

# *The Growing Edge*

*(A monthly publication of Fridley United Methodist Church.)*

## *September 2011*



*September is Welcome Back Month!*

*11 New Learning Options for all ages and Celebration Lunch*

*12 55+ Luncheon/program*

*18 McLaren Study*

*18 Youth*

*24 Family Table*

*29 Belize Fundraiser Concert & Reception*

*And more.....see inside!*

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The new church calendar is up and running on our website. Check it out!

*(On the home page, at the bottom right underneath the picture of Pastor Deb and our address information, is the monthly calendar link.)*



Growing Edge Deadline is due the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month by 9:00 a.m.



***Prayer Chain Information  
Call to share your joys and concerns  
National United Methodist Prayer Chain:  
1-800-251-2468***



Before I left for vacation I received information from General Conference regarding the new statistics that churches will need to put in weekly so that we can identify “vital” congregations and hold clergy and congregations accountable. Over my years of ministry I’ve been asked to keep a variety of statistics each time being told that keeping these statistics would lead us to vital, thriving congregations.

Vitality in faith is not about “how many” as much as it is about “*how much* you and I” are engaged in the practice of our faith. *How much* love do we have for our neighbor, especially the neighbor that does not look like us, or talk like us, or have our same experiences. *How much* character and strength can we manage to “first do no wrong” even when we believe we have been wounded first. *How much* does God’s love for us and our love for God give us control of our emotions, and have us working to forgive those who have wounded us or not lived up to our expectations. *How much* grace can we practice towards those who believe or think differently than we do so that we can discuss issues rather than yell talking points. *How much* strength of character do we have to admit when we are wrong, or at least entertain the idea that we don’t know everything. *How much* courage do we have to let our faith inform our behavior both inside the church and outside in the world AND to call the world to greater care for all people; including all creation. *How much* energy and substance are we willing to give to feed the hungry spiritually, first by knowing our faith and then sharing it with others. *How much* time are we willing to give to our church, to worship and pray with God, to study God’s Word and witness to it through caring for the needs of others. *How much* are we willing to delve into our own faith and life and dare to live as Jesus taught and Scripture reminds us: Love God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength, and your neighbor as yourself; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Don’t get me wrong. I would love to see this church and all churches grow numerically. However, numbers mean nothing if you and I are not fully engaged in loving God and all people in and outside the church. What people outside the first century church could not believe was how loving and generous the people in the church were to each other and those outside the church. They were amazed that nothing would cause them to renounce Christ. That is the faith we need to practice. If we do, we won’t be able to keep count of those that are brought to Christ.

*Pastor Deb*

# CARING MINISTRIES



## Dates for Stephen Ministers:

**Sept 10** Fall Retreat at Dorothy Wicklund's home. This is for current and retired Stephen Ministers and those who are in training to become Stephens.

**Sept 27** Training begins for new Stephen ministers. We have four new people starting their 50 hours of training, in a coalition group of 6 other churches. Pastor Diane, Judy Schuldt and Cindy Robb attend many and lead some of the training sessions. Please keep our Stephens-in-training in your prayers.

**October 24** Peace of Mind Seminar 7 PM

**November 22** Support Meeting 7 PM

**December 20** Longest Night Worship 7 PM

## EDUCATION

*September 4:* The nursery will be open from 9:15 – 10:45, staffed by our able caregiver Tanya Havens. There will be NO preschool Sunday school class during worship that day. Classes will begin again on September 11.

We are looking forward to Fall!

***ALL CLASSES BEGIN AGAIN ON SEPTEMBER 11!***

Our Sunday mornings will again include classes for all ages from 10:50 – 11:45, with at four choices for adults and classes for children and youth. The nursery will be open every Sunday from 9:15 – 11:45 for children under age 3. AND, on September 11, our preschool and kindergarten class after the story for all ages in worship will also resume.

Once again, we have wonderful teachers and leaders lined up for children and adults! (Our second orientation meeting for teachers and leaders, in case you missed the first one, is Sunday, Sept 4 at 11 AM).

## ***BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 11, 2011: FUSION***

**Beginning Sept 11, we offer a new experience called FUSION! All ages will meet together to experience the story, discussion and activities relating to it. This is a Sunday morning learning experience for people of all ages,**



*including children, youth and adults, meeting from 10:50 – 11:45 in the Fellowship Hall. Our theme for fall is The Season of Creation. Our schedule each week will include gathering time, a story circle (time to hear and experience a story from the Bible) and response, several ways we can individually respond to the story – art, music, and more. Youth and young adults are especially invited.*

*Our leaders for fall are Mary Wright, Cheryl Skluzacek, Stephanie Sharpe and Norma Swenson, with Pastor Diane. The readings for the Season of Creation invite us to join with all members of Earth's community to "Celebrate Earth as a sacred planet filled with God's vibrant presence" (from Season of Creation charter). This is a season of discovery and growth in relationship with the Creator and each other. Please consider joining us in this new adventure called FUSION! **May the energy of God's creative love flow in and through us.***

***A PREVIEW OF ADULT CLASSES at 10:50 on SUNDAYS Beginning September 11!***  
*What a great line up!*

***Seekers:*** *focus on the scriptures that are read and preached in worship each week, meet in the Northwest corner of the Fellowship Hall, led by Bill Ekstrum and Shelley Colvin.*

***Linking Faith and Life:*** *focus this fall on discerning what God is doing, through the lenses of world religions and spirituality, meeting each week in the lounge with JoEllen Ambrose and Kate Smith-Sheeder.*

***Short Term classes:***

- *September 11, 18, 25: Rev. Paul Bosshardt will lead a healthy discussion of Rob Bell's latest book entitled Love Wins, a book about heaven, hell and the fate of every person who ever lived, in the computer room.*
- *October - **Extravagant Generosity***
- *November - **Forgiveness***
- *December - **Advent Study***

***AND THERE'S MORE!*** On Sunday afternoons, we will read and discuss Brian McLaren's book entitled ***A New Kind of Christianity: Ten Questions that are Transforming the Faith.*** This will be a 9 week study of this interesting book, meeting **every other** Sunday evening beginning September 18 - November 13, from 4:30 – 6:00, breaking for the holidays and resuming on January 8 until February 19, the Sunday before Lent begins. Pastors Deb and Diane will lead the study, and we request that you register with Pastor Diane by Sept 1 so that we know how many books to order. From a review of this book:” A New Kind of Christianity is built around the exploration of ten important questions that Christians throughout the world are asking. McLaren doesn't so much provide pat answers to these questions as give thoughtful responses which leave the door open for further exploration.

This is not a book for people who want a pedagogue to tell them what to believe. Rather it inspires you to bring your own theology into the light and take an honest look at what you believe, why you believe it and if, perhaps, you ought to rethink a thing or two (or ten).” We should have some great discussions about this book! Sign up today on the list on Pastor Diane’s door – limit of 12 people for this study!

### ***The Faith Five: Faith Acts in the Home***

This summer we practiced the Faith Five in our homes. Pastor Diane would appreciate feedback from people who did this: was it helpful to your lives? Did it make a difference? What helped the most/the least? Would you do it again, or are you continuing it? Thanks – email [diane.olson@fridleyumc.org](mailto:diane.olson@fridleyumc.org)

**BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP:** Our next book retreat is October 1, from 9:30 – 1:30,

and we will discuss Cutting for Stone, by Abraham Verghese. According to the Los Angeles Times, this book “Shows how history and landscape and accidents of birth and death conspire to create the story of a single life”.

**We are looking for one more person to help plan and lead the retreat and one or two more to help with the snacks and lunch.**

Please let Pastor Diane know if you are willing to help in these ways. Reservations for the retreat are due **September 18**, to Pastor Diane. This group is open to everyone who loves reading. We meet about three times a year, choosing each book as we go.

**NEW IN THE LIBRARY:** Take a look at our subject listing of the library books, find **What’s New**, and take a look at the large number of wonderful new books! Special thanks to our library team of Judy Schuldt, Holly Quarry, Elaine Sando and Polly Kielkucki who are redoing our database! **USE OUR LIBRARY!**



### **MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

A Men's Bible Study Group meets every Friday morning at 6:30 a.m. at Keys Cafe on the east side of University Avenue NE near 83rd Street in Spring Lake Park. We eat a Keys breakfast (\$3 - \$10 including tip.) We take turns volunteering to lead that week's lesson, guiding us through a reading of scripture and story and a discussion of the meaning of that lesson for our lives. We also share prayer concerns. The Bible study text that we use for each attendee is "The New International Lesson Annual", for which we each make a voluntary annual contribution of about \$20. We keep a free extra copy or two in the church library for anyone who would like to try out this opportunity. All men are welcome. For more information contact Roger Olson.

# MISSIONS

September Missions Offering is Family Table



Family Table is a ministry of food and friendship that takes place right here in our church by reaching out to community centers and food shelves to reach those in need. Can you believe that we served our 4,000th meal in June 2011? This is made possible by our partnership with Second Harvest allowing us to obtain meat, fresh produce, and other food products to provide nutritious meals for the guests at low or no cost. Your donations make up the difference when purchasing food or supplies. Of course, the greatest donation is that of time: In just the past year, 97 FUMC members have volunteered at Family Table, but we have also been blessed with volunteers from other churches and community organizations.

This mission of our church and community is finding other ways to serve our neighbors, too. Special services provided for our guests have been monthly haircuts donated by an FUMC member and a medical clinic where guests could find out information about glucose level and cholesterol level. Kids books (donated by Half Price Books at Northtown) are given away throughout the year, and kids can pick out their school supplies in the fall. We most recently added a prayer center where guests can pray with a pastor or simply fill out a prayer request card. Thank you for continuing to support this local mission with your Missions Offering and with your prayers and presence!

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Once a month, on the second Thursday of the month, volunteers from FUMC help serve meals at Holy Rosary Roman Catholic Church (2424 18<sup>th</sup> Ave S. Minneapolis), (one of the nine Mpls/St. Paul sites for **Loaves and Fishes**.) Our volunteers team up with lay people from St. Williams Catholic Church and together serve a complete meal to about 200 guests who live in the neighborhood around Holy Rosary. A typical trip to Loaves and Fishes leaves the FUMC parking lot at 4:30 p.m. and returns by 7:00 p.m., or you can drive directly to the site if that is more convenient. If you can help, there is a signup sheet on the Mission Bulletin Board. The next trip is September 8.

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**AT THE DONATION STATION** (the bins in the hall near the front doors) we are collecting:

- Books and Magazines for inmates of Anoka County Jail. – please remove your address. No catalogues or tattered magazines please.



- Supplies for health and school kits.
- Batteries (button sized to D cell, no car or computer batteries)
- Used Ink Cartridges
- Used Cell Phones
- Campbell's Soup Labels
- Used Eyeglasses for the Lions' Club
- Pop Tops from cans for Ronald McDonald House
- Plastic caps - rigid plastic screw on caps
- Personal sized toiletries for Family Table guests.

## CHURCH ALBUM



Our sympathies to the family and friends of Shirley Moore whose sister passed away in July. And to family and friends of Larry Churchsmith as they mourn his death, (his family were past members in the late 70's & early 80's).

## 55+

Adults with Aging Parents: We will meet again in the computer room September 20. We're reading a book together entitled A Bittersweet Season: Caring for Our Aging Parents and Ourselves. Chapters 4-6 will be discussed at the September 20, 7 PM meeting. Anyone who is dealing with issues around caring (either locally or long distance) for aging parents is welcome to join us. Books are available at local or internet bookstores, or Pastor Diane can order one for you.

55+ LUNCH AND PROGRAM! Join us again September 12, for a fabulous lunch prepared by Nancy Nehring and her hard working crew, and a program presented by Jeff Long, a US postal inspector, who will talk about mail fraud and related topics. We meet in the fellowship hall at 12:30 PM. A free will offering is taken to cover the meal cost, and we'd like your reservation by Wednesday, September 7 to Brenda at 571-1526 or email her at [Brenda.Labarre@fridleyumc.org](mailto:Brenda.Labarre@fridleyumc.org). Or sign up on the clipboard posted on the wall outside of her office. Bring your friends! There's always room for more, and it's a good time to share what's great about FUMC! AND BY THE

WAY: If you are willing to give a ride to someone who is no longer driving for these Monday lunches, please let Pastor Diane or Deb know. Thanks!

# EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



## Welcome Back Sunday:

Please join the Fridley United Methodist Women in thanking our Fridley Fire Fighters and Police Officers by attending a lunch in their honor on **Sunday, September 11**, at 11:45 (following the All Church Sunday School). We will be serving Firehouse Chili, Hero Sandwiches and Cake. The Fire Firefighters are bringing a Fire Truck and the Police Officers a Squad Car, so bring the kids to see them. Wear a blue or red shirt to lunch if you have one! Let's make this a joyous event!

We would also like to present them with NEW Stuffed Animals to give to children when they are called to a crisis. This is Tabitha Circle's September Mission Project, so please help us out.

Any questions, please contact Dawn Bushnell at 763-252-1722 (work #) or 763-755-0845 (home #).

We hope many of you can join us to thank them for watching over our Church Home.



*It's Stampin' Up time again!!  
A Brand New Book; 2011-2012*

Thursday, September 8 at 6:30 pm  
Fridley United Methodist Church

**Bring a friend!**

Questions? Liz 763-226-9169 or Judy 763-785-6024  
Proceeds to Youth Missions

# “BUILDING FOR BELIZE”: BENEFIT CONCERT, SEPTEMBER 29



Featuring the **Jumpin Jehosafats** and the **Fridley Male Quartet**

You are invited to a concert and ice cream social at FUMC on September 29, 2011, at 7:00 pm. The concert will feature jazz, blues and ragtime by the **Jumpin Jehosafats** plus a variety of close harmony a capella style music including gospel, spiritual and doo-wop by the **FUMC Male Quartet**.

A free-will offering will be received to help purchase building supplies needed by the Volunteer in Mission team traveling to Belmopan, Belize, to help build the first Methodist high school in the Belmopan area. Ground-breaking for the new high school was March 14, 2011. It is hoped that enough of the school will be complete by September 2012 to open for classes. Currently Belize has high schools for only 50% of the youth in the country to attend.

Seven from FUMC will be going as Volunteers in Mission to Belize to work on the school and to build desks and chairs. Please join us assisted by the FUMC Mission Commission at this musical event.

Come for fun and fundraising for the education of children!



Mark your calendars!  
FUMC Bloodmobile  
October 29, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.



## UMW NEWS

### FRIDLEY UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

**Naomi Friendship Circle** meets on Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM at the church.

**Ruth and Tabitha Circles** are not meeting in September.

**Twin Cities District Annual Meeting and the mini-School of Christian Mission** is on Saturday, September 17 at Lake Harriet United Methodist Church. Shelley Johnston Colvin will be introduced as the District Member of the Year.

We will carpool from the church leaving at 8:30 AM. The School of Christian Mission sessions will be done at 3:00. The cost is \$10 and registration must be in by September 8. Registration forms are by the UMW bulletin board in the Lounge. Contact Myrna Kuehl at 763-784-2588 with any questions.

We invite everyone to join us for our **September kick off meeting** on September 19. We will begin with a potluck supper (bring a dish to share) at 6:00 PM. Following supper, the UMW officers for the 2011-2012 year will be installed. Our speaker will be Heather Ries from Stepping Stone Shelter in Anoka. Stepping Stone is the only homeless shelter in Anoka County. This will be a great opportunity to learn more about the homeless in Anoka County. It will be a wonderful evening of fellowship and learning. Contact Myrna Kuehl at 763-784-2588 with any questions.

Mark your calendars for the Harvest Supper and Bake Sale on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

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2 Diane Refshaw	10 Harvey Kienholz	20 Lynette Grabow
3 Annika Aalund	10 Jonathan Sommer	20 Gerald Robb
3 Christian Skjervold	11 Conella Angell	21 Karlee Havens
3 Gary Trull	11 Arthur Larson	22 John Cloues
4 Susan Hentges	13 Brandon Fury	22 Leona Menyongar
4 Nancy Nehring	14 Stanley W Leino	22 Jill Poirier
6 Dorothy Smuder	14 Debra Pahl	23 David Shaw
6 Josef Wilson	16 Diane Jachymowski	24 Cynthia Erickson
6 Kathy Wolfe	16 Marilyn Lindquist	24 Ryan Hay
6 Jan Wright	16 Leon Madsen	26 Howard Chatfield
7 Hannah Peters	16 Avery Singel	26 Joan Jagunich
7 Daniel Wright	17 Evelyn Skurich	28 Timothy Jandro
9 Gloria Egan	17 Kelly Welch	28 Ralph Olson
9 Gerald Harter	18 Donald Greenwaldt	28 Cheryl Skluzacek
9 David Ryan	18 Kari Switzer	29 Mary Bowen
10 Ashley Batters	19 Michael Nihart	30 Joyce Dahlberg
10 Mary Lou Keller	19 Andrew Wilson	30 Leigh Webber



**Many thanks** to all of you who helped in any way for the Churchsmith funeral. Greatly appreciated by the family and lunch committee. *Mary & Leona*

I wish to thank all of you for your prayers, cards, and concerns during my recent hospital stay and recovery. The Lord has given me many blessings in my faith family at FUMC  
*Bob Schuldt*

**BEING THE WORD:** Thanks to all who helped us clean and spruce up the church for our fall ministries – especially Bob Schuldt, co-chair of this event! We had a fun filled day of work!



Many thanks for all you given!

8 boys' underpants

62 girls' underpants

97 women's underpants

21 bras

18 pairs thermal socks

1 man's thermal shirt

\$100 cash...

Please continue to add to the collection at the donation station to help even more Alexandra House residents. Contribute by check too.



**THANK-YOU VOLUNTEER DRIVERS**

The following people delivered Meals On Wheels the week of August 8 - 12. **Two day drivers:** Gary Trull and Carolyn Camp, Cheryl & Joey Skluzacek, and Don & Gerry Greenwaldt.

**One day drivers:** Jean Mills, Wayne Specker, Dianne McKusick, Fred & Marilyn Forsberg, Chuck & Bonnie Ames, Jody Lee and her son Ryan, Carrol Rahn and his grandchildren Payton & Lauren, Jerry & Cindy Robb, Dawn & Norm McCarthy, Mary Young and her nephew Jim, Bob & Gail

Kishish, Marv & Pat Brown and their grandchildren Spenser & Abbie, Diane Jachymowski and her grand-daughter Dorothy, Russ & Delores Hendrick, Dick & Pat Zeglen, and John & Mary Strassburg.

The next week that F.U.M.C. drives will be September 19 - 23. If you can help or have questions about how this program works, please call me. Janet Fossum; F.U.M.C. Meals On Wheels Coordinator; 763-780-5694.

New drivers are needed and welcomed.

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Heads up! We used to call that out whenever a golf ball or softball got away from us. Heads up for FUMC is to announce that we will be doing our Stewardship Campaign earlier this fall. The Stewardship Campaign will be done in October and we hope to be completed before November 1. However, we will need your help to do it in that time frame. Please watch your various mail sources for information about “Extravagant Generosity” our stewardship program this year. It is one of the 5 Practices of Fruitful Congregations that we been studying and using in our goal setting in the last few years. We will also be doing a Bible Study so please watch for the news as it comes out. And if you haven’t checked out our website [www.fridleyumc.org](http://www.fridleyumc.org) please do so. You can give on line (can’t pledge yet) but we need your help to keep it fresh for visitors. Our member only part of the site is being worked on for use in the future. So, “heads up” there is lots happening at FUMC including Extravagant Generosity and how we might practice it in our daily lives. -----Pastor Deb on behalf of the Stewardship/Finance Team.

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**Eat well to be well.**

**Healthy food is one phone call away...**

**1-888-711-1151**

Did you know that 1 in 10 Minnesotans can’t afford to pay for groceries? Are you aware that there are resources available to help low-income people? The Minnesota Food Helpline provides vital support for people facing hunger. With one call we provide:

- nutrition and other program eligibility screening;
- referrals to food/grocery help near their home.

*The Minnesota Food Helpline is a program of Hunger Solutions Minnesota. We answer the call to end hunger in Minensota by helping thousands of low-income families and seniors. With Hunger Solutions assistance, people learn about the range of food programs available and how they can access them.*

The congregation of Hamline Church United Methodist invites you to visit their dining hall when you come to the Minnesota State Fair. They serve breakfast, lunch & dinner. Bring in your bulletin to get \$3.00 off the dinner special. One "special" per bulletin please. They look forward to greeting you at the fair. Location is by Dan Patch Ave, a block and a half west from the main gate on Snelling Ave, next to the Visitors Center.

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2011 Fall LEAFS (Life Enrichment Adult Forums)

LEAFS is a program designed to educate, motivate and entertain adults in the community with topics that are relevant to them. All Faith communities are welcome.

Dates: Mondays-Sept. 19, Oct. 3, 17, & 31. Time: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Cost: (before 9/12) \$38 for the series or \$12 per session. (after 9/12) \$40 for the series or \$14 per session. (Fees include coffee break and lunch.) Call visit their new website at: <http://www.leafsforums.org> or call St. Philip's Lutheran Church – 763-571-1500.



**CALENDAR**

Thursday 1	Rainbow School in Lounge	1:30 – 4:00 PM
Friday 2	Men's Bible Study	6:30 AM
Saturday 3		
Sunday 4	Sandvik Baptism	
	Communion	8:00 -8:30 AM
	Worship	9:30 AM
	Fellowship	10:30 AM
	Teacher's Meeting	10:50 AM
Monday 5	Labor Day; Office Closed	
Tuesday 6	Family Table Leadership	7:00 PM
Wednesday 7	SPRC Chairs	6:00 PM
	Chancel Choir	7:00 PM
Thursday 8	Diane @BOM until 2:30	
	Loaves & Fishes	4:30 PM
	Stampin Up	6:30 PM
	Chancel Ringers	7:00 PM
Friday 9	Men's Bible Study	6:30 AM
	Naomi Circle	9:30 AM
Saturday 10	Stephen Retreat @ offsite	9:30 AM
Sunday 11	Welcome Back Sunday!	

	Communion	8:00 -8:30 AM
	Worship	9:30 AM
	Fellowship	10:30 AM
	All Age Learning	10:50 AM
	Celebration Lunch	12:00 PM
Monday 12	55+ Lunch	12:30 PM
	Rainbow Staff	6:00 PM
	Rainbow Board	7:00 PM
Tuesday 13	NECCL @ NE	11:30 AM
Wednesday 14	Wed. Study Group	9:30 AM
	Chancel Choir	7:00 PM
Thursday 15	Older Adult Ministries Council	9:30 AM
	Chancel Ringers	7:00 PM
	Stewardship/Finance	7:00 PM
Friday 16	Diane @ Cont. Ed	
	Men's Bible Study	6:30 AM
Saturday 17	UMW Twin Cities District Mtg.	8:30 AM
Sunday 18	Communion	8:00 – 8:30 AM
	Worship	9:30 AM
	Fellowship	10:30 AM
	All Age Learning	10:50 AM
	McLaren Study	4:30 PM
	Youth	6:00 PM
Monday 19	Evangelism	7:00 PM
	UMW Board	7:15 PM
Tuesday 20	Adults with Aging Parents	7:00 PM
	Trustees	7:00 PM
Wednesday 21	Wed. Study Group	9:30 AM
	Chancel Choir	7:00 PM
Thursday 22	Chancel Ringers	7:00 PM
Friday 23	Men's Bible Study	6:30 AM
Saturday 24	Family Table	11:30 AM
Sunday 25	Communion	8:00 – 8:30 AM
	Worship	9:30 AM
	Fellowship	10:30 AM
	All Age Learning	10:50 AM
Monday 26		
Tuesday 27	Stephens Training Offsite	6:45 PM
Wednesday 28	Wed. Study Group	9:30 AM
	Chancel Choir	7:00 PM
Thursday 29	Belize Fundraiser Concert & Reception	7:00 PM
Friday 30	Men's Bible Study	6:30 AM