



CONNECT ~ with God...with the world...with one another

February 2012

Inside this Issue: page #

Adult Programs & Events	2
Children Programs & Events	
Youth Programs & Events	
Family Programs & Events	
UMW	3
Among Our Folks & Staff	
Mission Project for February	
Financial Corner	back
Ministry Team	
Contact Information	

There's an old Yiddish proverb, "We plan, God laughs." Let's face it, we can relate. At every stage of life we make plans, dreaming and scheming for the life we desire. I'll confess, I'm a planner. So, you can imagine how frustrating it is to find plans delayed, detoured, or deconstructed. Everywhere I go, people ask the same question: "When will we be back in the building?" We plan, God laughs.

There's another phrase we've heard, "If you didn't laugh, you'd cry." Full of stoicism, it can serve us well, but honestly, tears and laughter are not mutually exclusive. We can do both.

Last week I made a home call on Jack and Dotti Cutlip. Many of you know that Jack had serious and complex back surgeries several years ago which left him walking with two walking sticks, much like ski poles. We've admired his perseverance and his ability to find the good, offer others affirmation, and maintain his attitude of gratitude for life. Well, Jack fell and broke his hip. Shortly thereafter, Dotti, his wife of 50 years and constant helpmate, vibrant and fit, took a tumble at the Wellness Center in a spin class and incurred an immobilizing break and has been in a boot and on crutches, not permitted to put weight on it for weeks. The question "How are you doing?" resulted in laughter, genuine laughter. It is hard, nearly impossible, to do some things, but Jack and Dotti delight in their ingenuity, creativity, and adaptability. "It's not pretty, but you should see how we've figured out some things," they report, a twinkle of secrecy between them. They could be grumbling and complaining but it is just not who they are. Finding joy in the midst of misery comes from the core of who they are, **beloved of God**, a God who will never leave them nor forsake them.

Imagine what would happen in our lives and relationships if we laughed more each day?! Life is about the fullness of God's joy and God wants you to experience it. So, if you've been feeling a bit down, perplexed, anxious, grumpy, or blue, be sure to be with us in these times of uncertainty. They'll require flexibility, adaptability, and a sense of humor. We may be back at Euclid Avenue as February opens, or as it closes, but we will be "coming home" soon, where we'll continue to laugh together and discover the joy of Christ. Imagine that?!

"Now to the One who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us." (Ephesians 3:20)

Pastor Bonnie



ADULT PROGRAMS & EVENTS

KALEIDOSCOPE, Sundays, 10:40-11:30am



February is a month when Kaleidoscope truly lives up to its name – variety and changing perspectives every week! Each Sunday stands alone, so you are encouraged to come when the topic intrigues you. This month, we welcome Chuck Warner of Faith Community Homes (on February 5), Ross Peterson presenting on mental health (February 12), and Kati Standefer speaking on her recent work with young women in Africa (February 26). Don't miss Kati's engaging presentation, co-sponsored by United Methodist Women. All are welcome.

PROGRESSIVE PILGRIMS

During February, we will begin reading *The Evolution of Faith: How God is Creating a Better Christianity*, by Phillip Gulley, who spoke here at FUMCAH not long ago. Gulley is a Quaker pastor who, in this book, discusses how faith journeys, as well as Christianity itself, develops. The Pilgrims have found his books accessible and "good reads."

The book is available at libraries or you can purchase it new, used, or as an eBook in bookstores. We hope you will join us on Wednesdays at 7pm at the church. If you have questions or for more information, please phone Leah at 847-541-7754.

CHILDREN PROGRAMS & EVENTS

CROSSROADS

Crossroads, the fellowship group for 4th and 5th graders, is on the road again. This month we will meet at Thrown Elements Pottery (260 North Evergreen) in downtown Arlington Heights on Friday, February 24, from 7:00-8:30pm. Prepare to exercise your creativity by painting an original creation, enjoying some snacks, and just having fun together. Cost for the event is \$15.00 per person. Please RSVP by February 17 by filling out a registration form or by calling the church office at 847-255-5112. Adults, you may create your own pottery masterpiece while you chaperone the event! To volunteer, call Lynn Mikels at the church office.

COME PLAY BASKETBALL!

All 4th, 5th, and 6th graders are invited to play in a one day "tournament" with other suburban churches on Saturday, February 25. There will be separate teams for boys and girls. This event is more about meeting kids from other churches and having fun than fierce competition. Call Lynn Mikels today at 847-255-5112 if you want to play or if you are willing to "coach." Final details are still being arranged; we'll keep you posted.

YOUTH PROGRAMS & EVENTS

ASP PANCAKE BREAKFAST

On February 19th, immediately following worship service, please join us for a hot pancake breakfast hosted by our ASP team, as they work to raise the funds required to ensure a successful ASP mission trip this year. A donation of \$5 per person is suggested.

FAMILY PROGRAMS & EVENTS

COMMONGROUND

Bring the family to roller skate with us at Orbit Skate Center, 615 S. Consumers Ave., in Palatine on Sunday, February 12th from 11am-1pm. Beginners of any age are welcome. Even the youngest can join in, as strollers are allowed on the rink! For more information, please contact Jennifer Jones at jenniferj54@comcast.net or 847-431-2672, or Wendy Dunnington at wdunnington@email.com or 773-972-4188.

UMW

UMW CIRCLE GROUPS

CALLED TO GROW: Thurs, February 16, 9:30am, home of Winnie Botkin, 263 S. Clubhouse Dr., Palatine 847-991-8973.

CHAPTER II: Mon, February 13, 7:30pm, parlor. Bring your own beverage.

CHANGING TIMES: Tues, February 14, 9:30am, parlor.

REVISED EDITION: Mon, February 13, noon, parlor.

HORIZON: Mon, February 13, 9:30am, parlor.

FAITH: No February Meeting.

AMONG OUR FOLKS & STAFF

Deaths

Marilyn Gardner, December 20, 2011

Lorraine Mraz, December 25, 2011

Births

Brooklyn Noelle, December 23, 2011, daughter of Pastor Tedd and Stacie Steele

Andrew Jacob Smiskol, December 30, 2011, son of Cindy & Mark Smiskol and grandson of Judy & Mark Standefer

Two New Staff Members

As we prepare to return to our Euclid Avenue building, we are excited to announce that our Sound Engineer @ The METROPOLIS, **Bill Franz**, will be coming with us as we learn our new audio/visual system and its full capabilities. Bill and his wife live in Villa Park. This fall they incurred a house fire which has them in temporary housing at this time. Bill's father is the Conference President of United Methodist Men.

Our Audio/Visual Tech Internship has been awarded to **Kyle Gentile**. Kyle is a senior at Rolling Meadows High School (RMHS). He has grown up in our congregation and is often seen in our musical ensemble, Exaltation, on percussion. A member of the RMHS percussion ensemble, orchestra, jazz band, symphonic band, and drum line, Kyle plans to study music and audio production in college.

Each of these positions is five hours a week, but they are meant to assure the system's proper use and creative introduction of visual enhancements for worship.

MISSION PROJECT FOR FEBRUARY



IMAGINE NO MALARIA

Our Mission Commission has the heart-shaped patterns, ribbon, stickers, and materials assembled, ready to begin putting together our 2012 malaria Valentines for your family and friends. What a wonderful way to tell the special people in your life of your love for them and give a family the gift of life for four plus years both at the same time.

Children are the most vulnerable to acquire malaria because they have not built up the natural immunity as in some adults. A child dies of malaria every 45 seconds. While this statistic is alarming, there is exciting news in the fight against malaria. A new vaccine is being developed that shows strong promise to protect children against this terrible disease. The first results of the RTS.S vaccine, given to five through 17 month-old children, showed it prevented malaria in 56% of trial participants and decreased the severity in 47% of those who did contract the disease. The next step is a much larger trial to evaluate effectiveness and further development in the years ahead.

Hopefully you are wondering what will happen to the 44% for whom the vaccine was ineffective. They will certainly need a mosquito net. Nets will continue to play a large roll in the fight against malaria. Together we are making a big difference. Our special "IMAGINE NO MALARIA" Valentines are available February 5 and February 12 before and after our worship service. Come and collect a Valentine kiss!



**First United
Methodist
Church**

1903 E. Euclid Ave
Arlington Heights
Illinois 60004

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FINANCIAL CORNER - REPORT THROUGH DECEMBER 2011

YTD Revenue:	\$734,375	December Revenue:	\$89,994
YTD Expense:	\$706,943	December Expense:	\$72,035
Apportionments Paid: \$75,084 of \$75,084 due		Building Fund Receipts to date: \$1,952,482	

Hallelujah! We paid our 2011 apportionments in full! Thank you for your stewardship in 2011 and we look forward to 2012!
Melinda Kirby, Business Manager

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Deadline for March Newsletter Submissions: Monday, February 13 Email to c.salas@fumcah.com