

... All That We Come From

... All That We Live For

Heirloom

... All That We're Going To Be

Praying for Peace and Security for the people of Darfur



Heirloom
Table of Contents

3	From the Pastor's Desk
5	Session Notes: What Comes Next ?
6	Eastside Ecumenical Services/ What's New at AHP Website
7	Christian Education
8	Food for Thought
9	Peacemaking through Dialogue
10	Presbyterian UN Office
12	Project Home/Mission Committee
13	PC(USA) Interfaith Relations
14	Holy Week Schedule/ Sunday Evening of Music

Average Attendance

February:	133
March:	129

Happy Anniversary !!

April

4 Bill and Midge Beck
21 Paul and Connie Oppelt
26 Harold and June Hansen

May

2 Tom and Jan Kline
6 Mark and Myriah Hanno
7 Larry and Denise Anderson
19 Clay and Betty Passick
20 James and Bonnie Czepa
22 Mike and Ara Schmidt
24 Don and Jeanne Karwoski
26 Alicia and Cory Gilbert

Happy Birthday!!

April

3 Deanna Dick	15 James Sim
4 Bruce Nelson	21 Donna Hampton-Maki
10 Divine Che	26 Jerry Loomis
10 Lillian Kelsey	28 Bill Beck
13 Dede Amagle	30 LeeAnn Nelson

From the Pastor's Desk



Dear Friends:

We have come to the end of another road. I am painfully aware of how many good byes you have had to make this year. There are some life lessons in all of this. How we say hello is just as important as how we say good-bye. It has been a full nine months with many challenges in front of us. My hope and prayer, as your interim pastor, is that we have made some progress, so your next pastor will have a long and extended honeymoon phase with you.

This was the first time that AHP hired an intentional interim pastor. This model of interim ministry is shared by the broader ecumenical commu-

nities. The five tasks of intentional ministry are:

1. Coming to Terms with History
2. Discovering a New Identity
3. Leadership Changes during an Interim
4. Renewing Denominational Linkages
5. Commitment to New Directions in Ministry

Rev. Richard Fewkes provides this outline of the interim tasks:

The first developmental task of interim ministry is **Coming to Terms with History**.

- putting the tenure of former ministers in perspective;
- acknowledging the past and accepting both the good and the bad;
- deciding what is important and worthwhile to carry into the future;
- appropriately ventilating feelings, grieving, accepting and moving on.

The second developmental task of interim ministry is **Discovering a New Identity**. The objectives of this particular task are:

- determining whether or not the congregation's image of itself is realistic;
- seeing the interim time as an opportunity for renewal and growth;
- helping the congregation to see itself as an entity without a minister, separating the church's identity from any former or present minister's personality and style.

The third developmental task of interim ministry is to help monitor **Leadership Changes** during the interim period. The objectives of this task involve assessing power and control of decisions and direction of the congregation; promoting healthy, realistic and open decision making; managing conflicts to promote congregational unity; and honoring past leaders and finding ways to keep them involved. Every congregation goes through changes in leadership in the normal course of events, but often during an interim ministry the changes are sometimes greater and more challenging.

The fourth developmental task of interim ministry is **Renewing of Denominational Linkages**.

Pastor's Desk (Cont)

The fifth developmental task of interim ministry is **Commitment to New Directions in Ministry**. This task is one that hopefully comes to fruition as the congregation moves from a temporary interim ministry towards a more long term settled ministry. The objectives of this task are:

- to promote wide ownership of and excitement about a shared vision for the future;
- getting a good match between the future settled minister and the congregation;
- clear and shared expectations between that minister and the congregation, and finally;
- appropriate closure and departure of the interim minister to pave the way for a new settled ministry.

The metaphor I used when I interviewed with the session was that I was here to serve as a mirror for you. You have had an additional set of eyes that reflects back some of the challenges you may want to work on during this transition. The interim time is a challenging and often stressful process, but you are a stronger congregation for having gone through this refiner's fire.

I have enjoyed getting to know you and serving with you in the building up of God's reign on the East-side. My last Sunday will be April 19th. I wanted to see us through Easter. It is an appropriate time to remember that we are a resurrection people. You have a bright future, and your next pastor will be blessed to join the mission and vision you clearly articulated in your mission study surveys.

Awhile back, Pastor David shared with you the separation ethics that we are to observe after a pastor leaves a congregation. It has been almost a year, so it is good to revisit these guidelines. Social contacts and friendships are a natural part of our lives. The boundaries that we need to keep, however, is that we should not discuss church business after I leave. This would not be fair to your next pastor. Down the road, if you are planning weddings, baptisms or funerals you should ask your new pastor to officiate. I will be a support to him or her, but always at their request and direction. My prayers are with AHP and your next chapter. Keep the faith !

An HIV Prevention Bill by Rep. Hayden & State Senator Dibble

March 24, 2009

A bill for an act relating to health; establishing an HIV transmission public education program; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 144.

[144.066] HIV TRANSMISSION AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

The commissioner of health shall design and implement an ongoing statewide campaign to raise awareness and educate the public about HIV transmission and prevention. The campaign must include messages directed to the general population as well as culturally specific and community-based messages. A toll-free resource and referral telephone line and Web site shall be included in the messages. The commissioner of health shall conduct an evaluation to determine the effectiveness of the campaign.

**WHAT COMES NEXT:
AHP Searches for a Designated Pastor**

The Session has received approval to form the Designated Pastor Nominating Committee, whose task it will be to search for and hire our next pastor. We are looking for a Designated Pastor, which is a bit different from a “called, installed” pastor. A Designated Pastor is a temporary pastor, usually serving for a defined period of 2 to 4 years, while a “called, installed” pastor serves a church indefinitely, until the relationship is dissolved at the request of the pastor or church. A Designated Pastor has an employment contract with the session of the church, which is approved by the Presbytery Committee on Ministry; a “called, installed” pastor does not necessarily have an employment contract, but serves according to the “terms of call” approved by the congregation each year. During the period of the Designated Pastor’s contract, either party can terminate the contract, usually with 30 days or more notice. If the congregation and the Designated Pastor agree, the Designated Pastor may become the “called, installed” pastor of the church upon the conclusion of the employment contract; alternatively, the church conducts another search at that time to find its next pastor.

In order to get the search started, AHP needs to form a “Designated Pastor Nominating Committee,” or “DPNC.” The DPNC is elected by the congregation at a congregational meeting. The church’s Nominating Committee will identify and nominate persons who are willing to serve on the DPNC, and it is our goal that the DPNC will reflect the AHP congregation in every way possible, considering ages, genders, ethnicities, theological persuasions and all other demographic categories, so that the DPNC truly reflects the diversity of our church. The DPNC, once elected, will begin to work with the Committee on Ministry to interview qualified and interested ministers to serve our church.

The search process for a Designated Pastor is a shared process. The Executive Presbyter of PTCA will assist the AHP Designated Pastor Nominating Committee by providing names and resumes of interested pastors with particular skills and gifts needed by our congregation at this time. While the search time line may be several months, it is hoped that our church will have a Designated Pastor in place as quickly as possible.

If you are interested in serving on the DPNC, or if you would like to suggest the name of someone who you believe would be willing to serve on the DPNC, please contact a member of the current Nominating Committee: Dick Robertson, Mike Scantlin, Deanna Dick, Betty Passick, Glenn Roelofs, Mark Pechmann and Barbara Lutter.

The Session has called a **congregational meeting to elect our DPNC for May 17, 2009, immediately following worship.** This is truly an exciting time in the life of our church. Thanks Be To God!

Eastside Ecumenical Lenten Services Practicing Acts of Love Through These Forty Days

Our Eastside Ecumenical Lenten services will follow the theme of practicing love both locally and globally. Many of our Lenten messages will interpret how our global community is practicing sacrificial love and confronting the issues of poverty and the related social disparities. As members of the global body of Christ, we join the global diplomatic community in their pledge to significantly reduce poverty-related social problems by 2015. As we walk these forty days of Lent, may our acts of love be known to our neighbors near and far.

Eastside Ecumenical Lenten Services Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Preacher</u>
4/9/09 6:00 soup/7:00 service	Hazel Park UCC	N/A-Service of Communion
4/10/09 7:00 service only	Arlington Hills Presbyterian	N/A - Tenebrae Service

"What's New on the AHP Web Site" <http://www.arlingtonhillspresbyterian.org>

Many first-time visitors to AHP find their way to our door through the AHP web site, and weekly updates insure the information that appears there is current. Check out these recent additions:

- 2009 Heirlooms (from the Home Page, click on "Heirloom" on the left-hand column).
- Photos: "Youth enjoy Broomball event at Larson farm, Feb. 8, 2009" (from the Home Page, scroll to the bottom and find "Church and Community Events")
- Photos: "Enhancing Advent Worship with Fabric" (from the Home Page, scroll to the bottom and find "Church and Community Events").

Betty Brandt Passick

Lost and Found

Several items have accumulated in the AHP Office, including children's jackets, hats, gloves, etc.

If you are missing any items, please contact Marge at the church office (651-774-6028). Thank You!

Christian Education Update

Upcoming Christian Education Events:

May 17 – Volunteer Recognition Sunday: Plan to be in church on Sunday, May 17th as the CE Committee will be recognizing anyone and everyone involved in the exciting programs and life of this church!

June 14 – Graduation Sunday: Thank you to **Soozi Neubauer** for responding to the CE Committee's request for someone to make a display of the photos of our high school, college, and professional graduates to recognize them for this significant accomplishment. We will also honor them during the Sunday morning service on June 14th, with a reception following. If YOU are a graduate, please provide the below information by **May 17** to the **church office**. Please direct any questions to Betty Brandt Passick, 651-770-6315, bbpassick@comcast.net.

- Photo of yourself (all photos will be returned promptly)
- Name of degree, diploma, or certification
- Name of high school, technical school, or college

Thank you(s)!

Nursery Care and Laundry Coordinators – Also, thank you to **Mark and Betsy Dramdahl** for signing-up for this important job! It's a small – but very much needed -- opportunity to help in the cleanliness of our nursery. The Christian Education committee very much appreciates your help!

Other Updates:

2009 East Side Children's Summer Program – Great News! ECSP continues to work on a plan to hold this program this summer at a location on the East Side. Watch for more information!

No Vacation Bible School in 2009 – The Christian Education committee has decided AHP will not hold VBS this year in that AHP is without a Children and Family Ministries Coordinator.

AHP Christian Education Student Enrollment Form – The Christian Education committee requests that parents / guardians complete the new Student Enrollment Form (see insert) by April 15. This will greatly aid us in keeping our information current on nursery, Blue Butterfly, elementary and youth students. Please complete this form for each child by April 15, 2009. This form is also posted on the Christian Education web page.

-- VOLUNTEERS NEEDED (remaining openings)--

Rally Day Coordinator, Sept. 6 –The Christian Education (CE) committee is looking for someone to coordinate activities for the AHP “Rally Day” on Sunday, September 6. Job responsibilities include: publicity in the Heirloom and Church Family News, and pulpit announcements; collaboration with Deacons (may want picnic and lawn games), collaboration with Youth (flyer distribution in the neighborhood); collaboration with session committee (displays in Fireside Room). If you've never taken on this responsibility before, be of GREAT COURAGE: CE will provide you with everything you need in the form of guidance and support to make this event a huge success! CE Contact: Betty Brandt Passick, 651-770-6315, bbpassick@comcast.net.

“Splash” Coordinator – Sign up now to help AHP “welcome” new babies and toddlers (birth to 36 months) to our congregation. Your responsibilities include contacting parents and signing them up for the “Splash” (birth to three faith formulation) newsletter – at no cost to them. This newsletter is a great resource for parents! CE Contact: Betty Brandt Passick, 651-770-6315, bbpassick@comcast.net.

Food for Thought

From Colonial Histories to Post Colonial Societies: Placing the Maghrib at the Center of the Twentieth Century

Thursday, April 9, 2009

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Room 120

[Elmer L. Andersen Library](#)

Minneapolis Campus

Sponsored By:

[Institute for Global Studies](#)

Additional Sponsors:

[Department of History](#)

[Immigration History Research Center](#)

Mediterranean Studies Initiative

Institute for Global Studies

igsevent@umn.edu

Patricia Lorcin

plorcin@umn.edu

"Camp Darfur: from Armenia to Darfur" Interactive Exhibit

Monday, April 20, 2009

9:00am - 4:00pm

Gustavus Adolphus College

800 West College Avenue

Saint Peter, MN 56082

Visiting Israeli Professor Yitzhak Reiter to Speak at Or Emet April 24, 2009

Dr. Yitzhak Reiter will speak about "Barriers and Prospects for Peace **in the Israeli-Palestinian Domain**" at Congregation Or Emet

Friday, April 24, 2009, at the Sabes Jewish Community Center in St. Louis Park.

Reiter, an Israeli expert on Jewish-Arab relations and Schusterman Visiting Professor in the Center for Jewish Studies and Political Science Department at the U of MN this academic year, served as Deputy Advisor on Arab Affairs to three Israeli Prime Ministers between 1978 and 1986. He teaches in the Conflict Studies Program at Hebrew University in Jerusalem and is Senior Lecturer in Political Science at Ashkelon Academic College .

Professor Reiter is the author of several books on the subject, most recently including:

National Minority, Regional Majority: Palestinian Arabs versus Jews in Israel (Syracuse Univ. , 2009)

Jerusalem and Its Role in Islamic Solidarity (Palgrave Macmillan, 2008)

War, Peace and International Relations in Contemporary Islam: Muslim Scholars on Peace-Treaty with Israel (Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies, in Hebrew 2008; forthcoming in English)

To attend the lecture, please arrive at 7:50. All are welcome. No charge.



Peacemaking through Interfaith Dialogue

April 3-4

The University of Minnesota Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies is hosting visits by a priest-scholar this spring who is a world-renowned scholar of the Holocaust: Dr. Kevin Spicer, author of "Hitler's Priests: Catholic Clergy and National Socialism."

Dr. Spicer will speak on Friday, April 3, 12:00-1:15 at University of Minnesota Nolte Education Center; at 7:30 pm, Friday, April 3, at Mt. Zion Temple , 1300 Summit Avenue , St. Paul ; and on Saturday, April 4, at 4:00 at the Basilica of St. Mary, 88 North 17th St. , Minneapolis. For further information, please contact chgs@umn.edu or call 612-624-0256.

Sunday, April 19

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

The Tragedy of Transcendence: On the Meaning of the Arts of the Holocaust Lecture by Philip Bohlman

Cost: Free and open to the public
Room Beth El Synagogue 5224 West 26th St St Louis Park
Off Campus

Contact: Center for Jewish Studies : 612-624-4914; jwst@umn.edu Beth El Synagogue: 952-920-3512

The very existence of artistic creation during the Holocaust is often taken as a sign of the power of the arts to effect spiritual resistance, survival, and transcendence in the face of tragedy. Reflecting upon the arts, literature, and music of the Holocaust, Philip Bohlman asks whether we actually fail to perceive meaning in Judaism and Jewish thought, by privileging transcendence over tragedy in the Jewish arts of modernity. By sounding the silence of music for the stage and of literature that gave voice to the unsung in the concentration camps at Buchenwald, Mauthausen, and Terez'n, the lecture charts alternative routes to confronting the deeper meaning of tragedy in Jewish history.

Philip V. Bohlman is the Mary Werkman Distinguished Service Professor of the Humanities and Music at the University of Chicago, where he has also served as Chair of Jewish Studies. A pianist, he is the Artistic Director of the University of Chicago ensemble-in-residence, the New Budapest Orpheum Society. Among his many publications are *The Land Where Two Streams Flow: Music in the German-Jewish Community of Israel* (1989),

Additional Co-Sponsors: Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas, Shir Tikvah Congregation, Beth El Synagogue

Presbyterian UN Office: The United Nations and Darfur Paper

More than 200,000 people are estimated to have been killed and at least 2 million displaced from their homes in Darfur since fighting broke out in 2003 between Government of Sudan forces, allied Janjaweed militia and other armed rebel groups. Atrocities such as the murder of civilians and the rape of women and girls have been widespread and continue, underscoring the necessity for urgent action.

The UN raised the alarm on the crisis in Darfur in 2003 and finding a lasting resolution has been a top priority for the Security Council and two consecutive Secretaries-General. In addition to pursuing a political solution, the UN and its partners are currently operating the largest aid effort in the world in Darfur and in refugee camps in Chad and the Central African Republic (CAR). In parallel, UN human rights experts have reported on abuses, and monitored efforts by local courts to bring perpetrators to justice.

Under the auspices of the African Union (AU) and with support of the UN and other partners, the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) was signed on 5 May 2006. Intensive diplomatic and political efforts to bring the non-signatories into the peace process continue. The UN has also provided logistical and technical assistance to AU monitors dispatched to Darfur since 2004, and has developed, adapted and is now implementing plans for a multidimensional peacekeeping operation.

In accordance with the decision of the 16 November 2006 High-Level consultations in Addis Ababa — attended by the former Secretary-General, five Permanent Members of the Security Council, representatives of the Government of Sudan, the AU and other States and organizations with political influence in the region, and some African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) troop contributing countries — the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) designed a three-phased approach to augment AMIS and create an unprecedented hybrid AU-UN peacekeeping force. Intensive private and public diplomacy by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and several actors in the international community resulted in Sudan's acceptance of this force in June 2007.

Political and diplomatic efforts

The Secretary-General is pursuing a political settlement to the crisis in Darfur as a top priority. He has worked extensively with all stakeholders in the region and the wider international community. He has also regularly discussed the issue with Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, including during face-to-face meetings on 29 January 2007 in Addis Ababa, and again on 28 March 2007 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

His Special Envoy for Darfur, Jan Eliasson, appointed in December 2006, is engaged in intensive shuttle diplomacy alongside his AU counterpart Salim Ahmed Salim in pursuit of political progress. The benchmarks of their efforts are an end to violence, a strengthened ceasefire ensured by peacekeepers, improvements in the humanitarian situation, and an end to the marginalization of Darfur through an inclusive peace agreement, with power and wealth-sharing provisions.

On 9 June 2007, the Special Envoys presented their road map towards peace in Darfur to the UN Security Council. It contains three stages: the first is to unite all ongoing peace initiatives; the second entails shuttle diplomacy to Khartoum and to the non-signatories of the 2006 DPA; and the third phase will be peace negotiations, which Mr. Eliasson has said should begin this summer. He has echoed the Secretary-General's appeals for all sides to end the fighting and bombings to create an atmosphere favorable to negotiations. The UN Security Council visited Khartoum to meet with President al-Bashir on 17 June 2007, seeking explicit acceptance of all elements of the Hybrid Operation. In Khartoum, Council members indicated they would recommend funding of the joint operation, after receiving assurances its command and control structures and systems would be provided by the UN.

Security Council sanctions

The Security Council imposed an arms embargo on all non-governmental entities and individuals, including the Janjaweed, operating in Darfur on 30 July 2004 with the adoption of resolution 1556. The sanctions regime was strengthened with the adoption of resolution 1591 (2005), which expanded the scope of the arms embargo and imposed additional measures, including a travel ban and an assets freeze on four individuals — two rebel leaders, a former Sudanese air force chief and the leader of a pro-government militia.

Peacekeeping

The UN is implementing a three-phased approach to bolster AMIS and eventually deploy a robust peacekeeping force in Darfur. Agreement on the concept was reached at the 16 November 2006 High-Level consultations in Addis Ababa; and endorsed at the 30 November meeting in Abuja, Nigeria, of the AU Peace and Security Council, and with the 19 December 2006 Presidential Statement by the UN Security Council. The Government of Sudan has now said that it accepts all three stages of the plan. The approach consists of measures to augment AMIS in the form of a Light Support Package (LSP), a Heavy Support Package (HSP), and an AU-UN Hybrid Operation.

Each phase has required its own set of agreements and understandings among the UN, the AU and the Government of Sudan. In order to reach these, the UN has undertaken a complex round of negotiations, including on the level and type of support, issues of command and control, and the legal framework governing the effort. This AU-UN Hybrid Operation is a unique model of partnership for UN peacekeeping...

The AU-UN Hybrid Operation was finally endorsed on 12 June 2007 by the Government of Sudan after intense diplomatic activity by the Secretary-General and after long, complex technical discussions between the UN, AU and Sudanese Government. The hybrid force will have the protection of civilians as its core mandate, as well as contributing to security for humanitarian assistance, monitoring and verifying implementation of agreements, assisting an inclusive political process, contributing to the promotion of human rights and rule of law, and monitoring and reporting on the situation along the borders with Chad and the CAR. At full deployment, it will be composed of almost 20,000 troops, 6,147 police and 4,860 civilians, making it one of the largest UN peacekeeping missions in history.

Project Home

Our church will be hosting Project Home for the month of May. Project Home is a program of the Saint Paul Area Council of Churches. Two churches monthly in the St. Paul area house homeless families when the Ramsey County Homeless Shelter is full.

Based on the current economic conditions the Ramsey County Homeless Shelter is full nightly as well as both churches who handle the overflow.

We are in need of volunteers for both the early-evenings shift during the hours of 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. and the overnight shift during the hours of 8:00 to 7:00 a.m.

We need your help. Please contact Connie Oppelt at 651-771-9050 or Mary Ippel at 651-808-6620.

Mission Committee

Funding from past A.H.P fund raiser benefits congregation in Cameroon.

Several years ago the Mission Committee sponsored a Christmas time fund raiser to benefit some medical facilities in Cameroon. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, the intended beneficiaries could not be funded. Instead Fred Fonji from the African Community was able to bequest it to a congregation in Bamemda Cameroon during a regular visit to this area. This congregation named Ntamulung was able to divide the \$300.00 gift (150,000 francs) between their Humanitarian Aid Committee [HAC] and support for people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

The Ntamulung congregation, 800 members strong, celebrated the acceptance of this gift during one their worship services in September of last year. Fred witnessed this joyous occasion which included singing, dancing and tears of joy ! A hand written letter expressing their appreciation by their pastor is on display at the Mission bulletin board by the Narthex coffee serving window.

The Mission committee hopes to cultivate ongoing partnerships with African community based ministries and is receiving additional input. Thank you!

Holy Week Schedule

Eastside Community Lenten Services

April 9th—Maundy Thursday

Hazel Park UCC

1831 E. Minnehaha Avenue

St. Paul, MN

6:00 pm—Soup Supper

7:00 pm—Service of Communion

April 10th—Good Friday

Arlington Hills Presbyterian

7:00 pm only—Tenebrae Service

Easter at AHP

9:00 am—Breakfast

10:30 am—Easter Worship

*You are invited to our annual
“Sunday Evening of Music”*

Sunday, May 3, 2009

4:00 pm

Arlington Hills Presbyterian Church

Presented by

Members of the Sanctuary Choir, Worship Team, Handbells,

And other special music...

And you'll have the opportunity to sing-along also.

Mark the date on your calendar,

Invite a friend,

And join us for a time of fellowship and worship thru music.

(A light supper will be provided following the concert.)

PC(USA) Interfaith Relations Office Rev. Jay Rock

Statement from the Consultation on Mission Language and Metaphors

School of World Mission, Fuller Theological Seminary June 1-3, 2000

We, the participants in the consultation, have gathered to think and pray together about the words, metaphors and images evangelicals use to communicate about the missionary mandate and endeavor and to the world at large. We desire to honor God and glorify Him as we engage in communicating His love to the peoples of the earth. Where reflection on our words has revealed less than Christ like attitudes or circumstances where we have unintentionally hurt others, we are eager to repent, apologize, and do better.

As a relatively small group of mission agency and church leaders, theologians and communicators, we comprise neither a comprehensive nor adequately representative cross-section of the evangelical spectrum. We do, however, comprise a group unified in our concern that unwise language choices not be a hindrance to persons truly hearing the Gospel of Christ. We hope and pray that our tentative beginning here will encourage others in our context and around the world to grapple with some of the issues we have considered.

We regret that certain words and images long employed to call the church to mission have increasingly caused offense to the very people with whom we are seeking to share the Good News. Some of these words and images are biblical; some are motivational tools from the secular arena that we use to inspire involvement and action. Many are military in nature: “target,” “conquer,” “army,” “crusade,” “mobilize,” “beachhead,” “advance,” “enemy,” “battle.” We may know what such terms mean to us, but what do they mean to others? Are we unintentionally making those we most want to befriend feel we regard them as enemies, while helping opponents of Christ mission to make their case against us? Can we find more reconciling, redemptive words and images in Scripture and elsewhere that will aid us in expressing love, respect and effective witness for Christ, rather than creating an atmosphere of adversarial confrontation?

First, we agree about several basic principles:

1. We are not ashamed of the Gospel, which is salvation to those who believe. We seek to preach it, teach it, and demonstrate it through acts of love and mercy among all peoples in obedience to our Lord’s command until He returns.
2. We realize that the Gospel itself is an offense and a stumbling block to those who reject it. We also understand that the mission of Christ will be opposed in many places and by all means, (including) persecution.
3. We affirm that the Kingdom of God has triumphed over all the kingdoms and powers of this world at the cross. Nevertheless there is indeed a battle under way between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Satan. In this spiritual battle we are privileged to partner with God in revealing Himself and setting the captives free.

While acknowledging these truths, we recognize the need to deal with several critical realities:

Metaphors and the mindsets and attitudes behind them are potent in shaping thought and compelling action. Positive metaphors are essential tools of missions and evangelism. When twisted or taken too far, however, they distort God’s purposes. “Warfare” metaphors and terminology, while biblical in the cosmic/spiritual sense, have been misused in Christian mission communications. They have become increasingly counterproductive to mission work, sometimes endangering the lives of local believers, and are being used by opponents of the church to indict and impede its work.

2. **We therefore advocate an immediate end to the inappropriate use of such words.** Yes, we are called to the discipline and single-mindedness of soldiers at war (2 Tim. 2:3-4). However, “our struggle is not against flesh and blood” but against the unseen rulers of spiritual darkness (Eph. 6:12). Jesus Christ fulfills God’s age-old message of love, forgiveness, reconciliation and blessing for the peoples according to God’s promise to Abraham (Gen. 12:2,3). Jesus Himself is the great master of redemptive metaphors (see His parables), and Scripture offers rich treasure of words and images we can use to call God’s people to mission. He proclaimed good news to the poor, release for the prisoners, and sight for the blind (Lk. 4:18).

We encourage Christian mission agencies and local churches to re-examine Scripture and restate their global task in terms consistent with the teaching and mission of Christ. Alternate words and images include blessing, healing, inviting, sowing and reaping, fishing, restoring family relationships, becoming reconcilers, peacemakers and ambassadors.

3. As a motivation for mission involvement, people are responding to the call to glorify God among the nations and wherever He is not yet being worshiped. They also respond to the call to follow Christ into servanthood and sacrifice, the call to lift up the down the downtrodden, the call to a life of great purpose and meaning in community with others of like mind. These are themes around which we need to develop metaphors to summon God’s people to God’s mission.
4. The new dynamics of globalization and instant global electronic information technologies are rapidly changing the context of our communication. The technology that opens the world to us also opens us *and* the words we say to the “home folks” and what we say to the world. The world, we must assume, will read or hear whatever we say to our own. Are we willing not to use language behind the back of unbelievers concerning their culture and location that we would not use face to face in sharing the message and love of Christ? We encourage our evangelical friends, colleagues, churches and partner agencies around the world to think and pray with us about these things. We invite the reflection and wisdom of our brothers and sisters into what we hope will become an ongoing dialogue about these important issues, to the end that our light might shine brighter in the world, and that our ministry of reconciliation for the sake of God’s great name might flourish.

Statement published in *World Pulse*, August 4, 2000, page 7.



Arlington Hills
Presbyterian Church
1275 East Magnolia Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55106
Tel. 651-774-6028

AHPC Staff:

Rev. Howard Dotson,
Interim Pastor
Donna R. Hampton-Maki,
Dir. Of Music Ministries
Ken Latham, Organist
Tom Kline, Custodian
Marge Silber, Office Mgr.

See our Website at
www.arlingtonhillspresbyterian.org

Lectionary for April 2009

- 5 **Passion/Palm Sunday**
Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16;
Ps. 118:1-2; 19-29 Isa. 50:4-9a;
Ps. 31:9-16; Phil. 2:5-11;
Mark 14:1-15:47 or
Mark 15:1-30 (40-47)
- 12 **Easter/Resurrection of the Lord**
Acts 10:34-43 or Isa. 25:6-9;
Ps. 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Cor. 15:1-11
or Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or
Mark 16:1-8
- 19 **2nd Sunday of Easter**
Acts 4:32-35; Ps. 133;
1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31
- 26 **3rd Sunday of Easter**
Acts 3:12-19; Ps. 4; 1 John 3:1-7;
Luke 24:36-b-48

DATED MATERIAL

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Saint Paul, Minnesota 55106
1275 East Magnolia Avenue

ARLINGTON HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Non Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
St. Paul, MN
Permit #2900