

The Messenger

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

Pastor: Jeffrey Hansen – email: jeff@alexumc.org

Office: 320-763-4624 – email: office@alexumc.org

Website: www.alexumc.org

November 2011

Editor: Colleen Schutte

Dear Friends,

It's almost Halloween, time for haunted houses, scary movies and horror stories. I heard a number of such stories last week at the Domestic Violence Awareness Luncheon. The main one was told by a married couple.

Melissa and Chuck have been together for a long time. But before they met, they each grew up in violent, abusive homes. Melissa's horror story began when she was twelve and both her parents died within a period of six months. An older sister moved back home to care for Melissa and her siblings. It did not go well. She was bitter, resentful, and Melissa was the recipient of much of what resulted. When she was able to escape, Melissa did. She met Chuck in college.

By the time he left home, Chuck had probably seen and experienced more violence personally than most of us witness in our entire lives. He was verbally and physically battered by both of his parents. And, as often happens, steeped in such ugliness, Chuck absorbed it, and then un-leashed it, on his new wife, Melissa. She went from the proverbial frying pan into the fire, and remained there, was kept there, for the next twenty years. After a particularly terrifying incident, Melissa escaped, and filed charges against her own husband. Chuck would either go jail, or into treatment, where he'd face the rage within, and the pain he inflicted as a result. He reluctantly chose the latter.

Now the two tell their story regularly in all sorts of settings. Hearing their presentation against the backdrop of over fifty other such stories (there were over fifty domestic violence events in Minnesota in 2010 that resulted in a deaths), it was a sobering event.

Afterward I was reminded of Ken Ryan's testimony last Sunday morning as the kick-off of our fall stewardship emphasis. Ken recalled the Diane Sawyer broadcast that focused on the deadly problems faced by the Lakota people of Pine Ridge, and particularly the children of that reservation. They have such hope, even though their people are, in a way, in an abusive relationship (my words, not Ken's) with the nation that surrounds them. Will those children finally be able to break free?

Yet, as Ken confessed, it's easy to watch such a program, and instead of feeling compassion, to slip back into that dark, anxious, self-righteous self and say, "But, you know, if they'd just put down the bottle, cut down on the carbs, get a job, stay in school, they would not be in the situation they're in." We know that, right?

But we are not them. We were blessed or graced or lucky enough to be born into families where we learned the importance of eating right and exercise and getting an education. We *are* blessed, graced, lucky. And again, as Ken admitted, it is, in part, this church community, that reminds him of that, and keeps him from going to that dark inner place and staying there. It keeps calling him out, in Christ's name.

Could we call that "saving grace"? What's it worth, to know and be able to share in that?

Shalom, Jeff

Parish News

Happy Birthday to . . .

Merill Kiehne, who will celebrate his 90th birthday on November 2nd

Congratulations to:

Travis DeGier and Katie Hawkinson who were married on October 1st.

New Address:

Don & Pat Baustian
4403 Pioneer Rd, Apt. 208

Betty Jene Heieie
4403 Pioneer Rd, Apt. 206

Hospitalized Recently:

Kathy Kelly—Douglas County Hospital
Virginia Ketter—Douglas County Hospital
Char Schroeder—Douglas County Hospital

Worship Attendance

| | 2011 | | 2010 | |
|----------|------|-------|------|-------|
| | 8:00 | 10:30 | 8:00 | 10:30 |
| Sept. 25 | 69 | 89 | 75 | 133 |
| Oct. 2 | 78 | 111 | 70 | 124 |
| Oct. 9 | 86 | 100 | 64 | 111 |
| Oct. 16 | 94 | 93 | 84 | 128 |

As of Oct. 1st the anticipated amount needed by 12/31 to

pay all 2011 obligations: \$93,000.00
Received through Oct. 16th: \$16,248.00
Amount needed by Dec. 31st: \$76,752.00

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:
Sunday, November 27th
Northstar District
Cluster Charge Conference
Alexandria UMC
2:00 pm

Published by the United Methodist Church
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

Please call ahead if you wish to come in to the office. 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 Nov.
Articles submitted for the
November issue need to be in
the office by NOON on
Friday, November 18th.

NOVEMBER VOLUNTEERS

Liturgists:

8:00 November 6 & 13—Scott Cummins November 20 & 27—Aaron & Brenda Thomson family
10:30 November 6 & 13—Shawn Reilly November 20 & 27—Roger Parks

Ushers:

8:00—Scott & Sheila Cummins, Carol Meyer
10:30—Phyllis Freier, Bruce Jordan, Roger & Beverly Parks

Greeters:

Nov. 6 8:00—Mike & Julie Shaughnessy 10:30—Chuck Bollen
Nov. 13 8:00— 10:30—Dennis & Arlyn Cin
Nov. 20 8:00—Ted & Geri Zabrosky 10:30—Margaret Anderson
Nov. 27 8:00—Bernie & Betty Van Zomeren 10:30—Shawn & Christine Reilly family

Coffee Servers:

Nov. 6—Margaret Anderson, Rob & Kim Tryggeseth
Nov. 13—Harv & Cheryl VanRoekel, Allan & Amanda VanRoekel
Nov. 20—5th/6th grade Sunday School Class
Nov. 27—Peter & Kim Koel, Tom & Mary Jo Roos

Organists:

Nov. 6—Kirk Landman
Nov. 13—Gale Maxwell
Nov. 20—Kirk Landman
Nov. 27—Gale Maxwell

Nursery Workers:

Nov. 6 & 20—Amanda Winther Nov. 13 & 27—Amber Krienke



Can-Do Kangaroo welcomed 13 kids, 9 youth and 15 adults to a fun *Can-Do Kids* reunion back in September. They raised \$190 for Imagine No Malaria from selling fall cookies which they frosted and decorated. Thanks to Linda DeWitt and Sally Vano for baking the cut-out cookies and to Dropiks, Bowens, Helgesons, Goldes, Heydts, Bartells, Mehesans and Vanos for donating food for the Racing Taco meal.

In addition to frosting cookies, everyone was busy cutting, trimming and counting Box Tops and Labels for Education for Red Bird Mission; sorting used greeting cards donated to the Alexandria Senior Center, pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House; milk caps for local elementary schools, and \$10 worth of coins for Kissy Eye Hospital. They also made fall door decorations for 14 members of our congregation. Many of them took home a tube of mini m&ms to enjoy and then return the tube filled with quarters (\$14) to feed 58 children through Feed My Starving Children.

Congratulations on a job well done. Thanks *Can-Dos* and parents.



Veterans Day

A Veteran's Day Program will be held at Alexandria Covenant Church on Friday, November 11th, at 11:00 am. The program will be a musical tribute to veterans, their families and soldiers serving today. The Alexandria Community and Technical College Choir, guest soloist Pam Anderson and the Jefferson High School brass quintet will provide the program. Local Veterans organizations will be participating with a flag ceremony. The public is encouraged to attend.



In your prayers, remember LaVonne Ahlstedt, Luella Beto, Del Blair, Linda Caron, Lowell Gess, Barb Glanville, Marilyn Graczyk, Kathy Kelly, Virginia Ketter, Edith Laird, Carolyn Randall, and Char Schroeder.

Northstar District Prayer List:

- Oct. 26-Nov. 1—Rosendale UMC
- Nov. 2-8—Sauk Centre UMC
- Nov. 9-15—Sebeka UMC
- Nov. 16-22—Cross Roads UMC of Spicer
- Nov. 23-29—Staples UMC

UMW Information:



Unit Meeting—Nov. 3, 5:30 pm at church. Program: World Thank Offering "Letting Go to Be Thankful". Hostess: Friends Circle

Friends Circle—Nov. 10, 7 PM

Joy Circle—Nov. 17, 9:30 AM at Lollie Greengo's

Peace Circle—Nov. 17, 1:30 PM

REMINDER TO TURN IN YOUR 2012 PLEDGE CARDS AND OPPORTUNITY TO VOLUNTEER SHEETS IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY DONE SO.

Update: Another 500 dresses and 50 baby blankets are on their way to Africa. We began sewing little dresses after a summer break. We also continue sewing quilts for children. Thank you to everyone for your help and your donations.

Kathryn Erickson & the sewing group



- ♥ Nevin Brede & Rick Glade were omitted from last month's thank you for helping with the playground. We thank you too!
- ♥ Thank you to our lawn mowers/grounds crew for another outstanding year!!!!: Dennis Cin, Jerry Wilkens, Jerry Miller, Gary Carlson, Wes Smith, Ron Schutte, Chad Stender, Tom Roos, Bruce Pohlig, Greg Dropik, Ron Reiber, Mike Bartell, Ron Larson, Chuck Bollen, Keith Nelson, Jeremy Scribner, Dave Nelson, Gary Becker, John Heydt, Dennis Brede, Dave Nomsen, Tom DeWitt and Rick Glade. GREAT JOB!!!



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.

GRATITUDE - HONOR - MEMORIAL OPPORTUNITIES

| | |
|----------|---------------------------------------|
| \$25.00 | Weekly bulletin sponsorship |
| \$60.00 | Mailing monthly Messenger |
| \$15.00 | Biodegradable paper cups (200) |
| \$390.00 | Sprinkler Pipe Painting |
| \$3,374 | Security System |
| \$1,320 | Sanctuary air conditioner repair |
| \$780.00 | Water heater replacement in parsonage |

The above are special giving opportunities for those who wish to contribute toward a specific project. Contributions in any amount are appreciated.



Another Harvest Festival is "in the books". Thanks to the entire congregation for the support of this All Church event. We did not do the count, but it likely was over 50 people that set up tables and chairs, set and decorated tables, peeled potatoes, prepared green beans, sold tickets, served as host and hostess, worked in the kitchen or dining area to serve our over 300 guests that ate "in", dished and delivered 50 to go or home delivered meals, washed all the dishes, cleaned up afterwards dealing with leftovers and getting everything put away. Whew! I'm tired just writing about those endeavors. Add another 50 or so people that provided either funds to buy turkeys, beans, etc., or that purchased all the other groceries needed. Thanks to those wonderful bakers of the loaves of bread, pumpkin pies and apple desserts. All in all it truly was an "All Church" function that yielded a lot of good fellowship, the involvement of some new people and as a by product just over \$3,000 to the general fund. Thank you! Thank you! The continuation of the event, as always, will depend on the availability of a commercial kitchen and staff to do the turkeys, dressing, etc. A sincere thank you to Garden Center for their generous donation of equipment and time. Without their assistance this event would not be possible.

- Harvest Festival Committee

MCC (Mission Collection Center)

The following information is a reminder to those who bring items to the MCC box on the shelf in the narthex:

- ♥ We no longer have a place to donate used Christmas cards, but other used cards (not just card fronts any more) are still being collected
- ♥ When saving Labels for Education (ie: Campbell labels) please clip the UPC code and symbol next to it. If you bring the entire label, please do not fold it as it makes it difficult to work with. There is a list next to the MCC box of other products participating in the Labels for Education program.
- ♥ We continue to accept eye glasses, cases and Coins for Kissy, Milk Save Five for School, Box Tops for Education and Pop Tabs.

Thanks for your participation!

BOOK SALE

(Now through the end of 2011)

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Favorite Recipes | sale \$10 (reg. \$12) |
| Helpful Hints | sale \$ 5 (reg. \$7) |
| Both Books | sale \$14 (reg. \$19) |

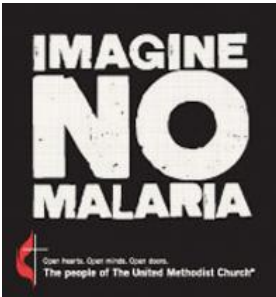
No tax on these books

**Make checks to United Methodist Church
Mark BOOK SALE in memo section**



- | | | |
|--|---|-------------------------------|
| 1 Sean Parks Gary Pender Doug Sherman | 7 Aaron Bumgarner Grace Westerberg | 20 Carol Cook Steve Haugen |
| 2 Judy Blume Merill Kiehne Brookelyn Stender Tom Townsend | 8 Peg Gunderson Tyler Ruter Harv VanRoekel | 21 Lexi Dirkes |
| 3 Merle Olson Dayton Stanbra | 9 Bill Langner | 22 Rawley Kriel Stacy Rose |
| 4 Roger Thompson Tristin Wassengeso | 11 Olivia Bartell | 23 Lars Dropik |
| 5 Tom Kraemer | 13 Karen Kern | 24 Gloria Parkin |
| 6 Peter Christopherson | 14 Brandon Cain Vonna DeLong Keven Jansen Connie Mehesan | 26 Sherry Bruckner |
| | 15 Derek Chinn LynAnn Feda | 27 Marjorie Pritchard |
| | 17 David Blume | 28 Noah Dirkes |
| | 18 Judy Florell Rob Tryggeseth | 29 Maxwell Chinn |





In 2008, the General Conference of The United Methodist Church voted to raise \$75 million dollars in a partnership to save lives from malaria-related deaths in Africa. *Imagine No Malaria* is the result. The Minnesota Annual Conference's goal is to save 180,000 lives at \$1.8 million. A generous donor kicked off the campaign with a \$600,000 gift.

The Alexandria UMC has been asked to serve as a Model Church for this campaign. As a model church we would commit to: setting a goal to save a minimum of 10 lives per average worship attendee (1,870 lives or raise \$18,700 over the next 3 years). How can you help?..... By making a pledge toward this goal. **ALL PLEDGES MADE BY YEARS END WILL BE MATCHED!!!** To save 100 lives over three years costs less than \$1 a day....pledges in any amount are appreciated. If you would like to make a pledge, please contact Jeff Hansen or the church office.



A "new to Alexandria event" is taking place at Alexandria UMC on November 5, 2011. It began as a Douglas County Master Gardener Fall Horticulture Day, but has now evolved into a seminar, hands on workshop and Silent Auction to benefit the Food Shelf, co-sponsored by Alexandria UMC and the Alexandria Garden Club. There will be a program "Fall for Birds" from 9 to 1:30. Presentations on: Landscaping to Attract and Retain Birds All Year; and Turning Photography of Birds and Flowers Into a Profit will be held before lunch. After lunch we will hear a presentation on Loons by Author Stan Tekiela. Alexandria UMC is providing refreshments, the noon lunch and space for the event. If you are interested in attending, helping with lunch or refreshments, please contact Carol Meyer at 763-5814 or cmeyer@rea-alp.com.



Thank you very much to those who donated their time, talent and otherwise to the October 8th Community Breakfast: LaDonna Anderson, Jean Bristow, Duff & Abby DeReamer, Kathleen Haining, John Halvorson, John Heydt, Scott & Cindy Schlapkohl, Marti Stember, Aaron, Davyn & Zach Thomson, and the Richardson family. The next breakfast is November 12th. We will also be hosting Breakfast with Santa on December 10th. Please see sign-up sheets in the narthex for donations to the gift bags and to volunteer/donate at the next breakfast. All are welcome to attend!



The attendance in the nursery has been up during the 10:30 service and the nursery attendant needs help. There is a sign up sheet in the nursery if you would consider helping out on a Sunday morning. The speaker is turned on so you would be able to hear the 10:30 service. We are looking for anyone 14 years of age or older. If no help is needed on the day you signed up for, you would not have to stay.



Thanks to everyone who donated, purchased and/or helped in any way with the Annual Fall Rummage Sale. It was wonderful to have so much help setting up, working the sale and cleaning up afterwards. Proceeds from the sale (\$1,151) support mission work of United Methodist Women. In addition, the sale offers affordable clothing and miscellaneous items to many, plus an opportunity to recycle our abundance rather than discard items we no longer use. Other groups benefitting from items donated include the Epilepsy Foundation, Someplace Safe, Thrift Store, Alex Senior Center, Humane Society, Alex UMC (nursery, decorating items, fabric for quilts & school bags). You can plan on another rummage sale in the spring of 2012. Thanks again!



The next all church potluck will be Sunday, November 6th, following the 10:30 worship service. Bring a dish to share and join in the fellowship! If your last name begins with T-Z, please plan on hosting (set-up, beverage prep, and clean up). See you there!!

Elden's Card Program

\$22,000—amount purchased through October 17th

\$20,000—amount sold through October 17th

\$ 1,000—amount generated for General Fund

Please consider purchasing 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 Monday-Friday from 9 am to 1 pm. What an easy way to generate some income for our church!

Community Events

November 2 — “According to Coyote” by John Kauffman will be presented at the Alexandria Technical Community College from 6:30-8:00 pm. This collection of lightning-paced legends gives life to Coyote, the wise/foolish/brave/sneaky and very entertaining Trickster—a teacher, magician and hero in American Indian traditions. Brought to you by Diversity Resource Action Alliance (DRAA) and made possible by MN State Arts Board Grant.

November 5—Osakis UMC Annual Holiday Bazaar from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Pollard Community Center. Lunch serving begins at 11:00 am.