

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH CENTRAL CONFERENCE

MOVING INTO THE NEIGHBORHOOD

What is Parish Nursing? Several years ago I told my college-age kids about parish nursing. They said "PERISH NURSING"? Then I went on to tell them about the whole-person care: body, soul, and mind. It was the nursing ministry opportunity I had been looking for. As people have their physical, spiritual, and emotional needs met, they are in a better position to be healed. How amazing to see the Great Physician heal when those needs are met.

Today I visited a woman in the nursing home. Physical therapy is helping her regain her strength, but she has a lot of pain and is discouraged. She needs her phone

service moved from her apartment to her nursing home room. A few phone calls will help her get in touch with her world again. Women in our church want to help this valiant warrior. The college-age kids have visited her. Last summer, she told me she needed to

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have her apartment window cleaned. Much to her delight, a couple of the students went to her place and cleaned those windows! Today at the nursing home we had prayer together before I left.

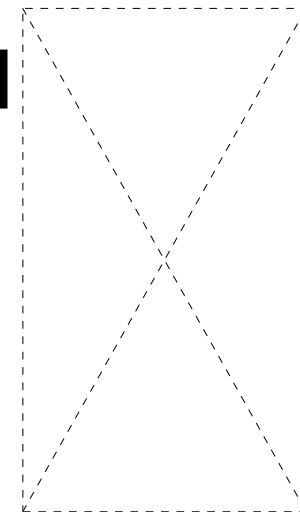
Listening to young moms is another opportunity in parish nursing. Providing babysitting clinics for kids develops skills and is an outreach into the com-

munity. Doing blood pressure checks helps people to know their blood pressure; frequently they will share other health-related concerns with the parish nurse. Delivering meals during times of illness or stress makes a loving link to a family.

Another opportunity arises in the winter. My husband will snowplow a neighbor's driveway. He asks the husband to ride with him while I visit the homebound wife. We will talk about what is on her mind. We call it parish plowing!

Hospitalizations and end-of-life issues are prime concern today. Many thoughts rumble through a person's head, and a listening ear is needed. Someone needs to initiate the conversation. A parish nurse respects confidentiality and is able to provide a connecting link.

Parish Nurses are specially trained to see health care concerns with spiritual eyes. They have their feet in two worlds: the health care and the spiritual world. They are spiritually mature nurses who have taken additional education. They work with their



pastor and a health cabinet to create the best program for their individual church. Parish Nurses are an asset to the ministry of the church.

The church is a healing community. *The most compelling reason to have Parish Nurses is that Christians are called to care for the sick and dying the way Jesus did.* As Eugene Petersen expresses it in The Message, "the Word [becomes] flesh and blood and [moves] into the neighborhood" (John 1:9). Communities are filled with hurting people who long for today's Good Samaritan to touch them with expert tender loving care.

For more information see the Free Methodist parish nursing website: www.parnursingfmc.org You may also call me, Helene Kahlstorf, at 218-266-3421 or email kahlum@wcta.net

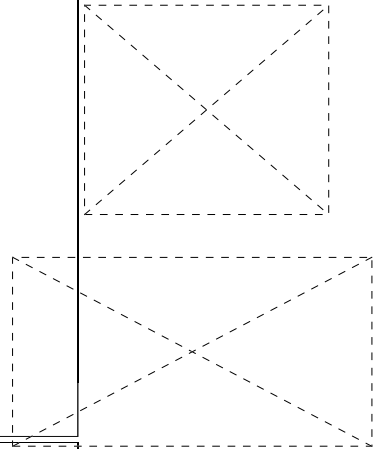


A View of the Past - a Vision for the Future

The Henriette Free Methodist church family celebrated its 90th birthday on Sunday, September 28. Rev. Steve Borwick, former pastor, was the guest speaker for the Sunday morning Worship Service. The theme of the celebration was "A View of the Past - a Vision for the Future," based on Haggai 2:9.

The morning also featured lots of special music and the presentation of a plaque to Joan Ammerman for 50 years of Children's Ministry. All guests that day were given a free cookbook of recipes from the church ladies.

The afternoon program featured more special music and letters of greeting from former pastors and conference Superintendents as well as stories and memories by lay persons. The church was packed for the morning service, and others came for the afternoon events. People stayed long after the program was over to visit and share stories and memories. It was a great day. To God be the glory!



EMMANUEL'S STAFF NOW COMPLETE

Emmanuel Free Methodist Church in Janesville, WI is pleased to announce the hiring of Chad Kimberley as the new Youth Pastor and Jana Vegge as the new Children's Director.

Pastor Chad comes to Janesville after serving as the Youth Pastor for 5 years at our Sugar Creek Free Methodist Church in Sugar Creek, OH. During his ministry there, his Youth Group grew from 30 to 200 students.

Chad and his wife, Tammy, have two daughters, 2 year old Brianna and newborn Rachel. Tammy has strong Free Methodist roots, growing up in our Decatur, IL church, where her dad, Mac Dunaway has served as a delegate for many years.

In addition to his responsibilities as a Youth Pastor, Chad is also a freelance writer. He is a contributing author for Group Magazine, an internationally known Christian youth periodical. His hobbies include being an avid Chicago Cubs fan.

A Janesville native, Jana has returned home to the newly created half time position as Emmanuel's Children's Director. A graduate of Northwestern College in St. Paul, MN, Jana has two Bachelor's degrees in English Education and Bible.

Her responsibilities include supervising Promiseland, Emmanuel's Sunday morning kids ministry that now includes over 100 boys and girls. Prior to accepting her new position, Jana was highly regarded as a teacher in a Christian grade school in Montana, where her husband, Justin grew up.

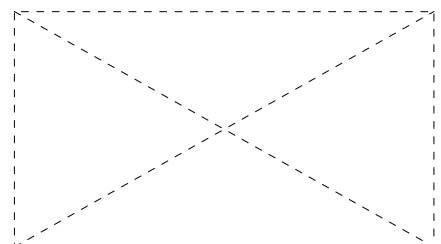
Like Chad and Tammy, Jana and Justin are new parents, welcoming their firstborn, Wesley, into the world in September. Both Jana and Justin are also accomplished pianists.

Please join Emmanuel in welcoming Chad and Tammy and Jana and Justin to our conference and keep them in your prayers.

AUTUMN "SPICED UP"

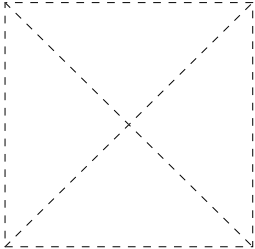
Autumn Spice 2003 at Sky Lodge Christian Camp was a wonderful experience! The speaker, Dr. Jim Reinhard, was inspiring; the music uplifting; the seminars and labs informational; and the food and fellowship fulfilling. The Saturday night concert by the Kingdom Quartet from the Woodstock FMC was fantastic.

Autumn Spice is designed for senior adults who are available and desire to enjoy a weekend of spiritual renewal, relaxation, and recreation. Next year the event will be September 10-13 with Doane and Ruth Bonney as our special guests.



God watching

(News from NCC Churches)



PRAYER AND PRAISE AT NORTHERN LIGHT

travel
with
Andrea and me
to Wessington

Praises:

*Our Children's Sunday offered kids games, a dunk tank, and prizes. We provided food and a puppet show, and police and fire department representatives came to this community event. Several area businesses donated to this outreach.

*Red Cloud, a Native American rapper, ministered to people from the church at the LifeLight music festival. We are planning to have him come to the Crow Creek Indian Reservation and our church.

*Andrea and I are thankful for Gerald Jackson and Chris Ciak who preached while we were away. Praise God for safe travel, renewal, and people in our church who are called to ministry. Our son, Elijah, is on the verge of crawling and got his first trophy (as tall as he is!) at the most beautiful baby contest!

Prayer Requests:

*On September 27th, 5 to 10 leaders in the church will

Springs, SD for the Onward and Upward Rally to seek God's guidance and direction this ministry.

*Please pray that God will raise up a church treasurer. Our former treasurer resigned and left the church.

Andrea has temporarily filled in but is too busy to be treasurer. This is critical because we are still in the process of purchasing the Happy Rest Motel. Pray for Paul and Margaret, a new family in the church who are struggling financially along with others in the church. We also had our building broken into and 500 dollars of sound equipment stolen.

*Andrea started working at the Flaudreau Indian School as a counselor. I've started substitute teaching, and we are very busy! We both feel a renewed passion to minister after our time away last month. Thanks for praying for our protection and the ministry God has called us to.

*We have been asked by the Center of Hope, a nearby drop-in center, to lead a Bible study Friday nights. The Bible study has had 20-25 people. This could either bridge people into Northern Light or provide another worship opportunity other than our

GREETINGS FROM AURORA

This fall, we had the blessing of receiving four new members in our church, including Becci, whose membership was transferred from the church in McPherson. Others are being prepared for membership and, we hope in the Lord, will soon join us.

Also, during the last few months, two people have been baptized and a child dedicated to the Lord. Also we celebrated two weddings, a great blessing from God.

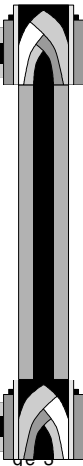
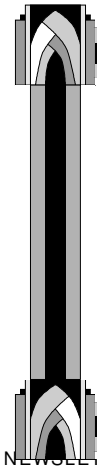
We have been experiencing growth through people accepting Jesus as their Lord and Savior. The church members are growing in the knowledge of God, showing more commitment to the church activities, and volunteering to help by teaching, praying, or joining the worship team.

We are very thankful for the things God is doing in our congregation. We know He is taking care of us and He will accomplish His mission in our lives.

MOVING AHEAD AT FREEPORT

Freeport was presented with a gift that is enabling us to refurbish our basement as well as buy a new church sign. We will also be addressing a sound problem in our ministry center building that will allow us to move our worship service there in the near future. The growth in our present sanctuary has made this move a necessity. We continue to be blessed here, don't understand all of the reasons why, but thank God for it.

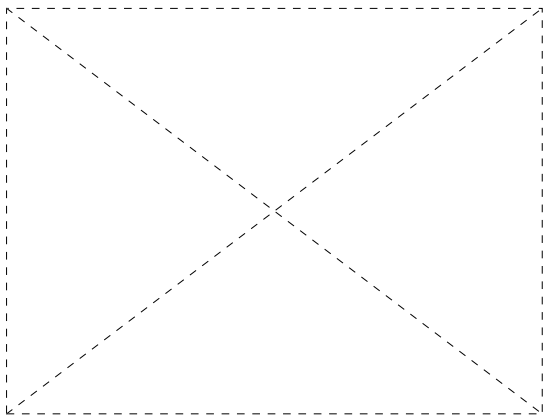
Finally, the best news of all. A young woman was saved at Women's Retreat. Her husband found Christ a few months before. Where?? At Men's Retreat.



125 YEARS OF BLESSING

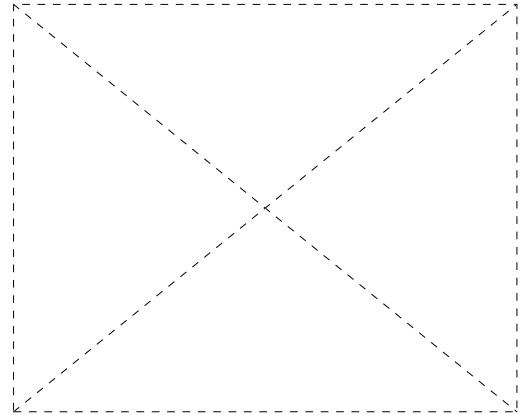
The longest-standing congregation in Sioux Falls will celebrate its milestone of 125 years of faithful service in the Dakotas. Established 11 years before South Dakota became a state, the church will celebrate during morning worship services on Sunday, November 9, 2003, at 10:45am. Rev. Orin Scandrett, pastor from 1957 to 1965, will deliver the message while current pastors, Charles and Jennifer Mallory, will lead the services. The church was founded on No-

vember 11, 1878, by S.D. LaDue, just 18 years after the Free Methodist denomination was established in New York state. The church has been at its present location since 1962. The original church building (1879), located at Fourth Avenue and 14th Street, still stands and is the oldest wood-framed church building remaining in Sioux Falls. The congregation invites everyone to attend the service, which will include a hearty dinner and warm fellowship.



Sioux Falls Church, 2222 South Cliff Avenue

These Ethiopian youth took time out from their early Saturday morning soccer matches to check out 4GT's project agreement indicating our plans to turn the building hidden in the wooded background into an education center.



A Mission at Creekside

Creekside Church (Wheaton, IL) is excited to share the activities of one of its members, Paul Isihara of Wheaton College. Paul's two trips to Ethiopia the past two summers have instilled in him a vision for ministry to the people there, and he and his co-workers have created a plan for God's work in that country. They call it 4GT (for God and Tigrai).

Paul writes, "I have recently returned from a two week visit to Tigrai, Ethiopia, and we are now preparing to launch our first 4GT community center. Our vision is to reach Mekelle youth through friendship and service.

God has brought us two wonderful African-American educators, both with substantial experience teaching in Harlem, NYC and in Ethiopian Teacher Training Colleges, both eager to return to Ethiopia ASAP to work along-side 4GT's Executive Director Gebremedhin ("Gabe") Fissiha to establish our education center. This center would provide for the community a library, full-range tutoring service (with emphasis on literacy and English as a Second Language), and a basic computer training center.

These men ask for your prayers as they take the next steps in turning this dream into reality. Particularly, they need financial support for the teachers and operations of the center. Praise the Lord for what He can accomplish through a few willing people!

SIoux CITY MOVING AHEAD

In September and October we seemed to be having nothing short of mass exodus. Like a deer staring down and oncoming truck, I was stunned. It took a visit from Superintendent John on our lowest attendance day of the year (22) to kick us back into full swing.

That said, here is the good news: This week we were back up with an attendance of 31. God has also brought us a Worship Leader who is very well known for his music in the area. (He was part of a local Christian band for many years led by his father, and they have played at every church in the area at one time or another.)

He has agreed to lead worship for 6

months to a year and help us train up people to take over. He is bringing with him a full band (drummer, keyboard, bass, and guitarist)! This is very exciting news!

In November we are going all out with more door hangers, and if we can raise the funds, we would like to do a mass mailing.

Some of us guys are going to make the yard look better with a few landscape tricks before winter, and the ladies group is going to paint the sanctuary with some new colors.

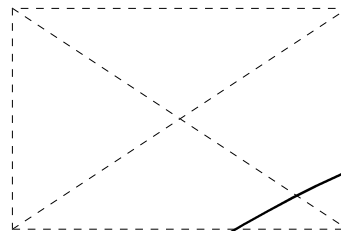
With a renewed sense of excitement we are moving forward into the holiday season. Please remember to pray for us!

SIGNS OF CHANGE AT ALEXANDRIA

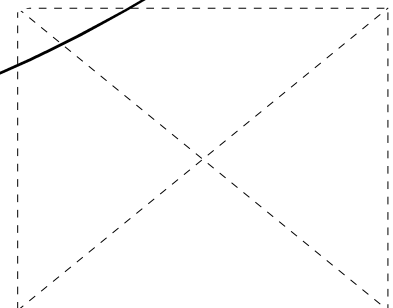
*The BOA approved creating an office in the church for the pastor. This allows the pastor to meet with people for counseling, discussion of church concerns, and prospective membership in a private and professional manner. It also gives our pastor a place to study and prepare for services here at the church. The office will be the central location for keeping church-related information for managing the ministry here in Alexandria. The office is just about completed; it has been painted and partly furnished and should be completed within the next few weeks.

*The board approved the process to consider replacing the sign in front of the church. A motion was made for the pastor to research and bring to the BOA proposals for replacing the sign, to include design, cost, and funding options.

*Starting Sunday, October 12, and running through November 9th, Missions will be our worship theme, centered on the idea of "Embracing the Call." On Sunday October 19th, we had a "Family Meeting Potluck" at 1:30 in the afternoon. This was a great time of fellowship and included a presentation from Pastor Rick and his family of their experiences in ministry over the past 5 years. To end the day, a way for us as a church to do some local mission work right here in Alexandria was offered.



Worship is not one segment of the Christian life. It is the entire Christian life. And when we meet together as a church, our time of worship is not merely a preliminary to something else; rather it is the whole point of our existence. . . . When we leave (corporate) worship, we should first ask, not what did I get out of it? But How did I do in my work of honoring the Lord?



Bible Quizzing Begins New Year

On October 11, 53 youth on 16 quiz teams from Aurora, IL; Beloit, WI; Burlington, IA; Chicago-Open Door, IL; Fillmore, MN; Monee, IL; Richland, IL; and Woodstock, IL gathered at the Woodstock Church for a North Central Conference Bible Quiz tournament. This was the first tournament for the youth from Beloit and Open Door.

The opening session included worship music by the Woodstock youth praise band led by Paul Alf, a devotional, and instructions for the tournament. Pam Cooper and Bryan Foster coordinated the housing, meals, and set up.

For seven rounds, the youth jumped off electronic seats to answer questions about Hebrews 1-4. Competition was held simultaneously in seven rooms.

At the end of the day, the top 4 finishers in each division were:

Senior Teen Team Division:
(1) Woodstock (2) Fillmore (3) Richland (4) Monee

Young Teen Veteran Team Division:
(1) Fillmore (2) Richland (3) Monee (4) Aurora

Young Teen Rookie & All-Rookie Team Division:
(1) Monee (2) Monee (3) Richland (4) Beloit

Senior Teen Veteran Individuals:
(1) Jonathan Shina-barger (Woodstock);
(2) Luke Lubahn (Fillmore); (3) Eric Elsasser (Richland);
(4) Jordan Benike (Fillmore)

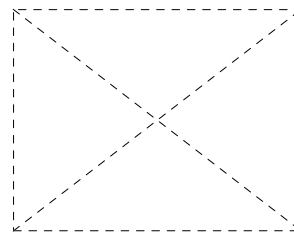
Young Teen Veteran Individuals:
(1) Stephen Hopper (Fillmore); (2) Jim Phillips (Monee); (3) Brett Krantz (Monee); (4) Mariah Phillips (Monee)

All-Rookie Individuals:
(1) Brandon Krantz (Monee); (2) Angella Arms (Beloit); (3) Ally Arms (Beloit);
(4) Stephanie Sellhausen (Beloit)

A special tournament is being scheduled for the youth in northern Minnesota, North Dakota, and Ontario. This competition will be held at the Alexandria (MN) Free Methodist Church on Saturday, November 8.

So far, Dryden (ONT), Fillmore (MN), and Fargo (ND) plan to attend. Henriette (MN) and Alexandria (MN) are attempting to put together teams for the competition. There may be other FM churches in the area that will participate. Most of the teams for this tournament will be relatively new to quizzing. If you want more information or have specific questions, feel free to contact me.

The quizzing youth are studying Hebrews and I & II Peter, and new teams are welcome to start up any time during the season. If you would like to know more about Bible quizzing for your youth, please contact Mike Hopper at (507) 352-5455 or at swim-fast@hmtel.com.



Without wavering, let us hold tightly to the

hope we say we have, for God can be trusted to keep His promise. Think of ways to encourage one another to outbursts of love and good deeds. Hebrews 10:23-24, NLT