

HOUSE of PRAYER

Hi-Lines July 2009

Mission Statement:

A community in God called to learn ~ grow ~ support

July at House of Prayer

- * Summer worship — 9:15 (one service)
- * Sunday, July 19 — Rev. Heather Hammond, guest preacher



Reflections and Directions

I've been sitting in my Subaru dealer's waiting room this morning as my car gets an oil change, and now I am in my home office. It's the day

after the Service of Celebration, the Annual Meeting, the Congregational Picnic, and Father's Day - a "full" day yesterday. You'd maybe think I'd be riding some sort of energy surge. I'm not; mostly I'm just tired.

Peter Dorow did an excellent job yesterday with the sermon. He is a gift to us. He has carried the responsibility of leading our Stewardship process for the past few years and has brought his clear, honest, faithful and thoughtful understanding of where God and community connect in the everyday experience of life. I appreciate him as a member and as a partner in ministry and as a friend.....thanks, Peter.

Our Worship Ministry Team and the "Stompin' Dixie" band provided us with an energetic frame for worship. It was gratifying to see the whole congregation stand when we sang "When the Saints Go Marching In" as we recognized that we are the creed we live.....we believe in God and show it by how we live that out in our many ways, with our many gifts and talents.

The picnic was well attended and the food excellent. A huge thank-you to all who made the process go so well, and on Father's Day to boot.

So why am I tired? It was a long week with many long meetings regarding the process of the Annual Meeting and the budget that dominated the focus of those meetings. We'll have a difficult time the next few months and maybe the year ahead. To come to the congregation with the budget that we prepared involved some hard decisions by all the ministry teams. The Human Resources Team (HR) and the Leadership Ministry Team (LMT) decided not to fill the Director of Administration position, change Anne's hours, or provide raises for the second year and also made cuts to the continuing education funds for most of the staff. All the ministry teams made cuts to projected budgets that had no fat to spare. All of us, lay leadership and staff, will need to work hard to meet the challenges connected to those decisions as the year unfolds. We all understand the challenges posed by the difficulties within the general economy and their effect on each one of us in our day-to-day lives. I'm not whining or complaining. I'm merely being transparent. Difficult decisions need to be made, and we have folk who are willing to make them and are committed to working diligently in partnership to make this year work, and work well.

The LMT will meet on July 15, with folk from the past year and those newly elected. The purpose is to get a good start on understanding the way the decisions we made at the Annual Meeting will be fleshed out. I will be meeting with the staff and our new president, Buzz Moen, and the new HR chair, Kris Scharping, to work out how we will meet the needs of House of Prayer as we move forward without filling the

Director of Administration position. We will be doing an extensive follow-up to our Stewardship process in July. In October we will become a part of the ELCA and Minneapolis Area Synod's Transformational Ministry process. I believe that all of these will help us to discover better who we are, what God is saying to us as individuals and as a congregation, and how we as a congregation are to shape our mission by how we together perceive God's leading. All facets of what we do and how we do it are important for us to explore and to be open to change, intentionally engaging in God's transformative energy and love.

I'm tired, but not discouraged. God is at the core of who we are and what we do. I have always trusted God to "renew my energy like the eagles".....that I can count on. We have work to do, and the only way to get it done is to be in partnership with God and each other. "In all things God is working for good." All we need do is believe, and then there is truly nothing that can overcome us.....not ourselves, nor the world, nor anything else in all creation.

So it's OK to be tired; that's reality. It's also important to realize that hope is reality, too, and it will not disappoint us.

May the God of peace that brings us together wrap our hearts in love, ground us in peace, and strengthen us with resolve to enter each day, knowing we are loved for who we are and are given the energy and purpose to do that for which we have been called.

Peace.....Chuck

Ministry Teams

ADULT EDUCATION TEAM

Adult education classes will not meet during July and August. Wednesday evening classes will resume on September 9. The bible study will be based on the "Augsburg Adult Bible Study" series. Each quarter of the year will focus in depth on a different topic. Each bible study will be

preceded by a Simple Supper. Sunday morning forums will resume on September 20.

Thank you to all who filled out the "Time and Talent" form. You may expect a call from leaders of various teams to learn more about them. See you next fall!

Karen Steenson

OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM

VEAP

Karin Meier from VEAP has asked us to share with you all an easy way to help VEAP as they head into one of their busiest times of year! Some of us have contributed to the VEAP Case for Hunger before, and others are totally new to the idea.

You may help stock the VEAP food pantry by contributing the amount listed below for the bulk items. VEAP has food purchasing power that allows them to buy their commonly requested food products at deeply discounted rates. This kind of fundraising allows them to pass that power on to you. Below are the prices for products that you may contribute to stocking the pantry through monetary donations which will buy the food products we need the most to help families. This allows you to help VEAP at a critical time of need, and you can do it without picking up one single can of food. You donate the cash/check to VEAP, and they buy the food that is brought directly to their warehouse.

Case for Hunger Month

Consider donating cash/checks to VEAP for the amount that the food items cost VEAP when they purchase some of their most-needed food items.

Tuna - \$35.05 (48 6-oz cans)
Eggs - \$8.03 (15 dozen cartons)
Pinto beans - \$15.82 (24 1-lb bags)
Rice - \$12.51 (30 1-lb bags)
Baking mix - \$9.00 (12 18.5-oz boxes)

Flour - \$13.83 (8 5-lb bags)
 Vegetable oil - \$17.41 (12 24-oz bottles)
 Grape jelly - \$11.85 (12 18-oz jars)
 Milk - \$3.90 (9 half-gallons)
 Margarine - \$23.59 (30 1-lb blocks)

This is an easy and cost-effective way to donate food to support low-income families. Remember that hunger doesn't take a break.

Thank you again for your generous support!

Cheryl Hjortaa

WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

Starting July 1, 2009 (new fiscal year), the Sunday flower donation will be \$30. Flowers donated for a given Sunday will not be ordered until payment has been received. Payment must be received in the church office at least one week in advance of the desired date for sponsorship.

Courtesy reminder phone calls will be made to those who have not yet paid for flowers in 2009. Flowers for January through June will still be \$25 per Sunday. Flowers for July through December and beyond will be \$30 per Sunday. Anyone who has already paid for the whole year does not have to add \$5 for July through December flowers. Please direct all questions to Brenda or Pastor Anne in the church office.

Gretchen Swenson

EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION

The very warm send-off into retirement that I got toward the close of the June 19 worship service was "really something!!" It was a good thing I wasn't asked to say something because I was speechless. You have been SO supportive and encouraging to me during my 3+ years tenure that the applause was something we all really need to accept. Thanks for the many cards and emails. Thanks for your tremendous support through prayers and many forms of assistance!!

Jon Oleson

ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

House of Prayer conducted its Annual Congregational Meeting on June 21, electing ministry team chairs and approving the Fiscal Year 2010 budget.

Election results:

Position	Candidates-Elect	Term
President	Buzz Moen	2 Years
Vice President	Jill Johnson	1 Year *
Adult Education	Dustin Kasel	2 Years
Evangelism	DeeDee Edlund	2 Years
Support	Jesse Gardner	2 Years
Outreach	Steve Johnson	2 Years
Youth-Family	Laura Kasel	2 Years
Life Together	Jill Larson	2 Years

* Jill Johnson has agreed to serve a one-year bridge term as vice president. Congratulations to our new chairs and executives!

For our Fiscal Year 2010 budget, the congregation approved a budget of \$568,182. This represents a projected deficit of \$3,912, as our Fiscal Year 2010 income is projected at \$564,270. The congregation further approved that this budget shall be formally reviewed at a six-month interval, with a report back to the congregation at three months.

Thanks to everyone in the ministry teams and staff who made the Annual Meeting and Celebration Picnic a success!

Brent King

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed for the 2009 ELCA Church-wide Assembly. Save the dates August 17 to 23 for this gathering. It will be held at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Over 1,000 volunteers will be needed.

More information will be provided in the coming month, including how to sign up to help with this event.



Anne's Anecdotes

In the past few months you may have heard this phrase, “*transformational ministry*,” mentioned in ministry

teams’ minutes, referenced in a pastor’s sermon, or referred to in a conversation about House of Prayer’s future. In our 2009 Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 21, this phrase was further described in Brent King’s congregational president’s report, and I spoke about it in the moments prior to the discussion about the 2009-2010 budget. Because not everyone was able to be present at our Annual Meeting and Celebration Sunday events, I’d like to recap what *transformational ministry* is.

Today, in 2009, we no longer live in a churched culture. In fact, the United States of America is now the most religiously diverse nation on the globe.¹ This has a number of consequences. In *Reaching People Under 40 While Keeping People Over 60*, Edward Hammett writes about how progress was measured in a *churched culture*....*We counted our progress by the four “Bs”: bodies, budgets, baptisms, and buildings.*² In today’s world, globalization plays a part of our daily reality. McDonald’s and Wal-Mart have standardized how we shop. It is possible to drive up Portland Avenue, maneuver your way to East Lake Street and shop for your groceries at the Global Market at the Allina Commons. A member of our staff has been known to get a really good fresh spring roll at the Oriental Market on the corner of 77th and Portland for lunch. One of the effects of our changing world is that our culture has changed as well - secular and churched. The four “Bs” are not markers of a vital, sustaining congregational life. Rather than being a broad spectrum of society, *Culture is now specific to a group. That’s what culture is - shared values, characteristics, beliefs, goals and practices.*³ Progress is marked by a diverse net-

work of relationships and discernable common values.

The challenge facing the Church, for House of Prayer Lutheran, is to discover anew our shared values, beliefs, goals and practices so that we can *live into the grace that is before us as people united in Jesus Christ to do God’s work with our hands*. There are no easy answers or a how-to manual to read so that we can renew our first love, the Triune God. *Transformational ministry* is a way of living, of being the body of Christ, by which we can be transformed by the work of the Holy Spirit and the cross of Christ, and be recreated in the image of God’s goodness for the sake of the world. Here is a word picture of what intentional *transformational ministry* looks like...

1. **Purpose of Transformational Ministry:**
Engage teams of leaders in a transformation process so that they engage their congregation in transformation for the sake of God’s mission.
2. **Vision:** Renewed, Christ-centered congregations serve as mission centers involved in what God is doing in the world.
3. **Guiding Principles:**
 - This is God’s gig. (Everything starts and ends with what God is up to.)
 - Meeting Jesus changes people.
 - Changed people change the church.
 - Changed churches change the world.
 - We have what we need to answer the call. (God gives us what we need, you, me and more.)⁴

Like the human life cycle, congregations have life cycles as well. We move through our birth into toddler years, headlong into adolescence, delightfully into maturity, and then there is a choice to make as the congregation grows older. Because we are God’s, we have the gift of walking in newness of life. We, as God’s beloved community, do not need to decline into obscurity. Because creation is a constant in our lives, individually and corporately, God continually renews the power of creation, gracing us with the gift of practicing the resurrection so that we move from maturity into a renewed birth as a congregation.

Remember Zaccheus, the tax collector, who climbed up into a tree to get a glimpse of Jesus? When Zaccheus met Jesus, the tax collector was changed. As a changed human being, Zaccheus received new life, practiced the resurrection, and worked to change his community by righting his relationship with the community back by sharing his money. Zaccheus' story isn't about the money; it's about being transformed by Jesus. The tree climber's tale of seeking out the Son of God is a microcosm of the transformation that the Triune God offers to us, the people of House of Prayer. Transformation is an intentional step, building on previous steps of our sojourn as followers of Christ. Here's more of what this kind of *transformation ministry* looks like:

1. The center of our community is one of spiritual depth and vitality, meaning that we are engaged fully in worship, Bible study, prayer, and a shared value of hospitality with and to our neighbors.
2. Coming to understand the current and relevant identity and core of House of Prayer Lutheran.
3. Leadership is a joint effort shared by key lay leaders, lay staff and pastoral staff.
4. A reconnection is established with our surrounding community.
5. There is a willingness to *plan* for mission and *then* carry out that plan.
6. Commitment to adequate resources to the mission of the congregation (resources of time, talents, finances, prayer times, worship, acts of service).⁵

The psalmist says, "*The joy of the Lord is _____ strength.*" We can fill in that blank with a couple of words: *my* or *our*. At different times in our journey together, I have supplied each. In the midst of weariness, fear, and anxiety, God's joy calls each of us forward *into the grace that God is creating for us as one of God's beloved communities.*

No one among us can see how exactly God will transform House of Prayer Lutheran Church. This process is lead by Divine Mystery, so while we live each day together (*as a community called*

in God to learn, grow, and support) as sisters and brothers in Christ, we can trust what is known, is seen: *the cross of Christ in the midst of us.* Centered in the Word, beneath the Word, living, abiding with the Word, God's joy, we will know a peace that passes all understanding. Here is our hope. Here is our confidence. Here we can be cracked, earthen vessels open to the Triune God's ever-flowing love for the sake of the world.

Join in the transformation...*live into the grace God has set before you...*the way of life abundant.

Strength and grace for the journey,
Anne

¹ Taylor, Barbara Brown, *An Altar in the World* (New York: HarperCollins), p. 99.

² Hammett, Edward H., *Reaching People Under 40 While Keeping People Over 60: Being Church for All Generations* (St. Louis: Chalice Press), p. 2.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 3.

⁴ <http://archive.elca.org/outreach/renew/renewingprogram.htm>

⁵ <http://archive.elca.org/outreach/renew/abouttransformation.htm>

THE HERITAGE TEAM REMEMBERS

50 Years Ago. The Architect Selection Committee visited newly-constructed churches in the area to make recommendations for an architect to be hired to design House of Prayer's second unit, which would include the new sanctuary. (From Hi-Lines; July 29, 1959.)

20 Years Ago. Pastor Lyndon Nygaard wrote about hardware, software, and a different language with the advent of the church's updated computer system. "Office personnel who used to reach for a stencil at every mention of typing, and cringed when someone said the nasty word "changes," are now looking at life differently." (From Hi-Lines; July 18, 1989.)

10 Years Ago. The elevator was installed and began working, thanks to gifts to Many Gifts... One Spirit and the Elevator Fund. (From Hi-Lines; July 1999.)

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Crocodile Dock

Where fearless kids shine God's light!!!

August 17–21: 5:30 (dinner); 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Take a romp through the swamp at 'Crocodile Dock VBS!' This summer, we're taking our VBS to the bayou for a ragin' celebration!

REGISTER NOW!!

- ◆ ONLINE at www.house-of-prayer.com/education/childrensministry.html. Type in this web address in your web address window. When the Children's Ministry page appears, scroll down the page until you come to "Register online now." Click on online. Click on Participant Registration or Volunteer Registration to bring up the registration form.
- Or
- ◆ ON PAPER - Registration information (registration form, T-shirt order form, and brochure) was mailed in early June to the homes of kids that have participated in the past. More packets are available in the church office and at the Information Desk.

Sign up your kids, grandkids, neighbors, friends, relatives - AND yourself!!

Kids from age three to those entering kindergarten in the fall of 2009 will have a blast in "Rocky's Preschool Playhouse" program!

Kids entering first through fifth grades in the fall of 2009 will "Rock the Dock" at VBS Bayou Stations!

Youth entering sixth grade through high school are awesome Bayou Crew Leaders and assistants!

Adults will have a "Bayou Blast" as Bayou Station and Crew Leaders! This program is so great because the energy of House of Prayer volunteers is contagious. Volunteer! You'll get as much from it (if not more) than the kids will!!

HELP FINANCIALLY!!

Catch a fish to support VBS. At \$20 each, two fish in the pail could send a child to Crocodile Dock VBS for a week!! Your donations will make *free* VBS possible again this summer. Our goal is to raise \$2,000! Drop a check in the offering plate marked VBS, or mail/drop it off in the church office anytime.

DONATE ITEMS. If you have any of these things lying around the house, please consider donating or lending them to VBS – just let us know if you want them back!

Plastic plants (moss, ferns, leaves)

Old fishing boat (the rustier the better)

Barrels

Fishing gear (nets, rods, bobbers, rubber worms)

Lanterns

Washboards

For questions, contact the Crocodile Dock Team: Kristin Tranby, Carrie Brookins, Heather Daggett, Cindy Jacobs, Laura Kasel, Beth Lankey, Heidi Thomas, or Cara Wright.

Administration Report

It was almost exactly three-and-a-half years ago that I walked into my office at House of Prayer to begin as our congregation's second "business person" (the last one was in the '70s). The position of Director of Administration started as an experiment during a time when House of Prayer was going through a lot of change. During that time I tried to fill in gaps of need, so the Director of Administration job description may have gotten too broad. Anyhow, we've come through that stretch of change well, and I believe the "administration side" of our church's operation, including all involved, is ready to continue supporting the "program and mission side."

House of Prayer has a large facility, one that members rightfully take pride in. The window-door units replaced on the south side of the Fellowship Hall are more functional, safe, and "good to look at." The Narthex roof is helping to reduce air conditioning costs. In both cases, many thousands of dollars in installation costs

were saved because the Property Team patiently got competitive bids from quality contractors. We also made sure contractors did the job right. Ramo and a faithful stream of volunteers continue to maintain the building and grounds -- from the Altar Guild cleaning the Sanctuary to flower bed maintenance, to carpet shampooing, to repair projects. We have increased measures, again at very low cost (in part due to skilled volunteer labor), to secure the safety of individuals and the protection of House of Prayer assets. We have secured excellent computer technology support at a very reasonable cost, and our hardware has been upgraded as necessary through careful shopping.

Finances are literally being “watched like a hawk” -- many hawks, actually. The treasurers and the Budget and Finance Team are very involved. We’ve moved from one form to document transactions three years ago to a sophisticated accounting and bookkeeping system that collaborates with ministry teams that keep watchful eyes on income and expenditures. Qualified members of our audit team also watch like hawks, giving compliments along with directions to correct procedures. Creating a budget is not easy, but the ministry teams have become familiar with the process and have good ownership in managing House of Prayer’s finances. We now have three organizations -- the Commodores, Just For Kix, and the Centennial Singers -- who complement House of Prayer’s use of the building and help pay for heating, electricity (especially cooling), and maintenance costs.

The make-up of personnel has changed significantly over the past three years. The process of seeking good candidates, hiring the best, preparing them for service, and blending them into the staff culture has been refined. Staff enjoy working together and do so effectively. Extensive hours of work by the Human Resource Team and a consultant have inexpensively produced a state-of-the-art personnel handbook that reflects good policy, procedures, and records maintenance.

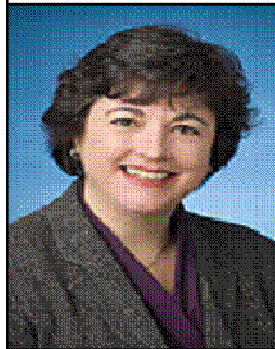
It has been an honor to serve you and God as the Director of Administration. I feel very confident about House of Prayer’s future as we look forward, always seeking to understand the mission

God has for us and working together to effectively and efficiently fulfill that mission.

Jon Oleson

Guest Preacher Announcement

On Sunday, July 19, Reverend Heather Hammond will be our guest preacher for the morning. Heather called to say that she had an opening in her Sunday summer preaching schedule and asked if House of Prayer would be willing to share the pulpit. Heather is the Bishop’s Associate for the Minneapolis Area Synod who partners with us. She worked closely with the members of the recent Call Committee, who walked through the process to call Pastor Anne. Let us join together to celebrate Heather’s ministry among us as she shares the Gospel of Jesus Christ on this Sunday morning.



Biography

The Reverend Heather Hammond serves as Bishop's Associate in the Minneapolis Area Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a post she has held since April 2000. Pastor Hammond was educated at Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota; Oxford University in Oxford, England; and St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. At present she is pursuing a Doctor of Ministry degree from Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, New Jersey.

Pastor Hammond has served parish calls in La-Crosse, Wisconsin; Knox, Pennsylvania; and St. Louis Park, Minnesota. In 1998, she was named Senior Editor for Adult Education in the ELCA’s denominational publishing house, a post she held until joining the synod staff where her primary areas of responsibility include Candidacy and Stewardship, in addition to caring for the leaders of more than 40 congregations. Pastor Hammond lives in St. Louis Park, Minnesota, with her children, Annelise and Marcus.

House of Prayer Lutheran Church
7625 Chicago Avenue South
Richfield, MN 55423
(612) 866-8471
E-mail: office@house-of-prayer.com
Website: www.house-of-prayer.com

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SUNDAY WORSHIP: 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.; Summer worship (one service): 9:15 a.m.

The **Hi-Lines** is published monthly by House of Prayer volunteers. **Editor Sandy MacKenzie** can be reached at sjmackenzie89@msn.com.

Milestones

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

<u>Couples</u>	<u>Date</u>
Elmer and Arlene Abrahamson	July 24, 1654
Art and Adelle Anderson	July 21, 1945
Marvin and Jeanne Anderson	July 19, 1947
Steve and Ann Barnes	July 26, 1958
Thomas and Dorothy Cook	July 29, 1944
Robert and Heather Daggett	July 16, 1994
John and Irene Kissel	July 5, 1947
Doug and Carol Larson	July 28, 1984
Gordon and Gladys Remmen	July 2, 1953
Harold and Evelyn Shull	July 27, 1944
Dan and Shari Sjostrand	July 2, 1994

FUNERALS

<u>Deceased</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Funeral</u>
Bernie Shelberg	May 16	May 22
Freda Bittick	June 15	June 17

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The Book Discussion Group summer readings are:

The Screwtape Letters, by C. S. Lewis, and
The House of Seven Gables, by Nathaniel Hawthorne

We will meet September 10, 2009, to discuss these two books.