant; and heard an update on the Lunch & Learn study
- Met with the Rev. Dietrich Gruen to explore ideas for him to serve at Dale Heights as a Parish Associate for Outreach and Mission, and authorized Pastor Marilyn to negotiate a possible six-month covenant agreement with Dietrich
- > Received a report on the November 16, 2010 John Knox Presbytery meeting
- During the Personnel Committee report, learned that background checks for all employees and volunteers are current; approved a revised Administrative Assistant position description; approved hiring Maggie Rogers as our Administrative Assistant effective December 1, 2010; received Pastor Marilyn's annual review; and learned that annual reviews with other employees are being scheduled
- During the Outreach and Mission Committee report, learned that they met November 14, 2010 to distribute their remaining funds for the year; and that six more prayer shawls were dedicated during worship November 14
- > There was no Inviting and Welcoming Ministry Team report
- During the Worship and Music Committee report, learned that the new cultural emphases will be Dutch/German/Swiss for Advent and Christmas, French-Canadian for Mardi Gras, and Hispanic/Latino for Lent and Easter; and that a Muslim group will be invited as our potluck speakers for Race Relations on January 16, 2011
- Heard a report that the Care & Fellowship Committee plans to meet December 12, 2010
- During the Nominating Committee report received the 2011 proposed slate of officers, set the new Elder installation for January 9, 2011 during morning worship; and discussed ideas for church officer training
- > The next meeting will be December 16, 2010 with Gale Oakes leading devotions.

Session Meeting Highlights – December 16, 2010

- Approved the November 30, 2010 Session meeting and December 5, 2010 Called Congregational meeting minutes
- During the Property and Finance Committee report, received a brief report on the November monthly and year-to-date financials; approved spending up to \$4,500 for a new sanctuary furnace; approved revised, provisional, balanced 2011 budget of \$145,757; and heard an update from the joint church redecorating task force
- > Received the monthly Pastor's report
- Approved a prospective list of folks to serve on the Transformation Coordinating Team, with plans to invite these potential team members to an informational meeting following worship December 19, 2010
- Approved a Parish Associate for Outreach and Mission covenant with the Rev. Dietrich Gruen for submission to the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry for approval
- Approved commissioning the Transformation Coordinating Team, Coach Clara Thompson, and Parish Associate for Outreach and Mission Dietrich Gruen during morning worship January 9, 2011
- During the Christian Education Ministry Team report, decided to reschedule the blizzard-canceled Christmas pageant for next Christmas, but will also have an extended children's time during worship January 2, 2011 to hear the songs the children have been preparing; heard reports on the Church School classes; and heard an update on the Lunch & Learn study
- During the Personnel Committee report, learned that background checks for all employees and volunteers are current; received the annual reviews for Maggie Rogers and Rick Geiger; and learned that Maggie Rogers is scheduled to have sinus surgery January 11, 2011
- > There was no Inviting and Welcoming Ministry Team report
- During the Outreach and Mission Committee report, learned that the crocheting/knitting ministry will be on vacation till the new year
- During the Worship and Music Committee report, approved the 2011 communion schedule; and learned that the next meeting is set for January 23, 2011
- > Noted that the Care & Fellowship Committee is meeting December 19, 2011
- During the Nominating Committee report heard an update on church officer training plans
- Set the annual Congregation and Corporation meetings for January 30, 2011 following morning worship
- > The next meeting will be January 25, 2011 with Kim Chan leading devotions.

Property & Finance Committee Meeting Highlights – December 14, 2010

- > Fall stewardship drive pledges are coming in.
- Annual checkup shows problems with the sanctuary furnace. Committee sends to session a request for approval to eventually spend \$4000 on a replacement. Current furnace will probably last the heating season. (The furnace is the same age as the fellowship hall furnace which was replaced last year).
- > Examined a draft of the 2011 church budget and requested that it be passed on to the session for consideration.
- Financial reports received. As of November 30, 2010, year-to-date actual income is \$5,331 compared to budgeted net income of \$0.
- > Next meeting will be Tuesday January 11th at 7:00 pm.

Care and Fellowship Meeting – December 19, 2010

- Individuals who have not been in church during the last year or so will be contacted to see what can be done to bring them back or find out if they have joined another church.
- Emergency Church closing notification is working well. It was suggested that it the policy be mentioned monthly during the announcements.
- We are aware of rides being given to those who do not drive. If someone notices that someone might need a ride, we will see what can be done.
- > The church directory, emergency calling list and prayer tree will be updated.
- > The set up for Christmas Eve will be a 2:00 p.m. Christmas Eve day.

Dale Heights is joining John Knox Presbytery in a Missional Transformation Journey

As this month's *Focus* is going to press, our Session is in the process of recruiting a Dale Heights Transformation Coordinating Team to be trained along with Pastor Marilyn in a three-year missional process funded by John Knox Presbytery. The Presbytery has assigned the Rev. Clara Thompson as our Coach for our transformation journey. Parish Associate for Outreach and Mission Dietrich Gruen will also be receiving the Presbytery training. Below and on the next page is more information about this process.



Everything we do as a Christian community relates in some way to God's sending of the church to participate in God's mission. We once thought of the church as the sending agency; missionaries were the people who the church sent. Now as we read Scripture afresh in a North American context that is itself mission territory, we realize that God is a sending God, and the church is the sent people. What is God sending the church to be and do? The answer is expressed by each local congregation as it discerns and designs its life and ministry in response to the sending God.

Where do we want God to lead us?

Can you imagine...

- discovering anew what it means to be the church God's people of salt and light?
- a community of Christ's followers, learning to live as committed disciples?
- people no longer content to simply be consumers of a church's Sunday morning programs?
- increased excitement about and greater sharing in the Christian faith?
- increased clarity of purpose as a congregation?
- a greater sense of trust and unity, pulling together toward common goals?
- developing leaders who are wise in both world and Word, offering sound a balanced guidance for the church's ministry?
- your church more responsive to missional opportunities?
- broader participation in decision-making and ministries of the church?
- not just talking about God's mission, but also organizing to move concretely toward realizing that vision?
- savings in time and money by focusing your congregation's energies, asking the important questions, putting the spotlight on key results?
- new measuring of congregational fruitfulness: not by budgetary or membership goals, but by evidence of the fruits of the Spirit love, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control?

Transforming your church is not simply a new way to keep doing what is presently going on. It does not offer merely a tune-up, or adaptations to existing programs and priorities. Rather, in a constructive and faith-filled manner, it enables the congregation to evaluate and define anew the nature, purpose, and practices of their life together in light of God's mission. It offers the opportunity to make the changes discerned to be necessary in order to become more faithful to God's calling and purpose in their situation.

A process of missional transformation is not a canned program. It requires careful design and ongoing stewardship by a leadership team chosen for this purpose. A flexible process roadmap, detailed with a timeline is worked out in the first phase to meet the particular challenges and opportunities facing your church.

What are the features of a transformation journey for your congregation?

- **Participatory:** The process involves the entire congregation in a variety of ways and times, in gatherings large and small, in study, prayer, conversation, discernment, planning and action.
- **Missional:** The process is not based on marketing surveys or focus groups. Rather, members and leaders engage one another in discerning God's calling, taking seriously the current cultural context, and discovering life together as a community formed by the Holy Spirit.
- **Strategic:** The congregation makes direction-setting decisions from a missional perspective. It makes decisions that will have long-term effects, impacting every aspect and segment of life in our congregation.
- **Rewarding:** Leaders and members together will discover this to be a learning journey of spiritual depth. Participants will experiment with and experience Christian community 'in new ways. They consistently report, "We are learning what it means to be the church and to live missionally." There is new excitement and shared focus."

A View of the Transformation Process

The transformation process involves discerning and embracing God's vision in today's changed and changing context. It is a dynamic, faith-filled, and results-oriented journey. Resources for nurturing the spiritual formation of the congregation as well as training for a range of practical steps are offered in each of the following three areas:

Discovering

Goals: To help key leaders and the congregation as a whole develop commitment to the process.

To develop a shared picture of the ministry context and the key challenges it presents. **Milestones**: Design the transformation process roadmap. Build the case for taking this journey. Introduce and get organized. Learn from the congregation's heritage, history, members' mindsets, and cultural changes. Identify and embrace the key issues and opportunities.

Discerning

Goals: To define the future direction of the congregation and craft a missional strategy. *Milestones*: Scripture study on nature & purpose of church, prayer and reflection. Express a guiding vision. Session and Key Leaders choose key result areas and goals for living the vision. Conference on the Future.

Embodying

Goal: To design the action plans, ideas, and structures to run with the Vision, making it real through all aspects of congregation life and witness. Make the changes to engage in the ministry that has been discerned.

Milestones: Form a transition plan. Implement changes. Manage endings and new beginnings.

Local Church Investment

- Six training seminars over a three-year period
- Cost for resource materials and travel expenses to events
- Local Church coordinating team to receive training to guide the entire process
- Session awareness and support throughout

Local Church Support

- Participation with other church leaders in the process together
- Presbytery is covering the major portion of the financial cost
- Ongoing presence of a coach familiar with the process
- Prayers and participation of members of the congregation

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

In the Beginning

Jan-1 Genesis 1-3 Jan-2 Genesis 4-6 Jan-3 Genesis 7-9 Jan-4 Genesis 10-12 Jan-5 Genesis 13-15 Jan-6 Genesis 16-18 Jan-7 Genesis 19-21 Jan-8 Genesis 22-24 Jan-9 Genesis 25-27 Jan-10 Genesis 28-30 Jan-11 Genesis 31-33 Jan-12 Genesis 34-36 Jan-13 Genesis 37-39 Jan-14 Genesis 40-42 Jan-15 Genesis 43-45 Jan-16 Genesis 46-48 Jan-17 Genesis 49-50



 The Story of Moses

 Jan-18 Exodus 1-4

 Jan-19 Exodus 5-7

 Jan-20 Exodus 8-10

 Jan-21 Exodus 11-13

 Jan-22 Exodus 14-16

 Jan-23 Exodus 17-19

 Jan-24 Exodus 20-22

 Jan-25 Exodus 23-25

 Jan-26 Exodus 26-28

 Jan-28 Exodus 32-34

 Jan-29 Exodus 35-37

 Jan-30 Exodus 38-39

~ January 2011 ~							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						1 Happy New Year! Pastor Marilyn on	
						Vacation	
2 Communion	3	4		6 Knit/Crochet Ministry 10 am	7	8 Men's Monthly Breakfast 8 a.m.; JKP Transformation Kick- off 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.	
9 Officer Installation & Transformation Coordinating Team Commissioning	10	11 Pastor Marilyn to Pastors' Prayer Group 11:45 am; Property & Finance 7 p.m.	am; No choir rehearsal	13 Knit/Crochet Ministry 10 am; Annual Reports due to Maggie	14	15	
				Pastor Marilyn to COM Retreat	Pastor Marilyn to COM Retreat		
16 Race Relations Sunday Potluck with Muslim Speakers	17	18 Pastor Marilyn to Pastors' Group 12 Noon; New Beginnings Lunch 11:30 a.m.	Lunch & Learn 11:45 am; Bosom Buddies;	20 Knit/Crochet Ministry 10 am; Choir rehearsal 7:30pm	21	22	
23 Worship & Music Committee 11:30 a.m.	24	25 Session 7p.m.	Lunch & Learn 11:45	27 Knit/Crochet Ministry 10 am	28	29	
30 Annual Congregation/Corporation Meeting 11 a.m.	31		MOM Pantry Needs for January: Meals in a Can (beef stew, chili, hearty soups)				

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.

Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts:

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

Spring Harbor Neighborhood Association:

There are various committees 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.

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Sunday Schedule

9:00 a.m. Christian Education for all ages September-May

10:00 a.m. Worship Child care provided

11:00 a.m. Fellowship