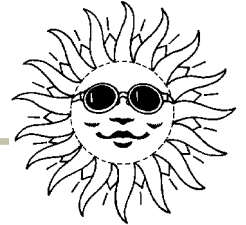


July - August 2008

BETHEL MESSENGER



Bethel UCC, W4225 County Line Road, Elkhart Lake, WI 53020
www.bethelucc-ada.org (920) 565-2977

Morse Code

The last I checked there are nine individuals planning to attend the workcamp program at Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi August 24-30. Back Bay Mission is a Community Ministry of the United Church of Christ, located within the bounds of the South Central Conference of the UCC. The agency is a Member of the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries (CHHSM).



The basic philosophy of the workcamp program at Back Bay Mission begins with the idea that we are as concerned with changing outlook as we are with changing houses. This is their way of saying equal emphasis is placed on making the workcamp an experience in Christian education, and the process of doing physical work for someone who needs help. An attempt is made to maintain a balance between service and education which includes, among other things, some understanding of the impoverished conditions that exist in Mississippi (and in our home state), along with discussion of some of the causes of poverty, post-Katrina redevelopment challenges and how they relate to causes of justice, and the ideas about the church's role in responding.

Hurricane Katrina, which made landfall on the Mississippi Gulf Coast on August 29, 2005,

changed this region forever. Approximately 130,000 homes were either entirely destroyed or extensively damaged. Some neighborhoods were wiped clean, leaving only barren slabs and lifeless streets behind. Massive redevelopment is now in order; full recovery from Hurricane Katrina is expected to take as long as ten years.

Back Bay Mission lost nearly its entire campus to Hurricane Katrina. One building of seven was salvaged and staff was able to occupy that building again in February 2007. New construction on replacement buildings, including volunteer housing facilities, began in mid-2007.

The task of our work group will consist of helping to rebuild homes damaged in the hurricane in Biloxi and/or Gulfport. Damage to homes in most cases was extensive, so the work is also extensive. It is important that we come knowing there will be both hard work and heartache.

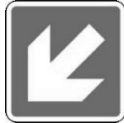
We ask for your prayers as we ready ourselves for this trip and as we live out Jesus' commission "preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives, and the recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed." (Luke 4:18)

Peace,

Rev. Sara

Upcoming Events at Bethel

1. Vacation Bible School – July 27 to July 31
2. Vacation Bible School program and Church Picnic – Saturday, August 2.
3. Mission Trip to Back Bay Mission – August 24 to August 29.



Newsletter Update

If you would like to put something in the September edition of the newsletter please submit items to Cindy Meyer (cindy.meyer@bethelucc-ada.org) by August 15th. Thank you!

Kiel Community Pantry is in need of the following items:

Freezer Bags (quart or gallon)
Storage Bags (quart or gallon)
Jell-O
Pudding
Rice



The Penny Pail offerings for the month of July will go to support Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi.

Salvation Army Meal – (Emmaus Meals)

Saturday, July 12th at the Salvation Army. Sign-up sheets for helping prepare and serve the meal as well as donating food items are in the church narthex. Or, you can call Jodi Voss at 894-2371 to sign-up to help.

Calling all chefs

We are in need of recipes to complete our cookbook. Please see Jodi, Mary, or Shelly, if you need additional forms. We are particularly in need of “light” recipes, grill recipes, as well as main dishes.



Not going to Biloxi, Mississippi, but still want to participate in the mission trip?

Here's how: Back Bay Mission is in need of the following items. Whatever we collect will be taken down with us at the end of August. Please bring your items to the church and set them in the fellowship hall.

- Men's pants sizes 30, 32, 34 in a variety of lengths
- Towels
- Toothpaste
- Tooth brushes
- Deodorant
- Combs
- Backpacks
- School Supplies
- Bottled Water
- Cereal (nutritional brands not Frosted Flakes)

Annual Timber Rattler Tailgate Party

The Northeast Wisconsin Association invites you to join us at the Annual Timber Rattler Tailgate Party on Saturday, August 23, 2008.

This year, we plan to have a large tent, tables and chairs for the fun and fellowship on the grass outside Fox Cities Stadium. You're welcome to bring a chair of your own if you prefer. We'll begin serving food at 4:00 p.m. At 6:35 p.m. the Timber Rattlers host the Quad Cities River Bandits. After the game, stay and enjoy the fireworks.

Tickets are \$12.00 per person. If you are interested in attending, please contact Rev. Sara Morse.

“iMissionworks!”

All friends and members of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) are invited to the fourth biennial “iMissionworks!” event, which blends global culture, learning and fun for growing mission awareness.

You will be inspired by missionaries, are executives, and special guests about:

- Connecting to global mission
- Mission activities for your congregation
- How you can serve

Explore and celebrate global mission through:

- Multi-media presentations
- Lively discussions
- Project strategies
- Models for giving

Come away with a renewed excitement about Global Ministries and discover how you can make a difference in the world!

If you are interested in attending, please contact Rev. Sara.

Youth Fellowship Volleyball

Games begin at 7:00 p.m.

July 6 – Saron @ Bethel

July 13 – Bethel @ St. Johns

July 20 – Bethlehem @ Bethel

July 27 – Bethel @ Saron (game does not count in the standings)

August 3 (12:15 p.m.) Tournament at Cleveland Park



Thank You

Thank you everyone who sent sympathy cards when my brother, Armin Kretsch, passed away April 19, 2008. The cards are greatly appreciated.

Mrs. Harold Henschel



SCIO Volunteer Opportunity

One of Sheboygan County Interfaith Organization’s annual fundraisers is at ‘Music in the Park’, in Plymouth, on Thursday, July 10th. SCIO will have the food stand during Carl Laacks Big Band presentation. Volunteers are needed to make cakes or bars, fry brats and hamburgers, set up and serve food or help cleanup at the end. If you are unable to work one of the shifts: 12:30-4:30p.m. or 4:30-8:30p.m. or cleanup, you can also help by bringing some friends and coming for dinner. Come early for the ‘Farmers Market’, also sponsored by SCIO, have some great food and dessert, then stay and enjoy the music. Call Ken Matzdorf at 876-3501, or Karen Regan at 627-3324 to volunteer. Cakes and bars can be brought to church before 5 p.m. on Wednesday the 9th or before noon on Thursday and we will take them to Plymouth Park. They can also be brought directly to the food stand at the park before 5 p.m. on Thursday

Thank You

On behalf of the individuals, children and families served through Sheboygan County Interfaith Organization, we sincerely thank you for your donation of a Shopping Spree Basket valued at \$50.00 that was used in our silent auction at our Spring Luncheon. The luncheon was a great success and it could not have happened without your support.

Your generosity will allow SCIO to more fully carry out its mission to work for justice, dignity, and the improvement in the quality of life for all people, by bridging the gaps between community needs and resources.

Thank you for sharing your gift with the people who are helped by SCIO.

With deepest gratitude, Kristin D. Blanchard,
Executive Director, SCIO

1Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting

Despite the tornado warnings, flash flood warnings, thunderstorms, and hail, The 46th Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Conference-UCC, held in Green Lake, proceeded without a hitch. The theme for this year was *Transforming Conflict in the Church*, and was led by Rev. Bob Williamson of the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center (LMPC). Rev. Williamson used the biblical reflection from I Corinthians 12:31: "I will show you a still more excellent way." He reminded us that all churches consist of human beings and therefore all churches face conflict in one form or another. The church may face personality conflicts, disagreements over spending, disputes over building projects, fights over keeping or dismissing a pastor, or disagreements due to any changes made. Conflicts sap the energy out of us and distract us from our real ministry and the reason we are here. Rev. Williamson outlined techniques for churches and individuals to use to handle conflicts in healthy and creative ways so we can use more of our time and energy to do real mission work.



The following is a brief overview of working through conflict in a health way:

- When a conflict arises, choose a group of individuals to deal with it
- The committee then develops an Agreement on Procedures which includes the key issue, goals, process and timeline
- The committee also leads small group discussions & interviews individuals
- Next, the committee gathers reflections and leads a large group discussion
- The committee then suggests a consensus proposal to the congregation
- The congregation then votes if needed

This may seem like a lengthy process, but it is a direct way of dealing with issues that arise and overall reduces anxiety. This creates a healthy church environment to help people move forward. During our small group discussions with other people, we were happy to share the process we used at Bethel UCC to discuss communion for children. It was similar to what was outlined above. With God's grace and guidance we can

use this process in the future as other needs arise.

Overall, it was a great weekend with beautiful worship experiences, informative meetings, and fellowship with long-lost friends from other UCC churches. Thank you for this opportunity and we encourage you to attend in the future.

Blessings & peace,
Cary Knier Johannes
Sandy Knier

Northeast Association Annual Meeting On Saturday April 19, 2008.

Four people from Bethel attended the annual meeting; they were Rev. Sara, Luann Jeanty, Dana Raquet, and Carol Eckardt. The day started out with a very nice preparation of some nice food. Then at 9:00 we went and listened to David Moyer speak on Modern versus Postmodern. At 10:30 we broke for lunch. At 12:00 we then went in for the annual meeting and spoke a lot about how our money is being spent in the association. After that we had a church service with communion and broke around 3:00. It was a very nice day.

Carol Eckardt

Northeast Association Annual Meeting On Saturday April 19, 2008.

As a first timer, I followed along with all the handouts. The day was about building bridges. The church and their staff were great. Refreshments when we arrived, with fresh fruit, yummy. Then we had a church service with a lot of singing. The organist did his own thing at times, but we all figured out where he was after a time. Rev. David Moyer was the speaker and how great was he. Very captivating, making us look into ourselves as well as others. He did it with some humor, making light of how many have to get real with their faith and wisdom. Then came lunch, it was very good. Different variety for everyone, again fresh fruit, yummy. Next was the meeting. Yes, some disagreement, but a good meeting always needs conversation.

Continued -->

One thing that really stuck out, was: we need to

continue to grow and open our hearts to our religion or in 50 years from now there may not be an UCC or many other churches either. People are just not going to church anymore. One of the best things was the ride, we talked there and back, all sharing our lives and thoughts. Thanks for the day.

Luann Jeanty

Alzheimer's Association

If you have been touched by Alzheimer's disease or are providing care and support for a person with dementia, now is a good time to consider joining a support group.



Led by trained facilitators, support groups provide a place where family members, care partners, and persons in the early stages of memory loss can explore feelings and share solutions to the challenges posed by dementia.

Currently there are three support groups in Sheboygan County. We would encourage you and your loved ones to attend an upcoming support group that best suits your needs. For more information, please contact the facilitator of your choice at the number listed before attending.

2nd Tuesday, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

For the Caregiver of Someone with Memory Loss. Libby's House, 2581 Valley Road, Plymouth, WI 53703 Facilitator: Christine Thill, RN (920) 946-7627

3rd Tuesday, 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.

For Early Stage Memory Loss Individual and Caregiver. St. Paul Lutheran Church, 730 County Tk PPP, Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085. Facilitators: Christine Thill, RN (920) 946-7627; Connie Thimming (920) 838-3474.

4th Tuesday, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

For the Caregiver of Someone with Memory Loss. Human Service Annex – Aging and Disability Resource Center – Conference Room. 1011 N 8th Street, Sheboygan, WI 53081. Facilitator: Christine Jeske (920) 459-3307.

Community Education Calendar Sponsored by Alzheimer's Association

Thursday, June 19 “Lunch and Learn”

Understanding Challenging Behaviors

Community Bank & Trust

1160 Fond du Lac Ave., Sheboygan Falls

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 10 “Lunch and Learn”

Abuse Prevention

Rocky Knoll Health Center

7135 Rocky Knoll Parkway, Plymouth

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 27, “Memory Walk”

Sports Core, Kohler

Wednesday, October 1 “Understanding

Alzheimer's Disease and Other Related

Dementias” Mead Public Library

Rocca Meeting Room, 6:00 –7:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 6, “Family Caregiver's

Conference & Candlelight Vigil”

St. Paul Lutheran Church, 730 Cty Tk PPP,

Sheboygan Falls

For more information or to register for any of our community education events, call Ginny at 920-838-1311.