

THE MUSTARD SEED



Vol. 37, Issue 5, January, 2010, Edition

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Coming Up... See inside for details

Jan. 3, 18, 23—Middle
School YEP
Jan. 10—Healing
Program, 2nd Sunday
Jan. 10, 18—High
School YEP
Jan. 17—Women's
Group
Jan. 23—Movie Night
Jan. 24—Annual
Meeting
Jan. 31—All Ministries
Meeting
Feb. 3, 7,8—New
Members Classes

**Don't Forget the
Annual
Meeting
Sunday,
January 24,
Following the
Worship
Service**

Regular Features...

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From Your Pastor and Teacher

"Deeply woven into the fiber of our religious tradition is the conviction that [women and] men are made in the image of God, and that they are souls of infinite metaphysical value. If we accept this as a profound moral fact, we cannot be content to see [children] hungry, to see [people] victimized with ill-health, when we have the means to help them."

"Racism and its perennial ally—economic exploitation—provide the key to understanding most of the international complications of this generation."

--quotes from the essay "The World House" by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Happy New Year and New Decade! The last decade was named by the United Nations to be a Decade of Nonviolence for the Children of the World. Steps were taken in 1999 by the global community to stop the spread of war and famine on every continent. The new decade was going to usher in a time when nations engaged in peaceful strategies to end conflict rather than violent ones. Our own military leaders adopted new approaches at the service academies to train officers as Peace Keepers with a new emphasis on humanitarian service and cultural awareness. Whole battalions of U.S. Marines and Army personnel were deployed as protectors of the innocent public in areas of conflict. This decade was going to usher in a sense of justice and peace among nations, races, and cultures.

I met a young woman who was at the United Nations gathering when the goals were drawn up and the world agreed that no child should be hungry, go without basic healthcare, be forced into prostitution or military service, or be a victim of torture and violence. She talked about tears being shed, of lessons learned in Rwanda, Liberia, Haiti, and the Philippines. Commitments were made to increase the availability of medicines and agriculture and to stop the flow of firearms and build up of nuclear weapons. There was hope, as there is always hope, that this decade would stop the escalation of violence that had occurred in each of the last 14 decades.

We all know this didn't happen. These commitments were tossed aside long before 19 hijackers stole four planes, 3,000 lives, and a world-wide vision for a lasting peace on September 11, 2001. At the end of this decade there will be images and stories of the BIG events of last 10 years, and I'm sure this one will be at the top of most of those lists. I would ask you instead to view that event through eyes of faith rather than fear, because the really BIG event happened on the day after 9/11. On September 12, 2001, the people around the world came together to hold each other, comfort each other, and to search for an end to acts of violence. Sporting events were cancelled, movie theaters closed, concerts were postponed, and the sale of celebrity magazines plummeted. Our nation joined with many others in being sad rather than being angry. It was a day of healing and a day of love. The racial, economic, and cultural barriers that often divide were taken down that day because everyone was aware of their own vulnerability and loss.

As this new decade begins, I ask you to look at the world through faith and not fear. See the connections, turn off the distractions, and always choose sadness over anger. It is where God is revealed.

See you in church, T. Michael



January Schedule

January 3. Second Sunday After Christmas.

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: Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14.

January 10. First Sunday After Epiphany.

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: Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22.

January 17. Second Sunday After Epiphany.

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: Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; I Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11.

January 24. Third Sunday After Epiphany.

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: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; I Corinthians 12: 12-31a; Luke 4:14-21.

January 31. Fourth Sunday After Epiphany.

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: Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; I Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30.

CENTERING PRAYER at Robbinsdale United Church of Christ

Come and experience this form of prayer. Enter the sanctuary anytime between 9:40 and 9:55 and sit with the community in quiet contemplation. All are welcome. May there be no barriers between you and God within you.

If you would like to know more about this time of Centering Prayer, pick up a brochure or talk with T. Michael or a member of the Worship Ministry.

January Worship at Robbinsdale United Church of Christ

A New Year, a New Leaf, A New Way of Being. Worship in January will look forward. We will be reading the signs and wonders on the walls of hearts in order to determine what is possible for us. What kind of person am I going to be? What kind of church are we going to be? There are many decisions before us as we enter this new year. Are we going to shrink in fear or live out of the courage and grace of our God? Come to worship this month and learn how to love and live for a bright new day.

January 3rd – Second Sunday in Christmas Communion

Scripture Readings – Jeremiah 31:7-14 and John 1:10-18

Sermon – “The Promise and the Hope” – Rev. T. Michael Rock

This is a very special Sunday. Come and start the new year in worship and begin your journey with God’s promises, humanity’s hope, and our assurance that the truth lives in our loving ways.

January 10th – Epiphany Sunday Sacrament of Baptism

Scripture Readings – Acts 8:14-17 and Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Sermon: “Searching for the Holy Spirit” – Rev. T. Michael Rock

We will renew our baptism blessing this Sunday and discover the Holy Spirit in wonderful new places. If you have never been face to face with the Holy Spirit, then you’ll want to come and experience that in worship today.

January 17th – Birthday Celebration for Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Worship for RUCC at 10:00 a.m.

Worship for the Community at 2:00 p.m.

We join with El Bethel Community Christian Church for a time of praise and worship through the words of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Come and travel the journey from slavery to freedom and from fear to hope through music and prayer.

January 24th – ANNUAL MEETING

Scripture Reading – Luke 4:14-21

Continued on next page...

Worship continued...

Our faith isn't that complicated. One of the gifts of Jesus' ministry was the importance of taking belief out of the way and learning how to live faithfully. This will be a gift for all of us as we prepare to vote on our next year of living as this faithful community.

January 31st – Faith Community Nurse Sunday; All Ministries Meeting

Scripture Readings: Jeremiah 1: 4-10, Luke 4: 21-30

Sermon: "The Proof Is in the Ticket" – Rev. April Davis Campbell

Your ticket reflects the essence of who you are. Have you looked at it lately?

A Message from April Davis Campbell, Minister for Children and Families

I would like to share with you my amazing experience in Georgia in November of 2009. Literally, since the day I graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary, I knew I would be continuing my education. I was intentional about the program I selected in terms of geography and curriculum; hence I ended up at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, in the Doctor of Ministry (D.Min) Program in Christian Spirituality. I recall someone asking me, "What if you don't like the program?" Without missing a beat I replied, "I never even thought of that as a possibility." Later another question was posed by a different person, "What if the program is too difficult?" to which I replied, "I never thought I couldn't accomplish something I set my mind to." I worked full-time while going to school full-time for my Bachelor's degree and my Master's of Public Administration degree. I'm good at time management, and I know that although life can be busy and tiring, especially with two small children, those things which are important can be done. This D.Min program is geared toward working pastors, so they are sensitive to being good stewards of time.

My November course was the Introduction to Christian Spirituality. Prior to receiving the book list, I was required to write a 30 page spiritual autobiography of sorts. Upon completion and emailing of the paper, I received the reading list, which included five books to read prior to the start of the course. For each book I was required to write a three to four page paper due by the start of the course. The books were about spirituality in the

context of church history, theology, leadership and the Bible. Each book was challenging in different ways and yet very engaging.

During the two weeks I was on campus, our class met three times a day for an hour and a half each. On Sunday we were assigned to visit a church, looking intentionally for spiritual leadership, and then to put together a presentation and report back to class. I had the privilege of attending an Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church and enjoyed the two and half hour service.

Our final project is to write another 30 page paper processing the academic perspectives that were shared in class as well as integrating the course into our lives and ministries. This month, January 2010, I return to Columbia for my first elective course about prayer. I look forward to sharing this experience and further courses with you as we journey together.

Grace to you, and peace,
April

Tuesdays w/T

A Bible Study for Beginners

6 p.m. Every Tuesday

The Ministry of Jesus



This month we explore the healing stories of Jesus. The Gospels are full of stories in which people are healed. We will explore each of these stories and the mystery of faith and healing. This Bible Study is open to all levels of experience. There will be lively discussion and a wonderful opportunity to discover our faith in a new way. This Bible Study is open to everyone. There is no homework, and all that is required is that you come open to our Still Speaking God.

Special Satellite Bible Study

Thursday, January 21st, at Waterford – Noontime

New Member Sunday – February 14th

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 be extended.

New Member classes will take place on:

Wednesday, February 3rd, at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 7th, following worship

Monday, February 8th, at 6:30 p.m.

January 2010 Schedule...

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

3748 West Broadway in Robbinsdale

Jan. 7: Silver Stars, a senior dance group, with energetic routines!

Jan. 14: Pianist and singer Cindi Scheffler.

Jan. 21: Blood pressures taken 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Program: Margie Olson presents musical memories.

Jan. 28: January Birthday Party and program.

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.

*If you have any questions, please contact:
Jan Paulsen, 763-529-1986*

or Keith Smith, 612-588-1401 or 763-588-4356

Faith Formation Program:

All Healing Comes From God

The essence of God is to give life, to set free, to make whole. This is the shared truth of the world's major religions. Now you can share in the healing of body, mind and spirit through an *Introduction to Magnified Healing*. Faith Formation invites you to join Sheryl and Dale Fisher as they lead us in an hour devoted to the healing power of God *in us!*

Sunday, January 10, 2010

11:30-12:30 p.m. in the Heritage Hall

There will be something yummy to eat, too!

Faith Formation Presents Movie Night!

Quick: Where can you catch a great flick? Find out what's "Up" at RUCC's "Movie Night"!

What's showing: "Up" (We won't give the plot away but this film has gotten a lot of great "buzz"!)

When: Saturday, January 23, 2010, 6:30 p.m.

Where: RUCC Gathering Space

Who: Adults and kids (animated film which all ages can enjoy!)

Free popcorn/beverages, too! So why stay home another Saturday night?! Sign up in the narthex. (Free will donations are appreciated.)



Community News

Baptism

Ethan Blake Muyres was presented for baptism on November 29. He was born on May 19, 2009. His parents are Becky and Travis Muyres, and his proud grandmother is Jan Paulsen.

Special Concerns

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

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Sylvia Anderson | Jeanne Angel |
| Ken Barker | Howard Berg |
| Jane Boggs | Amanda Busch |
| Ethel Conn | Lorraine Dysart |
| Deb Evans | Ruthe Hawn |
| Jan Headley | Will Ihle |
| Curtis Johnson | Janet Johnson |
| Frank Koss | Antoinena Kuntze |
| Lois Larsen | Alice MacPherson |
| Carlton Myers | Sandra Nelson |
| Elinor Porter | Barbara Sexton |
| George Truehart | Janet Vick |
| Joan Young | |

Thank You!

Thank you to Cheryl Nordquist and her crew of loving adults and to the children who presented the congregation with a gift of the Christmas Pageant on December 20.

Thank you to the 50+ individual volunteers and the choir and Pilgrim Guild for making our recent Families Moving Forward week such a success. And much gratitude for the leadership of Karrie and Dan Haugen and Louiva and Jim Puffer.

Pilgrim Guild's Tree of Warmth

Your warm hearts filled the Pilgrim Guild's Tree of Warmth with knitted mittens and caps, polar fleece scarves and hats, warm, comfy slippers and socks, flannel shirts and flannel pajama pants, and cozy blankets. These gifts shared at PRISM included 13 neck scarves, 19 hats, 21 pairs of gloves and mittens, 2 flannel shirts and a sweatshirt jacket, 4 pairs of socks and slippers and 2 blankets. Thank you for sharing with others on the Guild's Tree of Warmth. You donated a total of 66 items, spreading your love to others.



**Coordinating Council
December 15, 2009**

- *Annual reviews for personnel have begun.
- *Annual reports are due in the office.
- *April was in Georgia for doctoral classes. She will go again in January. (See article elsewhere in this issue.)
- *April was examined by the UCC Church in Ministry Committee and awarded standing in the UCC.
- *Nominating Committee is at work. Positions of Webmaster and Communications Technologist will be added to roster of nominations.
- *Stewardship: As of mid-December, 88 pledges totaling \$220,592 had been received. Forty pledges were increased and three decreased. Letters have been sent and phone calls are being made to finish up the campaign.
- *Listening Project will be reported on at the Annual Meeting.
- *A Calvin Worship Renewal grant, focusing on prayer in community and across generations, will be submitted.
- *Families Moving Forward will be here Dec. 27-Jan.3.
- *Annual Meeting is January 24 after church.
- *All Ministries Meeting is January 31 after church.

When was the last time you checked our website?

www.robbinsdaleucc.org



Our webmaster, Paul Amundson, will be making some neat changes in the coming months as we learn to tell our story. We are also asking 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@robbinsdaleucc.org

**Please Sign Up!
RUCC Hospitality**

Greeters and hosts for after-church hospitality are needed for ALL Sundays in January and February. Please consider volunteering!



**YEP - 2
YOUTH at RUCC
Middle School YEP 2**

- January 3rd – New Year Resolutions
Noon – 2 p.m.
- January 18th – Feed My Starving Children
2 p.m.–5 p.m.
- Saturday, January 23rd – MN Conf. UCC –
Middle School Service Day
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

High School YEP 2

- January 10th – “Our Space” Design
Noon – 2 p.m.
- January 18th – Feed My Starving Children
2 p.m.–5 p.m.

LISTENING PROJECT UPDATE

January 2010

Forming Our Vision for the Next Ten Years

For the past several months, interviews have been taking place among the members and friends of Robbinsdale United Church of Christ. Don't worry if you haven't been contacted, you are still loved and we want to hear from you. Interviews are still happening. Come to the Annual Meeting on January 24th to hear more.

The vision that is being gathered is energizing to young and old.

Prayer for the New Year

Gracious God,
We find ourselves at the end of one year and at the beginning of another.
We give thanks that you are with us.
We give thanks that with you we are able to start over again and again.
Help us to find the path of peace as we move into another year.
Teach us to feel joy.
May we give birth to love and justice in our homes, our community, and our world.
Amen.

**JANUARY 18
MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY
“The time is always right
to do what is right.”**



Happy Birthday!

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

Diane	Amundson	January	3
Kayla	Miller	January	3
Lissi	Weiss	January	3
Lois	Bossert	January	9
Marion	Hansen	January	13
Patty	Miller	January	17
Nancy	Greenwood	January	18
Gabriel	Hoppe Knutson	January	18
Bridget	Rock	January	18
Dick	Reierson	January	20
Scott	Johnson	January	21
Richard	Smith	January	23
Howard	Berg	January	24
Jordan	Lanz	January	25
Kyle	Lanz	January	25
Jeanette	Rost	January	26
Louiva	Puffer	January	29
Taylor	Abild	January	30
Sue	Nechanicky	January	30

ARE YOU GOODSEARCHING?

Use the Internet?

Google Often?

Search on Yahoo?

Here's a way to help RUCC every time you search on the internet. If you initiate a web search on goodsearch.com, a penny will be credited to Robbinsdale United Church of Christ. Doesn't sound like much? How many times have you said, "If only I had a penny for every time I . . ."? Think how many web searches are done collectively by persons in our congregation! It adds up! And RUCC gets even more if you SHOP on goodsearch.com sites. There are many well-known merchants to choose from.



Here's what you do FIRST: Log in to goodsearch.com and answer the question "who do you goodsearch for?" Just type in Robbinsdale United Church of Christ and do your search. NEXT TIME you want to search, start with goodsearch.com

powered by Yahoo) and pennies and dollars will go into our RUCC account. By clicking on "Amount Raised" you can even watch it add up!

Women's Group Program and Potluck Jan. 17

"Rites of Passage" used to be formal parts of life. Remember the old debutante balls? These days, these "rites" are far more casual. Rev. T. Michael recently attended an event that was 5 days of ritual and reflection regarding "rites of passage," and he will share with us his experiences. On Sunday, January 17th, the Woman's Group will meet for potluck and conversation. We will reflect on our own "rites of passage" and the importance of them in our lives, how they have changed over the years, and how they were deeply grounded in Christian Mystery of the past. So bring a dish to share or just come (if you forget the dish) and meet with us in Fellowship Hall after the service on Sunday.

Worship Ministry Requests. . .

The Worship Ministry is seeking your **maps!** We are looking for a variety of maps-local, regional, other countries, other cities, and world maps to use for Epiphany. The maps will be a visual reminder that RUCC is a part of our whole world. The maps will be used for display and they will be returned. Please put your name on them and bring them to the church office as soon as possible.

Also, do you own a **family Bible** that has a unique history? Perhaps it has been passed down through generations in your family or you have a newer Bible that is particularly meaningful to you. Please notify T. Michael if you have a Bible that is important to you. RUCC is interested in learning about your Bible during a worship Witness Moment in the future. Thank you.

AGAIN YOU MADE IT HAPPEN

Members of the Garden Group once again express appreciation and thanks for those of you who participated in this year's Poinsettia Garden. It is only with your support we can beautify our church during this most wonderful season. Special thanks to Keith Smith for setting up our display risers. Without his knowledge, who knows what it would look like! God bless all of you and a very Happy New Year.



Creating a Culture of Peace

Practical Nonviolence for Personal and Social Transformation--Robbinsdale United Church of Christ

SUNDAY AFTERNOONS IN LENT – *PREPARE YOUR CALENDARS NOW*

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.

All around the country people are discovering effective ways of living in the world through peace. These are ways of being that work at home, at the workplace, in the board room, and in the world. Everyone will benefit. Look for a registration form on the table in the Narthex. Please talk with T. Michael if you have any questions.

February Issue. . .

Mustard Seed



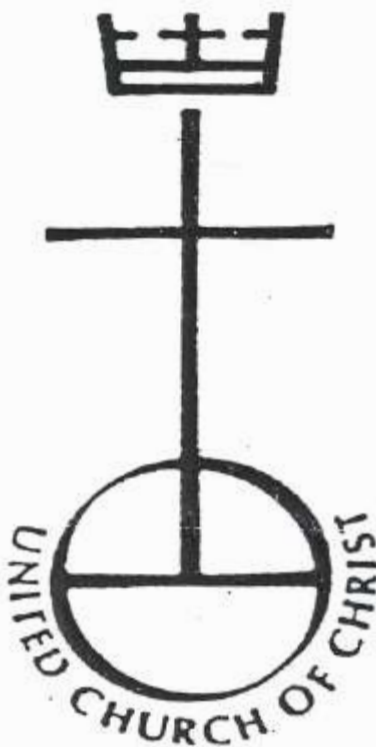
Please place all articles for the next issue of the Mustard Seed in the box marked "Mustard Seed" on the shelf inside the door to the workroom in the church office, *e-mail* to thewillses@aol.com (preferred) or mail them to Barbara Wills, 6214 Upland Lane No., Maple Grove 55311, so that they are received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

FEB. ISSUE DEADLINE

Sunday, January 24 , 11 a.m.

No exceptions please.

(Feb. issue will be mailed Friday, Jan. 29.)



Robbinsdale United Church of Christ
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