

THE LEAFLINES

River Forest United Methodist Church



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JULY 2010

The realization that I will be spending a month away from home has spurred me to complete a flurry of paperwork in the few days just prior to Annual Conference 2010. You will be reading this column while I am in residency in Chicago for the first of my classes toward the Doctor of Ministry in Preaching Program. So, obviously, I won't be reflecting on Annual Conference or my studies. However, since some of you have asked, I will tell you a little bit about the program and why I have chosen to participate in it.

There are 6 seminaries in Chicago which make up the Association of Chicago Theological Schools (ACTS). Garrett-Evangelical is one of them. Together they offer a "unique ecumenical program focusing on your life as a preacher and the specific faith community you serve." The program is designed so that pastors and others do not have to take a sabbatical to go to school, but can integrate their learnings in partnership with the folks they serve so that all may grow together. Participants read books (*lots* of books!) prior to a 3 week residency and then have several preaching projects and papers due throughout the year for 3 years. The final year, participants prepare a [dissertation] and complete an interview based on their work. My plan is to finish by June 2013.

Why this program and why now? I heard about the program from a UCC colleague about 9 years ago. It intrigued me because I have always been drawn to things with words – reading, writing, preaching, teaching. Also, I was interested in the concept of practicing what I was learning immediately as opposed to leaving the church, getting my degree, and then trying to put what I learned into practice. There was something that made sense in everyone learning together. When the NIC decided that pastors now had to accumulate a minimum number of official Continuing Education Units (CEUs) per year and

when other things in my life occurred, I began to pray a little bit harder about this undertaking and am getting the feeling that now is the time.

When I applied for the program, I had to write a several page paper describing "My Journey as a Preacher." I realized for the first time that this particular calling probably happened when I was 7 or 8 when I started to write Christmas pageants, and then enlist the aid of my siblings and cousins in performing them. At first, my parents and relatives were amused, but soon become disenchanted. However, there was something intriguing, attracting, mysterious, and heart-warming about the story of God sending our Savior to live with us on earth – a story that I have felt compelled to tell over and over again.

I began attending Bible studies and eventually majored in Theology in college in an attempt to get to know this God who was holding my heart captive better. I was fascinated by the way that God, the Church, history, and culture were intertwined. My call to ordained ministry led me to seminary and to serving the Church. My desire to be able to carry out Jesus' command to "make disciples of all people," in a better way has led me to enroll in this course of study.

Do I plan to be able to preach like Billy Graham, or Oral Roberts, or Joel Osteen? Nope! I plan to be a new and improved Pastor Char, which is what God created me to be.

Blessings!

PS - I need a small group of people who are willing to commit to sharing parts of this journey with me. If God is leading you in this direction, please let me know.

Greater Chicago Food Depository's 25th Annual Walk

Donations for the Walk held June 26 can be turned in to the GCFD until July 31. Some money facts: \$1 feeds a child for an entire day. \$2 feeds a couple an entire day. \$28 feeds a family of four for a full week.

Our Pantry continues to be very important to many people each week. We've served as many as 180 families some weeks and a low week was 118 families! If you haven't already given a donation to one of our walkers, please seek them out and we'll see that it goes into the Proviso Pantry account at the Greater Chicago Food Depository.

Those taking donations: Jerry and DeEtte Adducie, Vicki Bartlett, Jean Dillner, Laura Dillner, Jerry Hills, and Barbara Perkins, Pantry volunteer from St. Eulalia church.



Jerry Adducie, DeEtte Adducie, Jerry Hills, Barbara Perkins, Vicki Bartlett

DEEPEST SYMPATHY

Judy Sora's brother-in-law Ernest Do passed away.

NEW ADDRESSES

Marsha Cieslak

Des Plaines, Il. 60016

Kathryn Fogelin
20 E. Wynstone Drive
North Barrington, Il. 60010

Jack Stout
Elmhurst Extended Care Center
200 Lake St.
Elmhurst, Il. 60126

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please sign up to be Liturgist, Donate Flowers, or Host Fellowship on the schedules provided.

THE LEAFLINES

Deadline for the August *Leaflines* articles is Sunday, July 25, 2010.

NEWS AROUND THE CLUSTERS/ COMMUNITY


Wacky Quacky Duck Splash & Carnival benefiting WSSR, Saturday, July 17, 2-6 p.m., Proksa Park, 3001 Wisconsin Ave., Berwyn.

We're having **Market Day** sales in both July and August! There is a lunch tote available with special purchases and some summer favorites savings. Pick up the form and place your order by Wednesday, July 7.

Action Alert

The continuing damage from the BP oil leak should call us to contact our representatives in Congress to pass an Energy Bill that provides our nation a clean-energy future, green jobs and that mitigates the potential for future disasters. Write or call your member of Congress; dial 202-224-3121 to reach the Capitol Switchboard or call your representative in their district office.

JULY 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3 Proviso Pantry 8-10 a.m.
4 	5	6	7 Market Day orders due	8	9	10 Proviso Pantry 8-10 a.m.
11	12	13	14 Vacation Bible School	15	16	17 Proviso Pantry 8-10 a.m.
18	19	20	21 Vacation Bible School	22	23	24 Proviso Pantry 8-10 a.m.
25	26	27	28 Vacation Bible School	29	30	31 Proviso Pantry 8-10 a.m.



1 Dorothy Dukes
4 Sara Kreider
6 Carolyn Wilken

7 Jeffrey Ashton
7 Estela Mogrovejo
11 Cliff Peterson

15 Thelma House
19 Douglas Pye
22 Cindy Belle
23 Lois Pye
27 Fred Lenhoff

JULY donation for the Food Pantry
is:

CANNED FRUIT AND JELL-O

Place your donation in the basket on
Sunday morning.



United Methodist Women will
meet again in September.
Enjoy your summer!



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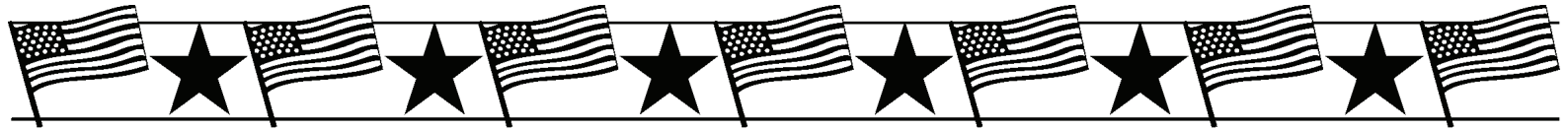
Email: rfumchurch@sbcglobal.net

Web—www.rfumchurch.org



Return Service Requested

Dated Material Enclosed



WORSHIP LEADERS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LITURGISTS</u>	<u>FLOWERS DONATED BY</u>	<u>FELLOWSHIP HOSTS</u>	<u>USHERS</u>
July 4	Becky Eanet	Pat Wilken in honor of Carolyn's Birthday	Sunday School Lemonade Project	
July 11	Margaret Hamilton	Norma Marquardt in memory of Esther Marquardt	Cindy Belle and Jocelyn Pritchard	
July 18	Volunteers appreciated	Clem Grygiel in memory of my husband John	Volunteers appreciated	
July 25	Volunteers appreciated	Cindy Belle in memory of Callie Belle	Volunteers appreciated	

COMMUNION STEWARDS : Sunday, July 4, 2010 — TBD