

THE MUSTARD SEED



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*Coming Up...
See inside for
details*

Mar. 2—Women's
Gathering
Mar. 2, 16—Oppor-
tunity Next Door
Mar. 7-9—Non-vio-
lence workshop
Mar. 11—Pilgrim Guild
Mar. 15—Ski Trip
Mar. 16-23—Holy
Week

March 30
Congregational
Meeting
after worship
to vote on moving
forward with
Opportunity Next
Door

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Bible Adventures



Easter
Garden
March 23

**From Your
Pastor
And
Teacher**

“Easter is the demonstration of God that life is essentially spiritual and timeless.” --Charles M. Crowe

When I worked as a prison chaplain, the men would always say, “I’ve got the time.” Whenever we assigned homework or some sort of project, they had a hard time claiming that they were too busy. “I’ve got the time”: to study, to pray, to grow, to write, to draw, to paint, to dream, to hope. “I’ve got the time” was a reminder of both their crime and the timeless nature of God. There was no wall, no barbed wire, no watch tower, and no armed guards that could separate them from God’s love and forgiveness. Even in prison, God penetrates through their rough exteriors, their addictions, and their hatred in order to transform them into something almost unrecognizable in the prison system. God transforms them into free people. Easter reminded them of an amazing opportunity to be free.

This Easter, as you prepare to welcome a bunny that lays eggs and more colored candy any human being should eat, remind yourself that God is timeless and transcends all barriers. God will find you and speak to you in the most unlikely places. God will find you and challenge you on your daily walk. God will find you and give you a chance to be truly free. This is a spiritual time and we are a spiritual people. This is the time when we appear most in balance. This is time when we are free to dream and forgive. This is the time when we contemplate that life is about healing.

Don’t let this Easter pass like so many others. Don’t end up in April carrying around your burdens and worries. Don’t rush through Holy Week only to find yourself wondering about the meaning of the resurrection. This church and this community are here to make your life meaningful. This church and this community are here to remind you that God loves you and wants you to be whole. This church and this community are here to give you a place to experience a timeless sense of freedom.

When the worship leader says, “Come to the water,” you’re not supposed to just listen, you are supposed to take a drink. Easter is coming and you are invited to experience living water. Come.

See you in church,
T. Michael

Holy Week Services

March 16: Palm/Passion Sunday, 10 am
March 20: Maundy Thursday, dinner 6:30 pm; worship 7 pm
March 21: Good Friday, 7 pm
March 23: Easter, 10 am





March Schedule

MARCH 2, FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT.

Service at 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion. Infant and toddler care available. Bible Adventures for children 3 years old through 2nd grade 10:15-11:15 a.m. Lectionary texts: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41.

Women's Gathering

Opportunity Next Door Information Meeting

MARCH 9, FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT.

Service at 10:00 a.m. Infant and toddler care available. Bible Adventures for children 3 years old through 5th grade 10:15-11:15 a.m. Lectionary texts: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45.

Senior High Sunday School

MARCH 16, SIXTH SUNDAY IN LENT (PALM/PASSION SUNDAY).

Service at 10:00 a.m. Infant and toddler care available. Bible Adventures for children 3 years old through 5th grade 10:15-11:15 a.m. Lectionary texts: Matthew 21:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (Liturgy of the Psalms); Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66 *or* Matthew 27:11-54 (Liturgy of the Passion).

Middle School Sunday School

Mustard Seed Deadline

MARCH 20, MAUNDY THURSDAY, dinner at 6:30 p.m., worship at 7:00 p.m.

MARCH 21, GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE OF TENEBRAE at 7:00 p.m.

MARCH 23, EASTER SUNDAY.

Service at 10:00 a.m. Infant and toddler care available. NO Bible Adventures. Lectionary texts: Acts 10:34-43 *or* Jeremiah 31:1-6; Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1-4 *or* Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 *or* Matthew 28:1-10.

Easter Garden

Special Easter Offering for Music Program

Worship at Robbinsdale United Church of Christ

Lent at Robbinsdale United Church of Christ is a special time. Folks are uniquely engaged in spiritual growth, and practicing a more generous Spirit. We are in reality just preparing ourselves for a moment of wholeness on Easter morning. The cultural celebration of Easter actually brings people together in a unique way. People come from far away to visit family and attend worship on this one Sunday a year. This year I want to help you all prepare for that unique spiritual experience. I want to make sure you are able to attend the services during Holy Week and are able to welcome our visitors with a radical hospitality that reflects our wholeness and completeness with them in our midst.

March 2 – Fourth Sunday in Lent, Communion

Scripture Readings – Psalm 23 and John 9:1-41

Sermon: “No Limits on Love” – Dwight Wagenius

A miracle happens. Jesus heals a blind man who lives happily ever after. Whoops; that's the ending from another story. This man is excommunicated for . . . what, telling the truth about Jesus' role in his new life? We also are blind in significant ways. Let's talk about accepting the risk of Jesus' healing.

March 9th – Fifth Sunday in Lent

Sacrament of Baptism for Amanda Sonquist

Scripture Readings: Ezekiel 37:1-14 and Romans 8:6-11

Sermon: “Coming to Life” – Rev. T. Michael Rock

As we near the end of Lent, we begin to see the very real possible of healing and wholeness. In this amazing story, bones rise up and begin to dance. Death cannot stop the praise of God. This amazing story reflects this small but important part of our theology, God transcends life and death.

March 16th – Palm/Passion Sunday

Scripture Readings – Matthew 21:1-11

Sermon: “Election Year Hosannas!” – Rev. T. Michael Rock

Jesus takes on the most political posture of his short ministry. He enters the seat of religious and political power and claims their corruption and his divinity. The people are moved, inspired and take to the streets. What do we do with this political Jesus on the eve of entering Holy Week and ultimately see this Savior die?

Continued on next page

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Thursday, March 20th – Maundy Thursday
Dinner and Worship in Fellowship Hall
6:30 pm – Dinner 7:00 pm - Worship

We will gather around tables in Fellowship Hall for a simple meal of soup and bread and worship. We explore the meaning of the last supper and the power of breaking bread in our community. This is a very meaningful service that reminds us of both the sorrow and hope of the week of Jesus' death.

Friday, March 21st – Good Friday Worship – 7:00 pm
This important service reminds us of loss, sacrifice, and soul searching. It is the ultimate preparation during Holy Week. This traditional service of lights will provide a memory of hope in the darkest moments of our lives. The choir will bring us along through the story and sadness of this loss. Experiencing Good Friday worship prepares us to worship and celebrate on Easter morning.

March 23rd – Easter Morning – Christ is Risen!
Scripture Reading – Matthew 28:1-10 and Acts 10:34-43

Sermon: “Judging the Living and the Dead”

This High Holy Day in the Christian calendar celebrates the meaning of eternal life. This is the service you bring your neighbors to. Come and share in this sacred celebration of a living Christ. Come and celebrate life and the eternal flame that unites us with those that have come before and with those who will come after us. Easter will be a new beginning for us all. Hallelujah!

FOUR-PART SERMON SERIES BEGINS

“Will God Save Everyone?”

March 30th –

Scripture Reading – Luke 6:32-38

Sermon: “The Character of God” – Rev. T. Michael Rock

Part 1 of this sermon series examines who God is in relationship to both sinner and saint. We look at how God is described throughout the biblical and cultural story and see if, indeed, it is in God's heart to save everyone. No exceptions. This will be a great time to invite a friend or neighbor.

Lent at Robbinsdale United Church of Christ

It's not too late to sign begin a spiritual practice. There are spaces available in every group. Sign up and join us in this time of deepening our

faith. We remember that the season of Lent is time of reflection and renewal for many people. Some people give things up for Lent as a spiritual practice. I like to take things on to grow my faith. The practice of faith is always much easier when we are not alone, so you are invited to take on a spiritual practice this Lent. There are sign up sheets in the narthex, or you can call or e-mail your choice. Each week you will receive an e-mail with encouragement for your new practice.

Choice 1 – Fasting – On Mondays during Lent, from sunrise to sunset, you are invited to refrain from eating, while being mindful and aware of both your physical and spiritual hunger. You may choose to fast the whole time or for one meal. Know you have the permission to make this spiritual practice your own.

Choice 2 – Lectio Divina – This is a form of Bible study that asks you to read a short passage from scripture and allow it to become a prayer for your life. Each week you will be given scripture choices, or you can find one of your own.

Choice 3 – Prayer / Meditation – Join us for prayer and meditation on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the Prayer Room. There will be a short reading or outline of the many ways to pray and then silence for you to breathe and focus on the breath of God in your life.

Choice 4 – Alms Giving – This is a fun spiritual practice. This involves a discipline of giving and generosity. One way to practice is to put \$2 in a jar each day during Lent. Just be mindful of setting aside \$2, or any amount of your choice, and watch the jar fill up. At the end of Lent, find a person or place to give the money away. In doing so, you will not just donate money, but you will give a piece of your spirit away. Pray about the recipient and infuse your gift with love. Some folks add a \$1 for every time they swear or utter unkind words. This is a simple way of staying “on course” during Lent.

It is my hope that more folks will take on one or more of these practices for the remainder of Lent. Remember, when you sign up to take on one of these practices, you will receive a special e-mail on Mondays of encouragement from your pastor and teacher. If you have any other questions, please talk with T. Michael at anytime.

Notes from Our Student Minister Dwight Wagenius

The seasons of Lent and Easter celebrate the most definitive of God's redemptive acts. In these seasons we participate in the life, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We're working toward the Hallelujah of Easter. Prayerful study of the Scriptures through Lectio Divina has helped me appreciate the themes of the seasons, and that this is a time to grow through repentance, fellowship, and prayer. I pray that this will make me more receptive to God's grace and worthy to participate in the mystery of the seasons. I wish the same for you.

In February, I worked, worshiped, played, and started the Lenten season with you. God's grace flows through your openness with me. I appreciate it more than I can say. In February also classes resumed and will continue through three weeks of May. Classes are good.

I worked with the Bible Adventures Ministry in preparing for February's presentations and conducted the first Sunday in February exercise with all but the oldest Bible adventures children. I learned more than I taught by a long shot. Thanks, Shepherds and kids. I will be preaching again in March, and then, in April, I will lead a three-part series of discussions on global warming and our carbon footprint challenges. I solicit your input again on what parts of this huge subject you want to discuss. I'll appreciate your ideas.

You continue to teach me, challenge me, inspire me. Thanks. I wish you the blessings of the season.

Peace,
Dwight

ANNUAL MEETING February 3, 2008

*Treasurer's Report for 2007: Brad Welton reported that revenue covered expenses largely due to very low natural gas bills [see "Conservation Miracle..." article below].

*Rev. T. Michael Rock and outgoing moderator Jim Puffer noted how many people it takes to make a church work and thanked the many volunteers.

*Bylaw amendments were passed unanimously (see page 51 of Annual Report).

*Slate of nominations for new officers and ministry members was accepted unanimously (see page 54 of Annual Report).

*Proposed budget for 2008 of \$260,123 was presented and approved. It includes OCWM pledge of 10% of total expenses minus OCWM and special offerings, 3% salary increase for staff and 7.5% increase for the pastor.

*Trustees reported a capital fund account of \$31,000 to redo entrance steps on parking lot side of building. They are looking for design suggestions. They are also seeking suggestions for things to put in a time capsule in the new steps (see article elsewhere in this issue).

THE CONSERVATION MIRACLE...Sort of

A funny thing happened the week after our Annual Meeting. We received a gas bill for about \$3,000.00. While my first reaction was to wonder "how could that be?" I knew in my heart that even with assurances from CenterPoint Energy, there was no way we could heat our entire church building for less than I do my fairly energy efficient home.

So here is the explanation. We have two gas meters. That normally would not be a problem; however, CenterPoint changed their billing system in January of 2006, and when they did so, they neglected to account for both meters. During an onsite visit to get our meter reading(s), they discovered the oversight and updated our account information accordingly.

In fairness (or perhaps policy), it was determined that they could not charge us back for the entire two year period. The bill we were presented actually represents our 2007 usage plus January 2008.

So here is the bottom line. Our actual 2007 gas usage was about \$4,000.00 and not \$1105.00 as reported. The good news is that being the skeptic that I am, we still budgeted \$4,500.00 for our 2008 gas usage. So from a budget standpoint we should be in pretty good shape.

I still want to assure you that our conservation efforts are making a difference. I can still easily make that case as I review and compare what we have spent in the past. So keep it up and keep those thermostats turned down and lights turned off.

—Brad Welton

GOOD NEWS FOR YOU IN THE PEWS



Members of the Worship Ministry, and maybe you, have noticed the poor condition of the GOOD NEWS pew Bibles that were purchased several ministers ago. Following Easter, we will be notifying the congregation of an opportunity to donate toward the purchase of a Bible or two or more in memory of loved ones. Each memorial pew Bible will contain a dedication to your loved one(s). The Bibles to be purchased are New Revised Standard Version Bibles (stamped with the UCC emblem), the same as those that will be presented to our third graders on April 6th. What wonderful gifts to our children and to RUCC!

UPDATE: Faith Community Nursing Program

In January we learned that we would not receive the St. Paul's Foundation Grant to support our nursing program at RUCC. With that news our direction was set. We will be operating initially as a volunteer ministry. Since we had already established the forms and structure of the program, we have the basics in place. We are in the process of establishing the office set-up. We will have voice mail, a mail box, desk, and locked cabinet for records. On the second Sunday in April the nurses and health team will be commissioned. There will be a confidential health survey passed out on that Sunday to find out the desires of the congregation regarding our activities. We have already begun to see members who are in need. From that survey we will determine future plans. At this time we are planning to have some educational programs, information handouts, blood pressure clinics, and a flu vaccine clinic in the fall. If you have specific requests for activities, please write them on the survey or give Linda Smith a call on her cell 612-867-0088.



Pilgrim Guild Meets Tuesday, March 11

Have you wondered why County Road 81 has become Bottineau Blvd.? Just who is Bottineau? Why does Robbinsdale have its own water system? When did the Robin become the city mascot? Will the streets ever be finished? Earl Johnston, president of the Robbinsdale Historical Society, will be our guest speaker. The social time

begins at 12:00 noon followed by dessert served by Corrine Myers and Kathy Giddings. Mr. Johnston will tell us about the fair city of Robbinsdale and answer our questions following a short business meeting. Come join us!

Pilgrim Guild Purchases

Have you noticed the new window treatment in the Heritage Hall? The vertical blinds were purchased with proceeds from the Pilgrim Guild's fundraising sales.

Be sure to notice the cute clock in the upstairs kitchen. Now workers will know what time it is!

We also purchased a book for the church called The New Outlook on Senior Lifestyle and Care - SeniVision by Janet Louise Gibson. It is a comprehensive guide for Senior Care. The binder style guide has sections on Assessing, Planning, Facilities, Moving, Changes, and Closure.

The Pilgrim Guild would once again like to thank everyone who contributed to our Christmas Bake Sale and our Spring Plant Sale.

NEW BOOK IN RUCC LIBRARY CHECK IT OUT NOW!

Three Cups of Tea

Tom Brokaw calls this book about Greg Mortensen one of the most remarkable adventure stories of our time. Mortensen is many things, mountaineer, nurse, educator, and he brings all his skills to Pakistan and Afghanistan to build schools for the mountain children, especially the girls.



His life begins in Minnesota, proceeds to Africa, and then to the Middle East. This is a true story that reads like a novel, full of interesting characters and wonderful adventures. It is a fresh look at the same people we read about daily in the newspaper and about how one person can make a difference.—*Mary Jane Lee*



**SPECIAL EASTER OFFERING
SUNDAY, MARCH 23,
TO BENEFIT THE MUSIC
PROGRAMS OF RUCC**

“Opportunity Next Door”

We are in a period of discernment regarding the mission and outreach of Robbinsdale United Church of Christ. Will we identify low-income housing as a part of our mission? Will our passion lead us to respond to the families next door? Will we give to support this mission? Will we partner with a real estate developer to bring this vision to fruition? It is time to ask the question and receive some answers. You are invited.

**Mission Inquiry – March 2nd following worship
March 16th – Potluck with potential partner –
Plymouth Church Neighborhood Foundation
March 30th – Congregational Meeting to vote on
moving this project forward**

Please feel free to talk with a member of the Mission Task Force – Julie Manworren, Jim Puffer, Ken Barker, Kay Barker, Dan Haugen, Ken Mallek, Ken Beck, Lyn Koss, Lisa Lindesmith, Chioma Onwukwe, Brad Welton, and T. Michael Rock.

**Tuesdays w/T. – A Bible Study for Beginners
6:00 p.m.**

This is a wonderful time to explore and learn from each other about the scripture. The Bible study is designed in a way that folk are welcome to drop in from time to time, or attend every week. No homework is required, and all questions are welcome. Bible study will last one hour. This month we will continue to read and reflect on the Psalms as a reflection of faith. I believe it both important to read the Bible and also to read it in community. This is the invitation to you to come. All levels are welcome and there is child care provided. If you have any questions, please talk with T. Michael.

“LOVE LETTERS”

A Play

Performed by Bill and Diane Sowden

This is special play about best friends, true loves, and the trials and joys of following your dreams. Be ready to laugh and cry your way through this special performance by two of our most beloved friends.

Saturday, April 5, at 7:00 p.m.

Mark your calendar and please invite your friends!

Donation: \$10

All proceeds benefit the RUCC Organ Fund.

Looking Forward to Summer Bike Rides!

It's time to think of spring and getting back on the bicycle. There are many folks at RUCC who love to ride. Each Sunday this summer we will invite anyone and everyone out for Sunday afternoon bike rides of various lengths and challenge. We will also stop for ice cream along the route. It should be a great way to get the heart pumping and be able to spend some time with our church family.



I will be training for the Allianz MS Ride on May 10th in Maplewood. My sister-in-law was diagnosed with MS last December, and I'd like to ride for her cure and thousands of others. If you want to join me on that ride, go to the MS Ride web site at <http://www.nationalmssociety.org/>, find the Minnesota ride, and sign up. Our team name is “RUCC Love.” You can also pledge to sponsor me or any one of the riders. I'll also be heading somewhere else this summer to do a 150 mile ride with my brother. So, there are lots of training rides on my schedule, and it's always more fun to ride together. If you have any questions, please let me know via phone at 612-275-0387 or e-mail at tmichael@robbinsdaleucc.org

Office Staff Change at Robbinsdale United Church of Christ

It is never easy to change personnel, and even harder in the church. On February 8th, we ended the employment of our Administrative Assistant after a very careful discernment process.

So, we begin searching. Several excellent applicants have surfaced and interviews will be ongoing until we fill this position. In the meantime, volunteers are welcome and when the time comes, we will need to extend a huge welcome to our NEW Office Administrator.

If there are any questions, please talk with Rev. T. Michael Rock or a member of the Personnel Committee.

YEP 2 Ski Trip to Powder Ridge

An RUCC family and youth ski trip on March 15 — a day full of skiing, snowboarding, tubing and lots of fun.. We'll leave at noon and arrive back around 10 p.m. Everyone is invited to join this day of fun and community. Please talk with T. Michael or Tracey Fluegel if you have questions or plan on going.

March Schedule...

**INTERFAITH LEISURE AGE
9 AM. SOCIAL HOUR
12 NOON LUNCH AND PROGRAM:
Lunch Reservations Required
Elim Lutheran Church.
3748 West Broadway in Robbinsdale**

March 6: Liz Johnson and the Glitzy Chicks.
March 13: Blood pressures taken 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Easter Party with prizes and surprises. Program: Tom Dahl, singer.
March 20: **NO LEISURE AGE**. Happy Easter to all.
March 27: March Birthday Party. Program: Betty Rydell, singer and instrumentalist.

Leisure Age meets on Thursday from 9:00-2:00. Lunch costs \$8.00. It is now necessary to make reservations if you plan to attend. If you're present one week, you can sign the reservation book that is passed at the table to attend the following week. If you are not present, you can make reservations Monday 9 a.m. to noon by calling Jean Lindstrom at 763-537-1171. You may also use this number to cancel a reservation.

*If you have any questions, please contact:
Leonard Sidle, 763-504-0465
or Keith Smith, 612-588-1401*

Thanks to T. Michael for his inspirational message on Feb. 14 at Interfaith Leisure Age.

His presence as a representative of our church reaffirms our commitment to Outreach Programs in our community.—Leonard Sidle & Keith Smith



PRISM (People Responding in Social Ministry)

Since January 1, 2008, RUCC has donated 123 pounds of food and 189 pounds of used clothing and new underwear to PRISM. The recommended item for March is Diapers Size 3 and up. Dish soap, laundry soap and all food items you donate are blessings to others. Clean, used clothing in good condition, household items, children's books, toys and games are recycled, reused, and reduced (more space at home, and an A+ for you!). Thank you in

advance for sharing with PRISM through Community Outreach Ministry.

A PRISM Story

Here is one of the people that you help PRISM help Shatara* (*name changed for privacy) is a single mother of 4 children. When Shatara first came to PRISM to apply for the car ownership program, she had just started her first job after graduating from a drug treatment program. She was determined, but unsure that she could actually keep her job, stay off the drugs, and successfully raise her 4 children on her own. She passed all the requirements of the application process and was provided with a 0% loan for her car. She made her payments faithfully and stayed in contact with the case worker even though times were very hard for her. Just as she was deciding to register for college, her car broke down. She did not let this discourage her, and PRISM was able to provide her with a second loan to pay for another vehicle. She entered college and is currently taking courses to enable her to work in the area of criminal justice. Shatara was so determined to turn her life around and take responsibility for her circumstances that she not only paid off the second loan, she paid off the first loan as well. She is still in contact with PRISM as she continues raising her 4 children, holding down a job, and getting a college degree. Without a vehicle many of Shatara's successes would not have been possible.

Elizabeth Johnson
PRISM Executive Director
763-432-4201

Children's Time

Thanks to the children who have helped us think about God in new ways these past several weeks: to **Greta Bertossi** for bringing a **bandaid**, to **Emma Smith** for bringing **her blanket**, to **Sam Stoos-Tysver** for bringing a **book about Martin Luther King** and to **Christina Gilbert** for bringing a **photo of her dog Teddy**. Thank you all for putting such wonderful things in The Box! And thanks to T. Michael, Dan Haugen, Kathy Plumb and Cheryl Nordquist for **opening** the box!!





Happy Birthday!
Greetings and best wishes to all members and friends of Robbinsdale United Church of Christ who celebrate their birthdays in March.

Zoe	Chisnell	March 1
Jeanne	Angel	March 2
Rod	Giddings	March 4
Jennifer	Welter	March 5
Cathy	Lloyd	March 7
James	Dayton	March 8
Noah	Spielman	March 8
Matthew	Anderson	March 9
David	Chisnell	March 10
Eleanor	Evans	March 10
James	Geiger	March 10
David	Straight	March 10
Doug	Thompson	March 10
Zella	Fluegel-Murray	March 11
Kathy	Plumb	March 12
Paul	Amundson	March 13
LaVonne	Falk	March 13
Tim	Hoppe	March 13
Ellinor	Porter	March 15
Greg	Thompson	March 17
Jolene	Lauer	March 18
Nancy	Bossert	March 19
Kristen	Geiger	March 19
Tyler	Ward	March 19
Kathy Jo	Gausman	March 21
Oliver	Fluegel-Murray	March 23
Sophia	Bertossi	March 24
Patty	Finnemore	March 24
Jenny	Norberg	March 24
Mark	Wills	March 24
Lilja	Amundson	March 26
Rosalie	Berra	March 27
Davis	Johnson	March 27
Kyle	Pelzer	March 28
Ruthe	Hawn	March 29
Lisa	Davis	March 31

WOMEN'S GATHERING

While planning for Women's Sunday we heard many women voicing interest in **getting together** or **being together** in an ongoing way at RUCC. What might this look like? Please join us

for a gathering after church on **March 2** so that we might all brainstorm ideas for making this happen. Questions or input can be directed to Kathy Plumb (612-721-1096) or Dawn Conn (763-424-6525).

Picture Directory

We regret that the production of the picture directory has taken so long. We will let you know when we have an expected delivery date. Thank you for your patience.

—David Plumb
 for Communication and Evangelism Ministries

DESIGN THE STEPS!

As was mentioned at the Annual Meeting, the Trustees Ministry is asking any member of the congregation to submit a preliminary design or design concept for the new steps at the parking lot entrance. Please submit your sketch or layout to the Trustees prior to the March 11th meeting. Any submission must have the name and contact information of the person or team submitting the design. Please put the design in the Trustees Ministry box in the office and it will be reviewed.

This work is to be done this summer, so it is important that we come up with a working design approach to allow contractors to bid on the step replacement.



**FIND THE TIME CAPSULE?
 DESIGN A NEW ONE?**

According to the memory of several members of the congregation, when the original parking lot steps were built, a TIME CAPSULE with church memorabilia was buried in the steps or planter. When the old steps are removed, we will search the rubble to find the time capsule entombed forty years ago. If one is found, it will be opened at an appropriate ceremony at church.

The challenge now is to DESIGN a NEW time capsule and suggest and/or provide items to be included in a new time capsule! Submit your design sketches or ideas for possible contents to the Trustee Ministry so that a NEW TIME CAPSULE can be included in the new entry steps.

There is still room . . .

**Creating a Culture of Peace
Practical Nonviolence
for Personal and Social Transformation**

March 7th – 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

March 8th – 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

March 9th – Noon to 5 p.m.

Heritage Hall - Robbinsdale United Church of Christ

The cost is \$30 for members of Robbinsdale United Church of Christ and \$130 for friends and guests. All meals are covered.

What is this training about? This program has been designed to bring out the extraordinary in all people. It offers a journey through experience of violence, a practicum on active nonviolence, a study of social movements and change, and a practical exercise on how to build community. The workshop ends with planning on how to take this experience into our families, our work and into the world.

There are still spots open, come and pick up a registration form from the table in the narthex.

Teaching by Being

Dear God,

Teach me to embody those ideals

I would want my children
to learn from me.

Let me communicate
with my children wisely —
in ways

that will draw their hearts
to kindness, to decency
and to true wisdom.

Dear God,

Let me pass on to my children

only the good;

let them find in me

the values

and the behavior

I hope to see in them.

*The Gentle Weapon
Rebbe Nachman of Breslov*

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY MAY 4TH

If you would like to become a member of Robbinsdale United Church of Christ, or know someone who does, please call T. Michael at the church office, so a special invitation can come forward. New Member classes will be held on Sundays, April 20th and 27th.

**When was the last time
you checked out our website?**

www.robbinsdaleucc.org

Our webmaster, Paul Amundson, has made some great changes to our website, but we are still in need of folks to take pictures of church events and people. If you have ideas about the website or would like to be one of our official photographers, email Paul at p.amundson@usfamily.net or T. Michael at tmichael@robbinsdaleucc.org



Service of Peace During Holy Week

Wednesday, March 19, 2008

6:00 p.m. at *Holy Nativity Lutheran Church*
on Winnetka Ave. in New Hope

Our Just Peace stand calls us to remember the 6th anniversary of the start of the Iraq War. Come and join in the peaceful service of prayer and song.

Community News

MEMBERS WITH SPECIAL CONCERNS

Please keep these church friends in your prayers:

Gert Anderson
Sylvia Anderson
Jeanne Angel
Amanda Busch
Shirley Dayton
Eleanor Evans
Ken Evans
Vince Flesness
Rodney Giddings
Ruthe Hawn

Janet Johnson
Madge Johnson
Lois Larsen
Kathy Plumb
Ellinor Porter
Barbara Sexton
June Swanson
Barbara Webber
Arlene Whelan
Penny Wolfe

Our deepest sympathy to Bill and Nikki McKinley on the death of their grandson Connor McKinley.



Quilting/Talking/Playing –

Monday, March 3, April 7, May 5

If you can tie a square knot, you can “quilt.” Join us the first Monday evenings of March, April and May (anytime between 5 and 9 PM) to have fun and create a **gift of warmth** for someone at **Home Free Shelter** – the next quilt delivery will be for Mother’s Day.

Here are some words from those who have attended on Monday nights: From Nancy Bossert - “The reason that I love to come to quilting is for the creativity that I can express through colors and patterns, the compassion that I can show for those less fortunate than myself, and the community of awesome women and men who join together to become part of the tapestry of each other's and other people's lives.” And from Louiva Puffer – “As for me, its fun to work on a great project that if doing alone would take forever, but with the help of many, the work is such a delight and each handcrafted item truly unique and made with lots of love.”

April Issue...

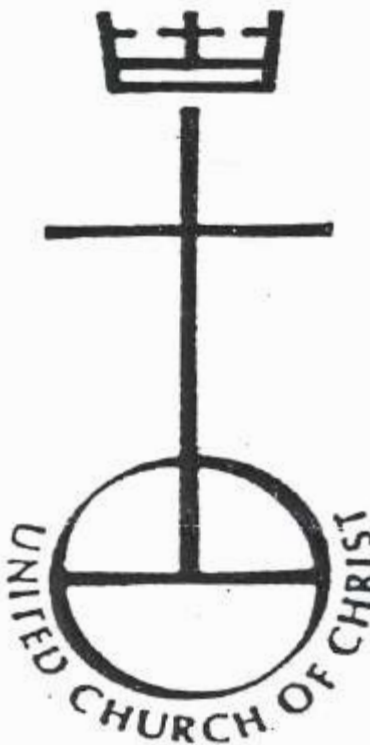
Mustard Seed



Please place all articles for the next issue of the Mustard Seed in the box marked "Mustard Seed" on the shelf inside the door to the workroom in the church office, mail them to Barbara Wills, 6214 Upland Lane No., Maple Grove 55311, or e-mail to thewillses@aol.com so that they are received by the deadline.

APRIL ISSUE DEADLINE
Sunday, March 16 , 11 a.m.
No exceptions please.

(Note: Deadline is a week earlier than usual so it doesn't fall on Easter. April issue will be mailed Friday, March 21.)



Robbinsdale United Church of Christ
4200 Lake Road
Robbinsdale, MN 55422

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