

THE NEW TIMES

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MARCH/APRIL 2010

COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE

A group of interested gardeners has been meeting and planning the past few weeks to keep our garden idea “growing,” with the expectation of getting the ground ready and opened this spring. We are working through some ideas about operating rules, considering what kinds of improvements we will need to make, and trying to set some dates.

Right now, we’re expecting to hold an informational meeting for prospective gardeners on the Monday evening after Easter, April 5th. The purpose of this meeting will be to answer questions, take applications for garden plots, and try to get an overall sense of interest in our project. We

hope to do a bit of a media blitz over the next few weeks to get the word out.

As a result, we need to get some decisions made so we have good information to report at this event. Perhaps the most important will be identification of some funding sources so we know how extensive our improvements might be.

While BPC will have extensive time and land invested in the Garden, we have not budgeted any of our own funds for this project. Therefore, local fundraising will be a critical component of our success – let us know if you have a suggestion for a potential source of donations or grants!

We have also

discussed the idea that church members might donate any of their lonely garden tools not getting use at home. These would be a help to those who want to garden, but can’t afford some of the basic necessities, and serve as tools for our own section of the garden space.

Do you have an interest in the garden project? We’re planning to meet pretty regularly after church services for the next several weeks as spring draws near. Lots of help is needed, so anyone with ideas, resources, or even just a pair of gardening gloves is already an important part of this great mission opportunity.

Thanks!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *March 28th Palm Sunday*
- *April 4th Easter*
- *April 10th Youth Pancake Breakfast at Applebee’s*
- *April 11th How to Talk MN trip*

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK—A GOOD CROP

“...Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.”

It's almost spring! At least that's what everyone keeps telling me. And while I do see some of the snow pack melting away, it refreezes every night and is there to be a hazard in the morning. I'm not getting out the summer clothes yet! However, I am beginning to enjoy the thought that green will be showing through the snow pack soon and that not long after that there will be leaves on the trees.

I've met briefly with the community garden team and I'm trying to envision what they have been “seeing” in their minds for a long time. And they are coming to some decisions about how best to proceed with those plans to be good stewards of the land. I am reminded of a wonderful couple of verses in Galatians 6 that talk about harvest and I wanted to share them with you ... not necessarily because they refer to things that remind us of spring (with its potential har-

vest) or of gardening but because they challenge us in every area of our life together.

Here is the version from the NIV ... Galatians 6: 9 – 10 “So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.”

Some translations use don't “grow weary” or “lose heart” or “get fatigued” when referring to our tendency to get tired in pursuing what is good and right.

One translation says therefore “right now ... every time we get the chance, let's work for the benefit of all, starting with the people closest to us in the community of faith.”

And therein lie our challenges. We have much work to do as a congregation. I believe we are on the cusp of some much needed

growth ... I can see the green. Let me share a little of what I am experiencing with you: you are a committed core of faithful disciples; you have a passion for being good stewards of the place God has given to you; you love one another; you want to grow in maturity as well as in number; you have a heart for mission; you care about learning Scripture; you place a high priority on worship.

Let me tell you the areas we need to attend to in order to grow: giving (and then careful stewardship of those gifts that are given); personal involvement in the lives of the youth with corollary giving to the budget to cover what it costs to have a youth program; creative thinking about how best to use this building for meeting needs in this community and for reaching others, both youth and adults, with the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

But we have to fight
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HOW TO TALK MINNESOTAN TRIP

Join us on Sunday, April 11th at 2:00 p.m. for *How To Talk Minnesotan The Musical* at the Plymouth Playhouse. The Pioneer Press reviewed it as a "hotdish of comedy with lots of

warm, pleasing ingredients." Meet Ed and Lucy Humde at the Lost Walleye Lodge for an afternoon of music, dance, and laughs. Tickets are \$30 each, with \$10 from each ticket

donated to the Mission Committee. Tickets can be purchased from Barb Stone, Dave Johnson or at the church office until Sunday, March 28th.

THE BELL TOWER SOON TO BE CONSTRUCTED

Just like the rest of us, the Church Bell has been (im)patiently awaiting warmer weather, when it hopes to make its grand return to the outdoors as a part of a newly constructed home. The new "tower" is to be located in the Church's "front yard", where a flower garden has been holding the space. The design for

the structure utilizes the church sign as its model, but in a four-legged cross shape, and will allow views of the bell from virtually all angles.

While waiting inside, the bell's support frame has been painted, and a great amount of information has been discovered about its origin and history. The bell was commissioned

and donated to the church by a grateful visitor soon after the church's founding in the late 1870s. A part of this includes the discovery that a descendant of the donor lives in the Rockford/Greenfield area – a bit of serendipity that arose after that person attended a funeral at **Continued, Page 5**



MISSIONS—JEANS AND SHOES

On the heels of our successful jeans for Haiti campaign, (We collected 62 pairs of jeans), we are joining with Schuler Shoes and New Balance and other shoe companies to collect gently-worn shoes for Soles4Souls. They have joined to-

gether to help needy countries and to recycle old shoes. Everything that is donated is either shipped to help others or recycled. Schuler's Shoes in Maple Grove will receive our donations and then deliver them to the shipping center

and pay for the cost of shipping to Haiti, Chile or other places in the world. All types, sizes and forms of shoes can be donated—even single shoes. Donations are being accepted at church through Easter.



IRENE PAINSCHAUB—OUR SUPER SENIOR

Our church family has lost a special friend and loyal member with the death of Irene. Her funeral service and celebration of her life took place in our church on Saturday, January 30th.

Irene had just moved into the Lake Ridge Manor assisted living residence and was comfortably settled in, with family pictures all around her, some of her pieces of furniture from home and mementos. Her health conditions lately had caused her to “slow down” more than she liked, and she was ready to move there. The last time she was able to come to church was a difficult outing for her because she was already feeling that she could not get enough air. Her lungs finally gave out, and she died on a Sunday evening, just weeks before her 90th birthday. Her friends and loved ones filled our church as we honored her and remembered how much she had done for her family, her church and her community.

At the celebration of Irene’s life, there were very nice tributes to a well loved, well

known family matriarch and a community “mover and shaker.” She and her family had lived around this area all their lives, being members of a church in Waverly and Howard Lake areas before she moved to Buffalo. Irene and her husband, Leonard, raised their four children near this area, and many relatives are still around here. She was dedicated to her family and was well known for all her volunteering projects which brought her much acclaim, which she was very reluctant to acknowledge. I didn’t know that she was the recipient of the Minnesota Volunteer of the Year several years ago. There was a table full of awards and citations she and her husband had received for all the countless hours of working behind the scenes to help friends, family, community projects, church activi-

ties and wherever there was a need.

We all knew that any time there was a potluck, fund raiser or activity at our church, Irene always contributed something. She was a person you could count on to be there, too, and to do what she could to support any worthy cause, even if it was only to provide some cheese or pickles. Her generosity was well known by her family, as many stated in their fond memories over the years. The hymn sung by the congregation summed up her dedication to service: “Here I Am, Lord, Is It I, Lord.” The church choir sang that song a few weeks after her service and I’m sure Irene was smiling down on all of us as we sang her favorite song. Now it’s our turn to answer the call to serve.

When we came to the Buffalo Presbyterian Church ten years ago, we met Irene about the first

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“The hymn sung by the congregation summed up her dedication to service: “Here I Am, Lord, Is It I, Lord.” The church choir sang that song a few weeks after her service and I’m sure Irene was smiling down on all of us as we sang her favorite song. Now it’s our turn to answer the call to serve. “

YOUTH PANCAKE BREAKFAST & OTHER NOTES

Join us for breakfast!

The youth are once again serving breakfast at Applebee's. Saturday, April 10th will be your opportunity to enjoy a complete breakfast featuring pancakes, eggs, sausage or bacon and juice or coffee. Your donation of \$7.00 will help fund the youth program and the

youth's summer activities. With this year's tight budget, fund raising is vital to the youth program. They will also enjoy the opportunity to serve you!

Tickets can be purchased in advance at the church from the youth, in the church office or on the day of the breakfast at the

door.

The Senior High youth have joined the middle schoolers again on Wednesday evenings for youth group. The combined group is intentionally structured to help everyone pause and reflect on our Lord and Savior and our relationship with God.



BELL TOWER, CONT. FROM PAGE 3

BPC last fall.

This spring, we look forward to construction of the bell's new home, along with a thorough cleaning and

preparation of the bell's bronze surface. And this is not just a showpiece – the bell will be fully functional – you

may have already heard a sample of its deep, clear tone.

PASTOR'S DESK, CONT. FROM PAGE 2

our natural inclination to throw up our hands and say "this isn't working" or "this will never work". **We need to pray, first.** Without covering every effort with prayer we will have nothing to show for our efforts except our own frail handiwork. Then we need to explore, plan, **pray**, dis-

cuss, plan some more, **pray** some more, make wise decisions, seek God's blessing and peace on our plans, implement, pay careful attention to threats from inside and outside, and **pray** some more.

Let's take this opportunity, finding ways for all of us to

do good to everyone—beginning with our own family of faith. The tender shoots of green are there and a good crop, a rich harvest, will follow if we do not lose heart and give up. Let's do as Scripture tells us in I Peter 4: 19 ... entrust ourselves to our faithful Creator, while continuing to do good.

THANK YOU!



MANY, MANY THANKS to all who helped contribute to a wonderful 5th birthday for Katie. We are so grateful to be in a community of faith where we could ask you to come and sur-

round a newcomer with your presence. Please accept our thanks for the cards and generous gifts—she loves the books, dolls, stickers, horses, and games—they convey to her (and to us)

your gracious welcome. We thank you for your wonderful, generous spirit.

Many blessings, Joan and Ken McKenzie

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS



The church office will be open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from Noon to 2:00 p.m. Hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays vary.

Joan is at church most mornings except for Friday which is her day off. She is glad to meet with you, so please call the church office to make an appoint-

ment if another time is more convenient for you.

WELCOME CONFIRMANDS

On Sunday, February 14, Buffalo Presbyterian Church confirmed and welcomed 6 youth into our congregation. Mindy Arns, Katie Gatzke, Abby Grittmann, Ty Lawlor and Katie Torgerson Wickre all successfully completed the required classes, and each one of them wrote a personal statement of faith. They and their mentors met with the Session members and

they were unanimously approved to be confirmed and for BPC membership.

As new members, the youth are excited to join in the life of the church. They are already taking active roles in the community garden as well as heading up other mission projects.

The youth thank their mentors: Diane Heisel, Holly Minke, Mary Markve-Patch,

Lavina Pattee, Dolores Pensky and Terry Schermer for their help and support during their confirmation classes. They also extend a special thank you to their teacher Mike Quady.

“Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord Your God is with you wherever you go.”

Joshua 1:9 NRSV



CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE

It's time to update our church director.

While the details are still being worked out, we need to make sure that all of our infor-

mation is correct. Names, addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses all need to be confirmed and updated. Please

call or email the church office at buffalopresbyterian@bwig.net with your updates. Thanks



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS

Each week our Deacons purposely pray for a BPC family.

They invite you to join them in prayer for these families:

March 7

Gene & Jayne Eberhardt

March 14

Renee Ekgren

March 21

Dave & Jill Gatzke

March 28

Betty & Deb Gibbs

April 4

Steve & Cynthia Grittman

April 11

Mitch & Angie

Grittman

April 18

Ron & Nancy Grittman

April 25

Grant & Debbie Hale

RUN THE RACE

"The Christian life is a race along a course that is set out before us," said William Barclay. Hebrews 12:1 encourages Christians to run our particular race with perseverance.

Interestingly, the Greek word for race is agon, which means aching or agony. Like

marathon runners, we may be tempted to give up long before the finish line.

But the Hebrews passage also offers hope for how we can continue on: "[look] to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the

cross, disregarding its shame Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart"

(Hebrews 12:2-3, NRSV).



Stewardship

Short of cash? Consider giving appreciated stock to the church. (Yes, Virginia, there is appreciated stock.)

You get full gift credit and have no capital gains tax to worry about. For details, see Larry Pattee (763-263-1956).

IRENE PAINSCHAUB—CONT. FROM PAGE 4

THANK YOU!

Thanks to Dave and Jean Johnson and the "Committee" for all the paint, wallpaper, light fixtures and mirrors and work that went into the women's bathroom update!

We appreciate all of you as well as the new décor!

day we visited the church. She was a person you do not forget, not just because of her cute hats, which were lovingly displayed at her service, but especially for her infamous "hugs." You knew you were hugged when Irene greeted you, as many people mentioned how they loved them and would miss those hugs. She not only made you feel welcome, she made you feel "special" to her. It was a hug from the heart and delivered a message that said "you are welcome and loved."

Her hugs were a living example of un-

conditional love. What a way to witness to her faith by being the arms of God! The last time I saw Irene was on a Deacon's call to her just before Christmas, and even though she was sitting comfortably in her chair with the oxygen tubes in place, she made a special effort to get up and give me a very special bear hug, a genuine "I care about you" message.

How special the sense of touch is. Hugs express what words may not be able to say. Sometimes words do not come easily, but the touch of a hand, a gentle pat on a shoulder, a slight touch

on the arm or a big bear hug says so much. We will miss that loving expression. No one hugs quite like Irene. But maybe, as a way to pay tribute to her, we can think about hugging a little bit more when we get a chance.

She was a pillar and a model for the next generation to emulate. She can never be replaced, but her lessons of loving and living and caring for others will live on in the people who were lucky enough to have known Irene Painschaub.

By Lavina Pattee

CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE—SAVE THE DATE



The church youth are planning a rummage sale for **June 18 & 19**. We hope that you will clean out your closets and garages in order to donate items

for this event! We will also need many helpers to set up, mark items and take down afterward. **Please do not drop off items at the church until**

June. More information will follow at a later date. Contact Susan Schermer (320-274-3994) with any questions.



He is Risen!

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Birthdays

March 1st Katie McKenzie
 March 4th Judy Spike
 March 5th Katherine Spike
 March 15th Kayla Arns
 March 16th Bart Andersen
 March 20th Doris Persian
 March 27th Pat Quady
 March 28th Norm Arns
 March 29th Pam VanderSluis
 March 31st Henry Kieft
 April 1st Jerry Aldrich
 April 2nd Ellen Point
 April 3rd Tammy Aldrich
 April 5th Tootie Reese
 April 6th Libby Quatier
 April 8th Ryan Minkoff
 April 10th Pat Olsen
 April 17th Virginia Johnson

April 19th Alex Gatzke
 Holly Minke
 April 20th Brad Quatier
 April 26th Charles Aldrich
 Julie Long
 Stan Held

Anniversaries

March 18th Stan & Virginia Johnson
 April 11 Ken & Joan McKenzie
 April 22nd Julie and Bryan Long
 April 28th Judy & Kurt Spike



Please pray for our church family during this Lenten season. Pray that each of us will seek God's will for our lives. Pray for God's continued guidance for our church and for our youth. Remember, also, to thank God for the many ways in which God richly blesses us.

MARCH/APRIL ROTATIONS

Lay Leader

March 7 Jerry Aldrich
 March 14 Jo Hatcher
 March 21 Steve Grittman
 March 28 Lavina Pattee
 April 4 Stanley Johnson
 April 11 Dolores Pensky
 April 18 Mike Quady
 April 25 Pat Olsen

Greeters

Mar 7 Dave & Jill Gatzke
 Mar 14 Betty & Deb Gibbs
 Mar 21 Ron & Nancy Grittman
 Mar 28 Steve & Cynthia Grittman
 Apr 4 Ruth Heisel
 Apr 11 Tim & Diane Heisel
 Apr 18 Marv & Dorothy Hofman
 April 25 Dick & Pat Jenson

Resident Pick-up

March 7, 21, April 4, 18
 Marlene Aldrich

March 14, 28, April 11, 25
 Dick Jenson



**BUFFALO
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

507 County Road 134
Buffalo, Minnesota 55313

763-682-2773

buffalopresbyterian@bwig.net
www.buffalopchurch.org

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

BUFFALO 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
March/April 2010**

Newsletter submissions are due by Friday, April 16th for the May issue.

Joan McKenzie,
Pastor

Scott Dobovsky,
Youth Director

Holly Minke,
Office Manager,
Newsletter Editor

LENTEN AND HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Soup Suppers

Wednesdays, March 3, 10, 17, 24, at 6:15 p.m.
followed by a Lenten study

Palm Sunday, March 28

10:30 a.m. Worship featuring special music

Maundy Thursday Living Last Supper with Spirit of Joy

Thursday, April 1, at 7:00 p.m. at BPC

Good Friday Community Service

Friday, April 2, at Noon at Spirit of Joy

Easter, April 4

9:00a.m. Men's Easter Breakfast and Kid's Egg Hunt
10:30 a.m. Worship