

May 2009

SPIRIT IN THE PARK

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MORGAN PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Are You Ready for
Pentecost?**

**Are You Ready to
Bring a Friend?**

**Are You Ready to
Welcome Our New
Members?**

ARE YOU READY?

Once again it is time to celebrate the birth of the Christian church on Pentecost Sunday. This year Pentecost falls on May 31st. This will be an exciting day at MPUMC. We want everyone to think about celebrating with people (former church members and friends) whom we care about and love. Too often we put off calling them saying we will do it next week; sometimes, unfortunately, when next week comes, that person we were going to call is no longer with us. **So let us celebrate life now!**

This year we have much to celebrate, not only the beginning of the Christian church, but also having nine new church members plus our four confirmands. This will be their first celebration of Pentecost with us as full members of our church family. We want to give them a warm, traditional MPUMC welcome where we have a chance to sit and talk with them and tell them about some of the great things they can become a part of here at church. This is also the Sunday that our children in Sunday School will be promoted. They need our support.

To meet and greet all of our new members, we will hold a welcoming ice cream social on Sunday afternoon, May 31st from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. It will be held on the south lawn. The Witness Team will furnish many kinds of ice cream (including sugar-free) treats: sundaes, cones and dishes. We will also furnish drinks. We are asking for donations of desserts such as cakes, cookies and pies. There will be

tables provided and some chairs, but we are also asking you to bring your own folding canvas chairs (they're more comfortable anyway).

So everyone please take this opportunity to make this a great day beginning with bringing a friend to celebrate Pentecost, then go home and rest for a while, change into comfortable clothes and come back ready to have great ice cream and desserts, great conversation and a great time meetings the new members of our church family. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

If you would like to donate a dessert, please sign up on the bulletin board in the hall or tell Geraldine Washington, Billie Calhoun, Gertrude Preyar or Pat Hawkins.

Submitted by the Witness Team

MAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

MAY 3, 2009

Holy Communion
"Peter at the Court"

Acts 4:5-12 and John 10:11-18

MAY 10, 2009

Mother's Day Sunday
Stewardship Sunday

"Unless Someone Guides Me"
Psalm 22:25-31 and Acts 8:26-40
Testimony

MAY 17, 2009

"Obey the Commandments"
1 John 5:1-6 and John 15:9-17

MAY 24, 2009

Youth Sunday
Michele Watkins will preach.

MAY 31, 2009

Pentecost Sunday
Bring a Friend Sunday
Promotion Sunday
"Speaking Other Peoples' Languages"
John 16:4b-15 and Acts 2:1-21

MPUMC ALL CHURCH VISIONING RETREAT

On March 21st many members and friends of the Morgan Park United Methodist Church family gathered together to “look forward” toward the future of our church. The following are some visions and suggestions that were discussed.

VISIONS FOR THE FUTURE

NURTURE

- ❖ Ask God to give us clean hearts so that we can work for him individually as well as the church body
- ❖ Provide transportation for those who don't drive
- ❖ Visit the Sick and Shut In
- ❖ Contact members who are not in church (carrying on Leona's work) and build a phone tree
- ❖ Caring for each other Campaign
- ❖ Small group experience throughout the week
- ❖ The voice of “youth” must be heard including their suggestions and the congregation should respond
- ❖ Thinking and approaching the idea of “church” relationally, (focusing on the people of the church, brother, sister, etc instead of just the building)
- ❖ Youth and Adult member mentoring with emphasis on youth goals and dreams and future
- ❖ Support youth in being involved and hold them accountable and help them be responsible in their actions
- ❖ More Sunday School/Nursery Volunteers (once a quarter volunteers would help)

OUTREACH – NURTURE

- ❖ Become a reconciling congregation within the United Methodist Church to openly welcome all of God's children into our doors with love and acceptance

OUTREACH

- ❖ 100 people in the pews every Sunday at 10:45
- ❖ Reach out into the neighboring community with flyers and invitations to join us on Sunday and for church events (door-knocking, word of mouth, advertising)
- ❖ Advertising – Develop a publicity team to communicate what we are doing to the community

WITNESS

- ❖ Outdoor Worship/Tent Revival (with band typical of this age)
- ❖ Youth Hip Hop Worship Service
- ❖ Purchase a Drum Set for worship
- ❖ Expand youth group with more upbeat tempo music in worship service
- ❖ Convene a technology team to discuss how technological can be used in worship service
- ❖ Inter-generational testimony-sharing with youth included
- ❖ Connect and include children and youth with church, not just on Youth Sunday, with roles they would like to play

...Looking Ahead....



THE “BERRY FESTIVAL”
Returns on Saturday, July 11, 2009!
SAVE THE DATE.



Musical
MOTHER'S DAY CARDS



The Outreach Team has been given a selection of musical Mother's Day cards.

They will be available from Elaine Reynolds after church for the cost of \$1.00. See Elaine in the parlor and get a card for your mother.

MANY THANKS TO THE DRAMA GROUP For the Good Friday Skit

Submitted by Shirley Butler, Writer and Director

On Friday, April 10th, during the Good Friday service, the Drama Group presented a dramatization of the "Passion of Christ". It was a very moving, shared experience for the group and for the congregation.

MY HEARTFELT THANKS...

TO THE CAST:

Philip Baker, Franja Brown, JeRome Brown, Jean-Raymond Desruisseaux, Michel-Ange Desruisseaux, Kenneth Gray, Trudy Hill, DeJuan Johnson, Stanford Noble, Eddie Parker, Charles Preyar and Chris Walters

TO THE NARRATORS:

Lisa Butler and April Preyar

TO THE COSTUMERS:

Christine Aurel, Germaine Desruisseaux and Irene Harvey

FOR PROPS:

Lisa Butler and Wanda Williamson-Johnson

FOR SOUND:

Chris Walters and Lucious Moore

FOR MUSIC:

Clovis Bordeaux and Barbara Farnandis

FOR CARPENTRY:

Fred Robey

My deepest appreciation for your hard work, dedication, and inspiration in putting this program together.

A Very Special Thank You

Submitted by Shirley Butler

Special thanks to JoAnne Gray for organizing the Drama Group Cast Party and program held on Thursday, April 16th at Exposure Tapas Restaurant in the South Loop.

Thank you also to Ollie Brown for putting together the book of reviews and tributes for the Passion Play and to Kenneth Butler for photographs of the play.

Your encouragement and support are greatly appreciated.

Youth Ministry Fundraiser Spring Car Wash



May 16, 2009

10am-2pm

Church Parking Lot

\$6.00 cars

\$8.00 trucks



Grab a Hot Dog while you wait!

For more information, contact Pastor Michele at 773.501.5075 or via email at michelew@morganparkumc.org

ALL CHURCH FLEA MARKET Saturday, September 19, 2009

Submitted by Anne Genther

The date has been set for the 2nd Annual All Church Flea Market. This year the Flea Market will be held on Saturday, September 19th from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. This a month earlier than our traditional date, so please mark it on your calendar NOW and plan to participate.

All members of the church need to do their part if it is to be a successful, fundraising event. The first meeting to begin organizing it was held in April but there is still much to do.

Our next planning meeting will be held in the parlor on Thursday, May 7th at 7p.m. Please come to share your ideas and to find out how you can help. Many hands make light work and your church needs you!



RAINBOW COVENANT

Burgundy Band

Submitted by Anne Genter

The Burgundy Band of the Rainbow Covenant includes international projects all around the world. One of the projects we support in this band is the Street Children Ministry in Cambodia. This project is headed by the missionary we help support, Clara Mridula Biswas.

In Cambodia there are many children living on the streets as well as in orphanages and poor communities. These children have limited access to local public school education, proper nutrition, fellowship activities or opportunities to learn about the Bible. The Street Children Ministry works in four communities and has five goals they are working to achieve. They are:

- ❖ To hold weekly Sunday School programs and special Christmas and Easter programs.
- ❖ To provide weekly computer, music, art, and basic education classes.
- ❖ To send older students who will not continue higher education to vocational job training.
- ❖ To donate new school uniforms to children who need them.
- ❖ To provide money monthly for orphanages to provide a balanced diet for the children.

Clara, who is from Bangladesh, works with the children where they are – in slum areas and garbage dumps – and helps facilitate their move to relocation and rehabilitation centers. She also networks with other church and non-government organizations.

We recently received an Easter note and a picture drawn by one of the children in the program from Clara. You can see them on the Outreach bulletin board in the main hallway across from the office.

SUPPORT MISSIONS!

Editor's Note...Donations to support this and other Rainbow Covenant projects can be made at any time. Please make checks payable to MPUMC with a notation of "Missions" marked on the memo line.

CONFIRMATION CLASS CREEDS

At the last Confirmation class the students and pastors wrote their creed (the statement of what they believe).

"I believe in God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. I believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sins. I believe that He rose from the dead." Kanisha Davis

"I believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sins. I believe that He will walk this earth again. I believe in the Trinity." Kyisha M. Davis

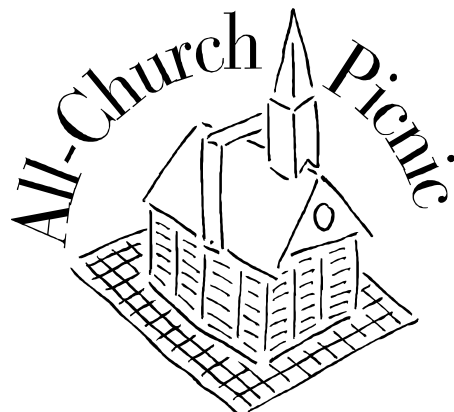
"I believe in change. I believe in Jesus' resurrection. I believe in God the Creator. I believe in me achieving." Pierre Parker

"I believe in my family and friends and the Holy Spirit and the Holy Trinity and my life that the good Lord gave me, and I want to believe that the good Lord has an angel watching over me!! And I believe in what the good Lord gave me." Will Zopp

"I believe in God, that God created me, all humanity and all creatures in love. I believe in Jesus Christ who showed us and taught us the abundant loving life. I believe in the Holy Spirit who teaches me and encourages me to live a just life. I believe in the church doing saving and loving works in the world. I believe in the resurrection." Eun-Hye Choi

"I believe that God is the creator and ruler of the universe. I believe in the Holy Trinity-God the Father who created me and you and all life. I believe in Jesus the Messiah who died for my sins and resurrected so I and we might have eternal life and be saved from damnation because of our sinful nature. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath wind and power of God that comforts, empowers, protects, and dwells within me and you." Michele Watkins

SAVE THE DATE!



SUNDAY, JUNE 28TH

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Submitted by Anne Genter, UMW President



The United Methodist Women have several upcoming dates we would like all women to put on their calendars.

THURSDAY, MAY 14TH

UMW Project Night
6:30 p.m.

We will be making Heart Pillows for breast cancer patients. Bring 2 yards of fleece material – 1 yard solid color and 1 yard patterned (washed, if possible) and a pair of sharp scissors. No sewing required!

FRIDAY, MAY 15TH – SATURDAY, MAY 16TH

Northern Illinois Conference Spiritual Growth Retreat
Oregon, Illinois
(See UMW bulletin board for details.)

SUNDAY, MAY 17TH

Special UMW presentation in worship

SATURDAY, JUNE 6TH

UMW Meeting
11:00 a.m.

Refreshments will be served at 11 a.m. followed by a business meeting and program at 11:30 a.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 7TH

NIC UMW Dinner
5:30 p.m.
Pheasant Run, St. Charles, IL.
(See UMW bulletin board for details.)

All women are welcome to be a part of United Methodist Women. If you haven't returned your survey yet please do so. We are still looking for input to help us with our planning. If you have any questions please give me a call – Anne Genter, President – 773-881-1788.

THANK YOU!

The Outreach Team would like to thank you for your support of our recent fundraising activities. We received over \$80.00 from our sale of items from the Current catalogue and raised over \$320.00 at our luncheon on March 28th. All of this money, as well as money from our on-going candy sale and other activities, goes to support our chosen projects as a part of the Rainbow Covenant for missions.

CONFIRMATION CLASS FIELD TRIP

Our recent confirmation class will have a field trip to an Islam Mosque, located in Bridgeview, IL at 7360 W. 93rd St., on Saturday, May 2nd. The field trip is open to anyone who wants to learn about other religions, especially Islam.

If you are interested in visiting the mosque with our youth, please come to the parking lot by noon. We will carpool. An Imam will guide the tour of the mosque and give us a 45-minute lecture. When we come back to our church we will have our own discussion time.

Modest dress is required. Long sleeve shirts and blouses and long pants should be worn. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact pastor Choi.

MAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

LITURGISTS

May 3...Trudy Hill

May 10...Trudy Hill

May 17...Crystal Hill

May 24...Youth

May 31...Witness Team

GREETERS

May 3...Tom & Carolyn Trinley

May 10... Crystal Hill and April Preyar

May 17...Barbara Edmonson and Sylvia Robertson

May 24...Youth

May 31...Witness Team

ACOLYTES

May 3...Sydney Cerrentano and Denise Parker

May 10...Kaline Langley and Carinne Parker

May 17...Christopher Parker and Pierre Parker

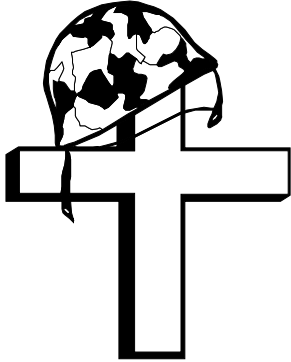
May 24...Sydney Cerrentano and Kaline Langley

May 31...Pierre Parker and Will Zopp

...PLEASE NOTE...

The deadline for submitting articles for the June newsletter is Friday, May 15th.

Memorial Day - May 25



Remembering Their Service & Sacrifice

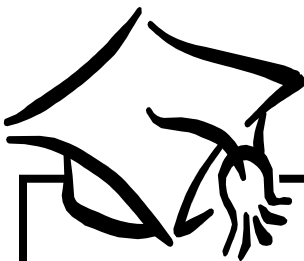
Join us as the MPUMC family once again participates in the neighborhood Memorial Day Parade. Gathering time to be announced.

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU!

Submitted by Pat Bayer

Special thanks to Samantha Morek who planned and coordinated the children's Easter Party again this year, and to all those who helped her and/or donated food, treats and supplies. All of the children (and adults) that attended had a lot of fun!

Thanks again! Your ministry to children is greatly appreciated by your church family.

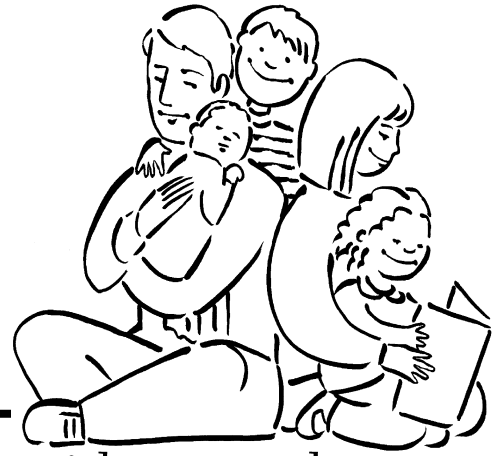


PLEASE NOTE

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR GRADUATES...

We will be announcing and honoring graduates in the June edition of *The Spirit in the Park*. If you are graduating or know of a member or friend who is graduating, please be sure that the office has the information prior to the May 15th deadline.

We really do not like to neglect anyone...but we have no way of knowing information that we never receive.



Summer Nursery Help Needed!

The Preschool/Nursery Sunday School Class will recess for the summer. The last day of class will be May 24th. We will continue to provide a nursery during worship for our youngest children (through age 5).

We are in need of adult volunteers to supervise the nursery in June, July and August. No class preparation is necessary.

Please sign the volunteer sheet located on the bulletin board in our main hallway. We especially encourage those parents/grandparents whose children use the nursery to sign up for a Sunday or two.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Last Day of Class: May 24th

Children's Sunday School classes will recess for the summer. Classes will resume in the fall.

We thank all the children who participated in Sunday School this year. Special thanks to those members who taught our children. We greatly appreciate their ministry.

Promotion Sunday will be May 31st during worship. The Nurture Team has planned a mini-party for the children, which will be held after the program.

Ice Cream Social



SUNDAY, MAY 31ST

MPUMC South Lawn

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.