

THE MUSTARD SEED



Vol. 39, Issue 4, December, 2011, Edition

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Christmas Worship

Christmas Pageant
Dec. 18, 10 a.m.

Christmas Eve
Dec. 24
4 p.m.
and 10 p.m.
(Prelude music 9:45 p.m.)

Christmas Day
Dec. 25, 10 a.m.



**See These
Regular Features ...**

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**Advent Begins
November 27**

From Your Pastor And Teacher

From *A Book of Blessings*, Poems by John O'Donohue

*You have traveled too fast over false ground;
Now your soul has come to take you back.*

*Take refuge in your senses, open up
To all the small miracles you rushed through.*

*Become inclined to watch the way of rain and snow
When it falls slow and free.*

*Imitate the habit of twilight,
Taking time to open the well of color
That fostered the brightness of day.*

*Draw alongside the silence of stone
Until its calmness can claim you.
Be excessively gentle with yourself.*

*Stay clear of those vexed in spirit.
Learn to linger around someone of ease
Who feels they have all the time in the world.*

*Gradually, you will return to yourself,
Having learned a new respect for your heart
And the joy that dwells far within slow time.*

This poem is from one of my favorite authors and kindred spirits. John's invitation to slow down has been central in my preparation for Advent. I invite you to slow down with me. Take on less this Advent season. Take refuge in your senses. Breathe deeply the crisp clean air. Notice the crunch of ground beneath your feet. Give thanks. In your slowing down, your noticing of God will only increase. In being excessively gentle with yourself, you will embody love. My hope this Advent season is that we will approach the spirit of joy together. May the peace of Christ that passes all understanding be with each of you.

See you in church,



December Schedule

Worship at Robbinsdale United Church of Christ
Centering Prayer at 9:40 a.m. Worship service at 10:00 a.m. Infant and Toddler care available. Bible Adventures for children 3 year olds through 5th grade 10:15-11:15 a.m.

WORSHIP IN DECEMBER

Our theme for this Advent will be “Slowing Down.” Worship will be a refuge and sanctuary from a busy and stressful consumer-driven world. We will remember that worship is time healing and refreshment, and we will be reminded to release the false expectations that surround the celebration of Christmas. Remember, “It’s not YOUR Birthday. As we prepare for the humble birth to poor parents, we will also be reminded that the only gift that matters is our gratitude.

December 4th – 2nd SUNDAY IN ADVENT - COMMUNION SUNDAY

Scripture Text: Isaiah 40:1-11

Sermon Title: “The Long View of Justice” – Rev. T. Michael Rock

This is the prophet proclaiming liberation for the poor and justice for the oppressed. Is there any more hopeful message for those who are hurting? You are not alone. Help is on the way. Will we have patience along the way?

December 11th – 3rd SUNDAY IN ADVENT – Cookie decorating and caroling to follow

Scripture Texts: John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sermon Title: “The Immediate Nature of Ministry” – Rev. T. Michael Rock

This is where God is calling you to be. Right here. Right now. The person in front of you is the most important person in the world. This is incarnational ministry at its best. What a gift!

December 11th, 7:00 p.m. – BLUE CHRISTMAS HEALING WORSHIP

This will be a quiet service of meditation and prayer for those who are feeling lost and alone this holiday season. This season is often one of “forced” good cheer. This service reminds us that sometimes this season is difficult for many people. We’ll have some good music and time to feel the support of our larger church family. There will be child care provided and comfort food following the service.

December 18th – 4th SUNDAY IN ADVENT – CHILDREN’S PAGEANT

We will be blessed this Sunday with a unique telling of the story by our Bible Adventures children. Our pageant play is inspired by the true meaning of the season and written by our own Cheryl Nordquist. This will be a great blessing for us all.

Saturday, December 24th – CHRISTMAS EVE 4:00 p.m. – Family Celebration with Candlelight

Our student minister has put together a nine lessons and carols service—a classic worship service with a different twist! The leaders of the service will be several youth of our congregation, both in story and song.

10:00 p.m. – Service of Lessons and Carols with Candlelight

This traditional service will bring forward our gifted choir to continue their telling of the sacred story through music. Prelude music will start the service and our short meditation will bring us all into that state of reverence and remembrance. It may even feel like the shift is happening as we experience this same story once again.

Sunday, December 25th – 10:00 a.m. – CHRISTMAS DAY w/ Communion

Scripture Text – Matthew 2:1-12

Special Guest – “Obed – David’s Grandfather”

“No one would have guessed the beginning of the story”

Christmas morning is a time of chaos for most families and a profoundly lonely time for others. This service welcomes all people who wish to find some meaning and focus on a holy day. We will sing the traditional songs and even get visited by one of the characters who prepared the way for this event to happen. Come as you are (PJ’s are welcome) and celebrate this holy day with your wider family.

January 1st – SERVICE OF LIGHT

Scripture Text: Luke 2:22-40

Sermon Title: “Witnesses of Hope” – Rev. T. Michael Rock

A Sunday to remember our loss and also our hopes for the future. A new year is on the horizon and we’ll spend some time as a congregation remembering our past year and looking ahead to what lies in front of us. We’ll work together to make this service one full of meaning for each of our lives.

Worship Planning! Monday, December 5, 7:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to come to church for our next worship planning meeting--please put it on your calendar! We hope that a lot of input from many different people will help us to plan worship services that reflect all members of our congregation. If we know you are planning to attend, you will receive a preliminary calendar of Sunday events from T. Michael, which serves as a basis for our planning and to kick start our creative ideas! What are your ideas about future scripture, spoken word, sanctuary art/visuals, movement, prayer, video.....you get the idea! Hope to see you there!

—Marsha Benshoof

CENTERING PRAYER at Robbinsdale United Church of Christ

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

If you would like to know more about this time of Centering Prayer, pick up a brochure or talk with T. Michael. If you haven't tried it, please do. Allow all the noises to be what they are and return to place of peace. I promise that it will be a skill you will use in all aspects of your life.

IDENTITY & MISSION

Personal Energy Transportation...

An Alternative Christmas Gift

At this time of year our thoughts are directed toward the giving of gifts. Television and radio ads all implore us to not miss the sales. We heard this year of a new type of competition among retailers to see who would be the first to be open on "Black Friday" after Thanksgiving. Some of us turn to online shopping to avoid the crush of the malls. I'd like to offer you another alternative that really gets the spirit of the Christmas giving season and it is simple and easy too.

You can give a gift guaranteed to change a life, and thus change the world. For a tax deductible gift of \$250, you can give a PET (Personal Energy Transportation) in honor of or in memory of someone. The cart will be built here in the Twin Cities, and shipped to a third world country for use by someone who cannot now use their lower limbs. They are likely literally crawling on the ground. Their plight is no fault of their own. They may have had polio, or been born

with birth defects, or stepped on a landmine someone else planted. Whatever the reason, they are now unable to walk upright. Their society is unable to cope with the burden they represent, and so they are relegated to their huts, to be cared for by family if they have one. We have seen over and over the looks on their faces when they receive a PET cart and realize that they now have mobility. They have a sense of dignity such as they have never had before. You can make that possible.

PET MN – Twin Cities is a non-profit organization which I lead. We are an affiliate of PET International, which means we are in the business of building the carts. We are one of 22 such affiliates around the US. Last year, all affiliates produced slightly fewer than 6,000 carts for distribution around the world. The demand is estimated at between 15 and 20 million! Help us bridge this sizeable gap. Visit the web site at: www.petmntc.org and you will find a donation form with instructions. Should you wish to give a gift in honor or memory of someone, a tax deductible check for \$250 equates to an individual cart, and a plaque indicating the dedication will be put onto the cart. I will also have a display with donation forms in the narthex during Advent. Consider giving a gift guaranteed to change lives. A gift of any size will be appreciated.

—Jim Conn

COMMON HOPE VISION TEAM

We just returned from a wonderful two weeks in Antigua, Guatemala, with many thoughts and impressions of a beautiful country and its wonderful people. We spent two days assisting in the construction of a new home for a deserving family--they had put in "sweat equity" volunteer hours and are now continuing to volunteer so they may achieve some additional items for their house. We visited with two artisans associated with Common Hope. We visited the child we sponsor and the child who RUCC sponsors. Franki, the student sponsored by RUCC, is a wonderful boy who is proud that he graduated from 6th grade and is very serious about school. He has a loving, hardworking family, and we were happy to deliver greetings from RUCC to them. We saw the Common Hope social workers hard at work. We witnessed people living in poverty and very difficult living conditions who welcomed us into their homes. We developed a great bond with our other Vision Team members. Thanks to RUCC for supporting us on this journey! We look forward to sharing stories and pictures with all of you.

--Jim and Marsha Benshoof



We are not always aware of what the money, food, and clothing donations from RUCC do once they leave the church.

This is what happened on Monday, November 7th, at PRISM.

PRISM welcomed 59 families who received assistance with food. They gave out 3,000 pounds of food, 25 pounds per person. That day PRISM Express gave 260 rides. Five cars were repaired in the Auto Shop. 30 families received clothing, 2 families received financial assistance to keep them in their home. Two families received birthday supplies so they could celebrate their child's birthday, and a number of young people were fed at the YMCA on a partnership program with PRISM.

More help is needed!

Holiday Shoppe for Christmas is fast approaching! Please bring your holiday gifts and put them in the large boxes in the Narthex and hallway by Friday, December 16th. See the lists of suggested items posted in the hall.

Holiday Shoppe help is needed at Valley Community Presbyterian Church on Friday, Dec. 16th, to receive donations and arrange the display for Saturday. Volunteers are also needed for Saturday, December 17th, two shifts-four hours each, from 8:00 a.m.-4 p.m. at Valley Community Presbyterian Church, to help parents pick up their toys. Volunteers must have an appointed time, so please contact Diane derickson@prismmpls and sign up to help.



PRISM Golf Committee needs members to help plan next year's annual PRISM Golf Tournament. If you are a golfer or have attended the golfing fundraiser before and would like to help out this year, just e-mail Trevino@prismmpls.org or telephone them at 763-529-1350.

Volunteers are needed EVERYWHERE at PRISM! PRISM needs a major infusion of volunteers for the front office, food shelf, clothing program and thank you calling. The staff is having to work the food shelf, clothes closet, and reception desk due to an insufficient number of volunteers. Many vacancies

occurred when school opened in September. Contact derickson@prismmpls.org if you would like to volunteer and lend a hand.

Used Car Program. Do you have a used car you would like to donate to PRISM? So far 6 families have been placed in vehicles, 9 families have selected vehicles and are awaiting repairs; 8 families are approved but have not selected vehicles. 23 total families and 28 donated vehicles. The goal for the year is 170 vehicles. Do you remember when RUCC filled the donated car and gave it two PRISM a few years ago? Let's do it again!

"Gifts for the Holidays!" Craft Fair to Benefit PRISM. Mark your calendar to stop by and check out the selection of handmade crafts, art, and unique food items for the holidays on Saturday, December 10th, at the Crystal Community Center, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.



December 2011 Schedule

**Interfaith Leisure Age
Elim Lutheran Church
3748 West Broadway in Robbinsdale**

Thursdays, 9 a.m. Social Hour and Cards 12 Noon Chapel, Lunch and Program Lunch Reservations Required

Dec. 1: David Cotton will present holiday and gospel music.

Dec. 8: December Birthday Party. Program: Music that "tickles" by J. Shawn Sweeney, singer, musician, and humorist.

Dec. 15: Blood pressures taken 9:30-11:30 a.m. Christmas Party. Program: "Coda," saxophone and keyboard duo.

Dec. 22: NO LEISURE AGE. Merry Christmas!

Dec. 29: NO LEISURE AGE. Happy New Year!

Leisure Age meets on Thursdays from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Lunch with entertainment costs \$9.00. Lunch includes bread, salad, main dish with vegetable, dessert, and beverages. To make reservations call 763-537-1171 on Saturday, Sunday, or Monday until noon. You may also use this number to cancel a reservation.

We would really like to see a bigger group from our church come and support Leisure Age

If you have any questions, please contact Jan Paulsen (763-529-1986) or Keith Smith (612-588-

Kannani

In Concert at RUCC

You are invited to a Holiday Concert on December 16, at 7 p.m., featuring vocalists Kannani and pianist Vivian Bentley, cellist Cory Grossman and Flutist Owen Grossman.

Kannani is the lovely tonal coalescence of three gifted female vocalists, Keli Moffat, M. Anne DePompolo and Nancy Anderson, who have performed at RUCC in the past. The trio was formed in the fall of 2006 with the desire to perform an a cappella Norwegian folk song in performance with the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County Chorus. The three went on to add more works to their repertoire. Such choices highlight a rich collection of the secular and sacred.

They have been heard at many places throughout the Twin Cities and greater Minnesota, including First Lutheran Church in St. Paul, Faith Lutheran Church in Coon Rapids, Robbinsdale United Church of Christ, Wayzata Community Church, Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Fergus Falls and Michael Servetus Unitarian Society in Fridley. All have an extensive background in vocal performance and are employees of Hennepin County where they first met and sang together.

Mark your calendar for this Holiday Concert, Friday, December 16th, 7 p.m., at Robbinsdale United Church of Christ, A dessert reception will follow.

Stewardship News

(a/k/a Thank you, thank you, thank you!)

We are blessed!

As of Consecration Sunday (11/13/11), 74 pledges totaling \$206,355 had been received in the church office. At the same point last year, 56 pledges totaling around \$180,000 had been received in the church office. The increase in pledge numbers was evidenced by the increased number of people in church on Consecration Sunday, and what a blessing that was!

As of 11/20/11, 77 pledges totaling \$210,915 had been received in the church office. These include 6 new pledges, 26 increased pledges, and a net increase of \$8364. Last year, we had 105 pledge units, so we are well on the way.

121 people signed up for stewardship "tasks," including setting up for lunch, kitchen prep, decorating the sanctuary, cleaning up, bringing food, serving food, making follow-up telephone calls. Thank you to all who participated – the Fellowship Hall has not been

that full for a long time and what a blessing that was!

Dawn Carlson Conn completed our community cloth table runners which were in place on the tables during the stewardship lunch – what a blessing it was to be able to re-visit our community work.

Rev. T. Michael Rock did a fabulous circle of grace with the congregation holding hands for grace prior to going downstairs to eat. What a blessing it was to be in community that day.

Thank you to all who helped and to all who have turned in pledges. And for those of you who have not yet turned in pledges, it is not too late! Let this serve as a very gentle reminder that if you are intending to pledge, the sooner you get your pledge in, the sooner the Council can finalize the budget they will present to the congregation at the Annual Meeting. Thank you again!

Blessings,

Nancy Bossert

Past Moderator and Chair, Stewardship 2011

2011 Homeless Memorial March and Service

Thursday, December 15, 2011

To honor and remember those who have died while homeless in Minnesota. The Homeless Memorial March is a silent march. We ask all in attendance to respect the spirit of the event and the memory of those who have died.

5 pm **March & Silent Vigil**

Hennepin County Government Center 3rd Ave. S. & 5th St. S., Minneapolis

The march will follow 5th St. S. westward to Nicollet Ave. and proceed south to 28th St.

6:30 pm **Service of Remembrance**

Simpson United Methodist Church
2740 1st Ave. S., Minneapolis

7:30 p.m. **Community Meal**

Simpson Shelter, lower level of Simpson UMC

All are welcome.

Rides available from T. Michael leaving RUCC at 4:00 p.m.

Shuttles to the march will depart from Kmart, Lake St. & 1st Ave., Minneapolis, at 4:20 p.m. sharp

11 x 17 Calendar across pages 6-7

EVANGELISM & CHURCH GROWTH

We welcomed two new members to Robbinsdale United Church of Christ on Sunday, October 30.

Claudia Sue Johnson

Sue comes to us after moving to Golden Valley this summer to be closer to her grandchild. Although Sue grew up as a Catholic, she was most recently a member of a UCC congregation in Ohio. Sue first visited RUCC this summer and felt very welcomed and engaged in the community. She has already joined the choir and volunteered to lead in Bible Adventures. Sue is a retired art teacher.

John LaPointe

John has lived near RUCC for many years and walked through our parking lot on the way to Robbinsdale Town Center. It took his friend and fellow Rotarian, Jim Benshoof, to invite him and engage him in the ministry here at RUCC. John spent most of his life in the Catholic church as well in various leadership roles. He loves the outdoors, being involved in politics and is looking forward to engagement in the ministry at RUCC. John is a civil engineer and is married to Julie.

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

YEP - 2

YOUTH at Robbinsdale United Church of Christ

OUR WHOLE LIVES / CONFIRMATION CLASS :
December 4th and 11th
6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

December 18th – 6:00 p.m. – Youth Christmas Party and Worship Prep

December 24th – Youth leading 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Be here by 3:00 p.m.



POINSETTIA HOLIDAY GARDEN



It's not too late to purchase a poinsettia for the Christmas display in honor of a friend or family member. There will be an insert in the December 18th and December 24th church bulletins listing those whom you wish to honor. Look for the table in the narthex to place orders on Sunday, December 4th. **Prices: 6½ in. pot (4-6 blooms) \$9.00; 8½ in. pot (12-14 blooms) \$17.00.** Last year our sanctuary looked beautiful, and, indeed, you made it happen.



FAITH AND FILM DISCUSSION

Thursday, December 15th

7:00 p.m.

FILM – “It’s a Wonderful Life”

Last month we watched “Tender Mercies,” a sweet movie about redemption, new life, and the power of love. This month’s classic movie follows in line. It is one of my favorite films. I guarantee that it will be like seeing it for the first time when you view it in the company of friends. What a wonderful gift it will be to remember our own angels as well. See you at the movies.

Faith Community Nurse Corner

In order to have a more stress-free and healthy holiday season, I encourage you to take the Christmas Pledge.

“Believing in the beauty and simplicity of Christmas, I commit myself to the following:

- To remember those people who truly need my gifts.
- To express my love for family and friends in more direct ways than presents.
- To rededicate myself to the spiritual growth of myself and my family.
- To reexamine my holiday activities in the light of the true spirit of Christmas.
- To initiate one act of peacemaking within my circle of family and friends.”

From *Unplug the Christmas Machine* by Jo Robinson and Jan Staeheli, Quill-William Morrow, 1982.



Happy Birthday!

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

Darren	Schultz	December	2
Kathy	Herrmann	December	3
Eric	Bertossi	December	5
Cathy	Salinger	December	6
Alice	MacPherson	December	7
Donna	Pitmon	December	7
Soren	Bakken-Heck	December	8
Mary Ann	Mead	December	8
Jennifer	Master	December	11
Melanie	Muyres	December	13
Dan	Haugen	December	15
Emily	Norberg	December	16
Chris	Welton	December	18
Erik	Nordli	December	21
Gordon	Lee	December	22
Cesar	Berra, Jr.	December	23
Jane	Boggs	December	31
Donna	MacDonald	December	31
David	Wogsland	December	31

Eat Your Vegetables

By Charles Owens, Student Minister

Last month something miraculous happened at Robbinsdale UCC. At one of the Families Moving Forward Dinners, I and two friends from Seminary cooked up a couple pots of curry for the families. We all knew the unique recipe would either be a hit or a miss.

The moment of truth came when one of the mothers picked up a strange purple vegetable and asked me, "What is this?" I replied, "It's an eggplant." She nodded and replied, "That's what I thought it was."

Since eggplants and children do not always mix well together, I worried about the mother's comment. However, she and her children kept coming up for third and fourth servings of the curry. At the end of the night everybody thanked all the cooks and said what a great dinner it was. As my

friends and I cleaned up we didn't find many eggplants that weren't eaten.

The whole evening got me thinking about the old saying, "Eat your vegetables." Does eating your vegetables really have to be so painful? How can we find new ways of making children—and adults too—excited about vegetables?

And what about the difficult and mundane things in life? How can we find ways of spicing them up and make them exciting? We all have many moments in life where we have to "eat our vegetables" and do something we are not so excited about, but does it really have to be that way? I'd like to challenge everyone to take something they don't like doing and find a new way of either thinking about it or a new way of doing it that makes it fun and exciting. If three seminary students can get young children to enjoy eggplants, what other possibilities are out there?

Feedback Opportunities

The Coordinating Council would like to hear your feedback on our new leadership structure! You'll have four opportunities to do so. You could complete a **survey** either online or on paper. You could attend one (or more) of **three feedback sessions** that will be held on Sunday, December 11th, after worship, Wednesday, January 4th, at 6:00 p.m., and on Sunday, January 8th, after worship. The Coordinating Council will use this feedback as we bring a recommendation to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on January 29th.

Nominating Committee Members Needed

Your congregation needs you! We need members of the congregation to join members of your Coordinating Council (Lyn Koss, Jim Puffer, Marsha Benshoof) to form a **nominating committee**. Your task would be to identify and ask members of our congregation to serve in various leadership positions in the church. It's a great opportunity to work with some wonderful Coordinating Council members as well as a chance to honor other members of the congregation by asking them to bring their talents and skills to the leadership of the church! Please contact Lyn Koss, Jim Puffer, Marsha Benshoof, Ken Beck, or T. Michael Rock if you have questions or are interested. Thanks!

Ken Beck, SheriKenBeck@yahoo.com
612-599-0491

**Congregational Meeting
October 30, 2011**

- Members present voted on a resolution to support efforts to defeat the Marriage Amendment to the Minnesota Constitution, defining marriage as between one man and one woman, that will be on the ballot in November 2012.
- Members present voted to support the Plymouth Church Neighborhood Foundation and Families Moving Forward in pursuing the construction of a 48-unit apartment building on the site of FMF.
- Dale Fisher, facilitator for Mission and Identity, highlighted the activities of this vitality area.

**Coordinating Council
November 15, 2011**

- Treasurer: Pledge income is down; expenses in line with expectations; we still have fund raising line item to fulfill and last year's shortfall to address. We received a refund from the city for overcharge on water bill.
- A Budget Committee has been formed: Brad Welton, Ken Beck, Nancy Bossert, and Jim Puffer.
- Roof flashing needs repair, getting an estimate.
- Youth and Young Adults: Tracey Fluegel will be helping out with this vitality area. OWL (Our Whole Lives) Program is going well.
- Worship: The role of children and youth in worship has been increasing. Worship Planning meeting scheduled for Dec. 5.
- Continued need for greeters to wear red welcome stoles.
- Mission: During Mission: 1 project 2011 food items were collected for PRISM. Thank you to Lynne Wicklund. 50 people packed food for Kids Against Hunger on Nov. 10.
- Bible Adventures: Ken Beck and Lyn Koss are taking 3-week rotations. Cheryl Nordquist is working on the upcoming pageant.
- Stewardship: As of Nov. 15, there were 73 pledges for \$206,355 (see article elsewhere in this issue).
- A facilitator for Evangelism and Church Growth is still needed.
- A Nominating Committee is needed (see article elsewhere in this issue).
- T. Michael proposed a survey of the congregation to solicit feedback and suggestions for improvement from the congregation. This should be done before the Annual Meeting Jan

19 so results can be presented then. In addition, dates were set for small discussion groups to give another opportunity for feedback about how things are going: Dec. 11, Jan. 4, and Jan 8 (see article elsewhere in this issue).

- The Council meeting will be moved to Jan. 10 to insure 2 week notice for Annual Meeting.
- Annual reports are due Dec. 24.
- Council voted to dedicate a special offering on Dec. 18 to the Personal Energy Transportation (PET MN) project.

Community News

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

Sylvia Anderson	Frank Koss
Kay and Ken Barker	Antoinena Kuntze
Jane Boggs	Bradley Lloyd
Bill and Jane Bossert	Alice MacPherson
Amanda Busch	Edith Middleton
Laura Dumont	Don Morin
Lorraine Dysart	Sandra Nelson
Kathy and Rodney Giddings	Kathy Plumb
Marion Hansen	Ellinor Porter
Ruthe Hawn	Vi Quesnel
Will Ihle	Suanne Rost
Tom Jensen	Barbara Sexton
Curtis Johnson	Bill Sowden
Bud Klatke	Dale Swenson

**A GREAT BIG THANK YOU
FROM RUCC!**

- ◆ **To Nancy Bossert for her coordination of the Stewardship Campaign and Luncheon**
- ◆ **To Jacque Helgeson for her leadership and hard work in raising \$1153 for PRISM with a spaghetti supper and auction**

New Table Runners

Created and Blessed

At our Stewardship Luncheon we blessed our new table runners made from the same painted fabrics that make up our communion cloth. Since the cloth was created in worship with the children, and we painted as we invoked God's presence, confessed our sins and were assured of pardon, named out loud prayer concerns and saints of RUCC's past, played with paint and watched how the water we sprayed made the colors meld, and during which we served communion to one another, we created this **sacred cloth** together. These cloths tie our communion meal in the sanctuary upstairs with our communing with one another at other meals as a reminder of the sacred gift of community.

We now have 20 runners for the long tables and 7 circular mats for the round tables. They are stored in the room by the kitchen and belong to the congregation. Please use them when you want to – they are reversible to green and can be used either way. They are machine washable and dryable – call Dawn Carlson Conn for directions or ask her to wash them the first time (and only the first time!). Again, thanks to Nancy Bossert for helping to cut and quilt the pieces.

January Issue. . .

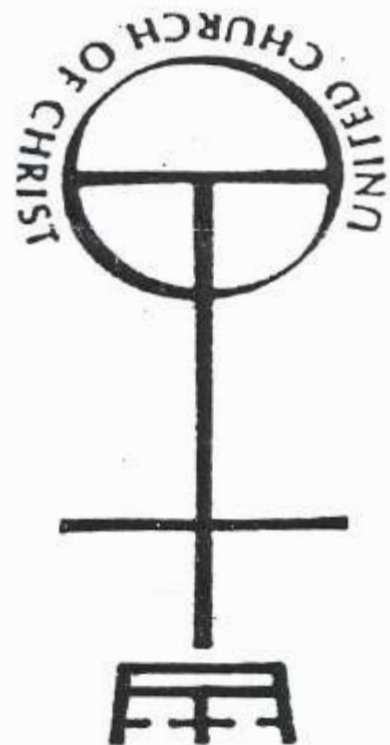
Mustard Seed



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

JAN. ISSUE DEADLINE
Sunday, December 18 , 11 a.m.
No exceptions please.

(Jan. issue will be mailed Friday, Dec. 23.)



Robbinsdale United Church of Christ
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