

THE MUSTARD SEED



Vol. 35, Issue 8, April, 2008, Edition

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Coming Up...
**See inside for
details**

Apr.—Greater Gift Sale
Apr.5—"Love Letters"
Apr. 6—Women's Group
Apr. 11-12—Youth Lock-in
Apr. 12—GLBT Potluck
Apr. 20—Visitor Sunday
Apr. 21, 27, 28—New
Member Info. meetings

March 30
Congregational
Meeting
after worship
to vote on moving
forward with
Opportunity Next
Door
See pp. 4-5

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From Your Pastor And Teacher

*"No one can be saved - in virtue of what he or she can do.
Everyone can be saved - in virtue of what God can do." - Karl
Barth*

Some people ask about the difference between Robbinsdale United Church of Christ and other churches around town. I think one of the clearest ways we can talk is about who has the power to save our souls. In the depth of our theological tradition in the United Church of Christ, we can point to the simple truth that salvation lies not in our hands but in God's. It doesn't matter what prayers we pray, or how much offering we give, or even which, if any, sanctuary we may visit. Salvation is always in the hands of our generous God.

Many people will struggle with this concept, because we learn at a young age what we have to "do" in order to please our parents and our God. The truth is that God is saving the souls of those who have disobeyed every parental command, would never enter a church, and those for whom the church represents a delusional fantasy of wonder and faith. At the center of our theology is this understanding that it is only by God's grace that I am here and ready to serve. The moment of realization that God desires you to be complete, whole, and ready to serve is the moment we stop trying so hard to please others and act out of our authentic self. This theology opens the way for each of us to tell the truth in such an invitational way that people will come and hear what we have to say.

So our response to God's way is to simply act out of gratitude. Something very precious has been given to each of us. We can choose to acknowledge it and run into the forests and fields proclaiming our salvation, or we can choose to act on the forgiveness, grace, and compassion that was shown to us by giving the same back to others. Our faith at Robbinsdale United Church of Christ is about acting in ways that acknowledge our gratitude. We are the conduits of God's love to others. The only way to multiply God's grace is to give it away.

Our challenge this Easter season is to walk with each other, share the ways Jesus teaches, and experience the joy of loving in a community of folks who are our partners in this ministry. What a blessing it is to share these stories with one another.

See you in church,
T. Michael





April Schedule

April 6, Third Sunday of Easter: Service at 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion. Infant and toddler care available. Bible Adventures for children 3 years old through 2nd grade 10:15-11:15 a.m. Lectionary texts: Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4,12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35.

April 13, Fourth Sunday of Easter: Service at 10:00 a.m. Infant and toddler care available. Bible Adventures for children 3 years old through 5th grade 10:15-11:15 a.m. Lectionary texts: Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10.

April 20, Fifth Sunday of Easter: Service at 10:00 a.m. Infant and toddler care available. Bible Adventures for children 3 years old through 5th grade 10:15-11:15 a.m. Lectionary texts: Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5,15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14.

April 27, Sixth Sunday of Easter: Service at 10:00 a.m. Infant and toddler care available. Bible Adventures for children 3 years old through 5th grade 10:15-11:15 a.m. Lectionary texts: Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21.

Worship at Robbinsdale United Church of Christ

With an early Easter in 2008 we have been granted the gift of space and time to explore together in a special way. Last year we preceded Lent with a sermon series on The Beatitudes. This year we will spend this season reflecting on the theme, Will God Save Everyone? We will spend four weeks looking at the Character, Will, Salvation and Persistence of God. We will explore the areas of heaven, hell, judgment, and grace. This will be a great time to invite a friend into worship.

FOUR-PART SERMON SERIES BEGINS

“Will God Save Everyone?” Rev. T. Michael Rock

March 30th –

Scripture Reading – Luke 6:32-38

Sermon: “The Character of God”

Part 1 of this sermon series examines who God is in relationship to both sinner and saint. We look at how God is described throughout the biblical and cultural story and see if indeed it is in God’s heart to save everyone. No exceptions.

April 6th – Communion Sunday – Bibles for our 3rd graders

Scripture Reading – Luke 4:14-21

Sermon: “The Will of God”

Part 2 of the series will take us to the line in the Lord’s Prayer, “thy will be done,” and ask what that means. We will strive to discern the acts of God in our lives and in nature as well, and ultimately contemplate what God may want from each of us.

April 13th – Commissioning of Faith Community Nurse Team

Scripture Readings – Exodus 3: 7-15 and Luke 7: 44-50

Sermon: “The Salvation of God”

Part 3 of the series will build on a sermon preached during Lent on the idea that we are all “saved”. We will also examine the sacrifice of Jesus and explore whether forgiveness is tied to the crucifixion or to the abundant blessing of God’s grace.

April 20th – Visitors Sunday and Sacrament of Baptism

Scripture Readings – Luke 15:1-32 and Revelation 21: 3-6

Sermon: “The Persistence of God”

Part 4 will close our sermon series out with an image of God pursuing us, searching for us, and never giving up on us. This promises to be a wonderful day of celebration of Earth Day as well.

April 27th - Commissioning of Head Usher

Scripture Readings – Jeremiah 31: 31-34 and John 12: 35-36

Sermon: “Walking in the Light”

We will embark again on a Question and Answer sermon this Sunday. There will be 3x5 cards in the bulletins and a time for you to discern and write down any question at all. T. Michael will take the time to answer each question, either during the sermon or at a later date.

Notes from Our Student Minister Dwight Wagenius

When I arrived here in early September, as my first task I undertook negotiation with T. Michael of a Learning Agenda Worksheet to structure my internship with all of you. The worksheet guidelines required that I set out general goals of what I wanted to learn, specific objectives within the goals, what I would do in ministry here, and how I would know I have learned what I wanted to learn. Consistent with my liberal arts approach to life—experience as much and keep as many options open as possible—I listed everything I could think that a parish minister might encounter, assuming that T. Michael would scope down my overreaching. Didn't happen. I have a comprehensive agenda. And, to my amazement, I've done or scheduled something in every category I listed, plus some things I didn't include.

You have challenged me and given me opportunities in ministry beyond my expectations, for example, The BOX. From September to the end of March, we have celebrated together many of the major events of the church year—Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. We have learned again and again of God's constant presence with us and steadfast love for us.

In April, I will lead a three-part series of discussions on global warming and our carbon footprint challenges. I have worked with Faith Formation and Community and Outreach to prepare for our discussions and gather material that will help us understand better global warming, the significance of our carbon footprints, and what we should do. I look forward to discussing this huge challenge with you.

You continue to teach me, challenge me, and inspire me. Thanks.

Peace,
Dwight

Special Ministry Opportunities from the Endowment Fund

For the second year in a row, the Coordinating Council has approved spending the previous year's earnings from the Endowment Fund. The 2007 earnings are \$5,912. This money is available to the church ministries and groups of church members interested in pursuing a special ministry project that will enhance the mission and

ministry of Robbinsdale United Church of Christ.

Under our bylaws this money can be spent as follows:

- ✦ up to 25% (up to \$1,478) may be spent on capital projects
- ✦ up to 25% (up to \$1,478) may be spent on scholarships
- ✦ 25% or greater (at least \$1,478) on outreach into the local community
- ✦ 25% or greater (at least \$1,478) on the wider mission of the denomination

For more details about these categories, check the bylaws or contact a member of the Coordinating Council or Endowment Committee. Note that our bylaws advise that these funds not be used for the annual operating budget.

The Process:

Complete a simple RUCC Endowment Funds Request form. This form can be obtained from the church office in printed form or via e-mail. Ministry representatives to the Coordinating Council received a copy at the last council meeting.

The Schedule:

May 14th: Submit your request form with a description of your project to the Coordinating Council (mail to the church office or e-mail to our Clerk, Tracy Thomas Wilson, at pi_indisguise@comcast.net).

May 20th: The Council will review and select the projects at their May 20th meeting.

This is an exciting time. Be creative. Partner with others. Help enhance the ministry of Robbinsdale United Church of Christ!

Welcome to our new Office Administrator, Gretchen Roesler!

It is with great joy that we introduce you to Gretchen. She has been a long time member at Spirit of the Lakes UCC in Minneapolis and has a wealth of experience in running an office and working joyfully with volunteers. Gretchen started during the first week of March and was quickly thrust into organizing the office and all our communication structures. We are glad to have her warm smile, hearty laugh, and extensive skills for this position. Please give her a call sometime and introduce yourself.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON MARCH 30

Opportunity Next Door

On March 13, 2008, the RUCC Coordinating Council met and voted to recommend this resolution to the congregation for a vote on March 30, 2008:

Resolution:

Robbinsdale United Church of Christ members have determined that RUCC has a potential calling to ministry through partnership with the Plymouth Church Neighborhood Foundation in the provision of affordable housing for families at the townhouses adjoining our church property. RUCC is prepared to take the next step in our discernment process and invest \$5,000 to conduct an in-depth feasibility study with the Plymouth Church Neighborhood Foundation. This resolution commits RUCC to the feasibility study only, and not to any future action.

Background:

Last fall, T. Michael was contacted by the owner of the 11 unit apartment building directly east of our property noting her interest in selling the property. T. shared this information with several members of the congregation who indicated interest and willingness in exploring whether this might be an opportunity for RUCC to get involved in an affordable housing ministry. Several conversations were held with developers of affordable housing and it was determined that the Plymouth Church Neighborhood Foundation (PCNF) was uniquely qualified to work with church partnerships. The Coordinating Council, Trustees, and several other RUCC members and the PCNF staff met together in November.

In December, a committee formed to help shape a discernment process for RUCC. Three open forums for questions and answers and two presentations by the PCNF were held after Sunday worship services between January and March. A congregational vote on whether to proceed further in exploring the "Opportunity Next Door" is scheduled for March 30, 2008. At that time, RUCC members will be asked to approve a \$5,000 investment to conduct an in-depth feasibility study.

1. A positive vote commits the Church to a \$5,000 investment for an in-depth feasibility study. The results of that study would be shared with all Church members. Depending on the results, a follow-up process may be conducted to determine whether the Church wants to enter into a full partnership with the Plymouth Church Neighborhood Foundation for the purpose of developing and owning an affordable housing development on the subject property. A positive vote on March 30th does not commit either partner to proceed with any action beyond review of the feasibility results.
2. There is a very strong need for decent, affordable housing in our area and that need correlates closely with the outreach portion of our mission as a congregation.
3. There is a high level of uncertainty regarding the future condition and use of the subject property. Unless the Church investigates becoming a partner in redevelopment of the property, a significant risk exists that the property could degrade and become an increasing problem for our Church. It would also be a lost opportunity to provide high quality housing for families at an affordable price.

The **project process** would be something like this:

- Step One: Feasibility (~Two months)
RUCC votes on March 30th to commit \$5,000 to contribute to a feasibility study being conducted by PCNF about whether the project is feasible (politically and financially). The feasibility study will clarify the total cost of the project, the financial responsibility of RUCC, and the feasibility of raising the funds necessary.

It is clear that members wish to understand the level of future commitments in personnel time and finances associated with the full partnership and implementation of the project. However, those items are not known at the present time and would be addressed in detail in the subsequent phases. At this point in time, preliminary estimates are that the total cost could be \$2.5 million and RUCC's responsibility could be from \$30,000 - \$50,000 over time to help with items listed below such as helping to pay the interest on any interim financing (Step 4).

PCNF Board also must vote to proceed with feasibility study.

Once the feasibility study is done, results will be shared with RUCC and PCNF. RUCC will hold another Congregational vote to determine whether to proceed. If PCNF and RUCC choose to move forward into the project after review of the findings from the feasibility study, the following steps would be expected:

- Step Two: Negotiate purchase agreement
After we do our joint research, RUCC members may again be asked to make a decision to proceed and commit to the next level of funding for the project. PCNF Board would also need to vote to proceed. Then we proceed to negotiate a price with the owner. (If we can't agree, project doesn't proceed. This could take an indeterminate amount of time.)

Create an LLC to be the new ownership entity. RUCC will select members to coordinate our portion of the project and elect board members to the LLC

- Step 3: Due Diligence (usually 90 days)
Once a purchase agreement is signed, PCNF will conduct due diligence on acquisition- survey, title, Phase I environmental, etc. Arrange for interim financing.
- Step 4: Acquisition
Based on due diligence, LLC (and PCNF Board which may need to guarantee interim financing) agree to proceed with acquisition.
- Step 5: Operation (~ 1 – 2 years)
LLC operates property while permanent financing is applied for from government funding sources.
- Step 7: Renovation.
- Step 8: On going operations
RUCC will determine which ministry (or a new ministry) will coordinate congregation participation in the project long term.

April is National and Global Month at RUCC

During the month of April, the **National and Global Coordinating Ministry** will spotlight its efforts for worldwide ministries and provide hospitality for the coffee time. Do you know what it means to be a “Five for Five” church? Did you know we are on the national register as a “Peace Church”? Do you know about Fair Trade products? (Hopefully you do by now.) Check out the Peace Pole we will put into our gardens this spring.



Join the fun

We will raffle a globe that is set entirely with natural stone. Buy as many tickets as you like through the month of April. The winner will not only get the beautiful globe, but will designate which of the special funds will get the proceeds.

Greater Gift Sale

We will again offer the special items in the Greater Gift catalog. This program, previously known as SERRV, offers fair traded handicrafts and gifts made by artisans around the world, giving them a better return for their work and improving opportunities for training and education. This is a good time to get that special item for Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, Graduation or for yourself! All sales also help support Common Hope and their work in Guatemala.

WOMEN’S GROUP GATHERS FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

A Women’s Group has emerged. On Sunday, March 2, we had 24 perplexed women show up for our first get together. Frankly, we were wondering what we were getting ourselves into. We, as a group, decided that what we wanted here was an informal gathering of women to share thoughts and ideas and a time to share joys and concerns with our peers. We already have laughed and cried together as we shared our reasons for being there on Sunday.

It was decided that we will gather together every 1st Sunday of the month after the church service. So our next gathering (notice we are **not** using the term “meeting”) will be April 6. Cathy Lloyd has volunteered to facilitate our first official get together, and it will be a “show and share.” Please bring an item that means something to you and be ready talk a little about it. We will use this as a way to get to know each other on a more personal

basis as opposed to our “church” persona.

There will be no elected officers and no mandatory attendance. If you missed our first gathering, feel free to come with ideas for future gatherings. We are no longer perplexed but women with a purpose, and that purpose is to converse, discuss, act, and socialize with each other. These purposes may become more focused or more general as the group evolves.

Ken Beck volunteered the “Men’s Group” to serve lunch to us on April 6. Come for lunch, stay for the camaraderie!

New Business Enterprise: Kathy and Willa Are Cooking Homemade Foods to Go!

Thanks to the whole congregation! Your gushing over our cooking had set us to thinking over the last couple years that maybe we could do some sort of business together. Two things recently happened: Willa *thought* she retired, and Kathy Jo’s mom cleans for an elderly couple with health problems. They were looking for sort of a personal chef since they are not up to cooking. They’re tired of eating out, but weren’t sure if they really wanted someone to come and cook in their home. We have been cooking 3 meals a week for this client for over a month now. We are kind of a Meal on Wheels for profit. Currently we are using the church kitchen as our start-up base. We are looking for clients who are interested in having home cooked meals available to them—we can do delivery or they can pick them up. Current clients include a family who is having some remodeling done and a family dealing with illness who need wholesome meals. We are still in the start-up stages so we’re not sure where we are going with this. We are working on a name and checking out the state regulations, but so far everything is a go. If you know anyone who might need our services, please give us a call. A big thank you to everyone who gave us the confidence to jump into this new venture.



--Kathy Jo Gausman and Willa Truehart.

Community News

ADDRESS CHANGE

Ruthe Hawn
St. Therese Assisted Living
8008 Bass Lake Rd., #216
New Hope, MN 55428

MEMBERS WITH SPECIAL CONCERNS

Please keep these church friends in your prayers.

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Gert Anderson | Madge Johnson |
| Sylvia Anderson | Lois Larsen |
| Jeanne Angel | Kathy Plumb |
| Pat Bobleter | Ellinor Porter |
| Jane Boggs | Barbara Sexton |
| Amanda Busch | June Swanson |
| Shirley Dayton | Barbara Webber |
| Ken Evans | Arlene Whelan |
| Rodney Giddings | Penny Wolfe |
| Ruthe Hawn | Joan Young |
| Janet Johnson | |

Our deepest **sympathy** to Ken Evans, Debbie Evans, Jan Paulsen, and their families on the recent death of Eleanor Evans.

Amanda Sonquist was blessed by **baptism** on Sunday, March 9.

Congratulations to Molly Nicholson! She recently competed in the Mrs. Minnesota pageant.

Take Our Student Minister to Lunch

I was remembering my time as a student pastor and that one of the greatest gifts I ever received was being invited into people's homes for Sunday lunch. Let's extend our hospitality to Dwight Wagenius in these last weeks of his internship with us. Sign up on the board in the hallway or call the church office to reserve a Sunday with Dwight, beginning on March 30th and going until May 4th. — T. Michael

In-Care with Beckie Bernu

Several years ago, Robbinsdale United Church of Christ took on a formal relationship with Beckie Bernu to shepherd her through her

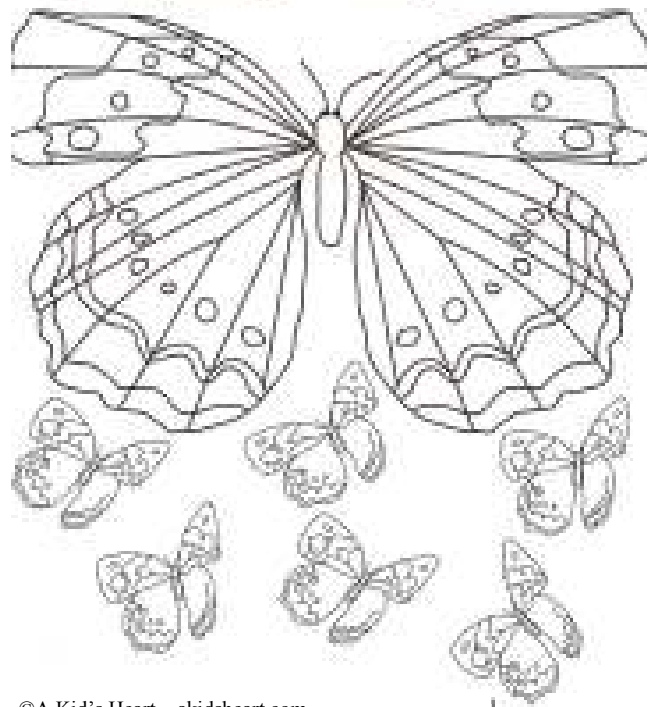
discernment of study and call to ordained ministry. She has completed all course requirements for her Master of Divinity and written her ordination paper. She will be examined for her "fitness for ministry" on April 17th. We are blessed to have her among us, and we should keep Beckie in our thoughts and prayers during this period of examination. If you have any questions about this process or would like to talk about exploring your own call to ministry, please talk with T. Michael at anytime, 612-275-0387.

YEP 2 at RUCC

What a great day at Powder Ridge Ski Resort! We had a blast together and even made some very graceful face plants in the snow. Our next big event will be a Friday-Saturday Lock-IN on April 11th and 12th. The theme for the evening is a competition between Senior High and Junior High youth in a variety of games. We'll open the doors at 7:00 p.m. on Friday and parents will pick up on Saturday at 9:00 a.m. Talk with T. Michael or Tracey Fluegel if you have any questions.



**But wisdom is justified of all
her children. Luke 7:35**



©A Kid's Heart—akidsheart.com

April Schedule...

**INTERFAITH LEISURE AGE
9 AM. SOCIAL HOUR
12 NOON LUNCH AND PROGRAM:
Lunch Reservations Required
Elim Lutheran Church.**

3748 West Broadway in Robbinsdale

April 3: Tom Garry sings, plays guitar and harmonica.

April 10: Norwegian Glee Club of Minneapolis, men's chorus.

April 17: Blood pressures taken 9:30-11:30 a.m. Program: accordion player Skeets Langley.

April 24: April Birthday Party. Program: Jerry Beth.

Leisure Age meets on Thursday from 9:00-2:00. Lunch costs \$8.00. It is now necessary to make reservations if you plan to attend. If you're present one week, you can sign the reservation book that is passed at the table to attend the following week. If you are not present, you can make reservations Monday 9 a.m. to noon by calling Jean Lindstrom at 763-537-1171. You may also use this number to cancel a reservation.

*If you have any questions, please contact:
Leonard Sidle, 763-504-0465
or Keith Smith, 612-588-1401*

Thanks from Leisure Age...

Thank you to those who helped serve at Leisure Age on March 6 and 13. They are Donna and Wayne Pitmon, Bill Herrmann, Sandra Nelson, Leonard Sidle, Corinne Myers, Stu Whelan, Mary Welton, Jan Paulsen, Ken Evans, Gil Doten, Ken and Kay Barker, and Willa Truehart.

This program is very important to our church. We are glad we can participate in this activity as we continue to provide service to our community beyond the borders of Robbinsdale United Church of Christ.

—Leonard Sidle and Keith Smith

**Coordinating Council
March 13, 2008**

*Staff change: Gretchen Roesler has been hired as RUCC's new office administrator.

*Non-violence training weekend was a meaningful experience for participants.

*2007 Endowment Fund earnings of \$5912. Application process for grants from this money is explained elsewhere in this issue.

*Opportunity Next Door: Drafted the resolution to be

presented at a March 30th Congregational Meeting to decide whether to launch a \$5000 feasibility study regarding the purchase of townhomes next door. (See details elsewhere in this issue.)

*National and Global: Greater Gift sale (formerly SERRV) will be in April.

*Worship: Will be taking pledges from people to purchase new pew Bibles (see article elsewhere in this issue).

*Youth: Had great turnout for working at Feed My Starving Children.

*Faith Formation: Dwight will lead a carbon footprint/global warming series in April, including 2nd Sunday and 3rd Wednesday.

*Bill and Diane Sowden will present "Love Letters" on April 5. Proceeds to Organ Fund (see article elsewhere in this issue).

*Trustees: Cherish Our Church work day is scheduled for May 17.

Honor a Special Woman for Mother's Day

Again this year the Community Outreach Ministry will offer you the opportunity to honor women in your life by making a donation to Home Free Battered Women's Shelter. A special certificate will be mailed to your honoree(s) in time for Mother's Day.

Donations in any amount will be accepted. See a Community Outreach member in the narthex after church on April 20, April 27, and May 4.

VISITOR SUNDAY – APRIL 20

The Communication and Evangelism Ministry has designated April 20 as Visitor Sunday. Everyone is encouraged to invite a neighbor or friend to join our worship community that Sunday. In addition to our normal greetings and T. Michael's warm words of fellowship, the worship service will include special features to help our visitors feel welcome. Extraordinary treats will be served after the service.

Please help to make April 20 a special occasion at RUCC by inviting someone to join you at church that day. Be sure your guest fills out a name tag, wear your nametag, and help to extend our warm hospitality to visitors who are with us that day.

--Jim Benshoof



Presenting the Sowdens in

Love Letters

By A. R. Gurney

A tale of passion, politics, pathos and a bit of humor. Melissa Channing-Gardner and Andrew Makepeace-Ladd, III, were born to Old Establishment money, the real upper crust, the very privileged.

What twists of fate brought these two star-crossed lovers together? What prophesy did destiny proclaim for them?

William C. and Diane M. Sowden take great delight in having the opportunity to examine the lifelong relationship between Melissa and Andy.

What a Journey!



The Sowdens have appeared at Orchestra Hall, the old Guthrie Theater, Theater-In-The-Round, The Riverside Theater, The Edyth Bush Theater, Mystery Dinner Theater, The Minnesota Historical Society, The Minneapolis Institute of Art, Thursday

Musical, and most recently at the Seasons Dinner Theater at Bunker Hill. They have also traveled all over the U.S. and parts of Canada.

This is special play about best friends, true loves, and the trials and joys of following your dreams. Be ready to laugh and cry your way through this special performance by two of our most beloved friends.

Saturday, April 5, at 7:00 p.m.

Please invite your friends.

Donation: \$10

Call the church office, 763-537-6965, to purchase tickets or check out the ticket booth on Sunday mornings. All proceeds will benefit the Organ Fund at RUCC.

NEW MEMBER INFORMATION

Are you interested in becoming a member here at Robbinsdale United Church of Christ? You

are invited to learn more about us, and we'll get to know a little about you as well. There will be a series of New Member Gatherings this month and next to prepare for New Member Sunday on May 4th.

Sunday – April 20th – A lunch will be provided as we gather to learn about the history of Robbinsdale United Church of Christ and our denomination. The lunch is provided by the Communication and Evangelism Ministry

Sunday, April 27th – A second meeting featuring representatives from all of our church ministries will further introduce you to the wonderful and diverse ministries of our congregation. A simple lunch will again be provided.

Then, if you are then interested in membership, come on **Monday, April 28th**, at 7:00 p.m. – Come to the church where we will gather and explore our faith journeys together.

If you are interested in membership or know someone who is, please contact T. Michael at tmichael@robbinsdaleucc.org or at 763-537-6965.

**LOOKING FORWARD
TO SUMMER BIKE RIDES!**

It's time to think of spring and getting back on the bicycle. There are many folks at RUCC who love to ride. Each Sunday this summer we will invite anyone and everyone out for Sunday afternoon bike rides of various lengths and challenge. We will also stop for ice cream along the route. It should be a great way to get the heart pumping, and what fun to spend some time with our church family.



You are also invited to join the RUCC bike team on Saturday, May 10, for the Allianz MS Ride. It is an easy 30 mile or 60 mile ride. All you have to do is sign on to the MS Ride website and sign up under our team, RUCC Love. It is a great way to extend our community this summer and help raise money for this important cause.



Happy Birthday!

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


| | | | |
|-----------|--------------|-------|----|
| Gil | Doten | April | 1 |
| Don | Smith | April | 1 |
| Lucie | Neary | April | 3 |
| Sherry | Braun | April | 4 |
| Jean | Sawyer | April | 4 |
| Dawn | Master | April | 5 |
| Cheryl | Nordquist | April | 6 |
| Teresa | Bertossi | April | 7 |
| Dan | Tysver | April | 8 |
| Amanda | Anderson | April | 10 |
| Laura | Anderson | April | 11 |
| Ken | Mallak | April | 11 |
| Janet | Vick | April | 12 |
| Vince | Flesness | April | 15 |
| Peyton | Ihle | April | 15 |
| Alice Ann | Kempf | April | 15 |
| Jack | Rasmussen | April | 15 |
| Virginia | Anderson | April | 16 |
| Angie | Schultz | April | 16 |
| Beckie | Bernu | April | 17 |
| Deb | Bernu | April | 17 |
| David | Plumb | April | 17 |
| Ben | Rost | April | 17 |
| Ben | Stoos-Tysver | April | 17 |
| Lyndon | Carlson, Sr. | April | 18 |
| Julie | Manworren | April | 18 |
| Bill | Lauder | April | 19 |
| Laura | Pyne | April | 19 |
| Chris | Smith | April | 19 |
| Aaron | Haugen | April | 21 |
| Kim | Bonin | April | 22 |
| Bill | Salinger | April | 23 |
| Seth | Spielman | April | 25 |
| Jan | Walker | April | 25 |
| Gertrude | Anderson | April | 26 |
| Andy | Chisnell | April | 27 |
| Mason | Davis | April | 28 |
| Bill | Herrmann | April | 30 |

Cabaret Night 2008

REMEMBER THE SIXTIES??



It's that time of year again. This year we're pulling out the "love beads," the patched jeans and the "peace sign" necklaces. David and Steve have been going through their archives looking for some classic songs—Beatles, old Dylan ballads. We don't want to give away too much here, but if last year is any clue, it will be fabulous. Hold open May 10th--it's the Saturday before Mother's Day--for a grand dinner and a night of wonderful entertainment. Kathy Jo will be cooking up foods reflective of the Kennedy White House era and a selection from the likes of the Good Earth restaurant--as natural foods and vegetarianism were becoming popular. We are looking for some decorations to set the mood. I'll need some light colored old sheets suitable for tie-dyeing. Does anyone have some old posters—Andy Warhol styling or psychedelic in nature? Black lights? Any other ideas?!

You've got a month to grow out your hair. Ladies: iron it straight. Men: grow that beard. Get out those old albums and get in the mood. Cabaret Night will "light your fire" and keep you grooving. Reservations are required so plan ahead. Contact Kathy Jo or Patty Miller. Peace! 

Sign Up to Provide Flowers

Beautiful flowers are always a wonderful addition to our service. Would you like to celebrate a birthday, an anniversary, or other special remembrance? If you would like to bring flowers on a specific Sunday, all you have to do is sign up on the bulletin board located across from the church office. If the flowers are for a special occasion or a special remembrance, we will print that information in the Sunday bulletin. You will be called the week before to confirm how you want the remembrance worded for the bulletin. Isn't there a person or occasion you would like to remember with flowers?



Plan Ahead: Questions and Answers

Do you have a question about theology, about our church or our denomination, or ??? T. Michael is planning to do another Question and Answer Sunday on **April 27**.



GLBT Potluck – April 12th at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome to come, eat, laugh, and support our ministry together. If you have any questions, contact Amy Hodgson and Vicki Nicole at 763-535-5121 or T. Michael at 612-275-0387.

**Minnesota Conference
Open and Affirming Celebration**

Mark your calendar for Sunday, April 6, for the Minnesota Conference Open and Affirming celebration Workshops are at 2:30 p.m, with worship at 4:00 p.m. The whole event takes place at Union Congregational Church, UCC, in St. Louis Park. All are welcome to come.

NEW PEW BIBLES

After years of use, our Good News pew Bibles are extremely worn. The Worship Ministry needs your help to change this! For each \$15.00 donated, a New Revised Standard Version red pew Bible will be purchased in celebration of a loved one. Bibles may be purchased to honor those living or those you lovingly remember.

To make a donation for the purchase of new Bibles, please complete the form at the bottom of this page; make your check out to RUCC, noting “Pew Bibles” on the memo line of the check. Enclose check and form in an envelope marked “Pew Bibles” and put in the offering plate or mail to the church office. Thank you!

RUCC Financial Corner

(Through February 29, 2008)

| | Year to date | Budgeted | Difference |
|---------------|--------------|----------|----------------|
| Income: | 44652.19 | 43540.00 | 1112.19 |
| Expenses: | 41309.23 | 42682.39 | 1373.16 |
| TOTAL: | | | 2485.35 |

HOSPICE VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Hospice of the Twin Cities is a non-profit, community-based hospice, and we are looking for volunteers throughout the Twin Cities Metro area!

TRAINING LOCATION:

10405 - 6th Avenue North, Suite 250
Plymouth, MN 55441

Seven sessions in Spring 2008: Tuesday and Thursday evenings: April 22, 24, 29, May 1, 6, 8, and 13, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Hospice of the Twin Cities serves the 12-county metro area. Volunteer training is open to potential volunteers and those who want to learn more about Hospice.

For more information or to register call:
Kristin Debner or Deb Pascuzzi, Volunteer Coordinators at Hospice of the Twin Cities
(763) 531-2424 or (763) 253-2114
or e-mail

at:debnerk@Hospiceofthetwincities.com



Bible Donation Form

(Please print plainly)

Donor’s Name(s) _____

At \$15.00 per Bible, I (we) are purchasing _____ (number) Bibles.

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Name of person celebrated for each Bible purchased:

Bible 1 _____

Bible 4 _____

Bible 2 _____

Bible 5 _____

Bible 3 _____

Bible 6 _____



Thanks to the children who have helped us think about God in new ways these past several weeks: to Sophia Bertossi for bringing her bike helmet, to Erica Schultz for bringing an RUCC t-shirt, to Toby Beck for bringing a piece of red paper, and to Emily, Davis, and Elia Norberg for bringing a pine cone. Thank you all for putting such wonderful things in The Box! Thanks also to Nancy Bossert, Kris Geiger, T. Michael Rock and Dwight Wagenius for opening the box!

Historians Need Your Help

The historians are asking for your help again. If you see or have any pictures or articles about RUCC or about members of the congregation in your local paper, please save for our historical files. You may leave the articles or pictures in the church office. Thank you!

May Issue. . .

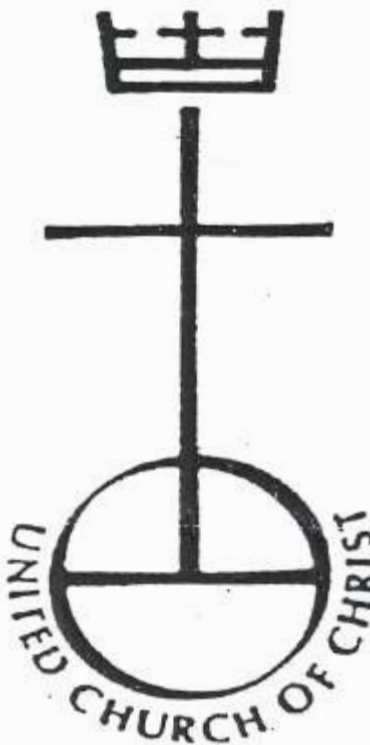
Mustard Seed



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, mail them to Barbara Wills, 6214 Upland Lane No., Maple Grove 55311, or e-mail to thewillses@aol.com so that they are received by the deadline.

MAY ISSUE DEADLINE
Sunday, April 20, 11 a.m.
 No exceptions please.

(April issue will be mailed Friday, April 25.)



Robbinsdale United Church of Christ
 4200 Lake Road
 Robbinsdale, MN 55422

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