



NEA Reporter

Northeast Wisconsin Association of the United Church of Christ

Volume 47, Issue 2

February 2012

Clergy Day 2012

From Still Speaking to Mission 1 and Beyond

Rev. Geoffrey Black
General Minister and President
United Church of Christ



Join your colleagues to learn more about the mission and ministry of the wider United Church of Christ as seen through the eyes of Geoffrey Black, the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ since 2009

Northeast Wisconsin Association Clergy and Licensed Ministers are invited to a day of fellowship, conversation, and learning. The program and lunch are provided at no cost.

Thursday, March 1
9:00 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.

First Reformed UCC
3613 Waldo Boulevard
Manitowoc, Wisconsin

Please register by calling Sue Taylor at the Wisconsin Conference office in DeForest (608-846-7880) or e-mailing her at staylor@wcucc.org. **The registration deadline is Monday, February 20.**

Book Exchange Table

Ready to let go of some good books (and find some new ones for those hungry shelves)? Bring some books for the Book Exchange Table at Clergy Day. Unclaimed books will be taken to Lakeland College to support its library's used book sale.



Directions to First Reformed UCC can be found on the e-mail and the brochure that will be sent in early February. We'll post directions on the NEA website (www.neaucc.org) soon.

The Committee on Periodic Support and Consultation of the Northeast Association sponsors this annual event for NEA's pastoral leaders. For more information, call Tom Schroeder at 920-452-6795, or e-mail him at graceucc@graceucckohler.org.

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February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 1:00 P.M. Committee on Pastor and Church Ethics St. John UCC, Appleton	4
Art Wille, Associate Conference Minister 608-630-3134 Bill Clyma, Ministries Coordinator 920-931-5862						
5	6 9:30 A.M. C-TEN, First Congregational Church, Oshkosh	7	8 9:30-11:30 A.M. Clergy Cluster I, Christ Congregational Church, Clintonville	9 6:00 P.M. Nominating Committee	10	11
12	13 1:30 P.M. Joint Meeting *Division on Local Church Ministries *Division on Wider Church Ministries St. John UCC Appleton	14 9:00 A.M. Clergy Cluster II Church of Peace Fond du Lac	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	HOLD THIS DATE! Saturday, April 21, 2012 Annual Meeting of the Northeast Association, UCC St. Peters UCC, Kiel		



Around the NEA

By Arlan and Sharon Schlundt

SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, Plymouth. Pastors: James Hoppert and Licensed Lay Minister, Dale Miller. JOIN US AT THE FIRESIDE THEATER. The Fireside is proud to present "THE ROCK AND THE RABBI". It is the story of a fisherman and a teacher. The original contemporary music sets the stage as Simon, a simple fisherman, draws audiences of all ages into his story. See how he becomes Peter, the "Rock" and begins his journey with Jesus, the "Rabbi" from the Sea of Galilee, to the agony of the cross, to the Miracle of the Ages. The explosive percussion is combined with masterful storytelling to make this production a truly inspirational musical experience. We will leave from Salem at noon and travel to Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin by bus for a 3:00 P.M. dinner and a 5:00 P.M. production, then returning to the church at 9:00 P.M. on Sunday, July 22, 2012. (From *Chapel Chimes*)

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, Oshkosh. Co-Pastors: Ralph and Carol DiBiasio-Snyder. SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, AT 4:00 PM SONGS OF PRAISE. Come and hear University of Wisconsin Oshkosh vocal students sing several songs and oratorio arias that have been performed at First Congregational Church during the last 100 years. Enjoy "The Trumpet Shall Sound" (with trumpet), "The Lord's Prayer", Gounod's "Ave Maria" and much more. Also participating in the one hour concert will be our own organist, Joanne Peterson, who will play Widor's Fifth Symphony, Adagio and Toccata and cellist Matthew Abraham performing Saint Saens' "The Swan". Both of these pieces were performed in special concerts presented at First Congregational Church during the centennial years beginning in 1911. (From *Tidings*)

FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, Manitowoc. Pastor: Richard Runge. LENTEN BIBLE STUDY. Lent begins with Ash

Wednesday on February 22 and we want to offer a study on the book THE LAST WEEK by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan. This book is about the last week of Jesus' life. It is a week of extraordinary importance for Christians. We will plan to meet on Tuesdays, (February 21 through March 27) from 1:30 until 2:30 pm. You can register your interest by signing up in the church lounge.

(From *News Letter, First Reformed*)

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, Sheboygan. Pastor: Gregory Whelton. PRAYERS FOR NATIONAL YOUTH EVENT, SUMMER 2012. National Youth Event is a UCC gathering that is held every four years. It is four days of worship, workshops, fun and fellowship. NYE 2012 will take place at Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN. It is for youth ages 13-17 years of age. It takes place July 10-13. It is important that everyone at St. John's participates in this. You ask how? Right now we need prayer. Pray for the youth at St. John's who are thinking of going. Pray for the parents who are contemplating allowing their young adult to venture off so far from home. We are hoping to take at least 12 youth to Indiana. Thank you for your prayers!

(From *The Beacon*)

THE FEDERATED CHURCH OF GREEN LAKE, Green Lake. Pastor: Karen Gygax Rodriguez. INTERESTED IN A VACATION WITH PURPOSE? THEN JOIN US! FEBRUARY 25-MARCH 4, 2012. You are invited to join a region work party at Rainbow Acres in Camp Verde, Arizona where in February it is warm and sunny! Rainbow Acres is the southwest's premier Christian community for adults with developmental disabilities. We will need both skilled and general laborers. The group size is limited to 25 persons. Learn more about Rainbow Acres at: <http://www.rainbowacres.com>.

(From *The Anchor*)

Stewardship Moments: If you want to know what God thinks of money, just look at the people he gave it to. Dorothy Parker

Stewardship Moments: There's no reason to be the richest person in the cemetery. You can't do any business from there. Colonel Sanders

**Arlan and Sharon Schlundt
To Step Down from Editing
*Around the NEA***

Sharon and Arlan Schlundt have notified the editor of the *NEA Reporter* that the April issue of this publication is the last for which they will edit the *Around the NEA* page that appears in each month's newsletter.

The Schlundts have spent many years mining the newsletters of our member churches for nuggets about noteworthy and unique ministries happening in northeastern Wisconsin UCC congregations. In a January 19 note to Arlan and Sharon, *NEA Reporter* editor Bill Clyma thanked them for their service and noted that, "The two of you have a wonderful knack for picking up on key items from all those dozens of newsletters coming your way. I've been looking forward to the results of your work every month, and read them with eagerness as I edit the page with your work."

Check out the article below for a terrific volunteer opportunity.

**Volunteer Needed to Compile
*Around the NEA***

Do you enjoy reading about the good things that NEA churches are doing?

You might just be the person to serve as the new editor of *Around the NEA*. We're looking for a person willing to read newsletters from the NEA's 58 churches and choose five or six items to share with the entire Association. You can receive e-mailed or paper copies of the newsletters, and e-mail your results to the NEA Reporter editor for every issue.

For more information, e-mail Bill Clyma at bill@neaucc.org, or call him at 715-735-6483.



Ordination Anniversaries

February Anniversaries

Jan Davis22 Years February 4
 Moira Finley10 Years February 24
 Julia Hollister22 Years February 25
 Lorri Steward9 Years February 23



**Special Events in
NEA Churches**

New Organ To Be Dedicated

St. Paul's UCC in Oshkosh is dedicating its new Rodgers organ on Sunday, February 26th at 2:00 P.M. The Classic Church Organ Company and the Rodgers Company are providing a special guest artist who will give a concert showing all that the organ can do. A joint choir of St. Paul's and Peace Lutheran Church will provide some choral music as well. A reception will follow in the church fellowship hall.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
 1250 Leonard Point Road
 Oshkosh, Wisconsin

Giant Rummage Sale

Peace UCC in Marinette will hold its spring rummage sale on Saturday, March 31 from 8:00 A.M. until 12:00 noon. Last hour—the famous bag sale, with all you can fit in a paper grocery bag for \$3.00. Donations—especially large items—call Betty at 715-735-7614.



Churches in Transition

St. John UCC - Black Creek - Rev. Gail Irwin, Interim Pastor

Ebenezer UCC - Chilton - Rev. Kathy Rust, Interim Pastor

St. John's UCC - Elkhart Lake - Rev. Bob Hamilton, Interim Pastor.

Our Shepherd UCC - Howards Grove - Rev. Ernie Huntzinger, Interim Pastor. Search committee reading profiles.

Immanuel UCC - Plymouth - Rev. Margaret Richardson Zedan (Presbyterian), Interim.

First Congregational UCC - Ripon -Rev. Greg Smith, Interim Pastor. Search Committee reading profiles.

Saron UCC - Sheboygan Falls - Associate Pastor Search Committee reading profiles.

Grace Congregational UCC - Two Rivers - Associate Pastor Search Committee reading profiles.

News from a UCC Missionary In Japan

I have to remind myself that we may be in a constant state of emergency here in northeastern Japan. The other day I learned that we might have been at high risk on January 10th when one hundred consecutive small tremors shook the area right by the Fukushima reactors. My friend Rev. Saigusa who works for the Tohoku Help office located in the Emmaus Center showed me a map of the area with markings that show the tremors in northeastern Japan from January 6th through 10th. Most of the small red dots were clustered around the reactors. His explanation was that perhaps these were explosions within the reactors. He guesses that there may be a high risk situation within the inside of the nuclear plants reaching "re-criticality" (this is a word I am not familiar with but it means dangerous!). TEPCO and the official press do not offer any information. They deny any troubles saying that there is no increased radiation coming from the reactors. But experts who have an eye out on the reactors say that the tremors were all very shallow-level tremors, and were concentrated within an hour's time span. Questions linger in our minds. Rev. Saigusa says; "Anything could happen at any time. The fourth reactor of which we have very little information is the most dangerous. If that blows up the explosion will be bigger than any we have yet seen.

I remember talking to a German man who came to volunteer at the Emmaus Center. His company in Germany had made simulations of the weather patterns, and how the radiation would fallout throughout Japan. After six months of making simulations the company decided to stop making the simulations. They were surprised to receive 9000 emails from citizens in Japan saying; "Please don't stop. We need your information. We don't trust our own government."

We, the church international, need to work on issues of advocacy on behalf of the Japanese people

Jeffrey Mensendiek
January 19, 2012



Stewardship Moments: Most middle class Americans tend to worship their work, to work at their play, and to play at their worship. Gordon Dahl



Church Anniversaries

25 Years

Our Shepherd UCC, Howard's Grove

110 Years

First Congregational UCC, Redgranite
Peace United Church of Christ, Shawano
St. John United Church of Christ, Sheboygan

120 Years

Peace United Church of Christ, Marinette

125 Years

Immanuel United Church of Christ, Kaukauna

135 Years

St. John's United Church of Christ, Cecil

155 Years

First Congregational UCC, New London

165 Years

Immanuel United Church of Christ, Plymouth

Hold These Dates

Saturday, April 21, 2012

**Annual Meeting of the
Northeast Association, UCC
St. Peters UCC, Kiel**

Saturday, July 21, 2012

**NEA Tailgate Party
(yes, we'll have kids' games again)
Wisconsin TimberRattlers Stadium
Appleton**

More info soon on both events!

Jeffrey Mensendiek, a member of First Congregational United Church of Christ in Berkeley, California, serves the Council on Cooperative Mission where he is assigned to the Emmaus Center in Sendai as director of youth activities. Sendai was the largest city hit by last March's earthquake and tsunami.

Stewardship Moments: God is not broke. Nor is God's church. We in the church have been given all the money we need to accomplish God's purposes. The issue is more one of obedience than it is of education. Will we give our money so it can be used as God desires?
Blair Anderson