

# *The Growing Edge*

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

## *February 2012*



### **Is It Broken?**

**\*Ash Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. Supper, 6:15 p.m. Worship;**

*February 22, 2012*

**\*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent; February 26;**

10:50 a.m.; Reaching Towards Easter Study

4:30 -5:30 p.m.; 40 Day Study

**\*Lent Experience; Wednesdays, 5:30 Supper, 6:15 p.m. Worship**

February 29 @ Faith UMC St. Anthony

March 7 @ Fridley UMC

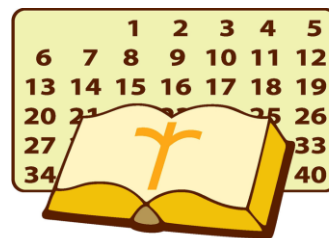
March 14 @Northeast UMC

March 21 @ Faith UMC St. Anthony

March 28 @ Community UMC, Columbia Heights

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### Mark Calendar for Lent

\*Reaching Towards Easter;  
10:50 AM Sunday Study,  
*February 26 through April 1*

\*40 Day Study; 4:30 – 5:30 PM  
Sundays, *February 26 through  
April 1<sup>st</sup>*

Palm Sunday; *April 1, 2012*

Maundy Thursday Worship;  
7:00 PM, *April 5, 2012*

Good Friday Drama; 7:00 PM,  
*April 6, 2012*

Easter Sunday Worship;  
9:30 AM, *April 8, 2012*

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**  
**Mary Young: 763-571-8807**  
**Jinny Erickson: 763-561-0237**  
**National United Methodist Prayer Chain:**  
**1-800-251-2468**



A child falls, their ankle hurts, they ask: “Is it broken?” When we’re older we fall, and land on our side or hip and wonder: “Is it broken?” Many people look at our government and political process and wonder: “Is it broken?” Others look at their government and military leaders after the events of the “Arab Spring” and wonder: “Is it broken yet?”

Our primary theme for Lent this year will be “Is it broken?” The secondary theme from another vantage point will be “Is it broken yet?” As we study Scripture, and follow Jesus to the cross one or both of these questions will be raised by the actions of God’s people and the actions of God. It is highly likely that we will look at ourselves and ask; is there something that has broken our hearts or spirits and needs healing? Or, is there something that has us all tied up that needs to be broken in order for us to be healed? These are difficult questions to ask ourselves and our society and of others with whom we share this world. Even more difficult is to answer these questions honestly and without cynicism.

Thankfully, Lent is the period of time in the Christian life that we are aided and encouraged to ask and answer these questions. As we follow that process of introspection and inspection, of prayer and thought, we make room in our very being for really good news to come and live and grow within us. The really good news of Easter and Christ’s resurrection will have deeper meaning and lead us to a deeper thankfulness because of the work we will do in Lent to ready ourselves for healing and new life.

Jesus said “I have come that you might have life”. Such life means that what must be broken for our well-being will be broken. Just as much as it means what is broken will be made whole for our well-being. What will this mean for us?

I invite each of us to “keep a holy Lent.” If you haven’t been attending worship, come. If you didn’t attend Wednesday Lenten suppers and worship last year, do it this year. If you are not part of a regular study group or Sunday learning activity, sacrifice some time and do it during Lent. If your own devotional life has drifted away, start it again this Lent.

Lent begins Ash Wednesday (February 14) with a soup and bread supper at 5:30 p.m., with worship starting at 6:15 p.m. If you don’t like to drive at night, call the office and we’ll see if we can arrange transportation.

Each and every one of us is broken somewhere and in need of healing of something. Let this Lent be our “breaking” for our well-being.

*Pastor Deb*

P.S. (Please see other articles about Lent at FUMC in this Growing Edge).

# CARING MINISTRIES



Dates for Stephen Ministers:

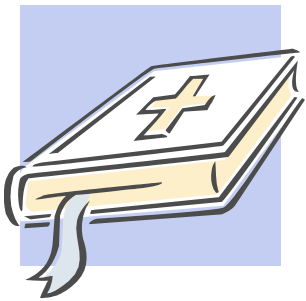
February 19 Commissioning of New Stephen Ministers in  
Worship 9:30 AM

February 28 Support and Welcome of New Stephens 7 PM

*Please keep our Stephen Ministers in your prayers as they serve in this important ministry.*

## EDUCATION

Join us Sunday mornings for learning:



We offer classes for all ages from **10:50 – 11:45**, with at least four choices each week for adults and classes for all ages! The nursery is open every Sunday from 9:15 – 11:45 for children under age 3. AND, we offer a second class for our preschool and kindergarten children after the story for all ages in worship. This class ends at the beginning of fellowship time. Our nursery is open each week from 9:15 – 11:45 under the careful watch of Tanya Havens.

Our Sunday morning class schedule is as follows:

*FUSION:*

**In FUSION!, all ages meeting together to experience the scriptures read and preached in worship, followed by discussion and related activities.** *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. Youth and young adults are especially invited. May the energy of God's creative love flow in and through us.*



**ADDITIONAL ADULT CLASSES at 10:50 on SUNDAYS**

**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.

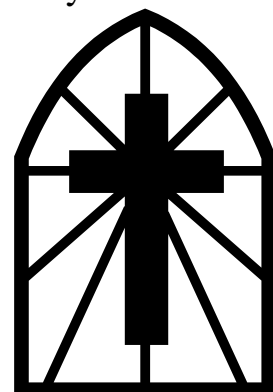
**Linking Faith and Life:** continue their focus this winter on discerning what God is doing, making meaning of their faith in the light of their faith. They meet each week in the lounge with JoEllen Ambrose and Kate Smith-Sheeder.

**Short Term classes: Sundays February 5, 12, 19, Forgiveness:** This class is led by Pastor Deb and meets in the computer room. Using a book by Flora Wuellner, the class will study the topic of Forgiveness through the lenses of the beatitudes. All are welcome.

**February 26 – April 1, Lent Study: Reaching Toward Easter.** This book offers a daily devotional pilgrimage through Lent, using the Gospel of John as a guide. There are scripture passages for each day, prayers for personal devotions. On Sunday mornings, we will gather to discuss the readings each week for 6 weeks, led by Les Johnson and Bill Ambrose, a fine teaching team! The final chapters on Holy Week and Easter will be self study without discussion. Books are \$13 if you want to keep them. Unmarked books may be returned at the end of class. **PLEASE PICK UP YOUR BOOK IN FEBRUARY AND READ THE FIRST FOUR DAYS' MATERIAL BEFORE CLASS ON FEB 26<sup>TH</sup>!** The book is also available as a kindle edition; please purchase this on your own if you have interest.

**SUNDAY AFTERNOONS:** We are reading and discussing Brian McLaren's book entitled *A New Kind of Christianity: Ten Questions that are Transforming the Faith*. The class will end on February 19, the Sunday before Lent begins. Pastors Deb and Diane lead the study.

**NEW FOR LENT: 40 Days with Howard Thurman,** led by Pastor Diane on Sundays from 4:30 – 5:30. This book invites us to explore our own spirituality under the guidance of one of the 20<sup>th</sup> century's great African- American spiritual thinkers and leaders, Howard Thurman. Books are \$13, if you wish to keep them or mark in them. Unmarked books may be returned at the end of the series. We will read DAYS 1-5 BEFORE THE FIRST CLASS ON FEBRUARY 26!



**ALSO for Lent? If you have interest in joining a study of either of our Lent books, but are not able to be present on Sunday mornings or Sunday afternoons, please contact Pastor Diane asap to see if we can set up another group time.**

**Wednesday Study Group** (aka WSG) meets each Wednesday morning at 9:30 in the Computer Room with Pastor Deb. This month they continue their study of *The Journey*. This is an open group – join them!



**BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP: Our next book retreat** is March 3, 2012, from 9:30 – 1:30, and we will discuss The Cellist of Sarajevo, by Stephen Galloway. Myrna Kuehl and Dawn Bushnell will lead this retreat. We still are in need of people to provide the lunch and snacks.

PLEASE CONTACT PASTOR DIANE (email [diane.olson@fridleyumc.org](mailto:diane.olson@fridleyumc.org) or call) TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE (and help us plan for lunch!) or to volunteer to help. From a review of the book: Inspired by Vedran Smailovic, the cellist who, in 1992, played in a bombed-out Sarajevo square for 22 days in memory of the 22 people who were killed by a mortar attack, this is a novel about four people trying to maintain a semblance of their humanity in the besieged city. We look forward to another wonderful discussion and lunch! Will we have Bosnian food? Our group is open to everyone who loves reading. We meet about three times a year, choosing each book as we go. Join us!



**Have you looked at our library lately?** Take a look at our subject listing of the library books, find **What's New**, and there is a large number of wonderful new books! In addition, we have a great selection of children's books. **USE OUR LIBRARY!**

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### 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.

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The youth built a cardboard house for a fund-raiser being held February 9 at Bunker Hills Activity Center from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. for Family Promise of Anoka County. Family Promise of Anoka County was begun because of the growing homelessness in our area. Families are screened and are housed in churches where meals are provided and family sleeping space is provided. Usually they stay at a church for one week and then are moved to another church for a week. Children are picked up for school and the adults are given assistance in finding work and affordable housing. We have provided or helped serve meals when Community UMC has hosted. We are grateful to our young people for supporting this ministry.



## YOUTH GROUP



Keeping up with tradition we will gather for a Super Bowl party, Feb 5. We'll watch the game and play "commercial bingo" as well as share snacks.

*Mary Wright, Kyle Smuder, Pastor Deb*

# MISSIONS

## La Puerta Abierta



La Puerta Abierta UMC is our mission emphasis for the month of February. The church is located in a Hispanic neighborhood in West St. Paul. We at FUMC have given to La Puerta several times in the past and our gifts helped them complete a new church building in 2008.

Rev. Nohemi Ramirez became the full-time pastor at La Puerta in January of 2009. Since then, she has built up the church ministry to the point of averaging 90 people at their Sunday services. The focus is on Hispanic ministry, but the church is open to any culture. Services are bilingual, Spanish and English.

Rev. Ramirez started a Sunday School program with a special feature of serving breakfasts to the children. Chili Pepper Kids is another major program. Children come to the church after school to do their homework. Currently 24 children are participating. Other programs include a women's group and a Tuesday night prayer and bible gathering.

La Puerta Abierta is now asking for our support to help buy the following needed items to enhance their growing ministry:

- \*100 Spanish/English bibles
- \*A laptop computer and PowerPoint projector and screen
- \*An effective sound system with wireless microphones
- \*A shed for outdoor storage
- \*Fencing for the children's playground

Thank you for your continuing support of La Puerta and our other missions. *Your Mission Commission*

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**AT THE DONATION STATION** (the bins in the hall near the front doors) Please take a look at your recycling company's latest list of items they will pick up. Several companies, including Allied Waste, have added new items this year. Our donation station will stop collecting items which might easily be recycled at home – unless there is a social benefit, such as the magazines for the jail. We currently collect:



- Books and Magazines for inmates of Anoka County Jail. – please remove your address. No catalogues, tattered magazines or anything over two years old

please.

- Supplies for health and school kits. See the list on the bin for exact items needed.
- 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 and prayers go out to the family and friends of Diane Refshaw and Marguerite Gilbert as they mourn their deaths.

## 55+

**Adults with Aging Parents:** We meet again as a support group in the computer room February 21. We're reading a book together entitled A Bittersweet Season: Caring for Our Aging Parents and Ourselves. Chapters 16-Epilogue will be discussed at this 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. (This support group is for any age adult who is dealing with the issues of aging parents)

**SINGLES BREAKFAST!** 55+ folks, join us for breakfast at Perkins at 7520 University Ave in Fridley, on Monday February 6 at 9:30 AM. This is just a social time – come, relax and enjoy the company of FUMC friends. Everybody orders what they want, and pays their own bill!

**55+ LUNCH AND PROGRAM!** Join us again February 13, at 12:30 PM, when we'll enjoy a delicious lunch prepared by Nancy Nehring and her hard working crew. We will offer a musical program for Valentine's Day. We'd like your reservation by Wednesday, February 8, sign up on the clipboard posted on the wall outside of Brenda's office, or call Brenda at the office at 571-1526 or email her at [Brenda.Labarre@fridleyumc.org](mailto:Brenda.Labarre@fridleyumc.org).

Bring your friends! There's always room for more, and it's a good time to share what's great about FUMC! A free will offering is taken to cover the meal cost. NOTE: Our April lunch will be on April 16 NOT April 9.

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**An opportunity to change lives:**

**SIGN UP BEGINNING FEBRUARY 1:** Go with us (or meet us there) to Feed My Starving Children on **Monday, March 19.** Our service at FMSC is 2:30-4:30. There is only room for 15 people at this event, so if you have interest, sign up now! This is for people from age 55+, but

if you are younger than 55 and want to join us, it's ok! There are sitting jobs for people who have difficulty standing for the time we are there. Sign up on the sheet on Pastor Diane's office door, or email her at [diane.olson@fridleyumc.org](mailto:diane.olson@fridleyumc.org).

## EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

### Family Table

Family Table is looking into a garden plot in the Fridley community gardens this spring and summer. The thought is to be able to grow some of the produce for the salad bar or for guests to take home with them. We need volunteers with all levels of experience in gardening to help determine an appropriate rotation of volunteers in the garden and planning what to plant when. We need to reserve a garden plot in March. Please contact Jan Wright at (763) 572-0310 if you are interested in planning the garden project or just having some outdoor work this summer.



### It's Stampin Up FUN time!!

Thursday, February 9 at 6:30 pm

Fridley United Methodist Church  
Bring a friend!

### PROCEEDS TO YOUTH PROGRAMS

**Questions?** Liz 763-226-9169 or Judy 763-785-602



Children's Choir! Our Children's Choir, for all ages of children, continues their Sunday morning practice with Judy Ryan and Elizabeth Zick from about 10:40 – 11:00 in the choir room. They will sing in worship about once a month, and we'll see them on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Contact Pastor Diane or Judy Ryan with your questions!

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YOUNG ADULTS! (18 – 30). Join us at our first **Habitat for Humanity Build Day, Saturday, March 10**. See/email/facebook Carley Mondloh to sign up. It is important to let her know asap if you will be there so that we can be certain we will fill our team's commitment to Habitat.



## UMW NEWS

### FRIDLEY UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

- \***Ruth Circle** will be meeting at the home of Diane Jachymowski on Tuesday, Feb 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 p.m. Co-hostess will be Linda Paulsen. Carolyn Doyle will offer Devotions and Shelley Colvin will lead the Program. This month's emphasis is Week of Prayer and Self-Denial.
  - \***Naomi Circle** will meet Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM at the church.
  - \***February 20<sup>th</sup>** – UMW Board at 7:30 PM at the church.
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The Board of Trustees has been working with our sound technicians to redo the area where the Sound and Light control equipment is located. Currently it sits on a table that was put there temporarily over 15 years ago. We've decided that it's time to make that area safer and more functional for the sound technicians. We also want that area to look more "respectable."

The plan is for the pew to be removed and to raise the sound board and the technicians off the floor so that they are able to see the chancel more easily. A chair will be purchased that will allow them to sit closer to the various components they operate and move easily between the components. (Currently they have to sit on the very edge of the pew to reach any of the controls.) This will also allow for greater ease of operating the laptop for PowerPoint presentations as well as space for our DVD recorder and player.

There is much on the Trustees plate and this is not an easy transition because of all the cables and wires, so please be patient as this area is refurbished.

*The Board of Trustees*

Charge Conference reports are available from the office. There will be one copy in the Library. You can have your own copy by contacting the church office. We will email it to you or run a hard copy for you. We no longer make larger print runs in order to cut down on our printing costs.

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If you receive e-mail from the church you may have noticed that we have started to send out the Scripture texts for the coming Sunday. We are sending out the texts that we are planning to use in worship on Sunday morning or at special services. Some people like to know “what’s next?” or prepare for worship by doing their own Scripture reading and study. We hope you will find this helpful.

On the subject line of the email we will put Sunday Scripture. That way if you’re not interested you can quickly delete the email. If there is more information than just the Sunday Scripture will put Sunday S +. That will mean there is other information that you might be interested in within the email.

If you don’t have email and want to know what the Sunday Scriptures are, please make arrangements with one of our members who has email to find out what the Scriptures are going to be.

*Pastor Deb*

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A great big THANK YOU to all who helped with the lunches for the Diane Refshaw and Marguerite Gilbert funerals on Jan 3rd and 4th. Be it with food, serving, clean up, set up or take down. The many hands made it light work. The families were very appreciative and so were we.

*Mary and Leone*

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Thank you so much for your fun get well cards, your delicious food, your cheery phone calls and greetings. Most of all, thank you for your prayers. I could feel the FUMC prayer-power vibes during my knee surgery and during my recovery.

*Judy Schuldt*

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Thank you, Fridley UMC! Our church knows how to do funerals. We have had several funerals this winter, and we are reminded of what a caring and efficient group you are. In fact, when we had funerals on back to back days and Diane thought it might be a good idea just to leave many things in place for the next funeral, you all were so efficient that before she could offer that suggestion, everything was back into place!

**Many** people are involved, including:

- Set up and cleanup crews, who ready the fellowship hall for hospitality and return it to its normal state afterwards,
- The UMW funeral women (and men) who organize and cook meals or other refreshments, as well as serve and clean up,
- All who bring salads and “bars”,
- Jerry and other staff who ready the sanctuary and make sure various parts of the building are clean and neat,
- Brenda, with her hard work on the bulletins, memory inserts and her hospitality,
- The sound techs, who not only monitor sound during the services and record the service for the families but clean up the sanctuary afterwards
- The Stephen ministers who help many individual people in their grief and who offer hospitality and information to the many visitors a funeral brings
- The Rainbow daycare, who deal with limited space, limited parking and bathroom sharing on funeral days.

A funeral offers the church an opportunity to reach people who might never have come here. We help people turn to God in their grief and pain, and also show them God’s love by caring for them and welcoming all to our church. Thanks to all of you. *Pastors Deb and Diane*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<b>FEBRUARY 2012</b>			<b>1</b> 9:30 AM Wed. Study Group 7:00 PM Chancel Choir
<b>5</b> 8:00 AM -8:30 Prayer 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship 10:40 AM Children's Choir 10:50 AM All Age Learning 4:30 PM PM McLaren Stdy 6:00 PM Youth	<b>6</b> 9:00 AM Bridge 9:30 PM 55+ Singles Breakfast 12:30 PM Genesis Ringers 7:00 PM SPRC	<b>7</b> 3:30 PM Girl Scouts 6:45 PM Stephens Training Offsite	<b>8</b> 9:30 AM Wed. Study Group 11:00 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Chancel Choir
<b>12</b> Healing Service 8:00 AM -8:30 Prayer 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship 10:40 AM Children's Choir 10:50 AM All Age Learning	<b>13</b> Diane @BOM 12:30 PM 55+ Lunch 12:30 PM Gen. Ring. 6:00 PM Rainbow Staff 7:00 PM Rainbow Brd 7:00 PM Missions	<b>14</b> Valentine's Day Diane @BOM 11:30 AM NECCL 6:45 PM Stephens Training Offsite 7:15 PM Ruth Circle	<b>15</b> Diane @BOM 9:00 AM G Edge Due 9:30 AM Wed. Study 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM Coast Guard Aux.
<b>19</b> 8:00 AM -8:30 Prayer 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship 10:40 AM Children's Choir 10:50 AM All Age Learning 4:30 PM PM McLaren Stdy 6:00 PM Youth	<b>20</b> 12:30 PM Genesis Ringers 7:00 PM Evangelism 7:00 PM UMW Board	<b>21</b> Diane @ GBOD 3:30 PM Girl Scouts 7:00 PM Adults with Aging Parents 7:00 PM Trustees	<b>22</b> Ash Wednesday Diane @ GBOD 9:30 AM Wed. Study Group 5:30 PM Supper 6:15 PM Worship
<b>26</b> 1st Sunday in Lent 8:00 AM -8:30 Prayer 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship 10:40 AM Children's Choir 10:50 AM All Age Learning 4:40 PM 40 Day Study	<b>27</b> 12:30 PM Genesis Ringers	<b>28</b> 7:00 PM Stephen Ministers Mtg.	<b>29</b> 9:30 AM Wed St Grp 11:00 AM Staff Mtg 5:30 PM Supper 6:15 PM Worship @ Faith UMC St. Anthony 7:00 PM Chancel Choir

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>2</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Ringers	<b>3</b> UMW Set Up <b>6:30 AM</b> Men's Bible Study	<b>4</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> UMW Leadership Training "Winter Gathering" @FUMC
<b>9</b> <b>4:30 PM</b> Loaves & Fishes <b>6:30 PM</b> Stampin Up <b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Ringers	<b>10</b> <b>6:30 AM</b> Men's Bible Study <b>9:30 AM</b> Naomi Circle	<b>11</b> <b>8:30 AM -12PM</b> Stephen Training@Offsite
<b>16</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> 55+ Planning Team <b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Ringers <b>7:00 PM</b> Stewardship/Finance	<b>17</b> <b>6:30 AM</b> Men's Bible Study	<b>18</b>
<b>23</b> Diane @ GBOD <b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Ringers	<b>24</b> Family Table Set Up <b>6:30 AM</b> Men's Bible Study	<b>25</b> <b>11:30 AM</b> Family Table