

FAITHWORKS

The Newsletter of the
United Methodist Church
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July 2010

Pastors: Dr. F. Cole Fowler
Mary Scott

Pastor Emeritus:
Merwyn Davidson

Coordinator of Christian Education
& Youth Ministries:
Randy Shackleton

Ronda O'Neil, Secretary
Roberta Cool, Membership Secretary
Catherine Rahrs, Parish Nurse
Kathy Ramsour, Preschool Director
Tamera Wert, Preschool Teacher
Kris Griffin, Head Custodian
Kris Griffin, Head Custodian
Dave Hoffman, Custodian

The Worship of God
9:30 a.m.
Sunday School
10:30 a.m.
Fellowship Coffee Hour
10:30 a.m.



Cole's Corner

In a recent sermon I commented on having attended a reunion of my high school graduating class (okay, it was the 45th). A classmate jumped up and shouted, "Cole Fowler! You haven't changed a bit!" Well, it certainly was a nice compliment, albeit erroneous!

As I look back, I see how much I've changed over the years. Things I took for granted I now see having enormous value. Positions I took as bedrock now look more as sand. What others held as true and I discounted, have now become a part of me. For the most part I have handled change as a part of growing, maturing. And in time I have welcomed them.

Still, the quick changes tend to leave me, at least for the moment, slightly off balance. I have often found myself resembling Peter. . . . impetuous, quick to act, foot in mouth, Peter. Remember the story in Acts 10. Peter has his world turned upside down when the Holy Spirit comes to him in a vision. As he looks at the large cloth holding an assortment of reptiles, creatures and birds, a voice says, "Eat", and Peter says no for he considers the food to be profane and unclean to a Jew. The lesson is that anything God makes is okay, even Gentiles! Accepting Gentiles is not a trivial matter for the observant Jew, and this lesson touches the core of Peter's faith and a 180 degree reversal of practice. While there are still aspects of my faith to which I firmly cling, there are many positions I find I now hold with less firmness. God continues to call me to new perspectives, ways of viewing and acts of love. All that I might grow closer to God.

Still In One Peace,

Pastor Mary's Ponderings

Occasionally, I attend a meeting that has nothing to do with church. A meeting during the day is even more of a rarity. This was a social meeting; no agenda, no minutes or financial matters, no courtesy report. Our program for the day centered around special memories of our own weddings with many laughs shared among this gathering of sisters.

As a group of us left the building I found myself as a third-party listening to a conversation between two women. They were discussing retirement, recreation, hobbies, etc., and while inquiring minds always want to know, I found my mind wandering. What caught my attention was talk of money; you see this family had made the conscious decision not to be involved in an activity they had previously enjoyed. What pre-empted this decision – children, grandchildren, traveling, sore knees, swollen ankles, a bad shoulder, arthritis, high blood pressure, or diabetes? No, it was none of these. "When it cost more to _____ than we gave to the church, we decided to re-examine our priorities." My ears couldn't believe it.

My mind began to race ... how many times has my relationship with Christ been a second-best effort?
Grace and peace,

Pastor Mary



Randy's Ramblings

As you are reading this we are either working in Nashville or returning from our mission trip which we have been planning since last fall. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your generous support of the youth and this trip to serve God. During the mission trip we will be concentrating on learning about the prodigal son. I hope and pray that when we return the youth will have a new and great understanding of this beautiful story.

On July 27th, all upcoming 6th through 12th graders are invited to a pool party at Randy's house. We will meet at the church and travel to Gibbon and enjoy a barbeque and swim. Please pass this word on to all youth of the church. Please contact the church office so we will know how many drivers we need. Transportation will be provided for this.

We are still looking for Rejoice! leadership. As of the writing of this article no one has agreed to help with this much needed opportunity of the church. If leadership is not found, Aurora United Methodist Church will not be able to offer this program. Please let Randy, Holly Schmidt or Dana DeVries know if you would be willing

to take leadership of this or work in a group for leadership.

August 29 will be the kick-off for Fall Sunday School. We will have special music for this Sunday and special activities. Watch for further details.

Thank you for all your support and prayers for the education of our congregation.

Randy

P.S. If anyone has a 2- or 4-drawer file cabinet they would be willing to donate to the church, I could put it to good use. Please call the office. Thanks.

thank-you thank you thank-you thank-you

During the past 18 months, we have had our faith tested. We have been overwhelmed at times – with my father's hospitalization and illness, the unexpected passing of my brother, my illnesses and the financial burden incurred from them. But Sunday, June 13th, we were overwhelmed with blessings from our church family. You are truly awesome and we are so glad to be a part of this wonderful family. It was so great to see so many people attending from our congregation, the community and long-time friends. I don't know where to start with the "Thank-You's" as I don't want to forget anyone, but we do want everyone to know how much we appreciated everything. Thank you to Patti Kell, Joe Ford, the Outreach Committee and Angie Stump for organizing everything. Also, thanks for the pork, Joe. It was awesome like always. Thanks to all who made salads and desserts: they were wonderful! Thanks to all who donated auction items. Thanks to Ken Killion, John Ferguson, Bob Cool, Deryl Arnold and Gerald Holtzen for making the auction so much fun. Thanks to Randy Shackleton, Dr. John Wilcox, and Ben Johnson for the entertainment. Keep up the good work, Ben. You were great! Thank you to all of the committees for helping and contributing. Thank you to Rev. Cole, Pastor Mary, Merwyn and Betty Davidson, and Ronda O'Neil for all your support and listening ears through our trials. And, last and certainly not least, thank your to all who came to the benefit and contributed. We truly appreciate your contribution, fellowship and support. God's blessings, peace, and grace upon each of you!

Dan, Barb and Jacob Pinkelman

thank-you thank you thank-you thank-you





United Methodist Women

What a memorable UMW Sunday. Greta Leach was so wonderful. Hearing her tell about her experiences in Palestine and meeting and working with the families who are trying to live there was so enlightening. Thanks so much to Greta for making the UMW Sunday special. Corsages for Mission were pinned on women as they entered the narthex. These corsages represent the mission work that is done by UMW Units all over Nebraska. The color green represents the theme of our UMW district President as an awareness of conservation and recycling.

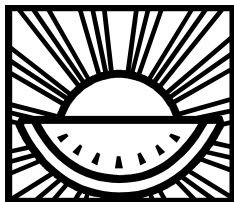
July 16-18 or July 18-21 are the dates for the School of Christian Mission held at the Mid-Town Holiday Inn in Grand Island. For more information e-mail Joyce Solomon at solomon.joyce@gmail.com.

Have a great summer and remember in prayer those in Nebraska and other parts of the US that are dealing with flooding and the devastation from the oil spill.

Patsy Beran for the UMW



Sarah Circle will meet at 6:30 p.m. on July 13 at the church. Jo Ellen Ross will have her quilts on display. Bring a sack lunch. Everyone is welcome to attend.



~~Scholarship Committee~~

Thank you notes have been received from Kristen Schmit and Dillan Olson for the Scholarships they received to assist them in continuing their education. Good luck as you continue your educational pursuits.



Goodwill Truck

The Goodwill Industries of Greater Nebraska will have a donation drive in Aurora beginning Wednesday, July 14 through Tuesday, July 20. The truck will be open daily from 8:00 a.m. until dark. Goodwill needs clothing and household items that are in good condition and saleable (what you would want to buy). Due to lack of space, please no furniture or large appliances. Receipts for tax deductions will be available.

OUR CHURCH FAMILIES

Serving in the Military:

REGIER, TYSON

Tyson Regier
B TROOP 1-91 CAV
FOB Altimur
APO AE 09364
E-MAIL: tyson.regier@us.army.mil

HEINS, MARK

2031 Evergreen Way-SW
McCord Air Force WA 98439

SPC. HANSON, JOHN

C-TROOP 1-10 CAV
2346 Specker Ave
Box 112
Ft. Carson CO 80913



Congratulations to Gail and Norma Wert who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on June 4. B

Congratulations Lyle and Peggy Shaneyfelt who celebrated their 77th Wedding Anniversary on June 14.

Congratulations to Scott and Holly Roberts on the birth of their son, Phoenix Lane Roberts, born May 27, 2010. He is welcomed home by a brother, JR, age 11 and a sister, Griffyn, age 7.

Congratulations to Bryan and Valerie Hinrichs on the birth of their daughter, Kendall Jalina, who was born June 14 in Lincoln. She weighed 8 pounds. She is welcomed home by sisters Marah, age 7 and Makayla, age 5.

Congratulations to Eric and Christine Harris on the birth of their first child, Brayden Lee Harris, born May 9, 2010.

Holy Baptism: Gavin Lee Jackson is the son of Don and Tonia (Gallentine) Jackson. Tonia is the daughter of former member, Peggy Gallentine Wilson and the niece of George and Pat Eberly.



July 2010

July 1, Thursday

July 2, Friday—Office closed

July 4, Sunday—Communion

Food Pantry collection

Mission trip youth and adults return.

9:30 a.m. Worship

NO Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Fellowship Coffee Hour

July 5, Monday

6:30-9:30 p.m. Foster Parents Meeting

7:00 p.m. Grief Support Group

July 6, Tuesday

9:00 a.m. Parish Nurse

7:00 p.m. Christian Education Meeting

7:30 p.m. Rachel Circle

July 8, Thursday

9:00 a.m. Parish Nurse

9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. WIC

July 9, Friday

Wedding Rehearsal

July 10, Saturday

5:00 p.m. Wedding

July 11, Sunday

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Fellowship Coffee Hour

2 – 4 p.m. Martha Heftie Birthday Party

July 12, Monday

6:30-9:30 p.m. Foster Parents Meeting

July 13, Tuesday

****11:30 a.m. Deborah Circle—Salad Luncheon**

9:00 a.m. Parish Nurse

****6:30 p.m. Sarah Circle—bring sack lunch**

7:00 p.m. Health & Welfare

July 14, Wednesday – Goodwill Truck

7:30 a.m. Head Start in Fellowship Hall

July 15, Thursday – Goodwill Truck

9:00 a.m. Parish Nurse

July 16, Friday – Goodwill Truck

July 18, Sunday—Goodwill Truck

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Blood Pressure Screening

10:30 a.m. Fellowship Coffee Hour

6 – 8:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School Begins

July 19, Monday

6 – 8:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School

July 20, Tuesday

9:00 a.m. Parish Nurse

6 – 8:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School

7:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting

July 21, Wednesday

7:00 p.m. NAMI in Parish Nurse Office

6 – 8:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School

July 22, Thursday

9:00 a.m. Parish Nurse

6 – 8:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School

July 23, Friday

6 -8:00 p.m. Ice Cream Social for

Vacation Bible School

7:00 p.m. Vacation Bible School Program

July 25, Sunday

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Fellowship Coffee Hour

July 26, Monday

11:30 a.m. -5:50 p.m. Blood Mobile

6:30-9:30 p.m. Foster Parents Meeting

7:00 p.m. SPRC Meeting

July 27, Tuesday

9:00 a.m. Parish Nurse

11:30 a.m. -5:50 p.m. Blood Mobile

7:00 p.m. Ad. Council Meeting

7:00 p.m. Youth Swim party

@ Shackleton home in Gibbon

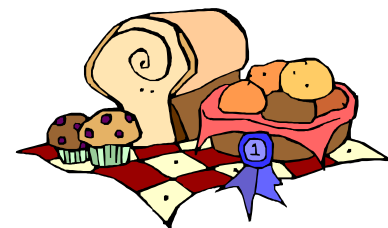
July 28, Wednesday—Hamilton County Fair begins

July 29, Thursday—Hamilton County Fair

9:00 a.m. Parish Nurse

July 30, Friday—Hamilton County Fair

July 31, Saturday—Hamilton County Fair



BLOOD MOBILE

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be at our church on Monday, July 26 and Tuesday, July, 27 from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Minimum age to donate is 16 (with parental permission) and minimum weight is 110 pounds. New donors are always welcome!! It usually takes about 1 ½ hours for the entire process. Appointments are preferred and can be made by calling Lois Obermeier at 694.2238 or Patti Kell at 694.6370 or 631.8642. Donors may also walk in without appointments, but may have a bit of a wait, depending on the appointment schedule.

Pinkelman Benefit - Many thanks to all whose efforts combined for a successful evening to assist Barb Pinkelman with her medical expenses. Good attendance, good food, great entertainment and tremendous generosity merged for an evening of Christian Fellowship. Special thanks to Randy Schackleton, Ken Killion and their assistants for providing the evening's entertainment.

Parish Nurse News

Recently, two students from Creighton University came to Aurora to interview various entities about access to health care in rural Nebraska. This first interview was a preliminary one to obtain names, addresses and businesses dealing with health care. The usual resources came to mind such as the hospital, clinic, dentists, pharmacies, mental health and allied health resources. Although these may be considered the “main-frame” of our rural health, access has to deal with being able to use what is available. Certainly transportation to specialty clinics is important. Having the financial resources to pay for services is also a huge concern. But everything in our lives really is part of the whole picture and so everything matters! Water quality is rarely thought of unless there is contamination. Drivable roads and electricity matter! Having a well-insulated home and good food matters. Lifestyle habits matter. Law enforcement, education and social contact matters. The stability of a home and a church matters. Having social contacts and pets matter, also – so does inheritable genes (laws against marriage between 1st line relatives). Hope matters – thus care of the soul and compassion for others could be considered a “health concern” whether rural or not. There are so many things we take for granted, until they are gone, then they matter!!

To your health –
C Rahrs RN, Parish Nurse



Fellowship Coffee Hour

The Fellowship Coffee Hour is a time for members of our congregation to re-connect over a cup of coffee and usually something sweet to eat. During June, the Memorial Committee made arrangements for coffee to be made, made goodies available each Sunday and cleaned up afterwards. Thank you to that committee for providing the coffee and food. July will be sponsored by the Communion Stewards—Joann Dick, Glenna Markham, Pat Eberly, Kelly Hunter, Judy Salmon, Jennifer Berck, Glenda Hawthorne, and Verda Friesen. If you would like to share baked items for coffee hour, please contact Joann Dick or sign up on the clipboard on the serving counter.



TLC Preschool News

Registration for fall preschool classes is still open. We will be offering a 2-day class and a 3-day class next fall. Tamera Wert will be teaching.

- Tuesday, Thursday class -- 9:00-11:00
- Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday class -- 9:00-11:00

Contact Kathy Ramsour (694-2325) or Tamera Wert (694-6600) if you want registration information or would like to check out the TLC classrooms.

Bits and Pieces ~ ~ ~

~~Pastor Mary will be in Kansas City as she continues her education from July 5-16. Keep her in your prayers during this time.

~~Due to Pastor Mary's absence, there will not be a “Make--’n—Take” Meals fellowship this month. They will resume upon her return.

~~Vacation Bible School registration is included in the newsletter. It is also available at our website umc-aurora.org. Children need not be a member of our church to attend.

~~Please let the office know if you have a change of name or address (i.e. college students). We like to keep our records up to date!!

~~Please pray for the youth and adults on the Mission Trip to Nashville.



Have a safe and happy 4th of July !!!