

ANNOUNCER

The House of Hope Presbyterian Church Issue No. 173 December 2009

Music at Four A Service of Lessons and Carols December 13

On December 13, the Music at Four Series continues with the annual Advent Service of Lessons and Carols, including festive anthems, scripture, and carol singing for the Advent Season. Service music will be provided by the House of Hope Choir School, the Motet Choir and the House of Hope Handbell Choir. Carol singing will be led by Aaron David Miller at the Fisk organ. Preceding the event, David Johnson will welcome us with a carillon prelude. A reception will follow in the Kirk Parlour. Child care will be provided.

Christmas Eve at The House of Hope

Thursday, December 24

3:30 p.m. Carillon Recital, David Johnson, carillonneur.

4 p.m. Afternoon Christmas Service
for all ages—child-friendly. (Sanctuary)

5:30 p.m. Traditional Tableaux Service
The Christmas story with familiar carols
and tableaux adaptations of scenes of the Nativity
Child care for children under 6

9:30 p.m. Carillon Recital.

10 p.m. Instrumental Prelude.

10:30 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Service
David Van Dyke, preaching
Aaron David Miller, organist
Bach's *Magnificat*, the Motet Choir
and the Bach Chamber Players of Saint Paul,
conducted by Andrew Altenbach, choirmaster

Childcare will be provided during the Tableaux Service (5 to 6:45 p.m.) for children age 6 and younger. Childcare is not available at the 10:30 p.m. service.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

8:30 A.M. ELIZABETH CHAPEL
10 A.M. SANCTUARY

December 6

Second Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion at 8:30, Elizabeth Chapel

David Van Dyke, preaching

Choral Music at 10 a.m.:

Motet Choir: *Angelus*, A. D. Miller

O Magnum Mysterium, Morten Lauridsen

The St. Andrew Singers: *Still, Still, Still*, Austrian Carol arr.

December 13

Third Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion at 8:30, Elizabeth Chapel

David Van Dyke, preaching

Choral Music at 10 a.m.:

Motet Choir: *Magnificat*, Arvo Part

Choir School: *Antiphonal Carol*, arr. Manz

4 p.m. A Service of Lessons and Carols
Sanctuary

The Motet Choir, The Choir School, The Handbell Choir

December 20

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion at 8:30, Elizabeth Chapel

David Van Dyke, preaching

Choral Music at 10 a.m.:

Motet Choir: *E'en So Lord Jesus*, Paul Manz

What Sweeter Music, John Rutter

Choir School: *Rosa Mystica*, Rogers

Thursday, December 24

Christmas Eve

Bach's *Magnificat*

Choir and Orchestra

David Van Dyke, preaching

See Christmas Eve schedule at left.

December 27

First Sunday After Christmas

ONE SERVICE AT 10 A.M.

David Van Dyke, preaching

January 3, 2010

Second Sunday after Christmas

ONE SERVICE AT 10 A.M.

Holy Communion

Not So Fast ...



It seems like it gets said every year at this time, namely that the Christmas season arrives earlier each year. Harvard chaplain Peter Gomes jokes that when you begin to see Christmas decorations going up in public and commercial spaces, you know that Thanksgiving is getting close. In a way I'm torn. I love Christmas. I love buying presents for my family. I love the festivities and the hustle and bustle of it all.

And even though I tend to be a last minute shopper and end up elbowing and fighting my way through throngs of other weary-looking and sometimes not-so-pleasant shoppers, a part of me wouldn't want it any other way. Returning home exhausted, after a tiring day fighting the crowds and screaming children, adds to my sense of satisfaction and accomplishment—that I've done it, I've pulled off the coup of getting it done without Nancy finding out. So I'm torn because when I see the decorations start to go up, I begin anticipating this season I love. As a pastor, however, I also understand and love the theological and liturgical significance of the season, which is quite different from the commercial noise and glare.

There is a dual nature to our holiday—the overtly secular approach with its emphasis on merrymaking and gift giving, and the sacred approach with its emphasis on the staggering claim of the Incarnation, God's coming into the world in a most unlikely way—as one of us! Such a claim deserves our reverent consideration because, admittedly, it gets easily overshadowed by the hype and commercial excesses of the season. The issue for me is that I enjoy both aspects of the season and want to find a way to have both.

It's why my appreciation continues to deepen for the season of Advent, the four Sundays leading up to Christmas. I love the great Advent hymns, seeing the Advent wreath candles get lit each Sunday as a way of maintaining the holy vigil. I love the texts and their messages about waiting, watching, and being prepared for the unexpected to happen. I have come to understand Advent less as a liturgical season and more as a spiritual discipline that, when observed, makes my celebration of Christmas more meaningful. Just as it's true that you can't fully appreciate and celebrate Easter without first experiencing the somber strains of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, neither can you fully celebrate the Christmas claim without first observing Advent. And so as Christmas draws near and the days get shorter and busier, I encourage you to find opportunities during Advent to pause, to watch, and to listen, pondering again the great gift that has come to us in that Bethlehem birth.

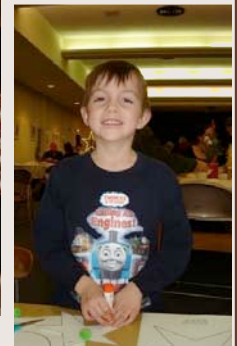
I wish you all a blessed Advent so that you may have a truly Merry Christmas.

—David

Christmas Pageant and Advent Celebration December 6



Everyone is invited to attend the **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**, at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 6, in the Sanctuary. Begin the season with a reminder of what it is we celebrate. Experience the familiar story from the Gospel of Luke through the songs and voices of children. In addition to the traditional pageant, there will be a few surprises!



ADVENT CELEBRATION! "STAR OF WONDER"
Immediately following the Children's Christmas Pageant on December 6, come to the Advent Celebration in the Great Hall. All are welcome to enjoy a lunch of sloppy joes and other good things, and then dive in for the crafts! Make an advent wreath, or a fresh swag for your front door, guided by Mickey Scott. Decorate and enjoy yummy cookies, and create a variety of stars, reminding us to follow the star to the Christ Child. There is something for all ages at the Advent Celebration! Cost is \$3 per person, or a maximum of \$15 per household. Children under 3 attend at no charge.

Project Home's 12th Year at The House of Hope

*Be not forgetful to welcome strangers,
for thereby some have entertained angels unaware. —Hebrews 13:2*

Named below are those individuals who made Project Home possible at The House of Hope by serving our "strangers" in the Hope Youth Room during the month of October. This program, coordinated by the St. Paul Area Council of Churches, offers overnight shelter to families in houses of worship when there is no room for them at the Ramsey County family shelter in Maplewood. Currently there are over 30 churches and synagogues participating in Project Home, opening their houses of worship for shelter, and another 24 providing additional volunteers. Our House of Hope volunteers provided fellowship, hospitality and caring to children, mothers and fathers.

We extend a special thanks to those who served as Project Home team leaders this year and those volunteers who served multiple times during the month of October. A double asterisk has been placed beside their names. We also extend our appreciation to Doug Wakefield, our Facilities Manager, for all of his efforts to keep mechanical systems running in the Youth Room. Our gratitude also goes out to the other staff members (denoted by a single asterisk) at The House of Hope who made Project Home possible. We apologize to those whose names may inadvertently have been left off of this list.

*Teddy Altman
 **Dennis Anderson
 **Dorothea Anderson
 Jan Anderson
 Nick Anderson
 Jim Barge
 Silvey Barge
 Sue Bathke
 Eric Bergstrom
 Greta Bergstrom
 Gus Bjorklund
 Phil Bolinder
 Ron Bongard
 J.C. Bosse
 Emily Brenengen
 Delaney Broberg
 **Sue Browne
 Gwen Buckner
 **Patti Buckner-Lacy
 Anna Burleigh
 Luvia Burleigh
 Ryder Byrne
 Mary Cardinal Peterson
 David Cleveland
 Josh Columb
 Dick Crone
 Margie Crone
 Sophie Dankers
 Judy Day
 **Rachel Durkee
 Allan Floyd
 Sue Fox
 *Michelle Freyholtz
 **Debby Fulton
 Ann Geery
 Bill Geery
 Eric Goldfischer
 Diane Gorder
 **Amy Greening
 Darrel Gubrud
 Barbara Guth
 Sue Haigh
 Alexandra Halsall
 Becky Hammett
 Bob Hammett
 Bruce Harrington
 George Hart
 Christina Hart
 Ian Hefferman
 Doug Hemer
 Paula Hemer
 Chloe Hunter
 Dave Hutchinson
 Maxwell Inskip
 **Holly Jacobson

David Jamison
 Elise Jamison
 Lee Jamison
 **Bruce Johnson
 Mary Kapustka
 Elizabeth Karre
 *Kristin Klaustermeier
 **Louise Klas
 Lindsay Knutson
 Evelyn Klein
 **Laura Lamb
 Donchi Lane
 John Lane
 Linda Lane
 Renee Lane
 Kristian Lee
 Chris Lienert
 Bill Liike
 Jahna Lindquist
 Betsy MacDonald
 Kathleen O'Day-Mayer
 Marc Mayer
 Martha McCartney
 Sarah McCartney
 Sam McCartney
 Cassie Meyer
 Jake Meyer
 Leslie Meyer
 Mike Meyer
 Margaret Miller
 Cally Minner
 Jody Minner
 Isabel Nord
 **Mike Nord
 **Sarah O'Connor
 **Jackie O'Keefe
 David Olsen
 Dave Pearson
 Cliff Peet
 Dianne Peet
 Martin Peper
 Martin Peper Jr
 Christina Peterson
 Mary Peterson
 Michael Peterson
 Tom Peterson
 Kathi Polley
 **Catherine Pomeroy
 **Sherwood Pomeroy
 Caroline Porter
 Noelyn Porter
 Linnea Quimby
 Kim Rathjen
 Adam Reece

Clive Reece
 **Karen Reece
 **Derek Robb
 *Gale Robb
 Annamarie Rutledge
 **Nancy Sabin
 Katie Schwanke
 Stan Schweitzor
 Mary Senkbeil
 Dianne Smith
 Graham Smith
 Preston Smith
 *Jan Snell
 Katherine Solon
 Paul Solon
 Elizabeth Sanson
 **Jenny Stevens
 Tanetha Stroud
 Michael Thompson
 Andrew Turner
 *Seng Vang
 David Van Dyke
 Don Vandenberg
 Julia Vivic
 Krista Viksnins
 Alex Wakefield
 *Doug Wakefield
 **Kevin Walli
 Helen Wang
 **Carol Weber
 Lowell Weber
 Isabella Wedes
 Tom Wedes
 Melissa Weeldreyer
 Byron Wertz
 Karen Wertz
 Jean Westerman
 Anne Wharton
 Sophie Wharton
 Charlie Williamson
 Elizabeth Williamson
 Mark Williamson
 Susie Williamson
 Cheryl Winget
 Gary Winget
 Anna Wojcicki
 **Bob Wojcicki
 Isaac Wojcicki
 Ann Yetter
 George Yetter
 Kathryn Yetter
 Steve Yetter
 *Medhat Yowkem
 **Anne Yuska
 Ellen Yuska



Music at Four: Lessons & Carols

On December 13, the Music at Four Series continues with the annual Advent Service of Lessons and Carols, including festive anthems, scripture, and carol singing for the Advent Season. Service music will be provided by the House of Hope Choir School, the Motet Choir and the House of Hope Handbell Choir. Carol singing will be led by Aaron David Miller at the Fisk organ. Preceding the event, David Johnson will welcome us with a carillon prelude. A reception will follow in the Kirk Parlour. Child care will be provided.

New Alleluia Choir Director

The Choir School is pleased to announce that Jessica Bandelin will be our new Alleluia Choir director. Jessica has a long history with the Choir School and is currently assistant director and conductor of the St Cecilia Choir. The Alleluia Choir is for age 3 through grade 1 and will meet Tuesdays from 4:30-5:30. Rehearsals begin January 5. Please call or e-mail the Choir School office to pre-register: 651-675-6498 or sofiaa@hohchurch.org.

New Choir School

Music Class
 Also beginning in January, the Choir School will be offering a general music class for grades 2 through 5 on Tuesdays at 4:30. This class is designed for the beginning-advanced beginning musician and will incorporate note reading, sight-singing, learning about instruments, composers and more! Call or e-mail the Choir School office for more information. 651-675-6498 or sofiaa@hohchurch.org.



Adult Children of Alcoholics

Alcoholism does not just affect the alcoholic, but his or her whole family.

In writing her book, *Adult Children of Alcoholics*, Janet Geringer Woititz worked with hundreds of adult children of alcoholics and found characteristics similar to them all. She found that by addressing these characteristics, the people who had suffered from growing up in an alcoholic home could have new freedom to make choices about how they were going to live, they could decide to work on changing aspects of themselves that cause them difficulty, or they could choose not to do so. They had a better understanding of how of living in an alcoholic home had impacted their lives.

This book has helped so many people. Two million copies have been sold around the world. Support groups have formed to help adult children of alcoholics. The author looks at the 13 characteristics of Adult Children of Alcoholics and then teaches ways to break the cycle of these characteristics.

If you grew up in an alcoholic home, you may wonder why you should think about it now that you are an adult. Why dredge up all those feelings? The author states, "The adult who doesn't work to change and develop, remains tied to his parents and/or spouse, reacts in the workplace the same as he did in school, feels isolated despite the presence of other people, and is afraid to let others know him. This adult also increases the likelihood that he will become an alcoholic, marry an alcoholic, or both, thereby perpetuating a vicious cycle" (31).

Characteristics of Adult Children of Alcoholics

1. Adult Children of alcoholics guess at what normal is.
2. Adult Children of Alcoholics have difficulty following projects through from beginning to end.
3. Adult Children of Alcoholics lie when it would be just as easy to tell the truth.
4. Adult Children of Alcoholics judge themselves without mercy.
5. Adult Children of Alcoholics have difficulty having fun.
6. Adult Children of Alcoholics take themselves very seriously.
7. Adult Children of Alcoholics have difficulty with intimate relationships.
8. Adult Children of Alcoholics overreact to changes over which they have no control.
9. Adult Children of Alcoholics constantly seek approval and affirmation.
10. Adult Children of Alcoholics feel that they are different from other people.
11. Adult Children of Alcoholics are either super responsible or super irresponsible.
12. Adult Children of alcoholics are extremely loyal, even in the face of evidence that the loyalty is undeserved.
13. Adult Children of Alcoholics are impulsive. They tend to lock themselves into a course of action without giving serious consideration to alternative behaviors or possible consequences. This impulsivity leads to confusion, self-loathing and loss of control over their environment. In addition, they spend an excessive amount of energy cleaning up the mess.

How Adult Children of Alcoholics can help their own Children

1. Work on yourself and your own personal growth. Model the kind of person you want your children to imitate.
2. Listen to your children. Communicate openly, trying not to preach.
3. Tell the truth. Be honest with them. Teach them that feelings are not right or wrong. Helping your child with positive actions could help change the negative feelings.
4. Educate them. Teach them everything possible about alcoholism. Give them literature, answer all questions.
5. Encourage your children to attend Alateen. Meetings will reinforce the disease model of alcoholism. Once they accept this model, self esteem can be nurtured.
6. Give up denial. This is the enemy of getting well; face reality and help your children to do the same.
7. Do not protect your children from knowing the ravages of alcoholism. To protect your children is to make them weak and confused.
8. Don't be afraid to show affection to your children. Pour love all over your child—you can't do this enough.
9. It is important for children to have clearly-defined limits. Parameters are needed to order their lives. Home life needs to be consistent.
10. Children need to take responsibility for their behavior. Difficult times can help build self-esteem. Children need to take charge. Encourage them to try new things, not needing to succeed, but to try.

The author ends the book with three statements about alcoholism that are agreed upon by experts studying chemical dependency:

1. Alcoholism runs in families
2. Children of alcoholics run a higher risk of developing alcoholism than children in the mainstream of the population.
3. Children of alcoholics tend to marry alcoholics.

—Kris Stenson, House of Hope's Faith Partners Team

Faith Partners mission statement: *The House of hope Faith Partners Ministry will serve the needs of our congregation, and the broader community, by address addiction in our midst. We will provide educational programs, resource information, outreach and support to people affected by addiction. As team members, we will be informed and active, always advocating for compassion, understanding and a safe, open setting in which to serve.*

Holiday Open Houses



The Membership Development and Communication Committee invites all church members to one of the **HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSES** to be hosted by House of Hope members on Sunday, December 20. Stop in at the gathering in your neighborhood any time between 5 and 8 p.m. for food, fun and fellowship. Space is limited! Sign up at a table outside Kirk Parlour on Sunday, December 6. You will be asked to bring a dessert or appetizer. These small group gatherings have been very successful over the years and many of the groups continue to meet for dinner and other activities.

Homes for the Holiday



Can you host a holiday open house? We are looking for more host homes for small neighborhood gatherings of House of Hope members. Guests will bring appetizers and desserts when they stop by anytime between the hours of 5 and 8 p.m. on Sunday, December 20. The hosts will provide beverages and a cheery welcome. It's low stress holiday entertaining! If you are interested, please call Marilyn Bjorklund at 651-698-4636 or Connie Phillips at 651-482-9945 as soon as possible!



Youth Education

SUNDAY MORNINGS FOR CHILDREN

Nursery/Toddler Care
 • Nursery/toddler care is provided each Sunday morning from 8 a.m. to 12 noon.
 • Infants (birth - 10 months) go to the Noah's Ark nursery in Room 8.
 • Toddlers (19 months - 35 months) go to the Garden of Eden in Room 2. Both of these rooms are staffed by trained paid staff and volunteers.

If you are coming to worship at 8:30:
 • Childcare will be provided for age 4 and younger. (See above.)
 NOTE: toddlers, 3 and 4 year olds go to Room 2 during 8:30 worship)
 • Children age 5 and up participate in worship with their families

If you are coming to the 10 a.m. worship service:
 • Infants and toddlers go to Room 8 or 2 (see above)
 • Three-year-olds go to room 6 beginning at 9:45 for supervised play. Children must be 3 by August 31.
 • Children age 4 through grade 5 attend the beginning of the worship service, then leave the sanctuary for WORSHIP ENRICHMENT.

WORSHIP ENRICHMENT! *What is that?*
 • Age 3, pre-k and kindergarten gather in their classrooms, and then will go to Room 5 for singing time. (About 10:20 a.m.)
 • Grades 1-5 will gather in the chapel for singing, and learning about the parts of worship. Members of the clergy, Jan Snell, and Sofia Ardalan will lead Worship Enrichment time.
 • Following Worship Enrichment, children and their teachers/shepherds will go to Sunday School (age 3-K) or Bible Adventure (Grades 1-5).

NOTE: Education for all ages is offered from 11 a.m. to 12 noon.

During the month of December, the focus of the Sunday School turns to Jesus' birth.

Sunday Mornings for Children in December:

- **December 6:** Children's Christmas Pageant! 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.
- **December 13:** Sunday School classes focus on the Christmas story.
- **December 20:** Grades 1-5 participate in the Carol sing with families from 11 to 12 noon. Age 3-K attend the Birthday Party for Jesus from 11 a.m. to 12 noon.
- **December 27:** NO Sunday School or Assembly Time. Child care will be provided for age 4 and younger.

BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS

On Sunday, December 20, children in the 3, pre-k and Kindergarten classes will participate in a Birthday Party for Jesus from 11a.m. 12 noon in Dining rooms A&B. We will make Birthday Bags for the children at Liberty Plaza, sing, hear the Christmas story, and do other fun activities. Of course, there will also be treats!

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT, Sunday December 6

Everyone is invited to attend the **Children's Christmas Pageant**, at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 6, in the Sanctuary. Begin the season with a reminder of what it is we celebrate. Experience the familiar story from the Gospel of

Luke through the songs and voices of children. In addition to the traditional pageant, there will be a few surprises!

COME TO THE ADVENT CELEBRATION!

"STAR of WONDER"
 Immediately following the Children's Christmas Pageant on December 6, come to the Advent Celebration in the Great Hall. All are welcome to enjoy a lunch of sloppy joes and other good things, and then dive in for the crafts! Make an advent wreath, or a fresh swag for your front door, guided by Mickey Scott. Decorate and enjoy yummy cookies, and create a variety of stars, reminding us to follow the star to the Christ Child. There is something for all ages at the Advent Celebration! Cost is \$3 per person, or a maximum of \$15 per household. Children under 3 attend at no charge.

**CHRISTMAS EVE
CHILDCARE** will be provided for children age 6 and younger from 5 to 6:45 p.m. for the Tableaux service. Childcare is not available at the 10:30 p.m. service.

4 P.M. AFTERNOON WORSHIP ON CHRISTMAS EVE

This service is now held in the Sanctuary, and includes the story of Jesus' birth, along with singing of the traditional carols, candles, and beautiful music. This service is especially friendly for the very young, but all are welcome to attend.

Cloister Art Gallery

In December the Cloister Art Gallery will feature the works of Michael Bond. Michael's heritage is observable in his lyrical etchings and drypoints that often depict the countryside or historical sights of Europe and his native England. The artist has a fluid intaglio technique in his work that combines realism with romanticism as it is influenced by such classic masters as Rembrandt, Whistler and Haden.

Michael employs various intaglio printmaking techniques, including etching, aquatint, drypoint, and a la poupee as well as hand-coloring (watercolor). All aspects of the work, from conceptual drawings done on site to the final wiping and printing of each plate, are performed by Michael.

Bond immigrated to the United States in 1976. He studied printmaking with Mary Barrett at the University of Wisconsin, River Falls from 1980-1986, and classical drawing at the Atelier Lack school in Minneapolis. He has been a full time printmaker for 25 years and continues to produce and show his work throughout the United States. Michael and his wife, Laura, live in River Falls, Wisconsin.

Meet Michael and enjoy coffee in the Cloister Gallery on Sunday, December 13, following the 10 a.m. worship service.



Enrichment Program:
Sundays, 11 a.m., Assembly Room
(unless otherwise noted)

December 6: *The Children's Christmas Pageant* at 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

December 13: *Sentenced to Silence.* **Marketa Goetz-Stankiewich** talks about the Communist regime's program of "normalization" in the 1970s and 80s when outstanding Czech and Slovak writers were ostracized and their works barred from publication or performance. Dr. Goetz-Stankiewich is Professor Emerita in the department of Central, Eastern and Northern European Studies at the University of British Columbia.

December 20: *Christmas Carol Sing-along.* At this perennial favorite event, Lynda and Phil Jorgenson lead the congregation in the singing of Christmastime favorites.

December 27: No Program.

First Thursday Literature Series

On Thursday, December 3, at 10 a.m. at the Meeting House (761 Summit), Joy Davis' seminars continue the discussion of Great American Short Stories with Stephen Crane's "The Open Boat," a powerful narrative of catastrophe and survival. The subject on January 7 will be Nathaniel Hawthorne's "The Birthmark," and on February 4, Edgar Allan Poe's "The Casque of Amontillado" and "The Purloined Letter." All are welcome. No reservations are needed.

Bible Study

Weekly opportunities for study of the coming Sunday's lectionary scripture lessons:

- **The Men's Breakfast** each Tuesday, 7 to 8:15 a.m. at the Copper Dome Restaurant, 1333 Randolph Ave., St. Paul, and

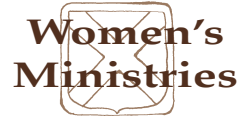
- **Friday mornings with Molly McMillan**, 9:45 a.m. in the Church Library.



Men's Breakfast Groups

Tuesday Men's Breakfast Group meets weekly at 7 a.m. at the Copper Dome at 1333 Randolph. We study the lectionary lessons from the coming Sunday's Scripture lessons together. • **Thursday Men's Breakfast Group** meets weekly at 7 a.m. on Thursdays at the St. Clair Broiler on Snelling and St. Clair. All House of Hope men are welcome to attend. For further information, contact the church office, 651-227-6311.

Contact for Men's Breakfast Groups: Bob Hennesy, 651-739-7262. Newcomers are always welcome!



Women's Breakfast

The Women's Breakfast Group meets Friday mornings at 7 a.m. in the Kirk Parlour for breakfast and discussion of good books.

Newcomers are always welcome. First-time visitors, please call Jan Dickinson, 651-647-1786, or Esther Kellogg, 651-699-6006, for important information.

December 4: *Advent Breakfast at the Town & Country Club.*

December 11, 18: *The Afterlife and Other Stories,* John Updike

December 25-January 1: Holiday Break. No meetings.



Grief Groups

Grief Support Groups sponsored by the Capital City Grief Coalition meet each Thursday afternoon from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at House of Hope through March, 2010. These groups are designed to meet the needs of those who have suffered the loss of a loved one through death, and newcomers are welcome at any time. For more information, contact Coalition Coordinator Lois Knutson at 651-227-4430.

Hard Hats

This group of hard-working volunteers is looking for a few good people to help them keep The House of Hope facilities in great condition. The group works on a task list provided by their crew leader, Erv Lentz. Facilities Manager Doug Wakefield is on hand to guide their efforts. For more information, call Erv at 651-484-7976. Otherwise, just come to the next gathering at 9 a.m. in the Church Library on Thursday, December 3. Meanwhile, contact Doug Wakefield if you see anything around the church that needs attention (dougw@hohchurch.org)!

Loaves and Fishes

The SAINTS team will serve our Frogtown neighbors on Monday, December 21, in the Loaves & Fishes program at Faith Lutheran Church, Charles and Mackubin Streets in St. Paul. The food prep team starts at 2 p.m. The servers, expeditors and clean-up crew join in at 5 p.m. We finish our tasks by 7 p.m. Any questions? Please call Captain Ray Clark 651-484-7270.

Kirk Club

The Kirk Club will have a special Christmas Program on Sunday, December 13, at 12:30 p.m. at the Lexington. Tom Forster-Smith will give an account of his Sabbatical. Brunch at the Lexington will be followed by dessert at the manse, courtesy of David and Nancy Van Dyke. Cost of brunch at the Lexington: \$13.78 and up, including tax and tip. Make your reservation with the church office, 651-227-6311, by noon on Friday, December 11.

Notes from the Business Office

Special Giving Option Extended Tax Free IRA distributions until December 31, 2009

In 2006, Congress instituted a temporary incentive allowing donors to make donations to charitable organizations from their IRA accounts. The Pension Protection Act of 2006 allows individuals age 70 1/2 and older to authorize the direct transfer of up to \$100,000 a year from traditional and Roth IRAs to qualified charities without having to recognize the income and pay tax on the distributions. These tax-free IRA donations will count for all or part of the annual required minimum distribution, may be made up of distributions from one or more IRAs and may be given to one or more charities. No itemized charitable contribution deduction is allowed for IRA donations since no recognition of income is realized by the donor. However, many donors will find the ability to make the tax-free transfers override the benefits of deductibility. Such donations cannot be made from simplified employee pensions (SEPs) or Savings Incentive Match Plan for Employees (SIMPLE) IRAs. IRA assets left to heirs may be subject to estate and income taxes, so this is a unique opportunity to avoid both taxes. Legislation is extending this until December 31, 2009 under the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (H.R 1424).

How to qualify

- You must be at least 70 1/2 years of age on the date of the gift.
- You may gift up to \$100,000 per person this year.

(If two spouses have IRA plans, each may make gifts up to that limit.)

- Applies to traditional and Roth IRAs only.
- Gifts will be counted towards your required minimum distribution (RMD).
- Distributions will be excluded from gross income for income tax purposes.

They cannot be claimed as deductions but will result in a greater benefit to you and your favorite charities.

- Gifts must go to any qualified tax-exempt organization.
- Funds must be transferred directly from your IRA to the chosen charity.

(You may not take the distribution, and then donate the funds.)

Go Figure

As you consider your pledge for 2009, you may wonder how much to pledge. While a heartfelt response is usually the best approach, many want a more quantitative method for determining an appropriate gift. Here are three approaches:

1. Tithing. This is the simple and traditional way of approaching stewardship. The Bible instructs us to give 10% of our income to God (church and other charities). Easy and straightforward.

2. Percentage of Income. The chart below shows a weekly offering amount based on income and what percent of income you wish to contribute.

Approximate Weekly Commitment Proportionate to Annual Income

Income	10%	5%	4%	3%
\$500,000	\$962	\$481	\$385	\$288
\$250,000	\$481	\$240	\$192	\$144
\$150,000	\$288	\$144	\$115	\$87
\$130,000	\$250	\$125	\$100	\$75
\$100,000	\$192	\$96	\$77	\$58
\$75,000	\$144	\$72	\$58	\$43
\$50,000	\$96	\$48	\$38	\$29
\$30,000	\$58	\$29	\$23	\$17
\$10,000	\$19	\$10	\$8	\$6

3. Average Pledge. The average House of Hope pledge was \$1,982 for 2009. If you feel you are an above average person, don't settle for average giving, consider increasing your pledge to a level that better represents you.

Year-End Giving

As the year comes to an end, this is a good time to complete one's 2009 pledge, or perhaps to consider making a special contribution to support the many wonderful worship, education, outreach, and other exceptional ministries at House of Hope—programs that may have been especially meaningful for you this past year. Your participation and support are greatly appreciated, as we look forward to the New Year.

There is a growing trend among donors to make contributions to their favorite organizations via the Web during the final week of the year. As you contemplate year-end gifts, please keep House of Hope in mind. We welcome your donations through Automatic Giving on the House of Hope website, www.hohchurch.org. Click on the "Donate Online" link on the left side of the screen.

If you are currently enrolled in Automatic Giving and you have completed a new pledge card for 2010, there is no need to fill out a new enrollment form. Your new pledge will authorize us to continue with Direct Bank Giving for 2010, at the new pledge amount.

If you would like more information about alternative gift types or planned giving, please contact Michelle Freyholtz, Assistant for Administration and Stewardship, at 651-223-7556.



In Memoriam

Douglas S. Young
November 7, 2009

The Change of Heart offering provides an opportunity for us to be intentionally more generous with our monetary gifts to the work of the Church in God's world. Each week the loose coins, currency, and checks with a memo note "Change of Heart" will be set aside and given to a special ministry. During the month of December, the offering goes to Bill's Pantry, an all-volunteer organization dedicated to meeting the nutritional needs of persons living with HIV/AIDS in the Twin Cities.



Everyone Welcome to Brunch with Byron!

Save January 17, 2010, for brunch with longtime House of Hope member Byron Wertz, who will give a powerpoint account of his remarkable participation in the "Ocean to Ocean New York to Seattle Model T Endurance Run" this past June and July. Wertz completed the trip in a 1924 Ford Touring car that has been in his family for 42 years, retracing a 4200 mile journey originally taken in 1909. Brunch will be held at the Lexington Restaurant (on Grand Avenue at Lexington in St. Paul) at 12:30 p.m. Cost of brunch is \$13.78 and up, including tax and tip. Make reservations with the church office, 651-227-6311 by noon on Friday, January 15. This all-church event is sponsored by the Kirk Club.



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