

**Special points of interest:**

June 2010

- Presbyterian Church USA and United Church of Christ
- Dottie Metcalf Win's Prestigious Award! (CWU)
- Funk's Grove Worship, Picnic and Potluck
- Moderator's Notes

## Thank You

David and I are blessed to be part of a church family that is so caring and generous with their time and talents.

The 45 baskets the church put together for the silent auction were an absolute hit!

I can't tell you how many people mentioned how wonderful those baskets were, and each one was absolutely beautiful.

The "Roadkill" basket even started a bidding war.

### Home Bible Class

The Home Bible Class will meet Thursday, June 10th at 1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

We will study Jeremiah 23:1-24 and Chapter 4 entitled "The Righteous Branch" in our study guide, *Jeremiah, Demanding Love*.

The benefit would not have been the success it was without the baskets.

Also, it was incredibly generous of St. Luke Union to donate a large portion of the group sale proceeds to the benefit fund.

Your donations have relieved a burden of worry from our shoulders.

Thank you to all who participated in those events, to those of you who made personal donations, and to those of you who showed up

at the benefit.

We appreciate so much all the prayers and words of encouragement and support we've received.

We are truly blessed.

*Kris & David Sulzberger*



All ladies of the church and friends are invited to attend this class.



Our study continues...

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## From the Pastor . . .

When I was reading in the book of 1 Samuel 16 this past week I came across a thought provoking passage.

As the story begins, the prophet Samuel is lamenting over the actions of King Saul.

These actions have turned the favor of God against the King of Israel.

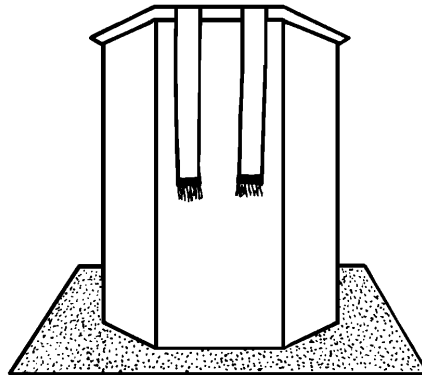
I think we can all relate to Samuel on some level because he was the one who anointed Saul, mentored him in his kingship, and relayed the word of God to him.

Saul was like a son to Samuel and now Samuel was being instructed to anoint another.

Saul with all the promise found in his stature, his leadership ability, and his gifts to develop and establish a Jewish nation, are eventually overshadowed by his selfish desires and paranoid realities.

What finally became the fall of Saul's kingship was that his true nature was revealed.

Samuel is now sent out to anoint the next king and is sent to Jesse the



Bethlehemite who is the father of 8 sons.

Each one of the first 7 sons of Jesse are passed before Samuel with Samuel's reaction being, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord."

Each of these sons of Jesse had an appearance of what many would like a king to look like but something must have been missing.

Eventually David is brought in from the fields where he has been tending sheep.

"He was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome."

At this point, Samuel anoints David and he becomes King of Israel.

The point of this story can best be explained through scripture.

*"The LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."*  
~ 1 Samuel 16:7b

My question for us is, "Is what people see on the outside the same thing people have on the inside?"

"Are the words of our mouths and actions of our hands the true desires of our hearts?"

That is a difficult task for most people but it is also the direction that God desires for our hearts to travel.

It is also the mission that God has for us and St. Luke Union Church.

The outward actions of ourselves and our church find their origins in our hearts, hearts that are filled with God's grace and Holy Spirit.

Go out now and present the true image of God.

Peace,

*Pastor Andy Gifford*

## Dottie Metcalf Wins Prestigious Award! (CWU)

Dottie Metcalf has been awarded the Valiant Woman Award for the Bloomington/Normal area Church Women United.

This prestigious award was announced at the May Friendship Day Breakfast which was held on May 7, 2010.

Congratulations, Dottie  
You deserve this award!

## Funk's Grove Worship, Picnic and Potluck



Please join us for worship at Funk's Grove on Sunday June 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.

Immediately after the service we will have our

annual picnic/potluck.

Please bring a dish to pass and your own table service.

Agape Committee will provide coffee, iced tea

and lemonade.

Power cords will be available for those who wish to bring their food in crock pots.

## Presbyterian Church USA and United Church of Christ

Do you wish to keep up on all the things happening in the Presbyterian Church USA and the United Church of Christ?

Check out their websites and subscribe to their electronic newsletters.

[www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org) for the Presbyterian Church USA

and [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org) for the United Church of Christ

## Pins for Triennium

The youth are looking for ideas for pins they can take to trade at Triennium.

The pins should be related somehow to the

Bloomington-Normal area.

Ideas are promotional pins from corporations, universities, or the local chambers of commerce.

If you have ideas, or know an organization that could donate pins, please contact Tammy Desmond.

## “Twister” Game

Did you leave your game of “Twister” here at the church?

If you did, please pick it up at the counter in the outer office.

### Illinois Conference, UCC Annual Meeting

June 18th & 19th  
UIC Student Center East  
750 S Halsted St  
Chicago, IL

[www.ilucc.org](http://www.ilucc.org)

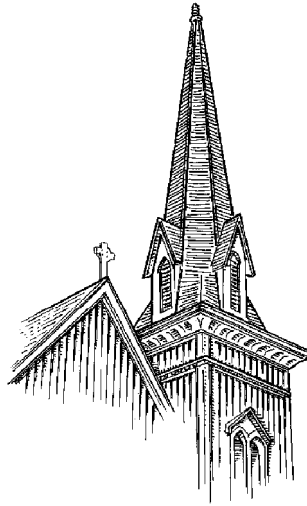
## Thank You

I would like to thank the St. Luke Union Church family for all of the prayers, concerns and support for our family and me throughout the last several months of my dad, Leo Rennhack's life.

He and Mom were very grateful for all the prayers and said they could tell our prayers were sent "heavenward."

I'd also like to thank so many of you who sent cards and gave memorials.

Dad always loved Bible Study and church has been



very important to him and my mom throughout their lives.

Dad was baptized, confirmed, married and his celebration of life was held in the same church.

I would also like to thank Ruth Trower and Karlene Bledsoe for taking the time to travel to Michigan for the funeral/celebration of life - what a surprise to see them!

It's good to be able to return home to my second family at St. Luke Union where we continue to receive prayers, support and love.

Thank you so much,

*Karen Walters  
& Family*

## Thank You

A HUGE thank you to everyone who supported the youth bake sale by donating or purchasing items.

The youth raised \$825 toward their \$2,000 goal

for Triennium.

THANK YOU!

Stay tuned for announcements regarding our car wash fundraiser.



## Money Matters As of April 30, 2010

GENERAL FUND	JAN-APR BUDGET	JAN-APR ACTUAL
Receipts	\$86,435	\$86,473
Disbursements	\$80,893	\$73,475

## Moderator's Notes



The Vision & Ministry Council invited Dick Johnson from Presbytery to visit with us about our role as elders in the Presbyterian Church. (We have arranged for a similar training on our role in the UCC tradition in the near future.)

Fortunately, Dick was willing to make a trek across Illinois and provide the Council with a special training session.

Dick reminded us that our ordination vows are related to our personal faith.

While each of our statements of faith speaks to our unique life journey, we need to focus on our commonalities and understand the places we are different.

Dick asked which members of the Council grew up in the Presbyterian Church.

While you would expect that Council would also include members who grew up in a UCC church, it was surprising to learn how many of us had other religious traditions in our upbringing.

To me, this is a positive. It shows how we come together as a church to

worship God in special ways that are attractive to persons who were members of other faiths.

As our communicants shared their Statements of Faith with the Vision & Ministry Council, I was intrigued with how they had come to understand their relationship with Jesus Christ.

They shared the unique ways that they had come to trust Jesus as their savior.

Their statements were moving.

It was clear that they spent considerable time in thought before formulating their faith statements.

Today, they are proud members of St. Luke Union Church and we are proud of their accomplishments.

I want to mention a few business items from the May Vision & Ministry Council meeting.

The church has hired a new custodian who is already making a difference in cleaning the church.

Council approved the expenditure of funds to replace the shake shingle roof on the north side of

the sanctuary.

The funds to accomplish this repair are in the budget.

The current roof is the original one. It will be replaced with an asphalt shingle roof and the gutter system on the north side will also be replaced.

I want to commend the Resource Ministry Team for their efforts to continue to improve the church physical plant.

A kind member of the church reminded me that I failed to mention Denny Redick's work with the garden in my last notes.

Denny spends countless hours tilling, and preparing the community garden for planting.

As you know, these gardens are a wonderful gift to our community.

I am sure there are many others that I should mention by name for their work with the church.

So, **thank you to everyone** because each of you contributes in special ways.

Blessings,  
*Brent Paterson*

## Vacation Bible School

All hands on deck for Group's High Seas Expedition!

**When:** Sunday, August 1st through August 5th

**Time:** 5:00 p.m. for dinner

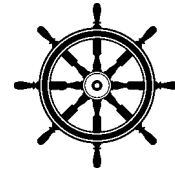
**Cost:** Dinner - free will offering

**VBS:** Free

Expedition starts at 5:30 and ends at 8:00 p.m.

For more information, visit our website at:

[www.stlukeunion.org](http://www.stlukeunion.org) and click on the "Vacation Bible School" link or call Amie Keeton at 827-8871.



## Christmas in July!

We will be having an additional sale the weekend of July 16th and 17th.

We will be selling Christmas items only.

So if you are anxious to get a head start on clearing out unused Christmas

decorations, holiday clothing, etc., plan on bringing it to the church that week.

The funds raised from this sale will benefit the youth's triennium trip and begin a fund for Women's Fellowship to help the

ladies in our congregation attend retreats and the upcoming 2012 Presbyterian Women's Gathering travel expenses.

Watch the July issue of New Directions for additional details!



## Pastor Andy's Trivia Question

Did you guess the answer to last month's trivia question?

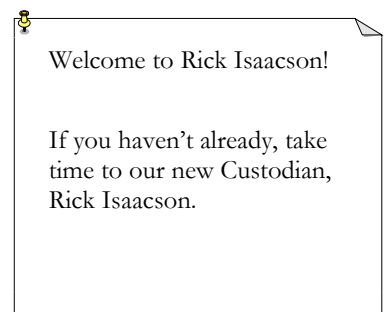
**Where did Jesus speak to Cleopas and one other man after his resurrection?**

**Answer:**

On the road to Emmaus  
~ Luke 24:13,18

June Trivia Question:

**In your head or on a piece of paper, list the Ten Commandments, after your attempt, turn to Deuteronomy 5 and see how you did.**



## Green Energy by Laurie Vial - Energy Consultant



Eureka College is launching a new committee of faculty, students and staff to explore ways to “green” the campus.

The committee recently hosted “What’s so great about a green campus? - An evening discussion with Nan Jenks-Jay, Dean of Environmental Affairs at Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont about how colleges and universities can work towards environmental sustainability and why they should.”

Her campus may be one the greenest in the United States and offers fields of study in areas related to the environment.

What’s interesting about any agenda on a campus is that the entire student population turns over approximately every four years.

So if something is going to last you constantly have to seek “buy in” from the younger students.

The college buys food locally.

The cafeteria cooks with whole foods and the students grow a lot of food in organic gardens.

There is a recycling program with a very high percentage of participation.

And many students work part time at the recycling center sorting the items that come in co-mingled to encourage participation.

If you make recycling as easy as possible, more consumers will jump on the bandwagon.

Much of the heating on campus comes from biomass digesters.

Much of the biomass comes from the food waste on campus.

Here is the green mission statement from their website “At Middlebury, sustainability is about more than our renewable energy projects and 'green' buildings.

It is an integral part of how we teach, work, and play.

With innovative ideas from the campus community, a supportive administration, and the oldest undergraduate environmental studies program in the country, Middlebury provides a unique atmosphere to explore real-world problems.

At Middlebury we have set

milestones for carbon neutrality and renewable energy, for greening athletics as well as study abroad, and by increasing local foods in our dining halls and through our organic garden.”

A college campus is not a church, but as we broaden our approach to greener living in our spiritual life and our home life we can take bits and pieces from many sources and fit together those that make sense.

It will be interesting to follow Eureka College as they explore their green options and make changes.

One of their first decisions was to forego spraying the dandelions in the campus lawn.

That’s a good place to start and let’s hope they don’t get many complaints.

If your church is making green decisions it can be confusing and even controversial.

Contact me if I can help in any way.

To contact Laurie, e-mail [greenenergy@greatriverspby.org](mailto:greenenergy@greatriverspby.org).

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