

Volume 2013 Issue 1

King Ahaz a descendant of David is King

of Judah and facing a fierce enemy in

a coalition of the armies of Syria and

Ephraim. Ahaz chose to put his hopes

in an alliance with the king of Assyria.

And even paid him gold stripped from

the Temple. Going to war with Syria,

Ahaz placed his hope for salvation in

human power and military alliances

Isaiah calls for Ahaz and all of Jerusalem

to put their firm faith in a far more reli-

able ally: "the Lord himself" (Isa. 7:14).

The prophet offers on behalf of God a

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, "Ask

a sign of the LORD your God; let it be

heights of heaven to the depths of the

underworld. Ask anything of God and

deep as Sheol or high as heaven."

Anything you can think of from the

What would come from your lips to Gods ear, if God gave you this opportunity? Ask me for anything no matter how great or small and I will grant it – just trust me with your whole heart. But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." A pious sounding answer but a subtle refusal

it will be yours.

tremendous opportunity for Ahaz to

renew his trust in the living God.

rather than in the Lord.

January 2013

Faith United Methodist Church

<u>Special Points</u> of Interest:

- January
 Calendar with
 Birthdays &
 Anniversaries.
- February
 Newsletter
 Article &
 Calendar
 Reservation
 deadline—
 January 22
- Food @ Faith— January 19.

Allied With God

for his own glory and to honor the covenant He made with David.

- Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. God keeps His word even when we are disobedient; God remains committed to our best interest even when we have turned away from Him. God always waits to be gracious to us if we will open our hearts to Him.
- As we look towards the coming of He whose name is Immanuel ~ God is with us. Remember He came to be with you, live in you and give you new life and be your closest ally in all of life if you will receive Him with joy and an open heart.

~~ Pastor Victor Waters



And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? God has grown tired of Ahaz's excuses and waffling. God will now act

to put His trust in God.



Faith Messenger

Fellow Parishioners,

Several years ago I acquired a little stone with the name JESUS inscribed on it. I thought it was neat, so I began carrying it in my pocket with my loose change, pocket knife, and keys. Every morning I dutifully filled my pocket with those things and every night I emptied them. As time went by, I began to rely on that stone to ease the burden of daily problems, and some were very weighty. It seems it's easy to forget that Jesus is with us always, but my little stone is a handy reminder and it sure does work!

As time went on and I became more involved with our church, the message became clearer that our real purpose here is to spread God's word. In other words, be disciples.

- I don't know about you, but I'm not a stump preacher. But a funny thing happened. An idea got into my head and it wouldn't leave until I acted upon it. The idea was that I could be a disciple simply by telling people about the powerful Jesus stone that I carried. And not only tell them about it, but offer one to them so they could be reminded that Jesus is with them, too. By giving (or sowing) the stone to others, it actually becomes a Jesus seed. Remember the Parable of the Sower. Mark 4:1-20? God's word is sown in many places, but only becomes fruitful when sown in fertile soil. That fertile soil is people like me and you, and anyone we meet that needs reminding that Jesus is with them always.
- So, there is now a bowl of Jesus seeds next to the bulletin board at Faith UMC. Take one and see for yourself how the reminder of Jesus' presence helps you through life's problems. Then, become a

(Continued next column...)

(...Continued from previous column.)

sower yourself by giving your Jesus seed to someone who needs it. It may be a coworker, a wait staff, a relative, or a friend who is having a hard time in life. Guess what! When you do that, you instantly become a disciple! After that, come back to the seed store (Faith UMC) and pick up another seed to replace the one you gave away. There is no limit to how many people you give one to, but remember, a Jesus seed tucked away in a drawer is not sown on fertile ground!

What happens when the seed store runs out of seeds? Well, we'll just shake the tree and see if more will fall into the bowl.

Yours in Christ,

Roger Walker

On the bulletin board

you can find:

To save on postage and paper, be sure to check out the bulletin board. Some items will only be posted there.

- Brochures from various schools, camp grounds and more!
- Newsletters from various agencies and organizations including: Emma Norton, Midwest Distribution Center, Gambling Alliance, United Theological Seminary, and more!
- Mowing/Lawn Care and Snow Removal vouchers.
- New items almost daily—be sure to check things out and ask for copies if you want to take something home.

HUMAN RELATIONS SUNDAY—January 20, 2013

"The Community Developers Program moves us beyond the Sunday/Wednesday model of ministry and helps local churches to connect to the entire community."

> – The Rev. Sherry Daniels, Norfolk (Va.) United Methodist Church

- In the 1700s, John and Charles Wesley visited prisoners at Oxford Castle in England, sharing food, medicine and Holy Communion. Those early Methodists began a rich tradition that continues today.
- One example is in Virginia, where Norfolk United Methodist Church developed a communitybased non-profit called "Bridging the Vision." It serves more than 85 families with a videovisitation prison ministry and 100 families with an after-school tutorial ministry.
- "We have been able to add the extra component of restoration of rights to our video prison ministry," the Rev. Sherry Daniels said, "to provide a stable and consistent connection for families where a family member is incarcerated. We help persons to move beyond the shame of having their right to vote revoked, to having it restored."
- The annual **Human Relations Day** offering supports Bridging the Vision. Human Relations Day calls United Methodists to recognize the right of all God's children to realize their potential. The special offering benefits Community Developers, United Methodist Voluntary Services and Youth Offender Rehabilitation programs.
- United Methodists connect with **Human Relations Day** by supporting community ministries like Bridging the Vision that teach and advocate for justice, especially among people struggling to survive in the margins of society. **Human Relations Day** "challenges our understanding of community engagement and how the commu-

Your Generous Gifts assist:

- Community Developers Program, related to the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM);
- United Methodist Voluntary Services Program, GBGM; and
- Youth Offender Rehabilitation
 Program, General Board of Church and Society.

nity really experiences Shalom," Daniels said.

Please give generously on Human Relations Day.

- Your gifts to **Human Relations Day** provide avenues to restored relationships through ministries like Youth Offender Rehabilitation, Community Developers self-improvement programs and United Methodist Voluntary Services community advocacy programs.
- It's time to think and support justice, to become radical in changing lives and changing the world. Please give generously.



Special Sunday

Offering Envelope enclosed.

Lord! Please hear our prayer...

Cedarview Care Center—Elaine Flathers

Colony Court—Rosalind Peterson

Colony Court Memory Suites—Anna Swenson

Lake Shore Inn— Florence Gutknecht, Hazel Henkensiefken, Don Lohse & Mable Long Lakeview Ranch, Dassel— Raymond Pommerenke Morrow Home, Sparta, WI— Marlene Rietfort Oaklawn Care Center, Mankato—Gerri Peterson

Shorewood Sr. Campus, Rochester-Darlene Lynch



<u>Those who are ill or injured:</u> Jim & Marian Keller, Willie Mahler, Gerri Peterson, Chuck Youngberg and Nina Youngberg.

- Please remember our family and friends in Military Service, and those who travel for a living. Keep them safe when they are away from home.
- Please pray for our involvement in the Healthy Church Initiative.
- Please remember the family and friends of Elvira Blowers and Don Frank during their time of loss.
- For those in Newtown CT... and around the world. Please Pray.

NEWS OF OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

Several of our Faith Family members have moved recently:



Millie White P.O. Box 1451, Forsyth, MT 59327-1451

Raymond Pommerenke Rakma Homes—Joy Home, 123 S. Wheeler, St. Paul, MN 55105

Janet (Jones) Woodford 2202 Clare Drive North Mankato, MN 56003—3405 Cell # (507) 420-5438

** Janet Jones is marrying Cliff Woodford, of North Mankato, on Dec. 29, 2012.

James (& Rachael) Watts 35 Ginger Lane, Apt. 307 East Hartford, CT 06118-1206

Char Frankenberry has gone wireless and no longer has a home phone. Her Cell Phone # is: (507) 676-3544.

Karen Norby has gone wireless and no longer has a home phone. Her Cell Phone # is: (507) 461-4260.

Tina England 900—4th Ave. SE Waseca, MN 56093 Cell # (507) 461-1567 tinaengland@gmail.com

Faith Messenger

Looking for a "snow bird" address? Call the Church Office! (507) 835-3167



NEWS: THOUSANDS OF HURRICANE SANDY SURVIVORS KNOW THE CHURCH CARES

- One thousand Early Response Team (ERT) members working in severely damaged homes on Long Island alone.
- Four thousand cleaning buckets handed directly to storm survivors in New Jersey's hardest-hit coastal towns – and thousands more given across the rest of the state.
- Three thousand hot meals served from a single church in the devastated city of Crisfield, Maryland.
- One month after Hurricane Sandy struck, it's possible to summarize the church's response in numbers, though these statistics are ever-changing as relief efforts continue in earnest.
- So many facets of Hurricane Sandy response are still unfolding that a snapshot portrayal is difficult to capture. In countless, priceless ways, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is sending hurricane survivors the message that the church will continue to offer relief, even while planning for a long-term recovery that will take not months, but years.
- UMCOR has issued \$170,000 grants so far to directly help Hurricane Sandy survivors in Cuba, North Carolina, Peninsula-Delaware, Eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York. Additional grants will continue to support immediate relief and long-term recovery.
- Keep the care going. Please give to <u>Hurricanes 2012,</u> <u>UMCOR Advance #3021787</u>.

RESOURCE: CHRISTMAS GIVING WITH UMCOR

- As you complete your Christmas shopping, consider giving a gift that will make a difference by purchasing an alternative gift through UMCOR's partners gift catalog. You can provide food to a child, give a storm-stricken family assistance, or provide lifesaving mosquito nets to a vulnerable family.
- Also available through UMCOR are gift sets that support fair trade. These sets include fair-trade coffee, chocolate, or tea, and a candle made by a refugee in the United States.

(Continued next column...)

NEWS: TYPHOON BOPHA HITS PHILIPPINES

- More than 600 people died and at least 800 more remain missing after Typhoon Bopha (known locally as Pablo), struck the Philippines last week. The category 5 storm cut a swath of devastation mainly across the southern island of Mindanao. It forced some 300,000 people to flee to evacuation centers and other temporary shelters.
- In a pattern all too familiar to Filipinos, high winds including gusts of about 130 miles per hour—and torrential rains washed away homes, ripped off rooftops, provoked landslides, mudslides, and extensive flooding in many communities. The provinces of Compostela and Davao Oriental were the hardest hit.
- Typhoon Bopha struck Mindanao barely one year after another deadly storm—Typhoon Sendong (Washi) —pummeled the same area, leaving 1,500 people dead.
- UMCOR Philippines—the national field office of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) —has long dedicated itself to anticipating communities' needs in this typhoon-prone archipelago, and is already at work responding to Bopha.
- Please give to <u>Philippines Emergency, UMCOR</u> <u>Advance #240235</u> and bring relief to the typhoonbattered communities of Mindanao and elsewhere.
- UMCOR provides emergency relief in many areas of the world. To find out more about UMCOR's ministries, please visit <u>umcor.org</u>. You can donate to any project by placing a contribution in the offering plate at a local United Methodist church; by sending a check to UMCOR, PO Box 9068, New York, NY 10087-9068; or by calling 1-800-554-8583, where credit card donations are accepted. Make a \$10 donation anytime by texting "UMCOR" to 80888. UMCOR is exempt from tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of the United States and qualifies for the maximum charitable contribution deduction by donors.
- And, **please pray** for those who are hungry, displaced, sick or in poverty because of natural and human-made disasters, and for the workers who minister to them.

Your prayers and support are greatly appreciated!

Circles are one of the small group opportunities available at Faith where Bible Study, Devotions and Prayer are

shared.

Elizabeth Circle

Elizabeth Circle will meet Wednesday, December 19 at 3 p.m. in the Upper Room. Circle members will share devotions and snacks. Visitors and guests welcome.

<u>Mary Circle</u>

Not meeting in January. Next meeting will be announced. Ruth Circle's meeting

Ruth Circle

will be announced.

BERTS' UPDATE: January 2013

We had a real busy 2012 and it is surprising that I am now talking about our 2013 program and events. Looking back over our 2012 program, I feel very good about all that we have achieved. Our accomplishments and success have been achieved because of the members of UMW and the Faith congregation. It is great having such support from the men and women of our church.

I notice in the UMW membership it states that any women can join UMW who actively chooses to become involved in the organization's mission and support the Purpose. The men of our church are counted upon so heavily for a number of our events and since I can't ask you to join UMW you should probably start our own group, UMM, United Methodist Men. You definitely have shown that you too can know God and could experience freedom as a whole person through Jesus Christ, develop a creative, supportive fellowship, and expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church. I have heard that the men are trying to get something started and from my experience with

(...continued from previous column.)

UMW I know that you would be very happy if you could get something started.

- <u>UMW Sunday</u>: United Methodist Women Sunday will be **Sunday**, **January 27**. We would like to introduce our UMW members and talk about our organization.
- We will have the installation of officers and will recognize someone for Special Missions Recognition. We plan to have the UMW program books available to the UMW members at this service.
- **UMW Unit Meeting:** The United Methodist Women (UMW) will be meeting February 18 at 6:00 pm in the fellowship hall. We will start with a light supper hosted by Elizabeth circle. Hope to see everyone there and would like to extend an invitation to anyone else who might like to join us.
- We will be observing "A Call to Prayer and Self Denial". Through prayer and generous giving to A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial offering, United Methodist Women members follow our Lord Jesus Christ in his genuine love and desire to help the marginalized by responding to the needs



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(... "Berts" continued from Pg. 6.)

of women, children and youth around the world. This annual observance gives local and district UMW units a chance to study and reflect on a particular theme each year and to designate funds for ministries related to the theme for the year. This year's offering received will equip, educate and empower women and youth with financial knowledge and skills necessary to improve their financial well-being and make informed decisions.

- Roberta will be distributing 'A Call to Prayer and Self Denial' envelopes at the circle meetings she visits this month, for those who would like to contribute.
- At our meeting we will discuss plans for Missions in March which is going to be a chili cook-off. We will also plan for the Spring Luncheon which will be April 3rd, the Wednesday after Easter.

Circle meetings

- The women who are in circles meet once a month. Mary Circle meets on the third Tuesday at 1:00 pm., Ruth Circle meets the third Wednesday at 10:00 am and the Elizabeth Circle meets the third Wednesday at 3:00 pm. If you are interested in joining or would like to visit a Circle meeting, contact a UMW member or Roberta Walker at 835-3044. Please note that some of the Circles have changed their meeting time.
- United Methodist Women is a community of women who nurture and encourage one another in their spiritual growth, personal leadership and transformation and welcome all women to join the organization. Any women can join UMW who actively chooses to become involved in the organization's mission and support the Purpose, even if you are not a member of the Faith church.
- Women can belong to UMW and if the times the circles meet doesn't work for you, we would

Haiti in Review

On **January 13, 2013**, after the Church Service, we will have a soup lunch instead of goodies. After the lunch, Sherry Scholljegerdes will present a program on her Haiti Medical Mission Trip, which she took this last November. There will be photo's and stories, and a time to ask questions. Roger Walker is the producer of the Power Point. (Thanks Rog!)



Sherry Scholljegerdes, RN with a patient during her Medical Mission Trip to Haiti in November 2012.

(... Continued from previous column.)

still like to invite you to join the UMW organization. The unit meetings are held quarterly in the evening. We count on so many of you women for various events during the year and like to include you in our membership.

The purpose of the United Methodist Women, a global community of women, is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ, to develop a creative supportive fellowship, and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church

You can get more information on UMW online at: <u>www.umwonline.net.</u>



NURSE'S NOTES: "Do You See What I See?"

Vision—when was the last time you had an eye exam? It's important to have annual exams. Disease processes such

as diabetes and glaucoma (high pressure in they eye) can change fairly quickly. And, of course, vision far and near can change over a year, especially if cataracts are involved.

Should we still be driving? Recently, I had to get a new driver's license. An eye exam, along with a new

> photo are required. The lady in front of me looked to be in her late 70's. She struggled to see the first line. After many attempts, she was told she had to see an eye doctor before she could renew her license. She was visibly upset while she finished her paperwork. I did the vision check and rattled the letters off. She turned to me and said, "I wish I had been after you; I could have memorized the letters." I replied, "You wouldn't really want to drive if you can't see it would be horrible to cause an accident, wouldn't it?" She shrugged and said, "I guess."

Vision can gradually change too. Maybe you're not as interested in reading, handwork, or enjoying the beauty around you—you're less engaged. Do you notice that others see things you're not seeing.

Children are checked for long distance vision with an eye chart, but not checked for their

> near vision. If your child is having trouble with reading and math, perhaps they can't make out the letters and numbers on the page. Near vision could be the problem.

> In the Bible, Jesus talks about vision and seeing, in many passages, the meanings can be blurry.

- "He told them, 'The secret of the Kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside, everything is said in parables so that they may be seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing, but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!" (Mark 4:11-12).
- Are we seeing and perceiving what God has called each of us to do as His disciples? Is it easier to ignore that call than to act on the promptings?
- Do we see problems and pain, but have little empathy? Let's look a little closer and perceive what is going on, then act. Don't sit on the sidelines; Christianity is not a spectator sport!

Peace be with you!

~~ Sherry Scholljegerdes, RN Your Parish Nurse

Listen to KJLY, KOWZ/KRUE, KEYC, or WCCO for Event Cancellations in bad weather.





THANK YOU's

 To My Church Family — Thank you for all the cards & wishes earlier this month for my 80th birthday. You helped make this birthday extra special!

~~ Margaret Dahnert

- The Food @ Faith Committee would like to thank all who have volunteered or prayed for this wonderful program that helps so many families! We look forward to doing all we can do in 2013. God bless you all!
- Thank you for allowing the City to use your building as a polling place for the 2012 Primary and General Elections. Your willingness to participate in the election process by providing your facility is very much appreciated! Accessibility and ease of use of the polls is very important to voters. Your location as a polling place plays a key role in Waseca County's consistently high voter turnout. ~~ Mary Buenzow, Records Secretary
- We appreciate all of your help with serving the food during the celebration of our mother's life. We know she appreciated the visits made by many of you while she was in the nursing home. Also, thank you for the cake and other desserts and the flowers you sent. They were beautiful!

~~ The family of Elvira Blowers

 Thank you to each of you for making Faith UMC a special and wonderful place to work! My leaving is bittersweet because I will miss you all. Take care of yourselves and continue the good works you are doing.

~~ Tina England

POWERFUL TOOLS FOR

CAREGIVERS

"A program to help caregivers take care of themselves."

- When: Starting February 5 from 10—11:30 a.m., followed by a brief faith based time.
- Where: Waseca Library Study Room
- Lasting: Total of 6-weeks, meeting every Tuesday.
- <u>Cost</u>: \$10—includes take home materials for all 6weeks.
- <u>Who</u>: YOU—if you are a caregiver in your home, other location or from a distance.
- <u>Contact</u>: Faith United Methodist Church Office at (507) 835-3167 to sign up. Space is limited, so sign up early!
- **Presenters**: Elaine Spain, Minnesota River Agency on Aging and Sherry Scholljegerdes, RN, Parish Nurse at Faith UMC, Waseca.

Journey Through Grief

Mayo Clinic Health System Hospice and Palliative Care is sponsoring an eight-week grief group for families and individuals who have experienced the death of a loved one. The group is limited to 10 participants.

> Thursday's, January 10—February 28, 2013 6 to 8 p.m. St. John the Baptist Catholic Church (632 S. Broad Street, Mankato, MN).

There is no cost to attend the program but preregistration is necessary. For more information, or to register, call the Hospice Office at (507) 385-2989 or 1-800-237-3721, ext. 2989 (toll free).



It's Time to Cease the Slaughter of the Innocents

"A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." (Matt. 2:18, NRSV)

Matthew's Gospel quotes the prophecy of Jeremiah in reporting that King Herod killed all the male children in the region of Bethlehem who were two years old or under in his misguided,

Last Friday, our nation endured yet another slaughter of the innocents when 20 firstgrade children and six teachers and school administrators at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., were shot to death by a deeply disturbed young man. And a voice was heard—all through the land—of wailing and loud lamentation.

Like you, and citizens all across our country, I was shocked and shaken by the reports of this horrific act. My heart aches for all the victims and their families, including the gunman's family. Like Rachel, our entire country has been weeping for the children, because they are no more. We seek, but find little consolation. We question, but receive few answers. We want to

We may never fully know the reasons young Adam Lanza armed himself and targeted innocent elementary school children. But we do know the repeated, senseless violence that guns down innocent children every day in our country must stop. It is time for no more wailing and loud lamentation. It is time to lay aside the politics of mental-health care and gun control and come together to protect our children and youth. It is time to cease the slaughter of the inno-

I encourage you to continue praying for the victims of Friday's shooting. Every first responder, surviving teacher and student, family member, and citizen of the Newtown community is a victim. As you pray for those whose lives have been forever altered, pray also for an end to violence in our schools and streets, across our nation and around the world. May the truth and power of Christ's coming give us hope in this tragic hour.

> "The prophetic Word was confirmed to us. You'll do well to keep focusing on it. It's the one light you have in a dark time as you wait for daybreak and the rising Morning Star in your hearts." (II Peter 1:19, The Message)

> > **Bishop Bruce R. Ough** Dakotas-Minnesota Area of The United Methodist Church

You are receiving this newsletter because you are a member of, or have expressed an interest in, this organization. Please recycle this publication when you are finished with it. Thank you!

Faith Messenger is published monthly by Faith United Methodist Church, Waseca, MN. Article deadline is given in the newsletter and may vary every month. The publisher reserves the right to refuse submissions at any time.

For submissions, corrections and address updates, or to be removed from this mailing list, contact Administrative Assistant at (507) 835-3167 or <u>faithwaseca@gmail.com</u> or by mail at 801 Fourth Ave. NE, Waseca, MN 56093.

Information To Keep You Connected

Historian

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Sherry Scholljegerdes 835-4304 Prayer Chain Coordinator Deloris Asmus 835-1367 & Church Office Staff/Parish Relations Paul Lohse 835-1917 Trustee's Chair Neil Fruechte 835-7006 UMW Roberta Walker 835-3044 UMW Historian Janet Jones (507) 420-5438 UM Youth Fellowship & **Confirmation Coordinator** Pastor Victor 835-3167 Usher/Acolyte Coordinator Roger Walker 835-3044 VBS Coordinator Julie Blom 837-4046 Worship Team Pastor Victor 835-3167 ** Looking for Volunteers! Welcoming Team Pastor Victor 835-3167 ** Looking for Volunteers!

Call Us !

Plug-In!

give us a call & get involved!



