



Musings from Mary

But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Volume 42 Issue 4

Mark 16:6-8 NRSV

Mark's report of what happened early on the morning of the first Easter may be my favorite of all the Gospels. We have the well known storyline that the women have prepared spices to anoint the body of Jesus, but when they get to the tomb they find that the stone has already been opened. They find an angel waiting for them. The angel tells them the "good news" and they are supposed to go and tell the men. But in Mark, they don't go and tell!

The Gospel of Mark is a mysterious book in the Bible because scholars have found ancient versions of the Gospel with three different endings. All of the versions include through Mark 16:8, but some add a short sentence to say that of course the women actually did go and tell. Others add a longer ending where Jesus appears to the disciples themselves. Take a look in your Bible, you'll see a "shorter ending" and the "longer ending" noted in the subtitles. But the shortest ending ends with terror, amazement, and fear. The women don't tell anyone.

This "shortest ending" feels so human. The body disappearing, angels speaking, and the extraordinary news that Jesus has been resurrected isn't exactly "good news" at first. Encountering something that convinces you of the presence of God beyond any doubt is a bit unnerving! It certainly goes beyond our rational ability.

Yet, this amazing sense of the presence of God, this sudden evidence that God is real, is a relatively common way that God seems to reveal himself to us. The disciples don't believe only because the women told them that Jesus was resurrected, they believe because they encounter Christ themselves. Paul doesn't become a preacher to the gentiles because he heard the good news, but because he encountered Christ. Abraham doesn't set out to start a new people who believe in the One God because he felt like it, but because he encountered God in a real way. And Aidan Kavanagh makes a helpful comment about Moses' encounter with God when he says, "It was a Presence, not (intellectual) faith, which drew Moses to the burning bush, and what happened there was a revelation, not a seminar."

Easter is the season when we celebrate that God has revealed himself to us through Jesus Christ. It's a little frightening at first to think that we might actually encounter Christ, but that's what revelation is all about. It isn't a seminar, or a book, or any kind of intellectual knowledge – it's an experience of something beyond what we normally encounter.

May you experience the presence of Christ in your midst this season – for this is the amazing good news of Easter. Christ is risen! He is here now waiting to be revealed.

In Christ,



Lenten Fish Fry's
4:00—7:00 p.m.
In the annex
April 1, 8, 15 & 22nd
Shrimp ~ Cod ~ Walleye

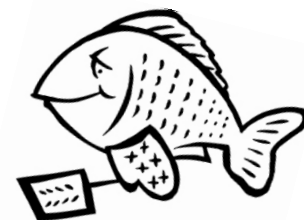
Proceeds go directly into the General Fund.

If you have not been to a Fish Fry in the past,

you are missing out on some of the

best fish around, not to mention the best

FELLOWSHIP in town too!



Lenten
Fish Fry



Please see or call Gail Flatness to see how you can help out with these delicious fish fry's. She always needs help in the kitchen, serving out on the floor, doing dishes and shopping.

815.254.1974

United Methodist Women News

Congratulations to our "CHILI COOK-OFF" winners. 3rd place - Martha Ann Harvey, 2nd place Danny Harvey and for the second year in a row, 1st place went to Gerry Pubentz. Thank you to all the chili cookers, they were all great. Thank you to Paul Froidcoeur, the Larabee's, my family for helping with the set up, and Maria Larabee and Gail Flatness for helping with the desserts. Thank you to all that helped clean up.

Start working on those recipes for next year.

The next UMW MEETING will be held on APRIL 11TH in the annex. At the 11:00 day time meeting, we will be having a short meeting. Following the meeting we will be cutting and pinning pillowcases for the "1 Million Pillowcase Challenge". At the 7:00 night time meeting we will be sewing the pillowcases after the business meeting. We are looking for anyone that has a portable sewing machine that they can bring that night.

The pillowcases we make will be donated to a children's home. These pillowcases are for the children to keep. We need donations of 1 yard or more of cotton or cotton blend material. Any kind of pattern a young or older child would like. The material can be dropped off at the church ahead of time or be brought to the meeting.

We will wait and draw our "Secret Pals" at the April meeting. We have already received a lot of cards, but we want to give every lady a chance to participate. Remember, all you need to do to join is to give me your name, address, b-day (day & month), anniversary date, favorite flower and color and some information about yourself. After you receive your "Secret Pal" name, you are only required to buy your pal a \$5.00 or under gift on their birthday and at Christmas. You can also remember your pal once a week, once a month or as often as you want. It can be a note in their church mailbox, a piece of candy, a single flower on the altar. Get creative. Remember to treat them how you would like to be treated. Have fun with this one.

Kim Nave, UMW President, 815-467-2199

Spirit Committee

Thank you to all the treat providers for February fellowship: Diane Jacoboski, Maria Larabee, Valentine Party Contributors, Kim Nave, Jim and Pastor Mary, Chris and Sue White. The treats were wonderful and appreciated!

Sign-up sheets are available for April and May. Consider signing up as a family or as a Church Committee to make it a team effort. If no one signs up for fellowship treats on a particular Sunday, only coffee will be provided.

Maria Larabee, Chair

DAYBREAK NEWS, April 2011

Through the tender mercy of our God, the daybreak from on high will visit us to shine on those who wait in darkness. ~Luke 1:78

We welcome Joe and Diane Jacoboski to our list of volunteers who serve monthly meals at Daybreak. Thanks for joining us! Thank you to all of our volunteers who give of themselves and often their resources to help at Daybreak. A special thanks to the Dilday/Hanna family for the many, many lunches they have cooked and served. They have now found themselves pressed with other obligations and will fill in as alternates. I've been asked by the volunteer coordinator at Daybreak to share their need for volunteers to prepare and serve weekday morning breakfasts. This requires a commitment of approximately two hours, 5:00-7:00 a.m. with a group of 3 or 4 people. It can be done on a monthly basis or just occasionally. Sue and I would be happy to accompany any groups going for the first time.

The current needs at Daybreak include:

Adult Clothing: (Sizes Large – 4x) - jeans, men's white socks, hooded sweatshirts, gym shoes, work boots, men's belts

Hygiene Products – hair gel, razors, shaving cream, deodorant, lotion, tampons, sanitary pads, African American hair products, combs and brushes, fragrance free hygiene products

Baby Items - disposable diapers (size 1-6), baby wipes

Household – laundry soap, white twin size sheets, pillow cases, white twin size thermal blankets, and white bath towels/wash cloths, paper towels, toilet paper

Large size (105-106 oz.) cans of vegetables or fruit. These are available at Sam's Club and other such places.

These items may be placed in the collection box in the narthex.

Thanks to all of you who continue to donate to this worthwhile ministry.

May God bless you richly, and may you in turn bless others.

Chris White

2011 Daybreak Coordinator



News on Deacon Sharon

This June, during the Northern Illinois Conference Annual Conference meeting, Deacon Sharon Rice will be ordained as a full clergy member. Ordination is a deeply significant moment in the life of a clergy person. This is the point in time that God's call on a person's life is answered with a resounding "yes" by both the individual being ordained, and The United Methodist Church. Being ordained is intended to be a lifelong commitment, so you can imagine that the celebration is both spiritual and memorable.

The schedule for this year's ordination service is not finalized, but the draft schedule suggests that the service will be held on the evening of Friday, June 10. The service will be held at Pheasant Run Resort in Saint Charles, Illinois. One of the traditions of the ordination service is that while an individual is being ordained all of the people who are there to celebrate stand in recognition. I hope that many of you will be able to set that evening aside to come and support Deacon Sharon during this important time. Please note, this is often a lengthy service so the entire evening will be needed!

Watch the Mustard Seed for further information

Finance Committee

Shaken together to make room for more...

Luke 6:38 reads: "If you give, you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, and running over. Whatever measure you use in giving-large or small-it will be used to measure what is given back to you." Watch the Father abundantly supply all you need.

Looking back on the first quarter finances of the church, I can say that your gifts to God have been blessing the church in full measure, and running over. We have been able to pay all the bills, provide the services of God's mission and have some left over. God generously supplies everything we need.

I would personally like to thank all that have been faithfully supporting the mission of the church. Whether it is through your time, talents, money and/or service, each person plays an integral part. You will experience His provision if you are obedient to His call.

The signs of Spring are here and make us joyful to be Alive. Easter reminds us of new birth, and new life in Jesus Christ. Give unto God and see how it springs forth with abundance!

Faithfully yours, Sue White, Finance Chair





Conduct yourselves...



so that...

they may

see your



honorable deeds and

glorify God.



1 Peter 2:12

Response to Our Christian Vows the month of February

Our Average attendance in FEBRUARY	121
February Offering:	\$16,054
February Ridge Road Development Fund:	\$515

St. Baldrick participants: **Kim, Dutch & Maverick Nave. Gerry and Calvin Sabo. Mike Beitler.** Congratulations to these courageous people who stepped up to help fight for the cure for children's cancer. Great job!

Before



after



Christian Education



Sunday School Theme Weeks - Due to Palm Sunday and Easter, our April theme week will be on Sunday, April 10th. Our theme for the month is **Mismatch Day**. Show your spirit and earn a prize.

Children's Choir - All Sunday School students will sing on Palm Sunday, April 17th in the 9:00am Service. (Please Note: This is not our normal Sunday) Both choirs will be singing together. Please meet in the Sanctuary at 8:00am to practice.

Easter Egg Hunt - Saturday, April 23rd 10:00am. Color Easter Eggs, hunt for eggs on the church lawn and hear the Easter story. *Bring one dozen hard boiled eggs to color and we will supply the rest.* All are Welcome!!! Save the date and Bring a Friend!!!

VBS - EGYPT - July 17th - 22nd. We are still in need of **many** volunteers for VBS. Please check your calendar and consider helping us. There are sign up sheets in the weekly bulletin. If we do not have enough volunteers by May 31st, we will have to cancel.

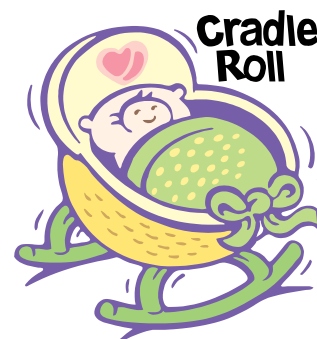
VBS Donations -we are in need of old bed sheets, any size, fitted, flat, as well as pillow Cases. **What we need** - solids, stripes, plaids or any geometric patterns in any color
What we don't need - floral patterns, children's or character patterns

Please leave donations in box/bag outside CE office and mark VBS

For information regarding Christian Education and any of its events, please contact Nicole Bishop at

Around the Parish

Welcome **Grant Matthew Graver**, son of Grant and Elizabeth Graver. "Matthew" was born on March 8th at 11:39am weighing 5 lbs. 10 oz. and 18" long. Matthew came a few weeks early, and fortunately Grandma Karen Pubentz was able to make it to the hospital in Wisconsin in time for the delivery. Congratulations!



For all you readers today is some time at the end of March or beginning of April. But for me, as I write this, today is March 13th my first full day as a new “bald” women. Thank you to Adrienne, for allowing me to be 4 days late submitting my article.

I would like to take you for a ride on my emotional rollercoaster thru this St. Baldrick’s experience.

Back in February, the boys came home from school expressing interest in signing up for St. Baldrick’s. This is an event to raise money for children’s cancer research. Of course a sense of pride waved over me, but, was trying to picture my boys bald, especially Dutch. Even though the event was for children affected by cancer, the boys chose to honor my best friend’s mother, Mary Ann Parker. Mary Ann is battling leukemia. Even at 69 she is a child of God and her daughter Debi is dealing with the very tough challenges that cancer causes.

A week or so went by and Maverick offered me the challenge to shave if they could raise \$1,000 each. I thought that amount was way too doable. After a few days I counter-challenged at \$1,500 each. The bet was on. I wasn’t too worried because \$3,000 is a lot to raise. The word started to spread and 90% of the comments were positive, there’s always a few that think you’re nuts. Weeks went by and I was still fine. Money was coming in, but they were still very far away from reaching their goals.

Four days before the event, the boys were within \$800 of the goal. Panic started to rush over me. It’s the same feeling you get when you are on the top of a tall rollercoaster and you look down and you can’t see the track below. I was truly having second thoughts. That night at work, my co-worker Shelley told us of someone she knows that just lost their 7-year old son to a brain tumor. My emotions took a hard turn to the left. I was panicking and feeling sorry for myself for possibly losing my hair, and this couple lost the most precious treasure of their life.

Then it was the day of the event. Excitement and anxiety was high in our house. As we drove, we laughed and talked about what it was going to be like to be bald. We had no clue what was in store for us. The atmosphere at the event was electrifying. Mary Ann and Debi were the first of our group to arrive. We were so honored to have them there. Then more friends came flowing thru the door, along with Marlin and Adrienne. Their daughter Stephany was one of the shavers who volunteered for the event.

As I stood in line with my boys and their friends, the excitement intensified. I was amazed at how many long haired high school boys, young girls and women there were standing in line. The place was erupting with cheers as each shavee took the stage. It was our turn and the panic proved to be at an all time high. I looked down the stage and saw the clippers doing their magic on Mav and Dutch and Steph was waving me down to her chair. As I sat down my Debi started to scream and I saw my husband give me this loving smile. All was right in the world. As the clippers ran up the back of my head, Steph’s comforting words filled my ears. I looked up to see Maverick hugging our group. He was adorable. Dutch appeared from the right and immediately ran to his brother and embraced him. Words can’t describe my feelings. My boys are awesome. As I watched the faces of my family and friends, with tears flowing down, I felt I was truly the luckiest person in the whole world. Look what God has blessed me with. After it was over, my rollercoaster ride was really just getting started. My John looked at me the same way he did the first day he told me he loved me. My boys hugged me and we rubbed each others heads. Adrienne hugged me and told me I did it and she was proud of me. My friends Wayne and Karen cried and told me I touched their hearts. My buddy Jim told me I have never looked more beautiful. It hard to put in writing the emotions from Mary Ann and Debi. The tears, hugs, and love were amazing. They were riding their own rollercoaster, yet they were thanking us!

I’m not trying to make this night all about me, it was all about the families affected by that demon cancer. But I’m trying to get across what 1 simple selfless act of kindness can do for your soul. Some may say this wasn’t simple because the boys and I are bald. It doesn’t matter. Our hair will grow back, we didn’t lose our eyebrows and eyelashes and WE’RE NOT SICK. I’m not telling everyone to go shave their heads, but to step way out of the box and give of yourselves. Once you get there, I promise it will be all worth it. That evening changed many lives. We would like to thank everyone that donated and supported us, you made a difference. Over \$47,000 was raised for children’s cancer research. The amount of love, support, pride and self worth my family earned from that evening, is PRICELESS.

Kim Nave, Lay Leader

Our Schedule for Potting Plants!

Here's the potting schedule for our **Plant Sale** on Saturday, **May 7th**. Even if you've never potted a plant in your life, it's easy and fun to do. Please join us!

100% of profits go to
YOUTH Ministry and Mission!

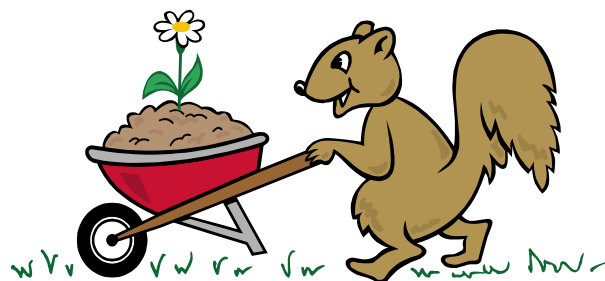
Potting schedule:

Friday, April 15	TBA
Saturday, April 16	1:30 - 5 pm
Sunday, April 17	1 - 5 pm
Tuesday, April 19	6 - 9 pm
Friday, April 22	1:30 - 5 pm
Saturday, April 23	1:30 - 5 pm
Monday, April 25	4 - 5 pm
Saturday, April 30	1:30 - 5 pm
Sunday, May 1	1 - 5 pm

As in the past, we will pot alongside the church garage. Watch the bulletin for other weekday potting during the day that will be scheduled as spring presents itself and the plants start to grow. **Rain or shine! See you there.**

Questions? Just call Dawn Nemitz at 467-6687 (dblue4eyes@aol.com)

Want to help in other areas of the Plant Sale? Please call Adrienne Hartman at 467-4657 or Karen Crawshaw at 467-1674.





BIRTHDAYS

- 1 April Sandoval
- 2 Don Casagrande
- 3 Valerie Gunderson
- 6 Luis Loza
- 10 Christy Hiser
- 10 Seth Satorius
- 11 Salome Mwatuano
- 11 Beverly Ridenour
- 17 Ruth Hanna
- 17 Ethan Staley
- 19 Donna Sabo
- 20 Scott Getsoian
- 22 Darioush Ehteshami-Afshar
- 22 Lauren Bivens
- 22 Terry Kinsella
- 23 Julie Geyer
- 25 Brendon McGrath
- 26 Adam Sandoval
- 28 Westin Dailey

ANNIVERSARIES

- 12 Alan & Karen Dorick
- 14 John & Sheri Glendinning
- 17 Glenn & Karen Erickson
- 18 George & Barb Winterbottom
- 21 Robert & Gail Stewart
- 24 Dave & Charise Kasmer
- 24 Dick & Teri Parrish
- 24 Johanna & Laverne Spencer
- 29 Wayne & Shelley Dailey
- 29 Bob & Ruth Pesack
- 30 Mike & Chris Vause

Thank you to everyone for your prayers, well wishes, visits, phone calls, cards, and emails while I was recovering from surgery. Even though two weeks is a relatively short time, it can seem long when you're not feeling well. Hearing from my church family and knowing that you care so much about me helped the time pass more quickly and really cheered me up. I thank God for all of you.

Cindy White

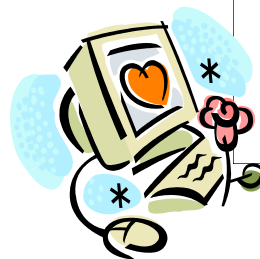
Dear members of our church family ~ Darioush, Jessamyn, Rosalynn, Kevin and I deeply appreciate your loving concern, donations, and prayers after the loss of our home to fire. We especially thank you Pastor Mary, Adrienne Hartman, Kim Nave and Maurie Davenport for rushing to our aid, even as the firemen fought the fire. Thank you, Pastor Mary, Adrienne and Kim for communicating, coordinating and shopping for us on the coldest day of the year. The trauma of our loss will never be forgotten, nor will the sustaining love you have freely embraced us with. Thank you. Yours in Christ, Kristine Ehteshami-Afshar and family



Come and enjoy our monthly breakfasts held the
 2nd Saturday
 of each month in the annex
 at 7:30 a.m.
 April 9th
 All men are invited!
 No reservations needed!
 Held in the annex.

The Mustard Seed is published monthly for the Minooka United Methodist Church. Submissions for the May 2011 issue must be turned in to the office by Sunday, April 10th. E-mail is preferred, but not required. Please direct any questions to Adrienne Hartman, editor.

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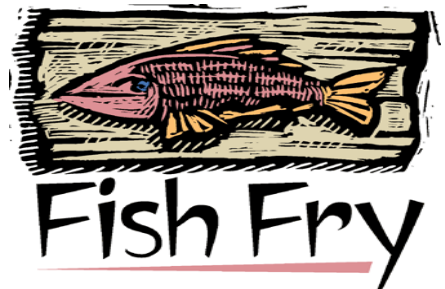


Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

Passion Week Schedule

April 16/17	Palm Sunday/ <u>Confirmation</u> Sunday
April 22	Good Friday Service at 7pm
April 23	Blessing of the Easter Baskets 10am Prayer Station Journey 4-6pm
April 24th	EASTER SUNDAY 9 & 10:45 am services



See page 3 for more details