



Methodist Messages

Newsletter ~ September 2011



PASTOR'S LETTER

Man Overboard

Relaxing in our Boundary Waters campsite we noticed an odd-looking canoe out in the middle of the lake. On closer inspection we could see that the canoe was partially submerged, with one man in the water and the other man still sitting in the sunken canoe. Over and over again the man overboard tried to get back into the canoe.

Shane Mizell and I began to debate what was happening. It looked like maybe they were just practicing recovering from a spill. The canoeists didn't panic or shout for help. And they didn't try to swim the canoe to shore as I would have done. Besides there were other canoes on the lake and no one was going over to help. Maybe they were just having fun. On the other hand they were in the middle of the lake, far from any campsite. People who intentionally swamp canoes usually do it closer to camp.

If we were sure they needed help, we would have canoed out to rescue them. But we didn't want to look like idiots going out to rescue people who were just having fun. So we sat there and watched. And it reminded me of how I watch a lot of people. I see people who look like they are struggling and could use the help of Jesus. But I am not sure. I don't want to look like an idiot going out to save them when they don't need saving. If only they'd shout and let me know. If only I could be certain they would welcome the help. But I can't be. So I guess that's the choice I have to make. Do I risk looking like an idiot by talking to someone about church and how Jesus can help? Or do I just sit and watch them struggle? I'll never know who really needs help, so do I sit or do I go? God, help me make the right decision.

Pastor Mark

STAFF

Senior Pastor:	Mark B. Miller
Associate Pastor:	Bill Reinhart
Secretary:	Becki Mizell
Administrator:	Cathi Weber
Youth:	Cullen & Jenni Tanner
Children:	Kayla Christensen
Music Director:	Jo Franta
Organist:	Pam Yenor
Pianist:	Deb Salonek
Outreach:	Lauren Snell
Council Chair:	Nancy Mahowald
Custodians:	Jerry & Joyce Bartlett
Day Care Directors:	Linda Fruland
	Kim Creasey
Wedding Coord:	Margo Tyson

Service Times:

Sundays at
8:30 am & 10 am

The Forum:
Saturdays at 6pm



Nursing Home Services

Our church will be leading small worship gatherings at Park River Estates and Camilia Rose nursing homes on Sunday, September 11. If you like to sing, read scripture, visit with the residents, or simply smile, you're qualified to join us! The services are informal and the residents and staff are always appreciative. The Park River service is at 2:00pm and the Camilia Rose service is at 3:00 pm, with 30 minutes between services to allow for transportation and setup. We'll leave together from the church parking lot at 1:45 sharp.



Wednesday Evening Dinners

We have been blessed to be able to serve yet another year. The prices are \$3 per person, 5 and under are free. If you are able to give extra, we have a large coffee jar as you go through line to help those who cannot. We are also asking if you love to bake, bring dessert. We love our sweet disciples. Thank you in advance. Last year our dessert table was never empty.

September 14th ~ We will be grilling, 21st ~ Pasta with red sauce 'n' sausage, 28th ~ Wake up for breakfast. Dinners will be served 5:30-6:30. We can always use a hand setting up at 5 or putting things away at 6:30. *Luke 6:21- Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied.* Come and share in the fellowship with a new friend.

A new ministry is being formulated at CRUMC called Phone Fellowship. It is designed to reach out to the elderly and shut-ins of the congregation to show our concern for their well-being. By implementing a buddy system, two people would be paired up to phone one another regularly to make sure all is well. Some people may prefer to be callers; some may prefer to be "callees." If you are interested in this new ministry, please contact Sally Esmay (763-757-2779), Phyllis Seath (763-421-8885), or RoseMarie Dignan (763-427-8968).



Spend Tuesday Mornings With Our Bishop, Sally Dyck

(by savoring her book *A Faithful Heart: Daily Guide for Joyful Living*)

This 9 week Bible Study and time of sharing begins Tuesday, September 13. We'll meet from 9:30-11:30a.m. in CRUMC Library. Questions? Sign Up? Vonda Atkinson or Church Office.



Attention Parents of 3yr olds – Kindergarten

Don't forget to register (or re-register) your child(ren) with the Amazin' Praisin' Kids Choir on Sunday, Sept 11! It's AMAZIN' what a little PRAISIN' can do!! Contact Christine Swanson at amazinpraisin@hotmail.com if you have questions.



United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women meet the fourth Saturday of each month to make items for Alexandra House and other charities. All skill levels are welcome from no skill to very adept. We sew quilts and make knit and crocheted items. Come join us 9-11:30 a.m. We also are in the need of twin size quilt battings. Please leave them in the Mission tub in the hall or give to Lynda Guisinger or Gail Chalbi.

Have you marked your calendar for Tuesday, September 27th at 7 pm?

It's the Church Council Meeting and everyone's invited! We'll have food, fun and fellowship and get the latest news on what's happening in our church. Plan to join us. It won't be the same without you!

September Mission Offering to be given to Living Stones School

The Missions Committee is dedicating the September Mission offering to Living Stones School. The walls are up, but there is still a need for additional funds to complete the roof, add doors and windows, and build bathrooms. Thanks to all who donated \$2,540 in July.... over \$1,700 was given through VBS. That is truly amazing! **God is at work!** The estimated cost of the roof structure is \$5,300. We still need another \$2,800 for all the roof materials and labor. The contractor does not want to begin construction until all funds are available. The new school year begins in January. The people in the area are hopeful that the school can be completed by then. The school is bringing hope to the small village of Kagera - just a few miles from where Dr. Livingstone ministered to people of the area in the 1850's. Not much has changed for these people in nearly 160 years. In the village of Kagera, the people are still living as they did in the 19th century. We now have a chance to improve their lives, much in the same way that Dr. Livingstone improved lives. Please consider supporting this mission project with your prayers and financial gifts. Bukwe sends his thanks for your prayers of healing. He is much better, but it is still a struggle for him to be separated from his family. Pray for his physical and mental wellbeing, his continued safety, and for wisdom while he continues to carry out what God has started. If you would like more information on Living Stones School, please talk to Tim Gurr (763-780-3809).

Library News

HELP WANTED--



The library committee is in need of someone in our congregation to join us as a committee member. We meet as a group just six times a year (every other month) to discuss library needs and to approve donations to the library collection. We share the duties of attendant on Sundays between services. A love of books, joy in reading, and lifelong learning are pluses in your resume. If you are interested or have any questions, please call Phyllis Seath at 763-421-8885.

NEW BOOKS IN OUR LIBRARY—

Where God Was Born: A Journey by Land to the Roots of Religion by Bruce Feiler (200.9 FEI)

The Name by Franklin Graham (232 GRA)

Seeing and Savoring Jesus Christ by John Piper (232.8 PIP)

Jesus: An Intimate Portrait of the Man, His Land, and His People by Leith Anderson (232.9 AND)

Just Like Jesus: Living in the Heart of the Savior by Max Lucado (232.9 LUC)

The Journey: How to Live by Faith in An Uncertain World by Billy Graham (248.4 GRA)

The Other Side of Love: Handling Anger in a Godly Way by Gary Chapman (248.8 CHA)

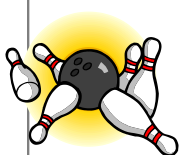
Parenting: From Surviving to Thriving by Charles Swindoll (248.8 SWI)

The library is open 9:30 to 10:00 Sunday morning between services each week. Come in and check out our NEW BOOK SHELF. Remember to sign out the books you borrow.



Looking for fun and fellowship? Join our "light" bowling league; sanctified, not sanctioned. Every other Saturday 6:00-8:00pm at Andover Lanes starting on September 17, 2011. \$16 per person.

Four people to a team with two men and two women. No bowling experience necessary! Come on, it really is fun! Contact Kevin or LuAnn Johnson, 763-757-9245 or lukevann@comcast.net.



Day Care Ministry

CRUMC provides a very special ministry for the Day Care. Three Wednesday mornings a month, volunteers read Bible stories, sing songs, and do crafts with the children. More volunteers are needed to help with this rewarding work. If you interested in participating in this special ministry, call RoseMarie Dignan (763-427-8968) or Laura Camp (763-421-6661).

Parking Hospitality

With summer drawing to a close, our parking lot has started to fill up again. Please care for our guests, the elderly and disabled, and those with small children by parking in the most distant spots of the church lot on Sunday mornings. If you're able to walk across the street, you may park in the Center Point parking lot on Sunday mornings.



Alexandra House Walk for Hope

Join us in supporting Alexandra House by participating in the 7th Annual Walk for Hope on Saturday, September 24th. Alexandra House provides 24-hour emergency shelter, support services and advocacy to victims of domestic and sexual violence. They are located in the cities of Blaine and Anoka, but serve victims of domestic and sexual violence across the state of Minnesota. This event helps to spread awareness about domestic violence, to remember those we have lost, to honor the many survivors, and to raise money for Alexandra House.

When: Saturday, September 24th

Time: 8am registration

9am kick-off

9:30am 5K run

9:45am 2 mile walk



Where: Bunker Hills Regional Park Pavilion #3

Registration is online at www.alexandrahouse.org/news-and-events/walk-for-hope. Please contact Sophia Mahowald at (612)382-4778 with any questions.



Adult Bible Studies

There are several ongoing and new Bible studies for adults this fall.

Monday evenings (7-8:30pm), Damon Stubbs will be leading a study called "Authentic Relationships" (class begins September 12).

Tuesday mornings (9:30-11:30am) there is a new Bible study being convened by Vonda Atkinson (class begins September 13, talk to Vonda for more details).

Wednesday evenings (7-8:30pm), Pastor Bill will be leading a study of the Gospels. This will be an "old-fashioned" Bible study using the Bible as our workbook, starting with Matthew (class begins September 14).

Thursday mornings (6:30-7:30am), Pastor Mark convenes an ongoing Men's Bible study ("The Donut Guys").

Friday mornings (9:15-10:30am) there is an ongoing women's Bible study ("The Cracked Pots"). The women have just started a new workbook called "Women of The New Testament."

More Bible studies will be announced throughout the year as they are formed. Talk to Pastor Bill for more information and look for sign-up sheets on Rally Sunday (September 11).



Joining Our Church September 11 (Rally Sunday)

New members will be joining our church on Sunday, September 11th (both services) and you're invited! This will be a special day of celebration and a great day to join. While membership is NOT required for you to participate in the life and ministries of this church, you may be ready to make a higher level of commitment to God and to this congregation. If you're interested in joining and haven't yet met with Pastor Bill to discuss membership, please do so before September 11.

Coon Rapids United Methodist Church
10506 Hanson Blvd NW
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

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Coon Rapids United Methodist Church
(763)755-6990 www.CoonRapidsUMC.org
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COMING SOON!

Rally Sunday	Sept. 11	
Ministry Fair	starts at 9:30am	Narthex
Lunch	starts at 11am	Wesley Hall
Wednesday Meals	Starting Sept. 14	5:30-6:30
“The Gift of Time” fundraiser	Sept. 17	9am-9pm