



Waterville Words

December 2011

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 – Sarah Hanson
- 2 – Dorothy Hermel
- 2 – Esther Sell
- 3 – Wanda Prosch
- 12 – Riley Sammon
- 12 – Fred Fyvie
- 12 – Randy Carlsen
- 12 – Wilma Larsen
- 17 – Pastor Cindy Kennedy
- 18 – Hannah Petry
- 18 – Kevin Lamont
- 18 – Dave Wollin
- 21 – Sharon Byrne
- 22 – Becky Taylor
- 24 – Peggy Sutter
- 24 – Verlee Miller
- 25 – Karen Olson
- 31 – Roger Lamont



PRAYER CONCERNS

Please keep in your prayers...

- ~Dean Thrun recovering from aortic valve replacement. Dean is doing very well!
- ~Amy Villwock, granddaughter of Sharon Halstead, who was hit by a car and is now recovering at home.
- ~Our District Superintendent Phil Strum, Bishop Sally Dyke, and Pastor Cindy for the ministry they do.
- ~Our youth and directors and helpers as they prepare for the Sunday School Christmas Program.
- ~College Students that are going through final exams or papers in order to complete their education successfully
- ~People who will be traveling for the holidays
- ~Those who feel stress during this busy time
- ~Those dealing with grief over a lost loved one during the Holiday Season
- ~Those that face sadness and depression during this time of the year.
- ~Those that are in the service and their families including Ken Wollin
- ~For Peace on Earth



Prayers of Joy

- ~on the birth of Saylah Jane Birkholz on October 31, 2011. Saylah is the daughter of Beau & Stephanie (Olson) Birkholz.
- ~on the Baptism of Lucas Helgeson and Landon Steele and the Dedication of Saylah Birkholz on November 20th at our church. All three precious children of God are the grandchildren of Bill & Karen Olson.

CHRISTMAS EVE and CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES

Christmas Eve services are being planned, with a 5:30pm service at Blooming Grove, and a 7:00pm candlelight service at Waterville. You are welcome to attend either or both services. As a reminder for our regular Sunday morning worship services on Christmas Day, you are always welcome at either service when you need to adjust your own personal schedule for travel or commitments. Waterville's service will be a contemplative service. We will have time for meditation, music, readings, and prayers. Feel free to stop in anytime between 10:30 and 12:30 and stay as long as you like. Blooming Grove's service will be a traditional worship service and will begin at 8:30am.



UMW CHRISTMAS PARTY

... Will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 7th at 6:00 pm at the church. It will be pot luck, so bring a dish to share. This will be our Secret Pal reveal/gift exchange. Put your Pal's name on the outside and yours on the inside. We will also be collecting hats, mittens and gloves for the Food shelf and some to go to the local school. All ladies of the church are welcome to attend!!



DECORATE THE CHURCH

Once again we will be decorating the church with Poinsettias for Christmas. You can help us out by purchasing a poinsettia either on your own or from Greenwald's Greenhouse (through the church). Cost of the poinsettias from Greenwald's is \$12.00 and they will be delivered to the church in time for you! You have a choice of colors and a sign up sheet will be at the church for you to designate your color choice and who the plant is in honor of, or you can call the church office at 362-4379 and leave a message. THANKS! (Please be sure to take your poinsettia home after Christmas!)



NOTE: Communion will be January 8th instead of the 1st Sunday

MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH

WATERVILLE CARE CENTER BINGO

December 21 – Karen Lamont and Jo Snyder in charge

COFFEE HOUR

There is no coffee hour in December but there is a time of fellowship following the programs on December 18th

GREETERS

Dec. 4 – Holly Ready and Girls
Dec. 11 – Greeter Needed
Dec. 18 – Greeter Needed
Dec. 24 – Greeter Needed
Dec. 25 – Greeter Needed

READERS AND SCRIPTURE FOR DECEMBER



Dec. 4 – Matthew 1: 18 – 25 and
Isaiah 40: 1 – 6 – Judy Frost;
Advent Reading: Roger & Darlene Adams
Dec. 11 – Luke 2: 8 – 20 and
Isaiah 61: 1 – 4 – Jim Frost;
Advent Reading: Cleota Staska-Miller,
Arlis Wallace and Jo Snyder
Dec. 18 – Children's Christmas Program
Dec. 24 - John 1: 1 – 5, 14 and
Luke 2: 1 – 20 – Dave Wollin and Karen
Lamont
Dec. 25th: Psalm 98 and
Matthew 2: 1 – 12 – Karen Lamont

CONFIRMATION CLASS CONTINUES

Our students explore the meaning of Advent in November and were encouraged to invite a friend to church during this season of anticipation. In December, we are asking students to participate in their church Christmas program or Christmas Eve service. We will resume our regular schedule in January with a study of Epiphany. Class is held the third Sunday of each month from 1 – 4 pm. We will be rotating locations between the churches every two months:

January 12	Waterville EUMC
February 19, March 18	Elysian UMC
April 15, May 20	Blooming Grove

UMC

Note: There will be no class in December but Confirmands are expected to participate in Christmas program or worship at their own churches

We will also be asking for folks to prayerfully consider serving as mentors during the Summer and Fall of 2012 to help the youth with special projects. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Pastor Cindy at 362-8260 or via email at soulfreegates@yahoo.com

ADULT BIBLE STUDY FOR ADVENT

We will be continuing our study of James on, Dec. 4, and 18, at 5 pm at the Waterville Church. Last session we did some text comparisons, using different version of the same passage. For our next sessions, we will continue to look at various interpretations and reflections from the Spiritual Formation Study Bible. We begin with a potluck and check in at 5 pm and new participants are always welcome.

2011 CHRISTMAS FAMILIES

In keeping with our local mission of service to families in our WEM area, I have been in contact with Cathy Houlihan and Marge Pribyl. I volunteered our services to help out with one family that needs some help during this Christmas season. They responded with a family of four: Mom, Dad, daughter, son. I immediately agreed that this is well within our Church family's ability to support. The information I have is that:



FAMILY #8

Mom would like a couple T-Shirts, size Large, and / or Polo Shirts

Dad would like T-Shirts and / or Polo shirts ~ size 2X

Little Boy, age 10, wears size 10 jeans, and is into MatchBox cars, tractors, and farm animals

Little Girl, age 7, wears a size 8 and could use some stretch pants or jeans, and like Hanna Montana, Sponge Bob, and My Little Pet Shop toys.

If you feel that you'd like to help with this family's Christmas needs, please choose a gift, wrap it and label it "Family #8."

But Wait! We were asked to support another family (just a small family) and how can I say no?

FAMILY #10

Mom, Dad, and one child. Their Christmas wish list is pretty basic and I know that we can help out:

Mom is asking for a frying pan

Dad is hoping for some tools - preferably screwdrivers / wrench set

Their 12 year old boy is wishing for size 8/10 sweat pants/sweat shirts, and pajamas. He also likes Bayblades and other building toys, like the Bionicles. Would also like a flashlight.

Please wrap these gifts and label them "Family #10."

Have all gifts under the tree at church by Sunday, December 18th.

Thank you all for caring and helping out these families that are struggling to make this season special for their children. (Any questions, give me a call - Anita @ 507-661-5495.)



BE SURE TO JOIN US FOR THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The youth of our church will present the Christmas Program "Sleep in Heavenly Peace – Imagine No More Malaria" during the worship on Sunday December 18th. The program was written by Judy Mahler of the Blooming Grove Church. Come to see this unique production and stay for a brief fellowship time after worship.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no Sunday School on December 25th or January 1st.

IMAGINE NO MALARIA

You will notice that our Christmas Program has a dual theme this year: the traditional Christmas story and a way to reach out as the hands of Christ to our brothers and sisters in Africa. After the New Year, we are joining other churches in the Minnesota Conference in a supporting Imagine No Malaria, a life-saving ministry that is fighting malaria in Africa. Every year, there are nearly 500 million cases of malaria! 90% of those cases occur in sub-Saharan Africa. Juliet Mpanja, a young Ugandan woman helping with Imagine No Malaria estimates that she has had malaria 3 or 4 times a year since she was born. Lucky for her and her four sisters, her mother and father were able to afford treatment and hospitalization when Julie's youngest sister fell gravely ill. However, others aren't so lucky. Every 45 seconds a child dies of malaria, despite the fact that malaria is a preventable, treatable, and beatable disease. Much of the western world eliminated malaria in the 1950's, yet due to reduced funding and waning interest it was not eliminated in Africa, where lives are being lost every day. We can all play a part in making this a successful campaign. In November, our Board considered this ministry and decided to set a goal of \$4700 to be paid over a three year period. This is the equivalent of 470 lives saved for each person, on average, attending worship at Waterville Evangelical United Methodist Church.



WE NEED YOU!!

The end of the year is fast approaching and the final apportionment payments are due. We still owe \$4,853.28 for 2011. The general fund balance at the end of October was -\$5,208.13. So we need help from our church family to reach our goal to pay our apportionments. I know this is a big goal; our church family has always stepped up and achieved this goal in the past. I have faith that we will make it again this year, I just wanted to keep everyone informed on where we stand. Thank you in advance for all you can contribute to help us again in 2011.
Treasurer Arlene Wetzel

TREASURERS REPORT OCTOBER 2011

Total Revenue collected in October	\$38,416.64
(Including memorial donation)	
Total Expenditures in October	\$38,748.18
Checkbook Balance, October 31, 2011	\$2,108.34
Fund Raising	\$0.00
Trustees/Maint.	(\$769.67)
Memorials	(\$3,000.41)
Youth Camp	(\$1,478.95)
Elevator Fund	(\$2,067.44)
General Fund	-\$5,208.13

Disbursements

Pastor's Expenses	Total	\$2,179.30
Church Expenses	Total	\$35,208.90
	(Including moving memorial of	
	\$31,344.30 to a new account)	
Parsonage Expenses	Total	\$146.66
Apportionments	Total	\$1,213.32
Total Disbursements		\$38,748.18

SUCCESSFUL 3RD ANNUAL TRICK OR TREAT FOR THE WE SHARE FOOD SHELF!

On Sunday October 30th, over 40 youth volunteers knocked on doors in support of our area WE Share Food Shelf. This year, the WEM Volleyball team also had a special collection during a recent home game. Due to the great community support, a large amount of food and \$940.55 in financial donations was collected! Youth from the Cub Scouts, Evangelical United Methodist Church, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Girl Scouts, Trinity Lutheran Church, and the WEM Volleyball team participated. After the event, everyone shared in a celebration meal at the Methodist Church. The WE Share Food Shelf distributes food and clothing to people in the Waterville/Elysian area and is located at 132 E Main St, Elysian; 267-4411.

**MANAGEMENT MEETING
EVANGELICAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF
WATERVILLE
NOVEMBER 11, 2011**

Attendance

Pastor Cindy Kennedy, Jim Frost, Darlene Thrun, Karen Bauer.

The meeting was opened by acting Chairman Jim Frost and with a prayer by Pastor Cindy.

Secretary's report

Karen passed out copies of the Secretary's report from the Oct 6. meeting. A motion was made by Darlene, seconded by Jim, to approve the Secretary's report that had also been sent to the board by email. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report

Jim passed out copies of the Treasurer's report and the report was reviewed the board. A motion was made by Darlene, seconded by Karen, to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Parish Treasurer and Parsonage Maintenance reports

Darlene passed out copies of her reports.

The board voted in Oct. to stop payments to the parsonage fund until it was decided to resume payments. The PPRC met in Oct. and decided payments should continue due to the need for some repairs at the parsonage. It was recommended the two churches pay \$100.00 per month into the fund. We will pay the regular Oct. payment and through the end of the year. In Jan. both churches will pay \$100.00 per month. Darlene would like to have changes and recommendations emailed to all board members so we are aware of them soon after they are decided.

Memorials report

Darlene will meet in Dec. with the Memorial Committee and they will work on deciding how to use the memorial money from the Sundvoll estate.

Trustees report

Jim fixed the wall where the water fountain was removed. He installed sheetrock and a wooden board with a carved verse.

Old Business

A Post Office box has been rented for church mail that usually went to the parsonage.

Fire extinguishers have been updated by Jay Hill.

Elevator training. Nothing new.

Centerpoint meter is in.

Sanctuary lights, no work done yet.

Bricks on church. Will try to get the Karr Tuck-pointing to the Jan. Management and Ad meeting.

New Business

In regard to Parsonage Maintenance, A motion was made by Darlene, seconded by Karen, to pay up the regular amount through Dec., and start paying \$100.00 per month in January, to go on until changes are requested. Motion passed.

Emma Norton

A letter was received from the Emma Norton services asking the church to remember them in our 2012 budget for designated gifts and offerings. Darlene suggested part of the Mission funds could be designated to Emma Norton services.

A motion was made by Darlene, seconded by Karen, for adjournment. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Bauer, Secretary.

UMW MEETING NOVEMBER 13, 2011

Present: Karen Lamont, Esther Sell, Karen Olson, Sharon Halstead, Wanda Prosch, Amy Petry, and Karen Bauer.

The opening prayer was read in unison.

Secretary's report

The Secretary's report from the UMW Sep. 11, 2011 meeting was read and approved.

Treasurer's report

Esther reported that the net profit from the Chicken and Biscuit dinner was \$1926. The total in the treasury is \$2,683. Sharon made a motion and Karen L. seconded, to split the C&B profits with the church. Motion approved.

Missions

Amy told the group about a program called "Food and Faith", based on books she has. She proposed meetings possibly on Sunday mornings to discuss and learn the program. The subject will be reviewed in January. She mentioned the code of hospitality that is seen in the New and Old Testaments, where food is a factor when there are gatherings of people. She reminded us of the Heifer Project and the Food Shelf. It was suggested we as members of the UMW bring in a donation for the Food shelf each time we meet. We could also meet with not so secret pals during the year for lunch or coffee, as a way of connecting with others. She asked that the UMW donate to the snack program of a student at UMW. Esther made a motion and Sharon seconded, to donate \$36.00 to the snack program to provide for the designated student.

Memorials

Suggestions were mentioned in regard to uses for the memorials recently received by the church. Air conditioner and dishwasher were suggestions. Esther mentioned the need for a water cooler in the narthex. She has looked into prices and will discuss it with the memorial committee. The UMW pot luck and Secret Pal exchange party is scheduled for Dec. 7, 6:p.m. at the church.

Certified Cook

It will soon be required to have a certified cook at church dinners. The UMW could pay for classes for someone to take the exam. Sharon was certified, but has let her certification lapse. She or someone else could take the exam.

Karen O. made a motion and Karen B. seconded, to have the Treasurer Send donations to missions and programs we support. Emma Norton will receive \$200.00, Reach, \$100.00. Esther will let us know the balance of the acct. and we'll decide on the remainder.

Adjournment by consensus.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Bauer, Secretary.






Prairie Lakes Parish Activities

Waterville Evangelical
 Worship 10:30 am
 Sunday School during worship

December 2011

Blooming Grove
 Worship..... 8:30 am
 Sunday School 9:30 am

				1	2	3 10 am—noon Cookie Walk at Waterville
	No Sunday School at BG December 25th or January 1st.					
4 5:00 pm Adult Bible Study at WV	5	6 Pastor Cindy's Day off	7	8	9	10 3 pm—4:15 pm BG Final Dress Rehearsal for Sunday School Programs — grades Pre- school through 12.
11 Children's Christmas Program at BG	12	13 Pastor Cindy's Day off	14	15	16	17
18 Children's Christmas Program at WV	19 5 pm Spaghetti Supper at WV	20 Pastor Cindy's Day off	21 Bingo	22 First day of Winter 	23	24 Christmas Eve Services 5:30 pm at BG 7:00 pm at WV
25 No Sunday School 	26	27 Pastor Cindy's Day off	28	29	30	31

PASTORAL LETTER

“Soon the forest of Lebanon will become a field with crops, thick as a forest. The deaf will be able to hear whatever is read to them; the blind will be free from a life of darkness.”

Isaiah 29: 17 – 18

“Jesus said to the messengers sent by John, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard. Blind people are now able to see, and the lame can walk. People who have leprosy are being healed, and the deaf can now hear. The dead are raised to life, and the poor are hearing the good news.” Luke 7: 22



In the passage from Isaiah, we hear about the coming promise of God, the time when things will change for the better and hope will be fulfilled. In the Luke passage, when John the Baptist's followers ask Jesus who he is, he answers by telling them what he has done. He has fulfilled the scripture promise. This is how we understand our faith – the encompass, the promise, and the fulfillment of that promise. But we also know that the world is not a perfect place, healing does not always take place and the poor do not always hear the good news. So how do we understand these passages in the world we live in today? The answer is in the constant coming of Christ into our lives and into our world. At Christmas, we celebrate new birth... new birth in ourselves, in our communities and in our world. We may not have made it to perfection but, as John Wesley encouraged, we are moving on toward perfection in God's love. We may not have reached a time where all are healed and whole but we know that it can and does happen at times. And those times are the answers to the promise... the “already” of Christ's healing power and God's grace in the world. But we still have the ‘not yet’ to lift up in prayer to God and we have the opportunity to stay open to how God guides us to bring about more healing and wholeness. At this time of year, when we open our hearts and our homes, sing praises for the newborn child and offer gifts to our loved ones, may we be guided to share what we have, build peaceful relationships and celebrate the joy of the new birth among us.

The following prayer comes from Cate Adelman, from Dixon II and is published in “Winter's Wisdom, Advent 2011”, a daily mediation guide from the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. May this be our prayer as the gathered community of Christ in this Advent season.

“God of love and compassion, thank you for your ever-present faith in me, and for the many reminders of your love. Please help me to slow down and pay attention to you in all circumstances so that I may better become a reminder of your love to others. Amen.”



EVANGELICAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
PO BOX 125
WATERVILLE MN 56096
Web Site: www.watervillemnumc.org

Temp – Return Service Requested