

THE LEAFLINES

River Forest United Methodist Church

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JANUARY 2009

With the challenges in the present economy, as well as the challenges that life at RFUMC has been providing, there have been several questions raised regarding the way our hard-earned dollars are spent. So, I'd like to take a few paragraphs to discuss the ABCs of the funds which this congregation spends for mission and ministry not directly related to this building or our members – **A**pportionments, **B**enevolences, **C**ovenant.

For many years, RFUMC has been recognized as a Rainbow Covenant Church. This means that we not only pay our Conference Apportionments in full, but we voluntarily give to many mission projects in our community, our country, and the world. Funds for the Apportionments appear in our annual budget as a specific line item and are listed as **B**enevolences. Rainbow Covenant funds are given by individuals or obtained by special fund-raisers for that purpose and vary from year to year.

The United Methodist Church defines *Apportionments* as “the traditional method which the UMC has used to support its global benevolence and outreach ministries – an equitable method of giving based upon each congregation’s ability to give.” In Northern Illinois, the apportionments are based upon a formula using a local church’s income, current expense spending, benevolence giving, and membership (only minimally) in relationship with that of all the other churches in the Conference and the NIC budget.

Income from the apportionments pays the salaries of our Bishop and District Superintendents, provides funding for Campus Ministries and the camping programs, helps to send pastors and support people to churches who are doing vital ministry in their communities but can’t support clergy, underwrites the cost of all of the training events for laypersons held throughout the Districts and Annual

Conference, finances *The Reporter*, helps support agencies which address the needs of children, families, and older folks such as Marcy-Newberry and Bethany Homes, along with many other vital programs. The meeting of the Annual Conference in June decides how much and where the NIC money will be spent.

The Rainbow Covenant is a program developed by the NIC to raise our awareness that Jesus requires churches to be in ministry at home and abroad. Each different color of the rainbow is matched with a different location of ministry. For instance, the Purple Band indicates a ministry which takes place in the community in which our members reside, while the Blue Band offers ministry in the District, Red in the Nation, and Indigo supports missionaries all over the world. Churches are encouraged to select the ministries they wish to fund. To be a Rainbow Covenant Church, a church must pay its apportionments in full and give at least something to a program in each color band of the rainbow.

From the beginning, God’s people have been charged with faithfully supporting both their church (the group of God’s people assembled in a particular area to worship, witness, nurture, fellowship, and serve) and its leaders, as well as to give to those in need, of their prayers, their presence, their service, and their gifts (money, time, other resources). The goal is to glorify God, demonstrate God’s love, forgiveness, acceptance, mercy, and justice to the world, and to make disciples of Christ. A church which neglects any of those elements ceases to be a church.

God has blessed us abundantly so that we might be a blessing to others. As long as we remain faithful to God, God will remain faithful to us. That’s a covenant. That’s a promise.


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EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Growing and healthy churches have informed and well-trained leaders. Here are several opportunities to help us develop and exercise the knowledge and skills we need to improve upon the mission and ministry of RFUMC. These events provide arenas to network with others, hear from learned clergy and lay persons about what has worked for them, brainstorm and explore ideas about what can work for us. Please make an effort to attend one or more of these events.



**“Transforming the world pew by pew...
and we saved a seat for you!”
Laity Convocation**

**Saturday, January 10, 2009
8:30 a.m.**

Cost: \$5.00 (breakfast, lunch)

TRAINING-MOTIVATING-NETWORKING

**First United Methodist Church
216 East Highland, Elgin, Illinois
(note change of location)**

Bishop John L. Hopkins, Keynote Speaker

Bishop John L. Hopkins was assigned to the Ohio East Area on September 1, 2004. He serves as chairperson for The United Methodist Church’s Connectional Table which brings together bishops, staff executives and officers of denominational agencies and representatives of ethnic caucuses and jurisdictions around the world to help guide the mission and ministries of the global church.

Small Group Ministry Institute “The Christian as a Small Group Leader”

Saturday, January 17, 2009

First UMC, Elgin

9:00-3:00 p.m. Cost: \$10.00

The Small Group Institute offers an opportunity for laity and clergy to learn more about the history of small groups, its theology and the important role of a small group leader as groups are formed and developed. This year’s institute will help people interested in working with small groups understand their spiritual gifts, how to be a leader, the dynamics of a small group, the design of a small group, how to choose curriculum, as well as how to go beyond the church walls and reach out to others.

The institute will encourage, engage and empower those attending so they may offer small group ministry in their local churches.

LEAD 2009

Saturday, January 31, 2009

8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Glenview UMC

Training for those in leadership positions in the local church.

Human Relations Day Sunday, January 18, 2009

Human Relations Day offering strengthens United Methodist outreach to communities in the United States and Puerto Rico, encouraging social justice and work with at-risk youth

Offering receipts will be allocated and administered to Community Developers Program: 57 percent, United Methodist Voluntary Services Program: 33 percent and Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program: 10 percent (all administered by the General Board of Church and Society).

Thank you for your donation.

Food Pantry

The Proviso Food Pantry ended this year with a continuing increase in the number of families served each week. We were blessed with an unexpected \$2,000 check from our church's participation in the CROP Walk in May. These funds will be used to purchase food and pay for the truck that's rented twice a month for the Food Depository pickups. Thanks to all for your generous support.

Market Day

By simply placing an order for some of your Market Day favorites, your name will be entered into a drawing each week for a cruise on the Disney Wonder or other prizes. Notice on the first page several price reductions of favorites, including the popular ChicNSteakes that are so versatile. Calcium and good taste are part of the reduced price String Cheese—a nice snack. Grilled Ranch Steaks are reduced this month. Place or turn in your order Sunday, January 4 for pick up Saturday, January 10.

JANUARY donation for the Food Pantry is:

BOXED SPAGHETTI

Please place in the basket on Sunday morning.



United Methodist Women

The weather was good December 6 and 48 women were able to enjoy our beautiful Advent musical program by Nancy Erickson-Ludwig and Joanna Vanni. Nancy was presented with our Special Mission Recognition for her contributions to the life and programs of our church and our unit of United Methodist Women. This means that she will receive an SMR pin and \$40 has been sent to Women's Division for projects for women, youth or children in the U.S. or around the world. Following the program everyone enjoyed a social time with delicious finger foods and homemade cookies.

Susanna Wesley Circle, who were hostesses for the Advent Tea, had a "giving" year, donating \$150 to the Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry and also supported a PADS dinner. Cindy Belle always coordinates the Adopt a Family project at year end. All this is done by satisfying our sweet tooth with their fundraiser February Bake Sale.

The Executive Committee will meet January 8 to plan our year's meetings and activities. Directories for 2009 with names, addresses, and local, District and Conference activities should be ready to be passed out at our February meeting on the second Thursday.

*T*hanks to all who helped make the church Christmas dinner so successful. Thanks to Glenn and Lyndia Glasgow, Charlotte Sisson, Chris Majkrzak and others for the food preparation and cleanup. Special thanks to Pastor Char for the power point presentation, the choir for the Christian songs and to Frosty for making it so much fun.



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*Return Service Requested
Dated Material Enclosed*

WESLEY COVENANT SERVICE

Sunday, January 4

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

Sunday, January 18, 2009

LAITY CONVOCATION

Saturday, January 10, 2009

SMALL GROUP INSTITUTE

Saturday, January 17, 2009

BRUNCH

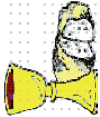
Sunday, January 25, 2009

LEAD 2009

Saturday, January 31, 2009



JANUARY 2009

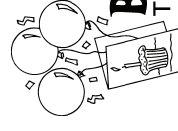
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Happy New Year	2	3 Proviso Pantry 8—10 a.m.
4  Market Day due	5	6	7	8 UMW Executive Committee meeting—1 p.m.	9 P.A.D.S	10 Proviso Pantry 8—10 a.m. Market Day pick up
11	12	13	14 Susanna Wesley Circle 7:30 p.m.	15	16	17 Proviso Pantry 8—10 a.m.
18 Human Relations Day	19	20	21 Red Hat	22	23	24 Proviso Pantry 8—10 a.m.
25 Brunch	26	27	28	29	30	31 Proviso Pantry 8—10 a.m.

1 Tyler Maginnis
 3 Debb Hammond
 4 Martha Woodbury
 7 Chris Majkrzak
 8 Joseph Palumbo

10 Jessica Hammond
 10 Patricia Wilken
 12 Vicki Bartlett
 12 Omer Dix
 16 Margaret Hamilton

18 Jack Dunnell
 18 Jody Hoekstra
 22 Daniel Hoekstra
 24 Douglas Dillner
 24 Joey Palumbo

29 Carmella Pope
 31 Albert Walnert



BIRTHDAYS
 THIS MONTH

This N' That

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Sign up to be Liturgist or Fellowship Host or to Donate Flowers on the schedules provided in Fellowship Hall and bulletin board.

NEW ADDRESSES

Diane Maginnis
3030 Curry Lane
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54311

Gertrude Matthiessen
344 Ashland Ave.
River Forest, Il. 60154

HOLIDAY PEPPERMINT COFFEE FACTS

To those of you who have been enjoying the Holiday Peppermint coffee, you might be interested to hear that 59 1# bags have been sold. The coffee was a donation to the Pantry, and we are using the money we earn to buy pet food for our clients' dogs and cats. To date we have bought 173 cans, saving our clients money they can use for food for themselves. Thanks for helping in another way.

Thank you:

- Persons who contributed to Adopt-a-Family
- Persons who purchased poinsettias
- Those who helped and decorate for Advent/Christmas.
- Michael, Joanna, Donna, Pat and the Choir for all the special music.

NEWS FROM THE CLUSTERS/COMMUNITY

Winter Farmers Market and Brunch, Sunday, January 18, 9:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m., Grace Lutheran Church, 7300 Division St., River Forest. Help small farmers extend their income beyond the growing season by purchasing their cheese, flour, soap, and more.

Empty Bowls fundraiser, Friday, February 27, 6-8 p.m., Oak Park/River Forest High School. Choose a hand formed pottery bowl for only \$15 per adult, \$10 for children. Stand in a soup line and pick from an assortment of soups. Proceeds go to the OPRF food pantry, PADS and Global Alliance for Africa.

WORSHIP LEADERS

DATE	LITURGISTS	FLOWERS DONATED BY	FELLOWSHIP HOSTS	USHERS
January 4	Jean Dillner	Carmella Palumbo in memory of Joseph Palumbo	Charlotte Sisson	Margaret Hamilton Mary Hudson Mickey Sanger Sonny Sanger
January 11	Cindy Belle	Pat & Carolyn Wilken in memory of Michael J. Formento & Grace L. Martin	Judy Sora	Margaret Hamilton Mary Hudson Mickey Sanger Sonny Sanger
January 18	Becky Eanet			Margaret Hamilton Mary Hudson Mickey Sanger Sonny Sanger
January 25	Jocelyn Pritchard			Margaret Hamilton Mary Hudson Mickey Sanger Sonny Sanger

Communion Stewards: Mickey & Sonny Sanger