

THE NEW TIMES

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 9

NOVEMBER 2009

MOTHER-DAUGHTER TEA

Tickets are now on sale before and after our worship service for the Mother-Daughter Tea to be held at BPC on Sunday, November 8, 2009 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. This event will honor our congregation's four newest family members. Tickets are \$5.00 per person for all ages.

Along with the ticket donation, atten-

dees are also asked to bring an unwrapped baby gift or a package of diapers to be donated locally just in time for Christmas.

Postponed

The tea will feature an afternoon of fellowship, tea and coffee and other goodies along with an opportu-

nity to meet our four newest babies. Other entertainment is also planned.

Bring your mother, your daughter, your aunt or your best friend or just join us and adopt someone when you arrive! Join us for this wonderful event! It's sure to be an afternoon filled with fun and laughter.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *The annual Ecumenical Festival of Thanksgiving and Praise will be held on Wednesday, November 25th, at Zion Lutheran Church.*
- *Christmas Quilt Squares are due back at church on Sunday, November 15th.*

LOVE INC

LOVE IN THE NAME OF CHRIST MISSION

Our mission is to mobilize the Church to transform lives and communities In the Name of Christ.

NATIONAL HEAD-QUARTERS

The Love INC National Headquarters, located in Minneapolis, Minnesota, serves as the base of

operations for the president of Love INC, [Robert Odom](#), and the National Headquarters staff. A national board of directors governs the Love INC National Headquarters.

Love INC's National Headquarters carries out many essential functions, the most critical of which are providing affiliates

with vision, direction, and shared understanding of ministry goals.

AFFILIATES

Local affiliates are the essence of Love INC. Every Love INC affiliate is individually incorporated and is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with its own *Please turn to **Love Inc**, on page 6*

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Friends,

I am grateful. This is the month that we, as a country, stop and give thanks for the many gifts we've been given. But, my gratitude goes beyond the sense of a routine holiday.

For example, I am grateful for Scott and Fay Okronglis who have been planning and cooking meals for our Wednesday evening programing. Scott planned menus and broke them down by ingredients so a few people each week could bring one part of the whole and then he and Fay came early in the week for prep time and for several hours on Wednesdays to cook. The result was great food and great fellowship. For the next five weeks, we will switch to a brown bag fellowship so we can still eat together and after the Christmas break, our resident chef says the Wednesday Night Dinners are back on. I mean really, this is "cup running over" kind of stuff!

I am glad for all who participated in our *Screwtape Letters* book discussion; we will be switching titles and continuing to **Grow In God**; our next book is *Your God Is Too Small* by E.B. Philips. (If it's the first year of the program is it **One GIG** all year or since it's the second book, should it be **2 GIG's**? Either way, it's (spiritual growth) happening!)

At its last meeting, the Mission Team decided on guidelines for choosing which missions BPC will become involved with; we feel that something that is hands-on, like tying blankets, is most meaningful. And, we value the kinds of projects that plant seeds within each one to help us grow to be more caring toward our neighbors. Speaking of which, I am thankful for all those who are interested in our continued exploration of the possibility of a Buffalo Presbyterian Church Community Garden. At its last meeting, the Session voted in favor of

forming and empowering the Garden's Steering Committee to turn the soil in the designated area this fall and to create a budget and begin looking for grants and other sources of funding for this project.

Thank-you to Stan Held for brush-cutting our land to the west of the sanctuary. The Mission team have more red blankets ready for tying so we can replenish the hospital's supply. Our Sunday School is up and running with great kids, great curriculum, and great teachers. The Youth Groups are also out of the gate with new lessons, new fundraisers, new missions and new plans for next summer; thank-you Scott and Holly for your good work. Thank-you Don, Ralph, the choir and to the congregation for sharing gifts that make our worship soar. Thank-you all. And, thank-you, God.

And one last gratitude; thank-you to the Pastor Nominating *Please turn to **Pastor's Desk**, page 8*

I am grateful. This is the month that we, as a country, stop and give thanks for the many gifts we've been given. But, my gratitude goes beyond the sense of a routine holiday.



SUPER SENIORS—MARV & DOROTHY HOFMAN

By Lavina Pattee

Marv and Dorothy Hofman have been faithful members of the Buffalo Presbyterian Church for most of their lives. The memories they have of the church flow through their lives, accenting every special occasion and the joys and sorrows of a long, full life. Their loyal attendance and commitment to serving the Lord through the church continues to this day, and we all notice the difference when Dorothy and Marv are not there!

Dorothy has been the instigator of the kitchen renovation and the mover and shaker of the Fellowship hour for these past several years. (And we can't forget the Ole and Lena stories!)

Marvin has been the coffee maker, faithfully beginning his chore early Sunday mornings for all of us. We take for granted that there is always coffee brewing for the Sunday School

classes, after church get-togethers as well as any special event held at the church. They both have served behind the scenes in more ways than we can ever know about, especially doing the custodial work of keeping our church lovely and welcoming. We thank them for their quiet devotion and loyal and sacrificial service.

Marvin was born in 1931 and raised in the Reformed Presbyterian Church in the Silver Creek area near Hasty, Minnesota. He and his brother, Curt, another regular member of our congregation, along with their sisters, Phyllis and Betty, were born to "stubborn Dutch" parents with German traits of hard work and determination. They always lived on rented farms and moved many times in their young lives. He attended country schools in the area, changing schools six times in one year.

During those hard years, Marvin, the oldest, milked cows, cut

the grain, drove all kinds of tractors and worked on the farm helping his dad. He recalls how hard the work was, especially when he broke his thumb, but still had to do the chores. Attending church services each week was a "must" in their routine and a welcome break. Because they could not buy a car to allow him to attend school, Marvin ended his school career to work on the farm in his early teens.

Dorothy was from the town of Buffalo, an adopted daughter, who attended the Zion Lutheran Church. A brother was also adopted into their family when she was an impressionable young girl, and she didn't "pick him out!" Her "only child" status was forever changed!

Her parents owned the Buffalo Floral shop since 1940, and she often helped in the shop, and/or had to keep the house cleaned and scrubbed while her parents
*Please turn to **Super Seniors**, page 4*

Coming in December Lucky 13 will be the date for the Christmas give-away.



SUPER SENIORS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The annual Ecumenical Festival of Thanksgiving and Praise will be held on Wednesday, November 25th, at Zion Lutheran Church at 8:00 p.m. This inspiring family service offers an opportunity for our community to celebrate our many blessings.

Choirs from many of the local churches will combine to present congregational singing. Many musicians from different churches will perform. Please plan to join us for this faith-filled community service!

were always busy working. Her father also was the depot agent for the train that went from Cokato to Buffalo and she remembers many times playing in the depot while her father worked for the railroad at his second job. Her love for flowers began in that flower shop, working with her parents, and continues in her lovely garden, wherever she lives. Dorothy graduated from Buffalo High School in 1952 and she went to Minneapolis to the business college that is now Globe University. She became a bookkeeper for her parent's greenhouse and then worked in the Buffalo courthouse.

Marv had served in the military for 21 months and saw action in Korea, Okinawa, and became a staff sergeant. After the war ended, he returned to Buffalo. Marv's family had quit farming, so he found work at the Super Radiator Coils business and he remained with that company for his whole

working career of fifty years. The Silver Creek Reformed Church was the setting for Marvin and Dorothy to meet. They were married on June 30, 1956, in the Zion Lutheran Church and moved to Coon Rapids where they bought their first house and joined the Church of the Master, where Marv was the lead usher. They were very busy with a new baby each year, as daughters Lu Ann, Christel Joy, Theresa, and Janelle were born to them.

A son, Brian, was also born, but died at birth. Then six years later, Tonia completed their family. Sadly, they lost their daughter, Louanne, in 1976. Just after her high school graduation, she was killed by a drunken driver. Many good friends from the church family helped then through this tragedy, especially the Tholes, Plaisteds, Helds, and Reithmillers. It was the "extended family" of believers who shared in their family's joys

and sorrows throughout the years.

All through the years their children were growing up, Marv and Dorothy were busy in many church activities. Dorothy sang in the choir, taught Sunday School and Bible School, helped with the youth groups, cooking meals, raising money, and sponsoring programs their kids were involved in. Their family took on the job of custodians in the downtown church.

The building was used by a nursery school program, so it was a much bigger job than these days. The church groups put on musical performances, like dinner theaters for about 12 years. Everyone was involved in one way or another, with acting, singing, directing, building sets, sewing, and cooking special dinners.

Some of Dorothy and Marvin's fondest memories are of the great "talent shows" put on by church members when the

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SUPER SENIORS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Sorensons were church leaders and lead a talented youth group. Another fond memory is when van loads of church friends made work trips to Clearwater Camp to clean up the camp with chain saws, rakes, and lots of work and play. All of their children enjoyed church camp there. More recently, they helped make Advent wreaths together and participated in the “Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner” fellowship programs.

In 1993, Marvin was transferred to Phoenix, Arizona to start a company there for the Super Radiator Coil Company. That was the first plane

ride for Dorothy and a big transition for all their family. Phoenix became their temporary home for nearly eight years. But when retirement time came, these two retired back “up north” rather than staying in the warmer climate. Their roots were too deep to stay away. They returned to our church and served again as deacon, trustee, elder and usher.

They took on the jobs of custodians again and helped each of the pastors that have served our congregation. In 2006, we all celebrated with their families in honoring their 50 years of marriage. Now, in their golden years,

they are enjoying their ten grandchildren and have welcomed one new great-grandchild, Lily Ann.

Marvin and Dorothy have seen many changes in the church, with the move from the downtown location to our new one. There have weathered the changes in the congregation as families and pastors have come and gone, but there are a few things that don’t change—Marv and Dorothy’s dedication to their Lord and Savior and willingness to serve Him at the Buffalo Presbyterian Church. We are thankful for their loyalty and faithfulness.

BUT WHEN RETIREMENT TIME CAME, THESE TWO RETIRED BACK “UP NORTH” RATHER THAN STAYING IN THE WARMER CLIMATE. THEIR ROOTS WERE TOO DEEP TO STAY AWAY.



YOUTH NEWS

The youth had an exciting month!

The Senior High youth met at the Patch’s house and enjoyed a great bonfire—which was especially welcome on that cold, dreary night—along with some great fel-

lowship and fun.

They took time to plan activities and discuss what they would like their time together to look like. They determined that mission activities, fellowship gatherings (like the bonfire) and Bible study are important.

They also decided that they wanted to enjoy these things in a less “traditional” way.

Now each month they will participate in a mission activity—some local and some more Twin Cities focused. The High **Continued, page 9**



LOVE INC, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

board of directors, executive director, staff, and volunteers.

An affiliate is a network of churches working together, across denominational lines, to serve people in need. A minimum of six churches from six different denominations is required to start a Love INC affiliate, although most affiliates grow to include anywhere from several dozen to hundreds of churches working together in its community.

Community agencies are also integral to the Love INC model. Agencies refer requests for assistance to Love INC and serve as a source of help to clients. The successful partnership of church and non-church entities fulfills Love INC's goal of creating a holistic, collaborative outreach to meeting needs.

While each Love INC affiliate is unique with its own mix of programs and services to meet the needs of its community, all affiliates possess certain

fundamental characteristics. Every Love INC affiliate:

1. Is a Christian ministry.
2. Networks Christian churches from at least six different denominations to work together.
3. Forms a nonprofit corporation governed by a local board of directors.
4. Helps churches organize their volunteers to be available to serve when needed.
5. Builds relationships with community agencies.
6. Operates a Clearinghouse where intake staff and volunteers screen requests for help as to their nature, extent, and legitimacy.
7. Connects people in need with agencies, church ministries, and church volunteers to meet those needs.
8. Depends on church volunteer involvement.
9. Helps increase the capacity of churches by assessing community needs and creating new ministry op-

portunities to meet those needs.

BRINGS A CLEAR VISION OF HOW GOD CAN USE THE MOBILIZED CHURCH TO TRANSFORM LIVES AND COMMUNITIES IN THE NAME OF CHRIST.

OVERVIEW

The church doorstep is a frequent destination for people in need. But most churches alone cannot fully meet the needs of every family living in poverty, disabled individual, senior citizen, single parent, or others who need a helping hand.

Or can they?

Love In the Name of Christ enables churches in a community to coordinate their resources and services so that those in need are not turned away.

As churches join together to show Christ's love to their neighbors, communities see exciting results:

- People in need receive immediate and long-term help.

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CHRISTMAS
QUILT
SQUARES ARE
DUE BACK TO
CHURCH ON
SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 15
THIS YEAR.
WHAT WILL
YOURS LOOK
LIKE?

LOVE INC, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

- Church members use their unique gifts and talents through specific, manageable opportunities to serve others.

- Local churches work together, across denominational lines, modeling unity of the Body of Christ.

LIVES AND COMMUNITIES ARE TRANSFORMED.

LOVE INC AND BPC
 1. With considerable input and discussion, the Session has authorized BPC to participate in the developmental phase of the Love INC affiliate serving the Buffalo community. BPC has partnered with 5 other churches and denominations. They are:

Buffalo Covenant Church

Bethlehem United Church of Christ, Maple Lake

Evangelical Free Church, Buffalo

Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church, Buffalo

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Buffalo

2. The name of the newly formed affiliate is Love INC- Big Woods. Each member church paid a one-time affiliate application fee of \$416.00. The affiliate is incorporated with the state of Minnesota and is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

3. The next major phase in the development of the affiliate chapter is to organization with its own board of directors, executive director, staff, and volunteers. The national office provides the training and technical assistance.

NOTE:
Members of BPC are encouraged to attend the Love INC community wide kick-off event. It is conducted by the national office and is open to the public. Affiliate members and community leaders will be there.

Where: Buffalo Evangelical Free Church, 2051 50th Street NE, Buffalo, MN 55313

When: Friday November 6th, 7-9 pm. General Community Information Session

Saturday, November 7th, 9 am – 4 pm. Training for developing the Affiliate



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

THREE TYPES OF GIVING

“There are three kinds of giving: grudge giving, duty giving and thanksgiving. Grudge giving says, ‘I have to’; duty giving says, ‘I ought to’; and thanksgiving says, ‘I want to.’ The latter comes from a full heart. Thanksgiving is an open gate into the love of God.”

—Robert N. Rodenmayer

PASTOR'S DESK, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Committee for your faithful work. Thank-you for spending your time and energy in finding this congregation's next pastor -- and my replacement. I feel a bit like the guest that has over-stayed their welcome

at a party, glad to be amidst the fun, but aware of the impending curfew. Surely, all of this new life at BPC is goodness and mercy and having been here to experience it now, I know that it will follow me all the days of

my life and wherever I may go.

See you in church,
Julia

As we enter the holiday season, let us praise our generous and loving heavenly Father for the many, many blessings He has bestowed upon us.

PNC THOUGHTS FROM HOLLY

One of things that has always impressed me about the Presbyterian denomination, even as a child, was its process for calling a new pastor. It's orderly, thoughtful and seems to work. We say goodbye; we call an interim; we form a search committee (PNC) who writes a Church Information Form after a congregational introspective look. The PNC reads information about pastors searching for positions, they discuss, listen, interview, pray, discuss and go about the process of figuring out who God is calling to be our

next church leader. I like processes. They make sense. They provide a sort of roadmap on how to go about the huge task of calling the next pastor.

One of things about the Presbyterian denomination that has frustrated me (more as an adult than a child) is the process for calling a new pastor. It's long; there's always an interim, whom I have always liked and had to say good-bye to much too quickly, and then there are all these steps to go through. I like to complete tasks. I give them my best,

figure out what needs to be done and then like to complete them. Long, drawn out affairs aren't my favorite. I had a hard time waiting 9 months for each of our daughters to be born.

So, I have to say that, along with many of you, I'm sure, this process seems to be taking a long time. (For those of you who are counting, we could have almost had 2 babies by now.) But I continue to have faith that God will lead just the right person to us! So stick with us and let's let the process work.



YOUTH NEWS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

School Girls will continue their study of the book of Matthew twice a month and the guys are looking forward to getting started on one of their own. The youth page of the website will be updated with the upcoming activities. On Wednesday evenings the church is blessed to have an energetic group of middle schoolers filling the building with joyful sounds and excitement.

This year the group has been talking about identity, who we are as individuals, who we are as a group and who we could like to become. Just as Jesus assembled a group of disciples from different backgrounds, we too are a diverse group coming together to become a youth group. Diversity at times brings challenges and opportunities for growth that

we are exploring through the lens of who are we?

We have been assisted by various adult guests and would like to extend the invitation to anyone who would like to experience the spirit filled time that is middle school youth group.

Upcoming events include pie making and delivery Nov. 21 and 22; Snow Camp at Clearwater Retreat January 22-24.

Eight of our youth and Mary Markve-Patch and Scott braved a cold and windy night in St. Paul and slept in cardboard boxes to help raise money for the homeless. Thank you Mary! You were great! The kids had a great time and are already looking forward to a repeat next year. Thank you to Jerry Aldrich and landscape Structures for loaning us cardboard boxes, so everyone had a place to sleep. Thanks to Kevin Spike for helping delivering and returning them!

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

November Birthdays

	23 rd	Brandon Aldrich
5 th		Liv Anderson
8 th		Fred Patch
9 th	24 th	Debbie Arns
11 th	26 th	Heather Andersen
12 th	28 th	Joel Aldrich
		Susan Schermer
	29 th	Curt Hofman
13 th		Janett Hofman
16 th		
17 th		
18 th		
19 th		
20 th		

November Anniversaries

8 th	Mike and Kathy Quady
17 th	Charlie and Bette Wilkens
22 nd	Chuck and Liz Klaassen





BUFFALO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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THE NEW TIMES IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF BUFFALO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

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UFFALO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IS A CONGREGATION IN WHICH THE WORD, THE SPIRIT, AND THE LOVE OF GOD ENRICH AND STRENGTHEN US AS INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES IN CHRIST.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS CHURCH IS TO FULLY EQUIP US TO BECOME DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST, OBEYING HIS COMMANDMENTS TO LOVE AND WORSHIP GOD, LOVE AND CARE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS, AND MAKE NEW DISCIPLES IN OUR COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD.

THE NEW TIMES
NOVEMBER 2009

Newsletter submissions are due by Friday, November 13th for the December issue.

Julia Carlson,
Interim Pastor

Scott Dobovsky,
Youth Director

Marcy Bodin,
Office Manager

Holly Minke,
Newsletter Editor, Youth Administrator

NOVEMBER ROTATIONS

Lay Leader

- Nov 1 Stanley Johnson
- Nov 8 Dolores Pensky
- Nov 15 Mike Quady
- Nov 22 Pat Olsen
- Nov 29 Chuck Klaassen

Greeters

- Nov 1 Jerry & Marlene Aldrich
- Nov 8 Norm & Debra Arns
- Nov 15
- Nov 22 Marv Sikkila
- Nov 29 Walt & Kay Spike

Resident Pick-up

- Nov 1 Marlene Aldrich
- Nov 8 Dick Jensen
- Nov 15 Marlene Aldrich
- Nov 22 Dick Jensen
- Nov 29 Marlene Aldrich

Fellowship

- Nov 1 Deb Anderson
- Nov 8 E. Thole & V. Johnson
- Nov 15 D Heisel & D Hofman
- Nov 22 Cynthia Grittman
- Nov 29 Pat Olsen