

# Suamico United Methodist Church

## February/March 2009 Newsletter

### **Missions**

Our Missionary, Paul Webster from Mujila Falls, Zambia writes:

"The economic crisis that hit the world, also hit Zambia. Fertilizer went from \$600 per ton last yr, to \$1300 per ton this planting season. Diesel fuel jumped to over \$11 per gallon.

Our own project at Mujila Falls is very adversely affected by the price of fuel, fertilizer, feed and cement, as we must haul everything to our site from over 500 km away. The price of soybeans & corn also skyrocketed & we are forced to liquidate our chicken layer project and greatly reduce the number of pigs. We are hoping to keep our 35 head of cattle and 30 goats & 8 donkeys as they can graze through the rainy season.

We are beginning to harvest our first crop of plantations (a new fruit that cooks like a banana & contains much starch, vitamins & minerals.) I managed to find a foundry here in Kitwe, which can rebuild the RAM pump that I received as payment for doing a wedding. The RAM pump can pump water continuously day and night 365 days per yr w/o electricity or fuel. This has become a high priority for completion in the next 6 mo. It will take a lot of cement & skill, which I hope a VIM team from WI may help with in Feb.

Our greatest problem at the moment is getting our Toyota Landcruiser & our 4-ton truck working again. Your prayers for their successful repair are requested. Our greatest hope is the Conference or individual churches will help us with the \$50,000 it will take to buy a new Toyota Landcruiser to replace our nearly 15 yr old vehicle. I have commitments from WI & Minn. Conf. for a portion of the cost, but I need others to fill the gap.

I want to take the time to thank everyone & every congregation who have been praying for us and assisting us over the past years. It is through your faithfulness that we can continue to feed an orphan, sponsor the Mama Roxanne Day Care Center, build & assist local United Methodist Churches and so many other sustainable works with the people of the Mujila Falls area."

If you can help Paul in his very worthy projects, make check out to SUMC w/ Advance Special # 3640 written on it.

Thank you, Your Mission Committee

### **Adult Fellowship**

Monday April 13, 2009 at Townline Bar  
Meet at 6:00 order off the menu at 6:30

### **United Methodist Women**

New in 2009, is the fact that most of our UMW Meetings will be at 10:00 am. Our March meeting will be on Tues the 10th in Fellowship Hall. The Annual Call to Prayer & Self-Denial Celebration will be led by Pat Denissen, and Kay Waugh is the Hostess. All women of the church are invited to attend.

A statewide event will take place on Saturday, March 21st. It is a Social Action Day at Madison 1st UMC Call Pat at 434-1168 for more information on attending.

Ladies, Please mark your calendars for our Ecumenical Brunch on Tues morning April 7th. Our guest speaker will be Betsy Johnson, who has just returned from a mission trip to Israel.

As president of United Methodist Women I would like to thank all the ladies of our church for the support they have shown us by giving baked goods for the booyah days and mittens& things for the shelters.

Here are some of the things we support in the name of UMW:

Money for:

Unit pledge to mission

School of Christian Mission

Midwest Distribution Center

Prayer & Self denial

World Thank Offering

Special mission recognition honors for individuals

Gift in memory of friends & loved ones

Special gifts to missions

Northcott Neighborhood in Milwaukee

Missionary Paul Webster in Kative, Zambia

Out youth group for sponsoring a local family at Christmas

Our church debt reduction

We also collected food & personal items for the "Giving Tree"

Donated hats, mittens, scarfs, and socks to local shelters

Offer scholarship for school of Christian Mission

Baked 30 dozen cookies for the Seafarers Mission

Held an ecumenical breakfast for surrounding communities

These are all missions in our church, our community regional or global.

So at our next booyah when you pick out a piece of pie or some other baked item you can feel proud that you are supporting these missions.

We will be baking for the next booyah

Thanks again to all,  
Donna Schneider

## **Book Club**

Book club read for March

Drums, Girls & Dangerous Pie

by: Jordan Sonnenblick

Available at the library including paperback and on CD

We'll be reading the book during the month of February and to meet at Fellowship Hall at 6:00p.m. on 8th March (which is off or our usual first Sunday gathering due to the shortness of February)

Please, come join us!  
And perhaps we shall eat pie

## **Education News**

Our Sunday School Children have been trying to help change the lives of the hungry for 2 years now. We have been collecting our offering and we are planning on donating it to the Heifer International Organization.

Since 1944 Heifer International been helping churches obey biblical principals to "share your bread with the hungry." Across the globe, Heifer provides hungry families a practical way to alter their conditions. Ducks or water buffalo, rabbits, bees, llamas or goats- whatever helps raise

families from poverty and despair, to hope and prosperity. Heifer provides livestock and training for families. A family receiving a dairy goat and training in its care passes on one or more of its animals' off spring to another family in the village through a passing ceremony. Then, that family does like wise. And so on for years to come.

Please help the children to remember there offering. In May we will let the children vote on which animals they would like to purchase. Some examples of cost are: Goat \$120. Llama \$150, Water Buffalo, \$250, Bees \$30, Duck and Geese \$20, Chicks \$20, Rabbits \$60. Etc. So far we can purchase a goat & a llama. Let's fill the Ark. Thank you for all your support to the Sunday School program. God Bless, Connie & Jean

### **Seasoned Seniors**

March 5 at 11:00 am

"Wearing of the Irish Green"

Jim and Alice Byrnes will provide an Irish meal featuring their Beef Shepherds Pie, along with a program on their Irish heritage.

### **SUMC Youth Group**

The SUMC Youth Group will meet every Wednesday at the church from 6:30-7:30 pm (unless otherwise specified). Our Group is open to Youth grades seven to twelve from all schools, all churches, all faiths, all genders, and all areas. No one is excluded. If you know of a Youth that would like to join us, please have them call Dominic and Niki Petit at 434-9998 or stop by on a Wednesday night.

### **Church Family News**

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Martha Appelget, Verna Ostrenga, Lois Rehn, Zerlina Valentine, Nels & Edna Hansen, Gordon Olson, Our college students (Lindsay Deuster, Stephanie Hahn, Danielle Johnson, Alex Johnson, Tim Klossner, Tyler Longsine, Lucas Molina, Aaron Rusch, Sarah Wengerter, Adam Wright)

Health Concerns

Ray Bramschrieber, Judy Longsine

Nursing Home Residents

Ione Poljack, Phyllis Lewis,

Those who are Traveling

In Memoriam

We extend our sympathies to the family of Myrtle McGraw who passed away February 14.

### **Marriage Encounter Weekend**

Looking for a weekend away, just for the two of you?

A Marriage Encounter Weekend offers you this experience. It's a time to renew your relationship, away from the everyday distraction of life. It's an opportunity to strengthen your communication and promote greater intimacy in your life together. You don't need a Marriage Encounter Weekend, but you deserve one. "Discover Each Other Again", More deeply, honestly, and warmly.

The winter schedule offers you a choice of either Feb 20-22 or March 21-22 to attend a weekend. Both are being held at The Norbertine Center for Spirituality in DePere, WI.

For more information and to obtain an informational brochure, contact Sue &

Dennkis Amtmann 920-544-5166 or visit the website at [www.gbmc.org](http://www.gbmc.org)  
<<http://www.gbmc.org>>

### **A Message from Bishop Linda Lee**

"Therefore, do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself." (Matthew 6:34a)

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Thank you for your faithfulness to God and your generosity in giving to God and to God's Church in the Wisconsin Conference and beyond, during these challenging economic times.

I have heard of a number of concerns and fears about some of the things you and we are facing as individuals, congregations, families and as entire communities as a result of the current economic crisis.

I wish to offer you words of encouragement and to share with you that I am in ongoing conversation with our Conference Leadership to determine what is our 'Plan B' and 'Plan C,' if needed to ensure that we continue to support our congregations in mission and ministry in the short term and over the long term.

At the conference level, our budget has increased less over the last quadrennium than the average increase of our local congregations. Our Boards and Agencies have decreased their spending when asked and are now preparing at least two budget scenarios as we prepare our 2010 Budget.

We are looking at staffing configurations and programming and praying for God's guidance throughout it all.

Know that we are praying with you and for you as well.

We are in this together. But we are NOT alone.

God is with us.

Because Jesus reminds us in the gospel of John, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." (John 14: 27)

God continue to bless you.

In Christ's Spirit and Peace,  
Bishop Linda Lee

### **Ministry Plan for Suamico UMC**

Mission Statement: "With Christ first let us covenant together to build passion within and reach out beyond ourselves into the community." (Feb.2006)

We have been in the process of naming and claiming who we are to be in this place for God.

We began with the development of our mission statement in 2006. In 2007, we took a congregational assessment as our guide for improvement toward how to offer Christ more effectively within and beyond our walls.

In 2008, we completed the Assessment from conference in council and SPRC. We used it as a

tool to further clarify our understanding of this congregation's mission statement. From Sept. 2008 through Feb. 2009, the Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations has been the focus of worship and the Sunday school class time.

For this planning session, letters were sent to the membership/friends households. The invitation was to attend a meeting Feb. 1 after worship to develop a ministry plan, utilizing the Five Practices as a tool for forming small discussion groups. Attendees were asked to read in advance representative stories from each of the five areas and identify the one that 'spoke' to them.

The result of their time together in small groups, larger group discussion, and with prayerful attention resulted in the following plan for the next two years. The three areas that were developed are an interweaving of the Five Practices and our mission statement.

### PASSIONATE WORSHIP

Goal: Recognizing that Worship is a verb where we come to grow and give ourselves in ways that glorify God, we want to grow to become a more passionately-involved congregation.

Strategy: 2009

Establish a Worship Enhancement Team to:

- \* Coordinate/ integrate components of worship to build unified energy around worship
- \* Build on the message, music, and coordination of worship
- \* Manage separate areas of worship within this group
- \* Meet on a regular basis to set service ideas into motion

Outcome:

The new worship team will be in place and functioning by August, in time for Advent 2009

Responsible:

Pastor

Music Directors

Sanctuary Service team: Altar Guild; Communion Steward; Dress the church for worship

Head Usher

Acolyte Program

Media Rep

Liturgist Coordinator

Worship enhancement: Adding to specific services: dramas, creative affects

2010:

Assessment of 2009 goals:

- \* Reviewing growth in active participants in worship...spiritually as well as in participation.
- \* One-day retreats for those involved with the worship team.
- \* Discussion with circuit for sharing support for each other's retreat times

### RADICAL HOSPITALITY

Goal: To increase hospitality already offered in three areas: Visitors, welcoming atmosphere of the facility and invitational outreach.

Strategy: 2009 Make Signs that are User Friendly.

- a. In Fellowship Hall and Education wing  
Visible signage to direct guests 'at a glance'
- b. In main church building  
Direct people to fellowship hall for restrooms  
Restroom in basement (use at your own risk)
- c. Signage at Booyah with worship service times when/ where
- d. Visibility of property signage
- e. Uniform signage

Outcome: To have inside signs made and in place in 2009

To have outside signage replaced by 2010

## EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY

Goal: To learn together what it means to be stewards of our time, talents, treasure  
Sacrificial gifts and actions

Representing Christ wherever we are.

Strategy: 2009

- \* Provide a visual representation of community service that our church members do
  - \* To encourage people to be more active in this community
    - Encourages further growth and involvement in community outreach
    - List service areas that are being performed
    - Expresses how we show Jesus' love to the community
  - \* Start with training for stewardship committee on how to be a giving person/congregation
  - \* Expand it to congregation
  - \* Incorporate our time, talent, and treasure into our passionate worship
- 2010: Adopt a project for SUMC to 'own' as its project to routinely participate in and/or give to as a Super Mission Project.

## Kids Korner

Facts about St. Patrick's Day Holiday

- \* St. Patrick's Day is observed on March 17 because that is the feast day of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. It is believed that he died on March 17 in the year 461 AD. It is also a worldwide celebration of Irish culture and history. St. Patrick's Day is a national holiday in Ireland, and a provincial holiday in the Canadian province of Newfoundland and Labrador.
- \* In Ireland on St. Patrick's Day, people traditionally wear a small bunch of shamrocks on their jackets or caps. Children wear orange, white and green badges, and women and girls wear green ribbons in their hair.
- \* Many cities have a St. Patrick's Day parade. Dublin, the capital of Ireland, has a huge St. Patrick's Day festival from March 15-19, that features a parade, family carnivals, treasure hunt, dance, theatre and more.

\* Facts about Saint Patrick

- \* St. Patrick was born in 385 AD somewhere along the west coast of Britain, possibly in the Welsh town of Banwen. At age 16, he was captured and sold into slavery to a sheep farmer. He escaped when he was 22 and spent the next 12 years in a monastery. In his 30s he returned to Ireland as a Christian missionary. He died at Saul in 461 AD and is buried at Downpatrick.

\* Facts about the Irish

- \* 34 million Americans have Irish ancestry, according to the 2003 US Census. That's almost nine times the population of Ireland, which has 4.1 million people.
- \* The harp is the symbol of Ireland. The color green is also commonly associated with Ireland, also known as "the Emerald Isle."
- \* The Irish flag is green, white and orange. The green symbolizes the people of the south, and orange, the people of the north. White represents the peace that brings them together as a nation.
- \* The name "lephrechaun" has several origins. It could be from the Irish Gaelic word "leipreachan," which means "a kind of aqueous sprite." Or, it could be from "leath bhrogan," which means "shoemaker."
- \* Facts about Clovers
- \* According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the highest number of leaves found on a clover is 14!
- \* One estimate suggests that there are about 10 000 regular three-leaf clovers for every lucky four-leaf clover.
- \* Legend says that each leaf of the clover means something: the first is for hope, the second for faith, the third for love and the fourth for luck.

St. Patrick's Day Word Search

See if you can find the following words

CLOVER, EMERALD, GREEN, HARP, IRELAND, ISLE, LEPHRECHAN, MARCH, ORANGE,  
PATRICK, POTOFGOLD, RAINBOW, SAINT, SEVENTEENTH

BRZKWERPTMHR LKW  
ZVYISAGNVZIELNH  
NXHVISINHVNVMBI  
MRUNSAHRAASODOR  
WEBWSDTPHRYLSDE  
AOVHVMNCAEOCBML  
WMARCHECYTEZBWA  
GRCFXREIDZRVOXN  
PRVDHGTSEFUIATD  
CDEPCRN LGHXLCMD  
BCEELZEETYPSEKA  
LLHONOVUJD T T CLT  
LIYWJZEXGSUJNDZ  
OVTQKESDLAREMEG  
POTOFGOLDWMTLSX

### **Snow Removal Instructions**

Snow should be removed before the first Sunday morning service. If it snows during the week, efforts should be made to remove snow from at least the Fellowship Hall entrance to the back door of the church.

The snow thrower is located in the garage. The key for the garage is located in the secretary's office (hanging on the wall). If the snow thrower does not work, please contact the Trustee Committee.

Please make sure to check the motor oil level on the snow thrower prior to use. An extension cord is located in the garage for electric starting.

Check that the fuel petcock is in the "on" position (petcock is located on the gas line under the gas tank). The "on" position is the switch pointing up and down. "Off" is in the horizontal position.

Check to ensure that choke is in the "on" position prior to starting and primed bulb has been pumped at least 5 times. Once it is started and warmed up, turn off the choke.

After use, clean snow thrower, refill gas tank and turn off petcock.

A snow shovel and salt are located in the Fellowship Hall entrance. Sidewalks should be salted as needed.

Snow should be removed on sidewalks around the Fellowship Hall and the sidewalk from the Fellowship Hall to the back door of the church. A 3 foot section of snow should be removed around the entire church, paying special attention to the side entrance. Church steps and wheelchair ramp should be shoveled and salted as needed.

We understand that this has been a very heavy snow year and we appreciate your efforts.  
The Trustee Committee