



August 2009

# SPIRIT IN THE PARK

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MORGAN PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## Dear Friends

I hope that you are well and safe this summer and enjoying this time with your family and friends. At our church there were some fun and exciting summer programs such as, the all-church picnic, the Berry Festival and Vacation Bible School. I thank all of you who volunteered and participated in these summer programs. You make our church fun, strong and healthy.

Our summer worship theme is "Reconciliation" and our Reconciling Committee is having a study/discussion group on Sunday mornings using the book "Proclaim the Promise" which is from the Reconciling Ministry Network. The Committee plans to host more study, discussion and forum opportunities for all members in the future.

In August I will keep preaching on the theme of "Reconciling Spirituality and Sexuality", "Reconciling the Bible and Homosexuality", (twice) and "Reconciling All People of God". We have also invited a guest preacher, Rev. Carol Noren, who will present diverse perspectives on this topic.

On August 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> we will have "Talk Back to the Preacher" gatherings in the parlor after the worship service. It will be a time that you can talk back to the preacher about her/his sermons and share your thoughts with others. Please see the August worship calendar and take time to read the Bible passages in advance.

On another subject, we will have a Disciple 1 Bible Study group starting Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. I know that many of you already took Disciple classes and you have shared with me your meaningful and life-changing experiences associated with these studies. I also am a strong Disciple study believer and want to have the opportunity to study it with you at Morgan Park UMC.

Because of regular church meetings and choir rehearsal, Thursday is the only possible day we can have the on-going study group. But if more of you who are interested in taking this class are available on Mondays rather than Thursdays, we can change some meetings. Please see the insert flyer and return your registration portion to me or to the church office.

Here are some remarks about the Disciple studies from our members who took them in the past: "Food for the soul...definitely two thumbs up!" "Awe inspiring...sweeping panorama of the story of God's love..." "Wildly exciting...thought provoking...a spiritual roller coaster ride!" "Enlightenment through controversial debate..."

Please join in this meaningful and life-changing study, discussion, reflection, and fellowship opportunity! All ages will be welcomed and all perspectives will be respected.

Peace,  
Pastor Eun-Hye Choi

### AUGUST WORSHIP SCHEDULE

#### AUGUST 2, 2009

Holy Communion  
"Reconciling Spirituality and Sexuality"  
Psalm 139 and 1 Corinthians 7:1-7

#### AUGUST 9, 2009

"Reconciling the Bible and Homosexuality" (1)  
Genesis 19:1-29 and Romans 1:18-32  
"Talk Back to the Preacher"  
(After Worship Service in the Parlor)

#### AUGUST 16, 2009

"Reconciling the Bible and Homosexuality" (2)  
Leviticus 18:22; 20:13 and Luke 10:25-37  
"Talk Back to the Preacher"  
(After Worship Service in the Parlor)

#### AUGUST 23, 2009

"Homosexuality and the Bible"  
Rev. Carol Noren will preach.  
"Talk Back to the Preacher"  
(After Worship Service in the Parlor)

#### AUGUST 30, 2009

"Reconciling All God's People"  
Leviticus 19:11-18 and Matthew 5:43-48

## ATTENTION ALL HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS!

Could you use an extra \$1,000 when you graduate from college? Read on.

### Background:

Jim Swearingen was a longtime member of our Church and a very prominent educator. He served as president of what is now Chicago State University from 1942 to 1948 and continued to serve on the faculty there until his retirement in 1963. When he died in 1976, his family and friends contributed memorial gifts to establish the Swearingen Scholarship Fund at our church.

The original plan was to make scholarship grants only out of the income of the Fund, and in the early days, a few such grants were made. Unfortunately, the Fund is not large enough to generate enough income to award any really meaningful grants. Therefore, the administrators of the Fund have decided to change the purpose of the Fund from making traditional tuition scholarship grants to making scholarship achievement awards, and to make the awards out of both income and principal, as long as the Fund lasts.

### Scholarship Achievement Award Eligibility:

You will be eligible to receive a \$1,000 award from the Swearingen Scholarship Fund if you meet the following criteria:

- 1) You are an active member of the Morgan Park United Methodist Church.
- 2) You are currently (or plan to be) enrolled in an accredited college or university where you will receive a bachelor's degree or equivalent.
- 3) You graduate with a B average or better over the three years preceding graduation.

There are no strings attached to the money. You may wish to apply it to your student loans, which would probably be a smart idea. However, you may choose to put it toward graduate study or some better clothes when you go for those job interviews, or whatever. That's for you, and maybe your parents to decide.

Tuck this article away, and when you think you qualify, talk to one of the Fund administrators. If you qualify and there's money left in the Fund, you will receive the award.

The current administrators of the Fund are: Carol (Swearingen) Cardinal, Jerry Taylor, Al Cardinal, Sue Delves, Natalie Swearingen (Mrs. Charles), Gene Delves.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>

The children and youth Sunday school classes will resume on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. A special celebration will be held following worship. **We are still in need of Sunday school teachers.** Please talk to pastor Choi or Carisa Parker if you are interested in teaching. We are in special need of a co-teacher (two Sundays a month) for the preschool/kindergarten class. Elementary teachers serve on a rotating basis.

### AUGUST WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

#### LITURGIST

August 2 through 30...Regine Desruisseaux

#### GREETERS

August 2...Frank & Pat Hawkins

August 9...Chante Waters and Dorothy Wiggins

August 16...Tommy & Johnetta Taylor

August 23...Arleen McGee and Geraldine Washington

August 30...Bonnie Herron and Susan McDonald

#### ACOLYTES

August 2...Christopher Parker and Pierre Parker

August 9...Kaline Langley and Carinne Parker

August 16...Sydney Cerrentano and Denise Parker

August 23...Kaline Langley and Carinne Parker

August 30... Christopher Parker and Pierre Parker

**...DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY...**

### DISCIPLE I BIBLE STUDY

Beginning Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>

7:00 p.m.

**THE ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME!**



### RECONCILING COMMITTEE

*Submitted by Yvonne Brown*

The Reconciling Committee had its first meeting on Sunday Morning, July 12<sup>th</sup>. Pictured above are (back row) Eileen Fay, Scott Jaburek, Laura Parker, Pat Bayer, Yvonne Brown, Rev. Kermit Krueger, Don Jaburek, (front row) Rev. Eun-Hye Choi, Jazelle and Eugene Echols. Irene Harvey, Pat Hawkins, and Lucious Moore also on the committee are not pictured.

During the first meeting the group discussed the movie, "For the Bible Told Me So". The Committee is following the movie with a 7-week study series entitled "Claiming the Promise".

We will keep you informed of future opportunities for discussion and educational opportunities on Reconciling Ministries.

**PLEASE NOTE...**Sunday sermons are now on our website as podcast. To hear or share Sunday sermons go to [www.morganparkumc.org](http://www.morganparkumc.org) and click worship on the left side of the home page. No extra computer program is necessary to access these sermons.



*Submitted by Germaine Desruisseaux*

A big "THANK YOU" to all who contributed to a successful Vacation Bible School last month. The children greatly enjoyed the program. VBS 2009 would not have been possible without your contributions of time, money, and other resources.

Thank you again and we look forward to having you join us for Vacation Bible School 2010 – Galactic Blast!

Editor's Note...*The smiles on the children's faces during VBS were abundant! All who attended had a wonderful time each and every day. Special thanks to Germaine Desruisseaux and Jeanne Skelly who year after year give of their time, talents and energy to co-ordinate this program.*

### Berry Festival Thank You

*Submitted by Shirley Butler, Event Chairperson*

Many thanks to all who worked, baked and helped to pull off our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Berry Festival. A very special thank you to those who came forward to perform in the Talent Show: JeRome Brown, MC and comedian; Charles Preyar, comedian; Pat Bayer and Stan Noble, vocal duet; Yves-Mir Desruisseaux and Naelle Zephir, dancers; Amyr Desruisseaux, Olivia Parker and Erica Taylor, Trio; Tom Hall and John Hall, vocal and guitar; Clovis Bordeaux, accompanist and piano soloist.

**Take a bow. You were all great!**

Thanks to the Friday Night Basketball Group for the set-up of Great Hall.

Special thanks, also, to County Fair Foods for donating fresh berries for sale. When you are in the store, let Bill Baffes know you are from Morgan Park UMC.

**May God multiply our gifts, so that we may be a blessing to the community.**

### UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



The United Methodist Women will meet on Saturday, August 29, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. in the parlor. Come join us for fellowship, a business meeting and program as we work to fulfill our purpose of being in mission with women, children and youth around the world. Talk to Trudy Hill or Anne Genther if you have questions.



*Submitted by Anne Genther*

The Outreach Team works throughout the year to support mission projects as a part of the Rainbow Covenant. Each band of the Rainbow has a different emphasis. The Indigo Band is the band that covers local projects and one of our local projects is Esmond School. Morgan Park UMC has had connections with Esmond School over many years. So the Outreach Team wants to highlight Esmond School this month.

Did you know that a part of Esmond is one of the oldest school buildings in the city of Chicago? The oldest part was built in the 1890's and other parts were built in the early 1900's and in the 1970's. More than 500 students attend Esmond School in grades Pre-K through 8. Esmond participates in the International Baccalaureate Program with Morgan Park High School. Dr. Angela Tucker is the principal.

Several members of the congregation have connections with Esmond School. Listen to some of their memories:

"For me Esmond was a place where you could meet up with friends before school and play a game or two, then go into the school where the teachers and staff cared about each student. No matter if it was reading or gym they were always there for us. The students were helpful to each other – whether they needed help or someone else needed it. Esmond is a good place to go and learn." (Pierre McCann: former student and Stanford Noble's grandson and MPUMC custodian on Sundays)

"Esmond School was built in 1891 and is one of the oldest Public Schools in the city of Chicago. I attended Esmond School in the 1940's. My children and grandchildren also attended/attend Esmond. Esmond School is a community school with an open door policy for students, staff, parents and community." (Nancy Smith: former student and former member of the Local School Council)

"Esmond School has wonderful teachers. They are very caring and whenever you need help they take their time and work with you. My favorite year was my 8<sup>th</sup> grade year. We had so much fun going on our class trip and all the other activities we did. Esmond is a good school to go to." (Kanisha Davis: former student)

"Esmond was called the school on the other side of the tracks. My children went there. There was no lunchroom at first and you ate in the basement. I had kids bring their lunches to my house and eat there. The graduation luncheon was held at the Beverly Woods Restaurant, which accepted all students. The graduation was held at Morgan Park High School. One year one of the teachers had to run back and get the diplomas when they were

forgotten. Blacks, white, Mexican and even Japanese were part of the enrollment and accepted." (Harriett Melin: parent of former students)

"I am a 2009 graduate of Esmond School and I have been blessed to have been taught by some of the best and most caring teachers at Esmond from Pre-K till 8<sup>th</sup> grade." (Antonio Sullivan: former student and Nancy Smith's grandson)

"I attended Esmond for 9 years (K thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade) from January 1943 to January 1952. I played catcher on a softball team and backup center on a basketball team. I was a patrol boy for two years on a corner that is now a part of the Morgan Park High School Campus. One day I was standing on my corner with my hands on my hips and two high school boys picked me up by the arms, carried me across the street and put me down gently. I thought it was cool and I still remember it." (Bill Reynolds: former student)

"I've been at Esmond my whole life but the year that stood out to me the most was my 8<sup>th</sup> grade year. I loved my 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers and the IB coordinator. I will never forget my 8<sup>th</sup> grade year there." (Kyisha Davis: former student)

"Hello, my name is Samantha Walton. I'm a third grader at Esmond School. I love Esmond School because my teacher, Ms. Smith, and the principal, Dr. Tucker, are nice, caring people." (Samantha Walton: present student and Nancy Smith's granddaughter)

Today the connection between Esmond School and MPUMC continues. The United Methodist Men help provide security for the students before and after school. They recently received a plaque from the school for their dedication and service. The Outreach Team sponsors a collection of school supplies for the students each year. You can help by bringing any type of school supplies to the church and leaving them on the mission table in the parlor. Many children at Esmond today can use a helping hand through the school supply collection. Last year we had a trunk load of items. Can we do as well or better this year? We can if you help, so shop the sales and bring the items to church with you. The children start school very soon.

**PLEASE...**  
**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**  
**CHURCH CONFERENCE**

**Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>**  
10:30 a.m.

Staff-Parish Relations Committee meeting at 10:00 a.m.

*All members are invited to attend.*

*Participation is requested of all Officers, Team Leaders and Committee Chairs.*



**FALL NEIGHBORHOOD FLEA MARKET**  
**Saturday, September 19, 2009**

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

*Submitted by Anne Genter*

On Saturday, September 19, 2009 Morgan Park UMC will host the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Fall Neighborhood Flea Market. It will be held in our parking lot. This is an all-church fund-raising event and we need you to be involved!

On that day we will have vendors selling their items as well as church tables with items for sale. One way you can help is to invite your friends and neighbors to purchase a space for \$25.00. It's a great way to sell things that you would normally sell at a garage sale, without having a garage sale. There are registration forms available on the back table in the sanctuary or in the office.

We also need help manning the church tables. We will have books, baked goods, gift items and jewelry tables. We need everyone to give some time on that day. Members of the committee will be asking you where you will help and signing you up. If they miss you, talk to Anne Genter, Pat Hawkins, Trudy Hill or Elaine Reynolds. We also need items to sell on the tables so let us know what you can bring.

The United Methodist Men will be serving food that day so plan to enjoy what they have to offer. The men will handle their food sale but we will also need the men to help in other areas as well.

Set up and clean up are two other areas where a lot of help is needed. People will be needed to be in the parking lot beginning at 7:00 a.m. to guide the vendors and make sure all runs smoothly. Then people are needed at 3:00 p.m. for clean up. Many hands make light work, so if enough of you sign up to help, it will be an easier job. You will be asked for this as well.

The funds raised by this event are a part of our church budget and also go to missions through the United Methodist Women so it important that we have a successful event. Publicity about it and your support through your time will help us make it a huge success. If you think of other ways to help talk to any of those listed above.

**OUTREACH TEAM**  
**BAKE SALE**

**Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>**  
Parlor – Following Worship

The Outreach Team will be holding a bake sale in the parlor on Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup> after service. The money from the sale goes toward our Rainbow Covenant projects.

If you would like to bring baked items for us to sell they will be gladly accepted. We also hope you will shop the sale on August 30<sup>th</sup> and help support our mission projects.

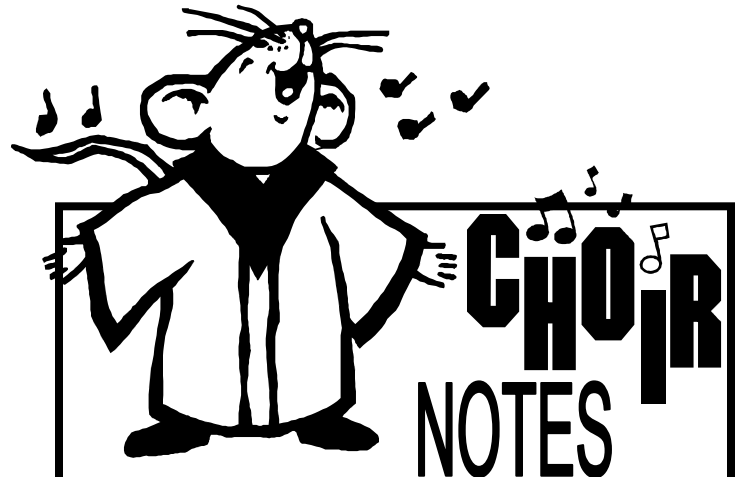
**Questions?**

Contact Elaine Reynolds

**CHURCH COUNCIL**

**Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>**  
Parlor  
**7:30 p.m.**

PLEASE...MARK YOUR CALENDARS



The choir is taking a well-deserved summer break and will resume singing during worship on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>.

Choir rehearsals are held every Wednesday evening in the parlor at 7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal will resume on Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>.

New members are always welcome. If you would like to join the choir or have any questions, please contact Shirley Butler or Clovis Bordeaux (Choir Director/Organist).

## On behalf of everyone at Umbrella...



14<sup>th</sup> July 2009

Dear members of the Morgan Park United Methodist Church,

We at Umbrella would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generosity and support.

Umbrella is a relatively young organization but in such a short period of time, just 5 years, it has grown into one of Nepal's largest children's homes. The money you helped raise is *all* sent to Nepal where it is put to, what we feel is a truly worthwhile cause. We care for 330 conflict displaced children here in Umbrella providing them with a safe loving home, high standard of education, the childhood they deserve and hope for the future!

With the current economic climate every donation and sponsorship is hugely appreciated and every little bit goes such a long way in Nepal! So thank you so much on behalf of everyone here in Kathmandu, the staff, the volunteers but especially a huge thank you from all the children here!

Many Thanks,  
Stephen Jenkinson  
Country Director  
The Umbrella Foundation Nepal

### **Film Discussion Group Meets**

*Submitted by: Shirley Butler*

The Film Discussion Group will meet to view and discuss the 2007 film, [The Visitor](#), on Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 p.m. at the home of Trudy Hill.

The film, which stars Academy Award nominee Richard Jenkins, depicts the life of a widowed professor who is living a joyless life, until he finds a couple squatting in his Manhattan apartment, and gets involved in their lives.

All are welcome to join the stimulating conversation.