

The Growing Edge

(A monthly publication of Fridley United Methodist Church.)

February 2007

Lent 2007

Finding your way

Map

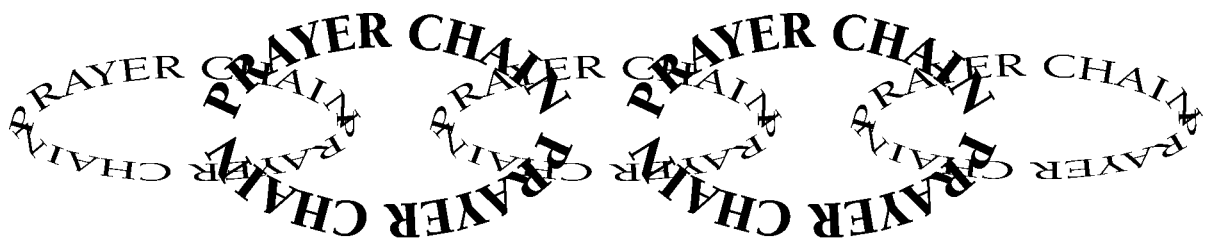
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CHARGE CONFERENCE

The Charge Conference reports have been corrected and actions of the Charge Council are reflected in the reports. Each staff member and chairperson has a copy and there is one in the library and one on file in the office. We would like to save paper by printing copies only for those persons that want them. If you would like a copy of the Charge Conference report, please call Brenda or leave a note in the office and we will be happy to print one for you.

Growing Edge Deadline is due the 15th of every month by 8:00 a.m.



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

Instead of my regular article I have enclosed a copy of my presentation to the Charge Conference on Sunday, January 21, 2006. It is the insert in the Growing Edge. It represents some of my dreams for a church. It remains to be seen if it has any interest to this church. It was given to stimulate our thinking, jump start our imaginations and get us dreaming and praying with God for our next 50 years in ministry. It was and is for information and a place to start as we begin to live into our future as the church of Jesus Christ which we call Fridley United Methodist Church.
Pastor Deb

Dear Members and Friends of Fridley United Methodist Church:
On February 20, I celebrate the second anniversary of my arrival at this church. It has been a good journey with you. You all have been wonderful and welcoming, accepting and patient, especially Deb and Pam. We are a terrific ministry team, and they continue to support and encourage me. I am grateful.

This has been a year of change for all of us, with the addition of many new educational programs and changes in others. I am grateful for your patience, presence and participation, and willingness to try new ideas.

It is good to be here. May God's love and goodness continue to be known through the ministry we share. *Peace, Diane*

Caring Ministries

*Hour Of Prayer
At Fridley UMC*

EVERY Monday 4:30–5:30 p.m.

Church members and all people of our community are invited into our sanctuary for prayer every Monday, 4:30-5:30 p.m. People may drop in or stay for a full hour. This time will be set aside for personal prayer. There will be Bibles, prayer and meditation materials available in a quiet and peaceful setting.

As Christians we acknowledge the real power of prayer in our lives. Prayer is an important way of communicating with God, whether we are praying for ourselves or for others.

Prayer brings us strength, relief, healing, energy, comfort, and insight, just to name a few benefits. Although we can pray anyplace and anytime, a sanctuary provides a quiet and holy place for prayer. Many churches are unavailable several hours of the day for security reasons, and *Hour of*

Prayer is a conscious effort to offer a time and place for all people who feel the need to pray.

Take advantage of this wonderful opportunity and spread the word!

MEMORY BASKET

As our church begins its 50 year celebration, it is time to begin sharing our memories! What happenings or events have meant a great deal to you as we have journeyed together? We are looking for items, photos and stories that are important to you and/or our church. Your contribution need not be ancient – any memories from past years are of great interest! These stories and mementos may be shared in a variety of ways depending on what we collect. We may make a display or include stories in a booklet or the Growing Edge. Please label your memory clearly with your name so we can contact you and return it to you. The “Memory basket” will be in the lounge with a sign and a red carnation. Help make this significant year one that is filled with meaning, blessings and cheer!

*Questions? Call Diane Jachymowski, 763-571-7572.

How are your devotions doing? Do you know you can send more than one devotion! If you have a long devotion, or a short one-send it on in. We NEED MANY MORE devotions. Devotions are due February 4. We look forward to reading them!

Our Church Family and friends

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you to all that furnished and served food for the Dolores Wright funeral. Dolores was the mother in law of Jan Wright. Shirley Moore called the December roster for salads and the salads were beautiful. The time was short to prepare for this meal and many families were out of town. So an extra special THANK YOU to Pam, Delanie, and the Catacomb group. They not only set up table and chairs, put the room back in order when we were finished, but washed all the dishes and put them back into the cupboards. How blessed are we to have young people like this. I am so grateful as is the Wright family.

Delores Hendrick, UMW

The Evangelism Committee is to be grateful for the **many** people who continue to assist in our ministry of making people feel welcome! This

includes inviting people to make and wear nametags, greeting people as they enter the sanctuary, and preparing and cleaning up from coffee and donut fellowship. Thank you to the Chancel Choir for hosting coffee and cookies on December 24th! The music was beautiful as well as meaningful, and the cookies were enjoyed by many following our special service of music from Handel's **Messiah**. Thank you also to: Mary Ann Neu; Judy Ryan; Diane Flakne; Sue Hentges; Janet Mondloh; Judy and Bob Lange; Reba Moreau; Mollie Smith; Dee Watts; Leone and Roger Olson; Norma and Jerry Adams; Kathy and Gary Reinecke; Cindy and Jerry Robb; Carol and Perry Johs; Nancy and Ron Newport; Marilyn and Fred Forsberg; Wanda and Gary Boyer; Evelyn Frisbie; Todd Benson, Brittany and Becca; and Myrna Kuehl. Know the work you do is important and deeply appreciated!

THANK YOU VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

The following people delivered Meals On Wheels the week of January 2-5.

3 day drivers: Roger & Leone Olson.

2 day drivers: Russ & Delores Hendrick, Wayne Specker, Harvey & Jan Kienholz.

1 day drivers: Dianne McKusick, Jean Mills, Harvey & Jean Steward, Jerry and Cindy Robb, Earl & Donna Steffen, Teresa & Mark Droessler, Dave & Judy Ryan, and Evelyn & Jim Skurich.

The next time FUMC drives will be the week of February 12-16. If you have some time to spare over the noon hour, 11:30 – 1:00, please consider giving this ministry a try. It is easy, fun and rewarding. Please call me with any Questions. Janet Fossum, FUMC Meals On Wheels Coordinator, 763-780-5694.

S.A.C.A.

December – Your contribution of time, money or gifts helped make over 1,000 families have a Merrier Christmas. We couldn't have done it without you. \$1300.00 worth of new toys, 34lbs. of food, 3 bags of clothing. Thanks again!

With Deepest Sympathy

To the family of Mary Young on the loss of her brother. To the family of Mary Wright on the loss of her mother in law. To the family of Virginia Peterson on the loss of her mother.

Fair Trade Coffee

So that coffee farmers in developing countries may earn a fair wage, the evangelism committee at FUMC is committed to serving Fair Trade Coffee. Due to this commitment, our costs have gone up significantly. Our intent is

to support economic justice rather than to make money for our commission, but we need to "break even." Knowing the cost of coffee in restaurants is near or over a dollar and in specialty shops sells for more than \$2.00, we are asking you to consider contributing \$1.00 so that we might cover expenses. Donuts remain \$.50 as do hot chocolate and cider. Our tea is also under the Fair Trade umbrella so if this is your beverage of choice, please consider the greater amount. Thank you for helping in this mission project!

Your Evangelism Committee

FEBRUARY MISSION EMPHASIS

Minnesota Food Share

Minnesota Food Share is a faith-based organization whose goal is to end hunger in Minnesota. The 2007 March campaign will be their 25th food drive. We are emphasizing this mission in February at FUMC so that we can gather our gifts and forward them to the drive before the end of March.

MN. Food Share hopes it will be the largest MN food drive ever, not only as a testament to the hard work that volunteers all over the state have done for 25 years, but also, sadly, because the food is still so desperately needed. This year the goal will be to raise 25 million pounds of food for 265 of the state's food shelves: about four million pounds and five million dollars combined. (As dollars go further than pounds at the local food bank, this adds up to 25 million pounds.)

Your Mission Commission

2006 MISSIONS

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

(December 2005 through November 2006)

MONTHLY MISSIONS		\$12,176
The Graners-Missionaries to Bolivia	Dec.	2500
Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity	Dec.	1000
Twin Ports Ministry to Seafarers	Dec.	468
Meals on Wheels	Jan.	639
Feed My Starving Children	Feb.	953
FUMC Youth Missions	Mar/April	2083
Minnesota Food Share	Mar/April	883
Conference Love Offering	May	913
Simpson Housing Services	June/July	593
Loaves and Fishes	Sept.	589
Kidera Village, Uganda Com. Church	Oct.	750
Alexandra House	Nov.	805

EMERGENCY RELIEF		\$2937
Princeton, MN UMC Fire Relief	Ash Wed.	346
UMCOR-Undesignated		875
One Great Hour of Sharing	March	340
Katrina Church Recovery Appeal	July/Aug.	1376
SPECIAL SUNDAY OFFERINGS		\$794
Human Relations	Jan.	348
Native Americans	April	190
Peace with Justice	May	120
World-Wide Communion	Oct.	96
United Methodist Students	Nov.	40
TOTAL MONETARY GIVING		\$15,907

The Mission Commission would like to thank everyone who gave to our missions this past year. These gifts help make a significant improvement in the lives of many people.

ADULT EDUCATION:

WEEKDAY OPPORTUNITIES:

The Wednesday Study Group (WSG) meets most Wednesdays during the school year at 9:30 AM. It is a book-based study led by Pastor Deb, and open to all.

WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN STUDY

A Clearing Season by Sarah Parsons

This is a new small group meeting on Wednesday evenings after the Wednesday Lenten worship services, beginning February 21, in the Computer Lab. This first meeting will be brief, an introduction to the book and assignment of reading. A Clearing Season shows you how to clear space in your life for God, identify obstacles that keep you from God, choose a Lenten practice to help you remove those obstacles. This is a study for adults of all ages. There is reading of less than 15 pages each week, with some reflective activities. Please email Rev. Diane Olson at diane.olson@fridleyumc.org or sign up on her office door. (The group will meet at approximately 7:15 each week through March 28.)

Sunday mornings at 9:30:

Short Term study

February 4: NEW MEMBERS CLASS: This is a one week orientation

to Fridley UMC and membership. It is required for persons considering joining the church. You may take this class either before or after the Spirit Gifts series. It meets on the lower level in the Rainbow Office.

February 11: The Gospels! A one week class on the four gospels led by Pastor Deb and Diane, meeting in the lounge.

February 18, 25, March 4, 11, 18 and 25: Lenten Study: Hallelujah! The Bible and Handel's Messiah, led by Pastor Deb and Janet Mondloh, Rainbow Office.

Ongoing Sunday morning studies:

Seekers' Bible Study: This group meets in the children's library in the Fellowship Hall. They are studying the scriptures that are read and preached in worship each week, and are led by Bill Ekstrum and Shelley Colvin. Everyone is invited to attend and share thoughts and insights stirred by Scripture. All are welcome.

Parents: This group of parents meets in the lower level in the "blue room". Leadership comes from the group, and their studies range from book discussions to guest speakers. The nursery and preschool classes are nearby, but this is a class for parents/grandparents with children of any age.

Linking Faith and Life: This class meets in a section of the lounge and will be led by Bill and JoEllen Ambrose. The curriculum is called Faithlink, written weekly by our denominational publishing house. Topics relate to current events and range from Biblical understandings of ecology to war and peace to making a difference through your vote. This class is new every week!

(Ongoing classes will not meet on February 11, so that all can attend the one time class on the Gospels.)

Children's programs

SUNDAY MORNINGS:

Sunday school and worship opportunities are plentiful and exciting for children and adults at Fridley UMC. The nursery is open from 8:15 – 12:15 each week for children under age 3.

8:30: Worship for all ages

9:30: Sunday School classes for all ages, children and adults

10:45 Worship for all ages

A second Sunday school class with a different (more relaxed) curriculum than at the 9:30 time for children not yet in first grade (3's, 4's, and 5's) following the "Story for All Ages" in worship.

Sunday school substitute teachers and nursery volunteers are always needed, please see Rev. Olson to volunteer.

Children's and Youth Sunday School News

Our children, grades 1 – 6, continue the rotation model of Sunday school at the 9:30 hour, studying the story of “Four Friends”. Children begin with a gathering time together in the upper level open area.

Preschoolers meet in the lower level preschool room. Our 9:30 preschoolers begin their classes with music each week during gathering time, led by Margaret Ekstrum. There is a second class for preschoolers during the 10:45 service.

Youth Sunday school classes meet each week at 9:30 in the upper level of the Fellowship Hall.

SPLASH!!! A Minnesota Conference Event for ALL PERSONS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES. April 28, 9:30 – 2:30 at Messiah UMC in Plymouth. Save the date.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Centennial UMC and Fridley UMC
are proud to present:

Extreme

A winter retreat weekend featuring the musical
and oratory genius of Christopher Ames!

The greatest winter
activity...hanging out
with friends

Romans
& Christians

7-12 graders

Outdoor
winter
games

Friday, Feb 23 6:00pm-
Sunday the 25th -1130am

Union Gospel Mission
Retreat Center in
Shoreview, MN

\$65/Person
includes an
Extreme t-shirt

Also included FREE with the weekend crafts, singing,
laughter, late nights, great food, and time to relax!

Deadline // \$10.deposit due by Feb 7

ADULT MINISTRIES

WOMEN'S BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP RETREAT

Imagine a crisp February day, sitting by a warm fire with a good book and lively discussion. Well, you don't have to only imagine this. You can attend the annual book retreat. Our cozy setting will be the Riedel Mansion in Fridley. Questions? Call Cindy Robb at 763-571-7342 or Myrna Kuehl at 763-784-2588.

WHEN: Saturday, February 17, 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
WHERE: **Riedel Mansion**
½ mile south of 694 on East River Road
BOOK: "Gilead" by Marilynne Robinson
RETREAT LEADER: Rev. Marilee Benson, Pastor at Annandale UMC
COST: \$40 (checks payable to FUMC)

Stephen Ministers will meet on February 27 at 7:00, in a support meeting as they welcome the newly commissioned Stephen Ministers. Stephen Ministers are persons who are trained to provide confidential one-to-one Christian care to individuals in our congregation who are experiencing difficulties in their lives. You can support our Stephen ministers by praying for them, accepting care from one of them in your time of need, and by telling others about our Stephen ministers. For more information, see Cindy Robb or Rev. Olson, or see our Stephen Ministry brochure in the lounge.

Events and Opportunities

GRIEF SUPPORT

How comforting and hopeful to know that God does not reject us when we grieve, but instead is close to us during the time of our greatest need. Many people find Grief Support Groups helpful following the loss of a loved one. Support groups provide a safe, grace-filled, caring, supportive atmosphere, where insights and stories about losses are heard with understanding. Symptoms of grieving are discussed, which is a relief to those who feel that they are "going crazy." Jean Fraley, Spiritual Director/Parish Nurse will be facilitating the monthly Grief Support Groups will usually meet on the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Gail Noller, telephone: 763-780-7053 is a grief counselor for anyone needing individual support in working through their healing. The next meeting is February 1.

February 4th! Watch for the Dolphins (FUMC's 5th and 6th graders) on Super Bowl Sunday.

On a day when so much money is spent on American football and advertising, join with the Dolphins in the Souper Bowl of Caring. An effort to collect \$1 from each person attending worship, to help alleviate hunger locally and around the world. The kids will be collecting \$1's in their big soup pots after both services and also invite you to join them for a chicken noodle soup and bread lunch at 11:45. Free will donation, all funds will be donated to local food shelves and local food programs. Watch for the Dolphins, plan on joining them for lunch and be ready to throw a \$1 in the big soup pot.

MISSION TRIP FOR ADULTS: We hope to send a mission team to New Orleans in the late spring or early summer. Please let Pastor Deb or Diane know if you'd like to be a part of it. We are meeting on February 4 to choose a final date and begin making our plans. If you want to join us, but can't come to the Feb. 4 meeting, please us know asap!

LOAVES AND FISHES

Once a month, on the second Thursday of the month, volunteers from FUMC help serve meals at Holy Rosary Roman Catholic Church (2424 18th Ave S. Minneapolis), (one of the eight 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 - 250 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 7:15 p.m., or you can drive directly to the site if that is more convenient. If you can help, there is a sign up sheet in the lounge on the bulletin board. The next trip is February 8.



ALL CHURCH CHILI LUNCH

UMW Sunday February 11th at Noon (Fellowship Hall)

COME CELEBRATE FAITH "FULL" FIFTY!

UMW will serve both beef chili and chicken chili
and a Surprise Dessert!

(Hint! Wear washable clothes!)

For planning purposes, please let us know you will join us.
Please put the tear-off slip below in the church office by
2/4/07. *Thanks!*



I (We)'ll be there 2/11 for Chili and a Surprise Dessert!

Number attending _____



UMW NEWS

FRIDLEY UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

UMW CIRCLE MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY

Pledge Service: "Our Time for Mission"

NAOMI CIRCLE - Friday, February 9, 9:30 a.m. at the Church.

Hostess: Edna Garrison, Devotions: Norma Adams.

TABITHA CIRCLE - Monday, February 12, 7:15 p.m. at the Church.

Hostess: Tracey Beert, Devotions: Laura Miller

RUTH CIRCLE - Tuesday, February 13, 7:15 p.m. at the home of Diane Jachymowski. Co-Hostess: Jean Mills, Program: Evie Skurich, Devotions: Kate McNair.

UMW BOARD Monday, February 26, 7:15 p.m. at the Church.

UMW..UMW..UMW..UMW

UMW Sunday Feb 11 includes Chili Lunch at Noon!

FEBRUARY IS UMW EMPHASIS MONTH in FUMC's Faith "Full" Fifty yearlong celebration! After worship services that include our Special

Mission Recognition awards, UMW will serve a chili lunch and a surprise dessert! Details elsewhere in the Growing Edge!

UMW..UMW..UMW..UMW

JOIN UMW'S ONLINE COMMUNITY!

Come and join over 1000 women who are sharing discussions and ideas with United Methodist Women and others from across the country and around the world. Discover resources to further your commitment to mission in several "sub communities". Sign up on www.umwonline.org

Ash Wednesday, February 21

YOU
ARE
INVITED



NINTH ANNUAL
ASH WEDNESDAY
PANCAKE DINNER

HOSTED BY
CONFIRMATION CLASS

ASH WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 21

BEGIN SERVING 5:45 PM

COME ENJOY DINNER BEFORE
WORSHIP AT 7:00 PM

cost: \$3.00 PER PERSON

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



ALL CHURCH FAMILY AND FRIENDS CAMPING! Our first camping trip last summer was a great success. Join us July 20 – 22 at Mille Lacs Kathio State Park. Camping reservations need to be made by each family group in April. For more information, see the Rev. Diane Olson. This is for all members of our church family and friends – families with kids, without kids, grandparents, singles, everyone.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JUNE 22-24!

AGAIN this year, we are doing a Bibletimes Marketplace, an intergenerational weekend "retreat" kind of VBS. EVERYONE OF ANY AGE IS INVITED AND INCLUDED!

VBS will begin with supper on Friday, June 22, and end on Sunday afternoon, June 24. (with breaks for going home to sleep and eat breakfast!) It will be based on a curriculum entitled Marketplace 29AD, where everyone who attends will be part of a Bibletimes village, with village life a part of the learning. Jesus and/or his disciples will come to the village to visit and dramatize stories near the center of the village, the well. Artisans will be at work in the village, and children, youth and adults will be able to create items used in everyday life in the village from pottery to carpentry. Music and dance will be part of our activities, and we will worship in the temple.

If you are interested in helping to organize this fun event, please contact Diane Olson. We need much help with planning, food coordination, marketplace artisans, drama, music and dance, costumes and the physical set up. There is a place for you!