



Cherokee Park United Church

**A Progressive Congregation
Theological Elbow Room
Global Music
Community Connected
Kid Friendly**

Welcoming People of all ages, sexual orientations, races and ethnic origin

CHIMES AND MESSENGER

September 2010

Please remember in your prayers Abby (Wold) Benson who is presently serving a one year tour of duty in Afghanistan. Abigail (Abby) Wold (now Abigail Benson) just celebrated her one year anniversary of being married to Matthew Benson. She has been serving with the Army on a one-year deployment to Kandahar, Afghanistan since March. Cards and letters help the time pass more quickly she says. In early September, Abby's mom Alicia was presented a special quilt for Abby that she will send to her in Afghanistan. The quilt was made by Pauline Donaldson with finishing touches by Helma Rogers. Please keep Abby in your prayers and feel free to write: Abigail Benson
HHC 43rd Sustainment Brigade / Maintenance
APO AE 09355

CPUC Choir Welcomes You! Choir rehearsals will return to Wednesday evenings at 7:15 p.m. We sing from 7:15 until 8:45 p.m. The first rehearsal will be on Wednesday, September 8. Anyone who enjoys singing is invited to attend! If you are interested, but uncertain, you are welcome to come and give it a try.

Covenanting Sunday, September 12, is the Sunday we return to our regular fall schedule with Sunday School and Adult Forum beginning at 9:00 a.m. **Worship returns to 10:15 a.m.** It has been the custom of Cherokee Park United Church to invite two of our members to bring the morning message through sharing of their own faith journey. On Covenanting Sunday we are blessed to hear from Karolyn Kleingartner and Tom Murphy. **Worship will be followed by a brunch** hosted by our Lay Ministries Team.

September Food Shelf Collection will be on Sunday, September 12. We bring our contributions to Neighborhood House on the West Side. You are free to bring any food item(s) you like, and contributions can be brought on other Sundays as well.

An Altar in the World, *A Geography of Faith* by Barbara Brown Taylor is the book that the Adult Forum will be discussing in September. The book is available for purchase in the entrance way for any who are interested. The cost is \$11.00. Taylor is an Episcopalian priest known for her gifts of preaching and the author of 12 books. This New York Times bestseller "reveals meaningful ways to discover the sacred in the small things we do and see, from simple practices such as walks, working and prayer." Anyone who is interested is welcome to purchase a book.

The Men's Discussion Group will meet on Friday, September 17, 6:30 p.m. at the home of Jim Shatek. We will begin with a light meal, possibly pizza ordered out. Discussion will start around 7 p.m. The topic will be an article entitled "Heal the Warrior Heal the Community – Breaking the Cycle of War Making", by Edward Tick, PhD, published in YES magazine. Men will be invited to reflect and share about their own father's attitudes about what it means to be a man and how those attitudes influenced their father's perceptions of war. As with the Women's Discussion group, the purpose of these opportunities is to facilitate sharing, fellowship and

getting to know one another. All men of the church are encouraged to attend. The article will be available at church and via email.

Fix up, clean up day for the church has been scheduled for Saturday, September 18th from 9:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Property Management Ministry is organizing this day so that we can have the church at its best as we begin the fall year. Skilled and unskilled help is needed. Just sign up at church or contact the new chairmen, Tom Murphy or Jim Shatek to let them know you can help. Projects needing attention include painting touch ups and repair, addressing some of the mold that developed over the summer, deep cleaning of the kitchen, and many other tasks. You can come for the full day, but partial day is also appreciated.

BUILDING BLOCKS BEGINS ITS TWENTY-THIRD YEAR!

Building Blocks begins on October 5th. We are excited to start a new year with our exclusive partnership with Riverview School. Many thanks for your faithful support of this long-running ministry! We will highlight Building Blocks during worship on **Sunday, September 19th**. Please come and hear about the program and then enjoy refreshments in the Building Blocks room. The Building Blocks Ministry Team will host the event. Team members are Barb Herrington-Hall - Chair, Lynne Bates, Lynn Hernandez, Jackie Rico, Diane Spicer and Joanne Sylvander.

On Building Blocks Sunday and as the school year program resumes, you can sign up to help Building Blocks in several ways. As in past years, people are needed to shop for the children's snacks on a weekly basis, assist with the family events in the fall and spring, or serve as tutors or substitutes with the program. Tutoring takes place at the church on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 3:45 to 5:45 p.m. through early May. We will be serving 1st through 4th graders this year. Please invite friends and neighbors to consider volunteering as tutors, as well!

Another way you can support Building Blocks is with your charitable contributions. If you regularly give to the United Way, please check to see if you can designate any of your dollars to the program. By using the "Donor Choice" program of United Way you can send some of your charitable dollars to Building Blocks. Donor's choice can be reached at 612 340-7696 or DonorChoice@unitedwaytwincities.org. Thanks for considering this way of helping us keep offering this program to our community.

Please contact Program Director Jill Jackson with any interest or questions you might have about serving in this wonderful program. Jill can be reached at 651 228-1378 (office) or buildingblocks@usfamily.net Building Blocks welcomes your support and continuing prayers as it starts another year of special friends learning together.

Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light (formerly Congregations Caring for Creation) will have its organizational launch on Thursday, September 23 at North Mississippi Park, Minneapolis. Immediately off I-94 at the 49th Avenue North exit.

Part 1: 3pm to 5pm – Our afternoon event for clergy and staff, from 3:00 to 5:00, will identify strategies and resources for effective greening of congregations from retrofitting old buildings,

to inspiring worship ideas in the cutting-edge discipline of eco-spirituality and how to inspire members of your congregation to take action.

Part 2: 6:00pm to 7:30pm – Don't miss this! All who are interested in earth stewardship are welcome to Part II of our launch event, held in the evening at North Mississippi Park from 6:00 to 7:30. This event will inspire action and remind us all why stewardship of the earth is the most important moral issue of our time. Our keynote speaker is the founder and president of the nationwide Interfaith Power and Light network, [Rev. Sally Bingham](#). We will also hear a message from WCCO's Don Shelby, who is a strong advocate for the earth, and Minnesota folk musician Sara Thomsen is bringing her guitar. Dinner available from 5 to 6. Contact MN-IPL Director Jim Anderson for details. director@mnipl.org

Fall Fellowship Meals are once again being organized and hosted by the Caring Ministry. Members and friends of Cherokee Park United Church are invited to sign up to be part of a fellowship meal of 8 – 10 people who will gather together at the home of a Caring Ministry member. The purpose of the meals is to give folks an opportunity for developing new relationships or deepen long time relationships through table fellowship and some focused conversation in which people are invited to share stories about their own personal faith journey. Gatherings will be scheduled at different times during October. Those who sign up will be invited to attend a gathering that is convenient to them. The Caring Ministry believes these gatherings can provide an excellent opportunity to strengthen the bonds of our common life. Please see the sign up list in the Baker St. entrance.

A Congregational Meeting will be held after church on Sunday, September 26th immediately following worship. The meeting will be held for the purpose of electing elders for the class of 2011, and for receiving congregational input about possibilities for a Capital Campaign in the Spring of 2011. With the approval of the Council, the Property Management Ministry and Finance Ministry are putting together possibilities for a major campaign in the Spring of 2011. One major need is raising revenues to finish payments on the recent accessibility project, which included the lift, renovated bathrooms and ramp on Manomin St. Other possibilities include creating a fund for boiler replacement, new roof, solar heat, air conditioning, and further landscaping. These are all just possibilities. The Finance Ministry, Property Management Ministry and the Council are looking for input as to priorities and desire. Any final decision to move ahead with a campaign would be approved by congregational vote at the annual meeting in January of 2011.

Cherokee Park United Church Youth will share in a service of confirmation on Sunday, October 3, which is also World Communion Sunday. Nora Martin, Daisy Jones, Rachel Graf and Tommy Murphy all completed a year of confirmation study, including a mission trip this past summer to Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center. The mission trip was a mission trip to the earth. The youth learned about care for creation, picked raspberry leaves for tea making, and did brick work on a new walk way. In September they present their faith statements to the Church Council.

Movie Night at Cherokee Park United Church will feature the highly acclaimed film *Babies* on Saturday, October 9th, 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Directed by award-winning filmmaker Thomas Balmès, from an original idea by producer Alain Chabat, *Babies* simultaneously follows four babies around the world – from birth to first steps. The children are, respectively, in order of on-screen introduction: Ponijao, who lives with her family near Opuwo, Namibia; Bayarjargal, who resides with his family in Mongolia, near Bayanchandmani; Mari, who lives with her family in Tokyo, Japan; and Hattie, who resides with her family in San Francisco. Re-defining the nonfiction art form, *Babies* joyfully captures on film the earliest stages of the journey of humanity that are at once unique and universal to us all. Movie Night is being organized by the Caring Ministry and will include popcorn and other treats. The Nursery will be available for those too young for a movie. There will be a modest free will offering to defray the \$75 fee required to show the film.

CROP WALK 2010 will be hosted by and held at Cherokee Park United Church on Sunday, October 10. Cherokee Park United Church can expect between 250 to 300 people participating in the annual CROP Walk, which is a national effort to raise funds for hunger needs at home and abroad. 25% of the funds raised remain in Minnesota for use by area food shelves. The national and international funds will go to Church World Services, which is affiliated with the National Council of Churches. Registration is at 12:45 p.m. The walk will begin at 1:15 p.m. There is a short walk and a longer walk. The Walk will pass through Cherokee Park and return to CPUC via Manomin Ave. Those wishing to do the longer Walk will continue toward the bluffs, over to the Prospect Park area, returning by Hall Ave and George St. We hope to have a strong contingency of walkers and pledgers. The Justice and Witness Ministry is organizing our support and participation in this event. Volunteers are needed to welcome participants, receive registration and provide hospitality upon their return. If you are able to help please contact Michele Johnson.

Communion Offering provides emergency relief. Throughout the year Pastor Tim gets requests for assistance with such basic needs as food, rent, electricity and transportation. Most of the requests come through Torre de San Miguel and are screened by staff who can also provide additional support. Occasionally they come directly as they did the first week of August when a young family, recently arrived from Texas, was seeking assistance with gas. Pastor Tim walked over to Super America, paid for the \$15 they requested and they gratefully went on their way. The communion offering envelopes are the sole source of all CPUC'S emergency relief assistance. They are found in your offering envelope boxes. Or you can just write a check and designate the contribution for the emergency relief fund.

Returning to Faith

by Pastor Tim Johnson (Published monthly in the Community Reporter)

Like the occasional member who arrives just in time for the benediction, we made it to the High Bridge just as the last group attempted to take flight over the Mississippi River. Unfortunately for the Vulcans, they dropped into the River like one of David Letterman's watermelons being dropped from the top of the Ed Sullivan Theatre. Their trajectory was straight down.

There were other participants in the Flugtag even that fared much better. Earlier in the day a group from Inver Grove Heights called Major Trouble and the Dirty Dixies set a new world record of 207 airborne feet before making a reasonably graceful landing in the River.

Although work responsibility kept us from attending major parts of the event, we were far from disappointed. From the vantage point of the High Bridge we were once again witness to one of the reasons we love living in this part of Saint Paul. Harriet Island and the River's edge are frequently gathering points for people coming together for times of celebration.

You could, of course, view the Flugtag hopefuls later at home on U Tube, as I did. The entire event was condensed into a matter of minutes, with one contender after the other dropping into the River. But, the experience was much more than that short video clip.

What made Flugtag so compelling is the same thing that makes the 4th of July fire works, the Irish Fair and all the other River's edge events so meaningful. It is the people who come together for no other reason than to celebrate and enjoy life in a way that does not happen in the confines of our homes, backyards or private gatherings. The vantage point for 90,000 plus people included both sides of the River, the High Bridge, the Wabasha St. Bridge, River bluffs, apartment decks, Science Museum overlooks and Harriet Island with its throng.

We need these opportunities to celebrate and enjoy life together in a way we are unable to do in our own private cocoons. We need opportunities for bridging all types of divisions that might otherwise keep us separated and a part.

This, of course, is in no small measure why some us gather for worship in communities of faith. Although we sometimes, perhaps too often, fall short of the mark, our best communal worship draws us into an experience of celebrating life together, sharing a common humanity, knowing we are part of something bigger than ourselves.

It will likely be quite awhile before we see Flugtag again in Saint Paul. Fortunately there are communities of faith gathering every week to celebrate and share life in common. If you come, try and make it before the closing benediction.

Support for Gay Marriage in Minnesota was unanimously approved by the Cherokee Park United Church Council at the August Council meeting. Consistent with the mission of Cherokee Park United Church the Council embraced a resolution put forth by OutFront Minnesota by adding its name to the list of congregations which have signed the resolution. The resolution states, "We urge the Minnesota Legislature to end discrimination in marriage by extending equal access to marriage licenses and all the legal protections and obligations of marriage to same-gender couples. We support marriage equality legislation in Minnesota."

Michael Addee, Executive Director for More Light Presbyterians, was present in worship on Sunday, August 29th at Cherokee Park United. Michael expressed his gratitude for its

leadership on issue of concern to the GLBT community and in particular for 140 stoles that were given by Cherokee Park United Church to delegates attending the General Assembly in Minnesota. The multicolored stoles were an offering of prayer for the church seeking the full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people of faith in the life, ministry and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Both The Antiracism Ministry and the Justice and Witness Ministry are organizing in support of those who are feeling the brunt of current U.S. immigration policies. In August both ministry groups signed off on a letter to President Obama expressing concern about proposed mergers of the federal immigration enforcement system with state criminal justice systems, which invariably are characterized by racial disparities and give way racial profiling and racially biased policing. The full text of the letter is available at church in the entrance way. In addition the ministry groups are encouraging participation in monthly worship gatherings outside of the Ramsey County Detention Center, held on the first Sunday of the month from 2:30 – 3:00 p.m. See the attached flyer. Picture below are Rev. Joanne Sylvander, Lon Navarre, and Stephan Sylvander, who along with Joy Sorenson Navarre attended the November gathering.



Upcoming Meetings

The Finance Ministry will meet on Tuesday, September 7, 7 p.m. at the home of Cal and Phyllis Clark.

The Church Council will meet on Thursday, September 9, 7 p.m. at the Church.

The Outreach Ministry will meet on Tuesday, September 21, 7 p.m. at the home of Mike Bates.

The Worship Ministry will meet on Thursday, September 23 at 7 p.m. at church.

The Antiracism Team Ministry will meet on Tuesday, September 28, 7 p.m. at the church.

The Caring Ministry will meet on Thursday, September 30, 7 p.m. at the church.

Truth Telling Forum

Justice and the Indigenous People of Minnesota and the St. Paul Area

October 4 & October 11, 2010

Monday evenings: 6 p.m. - light dinner, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.- presentation with Q & A

Location: Cherokee Park United Church, 371 West Baker St. St. Paul, 55107

In this two part forum Dakota leaders will speak about the impact of colonialism and white supremacy on Indigenous People and what it means to become allies in working for justice.

Monday – October 4: Preserving, Protecting and Promoting Dakota Culture for Mother Earth

In this presentation Jim Anderson will talk about Indigenous Spiritual traditions and how these traditions are a connection to Mother Earth and all human beings. Jim will share the struggle to keep these traditions alive in the face of white oppression, past and present. He will discuss some of the present day challenges and opportunities to preserve sacred sites, for Dakota people and all human beings.

Presenter: Jim Anderson is an activist for sacred site and preservation of Dakota Culture. He is the Cultural Chairman for the Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Community.

Monday – October 11 Unraveling Minnesota's Distorted History

In this presentation Dr. Chris Manhto Nunpa and Mary Beth Faimon will challenge Minnesota's Historical narrative, which remains a source of oppression for Dakota people. They will look at ways Christian faith has been used to justify such things as genocide and the negation of tribal sovereignty. They will explore concrete ways non Indigenous people can become allies in the struggle for justice.

Presenters:

Dr. Chris Mato Nunpa is a Wahpetunwan ("Dwellers In The Leaves") Dakota from the Pezihuta Zizi Otunwe, "Yellow Medicine Community." Dr. Mato Nunpa is now retired, having served as an Associate Professor of Indigenous Nations & Dakota Studies at Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall, Minnesota, for sixteen years from August 1992 through May 2008. Dr. Mato Nunpa's special research interest is genocide of the Indigenous Peoples of the U.S. in general, and genocide of the Dakota People of Minnesota, specifically.

Professor Mary Beth Faimon, is recently retired from the Social Work Program, Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall, MN.

Registration: Please register in advance if you would like a meal or child care, which will be available upon prior request. There will be a free will offering for the meal. No charge for either presentation. Register by contacting 651-227-4275 or email cpuc@usfamily.net.

The Truth Telling Forum is sponsored by the Antiracism Team of Cherokee Park United Church. For more information about the church you may go to www.cherokeeparkunited.org. Cherokee Park United Church is located on St. Paul's West Side, ½ block East of Smith Ave, four blocks South of the High Bridge.

Women's Fall Retreat – Into the Mystery: Women's Voices, Women's Stories

When: 6:00 pm Friday to 5:00 pm Saturday, September 24 and 25

Where: The Arc Retreat Center

This is an open invitation to all women members and friends of Cherokee Park to join us for the annual retreat at the beautiful Arc Retreat Center in Cambridge, Minnesota. We set aside this time each year for relaxation, connection, and nurturing for our bodies and spirits.

In the busyness of our everyday life, we rarely have time to listen carefully to each others stories. The women of Cherokee Park are invited to be refreshed and renewed, as we take time to wade into the mysteries of our own sacred stories. We will pray, ponder, share, laugh, rest, eat, draw, write, listen, and play as we connect more deeply with each other and with the Holy.

The retreat will take place at the Arc Retreat Center, a wonderful old lodge in a beautiful wooded setting in Cambridge, Minnesota. It is known for superb vegetarian cooking! The retreat will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Friday with dinner and conclude by 5:00 p.m. on Saturday. Those wishing to commute should be at the church by 4:15 p.m. on Friday. Linens are provided.

The cost of the retreat is \$105, with a \$20.00 deposit due by Sunday, September 12. (Scholarship monies are available for those who might need them. Please speak with Pastor Tim). There is limited space, so please register early. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Shatek or Kay Myhrman-Toso. Scholarships are available by speaking with Pastor Tim.

Women's Fall Retreat Registration Form

Friday and Saturday, September 24 & 25, 2009

- Yes, I will be attending this year's retreat.
 I am unable to come on Friday evening, but I plan to attend on Saturday.
 I plan to commute and will be at the church by 4:15 p.m.

Name _____ Phone _____

Please return this form to the church office or Pastor Tim by Sun. 9/12