

INSITES

All about the Multi-Site Ministry of
Woodbury Peaceful Grove United Methodist Church

May 2016

Woodbury Campus
7465 Steepleview Road
Woodbury, MN 55125

Peaceful Grove Campus
8600 90th St South
Cottage Grove, MN 55016

651-738-0305
BeingTheHope.org

Facebook.com/
BeingTheHope

Children's Ministry
Facebook.com/
BeingTheHopeCM

Student Ministry
Facebook.com/
BeingtheHopeSM



Church Potluck & TIE-DYE Event

FUN SUMMER EVENT!

Sunday, May 29 - Woodbury Campus
After the 10:30 am service

... regardless of the weather

- ✦ Come celebrate the beginning of summer.
- ✦ Bring a potluck dish to share.
- ✦ Church will provide the hotdogs and lemonade.
- ✦ Pastor Ruth Ann will teach you how to tie-dye a t-shirt!

Questions? Contact Maria Rella at 651-738-0305, ext. 11 or at mrella@wumc-pgumc.org.

Sharing the Joy + Living the Faith + Being the Hope

New Pastor

WELCOME REV. KELLY LAMON

The Core Team is excited to share that Bishop Bruce Ough has announced his intention to appoint the Rev. Kelly Lamon as associate pastor of Woodbury Peaceful Grove United Methodist Church beginning June 26, 2016.

We had an opportunity to meet with Pastor Kelly and affirm her appointment. We were greatly impressed with her enthusiasm and eagerness to be in service with us. Pastor Kelly and her daughter had an opportunity to worship on the Woodbury campus a few weeks ago and she appreciated the warm welcome and spirit they encountered that day. She looks forward to starting her appointment at the end of June.

Rev. Lamon is a 2015 graduate of United Theological Seminary in the Twin Cities. She previously served as the **Associate Pastor at New Richmond UMC and has had experience with the Recovery Church and Solomon's Porch** in what it takes to be a vital church in 2016. Holding both M.S. and Ed.S. degrees from the University of Wisconsin, she also has extensive professional experience as a school psychologist. In addition to her ministry at Woodbury Peaceful Grove, which will be considered 3/4 time for this first year, Rev. Lamon will continue to serve occasionally as a lecturer at the University of Wisconsin - Stout, a relationship she has had with that institution since 2003.

Pastor Kelly's family includes her husband, Paul Christensen, who teaches language arts and math in Mahtomedi. Their children include Samuel (grade 9), Faith (grade 7) and Emilee (grade 5). Please pray for Pastor Kelly, her family, and for our congregation during this exciting time of transition.



“To me, the church is a collection of people in relationship with each other with deep recognition of the person of the Holy Spirit among them. Through relationship in spiritual community, we can come to terms with ourselves, our calling, and God’s healing love in our life.”

“I have always been called to ministries that are culturally relevant and speak to the current context of people’s lives.”

“My leadership style is collaborative, team-building, vision-casting, trust-building, and strength-based.”

“My call is to congregational development and revitalization. My skills might best be suited to renewal, helping congregations understand their call to make new disciples and reaching people who are disconnected to a spiritual community, creating outreach and alternative worship and discipleship opportunities in an existing community of faith.

Volunteer Opportunities



Turkey Dinner Baskets

Mark your calendars and save the date for the 91st Annual Turkey Dinner. This year the dinner will be held on Thursday, October 6. Yes, the FIRST Thursday of October! The menu is the same; you know it and you love it! Plan to come and invite your family and friends!

NEW THIS YEAR: There will be a silent auction consisting of donated baskets, services, opportunities, and other items. The auction will begin on the day of the turkey dinner, and conclude on Sunday at noon. So, get your groups together and create a basket with a theme, or think of other creative ideas you can contribute to the success of the inaugural Silent Auction!

Gardening Needs

So you missed the garden clean-up on April 23 (or maybe you were there)? No worries, the gardens need a spruce-up about once a month throughout the summer.

This could be your opportunity to give back to your church by choosing a parcel of garden looking its best. Visit the garden about once a month to see what needs attention. **Gardens are one of God's** greatest blessings, and your help is needed to help them look good. Sign up!

Connection Point Volunteers

Come men, come women, come youth, come all! The Connection Point is coming soon, and many, many volunteers are needed!

What Is the Connection Point? It is a place to connect and receive information about programs, sermon series resources, small or large group activities, directions, or answer other questions you may have. The Connection Point will be at a table located outside the church main office and staffed by a volunteer.

Volunteers will serve once or once a month, 20 minutes before and 20 minutes after a service. Training is available, if needed, and all information will be **accessible to you**. Please contact **Jill Easton** or sign up. It's going to be great; with your help it will be *awesome!*

Wood-Fire Oven Pizza Night

Families! Adults! Come have pizza with us at White Bear Lake UMC on Friday, May 20 beginning at 5:30 pm. White Bear Lake UMC has a wood fire oven on-site to promote fellowship and fun. Our church is considering building one!

White Bear Lake has graciously offered to host/assist us with a pizza night for our congregation and show us how it is done. Also Mike Faust, Master Builder, will give a brief presentation of oven building and show examples of ovens in the metro area. Please RSVP by Sunday, May 8. If you are unable to attend and you are interested in being part of the discernment process at our church, contact Jill Easton. *Freewill offering.*

Sign Up/RSVP Sheet - Woodbury Commons table under display board.

To personally RSVP, any questions or for more information:

Contact Jill Easton at 651-336-7215 (text or voice) or jilleaston55@comcast.net



MINNESOTA ANNUAL CONFERENCE LOVE OFFERING

Each year, churches in the Minnesota Annual Conference take a Love Offering for Missions. The offering is brought to annual conference session—a gathering of United Methodist clergy and laity from across the state. **Donations to the 2015 Love Offering exceeded \$100,000. Grace Children’s Center in Vietnam received 60 percent of the total, grants to help Minnesota churches partner with local schools received 30 percent, and Volunteers in Mission scholarships received 10 percent.** The theme of the 2016 Annual Conference session—taking place June 21-23 in St. Cloud—is “**Living Generously: Unleashing God’s Gifts,**” and funds from this year’s Love Offering will go to four projects. This year’s offering has both a hands-on component and a financial component.

10% supports mission trips

Mission trips change the lives of participants by giving them an opportunity to grow in faith and gain a new perspective of the world. Through **the United Methodist Church’s Volunteers in Mission** program, teams spend up to two weeks working on mission projects domestically or abroad. Most teams from Minnesota are engaged in hands-on projects that build infrastructure to ensure that nutritional, medical, and educational programs in developing countries become sustainable and locally run. Team members pay their own way, and the Love Offering helps offset the cost for first-time participants

40% supports Minnesota Council of Churches Refugee Services

Our global community, and particularly Europe, is confronted with the largest mass migration of people since World War II. Millions of displaced persons have left Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, and various parts of Africa across the Mediterranean Sea. The Minnesota Council of Churches (MCC)—of which the United Methodist Church is a part—was founded in 1948 as the statewide ecumenical agency representing mainline Protestant denominations **in Minnesota. Since 1985, the MCC’s Refugee Services** program has welcomed thousands of refugees from around the world to lives of freedom, hope, and opportunity in Minnesota. The program offers support to newcomers through case management, immigration, employment, and education.

40% supports International Child Care, Dominican Republic

Poverty is a major issue in the Dominican Republic, and many people there lack access to basic health care for their families. Additionally, six out of every 100 Dominicans have some form of physical or mental disability, many of them children. Health Agency International Child Care has developed grassroots, community-based health and rehabilitation programs in the Santiago province. The rehabilitation program teaches parents and other residents how to become physical therapists themselves. This bottom-up, community-driven approach to caring for children with disabilities aims to restore their dignity, hope, and self-respect within their families and communities.

10% supports United Methodist Committee on Relief (FOR HEALTH KITS)

Minnesota United Methodists are encouraged to collectively prepare and donate at least 10,000 health kits, which the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) will then distribute to people who have been forced to leave their homes because of human conflict or natural disaster. Kits should be brought to annual conference in St. Cloud. Ten percent of the Love Offering will go toward shipping these kits to areas where they are needed most. (from Minnesota Annual Conference website)

EMMA NORTON SERVICES

Emma Norton Services is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization actively combating poverty in our communities by partnering with women, children, and families who are homeless and experiencing the challenges of mental and/or chemical disabilities. ENS provides affordable housing, basic needs, and support services in an environment that fosters stability and encourages personal growth.

Emma Norton Services has two locations to serve a diverse community. Emma Norton Residence in St. Paul, Minnesota, is home to 50 individual women and Emma's Place in Maplewood, Minnesota, is home to 13 families with single parents and 3+ kids.



Emma's Place, Maplewood MN

Each year, Emma Norton Services helps over 200 people by providing a supportive community, resources, and personal development opportunities while they work to build a better life without having to worry about basic needs like a safe place to sleep.

Emma Norton Services has housed families from 28 countries and every state in the country.
(from Emma Norton Services website)

PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY IS MAY 22

In Arizona border towns, communities facing social challenges are dramatically divided. In Liberian villages, citizens' human rights are being violated. In local U.S. communities, women and girls are being bought and sold against their will.

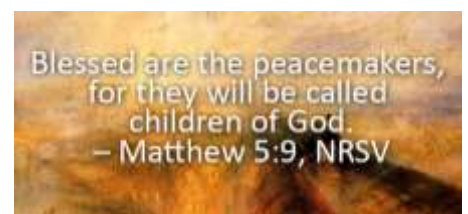
Moved by Christ's love to pursue reconciliation and peace, honoring the dignity of every individual made in God's image, The United Methodist Church is unwilling to turn a blind eye to injustice.

Because of the Peace with Justice Sunday offering, the people of The United Methodist Church are able to make a difference together by sowing seeds—and yielding fruit!—of peace.

Equipping The United Methodist Church to Do Justice in Jesus' Name

When you support Peace with Justice Sunday, your gift makes possible our critical kingdom work in the world. Because you give:

- ✦ Methodists spearhead a peace ministry uniting Arizona border communities
- ✦ United Methodists in Liberia are being equipped to implement the denomination's Social Principles to address social-justice issues
- ✦ Pennsylvania students are educating their community about sex-trafficking at home and abroad



(from Minnesota annual Conference website)



Children's Ministry

Join the children to say thank you!
May 8, 9 and 10:30 am

Our Creation Station leaders have had such a **tremendous impact on your child's faith journey.** Please thank these dedicated parents on May 8:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Amy Poppinga | Krista Erickson |
| Angela Okonek | Kristine Nelson |
| Ben McCabe | Neil Strain |
| Cimena Gordon | Randee McCabe |
| Coreen Smith | Raquel Gibbs |
| Craig Moeckly | Robin Muscoplat |
| Dave Gibbs | Robyn McNaull |
| Elin Langley | Shanna McElwain |
| Elizabeth Werner | Stacie Christensen |
| Jean Denesen | Tara Van Berkom |
| Jim Drost | Zanne Burton |
| Julie Moeckly | |
| Kathy Koch | High school helper:
Julia Clark |



REGISTER FOR SUMMER!

Eco-Kids Camp - Mon.-Thurs., June 27-30
Caring for God's creation through art, science and fun!
Daily field trips including Cascade Bay.
9 am-4:30 pm, completed 2nd-6th
Carpool from WPGUMC to Advent UMC in Eagan.
Cost \$65. Register at www.advent-umc.com.

Vacation Bible School - Mon.-Fri., Aug 1-5
Catch the wave of God's amazing love at Surf Shack!
Discovery time, crafts, games and more.
9-11:30 am, ages 3 years—completed 3rd grade.
Cost \$35. Print out a registration form at
www.BeingTheHope.org.

Camp MSP East - Tues.-Thurs., Aug. 9-11
Focus on Mission, Service, Purpose while being the
hands and feet of Jesus. 9 am-3 pm, completed 3rd-5th.
Woodbury campus of WPGUMC. Cost \$35
Register at www.campminnesota.org (camp #4)

Moose on the Loose
July 12-26, Tuesdays
10 am, Woodbury
No registration needed
Come for an hour of wonderful
storytelling, snacks and fellowship.
Mr. Moose will welcome a different
friend to read each week.



Nursery Care will continue throughout the summer months at both Woodbury services. Children ages 6 weeks through 3 years old will be cared for in the nursery by a licensed nanny and a helper. Children who are 4 years and older should join their parents in worship beginning May 15. Special activity packages which relate to the worship topic will be available. Please contact Carey at cerkel@wumc-pgumc.org if you have any questions.



Check out the Being the Hope Children's Ministry Facebook page!

Student Ministries

Amy Fuller 651-738-2010 afuller@wumc-pgumc.org

GRADUATION MILESTONE BLESSING

On Sunday, May 22, high school graduating seniors and their families are invited to come to the 10:30 worship on the Woodbury campus. There will be a special time of blessing for these students and their parents to celebrate this important life milestone. All students will have a picture on a prayer board in the Commons area. As a community of faith, we rejoice with these families. These students have shared their lives and gifts with us and we are excited for the next step in their life and their faith journeys.

WPGUMC SUPPLIES THREE OF NINE ELI INTERNS FOR THE MINNESOTA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The ELI Project, now in its second year, aligns with the conference's desire to create a culture of call that actively encourages young adults to explore how God is calling them to build the kingdom. People may recall our intern, Ronnie Stimson, who was a blessing to this congregation. This year, the Eli Project will have nine interns, and three of them are from WPGUMC.



Meagan Kaufenberg
Interning: Le Sueur UMC,
with Rev. Terri Horn
School: College of St.
Scholastica (Duluth)



Isabelle Davies
Interning: Living Spirit UMC (Mpls.),
with Rev. Donna Dempewolf
School: College of St. Benedict (St. Joseph)



Ellen Bialka
Interning: Hastings UMC, with
Rev. Chris Kneen
School: University of Wisconsin
(Eau Claire)

After gathering for a week of orientation during the first week of June, which will include trips to seminaries and an opportunity to learn about the United Methodist Church, each intern will spend June and July at his or her host church and gain experience in a wide variety of ministerial contexts. All 2016 interns will have the opportunity to:

- 1) Preach and/or lead a Bible study or devotional;
- 2) Plan worship;
- 3) Be involved in a social justice or outreach ministry;
- 4) Observe leadership governance at a host site;
- 5) Provide pastoral care.

Earlier this year, college students and local churches were invited to apply to participate in the ELI Project this summer. A team of clergy and laity selected interns and host churches from the pool of applicants. Interns will receive a \$3,000 stipend, \$2,000 of which will come from the conference's Board of Ordained Ministry and \$1,000 of which the host church is expected to provide.

Please be in prayer for Meagan, Isabelle, and Ellen as they work at their church sites this summer.



In Memoriam: Wendi Phillips

Wendi Phillips, beloved wife of Scott and mother of Tori (Allison Bruhn) died at home on February 29. She would have celebrated her 56th birthday on March 20. Because she loved flowers and gardening, her family provided a room full of living plants for her memorial service on March 5, and these continued to bloom throughout the Lent and Easter season. A few orchids even remained for her **father's memorial service in April. Wendi was a spunky woman filled with humor who survived a number of significant illnesses with grace and courage. She owned her own housekeeping business for years and taught herself to be a hockey mom (and the wife of a coach), despite the cold and long hours. At the very end of her life she cared for her father, even as she herself had significant brain trauma that impacted her physically and mentally.**



Wendi Phillips (left) with sister Holly Hedberg

In Memoriam: Cliff Comfort



The life of Clifford E. Comfort, Jr. was celebrated on Saturday, April 16. Stories were told of how Cliff had met his adored Nola Gail at YMCA Camp Widjiwagan, near Ely, Minnesota, where they both worked as camp counselors and canoe guides. Many hymns of the faith were sung together with **remembrances from Cliff's life,**

recalling his love of music and many years as a member of the Woodbury UMC choir. Cliff was a natural-born teller of stories, and a man of integrity who offered the very best of repair and remodeling through his business, Comfort Home Services. In addition to his wife and daughter, Holly Hedberg, Cliff is survived by three grandchildren: Tori Phillips, Haley Hedberg, and **Brady Hedberg. Cliff's sister, Kathryn and brother John also participated in the memorial celebration, along with many other family members and friends.**

Baptisms

- ✦ Asher J Sisk was baptized at the 10:30 Woodbury worship service on April 17. His parents, Liz and Chris, also joined the church.
- ✦ Evelyn Ruth Kuehl was baptized at the 9:00 Woodbury worship service on April 24. Her parents, Stephanie and Nate also joined the church, and big brother Ethan (under 2) blessed his sister with water and got to choose a shell to keep out of the baptism font.
- ✦ Callie Jo Domian was baptized at the 10:30 Woodbury worship service on April 24. Her big sister, Charlee (4), helped to pour the water. Her parents are Arik and Jolene, who live in Afton.

Friends with New Addresses

- ✦ Helen Fleming has moved to Oak Meadows assisted living.
- ✦ Mabel McLean now resides at White Pine Memory Care in Cottage Grove.
- ✦ Randy Schilling - has moved to St. Therese Assisted Living in Woodbury, a newly constructed facility on the sight of his lifetime family home.

Thank You

- ✦ Dear church family, your loving support of our family has been constant since 2012 starting with Cliff's decline, then in addition of our daughter, Wendi in 2014 and has continued faithfully until this day. It has been extraordinary on so many levels. A very inadequate "Thank You" for your encouragement and love. *From Nola Gail Comfort and family*
- ✦ The best medicines, one who is laid up from surgery can receive, are prayers, phone calls, flowers, visits, meals, cards and get well wishes. I Thank God for you all. I felt your prayers and wishes through the wonderful surgeon, doctors, nurses, aides, PTs and the best nurse (my dear husband Roger). Both knees are doing well. Pain gone! God Bless You All. *From Ruth Ann Bothe*

Peaceful Grove NEWS

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT PEACEFUL GROVE

The 9:30 am Sunday morning service at the Peaceful Grove campus provides lay-led services which are creative and heart-felt. Services are designed and delivered by members of the WPGUMC community in a format that allows both the presenters and congregation to explore their spiritual life more fully by being the BODY of Christ in a very real way.

HAPPENINGS at Peaceful Grove

LEADING SERVICES SUNDAY MORNING

May 1 - Communion /Pot Luck - Jim Baker

May 8 - OPEN

May 15 - Cheryl Glazebrook/Muriel Richardson -
Mission Moments

May 22 - Holly Curtis/Dawn Nippoldt

May 29 - OPEN - Memorial Day Weekend

VOLUNTEERS TO LEAD WORSHIP

Have you thought about leading worship on Sunday morning? Please contact Dawn Nippoldt at 651-271-1795 or at nippoldts@usfamily.net if you have an interest.

SCRIPTURE READING & SOUP

Thursdays, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Come study the scriptures and have a bowl of soup with Pastor Dan and a fun group of people.

LUNCH AT PERKINS in Cottage Grove

Wednesday, May 11, 11:30 am (2nd Wed.)

Stop by for lunch and good fellowship at Perkins on E. Point Douglas Drive. For more information contact Muriel Richardson at 651-459-2805 or murielr@usfamily.net.

CRAFT FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Friday, May 13, 2-4 pm (2nd Friday)

A fun way to get together and work on your craft project or venture into a new one. Questions? Contact Royann Kjellberg at 651-459-1493.

FAIR TRADE COFFEE & CANDY BARS

Muriel Richardson will have these items for sale once a month, before and after church.

BOX TOPS/SOUP LABELS/ INK CARTRIDGES

Collection box and envelope are in the Peaceful Grove office or drop off with Maria Rella in the Woodbury church office. This collection supports Armstrong Elementary School.

ARMSTRONG READING PROGRAM

Volunteers Needed - Ongoing

Volunteers are needed to spend time in the school helping those struggling with reading. Volunteers will read with 1st and 2nd grade students on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 9:30-10:30 am. In keeping with policies of District 833, volunteers will need to have a background check. There is a \$17.75 processing fee. Funds are available through church if this presents a hardship. Questions? Contact Paula Christensen at 612-599-6782 or at christensenpaula@live.com.

ARMSTRONG ELEMENTARY SUPPLIES NEEDED

Armstrong is now collecting used small electronics. The first grade teachers are always in need of plastic ice cream buckets. There is always a need for Kleenex, hand sanitizer, baby wipes and Clorox/Disinfectant Wipes. Items can be brought to the Peaceful Grove campus and place in designated areas or leave in the main office at the Woodbury campus.

Parish Nurse Ministry



To find updated events and health related articles go to the church website, BeingTheHope.org, click on resources and then click on parish nurse.

ADULT BEGINNERS EXERCISE GROUP

Wednesdays, Woodbury Fellowship Hall

3-4 pm — \$2 per class/per person

Join this slower paced workout focusing on cardio, balance and stretch exercises. The workout will fit individual needs. Try this class if you need to gain strength after surgery or an illness.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Monday, May 9, 10 am (2nd Mon.)

Woodbury Heritage Room

A gathering for those who have lost loved ones (spouses, parents, siblings, children), and caregivers who would like to share their stories and receive support from others facing similar life changes.

A DRUM CIRCLE & PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

May 13 & 27 (every other Friday)

7 pm Drum Circle, WB Youth Room

7:30 pm Parents Support Group, WB Heritage Rm.

For individuals and families living with Autism/Asperger and for anyone with disabilities or social challenges who likes music, rhythm and dance. Feel free to come to any part of this event.

PICNIC/POWWOW: May 13 at 6:30 pm, WB Grove
Summer Schedule: 3rd Friday, June/July/August.

THE GATHERING - a group respite for those still living in the community who have memory loss.

WPGUMC is one of the partners assisting with the East Consortium of THE GATHERING at Woodbury Baptist Church. Times: 10 am-3 pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. To be a participant: contact Betsy Hoffman at 651-414-5291 or at

bhoffman@lyngblomsten.org. Meal/Grocery Volunteers Needed: Call Dee Lindblom, at 651-353-6724. Reimbursement is given for food. One-On-One Helper: Contact Jane Beckstrom or Carolyn Klaver, Lyngblomsten at 952-261-5235.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

There are several wheelchairs, walkers, safety belts, and other medical supplies which have been donated to the church. Please contact Jane if you would like more information.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS

Stop by for blood pressure checks, consultations or if you have any questions or concerns.

- Woodbury Campus - 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month in the Heritage Room.
- Peaceful Grove Campus - 2nd Sunday of the month after the service.

LIVING THE FAITH

Caring Ministries Brochure Is Available

The Caring Ministry is based on the belief that we are the hands and feet of Christ in our church community. Volunteers serve according to their time and talents. All opportunities can be on a one-time or ongoing basis. Under a more structured approach to this process, the pastors, parish nurse and program staff will recommend persons needing care. Brochures are available at both campuses.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS)

Tuesdays, WB Room 208

Weigh-In 6-6:30 pm, Meeting 6:30-7:15 pm

T.O.P.S. provides support, fellowship and accountability to those seeking to improve their weight and health. There is an annual fee of \$32 and monthly dues are \$5. Questions? Contact Deb Hanson at 651-578-1370 or ddandj1@comcast.net.

SUICIDE SURVIVOR SUPPORT GROUP

6-7 pm, WB Rm. 205 (Sept. –May, 2nd Mon.)

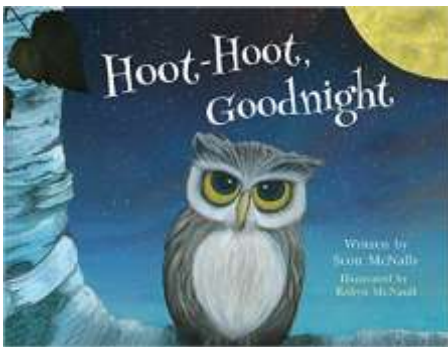
This is a community adult support group for those who have lost a loved one from suicide. Questions? Contact Chris Caulkins at c.caulkins@comcast.net or check out web site at www.save.org.

For questions or information contact JANE BECKSTROM, PARISH NURSE

Email: parishnurse@wumc-pgumc.org

Urgent messages please contact the church office.

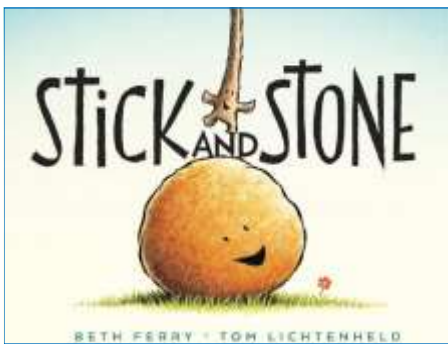
What are you reading in 2016? May I Recommend



Hoot-Hoot, Goodnight by Scott McNally

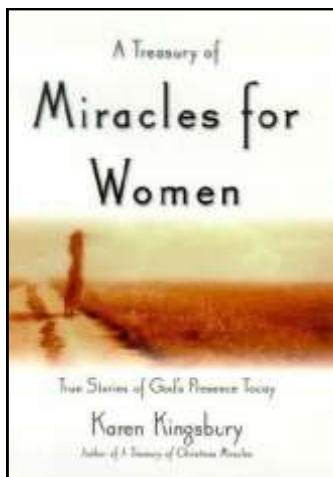
This book is a perfect bedtime story. From the flying ducks and geese and all the other critters in Emma's backyard, she realizes it's time to close her eyes and listen to the crickets' goodnight song. Guess what!! Robyn McNaul, the illustrator, is a teacher in our preschool here at WUMC. The fantastic drawings of otters, deer and more animals are amazing. Don't miss Hoot Owl who keeps watch with his bright yellow eyes. Enjoy!

Review by Jackie Easton



Stick and Stone by Beth Ferry

This is a lovely read-aloud book with simple, rhyming words. Illustrator Tom Lichtenheld uses facial expressions on the two main characters to support the story. A subtle anti-bullying message will be apparent to all ages. For adults, it is an ironic twist on the old adage, "Sticks and stones will break my bones, but words will never hurt me." Children will love words like "Kersploosh!" *Carey Erkel, guest reviewer*



A Treasury of Miracles for Women by Karen Kingsbury

There are times we all pray for a miracle and this book includes more than a dozen stories of women of all ages who have been blessed in miraculous ways. Several near-death experiences in families are changed by their tests of faith and how powerful prayer can be. There are several "WOW" conclusions. With each story the author convinces the reader that with faith and love, hope is never gone. *Review by Jackie Easton*

Brush of Wings by Karen Kingsbury

There are many Karen Kingsbury books in the church library. This is the final book in the Angels Walking series. In this final book there is so much emotion, danger and spiritual warfare. I think we often go through life and forget about spiritual warfare. My feeling is that is what we are battling now. As Christians we need to battle it on a daily basis. This book is a great reminder to us to stay strong. *Review by Barb Haberman*



Life is better when we share it with others!

Happenings



FAITHBUILDERS¹ Study for Women
Wednesdays, 10-11:30 am Woodbury Rm. 201

FAITHBUILDERS² Study for Women
Tuesdays, 7-8 pm, Woodbury Rm. 205
Questions? Contact Barb Birchen at
birchice@comcast.net.

PRISCILLA CIRCLE (Women's Group)

Tuesday, May 10, 9:30 am - **Betty's Home**
All women are invited to come to Betty Rodengen's
home at 536 Sterling St. South, St. Paul, MN 55119,
952-484-1576. Questions? Contact Ruth Ann Bothe at
651-459-0886.

READERS BOOK CLUB

Monday, May 16, 7-8:30 pm, Church Library
All readers are invited to join in the lively discussion,
laughter and fellowship. The book will be *All
Together Now* by Sue Ellen Bridges. This will be the
last meeting of this season. Questions? Contact
Darlene Wetterstrom at darwetterstrom@comcast.net.

BRIDGE & POTLUCK DINNER

Saturday, May 21, 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
Come and join a potluck dinner (bring a dish to share)
and then get ready to shuffle cards and play
bridge. **SIGN UP ANYTIME** — All skill levels of
bridge playing, singles or partners are welcomed to play
bridge and socialize. Questions? Contact Hans Melby
at HKMelby@comcast.net or at (651) 778-8931 or
Ken Hoffmann at (651) 330-4755 or at
tuesfred@comcast.net.

FAITH IN ACTION

Sundays, May 8 & 15 - Staff Just Café
Monday, May 23, 6 pm - Supper Out!
Meet at Carmine's Restaurant
900 Valley Creek Road, Woodbury

CANADIAN FISHING TRIPS

May 16-19, Fishing Opener
Lake of the Woods, \$366
July 28-August 3, Canadian Fish Camp
Mahkwa Lodge, \$699
August 8-14, Canadian Fish Camp II
Mahkwa Lodge, \$699

Share in the beauty, delight, hardships and surprises
that await the fishing trips to the northland.
Questions? Contact Bob Horn at 612-801-2255.

SIGN UP FOR THE THEATER!

Theater events have been a way to not only support
the Woodbury Community Theatre, local art venue,
but also a way to get to know people. Reserve tickets
by signing up at the church. New price is \$12 per
person. Your ticket and payment is due at the theater
the day of the event.

- ◆ **Mary Poppins** - 3 pm, July 31 - **NEW DATE**
Loft Stage - **LIMITED TICKETS**
One of the most popular Disney movies of all time
is capturing the hearts in a whole new way: as a
practically perfect musical!! It's an enchanting
mixture of irresistible story, unforgettable songs,
and breathtaking dance numbers. Sign up before
Sunday, June 26.

“In the Know” - - - News You Need about Your Church!

FAIR TRADE COFFEE

Sunday, May 15

Fair trade coffee and other products will be on sale after services. In purchasing and using fair trade products, we are **giving support to UMCOR's Sustainable Agriculture & Development Program.**

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN - Eagan Site

Saturday, May 21, 9-11 am

Come pack meals that feed starving children all over the world. Sign up in the Commons or go online at www.fmsc.org. **Click on “register to volunteer”, then “join an existing group”.** Enter "Rachel" and "Hintzman" in the first and last name boxes, **then click on “join” for the date you wish to volunteer.**

Questions? Contact Rachel Hintzman at rahintzm@gmail.com.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Friday, June 6

12-6 pm, Fellowship Hall
Donors needed! To make an appointment, call the Red Cross at 651-291-4607. To help with registrations, contact Jan Slagter at jslagter1949@gmail.com or at 651-739-7719 or email Kris Hallis at skhallis89@gmail.com or at 651-387-9033. Volunteer shifts: 12-3 pm & 3-6 pm.

WESLEY MEALS

Saturday, June 11

8:30 am carpool, Woodbury
Volunteers and pans of bars needed! This ministry provides a meal for the homeless in Minneapolis. Sign up in the Commons or contact Delores Hedrick at 651-334-1240 or at deloreshedrick@comcast.net. Bring bars to the kitchen Friday or Saturday morning before 8:30 am.

SUMMER THEOLOGY WORKSHOP

June 16-20, Lake Koronis

Cost: \$326 double/\$388 single
Apostle Paul is sometimes criticized as having different beliefs than Jesus and other Christians in the first century. Peter Milloy, a retired UMC pastor, will lead the workshop. Register online at www.campminnesota.org. Contact Roger Nelson for more info at rmnelson3@yahoo.com or call 651-739-0125.

CONNECT & GROW MEMBERSHIP SEMINAR

Wednesday, May 11

7-8:30 pm, Heritage Room
Come visit with Pastor Dan Wetterstrom and learn about our congregation, its ministries and its values. Meet other people interested in getting more involved at church. Find out about opportunities to grow through study, service and fellowship. Discover what membership means and how to go about it.

CAMPFIRE WORSHIP

Sunday, July 3 - 10:30 am

Woodbury Grove

A great time of worship, praise and fellowship around a campfire.

Invite family and friends to join you in this fun summer worship experience. Sing along favorite camp songs, roast marshmallows **and make S'mores.**

CLAY OGLESBEE

Farewell as DS gathering

Sunday, May 22, 4-6:30 pm

Christ United Methodist Church
400 5th Ave. N., Rochester

You are all invited. There will be music, food, fellowship, a short program and fun. Sign up sheet under display board in the WB commons and at Peaceful Grove.

The combined
choirs of
Woodbury
Peaceful Grove
United Methodist
Church and Friends
present
Gabriel Faure's
"Requiem"
Sunday, May 22,
9 & 10:30 am services
accompanied
by organ, strings,
horns, and harp

2015 Woodbury Peaceful Grove United Methodist Church Annual Meeting Summary - April 10, 2016

The Annual Meeting was held on Sunday April 10, at the Woodbury campus.

MCCI

We will be hearing a lot about the Missional Church Consultation Initiative (MCCI) in the next 18 months. WPGUMC has been selected, along with five other churches, to participate in MCCI that is part of the Reach, Renew and Rejoice program. It is an opportunity to receive in-depth consultation and resources to prayerfully deepen our vision of *Sharing the Joy, Living the Faith and Being the Hope*. It allows the church to continue to build on the process that was begun three years ago with Discovering Tomorrow.

As a first step in the MCCI process, nine people attended a Breakthrough Prayer Workshop on April 17 to learn how to bring prayer more deeply into congregational life as the main source for moving the vision forward.

One church that participated in MCCI shared, "Our worship and small group numbers are up. We are having fun. More leaders are leading, more servants are serving. There is a palpable *fizz of possibility in the air.*"

FINANCE

Because of generous year-end giving, we ended 2015 with a balanced budget. The 2016 budget was approved with a projected deficit of \$48,000.

The 2014 audit is almost finished. Software conversion from ACS to the Logos II platform for the accounting system has been completed. Software conversion for membership and electronic giving is targeted to be complete in July.

STAFF TRANSITIONS

New Pastor: The District Superintendent and Cabinet identified a final candidate for the Associate Pastor role. The new pastor will be introduced to the Core Team and then announced to the congregation. Her first day will be June 26. Look for plans on how to welcome her.

Transition: **Pastor Ruth Ann Ramstad's** last Sunday will be June 5. Look for details on how we plan to celebrate her years of service. The Core Team has approved having Ruth Ann and her family continue to live in the parsonage for the next year.

Retirements: 1) Delores Hedrick, Coordinator of Student Ministries, is retiring as of May 1. The Core Team is evaluating how best to respond to the vacancy and assure ongoing support for the important role that Delores played. 2) Bill Cranford, Finance Manager, is retiring on June 30. Active recruitment is underway for the 20 hour per week position.

BUSINESS

Membership report: Thirty-six individuals were identified as inactive/unresponsive over the last year. The motion was made and carried to remove their names from the rolls if they remain inactive for one more year.

Nominations: Three individuals were put into nomination for approval for the Core Team. A Lay Leader position was added last fall. Two vacancies were created with Paula Christensen and Robin Hakari completing their tenure on the team. An additional position was requested to help expand the strength of the team.


The following individuals were approved to be added as Core Team members: Sadie-jo Kobussen (Lay Leader), Sara Suelflow, Rick Osborn

Celebrate Cornerstone Campaign: Jay Stroebel, co-chair of the 2013-2016, Cornerstone Campaign identified that the campaign will be complete this May. It was a great success!! We paid off the Peaceful Grove mortgage and paid down a portion of the Woodbury mortgage.

WPG has had a capital campaign every three years for the last 21 years. Instead of holding another capital campaign, a Stewardship Committee is developing a process to incorporate the mortgage payments into the ongoing fall operational stewardship campaign. Much more information will be provided as plans unfold.

Questions and Answers

Questions came up about having a plan and funding to support facility maintenance needs. Bill identified that there is a budget for day-to-day needs and also some designated funds. A long-term plan is slated to be developed in 2016.



Has God Blessed You with Abundance?

Perhaps it's time to consider paying it forward!

Please consider a planned gift to your church's Endowment Fund. Your gift will leave a lasting impact on our congregation and our community, enabling WPGUMC to Be the Hope for generations to come.

"A gift opens the way for the giver and ushers them into the presence of the great."

Proverbs 18:16

Beneficiary Form Designation:

Including your church doesn't mean forsaking your children. You can provide for both.

Simply complete the beneficiary designation for your retirement accounts, annuities, or life insurance and include Woodbury Peaceful Grove United Methodist Church in your legacy.

Your planned gift will make a much greater impact than you can imagine. It may also provide you with significant tax advantages.

For more information about planned giving, please visit BeingTheHope.org/Resources or contact one of our pastors at 651-738-0305.

Keep Your Flame Burning

FINANCIAL EXECUTIVE SUMMARY For the Three Months Ending March 31, 2016

OPERATING SUMMARY

Income (Contributions)

Contributions for the first three months exceed budget by \$12,089, or 7%. This is a great start to 2016 budget year.

EXPENSES

Overall Expenses for the first three months are under budget by \$4,988, or 2%. Most budget categories are slightly under budget. Again, a great start.

COMMENTS

- The early results of contributions and expenses are encouraging. Thank you for your continued generosity and willingness to control expenses.
- The Being the Hope pledges and gifts total just over \$70,000 as of today. Thanks to all for your amazing support of this ministry.
- The Cornerstone Mortgage Fund has a balance of \$86,000 as of March 31. Your support is needed to continue to support the Mortgage Fund for the rest of 2016.

Dashboard Summary on the following page.

Dashboard Summary For the Three Months Ending March 31, 2016

INCOME	Operating YTD	Operating Budget YTD	Variance to	
			Operating Budget YTD	Operating Budget Annual
Pledged Income	132,021	123,872	8,149	567,500
Non-Pledged Income	43,338	39,399	3,939	205,500
Building Use Income	3,450	3,498	(48)	11,300
Other Income	49	-	49	5,000
Total Income	178,858	166,769	12,089	789,300

EXPENSES	Operating YTD	Operating Budget YTD	Variance to Operating Budget YTD	Operating Budget Annual
Personnel	115,539	117,093	(1,554)	466,826
Administration	9,908	11,771	(1,863)	43,730
Facilities Expense	35,963	38,599	(2,636)	152,924
Office Expense	12,312	9,815	2,497	39,961
Apportionments	26,057	25,785	272	93,143
Youth Ministry Expense	76	(2,250)	2,326	7,638
Children & Family Ministry Expense	576	1,468	(891)	6,300
Parish Nurse Ministry Expense	-	165	(165)	660
Music Ministry Expense	4,115	5,660	(1,545)	21,598
Worship Ministry Expense	(578)	850	(1,428)	4,570
Total Expenses	203,967	208,956	(4,988)	837,350
Change in Net Assets	(25,109)	(42,187)	17,078	(48,050)

Fund Balances	Fiscal Year Ending	
	12/31/2015	3/31/2016
Bremer Operating Checking	2,183	320,396
Bremer Savings Capital	35,426	69,217
Bremer Savings Mortgage Reserve	75,250	75,280
Wells Fargo Savings	37,180	37,186
Operating Fund Liabilities	2,183	2,463
Dedicated Funds	280,109	416,629
Endowment Funds	672,671	661,377
Total Funds	1,105,002	1,582,547

Debt Position	Ending	
	3/31/2015	3/31/2016
Woodbury Campus Mortgage Balance	1,971,095	1,951,937
Woodbury Campus Interest Expense	-	21,855
Woodbury Campus Principle Payments	-	19,293

Operating Pledges		
	2015	2016*
Number of Pledges & Recurring Gifts	216	222
Amount of Pledges & Recurring Gifts	504,394	615,376

* 2016 data includes both recurring gifts & pledges

Woodbury Preschool Programs *on Steepleview*

A ministry of Woodbury Peaceful Grove United Methodist Church

**Happiness...
is being
outside on
a beautiful
Spring day!**





Peaceful Grove Campus

8600 90th Street South, Cottage Grove, MN 55016

Campus Phone: 651-769-1303

Main Office Phone: 651-738-0305

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:30 am

Woodbury Campus

7465 Steepleview Road, Woodbury, MN 55125

Main Office Phone: 651-738-0305

Sunday Worship Schedule

9 & 10:30 am

Office Hours

8 am-3 pm, Monday-Friday

Information You Want to Know about WPGUMC

The Woodbury church office is open from 8 am to 3 pm, Monday-Friday. The telephone will be answered during those hours. When the phone is not answered, leave a private message for any members of the staff. Directions are given on the phone system.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

The responsibility for the day-to-day administrative tasks of the church has been invested in the Core Team. The Core Team functions as the primary lay-clergy partnership to provide guidance and direction to ministries.

CORE TEAM MEMBERS

Betsy Stites – Chair
Bill Cranford – Financial Manager
Robin Hakari
Sadie-jo Kobussen
Charlie Maier
Rick Osborn
Ruth Ann Ramstad
Sara Suelflow
Dan Wetterstrom

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Daniel Wetterstrom, Lead Pastor — dwetterstrom@wumc-pgumc.org

Rev. Ruth Ann Ramstad, Associate Pastor — raramstad@wumc-pgumc.org

Carey Erkel, Minister to Families w/Children — cerkel@wumc-pgumc.org

Amy Fuller, Minister to Families w/Students — afuller@wumc-pgumc.org

Julie Johnson, Woodbury Preschool Programs on Steepleview Director (WPPS) — wpps@wumc-pgumc.org

Jane Beckstrom, Parish Nurse — parishnurse@wumc-pgumc.org

Katherine Wrucke, Data Base & E-Ministry — kwrucke@wumc-pgumc.org

Delores Hedrick, Worship & Student Ministries Coordinator — dhedrick@wumc-pgumc.org

Bill Cranford, Financial Manager — bcranford@wumc-pgumc.org

Jim Tousignant, Facilities Manager — jtousignant@wumc-pgumc.org

Maria Rella, Office Manager & Building Scheduler — mrella@wumc-pgumc.org

MUSIC MINISTRY

Rick Murphy, Contemporary Music — mnmurfam@hotmail.com

LaGretta Lunde, Woodbury Choral Music Director — llunde@wumc-pgumc.org

Kathy Alden, Woodbury Organist & Pianist — lifeisgute@comcast.net

Jan Rasmussen, Steeple Bells — unicornbelle58@hotmail.com

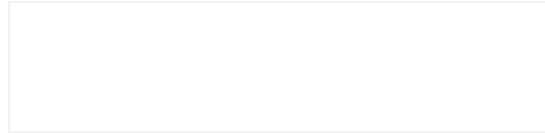
Patrick Smith, Audio Technician — salsabass@yahoo.com

Lea Anna McGowan, Peaceful Grove Choral Music — leandpete@msn.com

Jean Hendrickson, Peaceful Grove Pianist — doyourtheory@gmail.com

Woodbury Peaceful Grove UMC
7465 Steepleview Road
Woodbury, MN 55125

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Mission Trip Opportunity

July 31 - August 6



After our fantastic
experience last year,
we're going again!!

WPGUMC and Motown Missions are
teaming up to sponsor a one-week mission
experience in the Motor City.

Detroit is unique among American urban landscapes, and nowhere is there a greater need for God's grace and healing.

Anticipated cost for the trip is \$350-400 per person depending on team size. The cost includes transportation, meals and lodging during the work week at Metropolitan UMC in midtown Detroit. Scholarships available.

Work projects in 2015 included garage demolition and helping out at the Michigan Urban Farming Initiative; other fun activities included a tour of the Ford Rouge truck plant and a Tigers game at Comerica Park.

Here's a chance to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world.

See Motown Missions at <http://motownmission.org/>

If you are interested in participating,
or would like more information, contact
Mark Pellerite (mpell810@gmail.com, 651-739-3337) or
Rachel Hintzman (rahintzm@gmail.com, 651-233-4295)