

June 2009

SPIRIT IN THE PARK

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MORGAN PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Dear Friends...

In the book of Romans Paul says, "Greet one another with a holy kiss." Though I knew that it was in the Bible, I didn't know any church that really practiced this holy kiss until I came to Morgan Park UMC. There is abundant love in our church and you share and express that love with smiles, kind words, hugs and kisses.

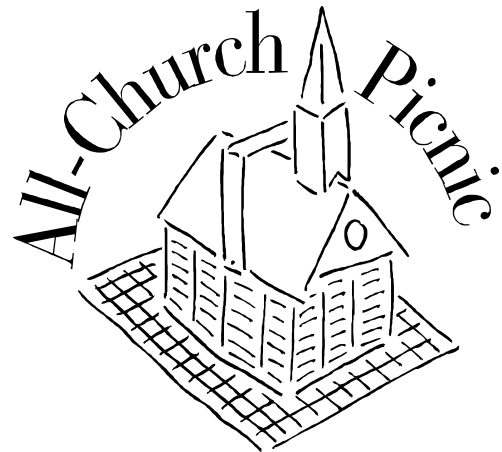
Last Sunday after our worship service I was in the church office and I saw Phil Baker and Anne Genther greet each other with an intimate and respectful holy kiss. I felt like I was struck by lightning with that unbelievable love shared between these two members and friends. I just thought "Wow!"... Whenever new members join our church they always mention that our church is so loving and welcoming. I hope and pray that we always keep that spirit of hospitality.

I want to share two things with you in this letter. From June to August our summer worship theme will be "Reconciling." I will preach seven sermons with the theme: (1) Reconciling Body and Soul, (2) Reconciling Jews and Gentiles, (3) Reconciling Humanity and the Earth, (4) Reconciling Creation and Evolution, (5) Reconciling Sexuality and Spirituality, (6) Reconciling Sexuality and the Bible, (7) Reconciling All God's People. I hope and pray that our hospitality goes beyond our doors, reconciling/welcoming all God's people no matter their race, gender, class, language, culture and sexual orientation.

With the support and approval of the Church Council and the Staff Parish Relation Committee I am applying for the Lily Foundation's "Clergy Renewal Program." This grant program supports Christian churches financially to give their pastors three-month sabbaticals. If we receive the grant I will take a three-month sabbatical leave next summer. The Lily Foundation will announce the recipients sometime in October.

If I get the sabbatical I will be thankful, but if I don't get it I will still be thankful for your support. I love you and thank you for your love.

Peace,
Pastor, Eun-Hye Choi



Sunday, June 28th, 2009

Burr Oak Woods
138th and Harlem, Palos Heights, IL
Grove #3

Outdoor Worship: 10:45 am

Followed by lunch and games

Please bring your own lunch, drinks and a blanket. If you have any suggestions for games or activities please see Donna Gruenberg, Samantha Morek or Pastor Eun-Hye.

More details to follow.

...Coming in July...

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2009

July 13-17

"E. D. G. E."

Experience & Discover God Everywhere

JUNE WORSHIP SCHEDULE

JUNE 7, 2009

Holy Communion
Rev. Kermit Krueger will lead worship.

JUNE 14, 2009

"The Ministry of Reconciliation"
John 1:1-18 and 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

JUNE 21, 2009

Testimonies of Fatherhood
1 Samuel 17:32-40 and Ephesians 5:25-33

JUNE 28, 2009

Outdoor Worship & Picnic
"The Nature of Growth"
Genesis 1:28-31 and Mark 4:30-32



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

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.

GENESIS 1 YOUTH CHOIR CONCERT

From Munsey Memorial UMC
Johnson City, Tennessee

PRAISE HIS HOLY NAME

A Time of Worship & Celebration

Wednesday, June 3rd

MPUMC Sanctuary

7:00 p.m.

FREE ADMISSION FOR ALL!

Please plan to attend and don't forget to invite your family, neighbors and friends.

UMW PROJECT NIGHT A HUGE SUCCESS!

Submitted by Anne Genter

The first UMW Project night was held on Thursday, May 14th. We had 8 women who came together to make heart-shaped pillows for breast cancer patients to help with their recovery. As we cut out the pillows from fleece material, pinned and knotted the material and then stuffed the pillows, we had a chance to visit together, catch up on goings on and also do something for someone else. In fact, we had so much fun that we decided to do it again the next week. We'll give you an update about this ministry as we go along. If you are interested in joining us talk to Trudy Hill or Anne Genter about it. We'd love to have you.

Southern District United Methodist Men's 6th Annual Banquet

Saturday, June 20, 2009

12:00 Noon – 4:00 PM



LUCIOUS MOORE TO BE HONORED!

At an award luncheon, the Southern District of the United Methodist Men will honor Lucious Moore of our congregation along with William Burford, President of Invanhoe United Methodist Church UMM, and Donald Linder, the Southern District Lay Leader.

They are also presenting a special award to Mrs. Lonnie Simmons, the Chair of Finance of BMCR. The luncheon will be held on June 20th at the Ramada Inn, Dynasty Room, 4141 Calumet Ave., Hammond, IN. from 12:00 Noon to 4:00 PM The donation is \$35 per person.

Entertainment will be provided during the luncheon and Joy will be returning home to perform at this event.

The proceeds from the luncheon are used for the ministries of the Southern District UMM, which include the Maple Morgan Park Food Pantry, South Shore Food Pantry, Gleaners for the Lord and others.

Tickets are available from Yvonne Brown or Lucious Moore.

mission needs



Morgan Park UMC is always most generous when asked to contribute items for mission projects. During the summer months there are opportunities for you to be involved in two different collections.

In June we will be supporting MMDC (the Midwest Mission Distribution Center) in Chatham, Illinois. The MMDC supplies items and kits needed by areas that have had a natural disaster such as a flood, hurricane, tornado or other types of disasters. At this time there is a need for certain items to be used in health kits.

THESE ITEMS ARE:

- Washcloths (new)
- Hand towels (not bath, finger-tip or kitchen sized) (new)
- Bars of soap (3 oz. or larger in original wrapper)

We will be collecting these items during the month of June. You can bring any or all of the things listed to church any time during June and place them on the mission table in the parlor.

Our second collection will be the school supplies that we do each year for Esmond School. Since Esmond School is one of the Chicago Public Schools that will be going to a year-round calendar this year, we will be collecting the school supplies in July (Esmond School begins classes the second week in August). More details will be in the July newsletter.

NEWS FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Submitted by Laura Parker

Here is the latest from my brother, David Brown, who is doing missionary work in Costa Rica.

"April in Costa Rica included a substantial amount of travel. Before temporary missionary teams come down, I need to visit the area where the team will be working. I have to talk to the pastor to determine how we can help him in his ministry as he reaches out to his community. I look at housing for the team, sometimes make a map, and present our project to the church.

I traveled to Peñas Blancas up at the border with Nicaragua because my church (Davisburg Baptist, Michigan) will be down here in August for their third mission trip to Costa Rica. Pastor Efrain from a nearby community wants to

start a church right up by the border because there is no church there now. There are several who go across the border to attend church because that is the only option.

I also traveled south to prepare for two teams that will be working down that way. One will be in San Isidro del General and the other in Golfito. I met with the Pastor William, attended church there, and began the planning process. Because I was in the area I decided to go find some churches that have been started in some indigenous areas. Pastor Didier traveled with me to locate three churches that he pastors. The first was in a Bribri indigenous area. It was a slow drive in 4-wheel low because of the grade and the condition of the roads. The other two were a bit easier to reach and are with the Cabecer people. It was great to see how God had us there at the right time to help transport them to the church to do repairs after a recent fire destroyed part of the classroom, kitchen, and restroom areas of the building.

I went to Golfito but the pastor was at the hospital with his 3 yr. old son who had a burst appendix. Please pray for little Carlos. I will go back later to plan for the Golfito team. I traveled to Drake to find two churches. You can drive there about half the year because the rivers are low enough to drive through. The rest of the year you must go by boat. Pastor Nahúm took over the church about 6 months ago and has already started another church to which he walks one hour and 15 minutes.

Yes, pray for little Carlos. Pray for the pastors who are faithfully serving Jesus."

NEWS FROM THE UNITED METHODIST MEN

*Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior,
Jesus Christ*

Your United Methodist Men have just completed this season of feeding the homeless at Living Springs Community Church as part of South Suburban PADS in Glenwood, Illinois.

Our season spans the colder months, September through April. We have been engaged in this ministry for approximately seven (7) years, which has caused a drain on our resources.

Our President, Thomas Hall, is directing brainstorming sessions to determine fundraising activities in order to continue this and other ministries your United Methodist Men are committed to.

On June 21, 2009, the men of the Church will conduct a Men's Day Worship Service, during regular worship hours. Please wish us well.

*Respectfully Submitted by Your UMM
Thomas Hall, President*

2nd Annual Summer Berry Festival



Saturday, July 11, 2009
11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Submitted by Shirley Butler

In case you don't remember, the "Berry Festival" is a UMW summer fundraiser. It is a fun filled event with lots of tasty desserts made with strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, and any other berry you can name. These tasty desserts are baked by the women of our congregation — men are welcome to contribute. So, we all need to put on our chef's hats and start baking.

There will also be hot dogs, smoothies and other goodies, as well as children's activities, games, music, a gift court, and a Talent Show.

We need performers of all sorts for the Talent Show. If you want to sing, dance, tell a joke, play an instrument, do a magic trick, etc. this is your chance. Your audience awaits!

Lastly, we want everyone to come and join in the fun, and bring friends and family.

For more information on the "Fest", or the Talent Show, please contact Shirley Butler.

FALL FLEA MARKET

Submitted by Anne Genter

The Flea Market is a joint venture of the church and the United Methodist Women. The date for this fundraising event is **Saturday, September 19**. Although that sounds like a long way off, be assured that it will be here before you know it. We all need to do our part to make it a successful event — both as a fundraiser and as an outreach into our community. Think about how you can help. One way is to tell others about the date and encourage them to participate by renting a space to sell items.

Registration forms will be available soon. Watch the weekly bulletin for the next planning meeting. Come and share your ideas as we work to make this a successful event.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Submitted by Lucious Moore, Your Lay Leader

Greetings Sisters and Brothers in Christ.

"**LIVING THE UNITED METHODIST WAY**" is the theme of the 170th Northern Illinois Annual Conference.

The conference will be held at the Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, Illinois, from Sunday June 7, 2009 through Tuesday June 9, 2009.

During the Annual Conference, there is worshipping, ordination, celebrations, dialogue, legislation, Bible study and much more.

The Bishop, Hee-Soo Jung and the conference Lay Leader, Arnold Rivera, will give a joint **State of the Church Report** (a first for our Conference).

Representing our church at Annual Conference will be pastor Choi and Carolyn McPherson.



Nine prayer shawls were blessed in church during worship on April 19th. These beautiful shawls have almost all be distributed to members, friends or relatives who are in need of a loving hug. Now we need to replenish our supply so that when other needs come up we will have a prayer shawl to give. We need your help. Knitters and those who crochet or those who would like to learn are needed and will be welcomed into the group who are making these prayer shawls. We meet on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 6:30 PM in the parlor. If you have questions about this ministry you can contact Barbara Malcolm (773-238-1222) or Anne Genter (773-881-1788).

Submitted by Anne Genter

NORTHERN ILLINOIS CONFERENCE
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



2009 SCHOOL OF
CHRISTIAN MISSION

“Together at the Table”

JUDSON UNIVERSITY, ELGIN
July 23-26, 2009

Drive-In Day
Saturday, July 25, 2009

July 23 through July 26 will find persons from across the Northern Illinois Conference gathering at Judson University in Elgin, Illinois for the annual School of Christian Mission sponsored by the United Methodist Women. This year the theme is “Together at the Table.” The Spiritual Growth study, taken by all participants, is “Food and Faith.” The other two studies are “Sudan” and the second year of “Native American Survival.” Participants will choose one of these studies. There will also be children’s and youth studies. Some scholarships are available.

If you can’t attend the whole time there is a drive-in day opportunity on Saturday, July 25. If you come to this program you will get an overview of each study.

It has been said that the Schools of Christian Mission are the best learning experiences to be found in the United Methodist Church. You can be a part of it.

If you would like to find out more talk to Elaine Reynolds or Anne Genter. Look on the UMW bulletin board in the hallway outside the office for more information.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Submitted by Anne Genter, President UMW

All women of the church are invited to attend the next regularly scheduled meeting of the UMW on Saturday, June 6, 2009. We will begin at 11:00 a.m. with light refreshments and fellowship followed by a business meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Immediately following the business meeting we will have a guest presenter, Marilyn Steenwyk, who will bring us a program about Native American Survival. This is one of

the study topics for 2008 and 2009 at the School of Christian Mission.

Marilyn is a member of Evergreen Park United Methodist Church and an officer in the United Methodist Women’s unit there. She has served on the Chicago Southern and Aurora District UMW Mission Teams as well as the Northern Illinois Conference UMW treasurer. She is now the historian for the NIC UMW. Marilyn works for the Federal Reserve Bank in downtown Chicago. Be sure to attend this interesting program as we learn more about Native Americans.

Those
Graduating
In Our
Church



Chris Baker graduated from Thornwood High School.

DeJuan Johnson is graduating from the Chicago High School of Agricultural Science.

Carisa Parker is graduating with a B. A. in Social Science from DePaul University.

Antonio Sullivan is graduating from Esmond School and will be attending Morgan Park High School in the fall.

Jade A. Williams graduated from Salem Christian Academy and will be attending Rich East High School in the fall.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR GRADUATES!

Your Morgan Park UMC family is very proud of you and wishes you well in all your future endeavors.

HELP WANTED

Saturday Security Guard for our church,
to work from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM.

Interested parties should contact
Pastor Eun-Hye Choi or the church office:
773-238-2600.



RAINBOW COVENANT

Burgundy Band

Submitted by the Outreach Team

The Burgundy Band of the Rainbow covenant includes international projects all around the world. One of the projects that we are helping to support is the Poverty Alleviation and Micro-Credit in Mo-Dega and Pepease in rural Ghana. This project works with farmers and traders, especially women.

One of the ways the project works is to provide small loans to the farmers to purchase seeds and livestock. As they sell their crops and their livestock they will pay back the loans with a minimum of interest and are then able to improve their lives.

Without this help the farmers have no way to grow larger crops or raise more livestock and they continue to live in poverty. Rehabilitating old machinery and structures that are available will also be supported.

The Pepease Ebenezer Methodist Church is made up of many of the farmers involved in this project and they hope to transform their community and share the Gospel message of love through their involvement with this project.

Your offerings in the communion envelopes on communion Sundays will help the people in Ghana.



STEWARDSHIP 2009-2010

If you have not already done so, please prayerfully consider making a pledge for fiscal year (June 1, 2009 - May 31, 2010).

Extra pledge cards are available in the church office and should be returned to the Finance Committee as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued support of the Morgan Park United Methodist Church.

THE VOLUNTEERS AT MPUMC

Submitted by Stanford Noble

"Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done." 1 Chronicles 16:8

My friends, I want to say thank you to all the volunteers of the church who have given their time, thought and talents to MPUMC. Some of our members have certain expertise in various fields, and we here at Morgan Park are very blessed to have such great talents.

Let us not take these people for granted, for they love the church, as I am sure we all love Jesus. He is the reason we come to worship at MPUMC.

We take off our hats to all our members and friends who volunteer at our church, and again I say THANKS! And may God bless us all, and give thanks.

I will close with this scripture from Psalms 136:

"Give thanks to the Lord for his love endures forever."

SPECIAL MISSION RECOGNITION

The United Methodist Women were pleased to present a Special Mission Recognition pin and certificate to Carolyn McPherson on Sunday, May 17th.

United Methodist Women have a special concern for women and children and Carolyn has put that concern into action through her work with women prisoners at the Dwight Correctional Facility in Dwight, Illinois.

She and her late husband, Bruce, were involved with prison ministry at many levels and she used some of his memorial money to provide recordings of stories read by their incarcerated mothers to children.

She has enabled Morgan Park UMC to be involved through the collection of items for toiletry kits, which are given to women inmates at Dwight, especially at Christmastime.

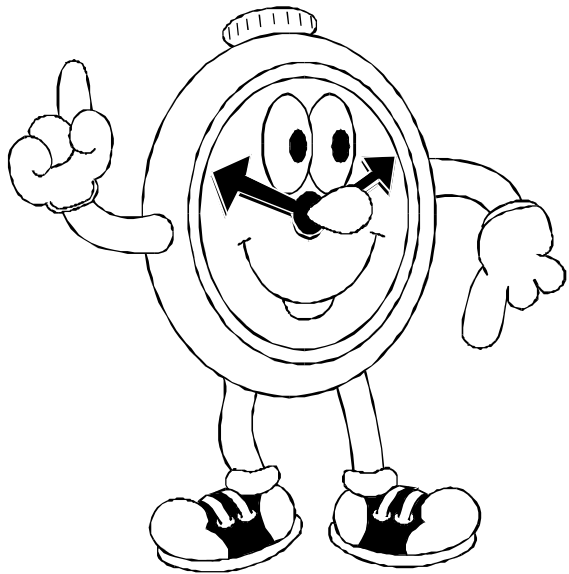
Carolyn lives Christ's teaching to reach out to those in need and we are pleased to have honored her.

...PLEASE NOTE...

The deadline for submitting articles for the July newsletter is

MONDAY, JUNE 15TH.

...IT'S TIME FOR THE...



SUMMER RUMMAGE SALE
Friday & Saturday
June 19 & 20
Wesley Hall
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**WE REALLY NEED
YOUR HELP!**

- Please bring your gently-used, clean summer clothing, household items, toys, knickknacks, etc. to the church.
- Please help carry the rummage from storage areas to Wesley Hall (date TBA).
- Please help set-up (sort, display and price): Monday, June 15th through Thursday, June 18th.
- Please help sell on Friday and/or Saturday.
- Please help with clean up on Monday, June 22nd.
- Please tell your neighbors, friends, relatives and co-workers about the sale.

Our Rummage Sales are known in the community for their quality of items and organization. Please do not bring clothing that is stained or torn. All donated appliances should be in working condition and should be marked with a note that says "working".

All-church events are always a time of great fun and fellowship. Please see Sue Delves or Pat Hawkins and let them know how and when you can help.

As always, left over clothing and household items will be donated to people serving agencies.

**JUNE
WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

LITURGISTS

June 7...Tom Hall
June 14... Tom Hall
June 21... Tom Hall
June 28... Tom Hall

GREETERS

June 7...Arleen McGee and Owen Skelly
June 14... UMM
June 21...Barbara Edmonson and Sylvia Robertson
June 28...Chante Waters and Dorothy Wiggins

ACOLYTES

June 7...Marissa Johnson and Denise Parker
June 14...Kaline Langley and Carinne Parker
June 21... Sydney Cerrentano and Kaline Langley
June 28...Christopher Parker and Pierre Parker

SAYING GOODBYE TO FRED ROBEY

Submitted by Pat Bayer

This is definitely one of those "sad/happy" moments. We are very sad to say goodbye to Fred Robey, our daytime custodian. Fred came to MPUMC in September of 2008 with experience and talents that exceeded our expectations. During his time with us many necessary building projects and repairs were completed.

On the other hand, we are very happy for Fred who has found employment that better suits his qualifications with a building development company. We wish Fred well as he pursues his new career.

We are currently interviewing applicants for the daytime position. Roosevelt Lindsey, who worked at our church for many years before his retirement in 2002, has graciously agreed to fill in until we hire a new custodian. We are very grateful for his help.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Submitted by Shirley Butler

Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass.
It's about learning to dance in the rain.