

# *The Messenger*

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

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October 2011

Editor: Colleen Schutte

Dear Friends,

Originally nine people testified that Troy Davis shot and killed off-duty police officer Mark MacPhail in Savannah, Georgia in 1989. Davis was convicted and sentenced to die. That sentence was to be carried out – Troy Davis was to be killed – by the state of Georgia at 7:00 last Wednesday evening, September 21, 2011. However, not only did Davis doggedly maintain his innocence, which is not unusual, but seven of the nine witnesses whose testimony led to his conviction recanted their testimony. That is unusual. Of the two who stuck to their story, one had been heard boasting that *he* had been the one to kill Officer MacPhail. There were other questions about the case and the conviction that had come to light.

To a non-legal mind like mine, these things stirred more than enough doubt that I'd think it only reasonable and right, even just, that the whole thing be halted, at least long enough to allow for an investigation of them. I mean, even if you think or believe that killing killers is a good idea, how can you justify your killing when the one you're killing may not really be the killer? As the head of NAACP said, "We have to be sure we are killing the right person." Killing the right person. God, help us.

In the end it made no real difference. After a brief delay while the Supreme Court considered and rejected the request from Davis' attorneys for a stay of execution, perhaps at the very time you were watching the news, Troy Davis was strapped to a gurney and given a lethal injection. He died at 11:08 Eastern Daylight Time. His final words, as reported by a witness to the execution, were to once again proclaim his innocence, to offer his condolence to the family of the slain police officer, and to say to the medical team preparing him, "May God have mercy on your souls. May God bless your souls."

Those are striking words, coming from a convicted murderer, a dying man, words offered to and for the very people who were in the act of taking his life. Father, forgive them.... May God have mercy.... May God bless.... I believe God does. Do we?

There are places in sub-Saharan Africa where an indiscriminate death penalty selects a victim every forty-five seconds – that's how often someone in that part of the world dies of malaria. Its favorite targets are pregnant mothers and children under the age of five. Imagine something like that stalking your children or grandchildren, your wife or daughter or sister. You would cry out for mercy! For someone to do something!

"Imagine No Malaria" is a coordinated effort on the part of the Gates Foundation, the United Nations Foundation,, the World Health Organization, the Global Fund to Fight Aids and Malaria, and the United Methodist Church to end malaria deaths in Africa by 2015. Ten dollars can save a life. That's the price of mercy, of blessing, of hope. Are you interested? Would you like to do something redemptive and truly life-giving?

Leia Williams, conference educator for the Minnesota "Imagine No Malaria" campaign will be with us on October 23<sup>rd</sup> for both services, a noon meal, and conversation to follow. She will help you see what you can do to give life. Come.

Shalom,  
Jeff

## **Parish News**

### **Happy Birthday to . . .**

Carolyn Peterson who will celebrate her 85th Birthday on October 6th

Lois Zimmerschied who will celebrate her 80th Birthday on October 21st

### **Congratulations to:**

Paul and Kara Gerdes on the birth of their son, Mark David, on September 10th.

### **New Address:**

Mavis Goslinga  
Oak Ridge Manor  
1199 Bahls Drive, #328  
Hastings, MN 55033

### **Our sympathy to:**

Otto and Phyllis Freier on the death of Phyllis' brother.

Mathaies Noding and Errol Ostlund on the death of Tami Noding.

Chris and Betty Springman and family on the death of Chris' brother, Bob.

Wayne & Jolene Stumpf and family on the death of Wayne's mother, Judy Stumpf-Bolin.

## **Worship Attendance**

	2011		2010	
	8:00	9:30	8:00	9:30
August 28	67	86	55	99
Sept. 4	45	80	45	75
Sept. 11	78	108	115	132
Sept. 18	76	95	54	124

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

Published by the United Methodist Church  
of Alexandria  
Telephone (320) 763-4624  
Pastor: Jeffrey Hansen  
Parish Worker:  
Secretary/Treasurer: Colleen Schutte  
Director of Youth & Children's  
Ministries:  
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 Oct.  
Articles submitted for the  
November issue need to be in  
the office by NOON on  
Thursday, October 20th.

## OCTOBER VOLUNTEERS

### Liturgists:

8:00            October 2, 9, 16—Jeanne Reed                            October 23 & 30—Heidi Ryan  
10:30           October 2, 9, 16—Marsha Haugen                        October 23 & 30—Roy Good

### Ushers:

8:00—Char Schroeder, Gerald and Pat Fearing  
10:30—Margaret Anderson, Chuck Bollen, Scott Schlapkohl, Chuck Holm

### Greeters:

Oct. 2	8:00—Barb & Deloris Venekamp	10:30—Virginia Ketter
Oct. 9	8:00—Ron & Kathy Reiber	10:30—Bruce Jordan
Oct. 16	8:00—Carol Meyer	10:30—Greg & Denise Dropik family
Oct. 23	8:00—Jerry & Mary Wilkens	10:30—Jim & Luverne Adams
Oct. 30	8:00—Gary Carlson & Arlene Janes-Carlson	10:30—Caryl White & Betty Jene Heieie

### Coffee Servers:

Oct. 2—Maurine Hamelau, Deanne Fimon, Nancy Carroll  
Oct. 9—Brion & Brenda Golde, Bill & Donna Skalisky  
Oct. 16—Jr. High Sunday School Class  
Oct. 23—Otto & Phyllis Freier, Duff & Paula DeReamer  
Oct. 30—Congregational Care Committee

### Organists:

Oct. 2—Gale Maxwell  
Oct. 9—Kirk Landman  
Oct. 16—Kirk Landman  
Oct. 23—Gale Maxwell  
Oct. 30—Gale Maxwell

### Nursery Workers:

Oct. 2, 16, 30—Amber Krienke                            Oct. 9 & 23—Amanda Winther



## ANNUAL FALL RUMMAGE SALE Saturday, October 1st, 7:00 AM—Noon

It's Rummage Sale time once again. Donations of clean fall and winter clothing in good condition, small household items, games, toys and other miscellaneous items will be accepted Monday September 26th through Friday morning September 30th. Computers, monitors, TV's or other large items are not accepted. Please bring items in small or average size boxes or bags (clothing may be on hangars) and place them in the back corner of the Fellowship Hall.

Friends Circle will begin setting up on Thursday, Sept. 29, at 7:00 pm. Final set up will be done on Friday morning beginning at 9:00. We welcome help from everyone, not just UMW members. Help also is needed on Saturday after the sale to pack up what is left. Proceeds support mission projects of United Methodist Women. Congregational donations and participation are very much appreciated. Contact Sally Vano at 846-0661 if you have questions.



In your prayers, remember Jim Adams, LaVonne Ahlstedt, Luella Beto, Del Blair, Linda Caron, Otto and Phyllis Freier & family, Lowell Gess, Barb Glanville, Marilyn Graczyk, Edith Laird, family of Tami Noding, Dan Olson. Carolyn Randall, Chris and Betty Springman and family, family of Judy Stumpf-Bolin.

**Northstar District Prayer List:**

- Sept. 28-Oct. 4—Perham UMC
- Oct. 5-11—Pine River UMC
- Oct. 12-18—First UMC of Raymond
- Oct. 19-25—Richville UMC
- Oct. 26-Nov. 1—Rosendale UMC

**THANK YOU!**  
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!  
**THANK YOU!**

- ♥ Greg & Lars Dropik, Dennis Brede and David Galbraith for their work on the playground and to Gary Becker for the use of his skid loader for this project.
- ♥ Lori Mingus and Geri Zabrosky for volunteering for the telephone survey of churches in the area.



**Adult Fellowship  
Tuesday, Oct. 18**

Potluck supper will begin at 6:00 PM. Bring a dish to share. Keven Jensen will present the program, "Medicare Part D—The Good, The Bad and The Ugly" and "Generics—Are they worthwhile". Questions/answers will follow. All are welcome!

Update: Reo & Cleona Van Camp -

We hired a loving neighbor lady to come six days a week for several hours a day. She makes sure they take their medicine, they have a hot lunch, laundry, light housekeeping, etc. My brother, Rick, comes on Friday to do banking for them and make out their monthly bills. Brothers Bob and Rick mow their lawn each week as needed. We all appreciate Alex UMC families for your continued thoughts and prayers. All is noted by their being together in their own home. We are all so thankful. Blessings to all of you...

Chuck & Brenda Bollen

**UMW Information:**

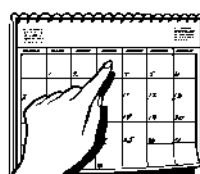


**Unit Meeting**—no unit meeting—Rummage Sale

**Friends Circle**—October 13th, 7:00 PM—Harvest Festival set up

**Joy Circle**—October 20th, 9:30 am at church.

A Committee is editing and refining our volunteer service form to reflect changed needs for our church and community. The forms will be available to everyone in mid October. Please give prayerful consideration of how your talents can help our Church grow in hospitality, stewardship and outreach in the community at large.



Reminder. . .the monthly calendar is now part of the web page: [www.alexumc.org](http://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
\$ ? ? ?	Security System (securing quotes)
\$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.



It's movie night at the church! While attending the UMW Assembly in St. Louis in spring 2010, Sally Vano and Kathleen Pohlig viewed a powerful film called "Pray the Devil Back to Hell". We felt it was important and wanted to share it with a larger audience. The local unit of UMW will sponsor a showing in our church on Sunday evening, October 16th at 7:00 pm. The movie will be shown in the sanctuary and will be followed by a time for refreshments and comment/discussion in the fellowship hall. Jot the date on your calendar and plan to attend.

Invite friends to join you...this film was used as a program at the ATCC's Senior College a couple of years ago and made a big impact on those present. It is an award-winning documentary about a brave and visionary group of women who demanded peace in their country of Liberia. Youth and adults are encouraged to attend. It is probably not of interest or appropriate for younger children.

### ***This Holy Mystery: A United Methodist Understanding of Holy Communion***

**This study has been rescheduled for Wednesday, October 26th & November 2nd (time to be determined).** Communion, or Eucharist, is foundational to Christian life. Many of us come from different traditions, each with their own understanding of what Eucharist means or is about. Even "cradle Methodists" might not know what the United Methodist understanding of Eucharist is. You are invited to join us in a presentation and discussion on this important aspect of our faith. The first session will explore the origins and understanding of the Eucharist from the earliest Christians through John Wesley. The second session will explore a deeper understanding of our Methodist Communion, practice, and the ethics involved. If you are new to the UMC, have been around the UMC for a while, are interested in assisting with Communion, or are just interested in sacramental history, there should be something of interest in this discussion for you. **Young people and their parents seeking information and support for "first communion" are also encouraged to attend.** We will conclude the second session with Eucharist. Jeff Reed, who is studying sacramental theology and liturgy at Saint John's, will lead the discussion.



Harvest Festival is on the horizon! OCTOBER 14TH is the date. Sign up sheets are available in the narthex. There is plenty of room to volunteer for service in a variety of areas. . .from peeling potatoes the evening before to helping clean up after the event. Likewise, food donations range from a can of cranberries to a freshly baked pie to a check to help us purchase the turkeys. All of these donations help keep this event a time of fellowship, outreach and general budget assistance. Thank you everyone!



The date for the monthly potluck has been changed to October 23rd instead of October 2nd. We will have a guest speaker at both worship services that Sunday to present information on the "Imagine No Malaria" campaign that the United Methodist Church is participating in. If your last name begins with Q-S, please plan on hosting (set up, beverage prep and clean up). Come and join us!



## October Birthdays

- |                                                                                        |                                                                  |                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 David Anderson<br>Brian Hastings                                                     | 11 Tyler Mogler<br>Dean Pass<br>Dan Perkins                      | 21 Marge Guenther<br>Lois Zimmerschied                                              |
| 2 George Slack                                                                         | 12 Colton Cavers                                                 | 22 Don Mehesan<br>Brittany Stanbra                                                  |
| 4 Woody Hoiseth<br>Jessica Kunkel<br>Lori Lindstrom<br>Leah Olberding                  | 13 Jared Nelson                                                  | 24 Ray Watts                                                                        |
| 5 Kirsten Hastings                                                                     | 14 Allie Lybeck<br>Logan Tung                                    | 25 Tammy Gettel<br>Adrian Ledermann                                                 |
| 6 Dennis Cin<br>Madeleine Evans<br>Rita Kunkel<br>Carolyn Peterson<br>Sunny Wassengeso | 15 Patti Baustian<br>Reed Becker<br>Tom Martin                   | 26 Gary Becker<br>Sean Cavers<br>Lori Mingus<br>Yuan Tung<br>Elizabeth Zins-Flenner |
| 7 John Ruter<br>Evelyn Westerberg<br>Amanda Winther                                    | 16 Denise Dropik<br>Gabriel Evink<br>Kathy Fredin                | 27 Shirley Bruckner<br>Spenser Chinn                                                |
| 8 Jerry Hamelau                                                                        | 17 Gary Carlson<br>Anna Dokter<br>Jason Mogler<br>Cindy Townsend | 28 Kya Christopherson<br>Kay Dalthorp<br>Beth Jansen<br>Michael Koel                |
| 9 Jeff Hansen                                                                          | 18 Dennis Brede<br>John Helgeson                                 | 29 Betty Zaske                                                                      |
| 10 Roger Cole<br>Jerry Miller                                                          | 19 Noah Hansen                                                   | 30 Cody Richardson<br>Nancy Syverson<br>Caryl White                                 |
|                                                                                        | 20 Alison Chinn                                                  | 31 Allison Oehlert                                                                  |

## BUILDING BRIDGES

Many of us enjoyed Jeff's sermon on 9/11/11 during which he handed out "found" money to several church members. It was money given freely, to do what the recipients wished. What would you have done with that money?

We UMC members have an opportunity to take part in a similar exercise, but on a much larger scale. Alex UMC has been given a generous gift. . . \$4,000 each year for the next five years. The gift-giver made few stipulations, but has enlisted the Missions committee to help facilitate the process. The stipulations are few:

- ♦ 2/3 of the \$4,000 (\$2,666) would be available for donation each year
- ♦ The monies are to be used to benefit a community 501c3 (non-profit) organization (for example Boy Scouts, Crisis Center, Habitat for Humanity)
- ♦ The monies should be used to encourage and build new relationships between our congregation and the community
- ♦ The money cannot replace donations that we already give to a community group

The Missions committee has added some additional criteria:

- ♦ The monies should not be used to espouse a particular belief or even a particular religion
- ♦ We hope to raise the awareness of the good works of this congregation in the community
- ♦ One or more community (Douglas County) groups could be involved in any given year
- ♦ Our church (via the Missions committee) would retain control over how the monies are spent
- ♦ Church members are encouraged to be involved in the investigation (talking with groups about their needs/wishes), grant proposal, and in carrying out the vision

So what is your role? We'd like you to consider this carefully and prayerfully over the next few weeks, then submit your proposal for use of the funds for the 2011 year. Our deadline for entries is November 15th, and we anticipate the award will be made during the month of December.

Please submit your suggestions on the "Building Bridges Initiative 2011" form available in the narthex or on the church web site. Completed proposals can be mailed to the church office, 2210 6th Ave E, Alexandria, or emailed to the church office ([office@alexumc.org](mailto:office@alexumc.org)).



Thank you to those who gave their time, talent, and otherwise to the September Community Breakfast, including, LaDonna Anderson, Arlue Beheng, Frances Benson, Lisa Bowen, Jean Bristow, Shirley Bruckner, Otto & Phyllis Freier, Julie Hansen, John & Lori Mingus, Merle Olson, Carolyn Randall, D. Rothman, and Andy & Sally Vano.

Thank you so much for all you good folks who keep your eyes open for kitchen and breakfast needs. Thank you Chuck and Brenda Bollen for donating four cases of sausages! Thank you John Mingus for the pack of dishcloths! Thank you United Methodist Women for the butter packets! The next breakfast is scheduled for October 8th!

The Administrative Council voted in August 2011 to accept the following proposal as put forth by the Missions Committee of our church. Church committees, employees, and groups will be asked to review the policy and consider carefully how their group might work to carry out its' message. We welcome your ideas, suggestions and best practices!

**ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY OF  
ALEXANDRIA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
ALEXANDRIA, MINNESOTA**

“All creation is the Lord’s, and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life, and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God’s creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings...Therefore, let us recognize the responsibility of the church and its members to place a high priority on changes in economic, political, social and technological lifestyles to support a more ecologically equitable and sustainable world leading to a higher quality of life for all of God’s creation.”

- Social Principals of the United Methodist

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

- Genesis 1:26

**RESOLUTION**

We, the membership of Alexandria United Methodist Church, recognize the role and responsibilities we have as stewards of our natural environment. We pledge to act in accordance with this knowledge.

1. We will take environmental concerns fully into account in our mission, worship, study, education, training, pastoral, administrative and other programs and projects.
2. We will consider the environmental impact of all our policies and plans, and accept that additional costs may be incurred by minimizing that impact.
3. We will encourage church members and their committees to bring environmental concerns forward on a regular basis. Church members will be encouraged to set environmental goals and work to develop sound policies and practices; to educate and be a resource to others.
4. We will identify environmental issues in our community, county, state, and nation, and devise appropriate actions to address them.
5. We will seek ways to reduce consumption and the impact of our activities on the environment wherever possible.
6. We will assess the value of our land and property for wildlife, and manage them to conserve biodiversity, whenever possible.
7. We will pay attention to environmental concerns in our banking and investment practice, and continue to pay regards to the national church ethical investment policy.



Dear UMC Back-to-School Angel Tree Angels:

“You have been a refuge for the poor, a refuge for the needy in distress.”  
Isaiah 25:4

Going back to school causes a range of emotions for kids. Most, though, don't deal with the emotions my students often deal with. Embarrassment, hunger and frustration. Your gifts helped alleviate these immensely. They don't need to worry about the basic necessities like pens, pencils, notebooks, folders, etc. They can eat breakfast before school and lunch during school. They actually get to purchase some “luxury” items such as yearbooks, clothing and new shoes. Your gifts reduced stress and created smiles. There is no price tag that can be placed on that.

I heard kids say things like, “Sweet!” “Awesome!” “Someone really did this for me?” “Our family had \$120 to split between 3 girls. This will help a lot.” There were a lot of happy faces.

Once again, your church has done what the Bible tells us to do over 300 times. You took care of those in need. Bless you! You touched my heart and the hearts of MANY students. Thank you for creating such a wonderful start to the school year! “I thank God for you and I constantly remember you in my prayers.” 2 Timothy 1:3

- Chris Kragenbring

### **WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY—OCTOBER 2ND**

We will receive a special offering on October 2nd for World Communion Sunday, one of the six special Sunday offerings Alex UMC supports. Your gift to World Communion Sunday equips racial and ethnic students in the United States and international students to transform the church and communities. Your gifts support:

- World Communion Scholarships, administered by the General Board of Global Ministries (with at least one-half of the annual amount for ministries beyond the United States);
- Ethnic Scholarship and Ethnic In-Service Training programs related to the General Board of higher Education and Ministry.

To read stories of how the World Communion Sunday offering changes lives go to [www.umcgiving.org/giveWCS](http://www.umcgiving.org/giveWCS).

### **Elden's Gift Card Program**

Alexandra UMC has now purchased \$18,000 in Elden's Gift Cards for resale to our members/friends as a fundraiser. Through September 18th, we have sold \$17,500 in gift cards for a total of \$875 income generated for our general fund. Please consider purchasing a gift 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!

## Greetings from "The Diaper Drive of Douglas County"

"The Diaper Drive" is a local diaper bank - a volunteer based 501c3 non-profit agency. It had its roots in May of 2010 by a former Alexandria woman, Kristen (Wiener) Grode when she decided to donate opened packages of diapers that her babies had outgrown. When doing so, she found that the need is great for diapers (child through adult) and that Medical Assistance and Food Stamps do not pay for diapers or hygiene products! The tragic stories-of-need tugged at her heart and she and her husband knew that they needed to do something! Two months later, they launched the first diaper bank in Minnesota—The Diaper Drive. A Douglas County branch was launched two months later—in August of 2010.

**Mission:** Our mission is to work with the public to collect and distribute diapers of all types and sizes to families in need.

**Donated to date:** over 37,000 diapers in Douglas County through local agencies. All contributions in Douglas County **STAY** in Douglas County.

**The Need:** The requests and stories-of-need for diapers continue to grow. We are currently providing over 5,000 diapers per month to the Douglas County Outreach Food Shelf and the requests continue to increase!

**Opportunity:** We have the opportunity to buy 15,000 diapers for \$1,500—which is 10 cents per diaper! Can you help us accomplish this goal? Any donation amount will be valued and greatly appreciated!

**How Do I Donate?** Leave a donation in the church office or visit their website: [www.thediaperdrive.org](http://www.thediaperdrive.org) and donate on line. You can also contact Barb Wiener, Branch Director, at 320-762-1096.

### *Community Events*

**October 3– November 7** — Anderson Funeral Home will offer a grief seminar to help those who are grieving the death of a family member or friend. The process of learning how to live without that person includes exploring questions and feelings that may be new to a person experiencing the death of their loved one. All grieving persons are invited to attend this seminar. There is no charge for the support class. Call Anderson Funeral Home (320-763-5900) for more information or registration. The sessions will be offered on Monday evenings from Oct 3-Nov 7 at 6:30 pm at Andersons Funeral Home. To help accommodate the needs of more people, a daytime session is offered on Oct. 4-Nov 8, starting at 12:30 pm at First Lutheran Church. To see a list of session topics, please see the flyer on the bulletin board across from the furnace room.