

THE MUSTARD SEED



Vol. 35, Issue 9, May, 2008, Edition

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*Coming Up...
See inside for
details*

May 4—New Members
May 4—Plant Sale
May 4—Parent
Meeting: Our Whole
Lives Curriculum
May 10—Cabaret
May 11—Luncheon for
Dwight
May 17—Cherish Our
Church Work Day
May 18—Bible
Adventures Carnival
May 18—PRISM Hot
Dog Lunch/Float
Building
May 18—AIDS Walk
May 21—Third
Wednesday: Pilgrim
Point Program

**Sign up now
for
ALL-CHURCH
RETREAT
June 13-15**

Regular Features...

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Calendar—insert

**From Your
Pastor
And
Teacher**

“To our most bitter opponents we say, “We shall match your capacity to inflict suffering with our capacity to endure suffering. We shall meet your physical force with our soul force. Do to us what you will, and we shall continue to love you. We cannot in all good conscience obey your unjust laws, because noncooperation with evil is as much a moral obligation as cooperation with the good. Throw us in jail, and we shall still love you. Bomb our homes and threaten our children and we shall still love you. Send your hooded perpetrators of violence into our community at the midnight hour and beat us and leave us half dead and we shall still love you. But be ye assured that we will wear you down by our capacity to suffer. One day we will win freedom, but not only for ourselves. We shall so appeal to your heart and conscience that we shall win you in the process, and our victory will be a double victory.”

From the sermon, “Loving Your Enemies” by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

For the past month we have explored this possibility that God saves everyone, no exceptions. We have struggled with the idea that within the concept of grace, there is no room for hell. We have journeyed to the irrational and imagined a heaven where the righteous are seated alongside the terrorists and rapists, and we have attempted to wrap our hearts and minds around the idea that God works beyond the limits of human life in God’s pursuit of creating the open table.

Well, the challenge today is to practice this belief. How are we going to lead with forgiveness and patience in our lives? How are we going to spread this message of love and inclusion to our friends and our enemies? It is our capacity to love that will make it happen. It is our capacity to return physical force with soul force that will change the world. Dr. King inspired a generation of southern blacks to take charge of the situation. His vision was that people were engaged in their lives and their suffering. There would no longer be an entire race of people who were apathetic victims of a social structure that left them behind. He also challenged the white folks to follow their faith and practice the love that they were preaching. Join in the gospel movement of liberation for America. Join in the change that will allow more and more people to be free of poverty, sickness, and injustice. Join as disciples to bring this good news to the lonely and outcast that they are not alone. Let us suffer with those who suffer, thirst with those who thirst, hunger with those who hunger. Let us show our families and our world that the practice of our faith will win us a double victory.

We can create a heaven where the lion lies down with the lamb and where all people are one. This is the promise of gospel of Jesus Christ.

See you in church, T. Michael



May Schedule

May 4, Seventh Sunday of

Easter: 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: Acts 1:6 – 14; Psalms 68:1–10, 32–35; 1 Peter 4:12–14, 5:6–11; John 17:1–11.

New Member Sunday
Guild Plant Sale

May 11, Eighth Sunday of Easter, Pentecost:

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: Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b–13; John 20:19–23.

Mother's Day
Farewell luncheon for Dwight Wagenius

May 18, Trinity Sunday:

Service at 10:00 a.m. Infant and toddler care available. Bible Adventures for children 3 years old through 5th grade 10:15 a.m. Lectionary texts: Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8; II Corinthians 13: 11–13; Matthew 28:16–20.

Bible Adventures Carnival
PRISM Hot Dog Lunch/Float Building
AIDS Walk

May 25: Service at 10:00 a.m. Infant and toddler care available. Lectionary texts: Isaiah 49:8–16a, Psalm 131, I Corinthians 4:1–5, Matthew 6:24–34.

No Bible Adventures

Worship at Robbinsdale United Church of Christ

Sometimes this is called, “silly season” in the church because of our need to squeeze every last bit of celebration and meaning out of the few remaining Sundays before people head to their backyards or cabins. We engage in that frenzy of activity here as well, but it is important to remember that each celebration also contains a depth of meaning that each of us can carry into our lives. So, when you are deciding about whether you want to tend the garden or come to church, choose to come into community. Refresh yourself in the music and meaning of this season of Spirit.

May 4th – Communion Sunday – New Members
Scripture Readings – 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

Sermon: “Community of Prayer”–Dwight Wagenius

Dwight's favorite book of prayers is Ted Loder's *Guerillas of Grace: Prayers for the Battle*. Loder alleges that pray-ers, i.e., those who pray, are guerillas of grace, and that “life itself is a prayer, and the prayers we say shape the lives we live, just as the lives we live shape the prayers we say; and it all shapes the kindom.” Dwight's going to talk about prayer.

May 11th – Pentecost Sunday

Farewell to Student Minister, Dwight Wagenius
Scripture Reading – Acts 2:1-21

Sermon: “The Holy Spirit” – Rev. T. Michael Rock

This is one of the most important Sundays of the year because it reminds us of the everlasting presence of God in our communication. Our language is often the source of our meaning. Come and welcome the Holy Spirit into your language on this amazing morning. Don't forget to wear red.

May 18th – Trinity Sunday – Strengthen the Church Offering - Choir Recognition

Scripture Reading – Genesis 1:1 – 2:4a

Sermon: “Creation Continues” – Rev. T. Michael Rock

Did you ever wonder why theologians came up with the concept of the Trinity? Did you ever contemplate the value of God, Jesus, and Spirit? Which one is better? Who do we pray to? Why does it make any difference at all? Come and discover a new way to look at an old concept.

May 25th

Scripture Readings – Isaiah 49:8-16a and Matthew 6:24-34

Sermon: “Living Without Worry”

It's Memorial Day weekend and even though some of us will be at the lake, it is important to remember that we will be worshipping here at RUCC every week. Rain, snow, sleet, or summer sunshine won't stop the need for some to renew their faith each week in worship. This Sunday we will send our prayers to those we love who are worshipping elsewhere, and look at the way we see the world through the eyes of the prophet and simple message of the gospel.

Note from Our Student Minister

Dwight Wagenius

Gentlefolk:

My internship with you is nearing its end. I have most recently enjoyed exploring with you solutions and action plans for responding to the major challenge of our age, climate change due to global warming. I have enjoyed our environmental conversations and wish you well as leaders in this community's response to the challenge.

I have one more opportunity in your pulpit and in worship leadership. I also look forward to joining you at the Cabaret on my penultimate day here.

You have welcomed me, befriended me, challenged me, inspired me, critiqued me, timed me, explored with me, and borne with my fumbling as I grew and learned. Thank you.

I also thank Ted Loder for help in expressing my feelings at this time. As I write this and you read it, I teeter on the brink of an ending, an ending that is anticipated, resisted, inevitable, and painful. The mystery of it quiets me to awe. I feel a curious blend of grief at the ending and gladness at the experience here. I listen for God's leading to help me through this time of letting go so the timeless may take hold of me.

Peace,
Dwight

Don't Miss This!! . . .

2008 CABARET Saturday, May 10

*Once upon a time there was a tavern,
Where we used to raise a glass or two.
Remember how we laughed away the hours,
And dreamed of all the great things we would do.
Those were the days, my friends, I thought they'd
never end....*

Don't look now, but we've matured!!!!

**On May 10, at 6:00 p.m., RUCC will present
Cabaret: Those Were the Days
Food and Music of the 60s.**

Do you remember, Petula Clark, Leslie Gore,
Barbra Streisand, Johnny Cash, Ray Charles, Peter,

Paul and Mary, the Supremes and, of course, the Beatles, among many others?

For dinner, Delectable Culinary Delights will include a Beef Dish, Chicken Cordon Bleu, and a Vegetarian Dish, cooked up by Kathy Jo Gausman, Patty Miller, and their able associates.

Cost for the Cabaret night of dinner and entertainment:


\$15 per person

\$25 per couple

Tickets must be purchased by Sunday, May 4! Due to seating capacity, there will be a limited number of tickets available. There will be no unreserved tickets at the door!

Call your groups together, buy your tickets, and come to the Cabaret. (If you're not going to be around on Sunday, May 4, to purchase your tickets, you may also call the church office at 763-537-6969. Your *reserved* dinner tickets will be available for pickup at the door.) All proceeds will go toward the purchase of a new, much needed dishwasher for the RUCC kitchen.

Biking at Robbinsdale United Church of Christ

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.

You are also invited to join the RUCC bike team on Saturday, May 10, for the Allianz MS Ride. It is an easy 30 mile or 60 mile ride. All you have to do is sign on to the MS Ride website and sign up under our team, RUCC Love. It should be a great way to extend our community this summer and help raise money for this important cause.

A heartfelt THANK YOU!
**for your generous donations to the special
offering on Easter Sunday dedicated for
RUCC music programs.
Over \$1900 was collected for music
programs to enrich our worship.**

**HEAR ABOUT PILGRIM POINT CAMP
AT THIRD WEDNESDAY PROGRAM,
Wednesday, May 21**

The Faith Formation Ministry, in collaboration with the Family Camp Organizers, warmly welcomes U.C.C.'s new Pilgrim Point Camp Director Dale Dressler to our Third Wednesday program on May 21!

Say yes to an early start to the summer season tastes and aromas of delicious campfire-roasted hotdogs, scrumptious chocolatey S'mores and a spiritually celebrated sing-along around the campfire hearth with T. Michael. Come join us and bring your own Pilgrim Point camp memories to share or just come and listen to others and meet Dale. Who knows maybe you'll be inspired to sign up for Family Camp.

So, mark your calendar now for Wednesday, May 21, at RUCC, beginning at 6:30 p.m. (Just think no cooking!) Also, if you'd like, bring your favorite camping chair (not mandatory). *Guests are always welcome!*

For more information, contact Patty Miller at 763-588-9699 or PLMillerDA@aol.com (*Psst. It's Kaira's birthday!*)

**All Church Retreat Scheduled for June 13-15
REST, RELAX, AND RENEW!**

It's almost time to **REST, RELAX, AND RENEW** yourself and your spirit. The fifth annual RUCC All-Church Retreat is scheduled for June 12, 14, and 15. The location is at our very own Pilgrim Point Camp on beautiful Lake Ida near Alexandria.

This is a fabulous weekend designed just for you to rest, relax, and renew your relationships with God, yourself, and the other members of our church community.

For a registration form call the church office or contact Angie Schultz at 763-535-4617 or by email: egadschultz@comcast.net.

So that we can effectively plan the retreat, please submit your registration no later than May 21.

Women Gather Sunday, May 4

All RUCC women are invited to gather on Sunday, May 4, after church for lunch and informal

conversation about mothers and other important women in our lives.

Lunch will be potluck. Please bring something to share and your own plate and utensils. We want to keep it as easy as possible for all!

**Mark Your Calendar
for Cherish Our Church Day**

Our next Cherish

Our Church event will be on Saturday, May 17, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Many hands make



light work! Sign up in the gathering space. Please bring some buckets, rags, soap, cleansers, and elbow grease! Lunch will be provided by the Trustees. See any Trustee if you have questions.

**Coordinating Council
April 15, 2008**

*May 11 is Dwight Wagenius' last Sunday. The Council thanked him for sharing his talents at RUCC. He expressed his sincere thanks for the experience. He said he had some scary moments but always was supported!

A new student minister, Frank Bennett, has been selected

It was voted at the congregational meeting on March 30 to move forward with the Opportunity Next Door feasibility study. A new committee is being formed to continue the process.

*New Member Sunday is May 4: 14 joining.

*Installation of new dishwasher will be scheduled for summer. Other deferred maintenance issues include water softener, water valves, toilet repair/replacement.

*Trustees are looking into designating specific storage area for each ministry. Ministries should let Trustees know what their storage needs are.

*Requests for funds from Endowment Fund distribution are due May 14.

Mother's Day recognition: Please give generously to support Home Free Battered Women's Shelter in recognition of the special "mother" in your life! Make a donation in any amount and a gift certificate will be issued in her name. Community Outreach members will be in the narthex through Sunday, May 4, to receive your donations.



Happy Birthday!

Greetings and best wishes to all members and friends of Robbinsdale United Church of Christ who celebrate their birthdays in May.

| | | | |
|--------|-----------|-----|----|
| Nathan | Syverson | May | 2 |
| Amanda | Sonquist | May | 3 |
| Brad | Welton | May | 3 |
| Jeff | Paulsen | May | 9 |
| John | Paulsen | May | 9 |
| Jim | Puffer | May | 12 |
| Nathan | Rock | May | 14 |
| Erica | Schultz | May | 17 |
| Cesar | Berra | May | 18 |
| Stan | Atkinson | May | 19 |
| Will | Ihle | May | 19 |
| Kaira | Miller | May | 21 |
| Rosie | Busch | May | 22 |
| Finn | Rogan | May | 23 |
| Skip | Wills | May | 23 |
| Amy | Hodgson | May | 24 |
| Jean | Hosterman | May | 24 |
| Gavin | Schultz | May | 27 |
| Katie | Haugen | May | 28 |
| Peter | Straight | May | 29 |



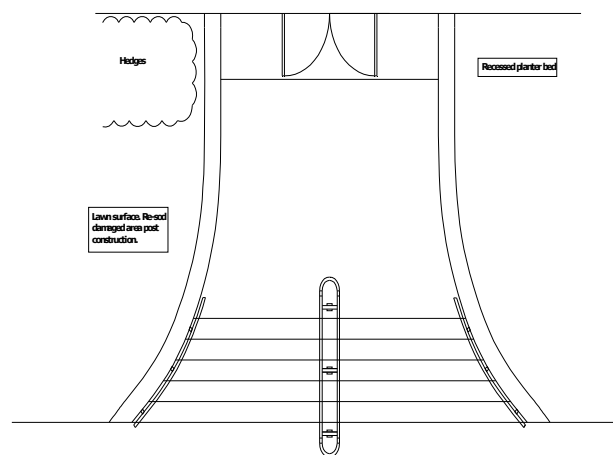
QUILTING, MONDAY, MAY 5

Please join us for the last Monday evening of tying quilts until next fall. The quilts created this winter will be blessed and delivered to Home Free Women's Shelter in May. Come join the fun and casual time together! Come any time between 5 and 9 p.m. We meet in Heritage Hall.

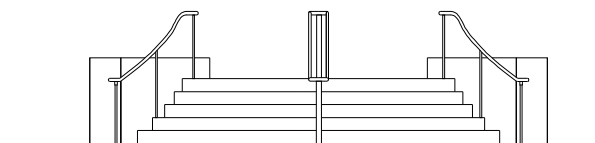
Capital Campaign Update from the Trustees

Spring is finally here, and it's time to get things started again on the entry step renovations. We received some input from the church membership on the possible design for the new entry and have incorporated that input into a conceptual sketch that we will be taking to local contractors for pricing. If pricing based on our conceptual sketch seems to fall in line with the budget that we have to do the renovation, we will be moving forward with the renovation later this spring and into the summer. We hope that everyone is as excited as we are to see a new entry to our church!

This is a quick view of the current conceptual sketch.



2a Conceptual plan sketch - new stair
1/8"=1'-0"



2b Conceptual elevation sketch - new stair
1/8"=1'-0"

May Schedule...

INTERFAITH LEISURE AGE

9 AM. SOCIAL HOUR

12 NOON LUNCH AND PROGRAM:

Lunch Reservations Required

Elim Lutheran Church.

3748 West Broadway in Robbinsdale

May 1—Goskeson and Company, gospel, country, bluegrass music.

The Rev. T. Michael Rock will be leading the chapel service at Leisure Age on Thursday, May 1. Please join him that day for chapel, a fine meal, and entertainment!

May 8—Gary Martens with old time country music.

May 15—Blood pressures taken 9:30-11:30 a.m. Program: Singer and entertainer David Allen.

May 22—Florence Schaffer presents “Reflections of Life Through Music.”

May 29—May Birthday Party. Program: Country singer and guitarist Marie Louise.

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

Robbinsdale WHIZ BANG DAYS

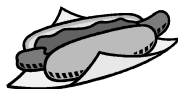
July 13, 2008

RUCC: Let's be in the parade! Hand out candy and walk alongside our float. A float in the parade, you say? Let's build a float. Come after the Bible Adventures Carnival on May 18 to eat a hot dog, raise money for PRISM, and stuff tissue in a chicken wire replica of RUCC. We will have a great time building this art project, but an even greater time spreading the good news of Robbinsdale United Church of Christ to our community. Please talk with T. Michael if you would like to help with frame construction. *See also following article for more details.*

FUN, FOOD, FELLOWSHIP, AND A FLOAT!

FUN: What could be more fun than gathering with friends after church?

FOOD: What could taste better than a grilled hot dog--especially for a good cause?



FELLOWSHIP: What better feeling than joining together with fellow RUCCer's in a community-building project?

FLOAT: No, not a root beer float. A parade float!

The Community Outreach Ministry invites you to mark Sunday, May 18, on your calendar. We will be getting together to enjoy all the above activities. Following worship, we invite you to join us for grilled hot dogs outside the Fellowship Hall (weather permitting) In the event of inclement weather we will move inside, so bring your appetite either way. There will be a free will donation, with proceeds going to PRISM.

Now for the float. The Community Outreach Ministry is planning to build and enter a float in the Whiz Bang Days parade in mid-July. We are looking for people who would like to help us build this float. We hope to have the basic structure nearly completed by May 18. We are planning to create the roof line of the church complete with the cross. We would like all chicken-wire sculptors to join us after your hot dogs to help create this masterpiece which was designed by none other than T. Michael-Angelo. You need not be a master sculptor to participate--we welcome all levels of skill and participation.

We hope to see you after worship on May 18. If you have any questions, please contact T. Michael or a member of the Community Outreach Ministry. Members are: Laura Conn Anderson, Kate Menendez, Kristin Sonquist, Jim Dahlberg, Sheri Beck, Vicki Nicole, and Jim Gausman.

Last Call to Donate

New Pew Bibles

To all those who have donated for the purchase of new pew Bibles, thank you!



The Bibles will be ordered soon and dedicated in September at the Great Fall Get-Together.

To those who would still like to donate: Please call Skip Wills at 763-559-5924 for details before May 10.

Pilgrim Guild Plant Sale

The annual Spring Plant Sale will be Sunday, May 4, All are invited to donate healthy indoor or outdoor plants. Come share your plants and purchase others!

**Our Whole Lives: Sexuality and Our Faith
PARENT ORIENTATION**

May 4, 2008 – 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.

This meeting is for parents of youth entering grades 8-10 in the fall. The teachers for the program are Dale Fisher, Tracey Fluegel and Jackie Johnson. T. Michael will also be helping along the way. This is a mandatory meeting for parents who want their child to participate in this first year of our Confirmation program. Please talk with T. Michael if you have any questions or know someone who may be interested.

YEP 2 at RUCC

City Mission Clean Up

Leave right after church on May 18 to go downtown and clean up some vacant land. We'll work rain or shine in order to bring life to our city. Our site will be determined by the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches. Bring gloves and a great attitude.

Future Events

Valley Fair Trip – Tuesday, July 1st – ALL DAY

Sr. High Mission Trip to Chicago – July 9-13

(Get your registration form in today)

Jr. High Urban Immersion – July 23-26

(Pick up registration for you and a friend on Sunday)

Staff Helpers VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

August 25-29

As always, talk with T. Michael or Tracey Fluegel if you have any questions.

Honoring our Graduates

On Sunday, June 1, we'll honor the graduates of RUCC. If you know of anyone who is celebrating this achievement in life please let the church office know. Whether it is pre-school or doctoral studies or anything in between, your church family wants to celebrate this event with you.



Summer Worship at RUCC

Do you feel called to tell your story? There are openings in the summer schedule for preaching and sharing a summer witness. Please talk with T. Michael or a member of the Worship Ministry when you are prepared to answer that call.

Community News

BAPTISM

Riley Owen Rogan and Finley Carter Rogan were baptized on Sunday, April 20. They are the sons of Kate Menendez and Dan Rogan.

SPECIAL CONCERNS

Please keep these members and friends in your thoughts and prayers.

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Gert Anderson | Janet Johnson |
| Sylvia Anderson | Madge Johnson |
| Jeanne Angel | Lois Larsen |
| Pat Bobleter | Kathy Plumb |
| Jane Boggs | Ellinor Porter |
| Lois Bossert | Barbara Sexton |
| Amanda Busch | June Swanson |
| Shirley Dayton | Barbara Webber |
| Ken Evans | Arlene Whelan |
| Rodney Giddings | Penny Wolfe |
| Ruthe Hawn | Joan Young |

Everything I need to know about life, I learned from Noah's Ark: One: Don't miss the boat. Two: Remember we are all in the same boat. Three: Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark. Four: Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big. Five: Don't listen to critics. Just get on with the job that needs to be done. Six: Build your future on high ground. Seven: For safety's sake, travel in pairs. Eight: Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs. Nine: When you're stressed, float for a while. Ten: Remember, the ark was built by amateurs, the Titanic by professionals. Eleven: No matter the storm, when you are with God there is always a rainbow.

RUCC Financial Corner

(Through March 31, 2008)

| | Year to date | Budgeted | Difference |
|---------------|--------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Income: | 69,664.46 | 63,555.00 | 6,109.46 |
| Expenses: | 60,086.45 | 63,848.29 | 3,761.84 |
| TOTAL: | | | 9,871.30 |

Climate Change Art Exhibit

A textile art exhibit entitled Climate Change is currently at the gallery at the Textile Center, 3000 University Ave. S.E. (between the main U. of M. campus and Hwy. 280). Dawn Carlson Conn is one of thirteen women who make up the Fiber Artists Study Group who created this show. They say, "We believe art can be a compelling way to visually demonstrate social, political and environmental issues. In fiber art, images and symbols become a powerful tool for raising awareness and increasing consciousness. FASG members hope the art in this exhibition will move those who see it to act in ways that conserve, protect and save our magnificent planet and all of its creatures." The show will continue through May 31. Gallery hours are Mon. -Thurs. - 10-7; Fri. & Sat. 10-5.

June Issue. . .

Mustard Seed



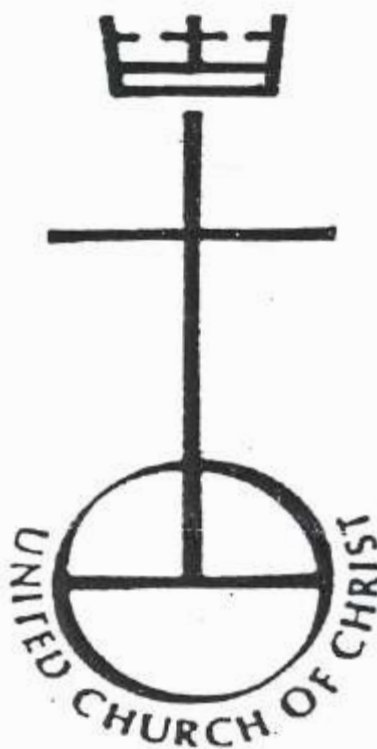
Please place all articles for the next issue of the Mustard Seed in the box marked "Mustard Seed" on the shelf inside the door to the workroom in the church office, mail them to Barbara Wills, 6214 Upland Lane No., Maple Grove 55311, or e-mail to thewillses@aol.com so that they are received by the deadline.

JUNE ISSUE DEADLINE

Sunday, May 25 , 11 a.m.

No exceptions please.

(June issue will be mailed Friday, May 30.)



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

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