

# HOUSE of PRAYER

## Hi-Lines June 2011



*Mission Statement:*

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

### June at House of Prayer

Richfield Towers Ladies tea	June 5
Pentecost Sunday "Wear Red"	June 12
HOP Annual Meeting & BBQ	June 12



### Anne's Anecdotes

As the TMT  
(Transformational  
Ministry Team)  
gathered for their  
May 16th meeting ,  
we went around the

table to update each other on our various projects. Kim Houle shared an incredible story about receiving hospitality from a stranger. Kim and her son, Joe, were at Menards to purchase the lumber and supplies needed to build the two raised beds for our community garden. Their mini-van was nearly full and weighed down. Kim took a look at her van and thought, "if I just drive slowly, I can make it." As they loaded the final pieces of lumber, a stranger walked up to them and said, "where are you going? That load's too heavy for your van." Kim replied, "Not far. I'll drive real slow. It will be fine." The stranger shook his head, "Here, let me load my truck up with these supplies, and I'll deliver it for you." Together, Kim, Joe, and the stranger, transferred  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the lumber and supplies into the stranger's van and then headed out to House of Prayer. During the drive, Joe kept looking over his shoulder to see if the man, his truck, and the newly purchased lumber were still driving behind. Indeed, the stranger, his truck, and the newly purchased lumber stayed in Kim's rearview mirror all the way from Menard's to House of Prayer. Together, they moved the lumber from their vehicles to the staked out garden plots. The stranger carried the long side

boards two at time. The lumber and supplies were unloaded in short order. As Kim and Joe said good-bye to this helpful stranger, Kim asked him, "So, where do you live?" She wanted to get his address to send him a thank you. He replied, "Oh, I'm just in town visiting a friend, I came down to build a deck for him this weekend."

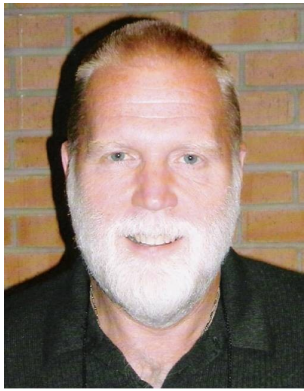
As Kim shared this story at the meeting, goose-bumps formed.. God's Word tells us many, many times to care for the stranger. We talk about this at worship, in our prayers, in Bible study, and we hear the call to "welcome the stranger" in sermons. Our vocation as God's church is to meet the needs of the strangers we meet. For according to the Book of Hebrews we may be "entertaining angels unaware." Yet in this story, Kim, Joe, and House of Prayer's community garden, were welcomed by a stranger. Not only were they welcomed. but he gifted them with transportation, the strength of his back, and concern for Kim's van. This was a stranger, angel (?), caring for Kim and Joe.

One of the gifts of this story for me is that Kim and Joe took a chance to trust someone they did not know, someone with the ability to literally run off with "their goods" which they placed in his care. We hear about "stranger danger" so often in our world today. It is good to be able to share a story of "stranger kindness." This man's random act of compassion is a part of the story of House of Prayer's community garden, and it is only one of the stories of generosity that surround this new mission of our congregation.

Thank Kim for letting me share this story. Thank you to all of you who are building the garden, lending a hand, share your "master-gardening" wisdom, and becoming the "Garden Board." May this garden of generous spirit and the fruits of God's earth truly reach out into Richfield as a sign of God's kingdom among us.

*Spirit-led into God's gracious present and future!*

*Anne*



## Reflections and Directions

Our Annual Meeting and Congregational BBQ are scheduled for June 12, which is also Pentecost Sunday so wear **“Red”**.

The Service will be at

9:30am as usual; the Annual Meeting will follow the service and then the BBQ.....Ribs, Chicken and all the fixin’s. It should prove to be a grand day! Please put it on your calendar.

I don’t know about ya’ll, but I’m having fun this spring. I love cleaning up the yard and gardens. I love anticipating the new growth with our roses in our perennial garden, which we have been slowly expanding over the last few years. Both Sandy and I savor the time we work in our yard and sitting on our deck. We love watching the birds at our feeding stations as the colors around us explode. It reminds us that our God is not one dimensional, but is always at work in the world supporting on-going creation in and all around us. With the advance of time every day, there is so much to behold. That is good and empowering as well.

This spring has also brought with it the way of life that can keep us off balance. In a two-week stretch we did “Celebration of Life” services for five families; the families of Doris Erikson, Stan Senness, Carolyn Frederick, Stan Tolzin and Millie Youngquist, and shortly before those, the family of Warren Anondson. I am at the point in my time at House of Prayer where this takes a personal toll on me like it does the families and our entire community of faith.

Death is as natural as life, we all know that. But even though aging and disease prepare us for dying, we are really never prepared for the loss of relationship that death brings. It is then that we turn to the creative God in and around us asking for help. Help with the emotions we have, help

with our shock, help with understanding, help with comfort and strength, help for this day and then the next, and help to find peace. God is there, in the midst of it all .....with us.

So, I’m continually amazed at how God, the sacred force that brought it all into beginning, remains faithful to us...helping us grow in all things, the sublime and the painful act of living in the face of dying. I’ve been doing ministry now for 40 years. I’m still in awe of how the “Sacred” finds ways to be with us. Surprise and love....what a legacy from the one who brought us into being!

Peace.....Chuck

**2011**

### **Congregational Annual Meeting & Celebration BBQ**

★ ★**Sunday, June 12, 2011**★ ★

- The Annual Meeting will follow the morning worship service. Celebration BBQ follows the Annual Meeting. (Information about sale of tickets can be found in the Sunday Community News.)
- Hear the good news of how God is calling House of Prayer to live out it’s vocation as a *house of prayer for all peoples* (Isaiah 56:8).
- Witness team leaders share the work of their ministry teams and consider how you can deepen your engagement with God’s work in our neighborhood and world.
- Participate in the election of a new congregational president, and team leaders for the Evangelism Team and Outreach Team.
- Receive an update on the pastoral transition and news about Pastor Chuck’s retirement.

## Worship Ministry Team

### Wednesday Evening Summer Worship

*Out of town over the weekend? Need a little Holy Spirit "pick-me-up" during the middle of the week? Want to do a small service project with friends?*

Come to Wednesday Evening Summer Worship & Service. We will have a worship service (music will be a mix of contemporary, global, and traditional) with Holy Communion. We will gather on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. starting June 1, and continue throughout the summer. After the worship service, all will be invited to work together on a service project.

Contact the following people at the church office or through email for more information: Phil Mennicke, Pastor Anne, Kristin Tranby, Pastor Chuck, and Dan Nelson.

### "Faithful Giving is a Part of Faithful Living"

There many ways I can faithfully give back to God in response to God's sacrifice and love for me. Faithful giving can be more than giving my money. It can be giving of my time and talents to make this world a better place.

One important way for me to give back faithfully to God is to be a volunteer at an organization



called Cornerstone. Cornerstone is a 27-year-old agency providing domestic abuse protection for adults and children. Their philosophy is stated in their brochure:

"We are committed to creating a society in which violence in families and relationships no longer exists. The use of violence is a choice; domestic violence is a crime. All community members have a responsibility to confront the roots of violence and eliminate oppression.."

All community members means you and me. I believe that through my involvement with this agency, I can make a difference for one family or one child. I can begin to answer God's call to do God's work with MY hands.



If you would like to learn more about Cornerstone please visit the display table by the Information desk in the Narthex or talk with me directly.

—Gretchen Swenson

### EVANGELISM MINISTRY TEAM

#### Ladies' Tea at the Richfield Towers



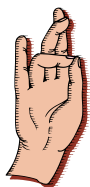
The Evangelism Ministry Team will be hosting a Sunday Ladies' Tea at the Richfield Towers on Sunday, June 5 at 2PM. If you would like to participate in this ministry, please contact Shirley Moen.

## Children, Youth and Family Ministry

Check out these opportunities to be part of the fun at HOP this summer!

### “Goodbye School, Hello Summer!” Celebration—Sunday, June 12

School’s out for summer! All youth and children are invited to bring something that reminds them of summer to worship on June 12. Bring a soccer ball if you’ll be playing soccer this summer, bring a book if you want to read (for fun!), bring a life jacket if you’ll be spending the summer at the cabin. We’ll have a special blessing for summer as a part of the service. This is not intended to be a “Good-bye, see you in the Fall” kind of a blessing, but rather an intentional way of connecting our lives outside of worship with our lives within worship! House of Prayer will continue to offer worship for ALL AGES throughout the summer!



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### Summer CLICK events, for grades 3-5 (incoming third graders are welcome!)

**Watch your mailboxes for more info  
coming soon!**

**Thursday, June 23** : Grand Slam

**Thursday, July 21** : Park Clean-Up and Pizza!

**Thursday, August 25:** Feed My Starving Children

### Summer youth events, grades 6-12 (incoming sixth graders are welcome!)

**Weekend at Luther Park!** Join us as we head up to Luther Park for a work weekend, to help get the camp ready for summer. We’ll leave House of Prayer at 2:00 on Thursday, June 16 and we’ll return by 8:00 on Friday, June 17.

**ELCA Day at Valleyfair!** June 20. Cost is just \$20—Grab a permission form on the youth bulletin board and hand it in to Kristin or Dan by June 15!

### Summer Stretch : Mondays from 9:30—2:30 June 13 and 27, July 11 and 18

Service project in the morning,  
activity in the afternoon —  
bring a bag lunch!

Included (but not limited to) : Working in the Community Garden, Habitat for Humanity, ARC, collecting food for VEAP, playing softball, going to Kristin’s house, Cascade Bay, Centennial Lakes... and MORE!

**Registrations are required. Cost is \$30 (for all four weeks!)**

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**Mark your calendars!**

## Ice Cream Social and Concert on our hill!

*In celebration of our neighborhood and new 76<sup>th</sup> Street!*

Monday, July 25, 2011

At 7:00pm in the lower parking lot of House of Prayer

Featuring the Northern Winds

Sponsored by the Evangelism Ministry Team  
Bring a friend and a lawn chair



# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

August 8-12



## PandaMania

**A Wild Celebration of God's Love!**

**SIGN UP** your kids, grandkids, neighbors, friends, relatives – AND yourself!! VBS is fun for all ages! You can register online on the Children's Ministry page at [www.house-of-prayer.com](http://www.house-of-prayer.com) or by picking up a paper registration in the office. Children ages 3 through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade can register, and anyone in Grade 6 and older can help! VBS starts daily at 5:30 p.m. for dinner, then meets 6 - 8:30 p.m. **Register for FREE VBS by July 24!**

**You can still help financially!** Drop a check in the offering plate, or in the office. Stop by the donation table in the Narthex and add a Panda Paw Print to the wall! For only \$40, you can sponsor the entire cost of each child for the week.

**Meet the Bible Buddies:** Here's a quick intro to the friends that will light up the week!!

I'm Fez!



God Made You!

I'm Amanda!



God Listens to You!

I'm Boomer!



God Watches Over You!

I'm Pogo!



God Loves You, No Matter What!

I'm LuLu!

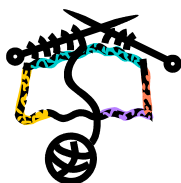


God Gives Good Gifts

For questions, contact the PandaMania Crew Leaders: Kristin Tranby, Stef Fiser, Heather Daggett, Cindy Jacobs, Laura Konicek, Beth Lankey, Heidi Thomas, Andrea Puterbaugh, or Cara Wright.

### Prayer Shawl Circles

We will gather during June on Monday, June 27 at 6:30pm and on Wednesday, June 29 at 2:00pm. We will make plans for craft items for the 2011 Fall Festival, so please bring patterns and ideas. Pastor Anne will also have a few skeins of homespun yarn to make mittens, hats, or scarves for the Festival. She will also share information about a CSA available for yarn from local fiber farmers. There will



### Community Garden

House of Prayer has a Community Garden! *Have you seen it?* With funds from a SHIP grant from Hennepin County, we have two raised bed gardens, to accommodate six plots of 5' x 10' each. They are located on the west side of the Education Wing. We still have two plots available -- so if you would like to raise your own herbs or vegetables please contact Kim Houle at (612) 869-2481.



## Music Department Notes

### A GREAT YEAR OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP!

As the 2011 program year draws to a close, we look back at yet another amazing season of worship and music at House of Prayer. All of the ensembles did their usual stellar job in leading our community in song.

When this is published, the Hand bell Choir will have celebrated their 30-year anniversary, leading worship on May 22, with a reception following that service. What an exciting day, and a great way to commemorate 30 years of exciting bell music. Jon Kietzer created this ensemble, all that time ago! Please give a special word of thanks and congratulations to members of this group, both past and present, for providing their unique style of music ministry throughout the years. MANY thanks to the people who have contributed funds so that the hand bells can be refurbished. Our bells are valuable instruments in need of cleaning and repair. Even though May 22 has come and gone, we are still more than happy to accept additional contributions to this great cause, if you are so inspired!

Thanks and congratulations to all other House of Prayer ensembles. To the numerous people who have provided solo or small group music to enrich our worship during this past program year, thanks to you as well.

As we enter the summer months, there will be opportunities for individuals to provide musical leadership during the Sunday morning and Wednesday Evening worship service. The “regular” ensembles will be taking a much-deserved hiatus from weekly rehearsals and worship leadership. So, anyone and everyone is welcome to throw their hat into the ring. If you are interested in providing music for a worship service in the summer (whether as a soloist or with a small group), please be in touch with Phil Mennicke and we’ll get you involved. We want you! Thanks again to all for a great year!

## The Heritage Team Remembers

### 55 Years Ago: Record Bible School

**Enrollment.** Not only did the mercury in the thermometer rise to new heights this past week but so did the enrollment for our Daily Vacation Bible School. 477 were enrolled as of the first day of Bible School this past Monday. Attendance has averaged well over 400 each day this past week. The second week of Bible School will begin this coming Monday, June 18, at 9:00 a.m. Theme for the two-week Bible School is “When Children Pray”. Beautiful workbooks and attractive handcraft projects make the weeks delightful for the children. As a mission project the children are gathering canned goods for the Zion Society Children’s Camp near Anoka. Each child is asked to bring some kind of canned fruit or vegetable. *(From House of Prayer Hi-Lines, Volume III, June 13, 1956)*



### 50 Years Ago: Preliminary Plans For Our New Church Approved.

At the special meeting of the congregation held on Thursday, June 1, the preliminary plans for our new House Of Prayer sanctuary were approved by unanimous vote. The resolution adopted was: “Be it resolved: that we approve the preliminary plans submitted by our architects, Cerny Associates, and hereby authorize our Board of Trustees to proceed with the working drawings, submit them for bid, and arrange for financing to carry out the building program.” The architect’s suggested schedule is that the working drawings be ready by August 15 and submitted for bid at that time with the opening of bids to take place on September 15. Prayerfully let us follow our building plans and program through these important days. A beautiful colored drawing of the exterior of the new church is hanging in the narthex. *(From Hi-Lines, June 7, 1961)*

**40 Years Ago: On TV!** Plan to come to the Hearth Room this Sunday either after the first Service or before the second. The New Lutheran Holy Communion Service was taped by a group of 25 people from House of Prayer for WTCN-TV, Channel 11, and will be shown this Sunday at 10 a.m. for one half hour. TV sets will be placed in the Hearth Room. *(From Hi-Lines, June 14, 1971)*

**35 Years Ago: The New Bus** purchase was approved by the congregation at the special meeting last Sunday, June 13. It was ordered by our Church Board this past week and delivery can be expected in mid July. Gifts continue to be received and are at \$12,000. Total cost for the bus is \$18,000. Thanks to the many who have been so generous. We still need an additional \$6,000 and encourage your gifts. *(From Sunday Worship bulletin, June 2, 1976)*

**30 Years Ago: House of Prayer Sunday Nursery News:** Parents of children who use the nursery on Sunday morning met May 20<sup>th</sup>. Our present calendar will remain as is through August. Sandy Williams will be the new nursery coordinator. A committee has been established to further modernize our nursery and change the format for the fall. Committee members include Sandy Hatfield, Sandy Williams, Mary Markes, Diane Anderson, Mary Jane Haschig and Pam Murphy. Our nursery is growing by leaps and bounds, and we are in need of extra loving hands to help. Teens, young married, single adults, parents whose children have outgrown the nursery, and senior citizens, if you are interested in helping, call the church at 866-8471 or Sandy Williams at 724-7009. *(From Hi-Lines, June 3, 1981)*

**30 Years Ago: The Ducks** were ushered out of the courtyard last week. They needed more water and more room. Did you see them pictured in the SUN last week? *(From Hi-Lines, June 17, 1981)*

**15 Years Ago: Prayers and sympathy to the family of Pastor Richard Bingea**, the founding pastor of House of Prayer, who died in Seattle

on May 16, 1996. Pastor McKinley conducted the memorial service at House of Prayer on May 22, 1996. *(From Hi-Lines, June 1996)*

**10 Years Ago: Scott Stai Ordination Set For June 10.** Scott Stai, who has served as a member of the House of Prayer staff for the last four years, three of those years as Director of Youth and Family Ministry and one as our intern, will be ordained at House of Prayer on Sunday, June 10, at 4:30 p.m. A reception will follow the service. Scott has been called to serve as pastor of Hope Lutheran Church of Oulu, Wisconsin, where he will begin his service on July 1. Scott and Tia, Jacob and Matthew will be making their new home in Brule, Wisconsin. *(From Hi-Lines, June 2001)*

**10 Years Ago: VEAP extends its sincerest thanks to House of Prayer Church** for the generosity and enthusiasm that was displayed during our recent Shopping Bag/List Campaign. The food items targeted were the most necessary essentials during the summer months when school is out and the possibility of children going hungry is the greatest. We had hoped for 500 pounds of food. We received donations of over 1,500 pounds that have been added to the VEAP food shelf. A special thanks to Willard Stevens who acted as our courier to see that the food was transported to VEAP. *(From Worship Service bulletin, June 3, 2001)*

**5 Years Ago: Interim Hi-Lines Editor Resigns.** It's time for me to heed some advice my parents used to give: don't burn the candle from both ends. This is therefore my last issue as interim editor of the Hi-Lines. It's been a great opportunity to get to know more about House of Prayer and its wonderful people. Whoever steps forward will have two great colleagues in Kristin Jessen (who does the "lay out" of the paper), takes pictures, and writes some articles. Pam Murphy is very competent and diligent in checking spelling, names and all kinds of other details for accuracy. So step right up! Offer to take charge or be a feature writer! Don't be shy or MN humble!! The Hi-Lines is an important part of House of Prayer! — Jon Oleson, Interim Editor. *(From Hi-Lines, June 2006)*

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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

SUNDAY WORSHIP: **9:30 a.m.**  
WEDNESDAY WORSHIP: **6:30 p.m.**

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The Hi-Lines is published monthly by House of Prayer volunteers.

<b>Milestones</b>
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**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

<u>Couples</u>	<u>Date</u>
Arvid Nielson and Pastor Anne Hokenstad	6/03/2006
Chuck and Sandy Hatfield	6/12/1971
Richard and Janice Kiehl	6/16/1956
Bret and Carrie Brookins	6/16/2001
Don and Antoinette Tuffley	6/17/1961
Rick and Barb Smith	6/26/1981
Don and Dorothy Wiecher	6/30/1951
Trumen and Marvel Holland	6/30/1956

**BAPTISMS**

**Evelyn Lucille Murphy** on May 15th.  
Parents; Jill and Shaun Murphy. Sponsors: Erin  
and Kevin Persons, Grandparents; Gary and  
Linda Hargreaves; Mike and Pam Murphy.

**FUNERALS**

<u>Deceased</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Funeral</u>
Mildred "Millie" Youngquist		May 6, 2011

**WEDDING**

Satta Majorie Fogbawa and  
Glen Edward Sheka, Jr.                      May 14, 2011