

HOUSE of PRAYER

Hi-Lines June 2009

Mission Statement:

A community in God called to learn ~ grow ~ support

June Worship Schedule

- * June 7 and 14: Worship services 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
- * June 21: Worship of Celebration at 10:00 a.m. followed by the Annual Meeting at 11:00 a.m. and a rib and chicken BBQ at noon.
- * June 28: Only one worship service at 9:15 a.m.



Reflections and Directions

We have much to be thankful for.....

We are nearing our fiscal year end and it looks like we will be ending the year with a balanced

budget, having made up a \$22,000 deficit along the way. This is because of the individual financial commitment of our members and the creative, frugal energy of the Ministry Team leaders and members and staff.

The Ministry Team process is completing its third year and is growing. We have more involvement of our members in leadership and program responsibility. There has been a palpable creative energy flowing that suggests good long-lasting healthy growth.

Worship week to week has been creative and dynamic. Educational opportunities are fresh and informative. A balanced and consistent Confirmation, Sunday School, and growing Youth Program are important. Varied opportunities exist for music lovers from children to adults to be involved. Challenges exist for us to be involved in the care of our neighbors in such programs as Habitat for Humanity, the Simpson Shelter,

Loaves and Fishes, Meals on Wheels, and VEAP. Our building and finances are managed carefully and creatively, consistent with the changing needs we face in these times. Care is taken for us to be hospitable, warm and genuine as we engage our membership and the community around us. We have a membership that constantly steps up to go beyond its regular commitments to offer its talent, energy, and finances to meet unexpected or special needs. And that's only a part of the picture.

As I said, we have much for which to be thankful.....

We also have some upcoming challenges to meet. Our income projections for the coming fiscal year are coming in lower than last year's income. That is consistent with what is happening in the world around us. We are not exempt from the world around us. The Leadership Ministry Team is continuing the process of building a budget consistent with our resources. ALL Ministry teams and Human Resources are a part of that process and will work diligently to bring good information to the general congregation regarding our resources and budget at our Annual Meeting, June 21. I remember at times of challenge that we aren't alone.....God has promised to be with us in all things, and we have each other, fueled by God's consistent love. We can and will meet our challenges.

On a personal note.....as you read this, I am on a pilgrimage of sorts. Sandy and I are taking my almost 87-year-old mom to Chestertown, Maryland, to visit with my youngest brother's widow. Then we go to Rochester, New York, to spend some time with my other younger brother, who is disabled. Then we travel on to Jamestown, New York, to spend time with

Sandy's family and my uncle and aunt and then home to Minnesota; a time for remembering and healing and reflection and perspective. I get to be the tour guide and chauffeur.

Peace on "ya'll"Chuck

Ministry Teams

WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

We are entering into the longest season of our church year. There are 23 Sundays that we call Pentecost. The traditional color for this season is green. Please watch the banners while we progress through these weeks as we add some variations of green to make it more colorful and interesting.

ALTAR CARPET TASK FORCE

A new task force has been formed -- the Altar Carpet Task Force -- to work out the details for replacing the existing red carpet around the altar that is at least 30 years old! This task force will be chaired by Karen Bartz and will include members from the Interior Design Team, Worship Ministry Team, Altar Guild, and Property. It will be an expensive undertaking and will be approached with full knowledge of our current financial situation. Memorial money has been designated to pay for a portion of this project. If you would like to contribute toward this effort, please contact Karen.

ADULT EDUCATION TEAM

Adult education is ended for the summer months. Be sure to watch for fall events and presentations in upcoming Hi-Lines and Sunday newsletters. Thank you to all who supported adult education on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Special thanks go to the Adult Education Team: Jeanne Lindstrom, Ellen Thompson, Sandy Hatfield, Jean Robbins and Pastor Anne.

I am pleased to announce that Paul and Katie Doyle have agreed to be the new chairs of the Green Team. Thank you to Craig Hatfield for

his leadership in the past year and for getting the group focused on *green* issues. There are printed materials available on topics presented at the last green fair on May 3. You can find them on the information table.

We are always open to new members on the Adult Education Team, Green Team, and Small Group Ministry Team. Suggestions for programs are also appreciated. See you next fall.

Karen Steenson

OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM

VEAP's special request for June is baking items (sugar, flour, and cooking oil).

WORSHIP HOUR CHANGE FOR THE SUMMER

At the Worship Ministry Team (WMT) meeting on April 21, it was decided to approach the congregation about moving to one service on summer Sundays. This proposal was presented to the congregation at worship on two Sundays beginning April 26, and everyone was asked to complete a survey. Four questions were asked regarding your preferences. There was an overwhelming consensus to move to one service. We will make the change to one service beginning June 28, and it will continue until Rally Sunday, September 13. The service time will be 9:15 a.m. This is a compromise that is exactly between our current worship times.

We hope everyone will enjoy worshipping in a fuller sanctuary and get the chance to see and get acquainted with people who typically attend a different service. If you have any questions about this change, please direct them to the pastors or anyone on the WMT: Karen Bartz, Annette Bray, Stefanie Fiser, Sandy Jensen, Phyllis Kern, Jon Kietzer, Gloria Larson, Phil Mennicke, Kyle Sather, Steve Sather, David Steenson and Gretchen Swenson.

Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread Stewardship Update

An important milestone in our year-round stewardship emphasis came on Pledge Sunday, April 19. During the service we were reminded that God does indeed give us our daily bread (and so much more) so that we are well equipped to carry out His mission and ministry in and around House of Prayer.

The money is important. It keeps the building and the staff and the programs going. The pledges are also important. The more pledges we receive, the better equipped our ministry teams are to plan the work of the church for the coming year. Thank you for your financial commitment to the ministry of House of Prayer. If you haven't had a chance to turn in a pledge card yet, please call or stop by the church office.

As of the date of this writing (May 20), 220 families have turned in pledge cards, which is just a bit shy of the 245 pledges received last year. About 88% of the pledges are either maintaining the same commitment or growing from last year – something that is noteworthy during these challenging economic times. With these commitments we are currently projecting that our general fund would be about 5% below last year's. The benevolence fund, on the other hand, is running about \$5,000 ahead of last year.

While money provides a much-needed foundation for what we do at House of Prayer, it is only that – a foundation, a starting point. The real driving force behind our ministry is the involvement of people. It is your time, talent, and spirited engagement that make everything go forward. Thank you for being involved in this faith community, whether it is in worship or Bible study, outreach or small groups, community service or another avenue of volunteering. If you have any questions about how you can be involved at House of Prayer, just ask a pastor, staff member, ministry team member, or friend – and be sure to complete and return the Time and Talent survey if you haven't already done so.

Another important day is coming up. On Sunday, June 21, we will have a special DAY OF CELE-

BRATION featuring:

- One service at 10:00 a.m. with the “Stomping Dixie” band
- An important congregational meeting
- A picnic with barbecue ribs and chicken

Tickets for the picnic are just \$5 per person and will be on sale beginning May 31.

Please mark your calendar and make plans to join this celebration on June 21. It will be a time to sing, pray, socialize, and break bread together – the bread that God gives us daily and that we share through our ministries at House of Prayer.

Peter Dorow

Luther Park Bike-a-Thon, June 6 and 7, 2009

Come join the fun! A group of House of Prayer members will participate in the eleventh annual Luther Park Bike-a-Thon on June 6 and 7 to raise money to support Christian camping ministries at Luther Park Bible Camp.

The riders will bike 120 miles from Minneapolis to Luther Park Camp in Danbury, Wisconsin. After biking 70 miles on June 6, the group will stop overnight at a hotel in Luck, Wisconsin, and finish the last 50 miles to Luther Park on June 7. Camp staff, weekend retreaters, family, and friends will welcome them to camp with cheers of appreciation!

Why are these dedicated bicyclists riding to Luther Park? A church camp experience provides an inspirational faith experience in a young person's life! Every camper at Luther Park is subsidized by donations. The actual cost of a week of camp is about \$600. Campers are asked to pay \$430 of that cost. The Bike-a-Thon goal is to involve bikers from six to eight metro area churches and raise \$10,000.

How can you help? Talk with Scott Wright about joining the House of Prayer bike team or by making a donation to support them!! Please make checks payable to “Luther Park Camp” and write “House of Prayer Bike-a-Thon” on the memo line. Put the checks in the offering plate, or drop them off in the church office by June 4.



Anne's Anecdotes

One of the legacies that I received from my maternal grandmother was the desire to learn. For me there is a certain

wonder about discovering a new idea or a different way of looking at something, or a kernel of wisdom. One way I continue to learn is to read, read, read. When I was married and was moving into my new home, my husband couldn't quite believe the number of books that needed to be unloaded and shelved. I learn by surfing the Internet, listening to the radio, driving a different path to work, setting aside time to be quiet, and sharing a conversation with another person.

In April, I was accepted into a doctoral program at Luther Seminary in St. Paul. The program of which I am a part is called *A Doctor of Ministry in Congregational Mission and Leadership* (D. Min in CML). It combines much of the ways I enjoy learning: reading, surfing the Internet, new ideas, wisdom shared from mentors, and conversations with others. One of the benefits of this journey of learning is that I will be able to develop my pastoral leadership skills. I want to be the best leader witnessing to the abundant love of Christ in these uncertain changing times. I want to be a benefit to you as the congregation I serve that, together, we will learn how to better a church that fits our neighborhood, to reach out to people's needs and to be changed by the gifts that others bring to us.

My first class started on April 27. Most of the class takes place on-line. The reading and the writing are to be completed above and beyond my work with you as a servant of Christ at House of Prayer. The program lasts five years. The only time I will be in a traditional classroom and away from House of Prayer will be each January and July. I will be able to use my two weeks of continuing education time given in the Letter of Call to complete this part of the program.

One of the parts of this program requires that I de-

velop a *Conversation Team* to journey with me as I complete my projects and to provide me with criticism, both critical and affirmative. The following House of Prayer folks have said "Yes" to the invitation to be on the Conversation Team. They are Carol Anondson, Darlene Clauson, DeeDee Edlund, Chuck Hatfield, Greg Haywood, Jill Johnson, Brent King, Phil Mennicke, and Wayne Swenson. Pastor Chuck, the Executive Ministry Team, as well as the Leadership Ministry Team (LMT), have agreed to walk alongside of me as well. This D. Min in CML is complementary to the Transformation Ministry Workshop and process the LMT will embark on in October 2009.

The Holy Spirit is equipping us well to learn how to be a congregation which carries out our Reformation heritage by continually *forming* and *reforming* who we are as God's hands in this place. I invite you to join me in the learning journey as well. Please ask questions, quiz me on what I am reading, ask me about a project or two. I am grateful for this opportunity to learning in the midst of you, the beloved of God at 7625 Chicago Avenue South in Richfield, Minnesota.

Strength for your journey,
Anne

MISSION TRIP FUND RAISERS

RENT-A-YOUTH

Have a small project that could use a couple extra hands? Spring cleaning to be done? Painting or moving stuff around? "Rent a youth" to do it! Rent-A-Youth request forms are available at the Information Desk. Please fill out a form and return it to the basket labeled "Rent-A-Youth requests." Laura will contact you about the project to be completed. It's never too late to "rent a youth!"

MISSION TRIP STOCK

Buy your Mission Trip stock today! Youth are selling stock tickets to support the Mission Trip to San Francisco. Each stock ticket is \$20. Buy one or as many as you would like. The tickets are being sold after each service on Sundays.

Children, Youth and Family Ministry

God Squad: The God Squad meets every Wednesday night in June, beginning in the Youth Room and going from there! We meet from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. There are NO simple suppers in the month of June, so please eat before you come!

Guitar Time: Anyone interested in learning the basics of guitar or expanding their skills are invited to come to House of Prayer's "Guitar Time." It will be held from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. every Wednesday before God Squad, in the Youth Room. Please bring your own guitar!

Valleyfair: We will be going to Valleyfair on June 29 for the ELCA day of rides, food, water-park, and fun! Meet at House of Prayer at 9:30 a.m. We will return around 4:30 p.m. The cost is \$20.50, plus spending money for food throughout the day (\$20 should be plenty!). The deadline to sign up on Laura's door is Sunday, June 21. Forms are available on the Youth bulletin board.

Senior Graduation Milestone: Please join us on Sunday, June 21, to help celebrate the recent graduations of this year's seniors. There will only be one service this Sunday at 10:00 a.m., when the blessing blankets will be passed out.

Mission Trip Update: The next meeting is on Sunday, June 28, after church. The topics to be discussed are "packing" and "fund raising." The itinerary will be passed out. There are still plenty of Rent-A-Youth requests coming in. Please contact Laura if you are available and interested in completing some of the requested projects.

House of Prayer Annual Garage Sale: The garage sale will be held at House of Prayer in the Fellowship Hall. The sale will take place from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Friday, June 19, and 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 20. Please donate the following items to the sale: electronics, games, books, DVDs, CDs, appliances, fur-

niture, housewares (towels, dishes, pots and pans), and paper bags for purchases. Please do NOT donate clothing, with the exception of outerwear (coats, mittens, scarves, gloves, light jackets). Please drop off donations NO EARLIER than Sunday, June 14. Please place all donations on the Fellowship Hall stage!

THE HERITAGE TEAM REMEMBERS

50 Years Ago. Twenty-five young people signed up, expressed interest and registered to attend the Texas Youth Conference. Dean Treichel was the first to do so. An "On-to-Texas" Fund was established and plans were made to raise additional funds with a paper drive to be conducted the last week of June 1959. (From Hi-Lines; June 10, 1959.)

45 Years Ago. The Courtyard was completed with arrangements made by the Building Committee, Don Peterson, chair; by Reuben Nelson, cement contractor; and by Bachman's plantings with special help from Elsmore Friberg, House of Prayer member who worked for Bachman's, and special assistance by Reuben Nelson. The spreaders were Hughes Juniper, the upright evergreens Upright Japanese Yews, and the dwarf trees Nannyberry. (From the Worship Service bulletin; June 14, 1964.)

35 Years Ago. Wes Syverson was ordained into the ministry by Pastor Cliff White and sponsored by Pastor Bingea. Wes, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Syverson and brother of Jane, graduated from Northwestern Seminary in May of 1974. (From Hi-Lines; June 26, 1974.)

15 Years Ago. The City of Richfield was seeking to purchase House of Prayer property for expansion of 77th Street; the congregation council had granted the city right of entry so that work along 77th Street could continue on schedule. Representatives of the congregation worked with city officials regarding the transaction to reach an agreement in the best interests of the city, the church, and our neighborhood. (From Hi-Lines; June 1994.)

Music Department Notes

What a Year!

The regular *program year* is now drawing to a close; Pentecost will mark the final Sunday for musical ensembles to offer their ministry in worship on a regular basis until the fall. Year number two for me has been truly remarkable, and I feel SO lucky to be able to work, worship and laugh with such incredibly gifted, generous and dedicated people. Every ensemble here (as well as many individuals) has offered something unique and beautiful at various points throughout the year, creating those indefinable moments of magic that at times can only be realized through music. So, to every bell ringer, wind player, percussionist, string player, keyboardist and singer – from age 3 to 93 – I say THANK YOU and CONGRATULATIONS on such a wonderful year of music ministry. I would be remiss not to offer the same sentiments regarding my terrific music colleagues, Jon Kietzer, Stefanie Fiser (what a first year!!), and Karen Bartz. All offer unique skills and spirit to make our worship come to life. Thanks for your wonderful partnership!

From your ever grateful and fully blessed Director of Music, here's to a fantastic year, and I wish for you all a summer full of sunshine, rest and fun!

Come Out, Come Out, Wherever You Are!

As mentioned above, the House of Prayer musical ensembles take a much-deserved hiatus from regular rehearsals and participation in services in the summer months. This means there are LOTS of opportunities for individuals and/or smaller groups to offer music ministry during this time. There is certainly a cornucopia of heretofore underutilized musical talent at House of Prayer. We would love to hear from some different voices, instruments, etc. Please get in touch with Phil Mennicke if you are even mildly curious about pursuing this opportunity. Come show us what you've got!

A NOTE FROM MUSIC SCHOOL

What a year we have had!! I have so enjoyed getting to know the children of House of Prayer and involving them in the music and worship of our church. This year we continued with rehearsals, crafts, and activities on Wednesday nights for kids from age three to eleven. I hope you have enjoyed our music in worship! Some of the highlights from our year include:

- Learning songs from the liturgy
- Leading a worship service in December
- Making Christmas cards, Valentines, and Easter cards for homebound members
- Learning about Jesus' birth, death, and everlasting life
- Playing Freeze Dance
- Learning to read rhythms and play instruments
- Singing for the residents of the Towers

Music School has concluded for this year with the kids singing on Confirmation Sunday and a pizza party. We will start back up in September. I look forward to another year of music and praise with the kids! I'll end this epistle with a quote from one of our five-year-old cherubs:

"Jesus died and he watches over us from heaven so we are safe and so we can boogey!"

Christ is Risen! We can boogey indeed!

Stefanie Fiser

Associate Director of Music – Children's Music

Administration Report



By this point most of you know that I have resigned as House of Prayer's Director of Administration. My last day on the job will be

June 23. Sandy and I will continue to be members and, after giving the new Director of Ad-

ministration an opportunity to settle in, I will find “non-interfering” ways to be an active member.

It has been a great experience to serve God and you in this Christian community. I like challenges and problem-solving situations. There have been some. I thrive on variety. This job, at least the way I approached it, has lots of variety! I like interacting with people. There have been lots of opportunities to work alongside many of you as well as just chatting sometimes.

“Change” has been a very active dynamic over the past three-and-a-half years. Change can be an unsettling experience, but I believe the net effect of change at House of Prayer has actually been exhilarating! Kind of like going on a Disney World ride with God ☺. Let’s talk about how staffing and membership involvement changes.

“Rock” Carlson has been an anchor on the pastoral side as we saw an interim (Pastor Paul) come and go and another interim (Pastor Melanie) come and go and then Pastor Anne accepting a call. Jon Kietzer has provided continuity as the Music Department experienced Daniel and Nathan come and go, Karen semi-retire, and Phil and Stefanie settle in. Kristin’s position has been revised and Laura hired. A new book-keeper, two front office employee changes, and some volunteer musical chairs round out the staffing change dynamic. As a staff, we’ve held together and, in many respects, bonded into a true team dynamic where we enjoy each other and work well together.

Members’ involvement in *church* has also changed with more people playing significant roles in carrying out House of Prayer’s mission. I have a firm belief that God never intended his disciples to let “hired people” express their faith for them. (*Disciples* to me are all who believe and work to follow in Christ’s footsteps.) Don’t get me wrong -- churches are organizations that need pastors steeped in a studied understanding of scripture; knowledgeable about the purpose of liturgy, worship, sacraments; capable of being

shepherds and helping people with their faith and life struggles. We also need staff who focus as skilled and responsible music ministry staff, for helping children and youth learn about Christianity and develop a personal faith, for supporting a church with “office stuff” and maintaining a facility.

But House of Prayer has experienced a huge change in the level of *members* playing a much more active role in living out their faith. We now have many more people serving on ministry teams or who’ve continued in many church groups performing ongoing ministries.

I have a deep-seated belief that personal involvement leads to engagement, which leads to realness and ownership. We have many people -- many new to a high level of involvement in House of Prayer activities -- who share ideas, energy and large amounts of time. It doesn’t surprise me, but it does amaze me. People at House of Prayer are living out their faith in an energized, happily engaged manner. It’s a good, optimistic sign for House of Prayer’s future!!

Jon Oleson
Director of Administration

SOCIAL SENIOR EVENTS

The Social Seniors will attend the Northern Winds Band concert at Centennial Lakes in Edina at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 21 (Father's Day). Bring your chair. If you would like to meet us after the concert at Perkins on the northwest corner of 494 and France, sign up at the Information Desk. We will need a count to make a reservation. If you have any questions, contact Betty Henrickson at 612-866-8639 or Dorothy Bjurman at 612-866-5932.

The Social Seniors have a limited number of tickets for the 50th Anniversary of "Boone and Erickson" at the Old Log Theater on Tuesday, July 14, at 3:30 p.m. Cost is \$19. Payment is due before July 5. Sign up at the Information Desk if you would like to attend this production. Let us know if you will need a ride. If you have any questions, contact Dorothy Bjurman.

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SUNDAY WORSHIP: 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.; Summer worship (one service): 9:15 a.m.

The **Hi-Lines** is published monthly by House of Prayer volunteers. **Editor Sandy MacKenzie** can be reached at sjmackenzie89@msn.com.

Milestones

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Couples	Date
Ronald and Arliss Anderson	June 7, 1969
Melvin and Doris Broz	June 16, 1948
Dean and Norma Dahl	June 18, 1949
Gene and Dorothy Hansen	June 7, 1958
Trumen and Marvel Holland	June 30, 1956
Robert and Bernice Huber	June 12, 1943
Carl and Marilyn Johnson	June 6, 1953
Bob and Norita Johnson	June 8, 1957
Richard and Janice Kiehl	June 16, 1956
William and Katherine Martin	June 12, 1949
Roger and Donna Paulsen	June 10, 1955
Herb and Barb Peterson	June 15, 1958
Jerry and Ellen Thompson	June 22, 1957
Don and Dorothy Wiecher	June 30, 1951

FUNERALS

Deceased	Date	Funeral
Bernie Shelberg	May 16, 2009	May 22, 2009

WEDDINGS

Tom and Brianna Buffey May 2, 2009

BAPTISMS

Name: Jamison Ray Root, baptized May 3, 2009; Parent: Ashley Anne Root; Sponsors: Blaire Root, Emily Voreis

Name: Brandon Ben Johnson and Taylor Rae Johnson, baptized May 9, 2009; Parents: Patrick and Dana Johnson; Sponsors: Kevin and Cassandra Beardsley

Name: Alexis Jean Bender, baptized May 9, 2009; Parents: Erik Bender and Marnie Johnson; Sponsors: Deborah Wougensteen and Patrick Cullnan

Name: Carington Millie Adams, baptized May 16, 2009; Parents: Antron and Jennifer Adams; Sponsors: Anthony and Alexandra Piasecki

Name: Sawyer Larry Slonim, baptized May 23, 2009; Parents: Curt and Kelli Slonim; Sponsors: Kori Bromenshenkel and Sammy Schulz