

# THE MUSTARD SEED



Vol. 35, Issue 11, July and August, 2008, Edition

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*Coming Up...  
See inside for  
details*

July 1—Youth to  
Valley Fair  
July 6—Sunday Bike  
Rides Begin  
July 9-13—Senior  
High Youth Mission  
Trip  
July 23-26—Middle  
School Youth  
Mission Trip  
August 25-29—  
Vacation Church  
School

**PRISM**  
Needs  
Our  
HELP!  
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*Save the date!  
Great Fall  
Get-Together  
September 14*

**Regular Features...**

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**From Your  
Pastor  
And  
Teacher**

“Hope is believing in spite of the evidence, then watching the evidence change. . . . People often ask me, ‘Where have you found the strength to stay so involved for so long?’ or, ‘How have you not burned out?’ I’ve asked those questions of myself as well, but more often I ask myself how I can make the most difference in the world. For me, the answer to both questions is the difference faith makes. . . . Simply put, faith makes hope possible, and hope is the single most important ingredient for changing the world.”

Rev. Jim Wallis from his new book, “*Faith Works*”

This is the story that I hope we carry with us as members of Robbinsdale United Church of Christ. Hope needs to be there in order for us to change. We need to hold the vision for the kind of church we are called to be and understand what it takes to get there. My job is to help you hold onto your hope. Your ministry will take us to new places, and I will be there with resources, affirmation, love and compassion as you go about making your hope come alive.

I want you to think and pray about your hope for the homeless families on the streets of North Minneapolis, I want you to think and pray about your hope for the hungry children in our shelters and in the dry deserts of Sudan and Ethiopia. I want you to think and pray about your hope for those diagnosed with disease in all its horrible forms. I want you to think and pray about your hope for those who feel shut out and isolated from our society. What is your hope for breaking the cycle of violence and abuse? What is your hope for ending the war in Iraq and providing safety for the citizens of both our countries? What is your hope about ending the trail for African American men from our city streets to the jails that harden their hearts? What is your hope? How do you stay energized and alive when there is so much that needs to be done?

My answer to this last question is to start working on your list of hopes and dreams for this world. Share them with others and bring them to church. When Jesus went to the farmers, he told them that the “Kingdom of God was in their field.” When Jesus went to the fishermen, he told them that the “Kingdom of God was in the pearl that you dive for in the sea.” And when Jesus spoke to the merchants, he told them that the “Kingdom of God was in the great land deal.” Friends, I tell you today that the Kingdom of God is where you are. You need to have the permission to hope and create and dream again. You need to go out and look for the world that you want to live in. This is not a world of fear, but one of truth and love. Let us be co-creators of this world and be the instruments of peace and hope that God calls each of us to be.

My prayer for you in these summer months is to never lose hope. We may not see you every Sunday, but you need to know that the hope of your church family is for you to feel the deep and abiding presence of God wherever you are. May you know God’s peace and may you create the space in your life to hope for something better.

See You in Church, T. Michael



## Worship in July and August

### Lectionary Readings for the Season After Pentecost

#### July 6

Genesis 24: 34-38, 42-49, 58-67 or Zechariah 9: 9-12  
Psalm 45: 10-17 or Song of Solomon 2: 8-13 or  
Psalm 145: 8-14  
Romans 7: 15-25a  
Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30

#### July 13

Genesis 25: 19-34 or Isaiah 55: 10-13  
Psalm 119: 105-112 or Psalm 65: (1-8), 9-13  
Romans 8: 1-11  
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

#### July 20

Genesis 28: 10-19a or Isaiah 44: 6-8  
Psalm 139: 1-12, 23-24 or Wisdom of Solomon 12: 13, 16-19 or Psalm 86: 11-17  
Romans 8: 12-25  
Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

#### July 27

Genesis 29: 15-28 or I Kings 3: 5-12  
Psalm 105: 1-11, 45b or Psalm 128 or Psalm 119: 129-136  
Romans 8: 26-39  
Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

#### August 3

Genesis 32: 22-31 or Isaiah 55: 1-5  
Psalm 17: 1-7, 15 or Psalm 145: 8-9, 14-21  
Romans 9: 1-5  
Matthew 14: 13-21

#### August 10

Genesis 37: 1-4, 12-28 or I Kings 19: 9-18  
Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b or Psalm 85: 8-13  
Romans 10: 5-15  
Matthew 14: 22-33

#### August 17

Genesis 45: 1-15 or Isaiah 56: 1, 6-8  
Psalm 133 or Psalm 67  
Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32  
Matthew 15: (10-20) 21-28

#### August 24

Exodus 1: 8-2:10 or Isaiah 51: 1-6  
Psalm 124 or Psalm 138  
Romans 12: 1-8  
Matthew 16: 13-20

#### August 31

Exodus 3: 1-15 or Jeremiah 15: 15-21  
Psalm 105: 1-6, 23-26, 45c or Psalm 26: 1-8  
Romans 12: 9-21  
Matthew 16: 21-28

#### Worship at Robbinsdale United Church of Christ

Summer time worship at RUCC is special. There will be a smaller congregation that will be able to look around and appreciate the sense of family and really reach out to those summertime visitors. There will also be a time for folks to share their own stories of faith and know that those stories land on holy ground. So, look forward to some wonderful worship and you probably won't even notice the humidity.

July 6<sup>th</sup> – Communion Sunday, Rev. T. Michael Rock preaching

Scripture Readings – Song of Songs 2:8-13 and Matthew 11:28-30

Sermon: “Being in the Yoke”

We often lift up the importance of being “community,” but this Sunday we explore the necessity and obligation to bear each other's burdens. Come and remember “that your yoke is easy and your burden is light.”

July 13<sup>th</sup> – Julie Manworren preaching

Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:31-46

Sermon: The Relationships Between and Among Us”

While the HS youth are out on a mission trip to Chicago, our moderator, Julie Manworren will be preaching. Julie has prepared for this Sunday in many ways, but intentionally took on the Lenten prayer practice this year to deepen her spiritual life.

July 20<sup>th</sup> – Sacrament of Baptism; Bluegrass Band music; Rev. T. Michael Rock preaching

Scripture Readings – Genesis 28:10-19a and Matthew 13:24-30

Sermon: “The Importance of Dreaming”

Dreams can often be messages from our subconscious. They can tell a piece of the truth and help explore our relationship with God and with others. There were many biblical dreamers who first heard God's call while sleeping. Come this Sunday and awaken yourself to the possibility of dreaming.

*Continued on next page*

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July 27<sup>th</sup> – Rev. T. Michael Rock preaching  
Scripture Readings – Romans 8:26-39 and Matthew 31-33, 44-52

Sermon: “A Metaphorical Theology”

Sometimes, truth is told to us through story and illustration. It is one of the oldest ways in which to discover one’s own language and direction. If you have ever desired a way to learn more about yourself, then come explore the doorway of metaphor to your own self-understanding.

August 3<sup>rd</sup> – Communion Sunday, Rev. David Plumb preaching

Scripture Reading – Matthew 14:13-21

Sermon: “Balance”

We are blessed this Sunday to have longtime member Rev. David Plumb in our pulpit to share his faith and message for our lives. David will surely provide us with a new way to learn and love.

August 10<sup>th</sup> – Dawn Carlson Conn preaching

Scripture Reading: Matthew 14:22-33

Sermon: “Water – A Place to Stand?”

Dawn is a longtime member of RUCC, a graduate from United Theological Seminary, and one who is pursuing her call to authorized ministry through her gifts in the arts, compassion, caring and the openings of ritual and meaning in people’s lives. This will be a rich sharing of Dawn’s wisdom and faith for us all.

August 17<sup>th</sup> – Rev. T. Michael Rock preaching

Scripture Reading – Romans 11:25-32

Sermon: “From Prison to Mercy”

Being captive is something many of us have experienced. This Sunday we will explore the feeling of being released from our bindings of thought, ideology, and prejudice.

August 24<sup>th</sup> – Rev. T. Michael Rock preaching

Scripture Reading – Romans 12:1-8

Sermon: “Presenting Ourselves to God”

Another “Question and Answer” sermon where the congregation writes questions and the preacher provides an answer. Topics range from theology to biblical interpretation, to politics and ethics. In this smaller setting you’ll not only get the preacher’s answer, but a dialogue among the congregation. This will be a great Sunday to invite a friend and try to stump the preacher.

August 31<sup>st</sup> – Rev. T. Michael Rock preaching /

Vacation Bible School Sharing

Scripture Readings – Exodus 3:1-15 and Romans 12:9-21

Sermon: “The Gift of Conflict”

After a week with the kids and youth of the community resolving conflict “The Jesus Way,” we will learn from their experience by moving around, singing songs, and hearing an important message about listening.

### **Summer Spiritual Practice Opportunity**

During Lent, a group of us took on the practice of fasting one day of the week in order to remain prayerful and mindful in our lives. I would like to offer that practice as a wonderful way to stay connected to this faith community during your summer travels. All you need to do is send T. Michael your e-mail and/or phone and you’ll get a weekly note of encouragement for this practice. We’ll nourish our spirits together through this ancient spiritual practice of fasting. If you would like to know more, contact Rev. T. Michael Rock at [tmichael@robbinsdaleucc.org](mailto:tmichael@robbinsdaleucc.org)

### **Staying Connected During the Summer**

Please let the church office know if you have a different phone or mailing address for the summer. We would love to stay in touch and keep you connected to what is happening in your church home. We will also be installing a bulletin board in the main hallway for the specific purpose of hanging church bulletins from places our church member visit when they are away. As you may be attending your “lake church” or other faith community in your travels, pick up a bulletin and send it into the church.



**Reminder!** The following people have volunteered to serve treats after church in July. Thanks!

July 6: Lynne Wicklund

July 13: Bill and Kathy Herrmann

July 20: Ken and Kay Barker

July 27: Cheryl Nordquist



## Attention YOUTH!

### Youth Group aka YEP – 2 (Anyone in grades 6-12)

**Join the fun!** – Tuesday, July 1<sup>st</sup>  
Valley Fair Trip – All Day  
Look in your mail for more  
information!



### YEP 2 – Mission Trips

#### Sr. High Youth

Chicago, IL – July 9-13  
Work Site: Greater Chicago Food Depository  
Housing: St. John's UCC – South Side  
*Applications and fees are due NOW.* Please  
talk with T. Michael if you have any  
questions.

#### Middle School/Jr. High Youth

Minneapolis, MN – July 23-36  
Urban Immersion with Greater Minneapolis  
Council of Churches  
*Application and fees are due on July 6<sup>th</sup>.*  
Please talk with T. Michael if you have any  
questions.

*Coming up next church year...*

#### **Our Whole Lives – Grades 8-10**

Begins in September!

#### **Confirmation Class – Grades 8 and 9**

Begins in January!

Look in the mail for more information on the  
specific schedule and plan for this amazing  
opportunity and ministry at RUCC.

### Community News

#### **Baptism**

Gabriel Francis Hoppe Knutson was baptized on  
June 1. His proud parents are Tim Hoppe and Katie  
Knutson.

#### **Deaths**

Deep sympathy to Don and Virginia Anderson on the  
death of their son-in-law Stephan Manders, who died  
of liver cancer after a short illness. He is survived by  
his wife Anita and their seven children.

June Swanson died Thursday, May 29, at  
Edgewood Vista in Duluth. Our sympathy to her  
family and friends.

#### **Special Concerns**

Please keep these members and friends in your  
thoughts and prayers.

Gert Anderson	Janet Johnson
Sylvia Anderson	Madge Johnson
Jeanne Angel	Lois Larsen
Pat Bobletter	Kathy Plumb
Jane Boggs	Ellinor Porter
Zane Brown	Barbara Sexton
Amanda Busch	Bill Sowden
Shirley Dayton	Barbara Webber
Rodney Giddings	Arlene Whelan
Ruthe Hawn	Joan Young

#### **Willa & Kathy Jo Cook—an Update**

As recently reported, Willa Truehart and  
Kathy Jo Gausman have started up a small business  
doing some cooking for those who have a need or  
want of a home cooked meal or personal chef. We  
are using the church kitchen for our meal  
preparation. Many of you have asked how we're  
doing, so . . . . Currently, we are cooking for 4-5  
clients. Some are for profit and some of our meals  
(gosh, we made too much!) we donate. We both  
have friends who are dealing with serious illnesses,  
so we have dropped off a meal or two to help out.  
We have also helped out a few in our congregation.  
We both feel that this is as much a mission as it is a  
business but, of course, we can't afford to give it  
all away. We are cooking once a week and we  
charge \$8.00 per meal. (Costs will probably will go  
up some as grocery costs have.) We try to meet  
individual clients' needs—diabetic diets, low  
cholesterol, low salt, etc.,—and likes—for  
example, no mushrooms, no onion. We have found  
packaging that will go to freezer and microwave  
safely and is disposable. We continue to reflect on  
where we are going with this and what we wish to  
accomplish. We're open to suggestions.

For more information or to share your  
ideas, email or call Willa at [awht0625@msn.com](mailto:awht0625@msn.com),  
763-439-4119; or Kathy Jo at [kjogaus@msn.com](mailto:kjogaus@msn.com),  
763-522-3722 (9 am-12 pm). Thank you for your  
continued support and input.

## **RUCC AND THE GAS COMPANY : A TRUSTEE REPORT**

Over the last two years the Trustees and RUCC staff have made a focused effort to cut our heating and electrical consumption through a variety of measures. The net effect has been a significant reduction in our energy usage in comparison to where we were three years ago. However, the Trustees and the treasurers have been questioning Center Point Energy about our gas bill for over a year as the bills received showed reductions of over 60% in our gas consumption. We did not feel that was possible given the use of the facility and the type of boilers we have.

Around the first of this year, Center Point Energy re-discovered that RUCC has two gas meters at our building and that Center Point had dropped one meter when they restructured their billing methods in mid-2006. This error on their part had resulted in Center Point estimating that RUCC was in arrears for un-billed gas consumption of over \$20,000.00 over that almost two year period!

Brad Welton, representing both the Trustees and treasurers for RUCC, negotiated with Center Point Energy to resolve this issue. While both the consumption and billable total was being disputed, we also refused to pay the monthly bills starting in February when Center Point asked for a payment of over \$8,000 to catch up with the second meter-based consumption for part of last year.

As Center Point was unable to document the readings of the second meter for much of the period in question, we pulled together consumption averages and bills prior to mid-2006 to provide a basis for discussing probable usage. Center Point kept insisting that their estimated billings were accurate and due, which we disputed. We felt that too much of the billed amount was based on estimated consumption and was much higher than our estimated use patterns. We finally notified the State of Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) with a formal complaint about the dispute and our dissatisfaction with Center Point Energy's unwillingness to resolve this issue.

With the PUC now involved, Center Point Energy quickly stepped up to resolve the outstanding bills, including the unpaid (but not disputed) billable amounts since February that included both meters. The net result of these negotiations is that RUCC and Center Point agreed upon a balance of \$12,547.52, including the actual consumption from January

through May of this year. We will pay \$1,847 plus the monthly consumption each month over the next six months. Then Center Point will provide us with a monthly budget amount on a 10-month payment plan that will be initiated on our approval and reviewed in six months.

I want to thank Brad Welton for his diligent work to resolve this issue on RUCC's behalf! While the gas consumption and bills will be greater than anticipated for this year's budgets, RUCC avoided a potentially devastating financial situation thanks to Brad's efforts.

If you want more specific details regarding the circumstances and the resolution of this issue with Center Point, please feel free to contact me or Brad.

Don Smith  
Chair, Trustees Ministry

### ***Coming Up....***

#### **Adult Confirmation Class**

If you have never been confirmed or forgotten most of what you heard in Confirmation, this class is for you. We'll explore the faith journey from beginning to end and really focus on the formation of our own Statement of Faith. Classes will take place twice a month following worship. All are welcome to attend. No homework required.

### **Threads of Hope Update**

We won't be meeting during the summer, but will continue in the fall with new energy and supplies due to a generous gift from the Endowment Fund! The first Monday of the month will remain our meeting time between 5 and 9 p.m. in the Heritage Hall. Thanks to the endowment gift, there will be more ways for the congregation to be involved in the future - men and women, younger and older!

There have been special children who have also shared their talents this past year that we wanted to lift up. Zella Fluegel-Murray sewed a quilt at home; Clare Bossert designed one for her mother to make; Jonah Beck made a chart for us to track our progress and we met his goal; and many others helped to tie quilts as well - Christina Nordquist, Erica Schultz, Zella, Clare and Noah Spielman. Thanks to these kids for being interested and involved!!



### **Faith Community Nursing Update**

The Faith Community Nursing Program has completed its first year. This has been a year of creativity as we have started from nothing and have created a very viable program that we feel will benefit RUCC for many years to come. We have done the usual business model of creating a mission statement, job description, goals and philosophies. We have an infrastructure of desk, files, and locked records cabinet to protect people's privacy. We have begun to establish education programs and provide information materials for those who seek them, based on the congregational assessment completed by many members this year. We visit with those who are in need or who have family members with needs anywhere on the spectrum of being in the hospital to being in their homes but needing help to stay in their homes.

In the next few months we will be offering educational programming, a flu shot clinic, and blood pressure clinics. We will sponsor a blood drive. We look forward to having members' needs communicated to us so that we may be of help. This could consist of providing information, home assessment for safety and home health needs, accompanying people to doctor appointments to be an extra set of ears, or just being a friend when someone is in a health crisis. We can be reached through the church office or by contacting Linda Smith at home or by cell (612-867-0088).

### ***Faith Formation***

#### **Summer Reading Assignment**

To continue our discussions about and with the local Muslim community, the Faith Formation Ministry will be doing a book discussion on Infidels by Ayaan Hirsi Ali. The book is autobiographical in nature and is very helpful in describing the lifestyle of the Muslim women in Somalia. It also helped me to understand the relationships between the "clans" in Africa. Having worked with both Somalians and Ethiopians, I understood for the first time why they disliked and distrusted each other. The book tells the story of a somewhat defiant young girl coming of age in a land of unrest. She talks about how she and her sister were circumcised against her mother's wishes and the consequences of that mutilation. She relates stories of what they were taught in a Muslim youth group and why she finally rebelled against her

own upbringing.

After reading this book I had a much better grasp of the Muslim religion and a better understanding of why unrest will continue in Africa, in particular, but also in the wider world as Ms. Ali's life takes her to The Netherlands and the USA. She also speaks about her father and their relationship as he fights for the Muslims and she fights against them. It is not an easy read (emotionally); it made me angry and brought tears to my eyes, but I had a hard time putting it down once I started. It is only 350 pages long, so it is a fairly fast read.

Our hope is that this notice will give you the summer to pick up the book and read it. We will have a book discussion the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in September followed by a panel discussion on October 2nd. The panel discussion, hopefully, will include at least 2 women who are Somalian/Ethiopian. I will leave my copy of the book in the library at church—you can sign it out.

Good reading—Kathy Jo Gausman

### **Save the Dates!!**



#### **GREAT FALL GET TOGETHER – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14<sup>th</sup>**

Invitation: Bring water from your lake house, kitchen sink, favorite vacation spot, backyard pool, anywhere you connected with the cool sensation of water. We'll combine our waters in a special ritual of our coming together on this Sunday.

#### **NATIONAL NEIGHBORHOOD DAY – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21<sup>st</sup>**

Invitation: Stay and greet our neighbors over ice cream and games in the parking lot. We will need to be present in order to pass along our love. Also, check out [www.neighborhoodday.org](http://www.neighborhoodday.org) to plan your own gathering.

#### **SACRED CONVERSATION ON RACE – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28<sup>th</sup>**

Invitation: Stay after worship so we can create this sacred space and talk about race, privilege, and the impact on our faith, our church and our world.

#### **VISITORS SUNDAY – OCTOBER 5<sup>th</sup>**

Invitation: Invite a friend, a neighbor, or your local checkout person at Cub Foods. Everyone ought to bring a friend.

**August Schedule...**

**INTERFAITH LEISURE AGE  
9 AM. SOCIAL HOUR  
12 NOON LUNCH AND PROGRAM:  
Lunch Reservations Required  
Elim Lutheran Church.  
3748 West Broadway in Robbinsdale**

**NO LEISURE AGE IN JULY.**

August 7: Musical program "Music That Tickers!" with Shawn Sweeney.

August 14: Underwater Adventure from Mall of America. Live Tanks! Don't miss it!

August 21: Blood pressures taken 9:30-11:30 a.m. Program: Old favorites with Bud Hornbury.

August 28: August birthday party. Program: "With Love" presented by acapella vocalist Melodee Bahr.

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*



**PRISM NEEDS OUR HELP!**

RUCC is one of the important Faith Partners for PRISM (People Responding in Social Ministry), a wonderful agency that serves needy families in our area. Sadly, the demand for the services of PRISM is skyrocketing, with visits to the food shelf and applications for other assistance growing at an enormous rate. At the same time, donations to PRISM are down. Please do all you can to support PRISM in the next few months. Increasing our food contributions is a great place for RUCC to start. During July we will be wheeling a grocery cart around the sanctuary during offering to make it easy to donate nonperishable food items. Our congregation is assigned toilet paper (July); and Macaroni and Cheese (August), but any and all donations are appreciated. Not only are canned and

dry goods essential, but so are diapers, formula and baby food. The more food donations PRISM receives, the less they have to buy with their limited budget. PRISM also has a great clothing "thrift store" to help needy families dress for the summer. Please consider donating clothing in good condition, especially summer clothes.

PRISM also welcomes all cash contributions during this difficult time. Checks made out to PRISM can be put in the offering plate or given to any member of the Community Outreach Ministry. Another way to help is to gather school supplies, including backpacks, in preparation for PRISM's August back-to-school initiative. Finally, if you have a used car that you are looking to pass on, donating it to PRISM is a wonderful idea! The car will be repaired by PRISM mechanics and trainee mechanics and sold to a needy family with a loan through PRISM. And, the donation of the car is tax deductible!

You can learn more about the many wonderful things PRISM does by visiting their website at [www.prismmpls.org](http://www.prismmpls.org). Please help!

PRISM is a full service agency which provides:

- Emergency and supplemental food programs
- Homelessness prevention financial support
- Clothing
- Transportation to medical appointments
- Furniture connections
- Cars and car loans to low-income working families
- Scholarships to low-income families seeking higher education
- Holiday programs (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter)
- Income tax assistance
- Employment and financial counseling support
- Gas, bus, grocery prescription assistance
- Referral and advocacy

**Plan your Memorial Service**

It may seem unusual or even morbid, but one of the greatest gifts you can give your family is clearly stating your wishes about your burial and memorial service. Gretchen and T. Michael have produced a new handbook to help with this planning. Stop by and pick one up or call and Gretchen will mail one to you. The invitation is also there to work through this planning with T. Michael.

**Coordinating Council  
June 17, 2008**

\*Treasurer: RUCC has negotiated with Center Point Energy regarding accumulated back charges (see details in article elsewhere in this issue).

\*All-church retreat was a wonderful, community building weekend.

\*T. Michael and Gretchen have worked on a booklet for memorial service planning (see article elsewhere in this issue).

\*Opportunity Next Door Committee is meeting every other week and reaching out to other organizations for funding and information. They have discussed a cooperative effort with Leslie Frost of Families Moving Forward. By September they hope to have built a framework of what can happen. The owner of the property next door has agreed to wait until October before doing anything.

\*The Council agreed to authorize the beginning of a process that will lead to the commissioning of Dawn Carlson Conn as a minister of liturgical art. Commissioned ministry is for someone who is called to do ministry for a particular purpose/in a particular place. The covenant created will exist among Dawn, RUCC, and the Conference. Next, the moderator, Julie Manworren, sends a letter to the Conference and Dawn writes an autobiographical paper on her pilgrimage.

\*Council voted to allow a start-up congregation called El Bethel Community Christian Church to worship in our space on Sunday afternoons for a 3 month trial period this summer (see article elsewhere in this issue).

\*New pew Bibles have been received and will be dedicated in September.

**Welcome to the El Bethel  
Community Christian Church**

The Coordinating Council at RUCC has extended the invitation to Pastor Gina Varner and her congregation to worship at RUCC on Sunday afternoons. El Bethel Community Christian Church is part of the Holy Way Community Churches, a non-denominational body of African American Pentecostal churches. They have about 10 members and have been gathering in North Minneapolis for about a year and a half. We are invited to worship with them as well as provide them space for praise of our God. Let us celebrate this new community in our midst.

**Thank you** to all the children and adults who have enriched our worship services by bringing items in "The Box." Thanks also to all those who have volunteered to lead the discussions about those items and what they mean for our relationship with God. You are all a gift to us all.



**Jesus Loved Children**

Isn't it amazing to think about? The Son of God walked among us. Like us, Jesus smelled the flowers and touched the animals that God had created. He loved boys and girls and told his disciples to bring the children to him.



**Worship with us  
this summer.**



**Happy Birthday!**  
**Greetings and best wishes to all members and friends of Robbinsdale United Church of Christ who celebrate their birthdays in July and August.**

Dan	Rogan	July	1
Marsha	Benshoof	July	3
Michael	Lane	July	3
Jacob	Koss	July	5
Lorraine	Dysart	July	10
Donald	Anderson	July	11
Shawn	Carlson	July	11
Justin	Ihle	July	11
Amanda	Busch	July	15
Amy	Conner	July	15
Becky	Muyres	July	15
Amy	Nienaber	July	15
Katie	Knutson	July	16
David	Mendolia	July	16
Karoline	Anderson	July	17
Sheri	Beck	July	17
Jim	Olsen	July	17
Leona	Johnson	July	18
Leonard	Sidle	July	18
Mary	Lauder	July	20
Andrea	Welton	July	20
Laura	Bonin	July	21
James	Dahlgren	July	22
Kathy	Giddings	July	22
Kay	Barker	July	23
Tom	Jensen	July	23
Donna	Larsen	July	23
Jan	Maiola	July	23
Carlton	Myers	July	23
Jackie	Johnson	July	24
Marilyn	O'Brien	July	24
Tammy	Ward	July	25
Carol	Nordli	July	26
Wayne	Pitmon	July	27
Madge	Johnson	July	28
Ellen	Amundson	August	1
Jack	Weber	August	1
Dorothy	Master	August	3
Edward	Clements	August	4
Amanda	Clements	August	5

Vi	Quesnel	August	5
Klare	Geiger	August	6
Toby	Beck	August	7
Helen	Straight	August	9
Kristen	Fisher	August	10
Josie	Gausman	August	10
Ellen	Rowell	August	10
Pat	Nobbe	August	11
Alea	Berry	August	14
Linda	Smith	August	14
Ken	Evans	August	15
Greta	Bertossi	August	16
Shirley	Dayton	August	16
Ryan	Onwukwe	August	17
Adam	Jensen	August	19
Diane	DeSplinter	August	20
Lisa	Lindesmith	August	20
Taylor	Haugen	August	21
Joyce	Lehmann	August	21
John	Straight	August	22
Abby	Ward	August	24
Harry	Jensen	August	25
John	Lloyd	August	26
Jonah	Beck	August	28
David	Nordli	August	28
Jim	Paster	August	29
Ken	Beck	August	30
Riley	Rogan	August	30
Mark	Larsen	August	31
Kate	Menendez	August	31

**RUCC on the Bike Trails**

Starting on July 6<sup>th</sup>, bring your bike to church. Ride on in, or throw it on the bike rack, because once we are done with coffee and cookies we are going to hit the trails. There are enough trails around the area to provide a variety of rides every week. We may even stop for some ice cream along the way. Each Sunday the group gathered will determine the length and time of the ride. It will be a democratic bike club that will be sure to sweat and laugh along the way. Besides, it's always more fun to ride in a group. Also, don't worry if you have a flat tire or squeaky chain. We'll have the tools to do some simple repairs as well. Any questions, please contact our biking pastor, T. Michael.



**Vacation Church School**  
At  
**Robbinsdale United Church of Christ**

**August 25-29, 2008**  
**8:30 a.m. to Noon**

**Theme: "Kids and Conflict: Solving Problems the Jesus Way"**

All children from pre-k through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to join us this year for an exciting week of Vacation Church School. The cost is low, \$15 for a child, \$25 for a family for the whole week, and the fun will be huge. We'll sing, paint, play, eat, and learn about God's amazing creation within us and around us. Adults are invited to help. Kids are invited to bring their friends. Registration begins right now. **Look in the church office for the registration forms.**

**September Issue. . .**

# Mustard Seed



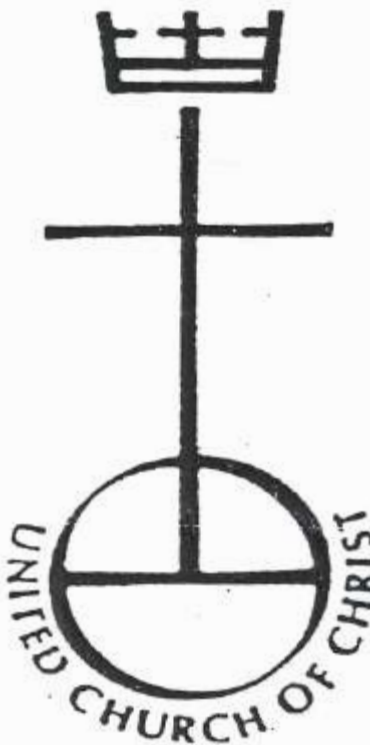
Please place all articles for the next issue of the Mustard Seed in the box marked "Mustard Seed" on the shelf inside the door to the workroom in the church office, **e-mail** to [thewillses@aol.com](mailto:thewillses@aol.com) (preferred) or mail them to Barbara Wills, 6214 Upland Lane No., Maple Grove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

**SEPT. ISSUE DEADLINE**

**Sunday, August 24 , 11 a.m.**

**No exceptions please.**

(Sept. issue will be mailed Friday, Aug. 29.)



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

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