

# *The Messenger*

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

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September 2011

Editor: Colleen Schutte

Dear Friends,

Do you remember a Sunday morning years ago, the second service was just beginning, we were making announcements, when this woman came into the sanctuary. She had been in the kitchen, probably helping clean up after coffee time, she was still talking to someone in the narthex, laughing, and eating something, thoroughly enjoying herself. Standing where I was it was nearly impossible to ignore her – so I didn't. "Nice you could make it, Jocelyn," I welcomed her. "Did you bring enough for everyone?"

She stopped, looked at me, realized that pretty much the entire congregation had turned and was watching her, some giggling, waiting for her reaction. "I hate you!" she announced. Some laughed, others looked stunned. *Psst...she just told the minister she hates him! In church! In front of God and everybody!* "She means that in the most loving way," I explained. And that was the marquee moment for our working relationship.

It was much less public the day Jocelyn and I drove to Hutchinson to the hospice house to spend one of his last afternoons with Dale Payne. Dale was dying of cancer. It happened so quickly. Just months before we had shared a similar vigil with Dale as his wife Winnie moved toward her own cancer-hastened exit. Dale always called Jocelyn "Slim."

We made a trip to St. Cloud too, to be with Larry and Tammy Gettel the day their new-born son Jeremy was taken off of life-support. All we could do was be there as they held him and waited for him to die.

There was another day in St. Cloud, it will be seven years ago in November I think, that I woke up in a hospital bed myself after surgery. Guess who was there, waiting for me, with me, as she has done with so many of you. She should be either very good at, or very tired of, waiting.

This is the first summer since 2006 that we didn't go on a mission trip to the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. Each trip had its own unique feel and set of memories, created and carried by a slightly different group each year. But, there was something especially memorable about the first trip, and the little crew that painted Marie Kills Plenty's house (& the dog house, Alyssa and Hannah spruced up for Roscoe and Daisy. Later, we realized we might very well have disturbed rattlesnakes, given where we were working, but that it might have been Daisy and Roscoe who saw to it that we had no such encounters.)

Those are just a few recollections. We shared and worked through ten years of Holy Weeks and Christmas Eves, church conferences and confirmations, baptisms and weddings and graduations. And all the funerals, all those farewells for so many people. And I've been here for only about half of the time that Jocelyn worked in and for this church.

Now, it's Jocelyn's farewell, but just in terms of her time on the staff; she's not going away. So, we should have a party, a proper celebration. But, she declined. Some of us thought about having a party without her, but that seemed wrong. So, here's a proposal: In light of Jocelyn's completion of 20 years as parish worker, and before that, youth director, why don't you send her a note or a card, describing a memory you shared with her, and your own word of appreciation for her good work and gracious presence.

And let me say, Jocelyn, thank you, for more than I can say. With much love.

Shalom, Jeff

And, so you don't have to dig, send your notes to: Jocelyn Olson, 849 Woodsmen Ct. NE, Alexandria, MN 56308.

## Parish News

### Happy Birthday to . . .

Bill Malvin, who will celebrate his 85th birthday on September 14th.

### Worship Attendance

|           | 2011 |      | 2010 |      |
|-----------|------|------|------|------|
|           | 8:00 | 9:30 | 8:00 | 9:30 |
| July 31   | 52   | 89   | 52   | 80   |
| August 7  | 45   | 82   | 54   | 65   |
| August 14 | 62   | 93   | 50   | 66   |
| August 21 | 55   | 97   | 76   | 76   |

## School Year Worship Schedule begins Sept. 11th

Worship: 8:00 and 10:30  
Sunday School for all ages: 9:00  
Coffee and fellowship: 9:00

September issue of *The Messenger* is sponsored by Gary and Chris Schuldt.



### Adult Fellowship September 13th 6:00 PM

Officer Jim Gripne of the Alexandria Police Dept. will present a video with information regarding fraud and scams that are so prevalent today. Pot luck dinner at 6:00 pm with presentation to follow.

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: Michelle Ferris  
Custodian: Denise Dropik  
Organists: Kay Hoffland, Kirk Landman,  
Gale Maxwell  
Choir Director: Kirk Anderson  
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**

**Shelly – Tue/Wed/Thu/Fri—8:30-3:00**  
**Sun—8:00-10:30**

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 Sept.  
Articles submitted for the  
October issue need to be in  
the office by NOON on  
Tuesday, September 20th.

## SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEERS

### Liturgists:

8:00 September 4 & 11—Carol Meyer September 18 & 25—Adrian Ledermann  
9:30/1030 September 4 & 11—Kathleen Haining September 18 & 25—Connie Good

### Ushers:

8:00—Ken Ryan, Bill & Arlana Langner (4th & 11th), Ron & Colleen Schutte (18th & 25th)  
9:30/10:30—Phyllis Freier, Bruce Jordan, Chris Springman, Kim Tryggeseth

### Greeters:

Sept. 4 8:00—Brad & Kayla Brunkow 9:30—Betty Jene Heieie & Caryl White  
Sept. 11 8:00—Jerry & Jeanne Miller 10:30—Jean Bristow  
Sept. 18 8:00—Aaron & Kelly Bumgarner family 10:30—Connie & Betty Springman  
Sept. 25 8:00—Wes & Muriel Smith 10:30—Chuck & Sharon Holm

### Coffee Servers:

Sept. 4—Rod & Dotty Tabor, Phil & Lois Zimmerschied  
Sept. 11—Doug & Pat Sherman, Gary & Alice Seiler  
Sept. 18—Senior High Sunday School Class  
Sept. 25—Rob & Debby Abers, Dennis & Arlyn Cin

### Organists:

Sept. 4—Gale Maxwell  
Sept. 11—Kirk Landman  
Sept. 18—Gale Maxwell  
Sept. 25—

### Nursery Workers:

September 4 & 18 —Amber Krienke September 11 & 25 —Amanda Winther

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

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. We will meet for two consecutive Wednesdays, September 21st & 28th at 6:45 pm. 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.



The new stained glass window near the bookcases in the narthex is given in memory of Tom Vickerman Jr. Beverly Parks created this beautiful window using some of the glass remaining from the stained glass windows in our church. The design includes a cross as the universal symbol of Christianity. The dove represents the Spirit and the ribbon in rainbow colors is the promise that God will be with us always as he has promised in life and death.



In your prayers, remember LaVonne Ahlstedt, Luella Beto, Lowell Gess, Barb Glanville, Marilyn Graczyk, Edith Laird, Tami Noding, Dan Olson and Carolyn Randall.

# THANK YOU!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

- ♥ Thank you to everyone who helped celebrate Oran's 90th birthday by coming to the party, for the cards and gifts, and to those who weren't able to make it but sent cards and wishes. We so enjoyed having our family home for this occasion. It was an awesome day. God Bless.  
- The Goodells
- ♥ Thank you for all the beautiful cards I received for my 90th birthday. It was greatly appreciated. - Inez Okerlund
- ♥ Thank you to Chris Hayes for offering to take over the free trade coffee program; and to Beth Jansen for volunteering to help with organizing for funerals.
- ♥ Thanks to those who supported with their attendance, donation of milk or worked at the Waffle Feed. It was a great success! We served nearly 160 people, had a great time of fellowship and realized a net profit for Alexandria UMC to help paint the sprinkler pipes in the sanctuary of \$344.96! As you may be aware, this was a joint project with the Lions and they share in the work and profit. Outright donations to cover the cost of painting can still be made—just note "Pipe Painting" in the memo portion of your check.



Trustees are looking for people interested in entering into a contract for the following:

- ♦ Snow removal for the 2011-12 season. Contact Trustee Larry Mills if you are interested and/or need information.
- ♦ Building insurance—contact Trustee Kipp Hayes if you are interested or need more information.

Trustees are looking for **volunteers** willing to help in the following areas:

- ♦ Exterior caulking around windows and doors this fall—volunteers and funding are needed for this project.
- ♦ Clean and shampoo pews in sanctuary—volunteers needed.

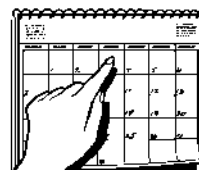
## UMW Information:



**Unit Meeting**—September 1st, 7:30 pm at church. Program is "Discovering Haiti". Peace Circle will hostess.

**Friends Circle**—September 8th, 7:00 PM at church. Program is surprise care packages. Sally Vano will hostess.

**Joy Circle**—September 15th, 9:30 AM. Program will be presented by Carol Meyer. Margaret Anderson is hostess.



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)        |
| \$430.00 | 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.



*Adult Sunday School*

### Adult Education Opportunities This Fall at Alex UMC:

⇒ Tuesdays, lectionary based **Bible Study**, 3:00 pm in the lounge. The first meeting will be on September 13th. Any and all are welcome!

⇒ **Book study/discussion** using the book, *Jesus' Plan for a New World; The Sermon on the Mount* by Richard Rohr. First meeting is Thursday, September 8th at 4:30 pm in the lounge. Subsequent meetings will be determined by the needs/schedules of those who wish to participate. In other words, we'll be as flexible as possible! To order a book, call the church office by **Tuesday, August 30th**. Cost is \$13.

⇒ **Adult Sunday School Class**—This fall the Adult Sunday School will resume its exploration of some of the current emerging voices in the theological community. We will be using a resource entitled "Emerging Voices, Emerging Church". In this video series we will hear from some of the most famous theologians and scholars of our time. While fundamentalist and evangelical Christian groups have dominated recent headlines, progressive new voices have been quietly emerging from within the Christian Church. Drawing inspiration from both ancient traditions and contemporary biblical scholarship, these new voices are calling for a Christianity that is more welcoming and one that rejects literal interpretations of the Bible. The discussions will begin at 9:00 on September 11th in the Adult Lounge. All persons are welcome to listen to our discussion or become active partners in exploring some of the ideas these scholars share with us in short video clips. We will use two Sundays on each topic and they stand alone so you need not attend every week and there is no "homework" for the sessions. Our topics will include: The Nature of Faith; On Faith and Fear, On the Experience of God, On Jesus, On the Bible, on Practice and Transformation and finally, Destinations and Conclusions. Roger Parks and John Heydt will facilitate the discussions. We would love to have you all come.

## From the Director of Youth and Children's Ministries:

I can not believe how fast the summer went! I hope you all had a fantastic summer vacation! I am so excited about our time together this year! We are going to have an awesome time learning about Jesus and from each other! I would like to share with you the many different ways and/or areas you can find out what is happening in Sunday School and with our Youth. I will be placing all the information in the weekly bulletin, the UMC web site ([www.alexumc.org](http://www.alexumc.org)—will be updated each Tues.), on the TV in the narthex, on the standing bulletin board in the entry way of the church, phone calls, emails and the Messenger. Another source will be family news letters for Sunday School and the Youth Facebook page (will be updated each Tues.) for the youth. Just login to your facebook page, search alex umc youth, and click like it!

### **DATES TO REMEMBER IN SEPTEMBER:**

September 11th—9-10: First day of Sunday School! Open House for parents and children  
September 14th—Youth Committee Meeting (6:30-7:30) and Education Mtg (7:30-8:30)  
September 18th—Youth Group: 6:00-7:30

### **ITEMS NEEDED FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL:**

Washable markers (rainbow colored, black brown and pastel colors)  
White Glue - Glue Sticks - Pencils

There is a bin in the narthex to place your items in. Thank you so very much!

**Anyone interested in helping create new costumes for the Sunday School children, please contact Shelly. Thank you!**



- |                                                             |                                                                      |                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Vivian Mohawk                                             | 10 LaVonne Ahlstedt<br>Shelly Ferris<br>Jackie Lybeck                | 21 Nathan Pring                                                              |
| 2 Gaye Mounsdon<br>Bob Ritlinger                            | 11 William Schroeder                                                 | 22 Marvella Anderson<br>Tom Roos                                             |
| 3 Luverne Adams<br>Joey VanRoekel                           | 12 Richard Carlson<br>Kathy Kelly                                    | 23 Phillip Golde                                                             |
| 4 Warren Stefanski                                          | 13 Christian Doumbia<br>Elijah Doumbia<br>Catherine Mogler           | 24 Gabrielle Koel                                                            |
| 5 Bryce Mogler<br>Rudy Nelson                               | 14 Edith Laird<br>Bill Malvin                                        | 25 Anthony Reed                                                              |
| 6 Mike Bartell<br>Barb Larson<br>Jason Lybeck<br>Anne Riggs | 15 Evan Gettel<br>Sharon Holm<br>Barb Malvin                         | 26 Tess Evink<br>Ferd Hastings<br>Sue Merten<br>Owen Oehlert<br>Chad Stender |
| 8 Carolyn Carlson                                           | 16 LaDonna Anderson                                                  | 27 Steve Decko<br>Julie Hansen<br>Allen VanRoekel                            |
| 9 Lee Becker                                                | 18 Sue Helgeson<br>Lynne Richardson<br>Alice Seiler<br>Pat Vickerman | 28 Justin Cummins<br>Justin Koehn<br>Steve O'Brien                           |
|                                                             | 19 Dean Beck<br>Jeanne Miller                                        | 29 Lucie Battey<br>Linda Cole                                                |
|                                                             | 20 Jim Gratias                                                       | 30 Tara DeWitt<br>Sue Jin Krueger<br>Julie Shaughnessy                       |

As we enter fall and another programming year, new volunteer opportunities open for persons with various talents. Currently we are looking for individuals or couples to sell Elden's Gift Cards between worship services. We are also looking for "counters" to assist on Monday mornings to count the previous week's offering. Many hands make swift work of these projects. Please consider volunteering. If you would like to assist, contact Colleen at the church office.



Thank you to those who gave their time, talent and other donations to the August Community Breakfast: Chuck & Brenda Bollen, Shirley Bruckner, John & Ann Heydt, Judy Florell, Otto & Phyllis Freier, Helen Glade, Kathleen Haining, and Aaron, Zach & Davyn Thomson. Thank you so much! The next breakfast is September 10th. Hope you can join us!

Would you like to help with the breakfast, but not on Saturday morning?!?!

How do you like *shopping*?

We are looking for a shopper to purchase the bulk supplies—pancake mix, syrup, etc. usually four to five times each year. You will use money from the Community Breakfast fund.

How are your **building skills**?

We are looking for someone to build a sign that can be put outdoors that says:

**Welcome — Free Pancakes — 9-10:30 am**

How are your **creative skills**?

We are looking for a laminated sign or bulletin board for fall/winter to put up the breakfast volunteer & donor sign up sheets.

Please contact the office if you are willing/able to help

## ***Happenings in Missions and Social Concerns:***

- ♥ **HIGHWAY CLEANUP**—Our fall highway clean up is scheduled for October 8th. Everyone is invited to come at 10:00 and eat a hearty breakfast at the community breakfast prior to setting out to clean up the roadway.
- ♥ **REMEMBERING GOD'S PEOPLE IN ROSEBUD**—Beginning on October 2nd, Missions will be collecting new and lightly used winter jackets for Tree of Life Ministry on the Rosebud Reservation. October 2nd has also been designated as “**Undie Sunday**”, and Missions will be collecting **NEW** underwear and socks (all sizes and for men, women and children) on this Sunday. These items will also be sent to Tree of Life. Bins will be available in the narthex.  
**PLEASE:** When considering donating items, make sure they are useable (no broken zippers, etc.), clean and are warm enough for cold winter temperatures. Only underwear and socks with original packaging will be accepted.

## Elden's Gift Card Program

Alexandra UMC has now purchased \$16,000 in Elden's Gift Cards for resale to our members/friends as a fundraiser. Through August 14th, we have sold \$14,525 in gift cards for a total of \$726.25 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!

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### **Important Upcoming Event: Advanced Directive Task Force Presentation Alexandria UMC—Sunday, September 18th at 9:00 AM in Fellowship Hall**

The Douglas County Advanced Directive Task Force, along with other national, state and community organizations, are leading an effort to highlight the importance of advance healthcare decision-making. The Douglas County Advanced Directive Task Force is encouraging all residents of our county to talk about their healthcare wishes with family, friends and health care providers, and execute written Advanced Health Care Directives (health care power of attorney and living will) in accordance with Minnesota state law.

The Douglas County Advanced Directive Task Force is a group of health care professionals, legal advisors and social workers who are committed to the following objectives and goals:

1. Increasing the number of individuals in our community who have advanced directives;
2. Improving and promoting a greater understanding of advanced directives;
3. Eliminating common misconceptions and misunderstandings about advanced directives;
4. Minimizing conflicts and promoting family harmony in a time of emotional stress or medical crisis with the use of advanced directives;
5. Ensuring that an individuals' healthcare wishes are honored.

Members of the Douglas County Advanced Directive Task Force will be making a presentation at 9:00 am on September 18th, in the Fellowship Hall of the UMC. All members are encouraged to attend to learn more about this important topic.

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**From the Minnesota Annual Conference Office:** A reminder that they continue to provide the optional, free service of receiving stock gifts in the Conference's account for churches that do not have their own brokerage account. **Please note that they must have advance notice of these gifts each time one is made.** If stocks are donated and appear in their account without this notice, they are not able to complete the transaction because they have no way of knowing either the donor or the intended recipient. (Data privacy policies of banks and brokerages prohibit them from giving that information, so it must be received from the donor prior to the stock gift.) Upon receipt of the stock, the Annual Conference will sell the stock immediately and issue a check to the intended church as soon as the proceeds from the sale are received by their office. Mutual funds and other types of securities can not be transferred through the conference stock account. To begin a stock donation process, please contact Carol Johanneck at 612-230-6142 or [carol.johanneck@minnesotaumc.org](mailto:carol.johanneck@minnesotaumc.org); or Alan Felkner at 612-230-6127 or [alan.felkner@minnesotaumc.org](mailto:alan.felkner@minnesotaumc.org). **This is intended as general information only—donors should consult with their own tax or legal advisor.** The MN Annual Conference is not responsible for any losses that occur on these transactions.

## Trustees 2011 Project Summary:

UMC Trustees thank the many volunteers for their excellent work and UMC cost savings on the following 2011 projects:

- **Changing the altar cloths**—Gerald Fearing
- **Decorations**—Kathleen Pohlig
- **Managing Grounds/Mowing Crews/Grounds Clean-up**—Mike Bartell, Gary Becker, Chuck Bollen, Dennis Brede, Gary Carlson, Dennis Cin, Tom DeWitt, Greg Dropik, Rick Glade, Jeff, Julie and Noah Hansen, John Heydt, Keven Jansen, Bruce Jordan, Ron Larson, Jerry Miller, Dave Nelson, Keith Nelson, Dave Nomsen, Bruce Pohlig, Ron Reiber, Tom Roos, Ron Schutte, Jeremy Scribner, Wes Smith, Chad Stender, Jerry Wilkens
- **Security System**—Scott Schlapkohl
- **Community Gardens**—Andy & Sally Vano, Deb Parrott, Susan Brede, Jeff Reed, Sherry Bruckner, Ken and Heidi Ryan
- **Power washing north side of UMC**—Dennis Cin and Wes Smith
- **Painting UMC north sign** - John Heydt
- **Painting curb**—Brad and Kayla Brunkow
- **Cleaning and painting picnic tables**—Wes Smith and Arlyn Cin
- **Managing pipe painting**—Brad Brunkow
- **Moving pews for pipe painting**—Brad Brunkow, Otto Freier, Chuck Bollen, Mike Bartell, Dennis Cin
- **Stained glass window in narthex**—Beverly Parks and Tom Vickerman family
- **Memorial in education wing**—Gene Dokter family
- **Repair of kitchen gas stove**—Carol Meyer
- **Managing parsonage roof and door repair/replacement**—Susan Brede and Deb Parrott
- **Upgrade and repair of computer network and managing sound system**—Dean Pass and Kipp Hayes
- **UMC Building Use Policy and Safe Sanctuary Policy**—Susan Brede, Brad Brunkow, Bruce Jordan, Larry Mills, Dave Morgan, Deb Parrott, Julie Shaughnessy, Rob Tryggeseth, Kipp Hayes
- **Repair and painting of sheds**—Dennis and Arlyn Cin, Zachary and Davyn Thomson and their Boy Scout troop
- **Parking lot cleaning and crack repair**—Dennis Cin and Wes Smith

UMC Trustees are looking for UMC members who would be interested in volunteering and/or bidding on the following 2012 projects/contracts for:

- Snow removal for 2011-12 season
- Insurance
- Tuckpointing—including: masonry preservation and repair, power washing, caulking windows and doors
- Fire door replacement
- Handicapped door repair
- Repair/replacement of cross on steeple
- Roofing repairs
- Shampoo sanctuary pews
- Construction of Rosewood masonry entry sign
- Construction of van and shop garage
- Seal coating parking lot
- Paint striping parking lot
- Replacement of parsonage kitchen cabinets
- Miscellaneous project management

If you are interested in volunteering or bidding, please contact a trustee.

Okay, fess up. You, like a lot of us, had gotten used to the sprinkler pipes and didn't really notice them. BUT, now that they are painted and blend in so well, we are back to the warm feeling offered by the wood and colors in the sanctuary and fellowship hall and it does look better! Thanks to those that have supported this project thus far. We still need just over \$400 to cover the entire job. If you like the way it looks and want to help, simply mark "painting" in the memo section of your check. We thank you in advance!

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Imagine No Malaria. Easy for us. A dream come true for people in sub-Saharan Africa. Would you be willing to help realize such a dream? The United Methodist Church is undertaking, with several other agencies and funds, an effort to eradicate malaria in Africa. It will be a huge effort, but it's one that can be broken down so that you could be involved in a meaningful way. One way you could participate is to pledge \$1/day for three years. That would provide for education, medicine and pre-emptive tools enough to save 100 lives. When have you ever had the opportunity to *save 100 lives*? Please consider it. If you are ready to jump on board, interested, or simply curious, get in touch with me. Thank you. Jeff

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The "Diaper Drive" is a local diaper bank—a volunteer based, non-profit agency that was started 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 the need is great for diapers (child through adult) and that Medical Assistance and food stamps do not pay for diapers or hygiene products! Two months later her and her husband launched the first diaper bank in Minnesota—The Diaper Drive. Two months after that, a Douglas County branch was launched in August of 2010. Their mission is to collect and distribute diapers of all types and sizes to families in need. For more information on how you can help, contact Barb Wiener at 320-762-1096, or see the flyer on the bulletin board by the kitchen.

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Dist. 206 is looking for volunteer Match Mentors:

- ♥ 2 hours a month – be a Lunch Buddy to an elementary student meeting twice a month over your lunch hour, Sept.–May
- ♥ 1 hour a week – be a one-on-one mentor to an adolescent (gr. 5-12) spending time together evenings, weekends and during the summer.

For more information or involvement, call 762-3310, ext. 4274.

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### *Community Events*

**September 1**— 6-8 pm at Douglas County Public Works Building (526 Willow Drive) - Douglas County Social Services will be holding a free information meeting for families interested in learning more about providing foster care for children in Douglas County. Families are needed for all age groups with a special need to find families who enjoy working with teens. To register or get more information, contact Jennifer McLaughlin, 320-762-3814 or by email at [jennifer.mclaughlin@mail.co.douglas.mn.us](mailto:jennifer.mclaughlin@mail.co.douglas.mn.us)