

# THE MUSTARD SEED



Vol. 39, Issue 6, February, 2012, Edition

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*Coming Up ...  
See inside for  
details*

Feb. 1, 8, 15—Study,  
Gospel of Thomas  
Feb. 6—Quilting  
Feb 10-11—YEP  
Lock-in  
Feb. 12—Men's  
Service  
Feb. 12—All Member  
Meeting  
Feb. 14—Pilgrim Guild  
Feb. 15—Pro-choice  
Lobby Day  
Feb. 16—Faith & Film  
Feb. 22—Ash Wed.  
Supper & Service

## **Regular Features ...**

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**LENT  
BEGINS**



**Ash Wednesday**  
**Feb. 22**  
**Supper 6 p.m.**  
**Service 7 p.m.**

## **From Your Pastor And Teacher**

*“Pace e bene”*

*The greeting used by St. Francis of Assisi*

St. Francis was one of those great people in history who had both a heart and eye for God. Through his writings and the writings of those who learned from him, we know that St. Francis was a man who saw that everything and everyone was God and God was all good. The gift of St. Francis was to look into the heart of every person and see goodness. Imagine how beautiful it would have been to be seen by him. Imagine what a gift it would be to see all of creation in this way, even the parts of creation that we don't like all that much. Imagine seeing every person in this way, even the people that we don't like all that much. St. Francis teaches that it isn't about our liking others or about liking what is happening in creation. Being a follower of St. Francis is about setting everything else aside and living in gratitude for whatever and whoever is right in front of you. When we begin to see the beauty and goodness in everything and everyone, God is revealed in that connection.

I am writing this partly because I am here in Albuquerque, New Mexico, with my Franciscan friends discovering the connections between “Nature and the Human Soul.” I have been reading and focusing on this conference for a few weeks now and am seeing what a gift it is to be in this holy space of awe and gratitude. But, I am also writing this because winter has finally arrived with all her chills and promises of snow. Winter is this wonderful teacher each year that speaks to us the powerful lesson, “It's OK to die.” Not slipping on the ice, or snow shovel heart attacks kind of death, but the lesson that dying is part of living. There is nothing to fear. It happens to all of us. Each death is an opening of the soul to be new again. Each death changes our identity in some way. Each death is an opportunity for new life. Nature gives us the blessing every year of our lives. How many of us will really listen?

I am challenged in this season by the greeting of St. Francis to everyone as “Peace and Good.” I also believe it is the hope and release everyone needs to live full and grateful lives. This openness will allow us to see beyond the labels that separate. This openness will unlock the freedom to live without fear. This openness will help us proclaim in our world that RUCC is alive and the Spirit of God is in us. This openness to Peace and Good will lead us back into communion with the earth and all the blessings that she gives. It is no surprise that on each day of creation as the earth became shaped and formed and filled with so many things, God's only response in the Genesis story was, “It is good.”

See you in church,



## February 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 5<sup>th</sup> grade 10:15-11:15 a.m.*

Our theme this season will take us beyond the survival of faith and into the deep waters of the soul. Our guide on this journey will be Jesus' Beatitudes. An experience of God's presence and your soul will make this season a very holy and sacred time. Each Sunday we'll continue our journey of understanding these Blessings, not as rules for faith, but as a step-by-step walk to a closer relationship with God and all things. Remembering that it is OK to start over, no matter who you are or what you have done is the meaning of "Amazing Grace."

#### EPIPHANY THEME:

#### "The Beatitudes Journey To Our Soul"

#### February 5<sup>th</sup> – Communion Sunday

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:1-12

Sermon Title: "A View From the Top" – Rev. T. Michael Rock

By this Sunday we will have looked closely at all the Beatitudes except the final one. What does it mean to be persecuted for the sake of righteousness? How could it feel good to have people insult you and ridicule you? The answers only make sense from the top of the ladder. You won't want to miss this look into freedom.

#### February 12<sup>th</sup> – Men's Sunday

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:1-12

Sermon Title: "Reflections" – The Men's Breakfast Crew

Each year some of the men at RUCC have chosen to take a risk by sharing deeply about their faith and their call to minister to others. This act of honesty and vulnerability demonstrates one of the many great things happening in our community of faith. It would be a wonderful Sunday to bring a friend and show them the power of community and connection.

#### February 19<sup>th</sup> – Transfiguration Sunday

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:1-12

Sermon Title: "Planting Seeds of Change" – Rev. T. Michael Rock

This is our final Sunday of this season and one last chance to sweep back over the Beatitudes and the image of a step-by-step understanding of a soulful journey. It will be a very special time to remember that the seeds of faith have already been sown in each of us. What will be our response?

#### LENT BEGINS FEBRUARY 22

#### ASH WEDNESDAY

**6:00 p.m. – Soup and Bread Supper**

**7:00 p.m. – Worship**

This is a wonderful ritual to mark the beginning of a very thoughtful season. It is true, you can travel through this season without coming to the service, but your journey will only be enriched by the ritual mirrored in the Beatitudes. Each of us begins the journey "poor in spirit." Make this service a priority this year for you and/or your family. You will be glad you did.

#### LENTEN THEME:

#### "Dealing with Judgment"

For some reason, we often feel a need to either judge others or judge ourselves or both. Most of us are given some standard that must be achieved. This Lent we are going to explore "giving us judgment for Lent" and to experiment with how that can free us to see a whole and more beautiful world around us and within us. Imagine looking in the mirror and only seeing the good and beautiful you.

#### February 26<sup>th</sup> – SEMINARY SUNDAY

Scripture Reading: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Sermon Title: "Those Who Should Not Eat" – Charles Owens, Student Minister

People in our society often cite 2 Thessalonians as justification of why we should cut all welfare programs and never give health care to those who cannot afford it. But what do we make of this text when we consider all the passages about Jesus helping and healing the poor? In our society, have we passed undue judgment on the poor?

#### CALLING ALL SOUP MAKERS!

Our tradition of a soup and bread supper before our Ash Wednesday service continues. If you would be willing to bring bread or a crock pot of your favorite soup, please call Dawn or Jim Conn at 763-424-6525. Many thanks!



## Scripture Study: The Lost Gospel of Thomas



Have you ever heard people say there are more gospels that are not in the New Testament? Have you ever been curious about what the *Gospel of Thomas* is? Well, now is your chance to find out! Our student intern Charles will be leading a three week study of the Gospel of Thomas. Come join us February 1, 8, and 15 in the gathering space at 6-7:15 p.m. to learn more about this fascinating text. Soup and salad will be provided.

### RUCC Spiritual Healing Group

Did you know that there are 11 members of this congregation who regularly send spiritual healing energy to people for whatever problems they are having (medical, emotional, relationship, family)? This is done from wherever we are to wherever you are. It does not require physical proximity. If you would like this form of healing for yourself or for anyone you know, contact Sheryl or Dale Fisher or let T. Michael or a parish nurse know you would like to add this healing to whatever else is happening to resolve the situation. We look forward to the opportunity to be of service.

--Sheryl Fisher

### STAFF TRANSITIONS AT RUCC

This may be old news for those of you who attended the Annual Meeting, but the Coordinating Council has been in conversation for a few months about an office staff structure that would really meet the needs of our congregation both now and into the future. With gratitude for the spirit and compassion of our Office Administrator, Gretchen Roesler, and for the dedication and perseverance through hundreds of volunteer hours given by our bookkeeper, Jim Puffer, the Coordinating Council has approved a new system that will relieve both of them from their duties and use the same dollars to hire two part-time staff people.

1. 10 hour per week Building Manager/Bookkeeper
2. 15 hour per week Communications Coordinator

The search is underway for these two new staff people who will fill the vital needs of our congregation. These two people will have the special

skills to advance our ministry and support our ongoing structure. Position descriptions are available for anyone to look at. We look forward to introducing these new additions to our staff in a future issue of the Mustard Seed.

In the meantime, please take the time to thank Gretchen and Jim for their ministry among us in these capacities.

### Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice Hosts

#### Pro-Choice Lobby Day

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

This gathering takes place at the State Capitol building and is hosted by the pro-choice community. There are educational sessions and meetings with legislators as well. Rev. T. Michael Rock will be leading the "People of Faith" workshop and also be speaking on behalf of the religious community in the Rotunda at noon. Sign up at [www.prochoicelobbyday.org](http://www.prochoicelobbyday.org)

There is no cost to attend the event. It starts at 8:30 a.m. and ends after the noon rally. Breakfast and lunch foods are provided. Please talk with T. Michael to learn more about this event.

### Joint Religious Legislative Coalition Day on the Hill

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

This is an opportunity to learn about how to lobby your state legislatures on matters of faith. Over 1000 people will gather at the River Center to learn about the issues of agreement between peoples of faith, and then head over the state house for meetings with legislators and a Rotunda Rally for Faith.

We leave the parking lot at Robbinsdale UCC at 7:30 a.m. and return around 2 p.m. (It saves on parking if we go together.) The cost is \$40 and you sign up at [www.jrlc.org](http://www.jrlc.org). We have scholarship money available for you to go and be a part of this wonderful event.

**QUILT GROUP:** Meets 1st Monday of the month 5-9 p.m. Next date is Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>. Come for all or part of the time. If you can tie a square knot, you can do this! All are welcome. Questions or need a ride? Call Nancy Bossert (763-473-0714).



## IDENTITY & MISSION

### **I.M.Vitality Is Happening**

The Identity and Mission Vitality area is active and fulfilling. On January 8, several interested people gathered after church to discuss the wonderful things RUCC does and can do to serve our congregation and the greater community. With the assurance that we ask for no long-term commitments to regular meetings, we discussed new ideas as well as continuing programs RUCC members enjoy within our congregation and services to others.

We continue to express our Christian love for others through PRISM (People Responding in Social Ministry), Common Hope, Families Moving Forward, Kids Against Hunger and numerous other activities. After the meeting I counted the ideas and programs and totaled twenty seven ways in which we can build community within RUCC and beyond, and that is not the entire list of things we at RUCC love to do.

Would you like to join a winter coat drive at the end of the winter, when the kids outgrow coats and the stores have great prices? Talk to Kate Menendez. Want to support PET (Personal Energy Transportation)? See Jim Conn. There are so many great ideas for continuing projects, one-time events and new ideas. If you want to get involved, but don't have a new idea or don't want to lead, or if you have an idea for something RUCC can do, check the **Contact List** posted in the church or contact Dale Fisher, Identity and Mission Facilitator. Our system does not require long commitments to regular monthly meetings. You can be as involved as much as you like.

In the coming year, we will increase our efforts to communicate, inform and support all who are interested in the exciting things RUCC'ers do. **JUST ASK!**

--Dale Fisher  
Identity and Mission Facilitator



***PRISM thanks you all.***

First, for your very generous gifts and the toys you gave to support the families of PRISM and to help make their Christmas a happy one.

Second, you continue to think of others and

bring food for the PRISM food cart. The food shelf continues to need more and more food to keep up with the growing numbers of people coming in and asking for help to feed their families. Let's keep in our hearts and minds those who have less than we do. The suggested items for PRISM Food Shelf donations in February are ***conditioner and boxed dinners***. As always, donations of ANY non-perishable items or cash are appreciated!

### **Important upcoming event to help PRISM**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Empty Bowls fund raiser will be held on March 15, 2012, 4-7 p.m., at Sandburg Learning Center (previously known as Sandburg Middle School).

- Choose a bowl
- Offer a donation to Empty Bowls
- Eat soup and bread donated by local businesses and enjoy musical entertainment

All proceeds from this event go to PRISM and NEAR.

### ***February 2012 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**

Feb. 2: Bob Clark and Mary Kopet present a musical show.

Feb. 9: Valentine Party with prizes and surprises. Program: Kyle Tennis and Ben Mills play guitar and sax and sing.

Feb. 16: Blood pressures taken 9:30-11:30 a.m. Program: Jim Berner sings and plays favorites.

Feb. 23: February Birthday Party. Program: Cindi Scheffler sings and plays piano.

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. Join us!

*If you have any questions, please contact Jan Paulsen (763-529-1986) or Keith Smith (612-588-1401 or 763-588-4356).*

## PET Project Moving Forward

On January 19, PET MN – Twin Cities, presented the first three completed PET Carts for inspection by Steve Baima, Executive Director of PET International. We passed! These three, and 7 more, will be ready for distribution very shortly.

I want to thank everyone who contributed to PET MN–Twin Cities during the Advent season. We raised several thousand dollars from many sources during that timeframe, and several of these initial carts will be dedicated either in memory of or in honor of someone because of it.

Now we are looking around for mission teams who would be interested in taking a cart along with them on their trip to give to a worthy recipient. Jim and Marsha Benshoof visited our distribution partners in Antigua, Guatemala, during their trip there as part of the Common Hope mission program. The photo of Marsha on a PET cart with Ilse, the director of the facility in Guatemala, is posted on our Facebook page for everyone to see.

We are still looking for a permanent home so we can set up our shop. If anyone knows of someone with a vacant building who might be willing to donate it, or perhaps offer a bargain rent rate, let me know. We need about 5000 square feet with water, power, parking, and a loading / receiving capability.

—Jim Conn

## Shave the Intern Bald!

Our student intern Charles has challenged RUCC to raise \$2,500 by April Fool's Day, and if we make our goal one person from church will get to help the RUCC children and youth shave his head. Outside the sanctuary will be a box where donations can be sealed in an envelope. You can write your name on the envelope and the top donor will get to help shave Charles's head or you can donate anonymously. All the money raised will go to One Great Hour of Sharing.

## Mineral Club Gives to PRISM

At its monthly meeting on January 6, the Anoka County Gem and Mineral Club contributed eight bags of food for PRISM, filling the shopping cart we have for that purpose. The meeting included the club's annual holiday potluck holiday dinner. At the December meeting, the members had volunteered the idea of supporting the food shelf.

Since September, the club has been meeting

in the RUCC Fellowship Hall at 6:00 on the first Friday of each month. Members have repeatedly expressed delight with the facilities at RUCC, and have demonstrated their appreciation by taking great care of the room. The club includes a lot of people who are very knowledgeable about rocks, minerals and lapidary, and some of us who are interested in learning. Visitors are always welcome at the meetings.

--Dale Fisher

**CENTERING PRAYER** each Sunday morning. . . 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.



## Faith Community Nurse Corner

### February Is Heart Month!

#### Know Your Signs and Symptoms

Some heart attacks are sudden and intense; however, most heart attacks start slowly, with mild pain or discomfort. Often people affected aren't sure what's wrong and wait too long before getting help. Here are signs that can mean a heart attack is happening:

**Chest discomfort.** Most heart attacks involve discomfort in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes, or that goes away and comes back. It can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness, or pain.

**Discomfort in other areas of the upper body.** Symptoms can include pain or discomfort in both arms, the back, neck, jaw, or stomach.

**Shortness of breath.** May occur with or without chest discomfort.

**Other signs.** These may include breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea, or lightheadedness.

The American Heart Association, the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, the American Red Cross, and the National Council on Aging have launched a new "Act in Time" campaign to increase people's awareness of heart attack and the importance of calling 9-1-1 immediately at the onset of heart attack symptoms.

**11 x 17 calendar across pages 6-7**

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pages 6-7**

# **BIBLE ADVENTURES!**

**Church for 3 years thru 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Welcome to a new session of Bible Adventures!

Our story for February is the  
**Parable of the Mustard Seed and more!**

**Matthew 13:31-52 (NRSV)**

(You can read ahead in your Bibles!)

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday (the Introduction for this lesson) is February 5<sup>th</sup>



**We are very excited about our New Curriculum for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders,  
Faith Practices.**

**Lyn Koss will be your leader this month.**

Adult Note: A number of our regular Workshop leaders are not available this month.  
Can you help?

If you or your parents have questions about Bible Adventures, please contact one of the  
leaders: Laura Dumont, Mary Jane Lee, Sheri Beck, Cheryl Nordquist,  
Lyn Koss, Rev. T. Michael Rock

**FAITH AND FILM DISCUSSION**  
Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.  
**FILM – “To Kill A Mockingbird”**

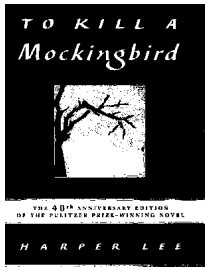
This month we will see a movie classic that asks a question about life and death and how we deal the issues of the human heart. This is a powerful film that brings up many images about what we really value in life. What a great way to grow in faith together. There is so much possibility when we watch these movies in community. Hope you can make it. See you at the movies.

*Book Discussion Series for Lent . . .*

***To Kill a Mockingbird***

by Harper Lee

Yes, this is a classic that most of us read as teenagers. It is still assigned reading for many young people and celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2010. I challenged myself last summer to read it again and look at its theological themes. I must admit that this was kind of amusing because I don't remember seeing any theological themes back in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. What I found as I turned the pages was a story that is full of powerful themes and relationships. Its journey from dark to light seemed perfect for a Lenten journey. So, my challenge to you is to pick up a copy (I'll have several available at church), and begin to read or re-read this amazing story. During Lent, everyone will be invited to gather and dig deeper into the themes of the story.



**ALL – CHURCH EDUCATION**

Sundays - 8:45 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

Wednesdays – 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

March 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> – “The Stranger in Our Midst”

March 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> – “Good Christians Behaving Badly”

March 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> – No Class

March 25<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> – “Casting the First Stone”

April 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> – “Courage”

All are welcome to attend any or all of the discussions. T. Michael will be leading the Sunday morning classes and Charles will be leading most Wednesdays. We look forward to this Lent being a rich and wonderful experience for us all.

**VIDEO CLIP THAT SUPPORTS RUCC’S  
POSITION TO OPPOSE THE  
“ANTI-MARRIAGE” AMENDMENT**

On January 4, the Governor for the State of Washington announced her intention to submit a bill to the Washington Legislature to achieve marriage equality for all, specifically to legalize same-sex marriages in that state. A video recording was made of her announcement, including her responses to questions that were raised after her remarks.

If you have not already seen this video, you are heartily encouraged to watch it. The Governor’s announcement and press conference is about 20 minutes long, so sit back and take it all in. Do not quit when the applause ends, because her responses to questions express some very passionate reasons why the time is now to end discrimination against GLBT persons who want to participate in loving and committed marriage relationships.

This is a very compelling video, which we encourage you to share with others and which may help you in responding to questions people may express to you about why they should vote no regarding the amendment on our ballot this coming November.

Here is a link to the video of the announcement made on January 4 by the Governor of Washington.

[http://www.tvw.org/index.php?option=com\\_tvoplayer&eventID=2012010042](http://www.tvw.org/index.php?option=com_tvoplayer&eventID=2012010042)

As you may know, Kathy Plumb is RUCC’s leader to seek defeat of the anti-marriage amendment on our ballot this fall. You are welcome to contact her with any comments and support you are willing to offer to seek defeat of this discriminatory amendment.

Let’s continue our quest for justice and equality.

When was the last time you checked out our website at [www.robinsdaleucc.org](http://www.robinsdaleucc.org) ?

Our webmaster, Nathan Syverson continues to create some wonderful new links and updates as we learn to tell our story. We are also asking folks to take pictures of church events and people. If you have any ideas about the website or would like to be one of our official photographers, email Nathan at [admin@robinsdaleucc.org](mailto:admin@robinsdaleucc.org) or T. Michael at [tmichael@robinsdaleucc.org](mailto:tmichael@robinsdaleucc.org)



**Coordinating Council  
December 20, 2012**

(Note: December meeting was after the Mustard Seed deadline in December.)

- T. Michael will begin planning for a 3 month sabbatical for 2013.
- Leisure Age: Elim is looking at the program as it is costing them \$30,000 a year.
- A meeting is planned for Jan. 8 to discuss the budget with interested people from congregation.
- \$260 was raised for the P.E.T. project.
- Worship: Planning meeting in Dec. had good discussion focused on Education. Epiphany focus will be the Beatitudes. Going into Lent, T. Michael will deal with judgment and include a series on "To Kill a Mockingbird." Dawn Conn will help with the meal for Ash Wednesday.
- Mission: Patty Miller helped raise \$1,000 for Breaking Free by sponsoring a boutique.
- Discussion about fund raising for the church.
- Youth: Confirmation/OWL going well.
- Nomination process for officers and members for Trustees and Bible Adventures has begun.
- Discussion regarding possible bylaw changes to propose at Annual Meeting regarding memorial gifts, nominating process and some term limits.
- Discussion regarding finalizing search for business manager/bookkeeper and communications person. Motion passed to change the office structure from office manager to Business Manager and Communications Coordinator with a target date of March 1, 2012. Interviewers will be T. Michael, Jim Puffer, Brad Welton and Dan Haugen.
- It was approved to seek a student intern again for next year.

**Coordinating Council  
January 10, 2012**

- Treasurer: 2011 Budget versus actual: Income is off only \$2,000. A payment of a 2011 pledge of \$3,800 came in. Expenses are down approximately \$6,300. End of year balance is \$4,380. Balance sheet summary: \$15,820 in checking, not including recent deposit. \$11,244 in savings (with total liability of \$20,076). Brad Welton recommended transfer of some funds in checking to savings.
- Mission: The Mission and Identity team is meeting and looking for additional participation. The Gem and Mineral Club, which meets monthly at our church, recently brought food for PRISM.

- Worship: Volunteers are in place for Ash Wed. supper.
- Church Growth: Recruitment continues for facilitator or leadership team.
- Youth: Jim Puffer has volunteered to be the new Youth and Young Adults facilitator.
- Bible Adventures: Discussion about scheduling the pageant for a calmer time or starting preparation earlier.
- Stewardship: To date 106 pledges have been received, totaling \$249,629. (Last year 105 pledges totaled \$244,000.) Thirty-eight pledges were increased, 8 decreased (1 significantly), 6 were new, 6 were dropped, 4 moved/transferred, and 2 were inactive. A big thank you to Nancy Bossert for her efforts with Stewardship this year!
- Church Roll: Letters will go out to inactive members in order to get an accurate count.
- RUCC is seeking to fill two new part time positions, Business Manager and Communications Coordinator. The interview process will begin in late January.
- Survey: There were 37 responses. Common themes were: Organization (less with new structure), communication (less with new structure), support (less support for getting things done), connection (less with new structure). There was discussion about amending the new structure to include teams in the vitality areas, with teams meeting with the congregation at least quarterly with posted minutes. A recommendation will be made at the Annual Meeting.
- All Member Meeting will be February 12 to engage people for vitality areas.
- T. Michael will be taking a sabbatical in 2013.
- Thank you to Jim Benshoof for his work with the city of Robbinsdale to get us a refund of over \$6,000 for overcharge on water billing.

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Remember to "like" Robbinsdale United Church of Christ the next time you are on Facebook. Updates and reminders will be of great service to our communication and mission.  
**Friend RUCC today!**





### Happy Birthday!

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

Tracey	Fluegel	February	1
Toni	Pangborn	February	1
Ken	Barker	February	3
Jim	Greenwood	February	3
Jennifer	Stoos	February	7
Cameron	Gardner	February	12
Corinne	Myers	February	13
Bill	Wolfe	February	13
Wendy	Lukaszewski	February	17
Gert	Wehking	February	17
Alexander	Roelofs	February	21
Christopher	Roelofs	February	21
Steve	Quesnel	February	26
Kira	Braun	February	27

### Pilgrim Guild Meeting Valentine's Day at Noon

Please join us as we "Travel to Turkey Following in the Footsteps of Paul." Jim and Louiva Puffer and Jan Paulsen took a fascinating trip this past fall to Turkey and saw some of the early Christian churches and cities where the Apostle Paul visited. Between Jim and Jan, over 2,000 pictures were taken, but we promise not to show you all of them! Come hear about our experiences.

Social time begins at noon, followed by dessert. The program will begin after a short business meeting. Our February 14th hostesses are Corinne Myers, Erma Andrews, and Shirley Dayton. This should be a lovely way to spend the holiday. Everybody is welcome.

### Note from the Editor

Barbara Wills will be on vacation during the month of February. Please send articles for the March issue of the Mustard Seed (deadline is February 26) to Tracy Thomas Wilson at [tracy.thomas.wilson@gmail.com](mailto:tracy.thomas.wilson@gmail.com).

### Community News

#### SPECIAL CONCERNS:

Please keep these members and friends of RUCC in your thoughts and prayers. Donna MacDonald, Alice MacPherson, Bill and Nikki McKinley, Edith Middleton, Don Morin, Sandra Nelson, Kathy Plumb, Ellinor Porter, Vi Quesnel, Suanne Rost, Barbara Sexton, Bill Sowden, Dale Swenson, Willa Truehart, Sylvia Anderson, Kay Barker and Ken Barker, Jane Boggs, Bill and Jane Bossert, Amanda Busch, Lorraine Dysart, Kathy and Rodney Giddings, Marion Hansen, Ruthe Hawn, Tom Jensen, Curtis Johnson, Bud Klatke, Frank Koss, Bradley Lloyd

### Congregational Survey Results

RUCC Friends,

Thank you so much for your responses to the survey on the Vitality Areas! The Coordinating Council discussed the results in great length and detail at our January meeting.

Four themes emerged from the survey: communication, structure, support, and connection. Your Coordinating Council is working to improve on these four areas. I also want to give all of you a chance to see the survey results for yourselves. Copies of the results are available at church. Please contact me at [SheriKenBeck@yahoo.com](mailto:SheriKenBeck@yahoo.com) if you would like an electronic copy of the results, and I'll e-mail them to you as a pdf file.

--Ken Beck, Moderator

### There Will Be an All-Member Vitality Meeting

on Sunday, Feb 12th, 2012, after the worship service led by RUCC men. All RUCC members are encouraged to attend with their passions, interests, and enthusiasm as we plan and organize for 2012! If

you have questions, please contact T Michael Rock

## YEP - 2 YOUTH at RUCC

### Our Whole Lives / Confirmation Class

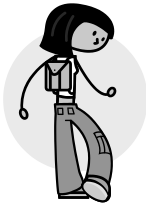
February 5<sup>th</sup> – 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

February 12<sup>th</sup> – 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

February 19<sup>th</sup> – 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

February 26<sup>th</sup> – 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup> – Parent Planning Meeting  
for Summer Mission Trip, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.



### YEP LOCK-IN

February 10-11, 2012

7:00 p.m. Friday to 9:00

a.m. Saturday

Bring friends. It's going to  
be a fun night.



## March Issue...

# Mustard Seed

Please email (preferred) all articles for the  
MARCH issue of the Mustard Seed to:

[tracy.thomas.wilson@gmail.com](mailto:tracy.thomas.wilson@gmail.com)

or place in the box marked "Mustard Seed" in the  
church office workroom so that they are received  
by the deadline.

### MARCH ISSUE DEADLINE

Sunday, February 26, 11 a.m.

No exceptions please.

(March issue will be mailed Friday, March 2.)

Please  
Note!

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