



the Well Spring

The monthly newsletter of North Spring United Methodist Church



Outpourings from the Spring

Rev. Bill Radford

If any of you have not heard yet, I announced Sunday I was being moved from North Spring UMC to be the pastor at Broadway UMC in Plattsburg, MO. Plattsburg is about 60 miles mostly north and a little west of Blue Springs.

This is the second time in my ministry I have moved and I am finding out that it gets no easier the second time. I love all of you so much and will miss you when I leave. Many people have asked me why the United Methodist Church moves pastors around so often. There are a number of reasons. First, we are committed to be sure, as much as possible, that every church wanting a minister and

can afford a minister has one. Second, our system avoids the gaps in service experienced in congregational call churches - churches that have to find and hire their own pastors. I have known of churches that first voted out their existing pastor (I bet that hurts worse than being moved) and then took over a year to select a new one. Needless to say, membership was significantly lower by the time a new minister was hired. Third, our pastors are all screened consistently to reduce problems in a number of areas such as clergy sexual misconduct, theological understanding, and quality of ministry. No system is perfect and certainly congregational call systems have other advantages.

I personally have had at least ten pastors in my many years as a United Methodist layperson. I have found good things about each of them and have been blessed by each of their ministries. The minister who will be coming to serve North Spring beginning July 1, is Hubert Neth. Some of you may remember him from his time filling in before I arrived at North Spring. Hubert was my pastor in the early 1980s and has been my clergy mentor for

the last seven years. North Spring is blessed to have Hubert as its new pastor. I am sure you will grow to love Hubert and feel blessed to have him as your pastor. Please mark your calendars for Sunday, July 5, and make a point to be in church to welcome Hubert and show him what a great congregation worships at North Spring UMC.

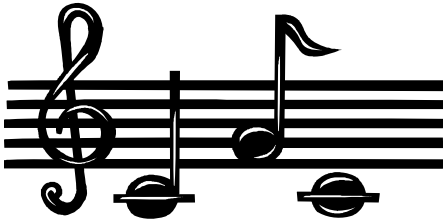
I love you all!

May 2009

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Music Notes

From Heidi Rater
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Greetings to everyone! I hope everyone enjoyed the music we had in April. I don't know about you, but I REALLY felt the energy as we celebrated Easter! And the very next week we had the WONDERFUL treat of Christopher Ames. He truly knows how to praise God and how to lead worship!

This May we will have a variety of special music. We've had a harpist volunteer to provide special music, some vocal soloists you maybe haven't heard, and of course our great regular groups Soul Food and Selah. See the list below for details.

Our Music Planning meeting for June will be on May 19th at 6:00 pm. We had a great turn out in April, but we can always use more people to give us ideas!

And remember if ANYONE would like to help with special music, let me know. I can help you find music if you want to sing or play but don't know what to do.

Special Music for May:

May 3: Selah

May 10: Soul Food

May 17: Ann Marie Campbell,
vocal and piano

May 24: John Sooley, vocal solo

May 31: Bryn Medley, harp

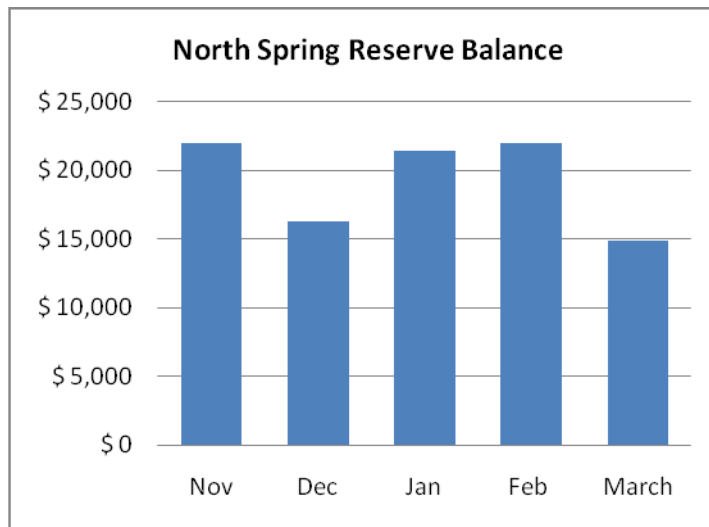
\$\$Money Matters\$\$

Here is a quick update on where we stand through mid-April on Church Finances.

Our Average Weekly Giving through the middle of April was \$3,222 compared with the amount of \$3,084 needed to meet our weekly barebones pledge budget. However, this included the funds from the Purple Bag ministry which netted about \$1,900. Without this, the average weekly giving for April would have been down significantly at \$2,572/week.

The following Chart tracks our funds balance for the past several months. Our funds balance dropped significantly in March due to several factors.

1. The bank did not cash our February mortgage payment until the middle of March. They also cashed our March payment which had the effect of two mortgage payments in one month.
2. We paid out nearly \$2,500 in dedicated Outreach funds
3. We paid our quarterly Insurance bill of \$1,099.
4. Since we were late receiving statements, we paid 2 months of Pastor's pension and insurance in March.



As you can see from the above the Church finances have worsened since our last report. Since we still have a large budget deficit, our reserve balance will continue to drop monthly unless weekly giving improves and/or we have some fund raisers to supplement our weekly giving. We have initiated a fund-raising committee headed up by Bev Sloop. This group will plan and host fund-raisers at periodic intervals. Stay tuned for more as this team goes to work.

The pastoral change announced last week will have a favorable impact on the budget deficit but the amount has not been determined. Meanwhile, keep giving and praying!

Tom Gorman
Finance Chair

Open Slot for Adult Mission Trip

Since Pastor Bill will be unable to travel with the team that is going to UMCOR'S Sager Brown Depot in Louisiana this July, we have an opening for this trip. The trip will be from July 25 to August 1. Lodging and food are provided while staying at Sager Brown for a cost of \$205. While there, you will pack up supplies for the needy here or abroad. If you have construction skills, you might be asked to do repairs in their community instead. For more information, search for Sager Brown via a search engine and you will see how terrific this mission is. Call Debbie Laemmler for more details at 690-8591 or 304-9416.

Food for Thought...

Someone intercepted Emails between two fallen angels, "Doom" and "Dort," who have been assigned to try and influence a church with the code name "Water Works." This anonymous person forwarded them to our church.

Doom: I am a little concerned about how things have been going at Water Works. Historically, many people there have been offended over small things or focused on whether or not they are being entertained. As you know, the result has been a very high turn over and so our work has been easy. But now things seemed to have stabilized some.

Dort: I don't think we have to worry. The head guy is being reassigned to another place. This will undoubtedly cause some turmoil and a loss of focus---there will be less concern about personal spiritual growth and less focus on group solidarity, maturation, and ministry. Let the grumblings begin!

Doom: I don't know. There are more people there who are studying the book and talking to you-know-who. The people who have been steadfast at Water Works seem to be a more solid/mature group and have learned to handle adversity. They have been focused on building relationships with each other and with you-know-who.

Dort: Have faith! I'm telling you, with the head guy leaving some will decide to move on too, which will cause more stress and get the rest to focus on other things rather than the little sheep and his plan for their lives---unless, of course, more of them commit to learning in depth the message of the little sheep and his book, which is highly unlikely.

Doom: I'm not as confident as you. I think we need to come up with a more specific plan to undermine Water Works before the new head guy shows up.

Parish Nurse News

By Betty Witt, RN, BSN

Hand sanitizer is available in each narthex. Keeping hands clean to prevent the spread of germs is important even in nicer weather. Remember in hot weather to drink plenty of water. Soda pop and fluids with sugar are not hydrating fluids.

Use plenty of sunscreen even in cloudy weather and reapply often. Have a safe and healthy summer. I will be at Scout camp from May 26th to August 6th. I can usually be reached by cell phone @ 816-582-7809, or by e-mail @ wb0pss@aol.com.



Note...

The deadline for submitting items for the **June WellSpring** is **Wednesday, May 20.**

Please have all articles and information turned in to the office before this date.

Contact Heather at:
hsooley@northspring.org



CALENDAR

May

3rd - Meeting at North Spring

10th - Happy Mother's Day
No Meeting

17th - Senior Sunday Service

17th - End-of-Year Bash
Tasha Stephens house

CIA News

By Angie Sparks

Congratulations to all of our Seniors. This year we are graduating three of our youth group, Marlene Chance, Nick McFerren and Kylie Harrenstien. We would like to wish them good luck in all that they do. If there are any other people who will be graduating and would like to be recognized please see Angie Sparks.

END-OF-YEAR BASH

This year's End-of-Year Bash will be held at Tasha Stephen's house. Tasha is a member at Hope UMC. She has graciously opened her home to the youth group for this occasion. She has a heated pool so if weather permits we will be swimming. All youth should come prepared. We will also be playing games and eating dinner. It will be from 6:00 to 8:00. For directions please see Angie Sparks. We look forward to seeing all youth there!!

THANK YOU!!

As this school year is coming to a close I would like to personally thank everyone in the congregation for all the support and help this year. I always know that any time I need anything someone is there to make sure it gets taken care of. The kids are always well fed at the Thanksgiving dinner and at the end of the 30 Hour Famine. The church congregation has always been willing to step up and support the students financially in the 30 Hour Famine. And probably the hardest to get volunteers for is drivers and yet we are never without. I am always so encouraged by the willingness to have all of our needs met. It is with a sad heart that I will be leaving this church. This church is my family and I will never be able to replace them. I will miss the youth members more than I can say. I am so impressed with their growth. I can see each one growing in their spiritual maturity and in their faith walk. I have grown so much in my own life. Over the years the kids have helped me to learn so many things, including, how to check someone into an emergency room, how to plan a meal for 30 starving kids, how to balance a lifesaver on a toothpick, and how to launch an egg across a parking lot. They have also taught me to listen, encourage, and have fun. I pray that each kid knows how much they have given to me. Thank you so much to everyone for all the wonderful memories.

Children's Ministry News

By Kara Taylor

VBS

The Jesus Expedition:
Exploring the Miracles of Jesus

June 14-18, 2009; 6-8pm

Cost: \$7/child

Still need assistant teachers, skit performers, decorators, and one more snack provider.

We will travel across the world to learn about Jesus' miracles...

Day 1: Antarctica

Day 2: Egyptian Desert

Day 3: Brazilian Jungle

Day 4: Mount Everest

Day 5: Pacific Ocean

The children will receive tools and resources each day that will help them on their journey. Registration will begin Sunday, May 17th.

Contact our Staff...

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bradford@northspring.org

Heidi Rater, Music Director
heidirater@comcast.net

Heather Sooley, Office Manager
hsooley@northspring.org

Website Update

We will be adding some additional pages to our North Spring website in order to accommodate some feedback from you. If you have ideas of things you would like to see done with our website, please send those ideas to Sherree Gorman at sgorman4@att.net. We will review and assess all ideas, and will implement those according to our abilities. All feedback is welcome. Also, remember to check the website for upcoming events. Our web address is www.northspring.org.



Outreach News
By Sherree Gorman

Hillcrest Walk

It is that time again for the Hillcrest Walk for the Homeless. We have had several people walk in the past 6 years. If you are interested in walking, go online to register at www.hillcrestministries.org and pick Eastern Jackson County. This year's walk will take place at 10am on **May 16th**. Check-in and donuts start at 9am. The walk is 5K (really not that long) and will take less than an hour and a half to complete. Lynette Harrenstien will be our team captain for this event. The walk is not only fun, but also the funds it provides

are so vital to the success of this important ministry.

If you are unable to walk this year, please sponsor a walker. You can donate online under the registered walker.

If you are unfamiliar with Hillcrest Ministries, here is some information about them. There are now four associations that provide transitional housing for the homeless in the Kansas City area. The one that our church supports is in Independence and is called Eastern Jackson County Hillcrest Ministries. It is located in a large old home that has been converted into several apartment units. The program provides a Christian environment that helps homeless families become self-reliant contributors to society. It is designed to move families from homelessness to self sufficiency by providing rent free and utility free housing for 90 days in a fully furnished apartment, life skills training and professional services such as haircuts, dentistry, medical treatment, GED training, car repair, bill reduction and consolidation. Many families have graduated and their lives have been changed completely as a result of this program. Hillcrest boasts a 95% success rate of graduate families remaining self sufficient after graduation.

If you have any other questions, please contact Lynette Harrenstien at 229-7109.



For prayer requests or to join the prayer chain, call Grace Lakey at 224-3098



Church Calendar

You can now check the church calendar any time you'd like, right from the comforts of your home! It is on the church website. The web address is: <http://www.northspring.org/Calendar.aspx>. If the calendar doesn't show an activity that should be scheduled, just contact Heather to add the activity to the calendar. This calendar has the ability to generate an email to invite people to our activities. Just click on the activity and fill out the form to send an email. You can view the calendar by the month or by the week. You can scroll to future or past months. So, we hope you will find this new calendar to be helpful in keeping abreast with activities in the church and planning your activities. If you have suggestions or comments, please contact Sherree Gorman.



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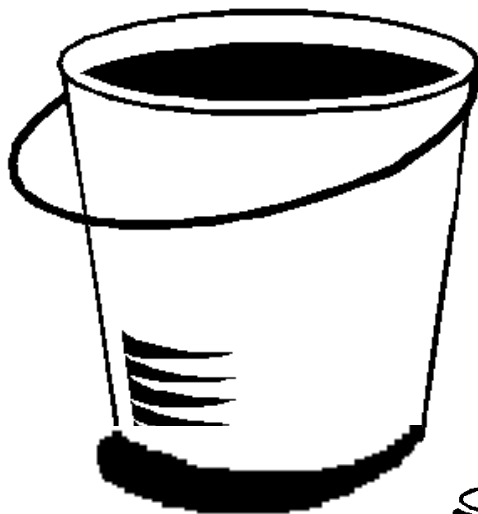
Return Service Requested

Postmaster: Dated Material!
 Please Deliver As Soon As Possible!

Our Mission: To build a Christian family where all are welcomed, valued, and inspired to become deeply committed Christians.

Our Vision: To be agents of Christ to transform lives and community through Christ by prayer, discipleship, fellowship, and outreach.

Noisy Offering Update



During February and March our children collected change from the congregation during the Noisy Offering for the PET Project. They collected almost enough money (\$401.50) for 2 PET vehicles!

Starting in April, our children began collecting congregational change to go toward providing much needed clean water to families in remote African communities through World Vision.

Please remember to bring your change with you to church each Sunday morning to help the kiddos in their efforts!

visit us on the web @ www.northspring.org