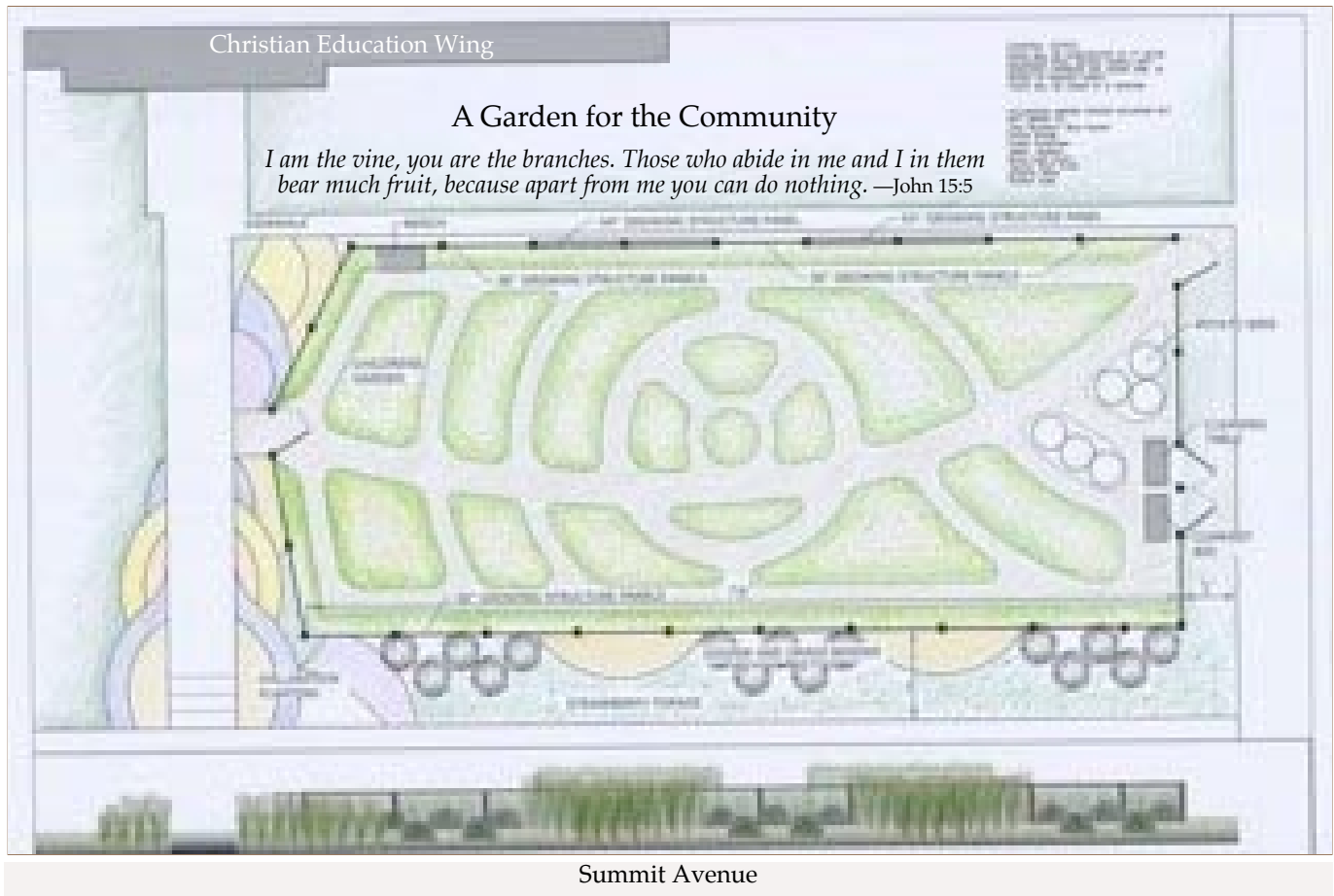


# ANNOUNCEMENT

The House of Hope Presbyterian Church Issue No. 189 May 2011



Shown above is a conceptual drawing of a community garden which the Session of The House of Hope approved at its April meeting. The plantings at the bottom depict a street view of the garden. The gray structure at the top left is the education wing of The House of Hope. For more information, please see Pastor Van Dyke's article on page 2.

## May Transitions

May is a time of transitions. The flowers are beginning to bud, and both the school and church program years are coming to a close.

This May, the fifth graders will transition out of a workshop-rotation-based Sunday School model to a new, uncharted Middle School Ministry.

The eighth graders will transition out of the Middle School Room in the Education Wing, to the spacious Youth Room in the basement.

Our ninth grade confirmands will publicly profess their faith and join the church as young adult members.

Our high school seniors will graduate and explore new adventures in their lives, both far from and near to The House of Hope.

May is a season of change, and we ask that you support our young people through these transitions both in prayer and in presence. Remember that Confirmation Sunday is May 15 at 10 a.m., and Senior Day is May 22.

As we mark these pivotal milestones for our young people, we know that God walks with us through every transition in our lives. Thanks be to God! Amen.

—Joann H. Lee, Associate Pastor for Family and Young Adult Ministries

## Holy Communion May 1

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated at both services on Sunday, May 1.

In the Presbyterian Church (USA), all baptized persons, including children, are welcome to participate in the sacrament.

## Calling All Green Thumbs



At a Mission Outreach Committee retreat held last January, we did some dreaming and reflecting on how we as a church engage with the world around us in mission. As a church we are in the privileged position of being able to give a good bit of money away to deserving ministries and causes. But is that enough? Mindful of the mission that already takes place here, whether it be Project Home, Loaves and Fishes or various mission

trips, my hunch is that most members are unaware of how much money is given away and to whom, even though it appears in the annual report. I believe that as a church we are called to do more, however, than give money away—otherwise we're no different than any other charitable foundation.

At our retreat in the dead of winter, the idea of this church starting a community garden emerged and the members of the committee voiced their enthusiasm immediately. It was frankly an idea other church members had mentioned to me as something The House of Hope should consider. With that strong new consensus, the Mission Outreach Committee began doing the research and learning about community gardens. We hired Paula Westmorland from the Permaculture Research Center, a consultant specializing in designing beautiful organic community gardens. We also had to consider what we'd grow and for whom would we grow it? After some conversation with folks at Neighborhood House, which operates a large food pantry for their largely new immigrant population, we decided to partner with them and make them the recipients of the produce we raise. Last year, Neighborhood House distributed more than 300,000 pounds of food. We had further consultations about the kind of produce their patrons would like us to grow. Neighborhood House currently receives the leftover produce from the farmer's market. This means that the patrons have semi-fresh produce on Mondays and Tuesdays. The plan is to harvest our produce so the shelves will be stocked with fresh produce Wednesday through Friday as well.

After receiving the encouragement from the House and Properties Committee of the Trustees, the Session voted unanimously at its May meeting to move ahead with the 1500-square-foot community garden to be located in front of the education wing, just to the east of the sidewalk. The Mission Outreach Committee is prepared to invest from their annual budget the necessary \$20,000 to establish the garden. While there are still some crucial steps that need to be taken, like working with the Historic Preservation Society, we are preparing to break ground this spring on what will be the first community produce garden on Summit Avenue.

Perhaps you saw the article by Rubén Rosario in the St. Paul Pioneer Press on Easter Sunday. Here is a

*See Green, p. 3*

## WORSHIP SERVICES

8:30 a.m. service, Assembly Room.  
10 a.m. service, Sanctuary.

**Sunday, May 1, 2011**  
**Second Sunday of Easter**  
**Holy Communion**

David A. Van Dyke, preaching  
Motet Choir: *Jubilate Deo*, William Matthias  
*Let Peace then Still the Strife*, Mack Wilberg

**May 8, 2011**

**Third Sunday of Easter**

David A. Van Dyke, preaching  
Motet Choir: Gloria (from Cantus Missae),  
Joseph Rheinberger  
*Worthy is the Lamb* (from *Messiah*), Handel  
Choir School: *Fairest Lord Jesus*, Delong

**May 15, 2011**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
**Confirmation Sunday**

Joann H. Lee, preaching  
Motet Choir: *Pilgrim's Hymn*, Stephen Paulus  
*Lift Up Your Heads*, Francis Jackson  
Choir School: *Unto Him That Loved Us*,  
Vaughan Williams  
Bell Choir: *Easter Rondo*, Michael Helman

**May 22, 2011**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**Senior Day**

**LAST SUNDAY OF TWO SERVICES**  
Thomas W. Forster-Smith, preaching  
Motet Choir: *His Voice*, Larry Fleming  
*They that Wait Upon the Lord*, Gerald Near  
Choir School: *The Father's Love*, Lole

**May 29, 2011**

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**ONE SERVICE ONLY (10 a.m., Sanctuary)**

David A. Van Dyke, preaching  
Motet Choir: *If Ye Love Me*, Thomas Tallis  
*How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place*, Johannes Brahms

### Last Day of Two Services is May 22

Sunday, May 22, is the last day of two Sunday worship services at The House of Hope. Beginning May 29, the only worship service will be at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary. The two-worship schedule resumes on September 11.

**The Church Office will be closed on Memorial Day, Monday, May 30**

Green, from p. 2

link to that article: <http://www.twincities.com/rosario>. I also shared our plans and desires for the garden with our city council member, Melvin Carter, who was very enthusiastic and encouraging of this church undertaking such an initiative. The community garden is designed to be beautiful and inviting. People will notice it and this is a good thing. I have no doubt that it will entice Summit Avenue walkers to actually come up off the sidewalk and take a look at it, maybe even walk through it and learn about the needs in our own community and our reason for doing this.

As your pastor, I'll be the first to admit that I don't know a lot about gardening, but I do know this. We have hungry people in our city and they're not just homeless people. With numbers increasing at an alarming rate, they are the working poor who cannot make ends meet and who rely on food pantries like the one at Neighborhood House, to make it through the month. Food pantries across the country report dramatic increases in the number of people they are seeing who need assistance. I also know that churches are called to be in mission and that feeding hungry people good and healthy food is a no-brainer. What a statement it will make—a public witness, if you will, for The House of Hope Presbyterian Church to establish the first community garden along Summit Avenue.

—David

### Jeremiah Program Cook for Kids on June 2

The Jeremiah Program began in 1998 in Minneapolis and in 2007 in St. Paul. The St. Paul Campus at 932 Concordia Avenue has 38 apartments. The program helps single mothers and children break the cycle of poverty by supporting women in completing post-secondary education. Safe affordable housing, life skills education, empowerment training, and early childhood education are provided. The Child Development Centers participated in an annual Quality Rating System (QRS) in 2010 and were recognized as 4-star academic facilities, the highest possible rating.

Jeremiah Program participants must be single mothers at least 18 years old, residents of Minnesota for at least two years, high school graduates or having earned GED certificates, enrolled in post-secondary or training programs, having dependent children under five years of age, and highly motivated and desiring self-improvement. Before admission to the program, women must take a 16-week pre-admission class. This spring, 15 women have begun the 16-week class.

On Tuesday and Thursday evenings, volunteers Cook for Kids—serving a meal to Jeremiah residents (approximately 20 adults and 20 children). Jeremiah moms attend Life Skills classes these evenings and appreciate not having to rush home from work and cook a meal. Volunteers from The House of Hope participate several times a year and will do so again on Thursday, June 2.

Volunteers arrive at Jeremiah at about 4:30 and are finished with clean-up at about 6:30.

If you are interested in cooking and serving a simple meal that day, contact Linda Trouten at 651-653-7109 or [lindatrouten@msn.com](mailto:lindatrouten@msn.com); or Ginger Bailey, 612-332-4424, or [waltginger@hotmail.com](mailto:waltginger@hotmail.com).

## Music in May



All are invited to the annual **HOUSE OF HOPE CHOIR SCHOOL SPRING CONCERT** on Sunday, May 22. The concert is at 2 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This year's program includes music by Mozart, Britten, American hymns and spirituals and more, all presented by the six Choir School ensembles, the Youth Bell Choir and Orff Ensemble. This concert is free and open to the public.

**H**andbell Handshake. Would you like to serve the church in a way that combines teamwork and musical skills? Do you want to be part of an engaging and challenging musical experience? **THE ADULT HANDBELL CHOIR HAS OPENINGS** for the 2011-2012 season and will hold a "Handbell Handshake" event at 7 p.m. on May 25 for those who are curious about joining the Handbell Choir. Handbell assignments will be determined by June 1. This meeting will be a chance for you to learn about ringing and the musical skills required. Previous ringing experience is not necessary, nor do you need to be a member of the church. All who are in high school or older are welcome to attend. To reserve your place or for more information, please leave a message for Kirsten Uhlenberg in the church office at 651-227-6311.

### Great Decisions

On Tuesday, May 17, at 7 p.m. in the Church Library, the topic "U.S. National Security" will be discussed by John Radsan, professor of Law at William Mitchell College of Law. Mr. Radsan served as Assistant General Counsel, C.I.A., in Langley, Virginia; Assistant U.S. Attorney in San Diego; and consultant to corporations and law firms. He is an expert on legal issues related to national security. His combination of law enforcement experience, intelligence community experience and Middle Eastern origins make him unique within the legal academy. He holds an A.B., *summa cum laude*, 1983, from Duke University, and a J.D., *cum laude*, 1987, from Harvard Law School. He is fluent in Farsi, French and Spanish.

Great Decisions is a program of discussions focusing on U.S. Foreign Policy issues. It is sponsored by the Foreign Policy Association and administered here in Minnesota by the Minnesota International Center.

For more information, contact Bob Mairs, 651-222-3423, or the church office, 651-227-6311.

### Women's Breakfast Group



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.

**May 6:** *The Lacuna*, Barbara Kingsolver

**May 13, 20, 27:** Planning for 2011-2012



## Our Hope for Years to Come Capital Campaign

Diane Smith, Director of Administration, was in the church library in late March, when she was startled by a resounding crash. A “sofa-size” chunk of ice and snow had fallen from the roof just outside the entrance to the Youth Room on Avon Street. Further investigation revealed a large ice dam had formed on the roof, part of which (the ice sofa) had broken away. The ice dam had pushed a large section of stone away from the church edifice. That obviously posed imminent danger. (Look closely at the picture and posters around the Church for proof.) The crane, which you may have noticed in the Portland Avenue parking lot, was called into service, the ice dam removed, and the stone pushed back into place. But that is, at best, a temporary fix.

It’s clear from that incident, that there is urgent need to begin repairs. The Construction Task Force is meeting regularly to determine priorities and move multiple projects forward. Timing and sequencing the work needs to be evaluated for both financial implications and efficiency—not to mention the construction season. Roof Spec Inc. is writing specifications for the Bell Tower Repair, which is a complex project and will require specialized experience. Specifications will go out for bid to 3-4 qualified contractors in the next month. Berwald Roofing Company has been selected and approved by the Session as the roofing contractor. Our task is now to define the sequencing of these projects. Soon, work will begin as we remodel the Youth pantry, and repairs will begin on the elevator to the basement, which is hoped to be finished by fall. And that is just the beginning.

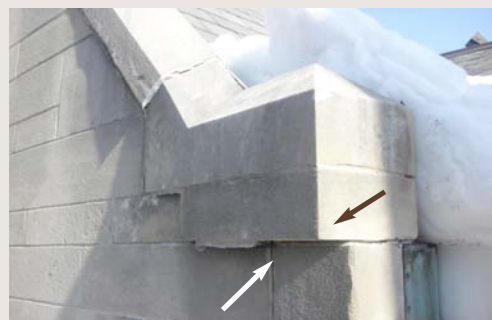
Want more information? Behind-the-Scenes tours are held on the third Sunday of each month to give you a chance to see some of the areas identified for renovation. It is your opportunity to ask questions and provide your feedback.

**Your Help is Needed.** Please participate in the repair and restoration effort by contributing to the capital campaign. Your contribution is much needed. Campaign materials are available in the church office or visit The House of Hope website: [www.hohchurch.org](http://www.hohchurch.org) to view the information online. You can also call the Church office, 651-227-6311, to request materials be sent to you.

**Our \$7million goal is within reach and attainable through your generous gift.**

—Chris Langer  
2014 Capital Campaign Committee

*The following photo of the roof line along the west wall (above the Library) shows how an ice dam has pushed the stone blocks several inches out of alignment:*



## Loaves and Fishes Update

The House of Hope Loaves and Fishes volunteers are in their 23rd year of service. The goal of Loaves and Fishes is to “provide nutritious meals to people who are hungry in the Twin Cities metro area in an atmosphere of hospitality at site locations where the need is greatest.” In coordination with Loaves and Fishes, House of Hope volunteers have been serving dinner on the third Monday of every month at the Frogtown location of Faith Lutheran Church. The House of Hope meal, which many guests say is the best meal, consists of spaghetti and meatballs, apple sauce, garlic bread, banana, and ice cream. In 2010, Loaves and Fishes volunteers served over 337,000 meals. The Faith Lutheran site served 29,828 meals in 2010. The House of Hope has two crews, one crew arrives at 2 p.m. to prepare the meal and the second crew arrives around 5 p.m. to set up the serving tables, serve the meal, and clean up the site, finishing around 7 p.m. Volunteers often share a meal with our guests at their table, engage in small talk, and learn about their other needs and concerns. If you are interested in volunteering or giving a donation, please contact Kay or Paul Solon at 651-690-3024.

—Bill Geery, Chair  
Community Care Committee of Deacons



## Adult Enrichment 11:15 a.m., Assembly Room

**Sunday, May 1:** The travelers to Bogota, Colombia, talk about their experiences in that South American Country.

**Sunday, May 22:** The end-of-year program offered by the Sunday School children age 3 through grade 5.

## May in the Cloister Art Gallery Peruvian Weavings Exhibit Held Over

Melanie Ebertz first traveled to Peru in the mid-eighties with an interest in textiles. Victims of terrorism, the renowned weavers of Ayacucho were either living in fear or had moved to shanty towns as political refugees. The tragic interruption in their lives caused them to lose their skill level and their market. Melanie researched historic weaving cultures and designs in order to assist the weavers in restoring the high quality of their work. This combined effort ultimately created a select market for high-end, unique and durable rugs. This effort has given a small group of weavers great pride in their skill. Five percent of the profits of rug sales are donated to Comunidad, a non-profit foundation that provides education and nutrition in Ayacucho, Peru. Visit [artandes.com](http://artandes.com) for more information.

These weavings will remain on display in the gallery through May 22.

# Youth Education

## SUNDAY MORNINGS FOR CHILDREN

Through May 22:

### Nursery/Toddler Care

•Nursery/toddler care is provided from 8:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

- Infants (birth - 18 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. Toddlers, 3 and 4 year olds go to Room 2 during 8:30 worship.
- Children in kindergarten 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 ages 4 through grade 5 attend the beginning of the worship service.
- Following the Time for Children, age 4 - K go to their classrooms. Grades 1-5 go to Sunday School. The weekly schedule for grades 1-5 is always printed in the Sunday bulletin.

Sunday School classes for age 3-grade 5 conclude at 11:20 a.m.

An enrichment program will be provided each Sunday for all children:

- Age kindergarten gather in Room 5 from 11:30 to noon
- Grades 1-5 gather in Room 1 from 11:20 a.m. to noon.

**Memorial Day weekend On Sunday, May 29, there is child care for infants and toddlers, but no Sunday School.**

## Youth Notes

Many thanks to all our youth who were involved with this year's **YOUTH SUNDAY** on April 10. Luke Horstman and Michael Peterson preached, combining humor and insight in reflections that lifted up the role the church has played in their formation, and called the church to fresh action in the world. Choir School contributed excellent music, and many of our other youth were involved in planning, writing, leading and participating in the day's worship. Thanks to all!

It's that Grand Old time of year again! This year's **GRAND OLD DAY** will be Sunday, June 5, and as usual, our church parking lots will be available for paid parking for anyone in the community, with proceeds benefitting our Youth Committee and summer mission trip to Chicago. We'll need a lot of volunteers—youth and adults—to make this year's fundraiser a success, so watch for opportunities and information about volunteering.

—Jeff Foels, Director of Youth Ministries

## Sunday School Spring Program "Expressions of Faith" May 22

Everyone is invited to attend the end of the year program offered by the Sunday School children age 3 through grade 5. The program will take place at 11:10 a.m. in the Assembly Room.

The children in the 3- and 4-year-olds classes will share songs they have prepared, while children in grades K through 5 will recite what they have memorized. Each class has committed to memory something that is relevant to our Christian faith.

This is also the time when we recognize all of the wonderful volunteers who have made the Sunday School program possible.

All are invited to attend!

## Summer Program Information

Summer program information for children age 3 and up is available on the church website, [www.hohchurch.org](http://www.hohchurch.org), or by contacting Jan Snell at 651-223-7547 or [jans@hohchurch.org](mailto:jans@hohchurch.org).

Information and registration for programs held at **Presbyterian Clearwater Forest Camp and Retreat Center** can be found at [www.clearwaterforest.org](http://www.clearwaterforest.org)

## Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is meeting to prepare a slate of officers: elders, deacons, trustees, and the 2012 Nominating Committee. These officers and committee members will begin to serve in January, 2012. The slate will come before the congregation in November.

Nominations can come from any member, and we are encouraging self-nominations. House of Hope members are blessed with diverse talents. Please consider sharing your talents by serving on one of the boards or on the 2012 Nominating Committee. Nomination forms are available in the church office or at our website: [www.hohchurch.org](http://www.hohchurch.org).

Please leave completed forms in the offering plate, the Nominating Committee mailbox in the office, or mail them in care of the Nominating Committee, The House of Hope Church, 797 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55105. You may also fax them to 651-227-9969.

Members of the Nominating Committee are: Richard Langer, Chair; Brian Alton, Mary Ellen Bland, Kathe Bolinder, Ann Geery, Linda Lane, Mercedes Sheldon, Don Vandenberg, Kevin Walli. Staff members (*ex officio*) are David Van Dyke and Michelle Freyholtz.

## Men's Breakfast Groups



**Tuesday Men's Breakfast Group** meets weekly at 7 a.m. at the Copper Dome at 1333 Randolph to study the lectionary lessons from the coming Sunday's Scripture lessons. **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: Rev. Tom Forster-Smith, 651-223-7553. Newcomers welcome!



## Loaves and Fishes

The APOSTLES team will rally to the cause of the Loaves and Fishes Program again this month when the team serves guests on Monday, May 16, at Faith Lutheran Church, Charles and Mackubin Streets in St. Paul. The food prep team starts at 2 p.m.; servers and expeditors begin at 5 p.m. Questions? Please call Kay or Paul Solon at 651-690-3024.

## Kirk Club

April 11 was **Mary Ann Grossman Day** in St. Paul. Literary Critic of the St. Paul Pioneer Press for 50 years, Mary Ann will be the special guest of the Kirk Club at brunch on Sunday, May 22, at 12:30 p.m. at the Lexington. Make your reservation with the church office, 651-227-6311, by noon on Friday, May 20.

## Young Adults

**Thursdays on Tap.** On May 26, Young adults will gather at 5:30 p.m. at Dixie's on Grand, 695 Grand Avenue in St Paul.

*Thursday's Specials:*  
**3 to 5 p.m.**

\$4 glasses of house wine;  
\$2.50 well drinks and draft beers;  
1/2 off appetizers

**Young Adults Book Study** concludes on Monday, May 9, at 6:30 p.m. in the Library. (No class on May 2.)

Contact Joann Lee: joannl@hohchurch.org or 651-223-7549 to sign up or with any questions.

## A Tribute to Jo Kircher

The following remarks were delivered at the memorial service for Joan H. (Jo) Kircher on April 2, 2011.

Wife, mother, grand and great grandmother, teacher, friend and mentor—all wonderful titles describing Jo Kircher. Everyone who knew Jo knew that she was most passionate about 2 things in her life—her family and The House of Hope Preschool. Children, whether her own or one of the hundreds whose lives she touched, were the very essence of Jo Kircher.

Her wonderful smile would light up the room when she spoke of her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren as they grew up, married and had children of their own. She would laugh at herself when telling of how she made everyone play games at Thanksgiving dinner or how she made Bob stop the car so she could gather some pussy willows or cattails that she had spotted alongside the road.

Jo taught and directed The House of Hope Preschool for 46 years and, while early childhood education has changed in the past 50 years, her basic values and principles still guide the school today. (She would be glad to know that we have not succumbed to having computers in the classrooms!)

The House of Hope Preschool began with some very basic “Jo Kircher” principles:

- Children are to be respected—they are children, not kids!
- Teach the whole child.
- Play is a child’s work.

When choosing the names for the classrooms she did not want to refer to them by age group, but instead chose timeless names that have remained for over 50 years. They also seem to say a little bit about Jo herself. The Teddy Bear Room—nurturing and comforting for the 3 year olds as they begin school; The Humpty Dumpty Room—flexible and resilient for 3 and 4 year olds as they test their limits; and The Peter Rabbit Room—tapping into the mischievous spirit of the 5 year olds and guiding them from the safety of the burrow to the outside world.

These names have given countless children a sense of identity and belonging that they remember and cherish well after their preschool years. Former students who come back with their own children remember which rooms they were in. Lynn Stein, a former student and current parent, noted that when meeting former House of Hope classmates the conversation always includes “Were you a Teddy Bear, Humpty Dumpty or Peter Rabbit?” Middle school children have been known to use their House of Hope school bags for their books and supplies.

Of all times of the year, Christmas was Jo’s favorite. December was always a joyous time at The House of Hope Preschool. Spirit filled the halls—from staff meetings where she would play her favorite song, “Come on Ring Those Bells” over and over, to showing the class the beautiful Christmas window and lighting the Advent wreath in the Big Church. She and Santa had a special and unique relationship. My husband, who has had Santa duty for over 20 years, remembers how sharp she was as each year he would try to trip her up with some question or situation. He once left his suit in the music room and didn’t close the door. When the afternoon children arrived they saw it, and Jo, never one to fall apart in an awkward situation (remember that Humpty Dumpty reference) just said, “Well let’s see if we can find him.” She led the class around the building looking in rooms until she got upstairs where there were windows high enough that the children couldn’t see. She then excitedly whispered, “He’s taking a nap. Let’s go quietly so we won’t wake him,” and they tiptoed down the stairs. Her quick wit once again came to the rescue when one year the children asked Santa where the reindeer were. He said on the roof and told them to ask Mrs. Kircher why he couldn’t bring them inside. Without missing a beat she replied, “Because they will poop on the carpet!”

While she totally embraced the fun, excitement and high energy anticipation of the holiday, Jo always made sure that the Christmas message of Christ’s birth was most important. Santa was put to rest, literally, the last week before vacation and the focus of all activities was on the Christmas story. When she couldn’t find an age appropriate video of the Nativity, she had a slide show created from her favorite book. We still use it each year and she is always close to my heart as I light the advent wreath and try to remember what each candle stands for.

Jo’s legacy reaches beyond the preschool as well. For years to come, community children will continue to laugh and play on the Jo Kircher Playground across Portland Avenue from the school.

Her presence walks the halls with us each day and guides us as we continue to nurture, love and respect the children we are blessed to teach.

So come on “ring those bells” and celebrate Jo’s life as we celebrate all that she has given us.

—Paige Hagstrom  
Preschool Director



## Dreaming

The Bible has many references to dreams. Joseph was told in a dream to flee to Egypt after Jesus was born (*Matthew 2:13*). An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt." I often thought, what if Mary had said, "Oh Joseph, it was only a dream. We don't know anyone in Egypt. Why would God want us to go there?"

I have amazing dreams that go on and on. Sometimes I can go back to them even after I have woken up and walked around. As a child I would dream I could fly around my house. When I told my friends I could fly I could barely get off the ground. I couldn't understand why recently I had been dreaming about my Mother. I loved my Mother so much and miss her every day of the ten years she has been gone. In these dreams, though, I am screaming at her about meals she has prepared. I am so angry, in the morning I wake up sick to my stomach. Why am I so angry at my Mother? She hated confrontation and would never lash out as I am prone to do. After several of these kinds of dreams I finally got it. I am screaming at my Mother because I can. She would never abandon me for my awful behavior as others might. I could take out all my anger I had on things beyond my control on a "safe" person.

As parents, many of us are that "safe" person for our children. Think of the horrible, nasty things they say to you, generally as teens. They attack your soft underbelly because they know so well your weakest points. They have been studying you for years and know what sets you off. The hardest thing for a parent to do is not to attack back. We have the power in the relationship and our words can cause deep wounds. Thankfully I had my dear friend and Pastor, Darlene, to help me through this stage of parenting.

Recently I read the book *The Shack*. Part of the philosophy of this book is that God is a trinity because of his love of fellowship. I loved that concept because it made God so approachable to humans as well. It made me feel as though God wanted to hear what I had to say. Parents love to hear what their children have to say, even through the teen years. God will also listen to our fears, our pain and our joy. God will not abandon us because of something we say or do.

In our dreams we are more spirit than physical being. We can fly, fall off cliffs unharmed, and move effortlessly through time and space. What an amazing gift!

—Jan Favorite

The House of Hope Faith Partners Ministry Team

**Faith Partners mission statement:** *The House of Hope Faith Partners Ministry will serve the needs of our congregation, and the broader community, by addressing 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.*

## What To Do About Colombia?

I don't know what to do to help Colombia. Even after diligently reading articles and scanning headlines, living with a roommate who worked for the Colombia Accompaniment Program of the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship, and visiting the country in March, I still don't know what I can do to help Colombia.

Luckily for us, the church in Colombia isn't asking us to actually do anything. Instead, they're asking for our presence and a willingness to listen and walk with them as they work for justice and peace in their country.

The House of Hope's first "exploratory" trip to Colombia taught us that there is still so much we need to learn. The issues in Colombia are deep and complex, requiring more than a new paint job on a church building or a new roof for a children's center. While all these little fixes may "help," the church is looking for more than just "help."

They are looking for partners in ministry who can stand with them as they stand up against the powers and principalities that propagate violence, greed and corruption.

As they take their stand in a country where it is dangerous to do so, we can take a stand in our own context, shedding light and truth on the situation in Colombia as we learn that truth from our brothers and sisters.

While I don't have answers or solutions to the multifaceted issues that Colombians face, I can sit and learn about the realities of Colombian life. I can listen to the stories of those who have risked so much for the sake of fairness, to those who have been displaced and struggle to find life and work after displacement, to those whose lives have been uprooted by violence, and I can share these stories with others.

I don't know how to help, but I am learning how to accompany.

Acompañar, "to accompany" in Spanish, is not an idea or word often used in common American English. In its essence, it means to become a companion, a friend, someone who "comes with" (a common Minnesota phrase!).

This kind of relationship is much more complex, and it requires much more than just our physical labor. It goes beyond just "doing for" others and involves "walking with" others in their struggle for justice. It includes our whole being and challenges us to step outside of our comfort zones to embrace friendships from those whose lives are so different from our own, but with whom we also share so much in common.

And this is what The House of Hope has committed to do with the Iglesia Presbiteriana de Colombia (the Presbyterian Church in Colombia). We cannot offer our "help" because we don't yet know how, and because, perhaps, that is not what is needed. But we can offer our friendship, our solidarity and our accompaniment.

—Joann Lee

## First Thursday Literature Series

Joy Davis' First Thursday Seminars last meeting will be on Thursday, May 5, at 10:30 a.m. in the Church Library. We will discuss Edith Wharton's short story "Roman Fever." We will gather again in the Fall. Everyone is welcome. Registration is not required.

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## Congregation



### In Memoriam

**Mary Robert Kagin**  
March 24, 2011

**Joan H. (Jo) Kircher**  
March 29, 2011

**Eileen Drew**  
April 15, 2011



### Change of Heart Offering

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 May, these gifts go to Clearwater Forest, the Presbyterian summer camp where generations of children have experienced faith, friendship and nature.

### Habitat for Humanity - Faith Builders

This is the ninth year of The House of Hope's participation in Faith Builders, a coalition of churches in St. Paul that will be working on a Habitat for Humanity project in St. Paul. Coalition members include Assumption Catholic Church, the Cathedral of St. Paul, St. Clement's Episcopal, St. John's Episcopal, and Unity Unitarian.

We are scheduled to work from Monday through Friday, June 6 through June 17, at 315 30th Avenue North in Minneapolis.

The coalition will need a crew of up to 12 people each day, and volunteers can work for as little as one day up to the full two weeks. People of all experience levels are welcomed. No construction experience is necessary and training, tools and materials, and lunch are provided.

If you do not want to do construction work, we need site hosts each day, people to help with the food committee, and a food coordinator for each week.

### 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 Avenue, St. Paul

- **Wednesday mornings with Rev. Molly McMillan**, 10 to 11:15 a.m. in the Church Library

- **Thursday mornings with Rev. Tom Forster-Smith**, 9:15 to 10:30 a.m. in the Church Library

- **The Men's Breakfast**, Thursday mornings, topical discussions at the St. Clair Broiler, Snelling Avenue at St. Clair in St. Paul. Call Rev. Tom Forster-Smith for further information, 651-223-7553.

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