

# HOUSE of PRAYER

## Hi-Lines March 2008

*Mission Statement:*

*A community in God called to learn ~ grow ~ support*

### March at House of Prayer

- \* March 5 and 12 - Wednesday mid-week Lenten services 6:45 p.m.
- \* March 16 - **Palm Sunday** services 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
- \* March 20 - **Maundy Thursday** services 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- \* March 21 - **Good Friday** service 7:00 p.m.
- \* March 23 - **Easter Sunday** services 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.



### Reflections and Directions

Our Lenten emphasis this year around *Living the Questions* has been interesting and challenging for me. The DVD presentations are rich and diverse.

The thoughtful way in which the differing understandings are presented is respectful and discussion-provoking. It's been challenging to focus my sermon/meditation when so many avenues are available to explore.

I hope that those of you who are taking advantage of the small group process are enjoying your times of discussion and the insights and questions that continue to arise as you wander through the course of your week. As is clear, our lives have more questions in them than answers, but hopefully we realize that we are not alone in that, having both the partnership of God and a faith community as we journey through life.

I like this poem from the *Living the Questions* materials; it is appropriate for our journey:

### Stripped by God

What would happen if I pursued God –  
If I filled my pockets with openness,  
Grabbed a thermos half full of fortitude and  
crawled into the cave of the Almighty  
Nose first, eyes peeled, heart hesitantly follow-  
ing  
Until I was face to face  
With the raw, pulsing beat of Mystery?

What if I entered and it looked different  
Than anyone had described?  
What if the cave was too large to be fully  
known,  
Far too extensive to be comprehended by one  
person or group,  
Too vast for one dogma or doctrine?

Would I shatter at the thought?  
Perish from paradox or puzzle?  
Shrink and shrivel before the power?  
Would God be diminished if I lived a question  
Rather than a statement?  
Would I lose my faith  
As I discovered the magnitude of Grace?

O, for the willingness to explore  
To leave my tiny vocabulary at the entrance  
And stand before you naked  
Stripped of pretenses and rigidity,  
Disrobed of self righteousness and tidy pack-  
ages,  
Stripped of all that holds me at a distance from  
you  
And your world.

Strip me, O God,  
Then clothe me in curiosity and courage.

Peace and courage for the journey.....Chuck

## Ministry Teams

### WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

On Sunday, February 24, many of you heard about each ministry team's vision for the coming year. For those of you who were unable to attend that event, I am including the vision for the Worship Ministry Team in this month's Hi-Lines. Visioning for the future and asking God's guidance to bring about that vision is an important part of who we are as Christians and members of House of prayer. Our vision works off the Mission Statement of House of Prayer, "*We are a community called by God to learn, grow, support*" and works off the Worship Ministry Team's Mission Statement, "*Create a God-focused worship environment.*"

As a team, we intend to focus our specific ministry during 2008-09 in the following ways:

#### LEARN

1. **About our neighbor.** As a Worship Ministry Team (WMT), we will plan and implement an alternative style/time of worship; i.e. Hispanic worship or host the Martin Luther King Day worship service with the Richfield Faith Community leaders.
2. **About ourselves.** As a WMT, we will implement training sessions for worship assistants (lectors, ushers, Communion assistants, crucifers, and liturgists).

#### GROW

1. **In our Biblical understanding.** As a WMT, we will have a seminary professor be a *pastor in residence* for the year.
2. **Our members in breadth and depth.** As a WMT, we will sponsor an adult education session helping members bring Sunday morning worship into their lives Monday through Saturday.

#### SUPPORT/SERVE

1. **Transforming worship.** As a WMT, we

will work with the Design Team to explore ways for transforming the Parish Hall into an alternative worship space for smaller services, and to design and purchase new carpet and banners for the sanctuary.

2. **Intergenerational community.** As a WMT, we will sponsor a community intergenerational event at House of Prayer that involves a worship service.

During the year, there will be other events that WMT will sponsor and support. One example will be a forum on our Lutheran Liturgy. Why are we called a "Liturgical Church?" How is our Liturgy developed? Why do we use it? What does it mean? Does it have significance for our everyday lives? All these are questions people ask and we hope to answer.

As a ministry team, we welcome all suggestions and comments. Please feel free to call Linda Lund at 651-322-1524, or e-mail: [linkdaklund@charter.net](mailto:linkdaklund@charter.net). Please keep WMT and all of House of Prayer in your prayers as we move forward.

### GREETERS NEEDED

The Greeter Team at House of Prayer is looking for some new players!

Qualifications:

- a warm smile,
- a friendly hand shake,
- and knowledge about the locations of rest rooms!

We are looking for family greeters or singles, young and old, experienced or with no experience! Volunteer for just one Sunday or for a month!

Try it... you'll like it! If someone asks you to be on the team... please say yes! It is a way to express that we are a welcoming community.

Sign up at the Information Desk, or call Mary Anne Bry at 952-469-1308.





## Anne's Anecdotes

When you receive this issue of House of Prayer's *Hi-Lines*, we will still be climbing the path to Calvary's summit. The cross

of Christ is ever before us, yet Easter's dawn is a mere blush on the horizon. The Lenten journey can be laborious, even tedious for some. For others, the moments of solemn silence in worship and the hushed tones of praise provide a needed respite from the cacophony of demands in daily life. Regardless of how you entered the Lenten journey, as the days grow longer and we yearn for the good news of Easter, it is time to pay attention to our journey of faith.

One of the ways in which I pace myself on a journey is to bring along a companion. Usually that companion is a book, even when my Beloved travels alongside. Here are the names of some of my traveling friends:

*The Secret Life of Bees*, by Sue Monk Kid. This novel, set in the heart of the civil rights conversation in the Deep South, is the story of Lily and three sisters named May, June, and August. It is a story of faith found, as well as a young girl finding voice and belonging.

*The Bookseller of Kabul*, by Asne Seierstad. This is a memoir by a Swedish journalist who spent time with Sultan Khan and his family following the fall of the Taliban. This frank, open account of life as a guest within a family gives a clear picture of the strength of life in the midst of upheaval and the quest to live an abundant life.

*Population 485: Meeting Your Neighbors One Siren at a Time*, by Michael Perry. The author is a native to New Auburn, Wisconsin. He returns home to write and to practice his profession as an emergency medical technician. The pages of this book unfold with frank reflection on life and

death and the discovery of the value of one's passion in life.

*If You Lived Here I'd Know You by Name: News from Small Town Alaska*, by Heather Lende. I picked up this book on my honeymoon in Alaska. Lende is the obituary reporter for the Haines's *Chilkat Valley News*. This is a story about community and all of the characters that make up the colors of life.

*Christianity for the Rest of Us*, by Diana Butler Bass. This book is the fourth book in a series about mainline churches that began with *The Practicing Congregation*, which our Leadership Ministry Team read and used as the foundation for our vision for the future. I was reading *Christianity for the Rest of Us* while I was interviewing with one of House of Prayer's pastors. Ultimately, this book is a prophetic voice of hope for those of us who enjoy living our civil and faith lives in the center of extremes.

As you walk the final steps to stand beneath the cross of Jesus, may you experience God's grace and strength for the journey.

Anne

P.S. ~ Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen indeed!

### BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION

The Book Club meets the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Please call Jeanne at 612-866-4895 for more information.

The books we will be discussing:

- March 6: *Zipporah, Wife of Moses*; author Marek Halter.
- April 3: *Ladder of Years*; author Anne Tyler.
- May 1: To be announced.

### VEAP

March is Minnesota FoodShare month. Grocery bags with shopping lists attached will be available at church.

## WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS BRUNCH 2007 TREMENDOUS SUCCESS

Once again, the 2007 Women's Christmas Brunch was a sold-out event. The 23 creative table hostesses and Annie's Catering made it all possible. The willing Christmas Tea preparers and charming waiters made for an even more enjoyable morning. Inspiring Christmas music was provided by the Now and Then Singers under the direction of Paul Wigley.

Thank you to all who made this brunch such a fabulous event and to Jeanne Lindstrom, who is the originator of the Christmas Tea idea.

\* *Designates chairperson*

### Hostesses

Marie Amberson	Annette Bray
Sue Burt	Erinn Danielson and Cayla Johnson
Dee Dee Edlund	Judy Holmes
Connie Ashley	Gloria Larson
Jill and Sarah Larson	Jeanne Lindstrom
Linda Lund and Tiffany Kienitz	Andrea Michalek
Pam Murphy*	Erin Persons
Michelle Picha	Jean Robbins
Shelly Sather	Karen Steenson
Gretchen Swenson	Ellen Thompson
Debbie Wessman	Terry Wickstrom
Jane Wiecher	

### Tea Preparers

Sandy Hatfield*	Sue Holton
Tiffany Kienitz	Linda Lund
Sharon Stewart	

### Photographers

Mary Markes*	Pam Ericson
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### Waiters

Bill Ashley	Paul Danielson
Gordy Holmes	Larry Markes
Wayne Swenson	Barry Wessman
Sandy Hatfield*	

### Punch

Arliss Anderson	Mary Anne Bry
Emily Femrite	Brenda Wessman*

### Seating

Erin Persons	Terry Wickstrom*
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### Tickets

Judy Ericson*	Mike Murphy
Terry Wickstrom	

### Signs/Supplies

Mike Murphy	Debbie Wessman*
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### Decorations/Setup

Jeanne Lindstrom	Pam Murphy*
Gretchen Swenson	Debbie Wessman
Terry Wickstrom	

### Check-in

Judy Ericson	Susan Markes
Jill Murphy	Erin Persons

### Door Prizes

Judy Holmes	Fall Festival Crafters
Carol Johnson*	

### Caterer

Pam Murphy*	
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### Entertainment Caterer

Shirley Moen*	
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### Facilities

Jeanne Lindstrom*	
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### Publicity

Pam Murphy	Gretchen Swenson*
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### Mistress of Ceremonies

Sandy Oleson	
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### Clean-up

Ramo Zejnilovic	
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## WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS BRUNCH COORDINATOR NEEDED

It is time to begin planning for the next Women's Christmas Brunch, an event that many look forward to from one year to the next. However, to continue this enjoyable event, a coordinator is needed. Another option is to have two coordinators working together. If this seems like a challenge, know that there are detailed notes and guidelines from the years 2005 through 2007.

If you are interested in seeing this traditional event continue and are willing to coordinate or co-coordinate the event, contact Pam Murphy at 952-894-7174.

## KNITTING CIRCLE

Knitters gather twice a month to knit prayer shawls for members of House of Prayer Lutheran Church who are experiencing the death of a loved one or dealing with a chronic or terminal illness or a difficult life passage. They are also knitted for members who are homebound. Once these individuals have been gifted, we will begin giving the shawls to others in the community. When a number of shawls have been completed, the plan is to have a blessing Sunday. The Card Ministry is supporting the prayer shawl ministry by creating cards for each shawl.

Come and join the circle of prayer and knitting.

### Knitting Circle Schedule:

#### March

March 24, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Narthex.  
March 26, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. in the church office.

#### April

April 28, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Narthex.  
April 30, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. in the church office.

**Skill levels:** beginners to proficient.

**Needle size:** 11 or 13 inch straight or circular.

**Yarn:** three or four skeins of homespun or any yarn that you like.

### Ways to support this ministry of prayer and healing:

- Knit at home.
- Purchase yarn for House of Prayer knitters.
- Bring a shawl to individuals who are homebound, ill, or grieving.
- Provide the name of an individual who needs a shawl.
- Pray for this ministry.

Contact Sandy Jenson on Wednesday afternoons in the church office or Pastor Anne at House of Prayer at 612-866-8471.

Individuals who receive prayer shawls are told:

“As you receive this prayer shawl, know that someone prayed while knitting it. Knitters often report that the rhythmic motion of the needles helps to quiet their minds and draws them to prayer and meditation. This prayer shawl has already helped one person, the knitter, to be open to the presence of God.

The knitter also prayed for the one who would receive the shawl. The knitter-prayer may not have known who would receive it. Or, this shawl may have been made especially for you, stitch by stitch with prayers for you.

The shawl is now yours. May you experience comfort and peace in the loving presence of God.”

Text by Jeanette Bakke, White Bear Lake and Lois Lindbloom, Northfield.

## Youth and Family News

On March 14 and 15, nine House of Prayer youth will be engaging in an experience that will give them a deeper understanding of the rest of the world. They have been raising funds for World Vision, and on March 14 and 15, they will go 30 hours without food, a period of time that is very common in many places. Friday morning they will eat a big breakfast and then won't eat again until Saturday afternoon. That means that they will go through an entire day of school without eating! Please pray that they will be able to resist the temptation of yummy school lunches and truly experience 30 hours of hunger.

The Mission Trip crew is going to host a garage sale at House of Prayer again this year! The date will be the same as the Richfield city-wide garage sale, which is typically the third weekend in May. We will start collecting donations either the last week of April or the first week of May, so please set aside your treasures until then! Thanks for your support!

Kristin Tranby

## Music Department Notes

### Music of the Season

It is perhaps common for many of us to think of the above title only in reference to the Christmas Season. It has long been my belief, however, that Lent/Passion Week/Easter, with all of its startling “highs and lows,” is more ripe than any other time of the Church year to music’s ability to capture the intense emotions that we experience in worship.

As you listen to - and participate in - the various hymns, anthems, and instrumental offerings, let your imagination take you to the Passion of our Christ. Note how the music, in its harmonies and rhythms as well as its text, conveys the story. For example, I’ve found that much of the music of The Passion is based on a certain “pounding” kind of rhythm – not boisterous like a rock concert or a Sousa march, but a more persistent, almost background-type sound. Is it conveying the nails pounded into the Flesh? The slow, somber march to Golgotha? It’s all in the ears of the listener.

Then, suddenly, the morning of March 23 (this year) rolls around and all Heaven breaks loose. The unbridled joy of that day comes to life so poignantly when the trumpets blast along with the organ and our voices on “Jesus Christ is Risen Today; Alleluia!!”

When you feel that emotional tug that yanks at you as you experience the music in a given service - whether it be one of melancholy reflection on Good Friday or unrelenting ecstasy two days later – I recommend you let yourself be vulnerable, be taken to a place that a typical human emotional experience (e.g., a sale at Target) cannot begin to explore.

### Thanks, “Combo”!

As you have experienced, we have been using Marty Haugen’s “Tree of Life” liturgy on Sunday mornings during Lent. Many of you have responded very positively to the use of this setting and the positive energy of those services. I

think it is safe to say that when those booklets go back on the shelf after the Season, that will not be their eternal home.

A huge part of what has made that music work so well in our services is the instrumental contributions of the “band” that has accompanied the liturgy for about half of the services. When you see Chuck Hatfield, Wes Bry, and Erinn Danielson, be sure to thank them for their generous gifts of time and talent. Having pros around like that, who are incredibly low-maintenance and do not require direction, rehearsing, etc., makes life much easier for a certain Director of Music. Thanks also to Karen Bartz, who has filled in so beautifully while Jon Kietzer basked in the Florida sun. Oh, and welcome back, Jon!

Phil Mennicke

### IMMEDIATE NEEDS AT SIMPSON HOUSING SHELTER

The following items are needed:

- Men’s and women’s hats, scarves and gloves
- Men’s and women’s long thermal underwear
- Men’s underwear, sizes 30, 32, 34 – boxers and briefs
- Women’s underwear, smaller sizes
- Men’s and women’s socks
- Deodorant
- Ten heavy men’s winter coats
- Warm heavy blankets

You have three options for getting your donations to the Simpson Shelter:

1. Bring the items to the shelter at 2740 First Avenue South, Monday through Friday from 3 to 5 p.m., and Tuesday through Sunday from 7 to 9 p.m.
2. Bring them to 2100 Pillsbury Avenue South, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
3. Drop them off at House of Prayer and label the donations “Simpson.”

### SPRING AHEAD

Remember that Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 9. Set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed.

## Administration Report

Have you been in the Fellowship Hall kitchen lately? If you haven't, you'll want to make a special trip down there and check it out! The ancient vinyl kitchen flooring had served House of Prayer well for a long time, but it has been cracking and chipping for years. The health inspectors told us it was no longer in condition to meet code, so out it went! It's been replaced with a beautiful "Plymouth rock" (gray) porcelain tile that will last a "100 years or more!"

It's hard to figure out where to start with how such a project happens at House of Prayer! The Property Team, headed by Dave Henrickson, started by researching flooring options and looking for a quality installer. The Fall Festival (chaired by Leslie Ellefson in recent years) designated its profits from the past three years (about \$10,000), and people had been giving money for years to a dedicated fund to support kitchen improvements (about \$4,000).

The project was just starting to get off the ground when some people were recruited by the Support Ministry Team to serve as an Interior Design Team (IDT). The IDT also joined the Property Team during the early stages of the library project. The IDT is working to help House of Prayer have a coordinated, deliberate process to help our church look good while maintaining the importance of function. Watch for an article about this new team in the April Hi-Lines.

What about the worker bee part, you ask? Of course! Property Team member and frequent volunteer, Gordy Holmes, was designated as project coordinator. It just happens that he has a neighbor that does *excellent* flooring work AND gave us a great deal on the cost. And *of course* there were others who, especially in the early and late stages, did all kinds of work to save House of Prayer a lot of money. Andy Henrickson, Gil Frosig, Gordy, Jim Anderson, Larry Markes and Ramo removed the old tile, figured creative ways to move stoves and counters, designed ways to raise the dishwasher up enough to lay tiles, did plumbing work, removed the wood cabinet and counter, cleaned

the back of the stove (Hey! It's easier when it's in the middle of the room!), caulked the coving top, sealed the grout, etc.

Check it out! We have a very nice, functional kitchen. Not only do we have a very good floor, but the walls are freshly painted, and a very thorough cleaning has been completed. As of press time, the IDT is continuing its collaboration with groups of kitchen users to determine ways to bring storage room shelving up to code and possibly to replace the wooden cabinets. As you can imagine, both technology and storage ideas have changed some since the kitchen was originally designed.

Thanks to everyone who's been involved in getting this much-needed project done!

Jon Oleson, Director of Administration

## Children's Ministries

### **MUSIC SCHOOL**

The Cherubs will sing for the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Palm Sunday, March 16. The Choristers will sing for the 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday service on March 20. Cherubs and Choristers will meet at the church on Saturday, March 22, at 10:30 a.m. to go Easter caroling and return to church for an Easter egg hunt. The Cherubs and Choristers will sing for the 10:30 a.m. Easter worship service on April 23. There will be no Music School on Wednesday, March 26.

### **FIRST COMMUNION**

The Fifth Graders are preparing for their First Communion on Maundy Thursday, March 20, at 7:00 p.m. This will be preceded by the Seder meal for families and their guests at 5:30 p.m. The Fifth Graders will also be baking bread for the Palm Sunday service during the Sunday School time. They are also making a symbol for the chasuble to be worn by the celebrant. Participating in the First Communion instruction are:

Mathew Dorow  
Emily Higgins  
Ashley Kiehl  
Chloe Wright

Ashley Ellefson  
Natalie Higgins  
Ryan Sjostrand

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SUNDAY WORSHIP: **8:30 & 10:30 a.m.**

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

## Milestones

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

<u>Couples</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Years</u>
Jay and Vicky Barrett	March 9	35 years

### BAPTISMS:

**Brandon Derek Zarn** was born December 5, 2007, and baptized on February 10, 2008. His parents are Leah Zarn and Matthew Lunneborg. His sponsors are Kristin McShane and Derek Zarn.

### FUNERALS

<u>Deceased</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Funeral</u>
Syrena Shelberg	January 24	January 30
Mary Roed	January 25	January 29
Renee Finseth	February 5	February 9

## PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Pictorial directories will arrive at House of Prayer about March 17. Everyone who had pictures taken will receive a directory. Directories may be picked up at the church office on Sunday mornings. Additional copies will be available for those who were unable to have their picture taken for the directory.

The Communications Team wants your input for the House of Prayer website content. Place your suggestions in the Hi-Lines mailbox or e-mail your suggestions to [sjmackenzie89@msn.com](mailto:sjmackenzie89@msn.com). Thank you. Sandra MacKenzie, Communication Team Chairperson.