

The Messenger

United Methodist Church – 2210 Sixth Avenue East, Alexandria, MN 56308

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January 2012

Editor: Colleen Schutte

Dear Friends,

I hope you're having a good Christmas, and perhaps even New Year, as you read this, even though it's being prepared while Advent is still in effect. As I explained to the 8:00 crowd (using "crowd" loosely) last Sunday, the 18th, I miss the carol, *God Rest You Merry Gentlemen*. It's exclusive language is dated, a bit troubling theologically to some of us, ("to save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray" as an example), but it has one of those familiar, sing-able tunes that I'm not ready to give up. So, I offered up a different text, which some of us actually did sing that last Sunday of Advent.

Since so few actually had the joy of sharing in this new-penned gem (and since the creative juice is running a bit thin), I thought, why not offer it again? So, here you go. Belt it out as you gather around the piano in your living room, hold hands and sing it around the tree, offer it as a lullaby to your wee one, let it line the bottom of the bird cage if you think that's where it belongs! But, consider it please, before Larry the Canary takes aim.

*In Central Minnesota along I-94
the holy promise travels on in search of open doors,
and hearts and minds to welcome the good God has in store!
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy! O tidings of comfort and joy!*

*God bless you harried, gentle ones, let nothing in your way,
not past events nor future fears nor present disarray,
disrupt your getting ready for God's arrival day!
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy! O tidings of comfort and joy!*

*So to the Lord sing praises, all you in every place!
And greet the Christ who meets you in every human face!
With arms and hearts wide open each other now embrace!
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy! O tidings of comfort and joy!*

*And when the holidays are o'er and a New Year's begun,
that in no way determines the delivery work is done!
There are those yet awaiting - that Christmas will still come!
So, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy – so bring tidings of comfort and joy!*

All the way into and through 2012!

Julie, Noah, Trystan, Ozzie and I all wish you the most blessed and beautiful Christmas and New Year possible. And we thank you for all the goodness and love you bring to this world, and to us.

Shalom,
Jeff

Parish News

Hospitalized recently:

Del Blair—Douglas County Hospital

Happy Birthday to:

Deloris Venekamp who will celebrate her 80th Birthday on January 11th.

New Address:

Marjorie Guenther
5300 Woodhill Rd, #110
Minnetonka, MN 55345

Our Sympathy to:

Scott and Vicki Johnston and Aaron and Kelly Bumgarner family on the death of Scott's mother on Dec. 18th.

Mike and Jocelyn Olson, Mike and Jaime Jost and family, and Jackie Lybeck and family on the death of Mike's father on Dec. 15th.

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of Alexandria
Telephone (320) 763-4624

Pastor: Jeffrey Hansen

Secretary/Treasurer: Colleen Schutte

Custodian: Denise Dropik

Organists: Kirk Landman and Gale Maxwell

Nursery: Amanda Winther & Amber Krienke

Office Hours

Jeff – Tuesday (3-5 pm)

Thursdays (10-12 noon, 3-5 p.m.)
by appointment at other times

Office is Open

Monday through Friday 9:00-1:00

Colleen – Mon-Tue-Wed-Thu-Fri

Worship Attendance

	2011		2010	
	8:00	10:30	8:00	10:30
Nov. 27	70	78	74	100
Dec. 4	82	128	63	126
Dec. 11	83	124	40	252
Dec. 18	56	275	64	118



February 5th is the normal All Church Potluck Sunday. It is also Super Bowl Sunday. In place of the potluck, we will be doing Souper Sundae. Watch for sign up sheets in mid-January in the narthex. All proceeds from Souper Sundae will go for camper-ships this summer. Thank you.



Education Committee

Reminder that we are following our Safe Sanctuary Policy—the church entrance doors will remain locked unless there are two people present in the building. Please call ahead before you come to church, or if you have a cell phone, you can call the office once you arrive at the building to have someone let you in. Also, there are times when we are not in the building, even though we are working. We recommend that you call to see if the person you wish to meet with is in. There also are many days when someone is in the office later than 1:00 p.m.

Publication Date for the next *Messenger*:

is the last week of Jan. Articles submitted for the February issue need to be in the office by NOON on Friday, January 20th.

JANUARY VOLUNTEERS

Liturgists:

8:00 January 8 & 15—Lee Becker
10:30 January 22 & 29—Jeff Reed

January 1, 8 & 15—Connie Good
January 22 & 29—Paula Glade

Ushers:

Jan. 1—10:30—Dave Nelson, Jared Nelson, Maggie Flenner, Sarah Nelson
Jan. 8—8:00—Brad Brunkow, Will Reed, Madalyn Winger, Amelia Golde
10:30—Dave Nelson—Toby Helgeson, Maria Schlapkohl
Jan 15—8:00—Brad Brunkow—Zach Thomson, Amelia Golde, Jocelyn Gettel
10:30—Dave Nelson—Brandon Cain, Sarah Nelson
Jan 22—8:00—Brad Brunkow, Will Reed, Jocelyn Gettel, Madalyn Winger
10:30—Dave Nelson, Dayton Stanbra, Samantha Winther, Brittany Stanbra
Jan 29—8:00—Brad Brunkow, Zach Thomson, Madalyn Winger, Amelia Golde
10:30—Dave Nelson, Megan Bristow, Ryan DeReamer, Abby Erlandson

Greeters:

Jan 1		10:30—Greg & Denise Dropik family
Jan 8	8:00—Jerry & Mary Wilkens	10:30—Dennis & Arlyn Cin
Jan 15	8:00—Ron & Kathy Reiber	10:30—Mike & Jean Bristow
Jan 22	8:00—Gary & Heidi Becker	10:30—Marge Jensen
Jan 29	8:00—Jerry & Jeanne Miller	10:30—Shawn & Christine Reilly family

Coffee Servers:

Jan. 1 ???? Need Volunteers ????
8 Blake & Katherine Evans, Jim & Marge Jensen
15 3rd/4th Grade Sunday School Class
22 Reed & Lee Becker, Tom & DeeAnn Kraemer
29 Mark & Michele Janke, Keven & Beth Jansen

Organists:

Jan 1—Gale Maxwell
8—Kirk Landman
15—Gale Maxwell
22—Kirk Landman
29—Gale Maxwell

Nursery Workers:

January 1, 15 & 29—Amanda Winther
January 8 & 22—Amber Krienke

Communion Bread Provided By:

Helen Glade



CIRCLE MEETINGS:

Friends—Thursday, January 12th, 7:00 PM

Joy—Thursday, January 19th, 9:30 AM at Traveler's Inn

Peace—Thursday, January 19th, 1:30 PM

UMW Update:

UMW will host four program meetings on the first Thursdays of February, May, September and November, 2012. The Diversity Resource Action Alliance will present "What does all this diversity stuff mean anyway?" on February 2, 2012, at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship hall. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!



In your prayers, remember LaVonne Ahlstedt, Luella Beto, Del Blair, Aaron and Kelly Bumgarner and family, Lowell Gess, Marilyn Graczyk, Scott and Vicki Johnston and family, Mike and Jaime Jost and family, Edith Laird, Jackie Lybeck and family, Dan Olson, Mike and Jocelyn Olson and family, Helen Paulson and Carolyn Randall.

Northstar District Prayer List:

- Nov. 30—Dec 6 - Thief River Falls UMC
- Dec. 7-13 - Vergas UMC
- Dec. 14 -20 - Verndale UMC
- Dec. 21-27 - Central UMC in Verndale
- Dec. 28-Jan 3 - Villard UMC



Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! Alex UMC served 141 guests at the December breakfast with Santa! From candy cane

invitations and gift bags to the photos with Santa and a graciously served breakfast, you made this happen through your generous donations of time and items. Leftover gift bags were greatly appreciated by WINGS transitional housing, Salvation Army and the 6th Avenue Community Center. Thank you Alex UMC for opening your doors and to the following people for sharing this month: Margaret Anderson, Jean Bristow, Sherry Bruckner, Shirley Bruckner, Paula DeReamer, Denise Dropik, Paul and Judy Florell, Otto & Phyllis Freier, Helen Glade, Brenda Golde, Kathleen Haining, Julie Hansen, John & Sue Helgeson, Jen Heydt, John & Ann Heydt, Sharon Holm, Adrian Ledermann, Connie Mehesan, Linda Mills, Dave & Karen Morgan, Bette Olson, Roger & Bev Parks, Bruce & Kathleen Pohlig, Christine Reilly, Chris Schuldt, Ron & Colleen Schutte, Kelli Stember-Tung, Diane Strehlow, Nancy Syverson, Aaron, Brenda, Zach & Davyn Thomson, Andy & Sally Vano, Sue Walker, Caryl White, United Way of Pope and Douglas Counties for the books, and the many, many anonymous donors!



- ♥ To our Holiday Decorators: Jean Bristow, Beth Jansen, Connie Mehesan, Linda Mills, Donna Phillips and Sally Vano
- ♥ Tom DeWitt and Scott Johnston for setting up the Christmas Tree
- ♥ Kayla Brunkow and Tess Evink for directing the Sunday School Christmas Program
- ♥ The Sunday School children, teachers, and all volunteers for the GREAT Christmas Program
- ♥ Our Church Grounds/Maintenance crew for the tremendous job this past summer/fall—saving the church over \$2,000: Mike Bartell, Gary Becker, Chuck Bollen, Dennis Brede, Gary Carlson, Dennis Cin, Tom DeWitt, Greg Dropik, John Heydt, Keven Jansen, Ron Larson, Jerry Miller, Dave Nelson, Keith Nelson, Dave Nomsen, Bruce Pohlig, Ron Reiber, Tom Roos, Ron Schutte, Jeremy Scribner, Wes Smith, Chad Stender, and Jerry Wilkens

Elden's Card Program

\$30,000—amount purchased through Dec. 18th
 \$28,330—amount sold through Dec. 18th
 \$1,416.50—amount generated for General Fund
 Please consider purchase a card(s) for use at Elden's Foods—we have \$25, \$50 and \$100 cards—and using them when you shop at Elden's. They make great gifts, too! Cards are available on Sunday mornings between worship services—or at the church office, Mon-Fri from 9 am to 1 pm. What an easy way to generate some income for our church!



Reminder. . .the monthly calendar is now part of the web page: www.alexumc.org. On the left hand side, click on "calendar"...you will be able to choose which month you wish to view and/or print. We have the whole year on there (as much as we have right now). Be sure to check the calendar frequently as things may be added or changed.

Building Bridges Award - 2011

This past spring, our church received a gift. . .and a challenge. The gift was that of \$4,000 given each year for 5 years to Alexandria United Methodist church. The challenge was that we as a congregation were to use 2/3 of this money annually to help others in our community and to create relationships or “build bridges” that would enrich both our own lives, and those of the people we serve.

A committee was formed, comprised of members of the missions committee and other volunteers - Chuck Holm, John Heydt, Marsha Haugen, Sherry Bruckner, and Heidi Ryan. Guidelines were established and an application form was made available to church members to complete and return for consideration.

We are pleased to announce that the Building Bridges initiative was able to award \$2,666 this year to HRA of Alexandria. The money will be used to fund a revolving account that provides loans of up to \$500 at 0% interest to families who need this money in order to pay deposits for rent and/or utilities. It was noted that the need for up front deposit money can stand in the way of a family being able to obtain safe and adequate housing. Lori Haugland of HRA noted that this gift means that this next year alone, 5-8 families will be able to obtain housing that otherwise would have been out of reach.

HRA will be responsible for dispersing these funds. Lori indicated that recipients will receive information about the source of funds, as well as information about our free monthly breakfasts. Lori intends to keep us advised of the difference these loans are making in the lives of area families.

As we observe this Advent season, it is fitting that we remember another family so many years ago who had but a manger for a bed. . .and celebrate our ability to help these families in the present day!



1 Pat Baustian
2 Heather Cogger
Marge Jensen
Ron Reiber
Brookelyn Scribner
3 Scott Mogler
Bob Vikander, Sr.
4 Arlana Langner
Sue Walker
6 Kelly Decko
Kathy Reiber
Colin Reilly
7 Don Ahlstedt
Abigail Evans
8 Bob Kriel

9 Mike Denke
Rachel Erie
Hanna Gadbow
Betty Jene Heieie
11 Madeline Pring
Deloris Venekamp
12 Jessica Nelson
13 Toby Helgeson
14 Jim Bridenstine
Dorothy Menk
16 Johnna Nelson
Eunice Weedman
17 Will Heydt
18 Brenda Thomson
19 Ben Erie
21 Susan Jordan
Hunter Mogler
Shaunah Stanbra
Cheryl VanRoekel
Blair Wassengeso

22 Karen McGinn
Kathleen Pohlig
25 Chris Hayes
Paul Westerberg
26 Eleanor Mattocks
Betty Van Zomerem
27 Tasha Rawlings
Hailee Runnoe
Lois Sommer
Geri Zabrosky
29 Chris Hastings
Diane Strehlow
30 Jena Dirkes
Barb Keepers
31 Lois Burkart
Jennifer Cavers
Jeremiah Denke
Ashley Scribner
Jeremy Scribner

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

In December we had some unexpected expenditures. . . a leaking pump on the boiler needed to be replaced at a cost of \$1,403. If you would like to give a special gift to help pay for this expense, it would be very appreciated. Just mark "special gift" in the memo section of your check or on your offering envelope. Thank you!



Due to staff reconfigurations and the formulation of new job descriptions, the Alexandria United Methodist Church has an opening for a Christian Education Director. Education background preferred. Willingness and experience working with volunteers needed. Job descriptions and applications can be found on our web site—www.alexumc.org.

On Sunday, January 15th, we will receive a special offering for Human Relations Day. This offering supports vital community ministries that teach and advocate for justice, especially among people struggling to survive in the margins in society. For example, students at United Methodist-related Philander Smith College in Little Rock, Arkansas, are becoming more involved in social concerns with help from the United Methodist Voluntary Service program. Combining academics with activism, this tiny, historically black college—with "Think Justice" as its motto — is teaching students to pursue justice for a better world. During one Thanksgiving week students explored and responded to the worsening plight of hunger and homelessness in central Arkansas. They hosted a Faces of the Homeless symposium, volunteered at a shelter and soup kitchen, slept in cardboard boxes outdoors overnight and collected food and clothing for 100 needy families. To read additional stories of lives changed by Human Relations Day, go to www.umcgiving.org. Special offering envelopes will be included in the bulletin, or mark "Human Relations" in the memo section of your check.

Be a Mentor

One hour a week can make a big difference in a young person's future. January 2012 National Mentor Month is the perfect time to make a commitment to help a child. District 206 Mentor Program is supported by Douglas/Pope Counties United Way. For more information, call 763-3310.

Below are the minutes of the last Trustees meeting held on 12/14/2011. Trustees chair asked that these be included in the Messenger so that you know what projects they are working on. Many of these project will not be done until funding is received. If you see something that interests you and you wish to give a donation, please indicate what project it is for. Other projects need volunteers to offer their help.

**Trustees Minutes/Project Action Items Wednesday, December 14th, 2011 5:30 PM – 6:45 PM
at UMC Fellowship Hall**

(Note: information from the Church Council Meeting has been added where appropriate)

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 pm with Bruce Jordan as acting Chair.

Opening Devotions: Bruce Jordan started the meeting with prayers thanking the Lord.

Present: Deb Parrott, Bruce Jordan, Darren Evink, Larry Mills, Susan Brede, and Brad Brunkow. Darren, as a new member, was welcomed and introduced into the Trustees Committee.

Thanks to Julie Shaughnessy and Rob Tryggeseth who's terms expired in 2011 and welcome to Darren Evink and Ron Reiber as new Trustees in 2012

Minutes of last meeting: November 9th were read and approved.

OLD BUSINESS & STATUS REPORTS:

New Security System Funding is provided by donations for this project to be completed in two phases.

Our primary objective with the system is to protect our staff and parishioners. Four security companies (Appollo Systems, Security Professionals, Heartland Security and ADT) submitted their best and final proposal/bid on the work. Their proposals were reviewed by the Trustees and Heartland Security was unanimously approved.

The first phase will be installation of an intercom, located at the Youth & Education Wing west entrance. The phone system will be integrated with the intercom so that anyone answering the intercom on the phone will be able to speak with who is at the door using the intercom, and make a determination if the door should be unlocked. Dean Pass & Brad Brunkow are working on the installation of an intercom hooked to the phone system. It is anticipated there will be no cost for this phase as the parts are on hand and they are donating their volunteered labor.

The second phase by Heartland Security would provide an interface with our current fire alarm system with 3 motion detectors and 9 door contacts which would trigger an alarm should entry be made when the building is un-occupied and locked. It would also provide a wireless panic switch for each of our 3 staff. This would avoid anyone entering the building to find any unauthorized intruder. We the firm fixed cost of \$1,365 and a 36 Month Agreement of \$24.95 per month for monitoring the fire and security (including a daily system test) for the second phase were approved. Donations have been made in an amount to cover these costs.

Deb Parrott - Parsonage Maintenance and Bulletin Board projects:

Paint garage windows outside spring/summer 2012

Repair broken window – Alex Glass to be called by Deb and scheduled

Adjust window that won't close – Reed Becker to do this

Add storm window to living room picture window – Alex Glass to do this for \$200, a donation is needed before they can be scheduled

Fix leaky faucets in bathroom and kitchen – Darren Berg under plumbing contract and is working with Jeff and Julie to repair at a time that is convenient for them

Replace some old light fixtures – Brad Brunkow is working on this with Jeff & Julie

Weather strip and add a sweep to garage/basement door - Reed Becker is working with Jeff on it

Paint the stairway – Brad Brunkow is checking on scaffolding

Julie offered to paint the stair walls if we could provide some scaffolding. Volunteers are needed to help her with it

Regarding the parsonage kitchen, Keven Jansen mentioned to Julie that he makes cabinets and is interested in building new cabinets after the first of the year. Deb will work out a layout with Jeff & Julie and

with Keven for implementation pending monetary needs which are to be presented by Deb at the next meeting.

Bulletin Boards need to be remodeled and added for a cost of \$175.00 for materials. We are looking for a volunteer to help with re-corking the boards in the Fellowship/Kitchen hallway. New boards are to be installed in the hallway by the computer library and in two of the classrooms. One has already been donated and installed by Greg and Denise Dropik in the brick class room. Additional classroom boards are to be funded by the Dockter donation.

Larry Mills - snow removal contract for this winter and next year. The winning proposal of \$160 per snowfall was by A+. Larry will meet with A+, obtain and check references and sign the contract. He will send a termination letter to Busy Bee and thank you letters to all contractors bidding on the project once the new contract is in place. Salt is to be provided by A+ and paid directly by UMC at A+ cost to the subcontractor. Additional salt is to be stored in the boiler room which can be used on entry walks if needed between snow plowing. Denise Dropik is to work with A+ to insure the salt is placed in the proper boiler room storage place and in the correct areas on the walks and drives.

Larry Mills - Metal Doors in the Sanctuary and boiler room are rusted out at the jamb and need replacement to prevent water leaks. Larry obtaining a quote from Hilltop Lumber for \$3,000 to replace doors and frames. Labor cost is estimated to be \$1,000. An estimated total donation of \$4,000 is needed to implement this project.

Brad Brunkow – Lighting projects has donated his labor as well as the parts to repair/replace the light fixtures in Fellowship Hall, trustees have approved to reimburse him for any other materials cost he may incur. The exterior lighting has been repaired and the interior lighting is in progress. This project is in process. The outside lighting is completed and he will be working inside. The bell tower lights are to be coordinated with Greg Dropik when the cherry picker is brought in for work on the cross. A light for the new stain glass window is in place; however a white backdrop or board is needed to be placed behind it. A carpenter was suggested to Brad by Jeff for this volunteer job. Brad is to follow up with the carpenter who is a UMC member.

2012 UMC insurance is being researched and vendor bids will be requested. Ron Schutte and David Galbraith 218-220-0831 have volunteered to help with the RFQ; which is to be sent out to interested insurance vendors in January 2012.

Carol Meyer will contact Tradesmen for repair of the **water leaks in the entry and entry closet** of the new building. Project currently in progress.

Carol Meyer - UMC Cross on the steeple move to the South side of the steeple and replace it with a flaming cross needs approval for funding from the Finance Committee and structurally from the Architectural Committee. Carol Meyer has volunteered to chair this project. Greg Dropik will provide a cherry picker and Brad Brunkow will provide the electrical work. The project currently in progress.

9. Bruce Jordan and Susan Brede Co-Chairmen – Policies and procedures for receiving and managing wills, bequests, trusts as well as UMC's investment policy were reported on. An Operating Procedure for Church Assets has been assembled, but needs to be edited by legal members of UMC to be sure it agrees with the Book of Discipline, and does not minimize or alter the "Trust Fund" documents currently in place. A UMC

legal volunteer is needed.

Annual Trustees Report – Additions to the report were noted and will be phoned in to Colleen.

Kitchen Sink UMC Trustees are aware of the MN Dept of Health requirements and are currently working with Berg Plumbing to add the sink per Todd Apple/MN Dept of Health specifications. We are to receive a quote for cost for a hand washing sink pending its specification approval by Todd Apple. Note: Berg Plumbing is currently under a Trustees Contract with UMC to provide plumbing services at his best hourly rate and materials at his cost. It is estimated the cost will be between \$660 and \$700 and the sink will be installed the week after Christmas.

A **garbage can cover in the kitchen** is to be ordered by Denise and is to be installed by her upon receipt.

Trustee Job Jar all items have been taken care of except for the cleaning of the Sanctuary Pew pads.

Stanley Steamer will be contacted for a quote to determine funding cost.

14. **Guests speakers** from the staff, congregation and other committees are welcome at trustee meetings:

- a. Church Council – Chair = Dan Perkins, Vice Chair = John Helgeson, Sec = Cindy Schlapkohl
 - b. Finance – Carol Meyer
 - c. SPRC – John Heydt
 - d. Missions & Social Concerns – Denise Dropik
 - e. Education – Brian Koehn
 - f. Youth – Brenda Thomson
 - g. Worship – Jeff Reed
 - h. Hospitality & Family Life – Kim Tryggeseth
- Congregational Trust Fund Board – Chuck Bollen

NEW BUSINESS:

Boy Scout Eagle Scout Project Proposal A presentation by Zachary Thompson was made to the Trustee Committee in order for him to achieve his Eagle Scout award. It is his intention to place four benches in the area of the outside, children's exercise equipment. One on each side. He has determined the cost of each bench at \$400. A pit must be dug 5' deep under each bench so they can be anchored in concrete. He has gotten this concept by talking to people at our city park office. The cost of the concrete is still to be determined. He has talked to people concerning some grant money. He has also proposed doing some fund raising to cover some of the costs. Finally he has to determine how much might be needed from private individuals. The time schedule for this project and the financial needs from these sources are to be presented at the next Trustee Meeting.

It was unanimously approved by the Trustees Committee that the **Central Minnesota Foster Grandparents organization** has permission to meet at our church at no cost as long as they follow our Safe Sanctuary and Building Use Policies. Kipp Hayes has notified these people of this decision.

NEXT MEETING is set for January 11th from 5:30 PM to 6:45 PM in Fellowship Hall Prior to Church Council meeting. Please have your agenda items to Kipp Hayes one week prior to the meeting so we have time to publish the next agenda.

Closing Devotions: Given by Bruce Jordan

Meeting Adjourned approximately at 6:25 pm

Minutes by Bruce Jordan, acting Chair