



Northeast Wisconsin Association United Church of Christ

# NEA Reporter

5765 W. Grande Market Drive, Suite B. Appleton, WI 54913

Volume 46, Issue 6

June-July 2011

Dear Friends,

At the Northeast Association's annual meeting on April 30th, those present joined in the Litany of Farewell as we acknowledged the end of a staffing pattern that began in 1962. Since the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ was incorporated, there have been association ministers assigned to each of the four associations. I came into the position of Northeast Association Minister six years ago with the thought that I might be the last person in this role. Culture was changing, and I entertained the possibility that the church might adapt its staffing to deal with the changes. Little did we know back in 2005 that the world would be dealing with a major economic challenge that has caused loss of jobs, a decline in the housing market and difficulty securing loans. The church, in its various settings, has been affected deeply by the recession and a shift in the way people steward their resources.

Beginning July 1st, I will become an Associate Conference Minister, functioning as part of a team of leaders committed to equipping the pastors and churches of the Wisconsin Conference. I will be assigned primarily to two associations, but will be available as a resource to the whole Conference.

I must admit that I am both grieving what has been, and am positive and hopeful about the future. Our society has lost so much recently, that the changes in our churches and the Conference are magnified. In his reflection on the Road to Emmaus

story, Henri Nouwen observes that loss may lead to either resentment or gratitude (*With Burning Hearts*, Orbis Books, 1994, p. 29). I want to focus on gratitude for all of the ministry that was shared for 49 years under the past system. How we functioned was appropriate for the former time, and now we are living into a new era.

I am positive and hopeful about how God can use the new staffing pattern to carry on Christ's ministry. Let's take the best of the past, and bring it forward into an uncertain future. We may have taken some of our relationships for granted, and now we need to work intentionally on ways to be connected.

The association office on West Grande Market Drive, Appleton will close at the end of June, with files and some furniture being moved to a large room that St. John's UCC, Appleton has graciously made available at no charge. Church and Ministry committees will meet there, but without a secretary, phone, or e-mail address. Questions you may have can be fielded by the Conference Center in DeForest, (608-846-7880) or you may call me on my cell phone (920-585-0185) as I will be working out of my home.

Let's feel our disappointments and anger about the changes we are experiencing, lift them to God, and then trust that God-With-Us will empower us to carry on Christ's ministry in a new way. It has been an honor to serve as your Association Minister, and I look forward to the next leg of the journey.

Shalom,

Art Wille,  
Association Minister

## In this Issue:

NEA Tailgate Party July 30	pg. 7
UCC Women visit UCC Ministries	pg. 4
Two Ordinations Scheduled	pg. 5
Summer Camp Scholarships	pg. 5
Around the NEA	pg. 6
July Calendar	pg. 3



# June 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 <b>2:00 P.M.</b> Ordination of Wesley Wassell, Rosendale UCC	6	7 <b>9:00 A.M.</b> Divisions on Wider Church and Local Church meet Together; First Presbyterian Church, Oshkosh	8	9	10	11
12 49th Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Conference UCC closes, 11:30 A.M.	13	14 <b>9:00 A.M.</b> Revitalization Team, Samaritan Counseling Center	15	16	17	18
19	20 <b>10:00 A.M.</b> Placement and Transition Committee, NEA Office	21 <b>10:00 A.M.</b> Committee on Periodic Support & Consultation, NEA Office	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 Last Day NEA office, telephone numbers, and e-mails are open		

49th Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ, Green Lake Conference Center, Green Lake

NEA Office  
 Association Minister  
 Secretary  
 Ministries Coordinator

Phone: 920-731-4781  
 Art Wille  
 Georgean Durkee  
 Bill Clyma

Fax: 920-731-4255  
 art@neaucc.org  
 office@neaucc.org  
 bill@neaucc.org



## NEA Office Hours

Art Wille— M-TH 9:30-4:00  
 Georgean Durkee M, W & F-F 9:00-12:00  
 Bill Clyma— TH: 9:00-5:00



# July 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Art Wille, Associate Conference Minister 920-585-0185</b> <b>Bill Clyma, Ministries Coordinator 715-735-6483</b>					1	2
					<b>28th General Synod of the UCC Tampa, Florida</b>	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>28th General Synod of the UCC Continues Tampa, Florida</b>						
10	11 9:00 A.M. Division on Wider Church Ministries, Samaritan Counseling Ctr.	12	13 9:30-11:30 Clergy Cluster I, 1st Cong'l-New London 10:00-3:00 Placement & Transition Cmte; Pilgrim UCC, FDL	14	15	16 2:00 P.M. Ordination of RaeAnn Beebe at First Congregational UCC Plymouth
17	18	19	20	21 9:00 A.M. Executive Committee 1:30 P.M. Division on Local Church Ministries Both at St. John UCC, Appleton	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 4:00 P.M. NEA Timber Rattlers Tailgate Party
31	<b>Art Wille on Vacation July 16-23</b> <b>Bill Clyma on Vacation July 1-21</b>					

## Wisconsin Women Visit Seven UCC Special Ministries

The two-hour service felt as if it lasted for a few minutes, and the restful melody the men's choir sang moved the visitors deeply. The visitors found themselves moving with the rhythm of the music—something they would never dream of doing at home.

Four women from Appleton's First Congregational United Church of Christ, including Deb Burich, the church's Director of Mission and Service, were joined by Rev. Beth Cherney of St. Luke's UCC in South Milwaukee, visited seven special ministries connected with the UCC. They managed to do all this traveling and visiting inside of eight days—March 26 to April 2.

At the DeForest offices of the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ, they learned that the 1992 building was designed in the form of a dove—a dove with one broken wing, a testimony to the church's imperfection.

At Elmhurst College in Elmhurst, Illinois, the group learned that Reinhold Niebuhr and his brother, H. Richard Niebuhr, got their Bachelors' degrees at the small college. From there, they went on to seminary and pastoral service. Later both Niebuhr's taught theology and wrote numerous volumes that influenced the vision and scope of the faith that the United Church of Christ cherishes to this day.

Trinity United Church of Christ, an African-American congregation on Chicago's south side offered them an extravagant welcome at their 7:30 A.M. service. The energetic worship service amazed them, with its well-organized flow of prayers, scripture readings, preaching and music. The music also included a jazz group along with the men's' choir.

A long afternoon on the road to Cleveland brought them the next morning to Church House, the national office of the United Church of Christ. Four of the five covenanted ministries of the UCC have their offices at Church House. As they toured the building, every member of the staff got up, greeted them, and told them about their work. The passion these people had for their ministries shone in their faces and their warm welcomes.



**Jeanne Ryerson, Joan Jensen, Deb Burich, Rev. Beth Cherney, Helen McKean and Sara Companik visit the office of the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ in DeForest.**

On Tuesday, the group traveled to Breezewood, Pennsylvania to visit the Trucker/Traveler Ministry at the Gateway Travel Plaza on Interstate 80. For eighteen years, Bruce Maxwell, a United Methodist pastor, has offered hospitality, pastoral care, prayer space, CB radio based bible study, and emergency help at one of the nation's busiest truck stops. The United Church of Christ supports this ministry of presence to a remarkably transient people who often have no connection with a community of faith.

Later that day, they traveled to the Church World Service Center in New Windsor Maryland. Through Church World Service, the UCC and 35 other denominations respond to disasters, help refugees, and offer programs designed to help people live independent, dignified lives. The New Windsor facility sends emergency kits all around the world suitable for victims of floods, earthquakes, war, and other catastrophes. Every two days, a disaster happens somewhere that makes help from CWS necessary.

Next day, the group was in Washington, DC to visit the Washington Office of the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries. Since 1975, the UCC has maintained a Washington presence right across the street from the Capitol in the United Methodist Building. Four policy advocates, a communications specialist and an intern for one policy area (currently the intern works on issues of poverty) advocate with U.S. House members, their staffs, and the administration. They work to make visions of justice and peace in General Synod Resolutions and Pronouncements a reality. Whenever possible, they do this with other faith policy advocates and secular organizations. The work of these people impressed them so much that they may return for Ecumenical Advocacy Days next year.

Sara Companik came home from her travel with a deepened love for the United Church of Christ, to which she has belonged since childhood. "I feel blessed," she writes "to be part of a united and uniting church which moves and changes in today's world."

## NEA to Ordain Two New Pastors This Summer

### Wesley Wassell

Wesley Wassell will be ordained to the Christian Ministry on Sunday, June 5 at Rosendale United Church of Christ in Rosendale, where he begins serving as pastor on May 1. The Reverend Wayne Drucek of Grace United Church of Christ in Wausau will preach.

Wassell grew up Chicago. A graduate of Lakeland College and North Park Theological Seminary, he worked as an Information Technology Specialist at Lakeshore Technical College for many years. Earlier this spring, he accepted a call to serve as pastor of Rosendale UCC, and began his ministry on May 8.

### RaeAnn Beebe

RaeAnn Beebe will be ordained on Saturday, July 16 at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Plymouth. The Reverend William E. Rishel will preach the sermon for the occasion. A fellowship hour with refreshments will follow the service.

Beebe graduated from Garret-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Chicago in 2010, and, on May 1, accepted a call from St. Paul's United Church of Christ to serve as its pastor. She and her husband Rory, a nurse at St. Agnes Hospital in Fond du Lac, are the parents of two young adult sons, and make their home in Plymouth.



## Ordination Anniversaries

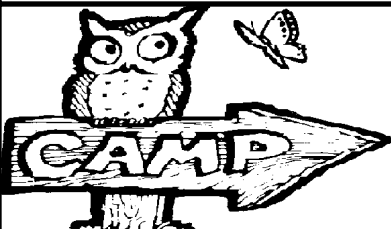
### June Anniversaries

Robert Grunewald .....	69 Years .....	June 26
Gordon Tritchler.....	68 Years .....	June 7
Charles Koch .....	63 Years .....	June 13
Louis Grossen .....	57 Years .....	June 6
Martin Koehler.....	56 Years .....	June 26
Donald Hinze .....	56 Years .....	June 12
Ernest Berkeley, Jr. ....	55 Years .....	June 3
Harley Tretow.....	55 Years .....	June 10
Gerald Schrankler .....	54 Years .....	June 16
Maynard Beemer .....	53 Years .....	June 8
Harvey Kandler .....	53 Years .....	June 15
Arlan Schlundt.....	51 Years .....	June 12
Milton Staskal .....	49 Years .....	June 10
Philip Meili.....	46 Years .....	June 25
Kent Mosebach .....	45 Years .....	June 20
Rich Christensen .....	41 Years .....	June 7
Art Wille .....	39 Years .....	June 4
Donald Baumann.....	39 Years .....	June 11
Tom Fritz .....	36 Years .....	June 1
Jack Kraaz .....	36 Years .....	June 20
Keith Weiland.....	36 Years .....	June 22
Mark Jaberg.....	35 Years .....	June 6
Greg Whelton.....	33 Years .....	June 11

Kay Kennard .....	31 Years .....	June 1
Jim Klein .....	30 Years .....	June 14
Kim Henning.....	29 Years .....	June 27
Robin Reed .....	26 Years .....	June 21
JoAnn Schoblaski.....	23 Years .....	June 26
Jane Anderson.....	21 Years .....	June 10
Melinda Feller.....	20 Years .....	June 9
Virgie Davis .....	20 Years .....	June 30
Kathy Gloff .....	17 Years .....	June 12
Jim Pfefferkorn, Sr. ....	17 Years .....	June 12

### July Anniversaries

Ruben Grossheusch ....	65 Years .....	July 1
John Baumann.....	63 Years .....	July 11
Daniel Winger .....	54 Years .....	July 14
Robert Koller .....	49 Years .....	July 15
David Lauer.....	45 Years .....	July 1
James Werner .....	35 Years .....	July 25
Richard Runge.....	32 Years .....	July 8
Ted Drewsen.....	24 Years .....	July 26
Marty Black.....	18 Years .....	July 11
Lynne Spencer Smith ..	18 Years .....	July 30
Greg Smith.....	16 Years .....	July 9
Jim Deckert.....	10 Years .....	July 8



### Moon Beach & Pilgrim Center Scholarships for Members of NEA Churches

\$50.00—Youth for Full Week

\$25.00—Youth for Half Week

\$75.00 Family Camp Full Week **per family**

\$45.00 Family Camp Half-Week **per family**

**Call Bill Clyma at 920-731-4781 or 715-735-6483 for more details!**



## Around the NEA

By Arlan and Sharon Schlundt

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, Appleton. Pastors: Stephen Savides, Senior Pastor and Jane Anderson, Pastor for Congregational Life.**

NEW PRAYER CHAPEL ON FACE BOOK. Today, we have a new opportunity to offer and receive prayers together as a community of faith, sharing more deeply in God's love and grace. On Facebook, we have created a Prayer Chapel. A link from our website, ([www.firstcongoappleton.org](http://www.firstcongoappleton.org)) will take you to the page and then you will need to sign up. You may leave your prayer requests here and the community will pray for you or those you love. You may offer prayers for others here and for the wider world. We are hoping all will join in our prayer chapel, encircling one another with love and opening ourselves to receive God's power and light. Blessings, Pastor Jane.  
*(The Open Door)*

**SARON UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, Sheboygan Falls. Pastor: Kathryn Kuhn.**

CONGRATULATIONS LINDA!!! Saron's very own Linda Wieck was one of the ten honorees at the USA Weekend's "Make A Difference Day" awards in Washington DC recently where she received \$10,000 for her Camo Quilt Project. This whole thing started with Linda making her son-in-law Todd a quilt in 2006 before he was deployed to the Middle East. It didn't take long and there were more soldiers who wanted a quilt of their own. Since that time it has grown to a nationwide project headed up by Linda and is run solely by volunteers and relies exclusively on donations. Linda and her volunteers have selflessly given of their time and talents to provide our service men and women with something special as they serve our country far from home. "THANK YOU LINDA" for your continued ministry to our soldiers!  
*(The Tidings)*

Editor's note: Those who wish to be a part of this project can get more information at <http://www.camoquiltproject.blogspot.com>

**ROSENDALE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, Rosendale. Pastor: Wes Wassell.**

KANDLER'S KORNER. This will be my last Kandler's Korner with you as a congregation. I have

felt blessed in doing that. I hope you have felt blessed in receiving God's Word and Presence through me. You have a great spirit as a church and are trying to live the demands of the Gospel. That's all we can ever do—to do our best at living for Jesus, the Christ. Harvey Kandler, Interim Pastor.

Note: Wes Wassell will be ordained into the Christian ministry in the Rosendale UCC sanctuary on Sunday, June 5. Wes became the pastor of Rosendale UCC on May 8, 2011.  
*(The Church Mouse)*

**SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, Plymouth. Pastors: James Hoppert and Dale Miller, Licensed Pastor.**

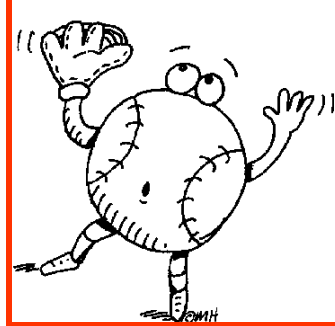
MYRTLES' COMPANIONS. Salem's newest visitors group is "up and running". Thus far we have eight members. Our meetings are monthly and are now held after Sunday services. For those unable to attend, the Parish Nurse makes contacts to keep all members updated. Our purpose is to make visits to those shut-ins, convalescing and those residing in nursing homes/assisted living residences. We are looking for more Companions. Please consider joining our group. Visits can be to the same person or you can alternate visits between several members. Another option is to do visits with a partner. Also if you know of a Salem member who would appreciate a visit, please contact the Parish Nurse, Sherry Flunker, RN.  
*(Chapel Chimes)*

**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, Sheboygan. Pastor: Mark Jaberg.**

MINISTRY IN ACTION. The Helping Hands Ministry is a confidential source for our church family to find assistance for financial and food needs during difficult economic times. We maintain an emergency stock of nonperishable food items through your generous donations as well as funding from financial donations to help with rent, utilities, or other living expenses during times of crisis. If you find yourself or know of someone else in need, please contact, in confidence, the Helping Hands Ministry Team. Donations of nonperishable food items or toiletries may be placed in the shopping carts in the Gathering Area. The Helping Hands Ministry Team thanks all who help support this mission.  
*(St. Paul's Newsletter)*

# NEA TimberRattlers Tailgate Party School Supply Offering for Orion Family Services July 30, 2011

**Fox Cities Stadium  
Appleton, Wisconsin  
4:00 P.M. Supper & Kids Activities  
6:30 P.M. Ball Game**



- Bring your family for all the food and fun!
- We'll have games and fun activities for the kids (let us know how old they are so we can plan)
- Meet FANG, the TimberRattlers Mascot
- Take a good look at some ballplayers who might be playing soon for the Milwaukee Brewers
- Enjoy the fireworks after the game
- Visit with friends from all of our Northeast Wisconsin Association UCC Churches
- We'll have tables, chairs, and a large tent during the Tailgate Party



**Help Orion Family Services in its Mission of Guiding Abused, Neglected, and Troubled Children and Youth**

- Backpacks (any)
- No. 2 Pencils
- Color Pencils
- Individual Pencil Sharpeners
- Sharpie Magic Markers
- Crayola Crayons
- Crayola Markers
- Notebooks (Wide and College ruled)
- Loose Leaf Paper (Wide and College ruled)
- Pens (Bic)
- Highlighters
- Rulers
- Calculators—  
Scientific or Basic
- Pencil Cases (Zipper Bags)
- Construction Paper (multi-colored)
- Graph Paper
- 3 ring binders
- Folders



**Bring these items on July 30. We'll send them to Orion!**  
*You support Orion Family Services through Our Church's Wider Mission*

**\$12.00 per person COST**

**\$5.00 for kids (age 12 & under)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please sign up by July 13.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Adults** x \$12.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Children** Age 12 & under x \$5.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_ (Please list ages of children)

**TOTAL:** \$\_\_\_\_\_

Make your checks payable to  
**Northeast Wisconsin Association UCC**  
and mail them to:

**Wisconsin Conference UCC  
P.O. Box 435  
DeForest, WI 53532-0435**



## Church Anniversaries

### 45 Years

Bethany UCC, Oshkosh

### 115 Years

St. Paul's UCC, Oshkosh  
Salem UCC, Plymouth

### 120 Years

St. John UCC, Manitowoc  
Emmanuel UCC, Oshkosh

### 125 Years

Bethel UCC, Fond du Lac

### 130 Years

Hope UCC, Sturgeon Bay

### 140 Years

St. John's UCC, Black Creek  
Hancock UCC, Hancock

### 145 Years

First Congregational UCC, DePere

### 155 Years

St. Mark's UCC, Cleveland

### 160 Years

Congregational UCC, Neenah  
Grace Congregational UCC, Two Rivers

### 165 Years

St. Paul UCC, Malone

### 175 Years

Union Congregational UCC, Green Bay



## Churches In Transition

**First Congregational UCC—Appleton:** Associate Pastor search committee reading profiles.

**St. John UCC—Black Creek:** Rev. Don Baumann retired on May 31, 2011. Rev. L. Gail Irwin will begin as Interim Pastor on June 14.

**Ebenezer UCC—Chilton:** Rev. Kathleen Gloff completes her ministry on May 8, 2011. Rev. Kathy Rust begins as Interim Pastor on June 5.

**St. John's UCC—Elkhart Lake:** Rev. Virginia Pych, Interim Pastor.

**Our Shepherd UCC—Howards Grove:** Rev. Ernie Huntzinger, Interim. Search committee reading profiles.

**St. Paul's UCC—Oshkosh:** On May 1, RaeAnn Beebe has accepted a call to serve as pastor. She will be ordained at First Congregational UCC in Plymouth on July 16.

**Immanuel UCC—Plymouth:** Rev. Margaret Richardson Zedan (Presbyterian), Interim.

**First Congregational UCC—Ripon:** Rev. Jack Kraaz retires on July 3, 2011

**Rosendale UCC—Rosendale:** Wesley Wassell called as pastor at congregational meeting on March 27. His ministry began on May 8, and he will be ordained at Rosendale UCC on June 5

*In our good works nothing is our own.—John Calvin*