

THE MUSTARD SEED



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Robbinsdale United Church of Christ • 4200 Lake Road • Robbinsdale, Minnesota 55422 • 763-537-6965 • Fax: 763-537-6477
Web site address: <http://www.robbinsdaleucc.org> • E-mail address: office@robbinsdaleucc.org

Coming Up...

See inside for
details

Tuesdays—Bible Study
Nov. 2—Communion
Breakfast
Nov. 2—New Members
Nov. 9, 16—Steward-
ship & Consecration
Sundays
Nov. 9—2nd Sunday
Lunch & Program
Nov. 9—High School
Youth Movie &
Pizza Night
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School Youth Movie
& Pizza Night

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insert

Let us thank God
for our many
blessings.



Happy Thanksgiving!

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From Your
Pastor
And
Teacher

While I was attending the Homiletics Festival last May I went to hear a sermon by a pastor/dreamer/marathon runner from Ohio who had taken a small church from one hundred to four thousand members. His title at the congregation had changed from “pastor and teacher” to “chief dreamer”. The main thrust for his ministry was to travel in the world of the possible as he understood how God was calling him to be in ministry. In the biblical example, “anything is possible.”

One of the dreams that came to him through prayer and meditation was the humble beginnings of the Christ’s birth and how it ushered in a new possibility. The dream moved him to proclaim this truth in his congregation.

“Christmas – It’s Not YOUR Birthday”

The challenge in the dream was to help his congregation remember that the birth of Jesus was about changing our relationship to God to be more personal and more loving. It was not about going into debt to provide more toys, books, or wool sweaters for your family. It was about God being vulnerable enough to be like us in a new way.

So, the congregation in Ohio was given this reminder and this challenge. Whatever you spend on your family and friends this Christmas, give as much to the poor. Match your giving to your faith. For me and my family it means giving less to each other and more to PRISM or more to my friends in Pine Ridge, South Dakota. What does this mean for your family? Some people may choose to give to the church, but we are not the poor. If you give to the church, our response will be to turn that around and give it away to one of our local mission partners.

I know one family that limits the gifts for their children and grandchildren to one meaningful, often homemade, item, and then they donate a large portion to the local food shelf. I know another family that gives three small gifts to their children in reference to the gifts the wise men gave to Jesus, then the whole family works on Christmas at the local shelter. The creative ways to engage in Christmas are never ending. I promise that your faith and family will grow the more that you remember to celebrate Christmas – It’s Not YOUR Birthday – with your family and friends. Remember the old camp song, “They’ll know we are Christians by our love.” This is how we will show the world that we follow the ways of justice and love for ALL God’s Children.

See you in church,
T. Michael



November Schedule

November 2. Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time. Worship at 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion. Infant and Toddler Care available. Bible Adventures for children 3 year olds through 2nd grade, from 10:15-11:15 a.m. Lectionary texts: Joshua 3: 7-17 or Micah 3: 5-12; Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37 or Psalm 43; I Thessalonians 2: 9-13; Matthew 23: 1-12.

November 9. Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time. Worship at 10:00 a.m. Infant and Toddler Care available. Bible Adventures for children 3 year olds through 5th grade from 10:15-11:15 a.m. Lectionary texts: Joshua 24: 1-3a, 14-25 or Song of Solomon 6:12-16 & Amos 5: 18-24; I Thessalonians 4: 13-18; Matthew 25: 1-13.

November 16. Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time. Service at 10:00 a.m. Infant and Toddler Care available. Bible Adventures for children 3 year olds through 5th grade, from 10:15 - 11:15 a.m. Lectionary texts: Judges 4: 1-7 or Zephaniah 1: 7, 12-18; Psalm 123 or Psalm 90: 1-8, (9-11), 12; I Thessalonians 5: 1-11; Matthew 25: 14-30.

November 23. Reign of Christ Sunday. 28th Sunday after Pentecost. Service at 10:00 a.m. Infant and Toddler Care available. Bible Adventures for children 3 year olds through 5th grade, from 10:15 - 11:15 a.m. Lectionary texts: Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100 or Psalm 95: 1-7a; Ephesians 1: 15-23; Matthew 25: 31-46.

November 30. First Sunday in Advent. Service at 10:00 a.m. Infant and Toddler Care available. Bible Adventures for children 3 year olds through 5th grade, from 10:15 - 11:15 a.m. Lectionary texts: Deuteronomy 8: 7-18; Psalm 65; II Corinthians 9: 6-15; Luke 17: 11-19.

Worship in November

This month is a preparation month. The squirrels are gathering nuts and berries for a long winter, the fish are swimming lower and slower to prepare for the ice. Even our homes are asking for another level of insulation against the breezes and

snow. How do we prepare our faith for this season? How do we get ready to find meaning in a busy Christmas season? The first thing to do is get motivated on Sunday morning and go to church and invest in the warmth and love of your church family. The rate of return is amazing.

November 2nd – COMMUNION SUNDAY / NEW MEMBER SUNDAY / BAPTISM OF ROSARIA BUSCH / BLUEGRASS GOSPEL MUSIC

Scripture: Joshua 3:7-17

Sermon: “Again and Again” – Rev. T. Michael Rock

The Exodus people have lasted 40 years in the wilderness. They have multiplied greatly during those generations, and they are at the brink of entering the promised land. What is the message as we enter this new way of being? How will our lives change when realize that we belong to this great return home? As we celebrate sacraments and welcome new members, you can be certain that this SHORT sermon will pack in a lifetime of meaning.

November 9th – STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
Sermon: “An Attitude of Gratitude”– Rev. James Pennington, Guest Preacher

James is the Pastor at Spirit of the Lakes United Church of Christ in Minneapolis and a friend of T. Michael’s. James brings an appreciation for worship, liturgy and authentic faith to our pulpit today. His message of gospel welcome and responsibility to our community will be a highlight of our Stewardship season.

November 16th – CONSECRATION SUNDAY

Scripture: Matthew 25:31-46

Sermon: “How Will We Know?”– Rev. T. Michael Rock with Nancy and Clare Bossert

We will consecrate our pledges this Sunday and remind each other of our faithfulness and gratefulness. This Sunday we celebrate generosity, not just with our money, but with our lives. Nancy and Clare will give us a wonderful insight into living as stewards and the understanding that whatever we do for the “least of these,” that is what we do to God. With joy and enthusiasm let us lift our hearts to God.

Continued from page 2

November 23rd – QUESTION AND ANSWER SUNDAY

Scripture: Psalm 100 and Ephesians 1:15-23

Sermon: “Power and Doubt” – Rev. T. Michael Rock

We all have barriers that get in the way of living faithfully. Most have to do with fear, and all of those barriers prevent a deeper faith experience. This Sunday you get permission to ask “Why” in reference to all your barriers. Why do bad things happen to good people? Why is there disease and suffering? Why is the Bible so confusing and even harmful? These questions are all barriers to deeper faith. You are safe here to ask those questions and receive compassion.

November 30th – FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Scripture: Mark 13:24-37

Sermon: “Vocation, Vocation, Vocation”– Frank Bennett

It is the beginning of Advent and vocation is everywhere. Mary, mother of Jesus, is given a vocation; Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist, is given a vocation; Jesus is given a vocation; even Zechariah was given a vocation of mute witness. So what is our vocation? Frank will endeavor to share a bit of his vocational discernment with you and his questions about his vocation. After the service everyone who is so inclined is welcome to gather in Heritage Hall for an informal discussion. The subject will be “What is vocation and where do we find it.”

**Tuesdays w/T: A Bible Study for Beginners
6 p.m. Every Tuesday—The Theology of Paul**

This month we explore the texts from 1 Corinthians and learn about how Paul dealt with the early divisions of the church and how that formed his thinking of “living in Christ.” This Bible Study is open to everyone with all levels of experience. There will be lively discussion and a wonderful opportunity to discover our faith in a new way. There is no homework, and all that is required is that you come open to our Still Speaking God.

Special Satellite Bible Study

**November 25th at Waterford – Noontime
(bring your own lunch)**

Congratulation to Dawn Carlson Conn

Dawn was received “in-care” of the Minnesota Conference as she moves through the process of Authorized Ministry as a Commissioned

Minister for Liturgical Arts. Dawn’s ministry is known and celebrated here at RUCC, and we are proud and honored that she moving through this process. We look forward to supporting Dawn’s leadership and creative energies in the weeks and months to come.

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

At Robbinsdale United Church of Christ

February 6th – 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

February 7th – 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

February 8th – Noon to 5 p.m.

The cost is \$50 for members of Robbinsdale United Church of Christ and \$150 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.

Twelve members of Robbinsdale United Church of Christ went through this course last March, and the deep desire was that we offer it again and again for anyone who desires growth and change in their lives.

**Announcements Are Important,
But Please Plan Ahead!**

The Worship Ministry requests that short announcements regarding events/activities be submitted for the Sunday bulletin by noon on Wednesday each week to Steve Quesnel at Sque104138@aol.com. Second, please keep Sunday oral announcements brief. Third, please submit longer announcements to be printed in the monthly *Mustard Seed* to Barbara Wills at thewillses@aol.com by the deadline. The next deadline is published in each month’s *Mustard Seed* and each week’s Sunday bulletin. The December *Mustard Seed* deadline is November 23.

Thanks for helping improve church communications, allowing all to plan better and make worship services more meaningful.

Welcome These New Members On November 2nd

Bob Alvord

4300 Robbins Landing, #202
Robbinsdale, Minnesota 55422

Bob grew up in the Methodist church and has been active in Christian community his whole life. His most recent church has been Spirit Garage, an alternative Lutheran ministry in South Minneapolis. Bob is often walking and driving through the neighborhood and has noticed our church for a long time. The spirit moved him to visit just a few weeks ago and he immediately felt at home. Bob hopes to be involved in our church mission, Pilgrim Guild, and maybe even singing in the choir.

Bill Delano

3200 46th Ave. N.
Robbinsdale, MN 55422

Bill has been visiting RUCC for a couple of years with his son Charlie. They have loved the welcome and the wonderful children's program. Bill is passionate about social justice, the environment, and helping to make sure people are treated fairly. You can often see Bill commuting back and forth to work on his bike. Bill grew up in a military family traveling around the world and worked as a federal agent for many years. Settling his family, Lisa and Charlie, in Robbinsdale has helped him feel at home. Bill is transferring his membership from Parkway United Church of Christ.

Laura Dumont

4318 France Ave.
Robbinsdale, MN 55422

Laura grew up in an active church family in the Lutheran tradition. She is the mother of 17 month old twins, Sofia and Charlie. Laura worked as an early childhood educator before being blessed with kids. She brings a wealth of talent and enthusiasm to our congregation. She likes to sing, write, knit, read, cook, do yoga, and generally is enjoying life. It didn't take long for Laura to feel at home at RUCC and we welcome her faith and her healing journey in our midst.

Ben Talberg

3340 Drew Ave. N., Apt. 10
Robbinsdale, MN 55422

Ben was introduced to the UCC by a close friend in Iowa as he was searching for a church to fulfill his call to serve God. Ben is a recent college graduate in computer science, works in Plymouth, and is exploring a vocation in ministry by taking classes at Crown College. Ben has already joined the choir, helped out with Bible Adventures, and is looking forward to engaging even more. If you are curious about the old cars in the parking lot, talk with Ben about his restoration of his '79 Benz or '81 Volkswagen truck.

THE MEANING OF THE SACRAMENT

This summer I was caught in a wonderful conversation about the meaning of communion. This is a sacred meal that can be packed with meaning and transformational possibilities. Too often we pass it by as "normal" or "regular" and miss the significance of how it can connect us to community. My conversation partner reminded me that the biblical communion meal takes place at the end of the meal. The precursor to the meal is conversation, building the community and sharing stories. So, here is the invitation to Communion Breakfast:



November 2

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

Full breakfast prepared by Willa Truehart
will be served in the Fellowship Hall.

A free will offering will be accepted.

Because this Communion Breakfast is also on *Bluegrass Music Sunday*, it will be a great way to introduce your friends and neighbors to RUCC.

If you have any questions, please talk with T. Michael.



Don't forget to VOTE on November 4!

Stewardship

The World of the Generous Gets Larger and Larger

I don't know about you but for a good portion of my church life, stewardship was about discomfort, guilt and others telling me that I should give more to the church. It was about scarcity and the need to make a church budget. I don't know exactly when it happened, but I changed my perspective on stewardship and pledging.

Today I see stewardship as a celebration and an opportunity. Does celebrating having less money for me make me crazy? I hope not.

What happens when we give of the treasures God has loaned to us? What does our money do?

Robbinsdale United Church of Christ can heat and light a building that provides a sacred space for us to worship together and reach out in ministry:

- to our own community of seniors, adults and youth who need each other to listen together to hear the Still Speaking God,
- to people around the world who live without the things we count as basic to our lives,
- to those in our community whose lives came with difficult challenges they can't overcome alone.

The Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ can reach out in ministry:

- to provide Minnesota UCC churches with spiritual resources the help us grow in faith and to make our ministries more effective,
- to help adults and youth connect with God through an outdoor camping experience,
- to provide Minnesota UCC churches with organizational training and resources to be more effective and efficient,
- to partner with local organizations such as the Minnesota Council of Churches change laws and conditions that make it so difficult for many people to get out of poverty.

The National Office of the United Church of Christ can reach out in ministry:

- to develop worship and education resources for UCC congregations,
- to people in 85 countries by partnering with other churches.

Our time, talent and financial treasures do make our world larger and larger. Together we can do so much more than we can do alone.

This year the Coordinating Council asked each ministry to prepare a budget that would allow them to do the ministry we at Robbinsdale want to do. The Trustees compiled these "Challenge"

Budgets for 2009 and the Coordinating Council approved that budget. Our opportunity is to provide the time, talent and money to make the ministry of the Challenge Budget a reality.

The total Challenge Budget for 2009 is \$310,914. Pledges would provide \$291,479 of that money. This is a 20% increase (\$48,991) in the pledge portion of the budget over 2008. Most of this increase will come from the following items:

- Gas for heating was way under budgeted last year due to a CenterPoint Energy billing error. The gas budget was \$4,500 in '08 and the real cost is expected to be \$14,800 in '09.
- Running Bible Adventures has taken a major commitment from a few dedicated members. To continue this program at the current level, we need a staff leader. The challenge budget includes a part-time Christian Education (CE) person. This would be a new position. The salary and expenses for 9 months add \$20,000.
- As the operating budget goes up so does the OCWM pledge. The most recent congregation decision was to make OCWM 10% of budgeted expenses. OCWM in the Challenge Budget would be \$4,929 higher.

As you can see, these items are not additional frills but basics of our ministry at RUCC.

I have not lived in a time that needed Christian values, leadership and ministry more than now. The current economic conditions that have pinched each of us have pulled the rug out from under many living on the edge of poverty and in poverty. This is a time to grow, not reduce, our ministry with these people. We can grow our world larger and larger through prayer and stewardship when we choose to do it.

Jim Puffer

Chair, Stewardship Committee

ALMS BOX. . . Giving Alms (money) to the poor has been a practice of the faithful for hundreds of years. The Community Outreach Ministry has heard a request from the congregation that we should have such a box set out on Sunday mornings and anytime we gather to eat together as a reminder that we need to be mindful of those who have a hard time putting food on their tables. Please look for the Alms Box and remember to put a dollar or two in the box anytime you have the chance. It is a wonderful reminder for us all.

COORDINATING COUNCIL

October 21, 2008

*Treasurer: To date pledge income is significantly behind the budgeted amount. (See article elsewhere in this issue.)

*There are 5 prospective new members who have attended new member classes.

*Vicki Nicole returns to job of church custodian.

*The Robbinsdale Historical Society placed a plaque at the site (County Rd. 81 and 42nd Ave. N.) of the original First Congregational Church of Robbinsdale, now RUCC.

*Picture Directory: Due to be shipped Nov. 10 and distributed on Nov. 16.

*New dishwasher: Please see instructions for use (with pictures) on the wall behind the dishwasher.

*Opportunity Next Door: The final report was received from Plymouth Church Neighborhood Foundation. (See article below.)

*25 and 50 year members to be honored on Oct. 26.

*Beckie Bernu, who has been "in care" with RUCC, passed her examination for preparation for ordination.

*Mission Fair on Oct. 19 went well, kicking off our Christmas theme: It's Not YOUR Birthday. Whatever you spend at home, give that much away.

Robbinsdale United Church of Christ:

Our Mission to Assist with Low-Income Housing

One year ago we started the conversation about the possible purchase of the 11 townhomes next door to the church. We have done a great deal of research about our mission, the availability of the property and the access to public funding. The recommendation for now is that Plymouth Church Neighborhood Foundation (PCNF) and RUCC not move forward with this project at this time because the gap between the cost of the project and our availability of public funds is over \$300,000. In the future, funding sources may increase, new funding sources may become available, or the seller may lower her price. These circumstances would certainly allow PCNF and RUCC to reconsider this project.

Many people worked very hard and we thank them for their ministry. This was a deliberate and prayer filled process and we are grateful for everyone involved.

The Coordinating Council heard the report at their last meeting and passed this motion:

We acknowledge the receipt of a very thorough report from (PCNF) with great

appreciation for a job well done by our committee and by our friends at the PCNF. The council regards this as an excellent investment in the future of the church.

The time and energy that the Opportunity Next Door Committees (both Phase I and Phase II) have not been wasted over these past few months. RUCC's passion for low-income housing has been made stronger. That passion has now been shared with four churches in the Robbinsdale area. A door has been opened with these other congregations that can have a profound impact on any future project we decide to undertake. We have also built a strong relationship with PCNF that can extend beyond this opportunity RUCC has right next door.

If anyone would like to see a full copy of the report submitted by the Plymouth Church Neighborhood Foundation, one can be e-mailed to you or you can pick it up in the church office. If you have any questions, please talk with Ken Beck, Julie Manworren or T. Michael.

DID YOU NOTICE THE FABRIC?

The Worship Ministry has been pleased during October to present the liturgical year in fabric in a large graphic on the Gathering Space wall. We are grateful for the creative ideas and energies of Mary Ann Mead and John Rost. You can explore the fabric sculpture and accompanying notes which explain the concepts behind the different colors used throughout the year. The sculpture is proportional to the amount of time occupied by each season of the church year. Please take a closer look.

In addition, Mary Ann Mead and Dawn Conn created the fabric waterfall in the sanctuary with which we have been blessed this past month as well.

Watch for new visual accents throughout the stewardship campaign and in Advent.

When was the last time you checked out our website at www.robbsdaleuucc.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, e-mail Paul at p.amundson@usfamily.net or T. Michael at tmichael@robbsdaleuucc.org

Faith Community Nursing in Action

Learn about Health Care Advance Directives

November 9, 2008, at 11:30 am

Faith Community Nursing and Faith Formation are co-sponsoring the November *Second Sunday* event. Please join us for lunch and an informative session regarding **Health Care Advance Directives/Living Wills** after church, on Sunday, November 9th. Amy Papenhausen, an attorney from the Hennepin County Bar Association, will speak to our group and provide important information for all of us. She will also address questions we may have. All members of the congregation can benefit from hearing about this topic! Discussions among our family members and decisions made together now may affect our health care or a loved one's health care later. Plus, Kathy Jo and Willa will provide us with a wonderful meal. We hope that many of you will plan on attending this event.

One of the purposes of the Faith Community Nursing group is to provide health education.

Tips for Raising Active Kids

Over the past two decades, the number of overweight adolescents has tripled. The habits that lead to skyrocketing childhood obesity figures start early in life. According to a recently published study in *The Lancet*, the average 3-year-old gets just 20 minutes of vigorous physical activity each day, well short of the recommended hour a day for that age.

"Young children are the most active Americans of any age," says Frances Berg, childhood obesity expert and author of the book [**Underage and Overweight: America's Childhood Obesity Crisis – What Every Family Needs to Know**](#) (Hatherleigh Press, 2004). "Because young children naturally move around a lot, many people assume they are getting all the physical activity they need. But today TV and videos often keep them still for longer periods than parents realize."

Habits for Life

According to Berg, it's easy to start young children with active habits. "Young children love to run and play, but too many are stuck in the stroller, baby seat or playpen for long periods," she says. Her suggestion: Incorporate physical activity into your child's playtime. "The idea is not to have baby workouts," she says. "Physical activity should be a fun part of daily life and never forced. If children begin to associate being active with having fun, they're more likely to stay active as they grow up."

Berg has the following tips for parents who want to start their children on a path to an active life:

1. Take a Break from Cartoons

From Big Bird to Sponge Bob, little children love television. It's not necessary to cut out TV time altogether, but it's important to mix it up with active playtime. Toddlers and [preschoolers](#) should not be sedentary for more than an hour at a time except when sleeping.

2. Remember Your Inner Child

Though it may be tempting to just sit and chat with the other parents at the park, getting up and playing with your child can be a fun way to bond. You'll set a great example for your child while getting some exercise yourself – and playing games with your child can be a great way to remember the fun of your own childhood!

3. Make Playtime Fun

It's very important not to force your child to engage in physical activity. When you propose a game of tag or peek-a-boo, it should be because it's fun, not because there's been too much sitting around that day. If physical fun seems like a normal part of the day, instead of a punishment for too much TV, children will look forward to it – an attitude that they will carry with them once they get old enough to make their own choices about playtime.

4. Babies Need Movement Too

Try not to keep an infant confined to a baby seat for long periods. Even when very young, children move differently when stretched out on a blanket than when strapped into a baby seat.

5. Get Caregivers Involved

If childcare is provided by a grandparent or other relative, express your interest that the child be active during the day. Though keeping up with an active child might be difficult for an older adult, even a slower activity, such as a walk around the block, is better than placating the child with television or a video – and it can be a great way to get the adult moving, too!

PILGRIM GUILD MEETS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

The Pilgrim Guild will hold their November meeting on Tuesday, November 11th. The social gathering begins at 12:00 noon followed by dessert, hosted by Erma Andrews. Following a short business meeting, T. Michael will present a program. Please come join us!

November Schedule...

INTERFAITH LEISURE AGE

9 AM. SOCIAL HOUR

12 NOON LUNCH AND PROGRAM:

Lunch Reservations Required

Elim Lutheran Church.

3748 West Broadway in Robbinsdale

Nov. 6: Dance group Satin Dolls presents a program with peppy music..

Nov. 13: *November Birthday Party*. Program: Randy Roloff sings and plays accordion.

Nov. 20: Blood pressures taken 9:30-11:30 a.m. *Thanksgiving Party*. Program: Top notch singer Stephanie Fisher Heibert.

Nov. 27: **No Leisure Age. Happy Thanksgiving!**

Leisure Age meets on Thursday from 9:00-2:00. Lunch costs \$9.00. 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.

NOTICE: Due to increasing costs the Leisure Age board found it necessary to increase the lunch cost to \$9.00. This includes a wonderful meal, including coffee and milk, a delicious dessert, and wonderful entertainment. Agendas are available in the literature racks by the stairway at RUCC. Please take one home and find out what is happening with this worthwhile program.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Leonard Sidle, 763-504-0465

or Keith Smith, 612-588-1401

Thanks to T. Michael Rock for leading chapel for Leisure Age on October 23. Thanks also to those RUCC members who give of their time to Leisure Age.

Leisure Age helps missions with glasses, watch donations

"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. " 2 Corinthians 9: 7-8

Leisure Age is an active senior citizen ministry. In addition to Elim's member participation, people from 11 other churches are involved. Congregations associated with Leisure Age include: Elim, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Faith Lilac Way Lutheran, Holy Nativity

Lutheran, St. James Lutheran, Robbinsdale United Church of Christ, Olivet United Methodist, Valley Community Presbyterian, Parkway United Church of Christ, St. Olaf Lutheran, Victory Lutheran, and Redeemer Lutheran.

The Leisure Age participants have an opportunity for Christian fellowship and service. Two of the Leisure Age service projects have been ongoing for years: collection of eyeglasses and collection of watches for missions.

Since 1973 participants in Leisure Age have collected 173,000 pairs of glasses for missions. The glasses are collected at Elim in boxes in the foyer. After donation, the prescription of the glasses is determined, sealed in an envelope with the pair of glasses, and then these are shipped to the mission fields. Volunteer eye doctors evaluate people's vision, determine the closest match of glasses, and then are able to give the donated glasses to the person. In our society, we are used to receiving glasses with the perfect prescription; in less affluent societies, people are grateful to receive glasses with a prescription close to what they require. When an eye doctor comes to a mission site, people stand in line for hours to receive care. Through the generosity of Leisure Age members, many people all over the world have clearer vision!



Another Leisure Age service project is collecting watches. These watches are sent to a school in St. Paul where the students repair them, if possible. Once repaired, these are sent to the mission fields. All member churches of Leisure Age participate in this service project.

How can you help?

- Do you have an old pair of glasses sitting in a drawer or closet? Consider donating these glasses to the Leisure Age mission project. You may place the glasses in the bin located in the foyer at Elim, just outside the Chapel area.
- Do you wonder what to do with a watch that no longer works? Consider donating it to the Leisure Age mission project. All watch donations may be placed in the marked bin located Elim's foyer.

Thank you to Jean Lindstrom, coordinator of Leisure Age, and the members for all they have done and will continue to do for global missions .

THANKS FOR CHILDREN'S TIME!

The Worship Ministry wishes to thank all those who brought items for "The Box" and all those who helped to weave the stories around those items. Special thanks go to Joan Young and Joy for teaching the children about service dogs.



Happy Birthday!

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

Sam	DeSplinter	November	1
Logan	Johnson	November	1
Pam	Conner	November	2
Molly	Nicholson	November	3
Jane	Bossert	November	4
Kari	Ihle	November	5
Danielle	Hackney	November	8
Luke	Knilians	November	8
John	Norberg	November	8
Sam	Stoos-Tysver	November	10
Erin	Finnemore	November	11
Benjamin	Neary	November	11
Wayne	Pelzer	November	11
Peggy	Poirer	November	13
Jeanne	McTootle	November	14
Brandon	Holtz	November	16
Lyn	Koss	November	16
Dale	Swenson	November	18
Annette	Neary	November	19
Kreegan	Reierson	November	19
Sylvia	Anderson	November	20
Nicholas	Onwukwe	November	21
Carole	Carlson	November	22
Cameron	Berra	November	23
Karrie	Haugen	November	24
Brittany	Welter	November	24
Erma	Andrews	November	25
Antoinena	Kuntze	November	28
Faye	Paster	November	29
Abby	Wicklund	November	30

Is Your Pledge Up-to-Date?

It seems that for several years we close out the month of September facing a total pledge income below our budgeted figure. In some years we know we are facing a challenge, and in others, we realize that historically we can count on receiving end-of-year pledges that can make up a substantial gap.

This year we appear to be coming up short of our expected pledged income. To date, I would estimate that we are running short in the range of \$15-17,000.00. On the expense side of the equation, we are running fairly close to budget with the exception of the adjustment in our gas bill which we have reported on previously.

Our quarterly statements will soon be distributed, so you will have a definitive answer as to where you are in relation to your pledge. This year we have experienced an increase in our day-to-day expenses and a some people have had a change of job situations. I would like to ask if your situation has changed since you made your pledge, please speak to Pastor Rock or me in the next couple of weeks so that we can plan accordingly for the balance of the year.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,
Brad Welton
Treasurer

Financial Update Through September 30, 2008

	Year to Date	Budget	Difference (-)
Income	\$179,585.05	\$197,535.00	(\$17,949.95)
Expenses	\$193,712.35	\$191,556.69	\$2,155.66
Total:			(\$20,105.61)

YEP - 2 YOUTH at RUCC High School YEP 2

November 9th – Movie and Pizza at church – 7 p.m.



Young YEP (Middle School)

November 30th – Movie and Pizza at church – 7 p.m.
These will be great times to plan future events and be together. Please talk with T. Michael if you have any questions.

POINSETTIA HOLIDAY GARDEN



With the holiday season approaching, members of the Garden Group would enjoy beautifying our sanctuary by displaying a Poinsettia Garden. It is a wonderful opportunity to honor a family member or friend by purchasing one or more plants for the display.

Poinsettias will be purchased and delivered from a local greenhouse, wrapped in metallic paper. Garden Group members will display the poinsettias in our sanctuary from Sunday, December 20 - Wednesday, December 24. There will be an insert in the December 21 and December 24 church bulletins listing those whom you wish to honor.

Members of the Garden Group will be available to take orders on Sunday, November 16, and Sunday, November 23. Prices: 6.5 in. pot (4-6 blooms) \$9.00; 8 in. pot (12-14 blooms) \$16.00.

Last year our sanctuary looked beautiful, and, indeed, you made it happen.

December Issue. . .

Mustard Seed



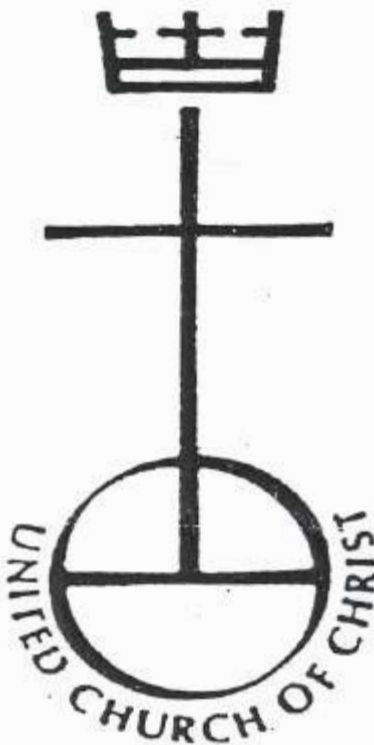
Please place all articles for the next issue of the Mustard Seed in the box marked "Mustard Seed" on the shelf inside the door to the workroom in the church office, *e-mail* to thewillses@aol.com (preferred) or mail them to Barbara Wills, 6214 Upland Lane No., Maple Grove 55311, so that they are received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

DEC. ISSUE DEADLINE

Sunday, Nov. 23 , 11 a.m.

No exceptions please.

(December issue will be mailed Monday, Dec. 1.)



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

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