

Mequon United
Methodist Church
11011 North Oriole Lane
Mequon, WI 53092
262-242-4770

+

the Spire

July 2013

We Need
Your



**TWO big summer projects
need your help!**

See details inside and sign up now!

(1) Hunger Task Force

- **1000 pounds of food items!**
We want to collect this much at MUMC before July 13. The big boxes are waiting for your donations.
- **Food sort on July 13!**
Go with MUMC people to sort food into categories (cereal, vegetables, peanut butter, pasta, etc.).

(2) Children's Services and Transitional Living Center in Milwaukee

We will paint and clean apartments where mothers with small children live. This is a one week project -- come for training and work for three days.

Also mark these dates:

- ◆ Golden Cross Sunday, July 14. Support United Methodist mission projects in Wisconsin
- ◆ Mealsite, July 25. Need servers, desserts, and fresh fruit
- ◆ Pray for the Youth and the success of their mission trip, July 20-28

No life of faith can be lived
privately. There must be
overflow into the lives of others.

--Eugene H. Peterson

Pastor Tim's Message

I read this story recently about a little boy who used to escape his bedroom after being punished. He would crawl out of his bedroom window down an old fruit tree to the ground. One day, his father told him that he was going to chop down the fruit tree, because it hadn't borne any fruit for a number of years.

That evening, the boy and his friend bought a bushel of apples, and during the night, tied those apples on the barren branches. The next morning, the man could not believe his eyes. He said to his wife, "Honey, I just can't believe it! That old tree hasn't yielded any fruit for years, and now it's covered with apples. And, the most amazing thing is that it's a pear tree!"

This funny little story has a serious point that trees have a purpose, to bear fruit. In the same way our lives have a purpose and they also bear fruit. When we go to work or school, we produce fruit through our products and learning. When we work out we want to see the fruit of a healthy body. No matter what we do we produce fruits of some kind.

When Paul wrote to the church in Galatia, he wanted them to understand that a life of faith also has fruit. Paul wrote, "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." These qualities of faith are what we, as disciples of Jesus, need to show and share through our words and actions.

But just as a tree needs some tending to produce fruit, since fruit tied on a tree will not really last, so to do our lives need some loving care. All throughout scripture God is often referred to as that gardener who comes to tend our lives and hearts into producing harvests of abundant life.

So how are we doing in letting God work in our souls and hearts to weed out fear, anger, anxiety or anything else that is choking the joy out of our lives? Through worship and prayer, are we letting God water and nourish us with grace and hope? Are we taking the time to nurture our faith through Bible study and service to others, letting it grow and deepen? So that we bear the fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. And since good fruit is not meant to stay on the tree, we need to freely share all our fruits of faith with our family, neighbors, and the world around us.

In God's Love
Pastor Tim



**"A life of faith
also has fruit."**



Outdoor Summer Worship Services -- July 27

The Saturday outdoor summer worship services will be returning in July and run through September. They will be held once a month on July 27, August 24, and September 28 at 6:00 p.m. These services will be held around the fire ring behind the church and they will be very casual and prayerful through the music, readings, and devotions that we do together. Also, after we are done you can stick around to roast hot dogs, make a Smore, or enjoy the fellowship around the fire. Come as you are and worship with us.

Youth Mission Trip to Belle, WV

July 20 - July 28, 2013

**Joyous farewell and godspeed
to our youth and their adult chaperones
as they travel to Belle, West Virginia.**

About this mission trip: Tucked away from the crowds, and nestled in along Kanawha River, Belle awaits help from MUMC Youth. While the coal boom and bust is not that recent, the effects are still prevalent here. Kanawha County is distressed as classified by the Appalachian Regional Commission. Incomes are low, and the average age is higher than other surrounding areas. Many of the residence are on a fixed income. The needs are great and MUMC Youth quickly will gain the trust of the hard working folks in Belle and the surrounding area. Repair roofs, help people with accessibility to their homes, and rebuild a porch are some of the projects that MUMC Youth will work on. These projects can restore some hope.



Reflections group to dine out at The Anvil

Our annual summer dinner-out is set for **Tuesday, July 16 at The Anvil** in Cedarburg (N70 W6340 Bridge Rd.). Join us at 5:00 PM for dinner on the patio. Please RSVP by Monday, July 15 to Barb Henneck - bhenneck@wi.rr.com or 262-238-0707.

Reminder: Our discussion book for September will be *Gone Girl*, by Gillian Flynn.

Mealsite -- Thursday, July 25

Come to serve at the mealsite. If you are not able to serve, please donate desserts and fresh fruit. Remember: the number of guests increases significantly in the summer months because the children are not receiving school lunches. The number is up also because the summer weather makes it easier for families to walk to the site.

Servers carpool and leave MUMC at 4:30 PM.

MUMC desserts are dearly loved by the mealsite guests. Welcomed items include brownies, bar cookies, cakes, cupcakes, etc.

Fresh fruit is not readily available to inner-city residents because they have few, if any, full-service grocery stores nearby. Please donate hold-in-hand items like apples, bananas, pears, oranges, tangerines.

Watch the Mission-Outreach bulletin board for sign-up lists.

Next mealsite date: August 29.



Hunger Task Force food sort on July 13 Sign up now!!

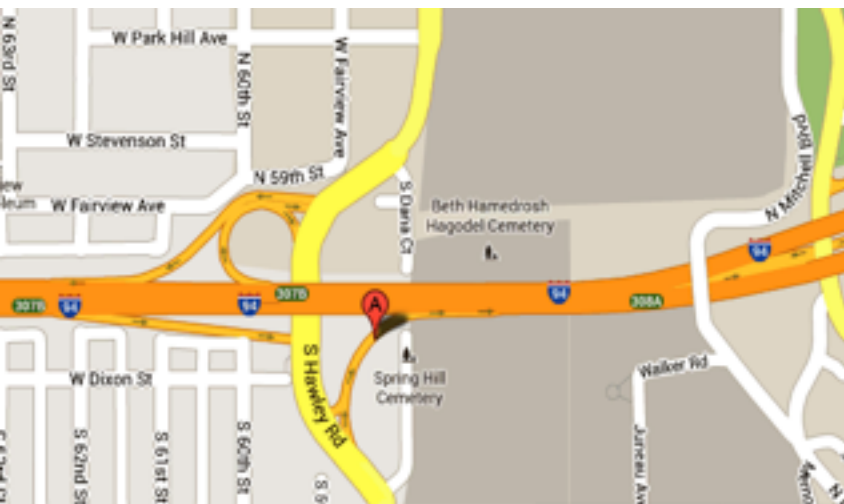
Food collection has begun. Fill up the Hunger Task Force boxes at the church entrance and in the Fellowship Hall. Hunger Task Force thinks we're "awesome!" Let's live up to our reputation and take 1000 pounds of food with us to the food sort on Saturday, July 13, 2013.

You will find bags on the big collection boxes, with a list of preferred donation items. Take several bags and go shopping for Hunger Task Force.

Thank you to everyone who signed up to sort and pack food. If you would like to carpool to the Hunger Task Force warehouse, meet at the church at 8:15 AM. We will leave for the warehouse at 8:30 AM. If you prefer to go directly to the warehouse, please arrive by 8:50 AM. The warehouse is at 201 South Hawley Court, Milwaukee, WI. Coffee, water and bagels will be waiting for you!

Thank you to everyone who signed up to sort and pack food.

Questions? Call Marilyn or Doug Zwissler: 414-351-0774.



Golden Cross Sunday – July 14

Golden Cross Sunday celebrates and supports the Health and Welfare ministries of the Wisconsin United Methodist Conference. Fourteen hospitals, senior living communities, neighborhood, family and children's services in Wisconsin are supported by the donations on this Sunday. Four of these facilities are in Milwaukee:

- Hmong House of Good News – Day service center for Hmong elders providing activities, socialization and support
- Northcott Neighborhood House – Serving low-income children, youth and families
- United Methodist Children's Services – Serving low-income children, women in crises, and families
- Village at Manor Park - Residential and community services for seniors in Milwaukee and beyond

In one year, our conference has been able to provide approximately:

- 12,000 older adults with commodities
- 300 people with shelter
- 48,000 people with emergency food services
- 600 youth/children with childcare/youth services
- 2,500 seniors with loving care – independent living; rehabilitation; skilled nursing, assisted living, transportation, home visits
- 2,000 people with medical attention
- 6,000 hospital visits
- 500 persons with holistic, community based, nursing

Thank you for supporting the missions of our Wisconsin United Methodist Conference.

About Golden Cross Sunday, Bishop Hee-Soo Jung states:

"There are at least 14 excellent reasons we have Golden Cross Sunday in Wisconsin United Methodist congregations each year. That's the number of hospitals, senior living communities, neighborhood, family, and children's services in Wisconsin that are directly impacted by the offerings we give. Our offerings are used to support those who are unable to cover the full cost of their care and services. ... As I travel on my visits to every congregation and circuit, our Health and Welfare Ministries are included in my visits. I have seen our love shared first hand through our ministries and people and give thanks to God for them.

Thank you in advance for the generous and caring response to Golden Cross Sunday this year which will make it possible for our ministries to continue to serve in Christ's name on our behalf."



**Join United Methodists
in August
for a local Volunteer in Mission Project**

Survey

I can clean.
 I can paint.

If you check either box then YOU can help with this VIM project! Three days during one week in August -- that's all!

The Mission Outreach Team is recruiting MUMC members and friends to volunteer for the Wisconsin Volunteers in Mission (VIM) project at the Children's Services and Transitional Living Center at 3940 West Lisbon Avenue, Milwaukee, during the week of August 5 to 9. The work will consist of cleaning and painting apartments for new residents and helping with the new facility.

We will be at the Center on Monday, August 5 for the first workday and orientation. There is a dinner in the evening for all the volunteers and the organizers. After the orientation and training, you can choose which days you can volunteer. Plan to help for a minimum of three days. The cost is \$25.00 per day.

United Methodist Children's Services serves women, children and families in Milwaukee's Lisbon neighborhood. The Transitional Living Program provides safe, affordable housing, on-site social services and childcare, with a comprehensive program designed to enable low-income, single parent families to become economically self-sufficient. The program has the capacity for 16 families and is expanding.

Look for the sign-up sheet on the Mission Outreach bulletin board. For more information, contact Marilyn Zwissler at 414-351-0774.



Tai Chi ... for health and relaxation

We have all heard about the advantages of relaxation exercises such as yoga and tai chi. Research suggests that these activities minimize chronic pain, lower blood pressure, and sharpen concentration. Our Lord has told us to "pray without ceasing." A Tai Chi class is being offered at our church that will offer an opportunity to achieve both goals.

Tai Chi classes will be resuming in July on Wednesdays and Fridays at 1:00 p.m. In addition to the above benefits, we will work at exercising every joint in the body, work to improve balance and will learn to do deep breathing. While doing our deep breathing, we will do a Breath Prayer. Breath Prayers are short, silent prayers that help you become more aware of the Holy Spirit.

Don't be frightened or intimidated by the thought of exercise or "Tai Chi." It is easy to learn and so good for you. Many of the exercises can be done from a chair. If you have questions, call Jacquie Yedinak, 262-416-8888.



**Adult
Spiritual Formation
Opportunities**

Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch will be taking a break for the summer and will return in September with a brand new study and our delicious lunch

**Women's Prayer Breakfast –
Date Changed: Wednesday, July 10**

Women of all ages are invited to gather at 7:00 a.m. on **Wednesday, July, 10 (Note the date change because of the Fourth of July the week before)** for a simple breakfast, Bible study, and prayer. We conclude our time together with open Communion. Our breakfast lasts only an hour, so it is the perfect way to start your day and begin the month.

**Men's Prayer Breakfast –
Date Changed: Thursday, July 11**

Men of all ages are invited to gather at 7:00 a.m. on **Thursday, July, 11 (Note the date change because of the Fourth of July the week before)** for a simple breakfast, Bible study, and prayer. We conclude our time together with open Communion. Our breakfast lasts only an hour, so it is the perfect way to start your day and begin the month.

Music in worship:

- July 7 – Shuler Family
- July 14 – Graycie Gardner
- July 21 – Jennifer D'Alessio
- July 28 – Marcia Schwager
- August 4 – Quattro Horns



A LEADERSHIP LIBRARY is coming soon to the bookcases at MUMC!!

From Tiffany Schaefer

Everyone will be called upon to lead at some point in his or her life, and often, at many points. The issue is whether or not people will be ready when called. The leadership series is based upon the NY Times, Wall Street Journal and USA Today best seller *Launching a Leadership Revolution*, written by Chris Brady and Orrin Woodward, in which leadership is taught in a way that applies to everyone. Whether you are seeking corporate or business advancement, community influence, church impact, or better stewardship and effectiveness in your home, the principles and specifics taught in the leadership series will equip you with what you need.



There will be a new leadership book, 2 CDs and 1 DVD each month added to the bookcases. Topics covered will include finances, leadership, public speaking, attitude, goal setting, mentoring, game planning, accountability and tracking of progress, levels of motivation, levels of influence, and leaving a personal legacy.

Directions to find these materials: Turn left as you enter the parlor at MUMC and you will see materials in the bookcase to the left. Begin applying these LIFE transforming truths to your life today and please return them to the bookcase when you're finished so that others may take advantage of this awesome information!

Thanks and enjoy your leadership journey!



Coming to MUMC in August.

Malaria No More is determined to end malaria deaths in Africa by 2015. YOU can help us get there...

WHAT IS MALARIA?

Malaria is caused by a parasite, transmitted from person to person by a mosquito that bites at night. The parasite enters the bloodstream and causes fever, headaches and other flu-like symptoms. If left untreated, the infection can lead to a coma or even death.

HOW WE ARE FIGHTING MALARIA

With simple tools like mosquito nets, effective medicines and safe indoor spraying, many African countries have reduced malaria deaths by more than 50%. By sleeping under a mosquito net, children are protected from the nighttime bite of a malarial mosquito. New, inexpensive medications can treat malaria. And scientists are working hard to find a vaccine for the disease.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Providing African families with reliable, proven malaria intervention tools, like a \$10 mosquito net, is the easiest and most effective way to protect them from the mosquitoes that transmit malaria. Donate at MUMC in August.

ABOUT MALARIA NO MORE

Malaria No More is determined to end malaria deaths in Africa by 2015 – and we're helping the world get it done. Malaria No More leverages high-impact communications to engage the world, global advocacy to rally leadership and strategic investments to accelerate progress. Visit www.MalariaNoMore.org.

MALARIA FACTS

- Every 45 seconds, a child dies of malaria; that's more than 1,800 kids every day
- Malaria is a preventable and treatable disease
- Every year, 781,000 people die of malaria
- 85% of malaria deaths occur in children under 5
- Almost 2,000 people die in Africa every day from malaria
- Malaria costs Africa at least \$12 billion every year
- In some African countries, 40% of health resources are used to treat malaria
- Malaria is caused by the female anopheles mosquito, who bites between 10:00 PM and 4:00 AM

Rally Day Roast

September 8 -- right after church



**AND TURKEY!
AND MANY
SIDE DISHES!**

Mark your calendars now for an exciting event at MUMC that you won't want to miss! On Sunday, September 8, join all of the friends and families of MUMC as we celebrate the start of our Sunday School year and our MarshMeadow with a Pig Roast! Explore our nature preserve as fall begins to be apparent, and enjoy the delectable excitement of a Pig Roast. Turkey will also be available for those who don't eat pork, as well as a variety of side dishes.

Come for lunch and take home leftovers to munch on as you watch the first Packer game of the season. Tickets are only \$5.00 for adults and youth -- kids under 10 are free! Watch for Ed Mordy and his clipboard -- coming soon to a narthex near you!

~ ~ ~ THREE Thank You ~ ~ ~

Critter Camp Cohorts and VBS Rocks -- Thank you for donations!

Our VBS and Critter Camp went very smoothly this year due in part to the resources provided through our donation program. Thanks to the following donors we had ample supplies for everything from food to science experiments. All of our children and staff had t-shirts to wear throughout the day at MUMC and then out into the community. One of our staff members was applauded as she bought groceries for our meals, and another, at another store buying flowers for our thank yous, was asked all about our church and then heard "Methodists are the best." We touched new lives and new families and we rocked out all week.

So thanks again to our incredible supporters. Our very special thanks to Kay Schroeder, who once again sponsored the bus for our Critter Camp field trip, Irene Sullivan funded our VBS set, and the following people generously donated funds to support our programs:

Shirl Campbell
Sandy Christensen
Ginger & Herb Ayres
The Stephany Family
Barb & Lou Henneck
Debbie & Randy LeRoy
Ruth Janusiewicz
Marilyn Thiet
The Sisney Family
Wendy Porterfield
Elna Hickson
Judy Vogel
Joan Buschman
Nancy Gruner
Connie Pukaite
Ross & Jean Paulus
Ruth & Clary Groth
Ruth Peters
Shari & Sandy Berson
Mavis Luther
Katie Jackson



VBS and Critter Camp -- Thank You to all of the volunteers!

A wild and wonderful week of VBS and Critter Camp wrapped up on Sunday, June 30, with our presentation in worship. We served more than 50 children, many of them new to our church. The week included great music, games, food, science, Bible stories, movies and missions during VBS, and explorations in the great outdoors during Critter Camp. Wednesday even included a trip to Riveredge Nature Center by our Critter Camp and Adult Bible Study, and it didn't rain a drop! There were many memorable moments, and everyone involved was happily affected.

Our program would not be possible without the amazing help of our incredible volunteers. These wonderful individuals were a powerful example of faith in action, as they lovingly gave a week of their lives to the children of our church and community. We owe a special thanks to Linda Mordy, who planned and led the entire week of Critter Camp, teaching children from preschool to high school all the ways that we are connected in God's Creation. Ed Mordy helped out too, helping the children to construct a compost bin for use at the parsonage. Schuyler Gardner led our littlest ones in their own unique discoveries at Critter Camp, as well as directing our VBS music. She also held a VBS music class daily for the toddlers of Sonlight along with MUMC moms and dads and their toddlers. Our tiny ones had a rollicking, rocking time!

On the VBS side, Gayle Meyer led our openings and closings every day, and guided our youth as they performed our closing skit. Graycie Gardner was incredibly entertaining as our insecure Sir Wally, our heroic Esther and our talented photographer. Audra O'Brien and Shirley Campbell kept our VBSers and Critter Campers well fed. Shelley and Doug Burns provided a delectable midweek dinner for all of our families and friends. Our versatile and creative VBS Station leaders were Pat Gattoni and Wendy Porterfield (Imagination Station), Tim O'Brien, Ardis Burke and Andrew Widder (Games), Ginger and Herb Ayres and Nikolai Gardner (Movies and Missions), and Peg, Schuyler and Graycie Gardner (Bible Adventures). Peter Gardner handled Audio and Video, and Pam Layton and Nan Rilling were VBS helpers. Our helpful, compassionate and just plain awesome VBS Crew Leaders were Anastasia Skiliarova, Patrick Curran, Adam Meyer, Cole Stephany, Blake Welsh and Alyssa O'Brien. On the Critter Camp side we had Debbie LeRoy and Mary Sisney helping us out, keeping all our human critters happy.

It was truly an inspirational week for everyone -- thanks to all of our helpers and our amazing, joyful, exuberant children!

Thanks

... from MUMC's Welcoming Connections team

Thanks to all our wonderful members who have recently prepared and served the coffee and brought the goodies for the coffee fellowship after church including Jim and Pam Layton, Jeff and Linda Stephany, Sandy Christensen, Ann Miller, Andy and Kathy Jones, the Faith in Action team, Jim and Lauren Schreiner, Dick and Judy Vogel, Stan and Ruth Janusiewicz, Glen Van Fossen, Tiffany Schaefer, Wendy Porterfield and Devin Curran, Emily Levine, Joanne Bartel, and Marilyn Cullinan. It's all the willing hands who make our church community come together.

Thanks also to our greeters.

The schedules for coffee hosts and greeters were sent out recently. Hope you have marked the dates on your calendar.

Best wishes to all for a wonderful summer. The warm weather is here. Hurrah! Hurrah!

Congratulations to the graduates!

College graduates:

- Julie Sullivan, granddaughter of Irene Sullivan, graduated from UW-Eau Claire on May 18. Julie lives in Minnetonka, Minnesota.
- Nick Ballesteros, son of Gary and Mithra, graduated from the University of Minnesota and will be going to grad school this fall.
- Alex Debbink, son of Mike and Chris, graduated from University of Wisconsin, Madison with a Masters of Accountancy Degree. He is headed to Norwalk, Connecticut in early July to work at the FASB (Financial Accounting Standards Board).
- Maggie Draughon, daughter of Pappy and Betty, graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with an MBA.
- Lydia Hynson, daughter of Rick and Michelle, graduated from UW-Stevens Point in Cello Performance
- Kevin Henneck, son of Lou and Barb, graduated from Princeton University with a degree in Chemical Engineering. He has moved to New York City to work for Citigroup as a Sales & Trading Analyst.
- Jake Stern, son of Bruce and Karen, graduated from UW-Madison with a degree in finance and investment banking.
- Kristin Schreiner, daughter of Jim and Lauren, graduated from Wellesley College.
- Amanda Shaurette, daughter of Dar and Cindy, graduated from the University of Arizona in Tucson with a Masters degree in Accounting. She will be working at Ernst & Young in Milwaukee.



High School Graduates:

From Homestead High School:

- Jake Maris, son of Nick and Erin, will attend UW-Milwaukee.
- Jenna Burns, daughter of Doug and Shelley will attend Michigan Technological University in Houghton, Michigan next year.
- Henry Ballesteros, son of Gary and Mithra, will attend University of Chicago next year.
- Samantha Schwager, daughter of Jeff and Marcia, will attend University of Virginia in Charlottesville next year to study biomedical engineering.
- Mitchell Shaurette, son of Dar and Cindy, will attend West Virginia University in Morgantown.
- Petey Jones, son of Andy and Kathy, will attend Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.
- Laura Kirtley, daughter of John and Nancy, will attend Emory University in Georgia next year.

From Cedarburg High School:

- Alex Ellis, son of Tom and Carrie, will attend UW-Washington County in the fall.



Children's prayer requests

During VBS we had some very special prayer requests from the children. They ask that you pray for:

- Miss Gayle, because she has a very heavy load
- Our Grandmas -- Connor and Emma's (SCDC's Miss Sue) and Jadynn & McKenzie's (Nancy Gruner)
- The children of India because they are poor but still very friendly
- Sir Wally, because she really needs some help to be a good knight and she isn't strong enough yet to not drop her shield or ride a real horse and Pistachio might get her
- Mommies who get sick but still have to go to work
- Daddies who are tired but still play -- even baseball
- For goldfish who are not dead, even though the dead ones get to live with Jesus in heaven
- For our families who love us and help us stand strong!
- For the mouse and her babies, who had the roof of their house accidentally lifted off in the MarshMeadow
- Happy prayers of thanks for Miss Schuyler, who sang and sang and sang with us -- even when we were the caboose on the trail at Riveredge



MUMC families celebrate weddings!

- Kristen (LeRoy) and Dan Albright. Kristen is the daughter of Randy and Debbie LeRoy.
- Lisa (Stern) and Chris Grams. Lisa is the daughter of Bruce and Karen Stern.
- Maggie (Draughon) and Brian Poole. Maggie is the daughter of Pappy and Betty Draughon.
- Krista (Henneck) and Patrick Maxwell. Krista is the daughter of Lou and Barb Henneck.

Annual Conference Report

Doug Zwissler & Pastor Tim O'Brien –
Mequon UMC delegates to Annual Conference



The 2013 Wisconsin Annual Conference took place at the Madison Marriott West in Middleton June 7th – 9th. The Conference session featured the theme “*Live the Fruit of the Spirit*,” the new theme for the new quadrennium.

The Conference welcomed Bishop Chul Lee and other delegates from the Dongbu Conference of the Korean Methodist Church to honor the sister partnership between the two Conferences.

During his inspiring Opening Sermon, Bishop Jung spoke about being blessed through his many visits to Wisconsin congregations since last fall. “It will require more than a year to visit all 495! But if I am to lead you, I need to know you,” he said. He also introduced his new fruit-producing strategy, *Imagining Wisconsin Anew*, which he explained as “an effort to bear good fruit by serving new people, diverse people, young people, elderly people, and all people. It is about being passionate in inviting new people to a relationship with Jesus Christ,” he said

On Saturday evening, members and friends of the Conference gathered for a banquet to welcome Bishop Jung and his wife Im, who is a clergy member of the Wisconsin Conference. Rev. Amanda Stein shared a presentation that celebrated Bishop Jung’s travels around the state of Wisconsin during his first year, recognized Bishop Chul Lee and delegates, and featured the commissioning of Hyo-Won Park as a missionary through the General Board of Global Ministries. Rev. Park will serve as a church planter in Russia.

Ray Buckley, renowned author and international speaker, led Bible Studies on Saturday and Sunday mornings. He drew on his Native American heritage to tell impassioned stories of suffering and forgiveness. On Saturday, he spoke on the significance of the names children are given at birth within the Native American culture, and that we shouldn’t live by the names of derision that others give us. We need to be positive about who we are and live out our sacred names, he explained. On Sunday, he spoke about the sadness of the past treatment of Native Americans and how they were tortured and killed by many people, including Methodists. Many Native Americans today don’t know their ancestors’ stories, he said, because they were raised in institutions and adoption agencies. He spoke of the Act of Repentance and the importance of both United Methodists as well as the Native Americans to repent. “We Native Americans need to repent for our years of anger and learn to forgive,” he said. Buckley also talked about the importance of all United Methodists to take responsibility to make disciples of Jesus Christ. It doesn’t matter if you are clergy or laity, he said. He challenged all brothers and sisters to “Take thou authority. Go into the world and tell the story of Jesus Christ to people who are tired. Serve where there is a need...if you don’t do it, no one else will.”

During his State of the Church presentation on Sunday morning, Bishop Jung talked about his delight and surprise to be back in Wisconsin to lead our congregations for the next four years. He also talked about our quadrennial theme – *Live the Fruit of the Spirit*– and how we will be inviting new people into a relationship with Jesus Christ through existing congregations and new faith communities. “I believe we will bear good fruit by serving new people of all ages and

ethnicities,” he said. He celebrated the amazing commitment of our Wisconsin United Methodists who participate in missions here in Wisconsin and around the world, as well as the generous giving of our membership. Bishop Jung also spoke about his priorities and recommendations for the Conference. “Since arriving in Wisconsin, I have made visiting every congregation and circuit a priority,” he said.

The Bishop listed other steps he is taking, including focusing on abundance and not scarcity, adding the Director of Connectional Ministries to the Cabinet, producing new resources for congregational leaders, building bridges to other faith communities, emphasizing recruitment rather than retention, adding a Director of Congregational Development to the Cabinet, exploring the possibility of adjusting the number of districts, and planning a possible Capital Campaign to help fund new faith development and other ministry connections.

Rev. Steve Scott presented the Clergy Covenant report at Sunday morning’s Plenary session. The Clergy Covenant team was formed at the 2012 Annual Conference session and after the trial of Amy DeLong in order to help resolve issues that harm the clergy covenant within the Wisconsin United Methodist Church. “This is all very personal,” Scott said. “We are the Church together. What we have discovered is that we can either continue to debate over differences in theology or we can focus, as this team is charged to do, on living together in better ways.” Bishop Jung affirmed the document as “a tool to be used for future conversation, not as a document up for debate or approval.”

Several Conference action items were voted on for implementation in the coming year. All were passed. Some of the approved items included: the 2014 budget, continued partnership with the Hmong House of Good News, Cedar Crest, Inc., and Hillcrest Family Services; the chartering of Whitewater: Cristo La Roca UMC, the discontinuance of Neillsville UMC, and the abandonment of Reedsville UMC; and the approval to elect delegates to General Conference a year earlier than previous years, in 2014.

Fifteen retiring clergy were recognized for their years of service. Two former Wisconsin bishops participated in the Licensing, Commissioning and Ordination Service on Sunday afternoon. Bishop Sharon Rader gave the sermon, and Bishop Linda Lee gave an opening blessing. During the service, four individuals were licensed as local pastors, two were commissioned as deacons, five were commissioned as elders, one was ordained as a deacon, and five were ordained as elders. “We’re gathered here because we know the spirit of God has placed a message deep in our hearts,” Bishop Rader said. She talked about the message *Living the Fruit of the Spirit* manifesting itself in ways such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. She also talked about the meaning of freedom through

(continued)

the Church: “There are those outside the Church who think we’re not about freedom at all; that you, who are to be licensed, ordained, commissioned – you’re not free. But I declare to you: you are, we are; this Church has been set free to live, to love, to dance, and to invite others to do the same.” Following the service, the individuals that were licensed, commissioned and ordained were honored at a celebration dinner. Each of them spoke words of gratitude, and Bishop Jung congratulated them.

On Monday the members of the annual conference participated in a learning day in various areas of church life. More information will be shared with the congregation after attending the specific workshops in leadership development and congregational planning.

Vision Loss Due to Cataracts

(Information from MUMC Parish Nurses)

There are currently more than 24 million Americans age 40 and older who have a cataract, according to the Vision Problems in the U.S. report from Prevent Blindness America. It is the leading cause of blindness worldwide.

A cataract is a clouding of the normally clear lens of your eye. For people who have cataracts, seeing through cloudy lenses is a bit like looking through a frosty or fogged-up window. Clouded vision caused by cataracts can make it more difficult to read or drive a car — especially at night.

Most cataracts develop slowly and don't disturb your eyesight early on. But with time, cataracts will eventually interfere with your vision.

At first, stronger lighting and eyeglasses can help you deal with cataracts. But if impaired vision interferes with your usual activities, you might need cataract surgery. Fortunately, cataract surgery is generally a safe, effective procedure.

Signs and symptoms of cataracts include:

1. Clouded, blurred or dim vision
2. Increasing difficulty with vision at night
3. Sensitivity to light and glare
4. Seeing "halos" around lights
5. Frequent changes in eyeglass or contact lens prescription
6. Fading or yellowing of colors
7. Double vision in a single eye

When to see a doctor

Make an appointment for an eye exam if you notice any changes in your vision. If you develop sudden vision changes, such as double vision or blurriness, see your doctor right away.

Factors that increase your risk of cataracts include:

1. Increasing age
2. Diabetes
3. Drinking excessive amounts of alcohol
4. Excessive exposure to sunlight
5. Exposure to ionizing radiation, such as that used in X-rays and cancer radiation therapy
6. Family history of cataracts
7. High blood pressure
8. Obesity
9. Previous eye injury or inflammation
10. Previous eye surgery
11. Prolonged use of corticosteroid medications
12. Smoking

Prevention

It's not clear what causes cataracts, but doctors think you may be able to reduce your risk of cataracts if you:

1. **Have regular eye exams.** Eye exams can help detect cataracts and other eye problems at their earliest stages. Ask your doctor how often you should have an eye exam.
2. **Quit smoking.** Ask your doctor for help to stop smoking. Medications, counseling and other strategies are available to help you.
3. **Wear sunglasses.** Ultraviolet light from the sun may contribute to the development of cataracts. Wear sunglasses that block ultraviolet B (UVB) rays when you're outdoors.
4. **Take care of other health problems.** Follow your treatment plan if you have diabetes or other medical conditions that can increase your risk of cataracts.
5. **Maintain a healthy weight.** If your current weight is a healthy one, work to maintain it by exercising most days of the week. If you're overweight or obese, work to lose weight slowly by reducing your calorie intake and increasing the amount of exercise you get each day.
6. **Choose a healthy diet that includes plenty of fruits and vegetables.** Adding a variety of colorful fruits and vegetables to your diet ensures that you're getting a lot of vitamins and nutrients. Fruits and vegetables are full of antioxidants, which in theory could prevent damage to your eye's lens. Studies haven't proven that antioxidants in pill form can prevent cataracts.

Resources:

Mayo Clinic. www.mayoclinic.com/health/ataracts/DS00050
National Eye Institute. www.nei.nih.gov/health/cataract/
Prevent Blindness America. www.preventblindness.org



“MUMC Parish Nurse Ministry promotes wellness, healing and wholeness of body, mind and spirit within our church family through health assessment, counseling and education.”
[Parish Nurse Mission Statement]

Sonlight Scoop July 2013

Sonlight Child Development Center, established by and operated as a ministry of Mequon United Methodist Church, is open to children from infant through 5 years old, including K2, K3, and K4 programs.

Now that Summer is here, Sonlight kids enjoy swimming on hot days. The kids LOVE splashing around in the cool water, so we fill the pools whenever the weather calls for it!



Sonlight kids also enjoyed **Vacation Bible School**, during the week of June 24-28. Many helpers were around to make sure that the children were well cared for. The theme this year was ***“Kingdom Rock, Where Kids Stand Strong for God!”*** Several of the unenrolled children also signed up to join in for a fun week of learning about God.



Toddler Sing Time



Collecting the sheep!



Where's the Heart?

Enjoy Your Summer!
Kathy and Sue

Mission News:
Dominican Republic
Graner Family newsletter

Address:

Iglesia Evangelica Dominicana
Apartado 727
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
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May 2013

Dear friends,

After 23 years in mission at the Thiu Rancho Center outside of Cochabamba, Bolivia, we have been reassigned (April 2013) to the Dominican Republic. We are working with the Dominican Evangelical Church which is a united church of Methodist, Presbyterian, and Moravian roots.

Although it was difficult and sad to leave our Bolivian family and our adopted home, we are convinced that God has brought us to the Dominican Republic to begin the journey of the second half of life. Everything here is new and different and we must once again humble ourselves and become like children, with wide eyed wonder and curiosity. Even though our hair is gray we have to grow up again on this Caribbean island in order to begin to understand the worldview and daily reality of the Dominican people. Then we will find our place in mission, how we may proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ and how we may enter into the suffering and healing of those who are crying out to God.

To be a missionary is to be a bridge between two cultures, in our case now a bridge between the United States and the Dominican Republic. Across this bridge we may walk and meet our new neighbors, to share our lives with them and them with us. In doing so we may give and receive the love of God, the compassion of Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. We hope that our United Methodist Church family will continue with us or join anew this second journey in mission. We invite you to cross our bridge (under construction) and enter like children into God's kingdom in the Dominican Republic. Who knows what joy and mystery await us here?

Gordon and Ardell

Some facts about the Dominican Republic (DR)

The DR is located in the Caribbean Sea south and west of Cuba. It is part of the island of Hispanola shared with Haiti

and is about half the size of North Dakota. About 10 million people live here mostly a mixed race of African and Spanish. Spanish is the official language. Columbus landed here in 1492, his first contact with what would come to be known as the Americas. The Dominican people are very friendly and hospitable. Santo Domingo is the capital city with a population of 2.5 million people.

What are we doing here?

That is a fair question that many have asked us. We were told our time was completed in Bolivia and that we were to be transferred to the Dominican Republic. It is part of being a missionary to be called to leave 'home' and go with Jesus to another shore. It is not easy to uproot and replant but there is peace in knowing that we are never alone. So here we are walking the streets of Santo Domingo. It is hot and humid every day in this city of eternal summer. The Caribbean Sea is only a twenty minute walk from our apartment and when you look off into the blue horizon you can almost see the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria. We are working with the Dominican Evangelical Church founded in 1922. The Rev. Cancu, Ejecutive Secretary of the church, has asked Ardell to work with Christian Education, especially the Sunday School programs. Gordon has been asked to work with Church Development. The Dominican Republic is a beautiful country but has serious problems with injustice and poverty.

What's next?

Our plans for the summer and fall involve working with various church camps and Volunteer in Mission groups. Also we plan to visit many IED churches throughout the country, projects that the IED is sponsoring such as ministry with a sugar cane plantation batey. A batey is a community of impoverished Haitians and Dominicans who live and work on the plantation and exist in deplorable conditions.

In the beginning of next year we plan to return to the US to visit all of our covenant churches to share a tribute to the ministry of Thiu Rancho in Bolivia. Then we would like to introduce you to our new mission in the Dominican Republic.

Please keep us in your prayers.
Together with you in mission.

the Spire

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9:30 AM: Worship Service
10:30 AM: Fellowship for all

Everyone is welcome!

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A Nation's Strength

Not gold but only men can make
A people great and strong;
Men who for truth and honor's sake
Stand fast and suffer long.

Brave men who work while others sleep,
Who dare while others fly ...
They build a nation's pillars deep
And lift them to the sky.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

How healthy is our freedom?

Our attitude toward the poor is still one of the surest tests of the health of our freedom. The moment freedom is used to avoid acts of mercy or help or compassion, it is exposed as a fraud. A free person who finds ways to enhance the lives of the poor demonstrates the truest and most mature freedom. ... We are not free to dismiss poor people from our awareness, to turn a deaf ear to voices that ask for help, to harbor even the slightest contempt for the failures and rejects in our society.

—Eugene H. Peterson,
Traveling Light



Lying is a Sin

A minister told his congregation, "Next week I plan to preach about the sin of lying. To help you understand my sermon, I want you all to read Mark 17."

The following Sunday, as he prepared to deliver his sermon, the minister asked for a show of hands. He wanted to know how many had read Mark 17.

Every hand went up.

The minister smiled and said, "Mark has only sixteen chapters. I will now proceed with my sermon on the sin of lying."