



Hill Top News

Markesan United
Methodist Church

February 2010

A Word from the Pastor

As you receive this newsletter Lent will begin in just about ten days. However, here at Markesan UMC we will actually begin a Lenten sermon Series on Sunday, February 14th which is a week early. This is being done to facilitate our theme for Lent this year which is *Fearless: Imagine Your Life Without Fear*. This is a six-week long sermon series and Bible/Book Study based on the book by the same name written by noted author and Pastor Max Lucado. By beginning it one week early we will have the series finished the Sunday and Wednesday before Palm/Passion Sunday. Easter this year is the first Sunday of April—the 4th.

On Wednesday, February 17th we will begin our Lenten Meal and Study program. At noon and again at 6:00 p.m. we will enjoy a simple meal together in Fellowship Hall followed by study and discussion of Max's book. We hope to conclude by 1:30 and 7:30. You are invited to either session—whatever is convenient for you, even if you must change from one week to another. But PLEASE come and participate. In the past two years our numbers have grown and we have had some wonderful discussion and no one is forced to say a thing unless they would like. Even if you just listen I assure you your time will be well spent.

On the first Wednesday, February 17th we WILL also have Ash Wednesday worship at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary with imposition of ashes if you would like and Holy Communion.

I have ordered books for those who requested them along with a few extra for those of you who did not get a book, discussion guide, or book on CD ordered and now wish one. Hopefully that order will be in for pick up on Sunday the 7th.

It is my opinion you will find it valuable to have the book to augment the sermons as well as the study. You will also benefit from the additional chapters in the book—some fifteen in all. We will only be covering six of them in sermon and study so you will want to read the additional nine chapters. As I stated in worship, please, do not let the cost of the book(s) keep you from participating. I am prepared to have that cost covered for you—just let me know.

Here are the titles of the sermons we will be covering:

Why Are We Afraid?

Fear of Not Mattering

Fear of Disappointing God

Fear of Life's Final Moments

Fear of Global Calamity

Fear of God Getting Out of My Box

At this time we are still looking for some volunteers to help prepare a simple meal for noon and/or dinner for our Lenten Wednesday studies. Contact June Page or Carla Buchanan to offer your help and support.

Pastor Paul



HAITI EARTHQUAKE

United Methodists in Haiti

The Methodist church in Haiti has over 200 congregations and 100 schools with 20,000 students. No pastors were hurt, and most of their houses escaped damage. However, many school buildings were damaged. The head of the worldwide United Methodist Committee on Relief, the Rev. Dr. Sam Dixon and the head of United Methodist Volunteers in Mission, Rev. Clint Rabb, were killed when the Montana Hotel fell. Several news reports showed efforts to get them out, but they died of their injuries.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief has sent food, water and medical supplies from Methodist Churches in the Bahamas and from our Sager Brown depot in Baldwin LA. UMCOR aid will be distributed mostly through existing Methodist churches outside of Port Au Prince.

UMCOR works with partner organizations:

Church World Service (CROP Walk) distributes blankets and tents. Action By Churches Together provides water and sanitation equipment. Stop Hunger Now brings food supplies. Methodist Habitat of Bahamas has planes which fly the supplies to Dominican Republic and UMCOR has the vans that carry them to Haiti. Global Medic of Canada distributes medical supplies.

Here at Markesan UMC we have received \$2,165.00 so far for Haiti-UMCOR. You may contribute at any time by marking your gift Haiti-UMCOR.

UMCOR has the highest rating of charitywatch.org and charitynavigator.org which rate charities for their efficiency in getting most of the donations to the projects and most quickly. They give high ratings to the religious and denominational relief agencies, several other Christian organizations like World Vision, Save the Children and Church World Service and to several non-religious affiliated organizations like Doctors Without Borders and American Red Cross.

HEALTH KITS ARE NEEDED

You may wish to put together a Health Kit. These are urgently needed still in Haiti and typically after any disaster. It contains a specific list of items including a hand towel, washcloth, comb, nail file, soap, toothbrush and 6 plastic strip bandages. An instruction sheet is available in the office or online at <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/getconnected/supplies/health-kit/> We will ship kits you assemble to the UMCOR Sager Brown depot near New Orleans, from where they will be taken to Haiti. We cannot ship items that are not part of a kit. Only kits with the items listed can be shipped. The items cost about \$12.

VOLUNTEERS TO HAITI

Volunteers in Mission is our United Methodist agency that sends volunteer groups all over the world. They are now collecting names of people who are willing to go to Haiti. It is too early to send untrained volunteers yet, but there will be a great need later. To send your name and skills, go online at <http://secure.gbgm-umc.org/HaitiVolunteer/>



Call to Prayer and Self-Denial 2010

The theme for this years Call to Prayer and Self-Denial is "Property Makes Mission Possible." In many of the areas we work a building is a necessity. Think of the building we use on a regular bases. Thus the offering that will be taken will go toward upkeep and etc.

The date of our annual Ash Wednesday Breakfast and program will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 17th starting at 7:00 a.m. In the dinning room of the Markesan UMC. An offering will be taken that will go to support the work of the Markesan UMC. Hope to see you there. If you have any questions please feels free to contact Sharon Doxtator or Jean Hollander

TRACTS-

Our job is to share our faith, planting the Gospel seed, inviting others to church, sharing literature, supporting ministries, or doing whatever the Lord lead day by day. Once we had no eternal purpose BUT NOW we're part of God's everlasting work. And our labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Please distribute "Have You Been Born Again?" from the Tract Rack in the lobby.

Dear Markesan UMC

One behalf of Porchlight, Inc, I would like to thank you for your contribution.

Steven Schooler
Executive Director

Memorials: (2009)

Anonymous \$20.000 in Memory of Howard & Phyllis Newman

Donna Kahl \$100.00 in memory of Esther Schulz

Anonymous \$25.00 in Memory of Eric Brown

Garrett & Ellen Jackson \$50.00 gift for Genealogy Study

Lorraine Behrs \$100.00 in Memory of Robert Behrs to "Jam"

Tom and Nina Zick \$100.00 in memory of Ron Hess to Prison Ministries

COMMUNITY CHOIR FESTIVAL

A popular annual event is a concert of several area church choirs

Sunday February 14

3:00 pm

All Saints Catholic Church

Hwy 49 S. of Berlin

The joint choir will rehearse at 2:30

Our Immanuel Church choir will sing. Choirs from Grace Lutheran, Terrace Shores Evangelical Free, Green Lake Federated, Markesan United Methodist, Our Saviors UCC and others will sing. All groups together will present "Lord, I Know I've Been Changed" and "One Faith, One Hope, One Lord." We all sing "When in Our Music God is Glorified". We all get an amazing lift of spirit when we hear these quality joyful noises praising God.





PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF MUSIC and REFRESHMENT ON VALENTINE'S DAY at **6:00 PM** at the **Berlin United Methodist Church, 178 W. Cumberland Ave., Berlin, Wisconsin**. Singer/songwriter **Katie Nelson** and **Scott Troyer**, talented singer, song-writer and producer, will share an evening of contemporary, Christian music from a variety of styles. The cost of the concert and refreshments will be a donation to help raise support for Lisa Groves, Berlin High School Graduate, who is doing a mission project with Youth With A Mission in Thailand. The Thrivent Financial Company has agreed to add 30 cents on the dollar up to \$400.

Katie Nelson, with roots in the Borth United Methodist Church, has a passion for sharing God's Word through song. It is her goal to leave worshippers with their eyes focused on Jesus. With her full, rich voice, she has been leading others in joyful worship for 6 years. Living in Wisconsin, Katie travels for women retreats, camps, churches, coffeehouses and special events sharing self-penned songs full of faith, hope and love.

Scott Troyer's style ranges from folksy roots, electronic-infused rock and soulful worship. He writes honest, poignant songs. With direct phrasing and a "let's be better people" spirit, he explores the tragedy of our human condition in hope of finding clarity, peace, love, and resolution. His voice is refreshingly unique and powerful as it warms each song. His music comfortably gathers the familiar sounds of the past and presents them in broad and engaging arrangements. Not afraid to allow each song its growth, Scott utilizes his many instrumental talents and love for collaboration to produce songs with diverse and rich sounds.

Scott was born and raised in Indiana, the state known as the Crossroads of America. His music too is at the crossroads of many genres as he explores and pays tribute to his many influences. Scott now travels extensively through the U.S. and abroad building friendships, and sharing his infectious melodies with eager audiences.

Lisa Groves, is the daughter of Rev. George and Char Groves of Berlin, WI. George serves as pastor of the Borth and Poy Sippi United Methodist Churches. Lisa graduated from UW-Eau Claire in May of 2009 with a Bachelor of Arts in Photography. Seeking a way to use her photography to serve God, she was led to the Youth With A Mission (YWAM) Advance Photography and Discipleship Training and Service Program in Hernhut, Germany this September. Thailand was the place a group of 20 students were led to use their skills and gifts. The students look daily for direction from God and how to serve the people in the area. Often they will ask people if they can take their portraits as a way to bless them and have an opportunity to share about Christ. Lisa has shared many opportunities that she and the other students have had to minister care and concern. Lisa has been able to raise most of her support but is needing about \$1600 to finish her financial responsibility

Please join us in this wonderful opportunity to enjoy an evening of beautiful music and fellowship on Valentine's Day and an opportunity to bless the world by helping Lisa in Thailand.

January Attendance

January Income to General Fund

8:30 a,m, 10:30 a,m,

1/3/2010	\$ 1,852.75
1/10/2010	\$ 2,794.00
1/17/2010	\$ 3,072.00
1/24/2010	\$ 2,422.50
1/31/2010	\$ 1,899.75

73	25
49	19
68	15
89	33
91	21

Second Mile Giving

Gideon	\$ 770.00
Food Pantry	\$ 2,500.00
UMCOR Haiti	\$ 2,165.41
Hope School	\$ 200.00



Pictorial Greeting Cards are Available!

We still have greeting cards of the windows available. The price is \$2 for single cards or \$10 for a box of 6 cards. We can break up boxes if you only want a card of a specific window. You may purchase cards from the church office during office hours or between services on Sunday mornings. Windows that are available on the cards are: Nativity, Baptism, Sermon on the Mount, Resurrection, Crucifixion, Agony in the Garden, and Ascension. All proceeds from this sale are set aside for future maintenance of the stained glass windows.

With Deepest Sympathy-

It is with deepest sympathy that all of us from the Markesan UMC send our condolences to the family of Paul Plueddeman, who passed away on Tuesday evening, February 2, 2010 at the Evergreen Manor. Paul will be missed by everyone.

If you are interested in providing a meal for the 6-week Lenten bible study, there is a sign up sheet in Common Ground, and you are able to sign up for the 12:00 p.m. (Noon) or 6:00 p.m. group. If you are interested in signing up for the “Fearless” Study on Wednesday’s during Lent, please contact Pastor Paul or Cindy in the office to get put on the sign up sheet.

Second Mile Giving for February-

Nestled in the Appalachian mountains of southeastern Kentucky lie the ministries of the Red Bird Missionary Conference. For almost 90 years, lives have been touched through the ministries.

There is the Henderson Settlement where they try to help families in social, spiritual, and economic ways. There is a School, a Clinic. They have a Craft Workshop and Craft Market—another store with lightly used clothing. All these services are done through witnesses and support from us and others.

May we be willing to share so lives can be transformed

February Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Don Leider
- 2 Colin Prill
- 4 Abbigayle Panten
- 6 Molly Scharf
- 8 Grayden Vredeveld
- 9 Ray Wilde
- 12 Arlene Braun
- 13 Dick Horn
- 14 Cory Schwoch

- 14 Clayton Parker
- 19 Cindy Powers
- Jennifer Schwandt
- Carick Parker
- Nina/Tom Zick-Ann.
- 21 Alice Michels
- 23 Debbie Jahnke
- 24 Derek De Chant
- 25 Mike Allen
- 28 Bill/Bev Fox-Ann
- 29 Hannah Panten





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			February 2010			
	1	2 6:30 Men's Prayer Break- fast & Bible Study at	3 9 am Sew Blessed 6:30 p.m.- Celebration	4	5 11:30 Prayer in Prayer Room	6
7 8:30 .Traditional Worship/ Communion 9:30 - Hospitality/ Sunday School/ Confirmation 9:35 am—Adult SS 10:30 Celebration/ Communion	8 7:00 p.m.- Administrative Council Mtg	9 6:30 Men's Prayer Break- fast at Sandy's Diner 6:00 p.m.— Worship Committee	10 9 am Sew Blessed 6:30 p.m. Cele- bration Singer 7:30 p.m.- Chancel Choir	11	12 11:30 Prayer in Prayer Room	13 8:00 a.m.-Men's Breakfast
14 8:30 .Traditional Worship 9:30 .Hospitality/ Sunday School/ Confirmation 9:35 am. Adult SS 10:30 .Celebration Worship	15	16 6:30 Men's Prayer Break- fast & Bible Study at Sandy's Diner Mtg	17 7.a.m. Prayer and Self-Denial Breakfast 9 am Sew Blessed 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice Fearless Study 12 (noon) & 6 p.m. Ash Wed. Ser- vice @ 7:30 p.m.	18 7:30 p.m.- Friendship Circle at Carla Bu- chanan's home	19 11:30 Prayer in Prayer Room	20
21 8:30 am-Worship 9:30 - Hospitality/ Sunday School/ Confirmation 9:35 am—Adult SS 10:30 Celebration Worship	22	23	24 9 am Sew Blessed 6:30 p.m.- Celebration Singer Practice 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice Fearless Study 12 (noon) & 6 p.m.	25	26 11:30 Prayer in Prayer Room	27
28 8:30 am-Worship 9:30 - Hospitality/ Sunday School/ Confirmation 9:35 am—Adult SS						