



November 2009

# SPIRIT IN THE PARK

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MORGAN PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## Dear Friends...

Greetings to you all who are members and friends of Morgan Park UMC. As a church we just celebrated World Communion Sunday and now move to All Saints' Sunday. This is the time we remember that all churches and Christians are one in Christ Jesus beyond the lines of denominations and beyond the line of life and death. I know that some of you have been away from church recently because of illness or the birth of a new child or family functions. I hope and pray that you can come back soon to the fellowship of all saints in worship, prayer service, small group gatherings and Bible study. Our real privilege of becoming children of God is not just knowing about God or praying to God in private but living in fellowship with other saints and with our God.

Sometimes I wonder if I was not a pastor what I would like to be and do. My answer is always that no matter what I would do to make a living, I would always have a loving church home where I would have continuing fellowship with God and with fellow Christians. I am so blessed to have that loving church as my spiritual home and also as my work place.

Once Saint Paul while in a prison wrote a letter to his spiritual son Timothy, "Do your best come to me quickly, for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica...Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you...When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments." (2 Timothy 2: 9-13)

The weather got cold and Saint Paul was lonely in the prison without Christian friends. Some of them deserted him because they loved or were concerned with the world. Paul needed the fellowship with other Christians and urged Timothy to come to him quickly with Mark and to bring his winter cloak too. I imagine how much Paul was filled with joy when Timothy and Mark arrived there and restored Christian fellowship with him. I hope and pray that we always experience that joy whenever we get together as a church. Praise God!

I want to share good news with you. With the support and approval of the Staff Parish Relationship Committee and the Church Council I applied for the Lilly Endowment's Clergy Renewal program grant. And we got the grant!! More than anything else I am deeply thankful to all of you for your support and good wishes. It is hard for any church to give a three-month sabbatical to its pastor because it can mean disruption of church life. I thank you again for your love and generosity.

My sabbatical will be from May 3, 2010 to August 8, 2010. The theme of the sabbatical is "The Ministries of Diverse Congregations to the Diverse World." During the sabbatical I will visit and study several diverse faith communities in urban settings. I will share with you detailed plans for our church and for myself when the sabbatical comes closer. God bless you all. — Pastor Choi

## NOVEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### NOVEMBER 1, 2009

All Saints' Day  
Holy Communion  
"How He Loved Him!"  
Isaiah 25:6-9 and Revelation 21:1-6a  
John 11:32-44

### NOVEMBER 8, 2009

"Christian Matchmaking"  
Ruth 3:1-17 and Mark 12:38-44

### NOVEMBER 15, 2009

"What Do You Remember?"  
1 Samuel 1:4-20 and Mark 13:1-8

### NOVEMBER 22, 2009

Youth Sunday  
Missionary David Brown Preaching  
Revelation 1:4b-8 and John 18:22-27

### NOVEMBER 29, 2009

First Sunday of Advent  
Rev. Kermit Krueger Preaching



*"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."*

*2 Corinthians 9:7*

### HELP FEED THE HUNGRY

Donate \$15 this Thanksgiving season and you will provide a full turkey dinner for a needy family to enjoy in their home. The Food Pantry Thanksgiving distribution will take place in our building on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

Please make your checks payable to Morgan Park UMC with a notation (on the memo line) of Food Pantry. Thank you!



### Christmas Gifts for Marcy Newberry

From November 15<sup>th</sup> to December 6<sup>th</sup> there will be a box in the parlor to collect Christmas gifts for Marcy Newberry, a United Methodist agency with several sites on the west side of Chicago. The gifts can be for children of all ages as well as senior citizens. Any gift will be appreciated as Marcy Newberry gives a gift to everyone who participates in their programs.

Wrapping paper, tape and batteries are also needed. Talk to Elaine Reynolds or Anne Genter if you have questions.

### GIVING OPPORTUNITY Prison Ministry

*Submitted by Carolyn McPherson*

Putting together bags of toiletries for the women incarcerated at Dwight State Prison has become a holiday ritual for our Church. Each year for the past approximately ten years, we have gathered together essential toiletries for clean and healthy bodies, put them in a plastic bag, and shipped them to the Dwight Prison. We know that the women there appreciate these packages, since their meager spending money, about \$4.00 each per month, does not have much purchasing power.

We will gather shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, a bar of bath soap, a comb, a toothbrush, and a tube of toothpaste, put it all in a Ziploc bag, and send it to the Prison. If you would like to assemble one or more bags on your own, please do so and bring them to Church any Sunday during November. If you would like me to shop for you, just give me five dollars for each bag you want to send, and I will buy the products and assemble your bag(s).

Typically we send 70-80 bags each year. Let's keep up this effort. You can be sure that the inmates at Dwight will be grateful.

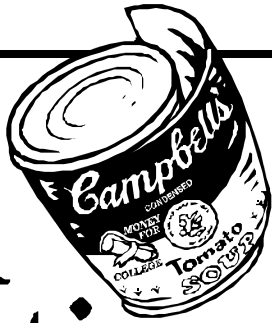


### CHILDSERV Christmas Gifts

This year we will again receive the names and wish lists of 25 children who are in one of ChildServ's programs. Each child should get at least two gifts with at least one coming from their wish list. The total amount you spend should not exceed \$60.00. If you would like you can team up with someone and share a child. You may also bring batteries, wrapping paper, tape and gift certificates as they are always needed.

The deadline to bring your gifts and/or other items is Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>. See Elaine Reynolds or Anne Genter for the name of a child.

# Label Collection



Did you know that here at Morgan Park we participate in the Campbell's Labels for Education collection to benefit Marcy Newberry Association? Well, we do.

The Campbell's Labels for Education program provides equipment and supplies, which schools and preschools like Marcy Newberry can not afford to purchase. It's an easy program to support. All you need to do is remove the label (cut down the middle of the front) from cans of Campbell's products and cut out the UPC bar code. Bring the bar code, or the whole label if you're not sure what to save, and put it in the Campbell's container in the parlor. The bar codes from Pepperidge Farm products – breads, cookies, crackers, etc., --are also saved, as well as the lids from V-8, V-8 Splash and Prego products. Marcy Newberry is able to redeem these for all kinds of things that they use in their programs such as sports equipment, educational games, books, computers, classroom materials and even a van that is used to transport things from one site to another.

This project is supported by churches from across the conference but we here at Morgan Park receive and process the UPC bar codes and lids and send them to the Campbell Company. Please remember to save the UPC's and lids that you get and bring them to church. If you want to learn more about the program there is a website you can visit -- [www.labelsforeducation.com](http://www.labelsforeducation.com).



**HANGING  
of the  
GREENS  
Sunday, Nov. 29**

## YOUTH GROUP "OUTREACH from the INSIDE"

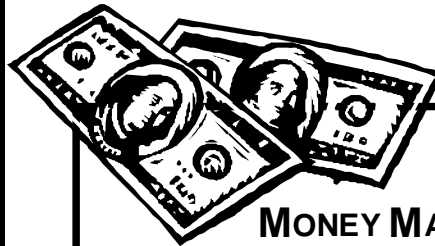
**FRIDAY EVENINGS  
5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.  
MPUMC Gym**

*Submitted by Micah Briggs*

The Youth Group is starting "outreach from the inside" on Friday evenings. We will be utilizing the gymnasium to allow youth ages 13-18 to play basketball from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Our vision is to use the bait of athletics to offer youth the message of Jesus Christ while providing them with a safe place to have fun and get off the streets. We are extending this invitation to our neighbors in this community and we will need volunteers to come help support this ministry.

If you are interested in volunteering your time please speak with Pastor Eun-Hye or Youth Pastor Micah so that we can continue this great work.



## MONEY MATTERS

*Submitted by Gene Delves, Finance Chair*

The good news is that we are currently buying and storing gobs and gobs of gas at only \$.40 a therm, compared to a budget of \$.60 a therm and about \$1.00 a therm last year. Right now, we have 13,000 therms in storage, somewhere in those caves in Texas, which is almost a third of the 45,000 therms we'll need to heat the church this winter. That's the good news.

The not so good news is that we are falling way behind on contributions – the weekly and monthly offerings from our members and friends for the ongoing day-to-day operations of our church. The budget for the first four months of our fiscal year (June – September) is \$64,000. At the end of September, we were \$6,000 short of that number, and, more seriously, have been losing ground every month. Unfortunately, no amount of savings on gas is going to make up for this shortfall if it continues.

It is not unusual for some of our members to fall somewhat behind during the summer months, but summer is now over. So this is an open letter encouraging members who may have fallen behind on their regular weekly and monthly offerings to try to catch up as soon as and as best as they can. A word to the wise is sufficient.



**ANNE GENTHER**  
 Awarded a Fellowship in  
**THE SOCIETY OF JOHN WESLEY**  
 October 18, 2009  
*Submitted by the Morgan Park UMM*

Fellows in the Society of John Wesley are known by their witness, vision and stewardship that enhance and strengthen the mission and ministry of the church. The society was created by the United Methodist Men Foundation to promote greater awareness of the Christian principles and practices embodied in the church.

Established in 1982 by the directors of the United Methodist Men Foundation, the Society of John Wesley is a means of recognizing those who exemplify the characteristics of John Wesley. These characteristics are best seen through service to fellow men and women and commitment to the teachings of the Christian faith. John Wesley called together such people to form "The Holy Club."

The Morgan Park UMM voted on January 11, 2009 to recommend Anne as a Fellow. Anne is the 677<sup>th</sup> Fellow of the Society.

Anne, the daughter of a United Methodist Minister, came to Chicago in 1967 as a missionary assigned to Marcy Center on the west side of Chicago working in the pre-school and after school program.

She met Bob Genther who was a social youth worker at Marcy Center and they married in 1969.

Both became teachers in the Chicago Public School System, Bob as a special education high school teacher and Anne as an elementary teacher.

Bob had been involved with Boy Scouts since college and Anne joined him, working with Cub Scout age boys. Together they provided varied experiences to the boys through camping trips, crafts and especially several 2-3 week bus trips around the country.

Anne has been involved with United Methodist Women on many levels, serving as an officer at the local, district, and conference level, including four years as Northern Illinois Conference President. She now serves as Dean of the School of Christian Missions and is Chair of the Northern Illinois Conference Board of Global Ministries. She is also on the Board of Directors of Marcy-Newberry Association and Clair House.

Anne is the Treasurer of Morgan Park United Methodist Church, President of United Methodist Women at Morgan Park, Co-Chair of Natural Church Development and an invaluable volunteer in the church office.

**CONGRATULATIONS ANNE!**  
**An Honor Well-Deserved.**

Youth Group  
 New Orleans Mission Trip  
 Fundraiser

**TALENT SHOW & DINNER**  
 Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup>  
 6:00 p.m.



- \***LASAGNA**  
(Ground Turkey & Veggie)
- \***CAESAR SALAD**
- \***BREAD & BUTTER**
- \***DESSERT**
- \***FRUIT PUNCH**
- \***COFFEE**

**Adults – \$10 (In Advance); \$12 (At the Door)**  
**Children 5-12 – \$5 (4 and Under – Free)**  
**Students (With School ID) – \$5**

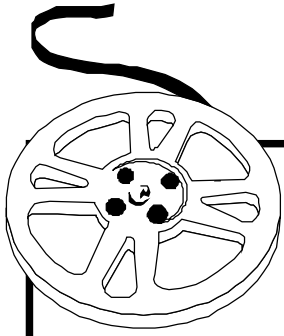
Please come out and support the Youth Group as we raise funds for our New Orleans Mission Trip. We are hosting a Talent Show/Dinner. Please come and enjoy a delicious dinner and fine entertainment while simultaneously creating opportunities for our youth to participate in the rebuilding of hurricane scarred New Orleans and show the love of Jesus Christ through selfless service.

**SEARCHING FOR TALENT!**

If you would like to participate in the Talent Show (all ages...all talents) please contact a member of our youth group.

**Also...** feel free to make donations to the Youth Group and their mission efforts.

For additional information contact:  
 Micah Bricks, Youth Pastor



### NOVEMBER FILM DISCUSSION

*Submitted by Shirley Butler*

The Film Discussion Group will meet to view and discuss the 1968 film, *"Shoes of the Fisherman"* on Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 p.m. at the parsonage.

Academy Award winner, Anthony Quinn, stars as a priest who after spending 20 years in a Siberian labor camp rises to become the first Russian pope.

All are welcome to join in the fellowship and stimulating conversation. For more information, please contact Shirley Butler.

Southern District

## UNITED METHODIST MEN'S 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Musical Showcase

Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>  
4:00 p.m.

**Morgan Park UMC Sanctuary**

*Come and be blessed as you enjoy the musical talents of United Methodist Men's Choirs from around our district.*



### Just a Friendly Reminder

Food served during the "coffee hour" on Sunday is not a budget item. Please remember to put something in the dish, because that is the money which supports the expenditure for the next week. (Suggested donation; \$1)

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

*"The best way to exercise one's heart is to reach down and lift up people."*

### A LETTER TO MPUMC FROM

*Lonnie Chafin, NIC Conference Treasurer*

"...I write to express sincere thanks to your church for your faithful apportionment giving. The recession makes plain what we've been neglecting for so long; thanking the churches who, year after year, consistently and faithfully make the ministries of our annual conference possible. God's call upon the United Methodist reaches to every corner of the world. We can respond to this call only because of your sacrificial giving through apportionments..."

### NOVEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

#### LITURGISTS

November 1...Charles Preyar

November 8...Charles Preyar

#### GREETERS

Nov 1... Crystal Hill and April Preyar

Nov. 8... Tom Hall and Keil Morek

Nov. 15... Valerie Aurel and Yves-Myr Desruisseaux

Nov. 22... Youth

Nov. 29... Mary Chandy and Rachel Idicula

#### ACOLYTES

Nov. 1... Sydney Cerrentano and Carinne Parker

Nov. 8... Kaline Langley and Denise Parker

Nov. 15... Christopher Parker and Pierre Parker

Nov. 22... Sydney Cerrentano and Carinne Parker

Nov. 29... Antonio Sullivan and Will Zopp

### COMMUNITY NEWS OF INTEREST

A new Caregiver Club has been formed in the Beverly/Morgan Park area. The meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month in the Community Room of Curves of Beverly, 1806 W. 103<sup>rd</sup> St from 1-2 p.m. and 7-8 p.m. It's free and open to all who are spending time caring for a family member, friend or neighbor. For more information please contact Betsy Johnson at 708-710-9093.

### DRAMA MINISTRY

Meeting

Tuesdays, November 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>

Parlor - 7:00 p.m.

## WHY I JOINED THE RECONCILING COMMITTEE

*Submitted by Pat Bayer*

For those of you who know me well, and know that I have a great deal of difficulty "bottom lining" anything, you will be amazed, shocked and pleased at the brevity of this article. I joined the reconciling committee simply because I believe that the time has come when we must proclaim out loud that we, as a Christian community of faith, see the value in all of God's creation and therefore embrace all God's people with love and equality.

The statements of reconciliation cover much more than sexual orientation, but sexual orientation seems to be the obstacle that most of us struggle with. I personally believe that a person's sexuality is (just as is the color of their eyes and hair, their gender, their stature, their race, etc.) a part of who they are, part of the way that they were created by God, not a choice, not a behavior, not an alternative lifestyle.

God loves all his creation and he calls upon us to love his creation too, to treat all people with respect, equality and dignity. We should embrace our differences rather than fear our differences, because discrimination of any kind hurts innocent people. And where does discrimination stop? It should stop with us.

I joined the Reconciling Committee because I believe in the depths of my being that it is the right thing to do and because I look forward to the day when the United Methodist Church can honestly say that it is a Christian community of faith with "Open Hearts, Open Minds and Open Doors."

*I would urge all members of this congregation to prayerfully consider taking the Bible class "Claiming the Promise" which will be offered again in January. We can only make a thoughtful decision on our reconciling statement if we have explored all sides of the issue. A sign up sheet is posted in the parlor.*



### SEARCHING FOR TALENT!

If you would like to participate in the Youth Group Fundraising Talent Show (all ages...all talents) on Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup> please contact Youth Pastor Micah Briggs or a member of our youth group.



## CHOIR NOTES...

### SAYING GOODBYE TO CLOVIS

We sadly say goodbye to our Music Director, Clovis Bordeaux, as he leaves us to help the ministry at his home church. We thank him for his music ministry at MPUMC and wish him well.

Staff Parish Relations Committee is in the process of searching for a new Music Director. Arrangements for interim musicians have been made.

The choir will continue to practice on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

### WHEN YOU GO TO CHURCH, SMILE AS YOU GO THROUGH YOUR HYMNALS:

Dentist's Hymn..... Crown Him with Many Crowns  
Contractor's Hymn ..... The Church 's One Foundation  
Tailor's Hymn ..... Holy, Holy, Holy  
Golfer's Hymn ..... There's a Green Hill Far Away  
Politician's Hymn..... Standing on the Promises  
Optometrist's Hymn..... Open My Eyes that I Might See  
IRS Agent's Hymn..... I Surrender All  
Gossip's Hymn..... Pass It On  
Electrician's Hymn..... Send the Light  
Shopper's Hymn ..... Sweet Bye and Bye  
Massage Therapist's Hymn ..... He Touched Me  
Doctor's Hymn ..... The Great Physician

### And...For those who speed on the highway:

45mph.....God Will Take Care of You  
65mph.....Nearer My God to Thee  
85mph.....This World Is Not My Home  
95mph.....Lord, I'm Coming Home  
100mph.....Precious Memories

## SALUTING OUR VETERANS



### VETERANS DAY NOVEMBER 11, 2009