

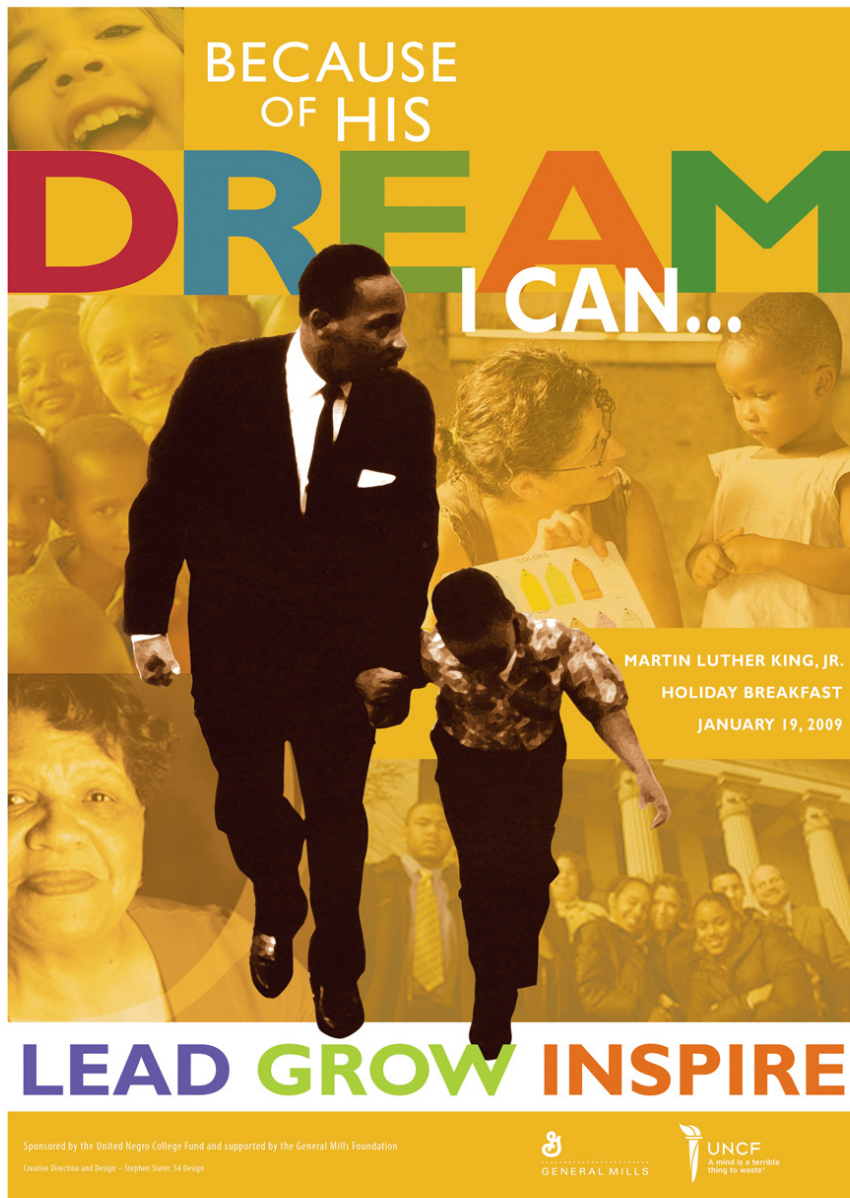
Vol. 50, Issue 1, January 2009. AN ARLINGTON HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PUBLICATION

... All That We Come From

... All That We Live For

Heirloom

... All That We're Going To Be



BECAUSE
OF HIS
DREAM
I CAN...

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
HOLIDAY BREAKFAST
JANUARY 19, 2009

LEAD GROW INSPIRE

Sponsored by the United Negro College Fund and supported by the General Mills Foundation.
Creative Direction and Design - Stephen Slater, S4 Design

GENERAL MILLS

UNCF
A mind is a terrible
thing to waste

Dec. Income & Attendance

Average Attendance : 132

Income: \$ 31,069

Kitchen Fund: 3,845

Wed.-Thu. Jan. 14-16

Luther Seminary's

Mid-Winter Convocation

[Walter Brueggemann](#)

Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Ga.

[Terry Fretheim](#)

Luther Seminary

2481 Como Ave St. Paul 55108 651-641-3456

Heirloom

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Happy Anniversary !!

January

1 Hycent and Rosaline Kwende

February

4 Darren and Nancy Hampton
 11 Jan and Bob Dykema
 28 Francis Fonji and Comfort Ndiappi

Happy Birthday!!

January

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Anna Awasom | 12 Alisha Mah Ngu |
| 1 Manley Marcellus | 14 Dick Robertson |
| 1 Helen Payne | 15 Gracia Saloka |
| 2 Nikayla Dugus | 15 Soozie Neubauer |
| 3 Mark Pechmann | 16 Muriel McCauley |
| 5 Robert Zick | 17 Glen Roelofs |
| 6 Zachary Kelsey | 18 Sylvia Rowenhorst |
| 7 Janet Gonsowski | 20 Helen Browne |
| 8 Dorothe Sanny | 21 Nancy Bruce |
| 9 Ransom Fobanjong | 29 Phil Borger |
| 10 James Czepa | 29 Frank Degel |
| 11 Dorothy Kellner | 30 Betty Winter |
| 11 Elaine Krentz | 31 Mike Nelson |
| 12 Etele Ndiappi | |

From the Pastor's Desk



Dear Friends:

In spite of the shovelling and wind shield scraping, I have enjoyed the snow. I was dreading my adjustment to my first winter back in MN, but I think my body still remembers. Putting up the Christmas tree and writing the holiday letter has put me in the holiday spirit. This, in addition, to our East Side Lessons and Carols and singing with the residents at Echoridge Presbyterian Homes.

Another highlight this past month was hearing Tammie's testimony at the Lake Phalen Holiday Lights ceremony. On Nov. 25th, she was in front of the club house with Mayor Coleman to flip the switch for the Holiday Lights in the park. Tammie is the cancer survivor who was attacked last August by gang members wielding bats. For the first time since Tammie came out of remission, her condition has stabilized. With the holiday lights illuminating her face, and tears flowing down her cheeks, she shared her testimony of how hope does come out of tragedy. She firmly believes that it is the power of prayer that brings her healing and sustains her fight for life.

Another highlight, this past month is that I now own a home on the Eastside. I'm just off of Payne and Jessamine 653, right behind Serlins. In honor of Dr. King's birthday, I will have a house warming reception on his birthday, **Mon. Jan. 19th 4-6 pm** I look forward to hosting some other fellowship events here. I'm really looking forward to my trip to the animal shelter to bring home a dog. Don't worry my new dog will come from a family friendly breed. As much as I travel, I'm taking references for dog sitters.

As I mentioned, my new home is right across the alley from Serlin's. I can pop in for eggs and toast in comfort clothes! Don't worry, I will make sure to take care of my bed head. I encourage folks to frequent Serlin's often, because they have a for sale sign posted. I was told that part of the reason they are selling the store is due to lack of business. The Eastside will suffer a major loss with Serlin's gone.

My chaplaincy work with law enforcement is progressing. I will get a chance to defrost next month when I return to LA for a few days to facilitate consultations with the LAPD Rampart Clergy Council (Feb 20-25). Again, this is part of my doctoral work. We have arranged for several psychologists to teach us about assessing for post-traumatic stress disorder, complicated grief and the suicide risk. People who have lost a loved one to a traumatic event are at a greater risk for developing these psychological conditions.

My hope is that this pilot program will serve as a continuing education model for clergy who want to support law enforcement as crisis counselors in their communities. Police commanders need to know that there are competent clergy out there that they call upon when needed.

I have to tread carefully here, but I am asking folks to be a little more sensitive to the work environment in the main office. Marge, our office manager, has a lot of tasks before her, and there are times when she needs to focus on details. When and if, she gives an indication that there is something she needs to tend to, please take this direction with grace.

Pastor's Desk (Cont)

We have upgraded our computer system so all three offices are networked. This enables us to work from shared documents. Now, we can be more flexible with our tasks and not feel like we are juggling schedules to get access to the main computer. If you have a project you would like to work on, we can make arrangements for you to use the middle office.

Now that the kitchen project is completed, we are shifting gears to tend to other property needs. We will be rekeying the locks and changing the security codes. Please notify the office if you are going to need a key. Our hope is to designate the alarm codes more accurately. Please use discretion when you are given these new codes. Many churches in St Paul and Minneapolis have been burglarized. Every time we have the front door open for an activity, we need to be intentional about doing a complete walk through for locking up. This is to ensure that someone has not snuck in during our activity and is hiding out somewhere. In light of these recent trends, setting the alarm is critical when we leave.

We are still seeking volunteers to be available on Thursdays 2-4 PM. This will help us cover the food pantry which is now downstairs next to the coat rack. We are always accepting additional food donations (non-perishables). We prefer that people seeking assistance call to make appointments. The general guidelines are for people seeking assistance are that they have access once a month and our top priority is families with young children.

As people of faith, we need to embrace our neighbors with love and compassion. We have not had unemployment rates this high in over thirty four years. In America, truly a land of milk and honey, no one should ever go hungry. Eastsiders are looking to our churches to be the hands and feet of God's presence answering prayers for one's daily bread.

Adult Education —Fireside Room

- | | | |
|---------|------|---|
| Jan. 25 | 9 am | Professor Reiter—Jews and Muslims Sharing Common Worship Spaces |
| Feb. 15 | 9 am | Stewardship with Rev. Gene Orr |
| Feb. 22 | 9 am | Stewardship with Rev. Gene Orr |

Community Outreach Events

- | | | | | |
|--|---------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Mon. Jan. 19 | 7:00– 9:30 am | Rev. Dr. King Breakfast | Central Presbyterian Church | 500 Cedar St |
| Televised keynote address by Secretary of State Powell | | | | |
| Wed. Jan. 21 | 3 pm | MN Commission to End Poverty by 2020 | Landmark Center | |

Mission Committee

Volunteers Needed this Summer for the Teen Evangelism Camp (near Black Forest Academy) .

Jay and Nancy Adams who've been our Presbyterian missionaries to this International Christian boarding school for grades 7 to 12 have extended this invitation to congregations such as us. Black Forest Academy is primarily a school for missionary children and exists, "to provide a quality, international Christian education that equips its students to influence their world through biblical thought, character, and action."

College students are especially being sought out but not exclusively. Participation would involve either a two or four week tenure with the possibility of some if not all expenses covered thru Mission scholarship funding. The Mission Committee is currently evaluating the financial factor regarding this opportunity and will be updating the congregation in the near future.

A few years ago AHP member Rob Denaway experienced a similar counseling program in Hungary which focused on English language skills. Its program was supported both through the Presbytery office and our own Mission Committee. The committee does welcome any feed back in this regard plus any other comments regarding benevolence funding in general! Thank you and God bless!

Property Committee — Matt More

Kitchen

Praise God that we have completed our kitchen renovation! If you haven't seen it yet, make sure you go downstairs and see the "new" kitchen and hallway.

Security

There is a clipboard at the usher's table at the back of the sanctuary where you can sign up to get a new key and access code to the building. If you would like a key after we change the locks, please sign up on this list by the end of December.

Save On Your Energy Bill

Three simple steps can help you save money on your home electricity bill.

1. Purchase a programmable thermostat. They work harder when family members are home and keep the house a bit less heated or cooled when they are not.
2. Buy CFL (compact fluorescent lamps) light bulbs. They use 75% less energy than normal light bulbs and last up to 10 times longer.
3. Be careful about the energy that you consume. Turn off lights and other appliances when you are not using them. Source: www.ehow.com

Did You Know?

Our church's electricity budget for this year is around **\$6000?** Let's take a small step to gether by making sure we conserve electricity when we can. It's easy to start by turning off lights when you are the last person out of the room.

Matt Moore, Acting Property Chair

Our New Kitchen—Glen Roelofs

I would like to state my gratitude as to how well the remodeling of our kitchen went, and to publicly thank Ron Keller of Keller Construction for his involvement in the project. It was obvious to me that he spent a considerable amount of his own time working on the project. It also was very helpful to know where we were saving funds in one area so that we could add something else to the project. The original bid with 2 alternatives (tiling the hallway and the center island cabinets, which we eventually decided to do both of them) totaled \$38,316. As the project progressed, we eventually added more features that seemed reasonable (such as painting the cabinets, new laminate on tables by the dishwasher, new faucets in the old triple sink, etc.), and the final cost was right at \$36,000 (which includes \$850 for permits which weren't in the original bid). I feel we got a real bargain for the amount of upgrades we got, and would hope everyone agrees that the kitchen is now a very pleasant place to work.

Some may ask, why did we spend this much money now with the economy so bad?

Some reasons are:

- 1.) We had talked about doing this for a number of years.
- 2.) The East Side Youth program was handicapped with the status of the former kitchen.
- 3.) Money was available in the Endowment Fund to pay for this project.

So Session voted to start the project, and just as the demolition began, the economy went in the tank. We were kind of committed at this point, and since we were able to secure a low interest loan through Synod of Lakes and Prairies, the project continued.

So now we have a \$35,000 loan that needs to be paid off. A Kitchen Fund has been set up to help pay off the loan, so anyone with some extra dollars would be strongly encouraged to donate to this Fund. It was my pleasure to be able to work closely on this project for the number of weeks it lasted and for the willing help of others in the church who were available when needed. Blessings, Glenn Roelofs, member of the Property Committee



Music for the Soul

Music is truly food for the soul. If you choose to attend any of these events, please alert the office so we can arrange carpools for some of our less mobile members.

Fri-Sat. January 9-10 2009

Seventh Annual Conference on Liturgy

- Lift up theological topics that are the basis of Christian liturgy
- Provide edification for ordained and lay persons on various aspects of public worship.

Keynote: *Thomas Schattauer* Professor of Liturgics at Warburg Theological Seminary
Contact: David Chewien, Mount Olive Lutheran Church 3045 Chicago Ave Mpls 612-827-5919

Christian Education Update —Barb Lutter

The activities and excitement of Advent are now sweet memories. Epiphany looms near; Lent is 'just around the corner,' and our classrooms are buzzing with learners and leaders, eager to share The Good News. With Sally Narr's departure last fall, our Christian Education ministry was faced with the immediate task of re-organizing and re-structuring to account for the loss of our full-time, professional educator. Thank you to all who indicated an interest and willingness to 'volunteer' with CE! We will be in touch with you over the next few weeks in order to confirm and finalize your jobs!

Here is a brief report of where things stand right now:

Infants and Toddlers. The "SPLASH!" resources are now available for our young members, from birth to age 3. A monthly newsletter filled with prayers, songs, activities and developmental information is sent to each family to support the baby's faith development; CDs with songs and verses is also provided. If you would like to receive the "SPLASH!" resource, or if you know a family with a baby or toddler who may enjoy this material, please contact Barbara Lutter or the church office! Families with babies and toddlers may use the Nursery on Sunday mornings during the Worship hour, when volunteers are ready to care for our little ones. Simple board-book Bible Stories are available for reading to the toddlers, and a simple craft is offered as well. Snacks of crackers, juice and/or fruit are available. The nursery is cleaned weekly, before and after worship, and toys are disinfected in an effort to discourage the spread of germs! Volunteers for the nursery are needed; if you like holding babies, this is the perfect place for you!

Children's Education includes classes at the 9:00 and 10:30 hours on Sunday mornings. Our Sunday Learning Lab meets at 9:00, and is led by Jan Dykema. Two Sunday School classes meet during the worship hour. Soozie Neubauer is the lead teacher for our pre-schoolers in the Blue Butterfly Room, and she is assisted by older youth and adult volunteers. The class is lively, and includes music, art, crafts and, of course, a Bible Story each week. The Elementary Class is taught by Barbara Lutter; the curriculum for this group is the "Live B.I.G." -- B.I.G. stands for Belief in God, and the current unit focuses on Jesus' life and ministry. Volunteers to assist in the Blue Butterfly Room are needed; no teaching experience necessary!

Youth Education includes classes for younger youth (middle school) taught by Michelle Cerame, and older youth (high school) taught by Denise Anderson. Youth Fellowship will start again in January, with a team of leaders eager to work with this group of 12-18 youth! In January, Pastor Howard will begin meeting with the Youth Teachers and Leaders on a monthly basis, to provide pastoral support and assistance with program development. AHP youth will attend the "Winter Snow Camp" this month at Presbyterian Clearwater Forest, thanks to the generous support of our congregation and our "campership fund." Didn't the Youth do a fabulous job presenting "The Surprising Christmas Pageant"? Next time you see one of these talented kids around AHP, congratulate them! They are learning to fully participate in the life of our church.

Christian Education (cont.)

Sunday School: Betty Passick continues to act as our “Sunday School Superintendent.” She has taken charge of organizing volunteers and keeping us organized! Talk to Betty with any concern or question about Sunday School! And if you want to volunteer for any job in any capacity related to Education at AHP, please let Betty know!

At present, we are looking for people who can:

1. Help with transportation. Several children and youth are not able to consistently come to Sunday School and worship because they have no transportation (a parent is working, for example). We would like to help families with these transportation needs. If you are able to occasionally drive children or youth to and from AHP on Sundays, please Betty Passick know.
2. Help with snacks. Our toddlers and nursery cabinets need to be regularly restocked with crackers and juice boxes; if you are willing to help with this shopping, please Betty Passick know.
3. Youth Mentors. Our youth (especially the high school students) need mentors -- to befriend them, to talk with them about faith issues and to model Christian living. If you are willing to be paired with one of our youth members and to spend a few hours each month “one on one” please Betty Passick us know!

While the loss of our Family Ministries Coordinator has resulted in much re-organization of our education ministry, we see this time as an opportunity for AHP to “do things differently” and we are optimistically facing 2009 with renewed faith and excitement for the education ministry of our congregation. We would love to have you join us!

Adult Education continues in the Fireside Room, led by Reub Larson, and in the Emmaus Room, where the class continues to discuss the “Living the Questions” series. The two classes will merge for several sessions in January and February, including a presentation from Professor Reiter from the University of Minnesota’s Center for Jewish Studies and the Rev. Gene Orr, a minister member of our presbytery and congregational consultant will lead a two part Stewardship series.

Pastor Howard has suggested this Adult Ed. opportunity as a follow up to Professor Reiter’s presentation on Jan. 25th

Tue. Feb. 3 - Tue. Mar. 10 7:30 pm - 9pm

Israel and Her Neighbors - A Six Lecture Series

Dr Yitzhak Reiter, U of M Center for Jewish Studies visiting scholar will provide a special opportunity to learn more about Israel when he gives six lectures on Israel and her neighbors. Fee is for all 6 lectures. Open to the Community Member Fee:\$30 Non-Member Fee:\$45

Register at the Front Desk Registration Due Friday, January 30 To register for any lecture, please contact the St Paul JCC. St Paul JCC 1375 St. Paul Ave. Saint Paul, MN 55116 651-698-0751



Peacemaking through Interfaith Dialogue

University of Minnesota Center for Jewish Studies

The Center for Jewish Studies—part of the University of Minnesota’s College of Liberal Arts—is dedicated to fostering a deeper understanding of Jewish culture and history. Our focus is threefold:

- **Research**—as a vibrant resource of interdisciplinary studies for leading school scholars on language, literature, culture, history, and social experience involving Jewish people—across centuries and around the world
- **Education**—as a scholarly curriculum that offers Jewish Studies degrees (major and minor) that engages students in a rich interdisciplinary curriculum, spanning Jewish history, literature, languages, and culture
- **Outreach**—as a bridge that extends into the larger metropolitan Twin Cities community, through events and cultural activities, including everything from lectures and conferences to Jewish book fairs and the celebration of festivals.

Sun. Jan. 25 9 am AHP Fireside Room Professor Reiter

Could Jewish-Muslim Co-existence Work at Shared holy places?

Professor Reiter, a visiting professor at the U from Hebrew University will share with us research in Israel-Palestine with Jewish-Muslim places of worship sharing the same space.

Thu. Jan. 29 7 PM Sabes JCC Professor Amy Jill-Levine

Jesus and Judaism: The Connection Still Matters

JESUS OF NAZARETH followed the Torah of Moses, found inspiration in the Prophets of Israel, and offered a teaching that some Jewish men and women found compelling. Yet too often Christians and Jews incorrectly regard Jesus as rejecting Judaism. Understanding Jesus in his Jewish context brings new meaning to his parables, his politics, and his piety—and also offers a new path for Jewish-Christian relations.

Amy-Jill Levine is E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Professor of New Testament Studies at Vanderbilt University.

Sabes Jewish Community Center 4330 Cedar Lake Rd St Louis Park 952-3400



Don Karwoski

The Heritage Corner—A Series

In the beginning, on February 16, 1885, Arlington Hills Presbyterian Church began as a mission Sunday School sponsored by the East Presbyterian Church. Nineteen children and adults gathered in a home on Jessamine near Payne Avenue. Why bring this up now? Because I feel that as a member of this church since 1947, we are forgetting our heritage and should be reminded from time to time as the Hebrew people were in Moses' time. Over the next few months I will give a thumbnail sketch of our church over the past 105 plus years.

The year 1973 had many events paralleling our present in 2008. OPEC doubles the price of oil. Prices went from \$ 1.50 a barrel to \$ 11.56 a barrel. There were some shortages. Compare this to the present price of \$40 to over \$130 a barrel.

Because of the Viet Nam war Congress passed the WAR POWERS ACT which prevents the president from committing US forces abroad for more than 60 days without Congressional approval. Six years ago Congress gave approval to commit US forces more than six months resulting in the Iraq war in which we are presently embroiled.

As for AHP the Session held its first meeting January 8 with Pastor Polzine moderating and the following elders present: Robert Anderson, John Elstad, Donald Erickson, Erma Derickson, Douglas Hanson, Harold Iverson, Manley Marcellus, Helen Nielsen, Elmer Norstedt, Larry Parsons, Glenn Roelofs, Don Rowenhorst and Ron Sanderson. Excused were Lee Sanny and Robert Van Hoef. Note the name of Erma Derickson. The third woman on Session. The glass ceiling has been broken at AHP. From a personal viewpoint a great group of people,

We again begin the year with a shortage of \$ 943.45 in the General Account and the per capita assessment unpaid. The church reported a membership of 486 to Presbytery in its annual report. However at this January meeting Stewardship presented a list of 22 members to be placed on the suspended rolls.

Stewardship Chair Robert Anderson reviewed the budget which had been prepared by his committee and revised by the Steering Committee. The budget was approved by Session with one negative vote by Chair Robert Anderson. The annual report shows a figure of \$80, 539.00 and a remaining mortgage balance of \$198,291.37.

The first meeting of the Twin City Presbytery was held January 13 at the merged Lexington Ave. and Marriam Park Church. Sad to say this church is no longer in existence.

At the March meeting, five replacement elders joined the Session. June Hansen, Soon-Kun Kang, Don Karwoski, Robert Kopp and Chris Lineer. I believe Chris was a college student at the time. Property also submitted two proposals: improvement to the parking lot and the lower area of the church building. This was tabled until the report of the Treasurer was received and reported a shortage of \$1,629.83. Because of the shortage payment of benevolences was postponed one month and the property improvements tabled. This motion was again brought forward with the suggestion the money be raised by a fund drive. The motion did not carry. Property was given authority to use the savings account. The motion was ruled out of order and the Clerk instructed to determine if the savings account was a dedicated fund.

In April there was a deficit of \$4,674.83 in the General Account and on motion approved the matter of using the savings account for the property improvement to be brought before the congregation. It was decided to give highlights of the Session minutes in the church newsletter. In May, the Chair Glenn Roelofs disclosed a bid of \$4,450 for the church parking lot and recommended that the funds from the sale of the church manse be used for the project. The motion was approved to have a congregational meeting on June 5 to act on the recommendation.

Mission Study Resource: Ministering to the Soul of a Community

by Alice Mann

Congregations are born from a generative spark of interaction between stories of faith and stories of place. Some person or group looks out on a particular landscape and says, “There should be a church—or there should be a congregation of our preferred type—in this particular community.” That conclusion is not an isolated thought but part of a larger narrative that has shaped the awareness of the founder or founding group, a story about “who we are” (cultural and religious identity), “what we are called to do or be” (religious purpose), and “where we are now” (community and cultural context). Throughout the history of a congregation, narratives of faith and narratives of place collide and converge, compartmentalize and connect, in many and changing ways.

Congregations that take responsibility for their ecological relationships will have a deeper, more grounded ministry. Even the congregation that is regional in scope and highly associational in style is still part of the physical, social, and narrative web of those communities where its building is located and where its members live, work, and play. As congregations explore the intersection between their own core narratives and those of their local community or communities, new possibilities for ministry and mission may emerge.

Specifically, congregations may discover new ways to interact intentionally and redemptively with the narrative life of the places they inhabit. Place-based narratives are a powerful component of personal, civic, and congregational life. My awareness of this was heightened when I moved to a new place in 2002. My experience is captured in poet and social critic Wendell Berry’s remark that it is good for the young to leave home and explore the wider world, but at some point it is important to stop and say, “This is it, this will be home.”

The seeds of significance and commitment that were present at the time of my own move sprouted with surprising urgency during a sabbatical summer in 2005. In the stillness that summer allowed me, I experienced an almost physical ache to know and work with my fellow citizens, and to help make my city a good place to live. So my attraction to the subject of place-based narratives arises at the intersection of at least three personal story lines: a quest story about finding and claiming a home place; a discernment story about scratching the itch for some new departure in my professional life; and the palpable narrative force of this place itself as it works on my imagination.

As a result, I have come to believe that “Where am I?” and “What is happening here?” are among the most profound questions congregational leaders can ask. This vocabulary of place or location is often used metaphorically in congregational planning and discernment. “Where are we now?” may be a figurative way of asking what steps the congregation has completed in a planning process, how far the congregation has progressed in a size transition, or how close the capital campaign has come to meeting its goal. In this discussion, I want to wake up these dozing metaphors of place and refocus on their immediate and physical meanings.

Place-based narratives are shared, persistent, and dynamic stories people commonly tell about “here.” While one could look at narratives of place at a completely individual level, I use the term place-based narratives to mean the stories that are shared within the community context—those that may be referenced in civic life through commemorative events, memorial structures, newspaper articles, library displays, and the rhetoric of local controversies. The focus is also on persistent stories that have remained active in the public imagination over time and on dynamic stories that are called into service in a variety of ways and assigned new meanings as circumstances change.

Mission Study (Cont.)

Second, place-based narratives provide “here” with a trajectory that stretches over time. They sketch out the remembered past—who came here first and from where, what used to be here that the community is proud of or pining for, what tragedies occurred here that marked people’s memories, and which notable personalities have left their imprint on local life. These narratives describe the place’s present reality—who lives here today and what they are like; what is changing now, for better or for worse; and what forces are affecting lives in the community. And they outline imagined futures—the paths of “progress” or “development”; the trends of breakdown and demolition (physical and social) that people seek to resist or to hasten; and the potential shape of the common life in years to come.

Finally, a shared narrative of place gives rise to a common field of concerns, possibilities, and relationships. Social theorists have begun to borrow from physics the concept of a field of forces (such as gravitational, electrical, or magnetic) to describe change and movement that cannot be accounted for by a visible, proximate force. Comparing one place to another, different patterns, tendencies, and habits of interaction and development become evident. A major “unseen force” is the story a community tells about itself. This is not the slick, promotional version on the Chamber of Commerce website but the grassroots version of the story, the one people tell each other to explain and comment upon important happenings or controversial proposals.

A new resident to a particular locale will notice certain events and eras that other residents reference repeatedly in a variety of settings. Over time one gains an impression of the meanings commonly attached to these events and the uses that are made of them. How does a community resident like myself become a true participant-observer who can maintain perspective, stay open to a variety of voices, and create trustworthy space for conversation? And how might a connection be made between local congregations and this important type of community dialogue?

- A beginning point with an individual congregation might be to invite exploration of its own history in this place—to examine how the character, fortunes, and evolution of this city have affected the congregation’s own identity and development, and vice versa.
- A second step might be to encourage a congregational group to use its spiritual, theological, and biblical heritage to develop images of the soul of the city they live in—that is, to discern and describe a corporate personality for the city, then to consider the soul struggles this personality is experiencing at this time.
- A third step could be to ask what opportunities this congregation might have today to minister to the soul of their city. Such ministry could take myriad forms. A congregation with many public leaders might pay special attention to forming the conscience and attitude of those leaders.

An African American congregation might remind the city that true success is measured by the way it treats the stranger, the widow, and the orphan. A congregation with a strong civic identity might cosponsor with other partners a series of public dialogues on issues of soul significance.

My hope is that new forms of ministry to the soul of place will be generated as the imagination of congregational leaders is stimulated by such inquiries. By exploring place-based narratives, through internal practices of congregational discernment and through new forms of community dialogue, a faith community can experience a profound renewal of its identity, its mission, and its role in its wider community.

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Calling a New Pastor: First Steps– Jeanne Anderegg

In February, several focus group meetings will be held at Arlington Hills as the first step in calling a new pastor for our church. Before a Pastor Nominating Committee can be set up to conduct the search for a new minister, a mission study must be completed that defines where we are as a congregation and where we want to go. This is where each of you come in. As part of that mission study, we need your input. Please plan on attending one of the focus group meetings in February to contribute your ideas about the future of Arlington Hills.

These meetings will be held at different times throughout the month to accommodate personal needs. One will be held in the evening at a date still to be set. A second will take place during and after worship on February 15. The third will be an afternoon meeting on February 20.

Why does your participation matter? Because our new pastor will need each of us to be committed to a shared vision of our ministry. To choose the right pastor for this moment in the life of our church, we must figure out what God calls us to do as a congregation. Each of you has an important role to play in making that happen.

This is a challenging but exciting time for our church. With prayer and commitment, we can build on our strengths as a congregation and go in new directions as we begin the next chapter in our history.

Jeanne Anderegg, Session member

Minnesota Legislative Commission to End Poverty

Lets Walk the Talk! Wed., JAN. 21 3:00—3:30 P.M.

LANDMARK CENTER 75 West 5th Street, St. Paul

Mission Statement

Develop guidelines to end poverty. Prepare recommendation on how to end poverty in Minnesota by 2020. The commission must be guided by the following principles:

- (a) There should be a consistent and persistent approach that includes participation of people of faith, nonprofit agencies, government and businesses
- (b) All people should be provided with those things that protect human dignity and make for a healthy life, including adequate food and shelter, meaningful work, safe communities, health care and education.
- (c) All people are intended to live well together as a whole community, seeking the common good, avoiding wide disparities between those who have to little to live on and those who have a disproportionate share of the nation's goods.
- (d) All people need to work together to overcome poverty, and this work transcends both any particular political theory or party and any particular economic theory or structure. Overcoming poverty requires the use of private and public resources.
- (e) Alliances are needed between the faith community, nonprofit agencies, government, business and others with a commitment to overcoming poverty.
- (f) Overcoming poverty involves both acts of direct service to alleviate the outcomes of poverty and advocacy to change those structures that result in people living in poverty.
- (g) Government is neither solely responsible for alleviating poverty nor removed from that responsibility. Government is the vehicle by which people order their lives based on their shared vision. Society is well served when people bring their values in the public arena. This convergence around issues of poverty and the common good leads people of varying tradition to call on government to make a critical commitment to overcoming poverty. Established by the MN State Legislature in 2006



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 January 2009

- 4 **2nd Sunday after Christmas**
Jer. 31:7-14; Ps. 147:12-20;
Eph. 1:3-14; John 1:(1-9) 10-18
- 11 **Baptism of the Lord**
Gen. 1:1-5; Ps. 29; Acts 19:1-7;
Mark 1:4-11
- 18 **2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**
1 Sam. 3:1-10 (11-20); Ps. 139:1-6,
13-18; 1 Cor. 6:12-20;
John 1:43-51
- 25 **3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**
Jon. 3:1-5, 10; Ps. 62:5-12;
1 Cor. 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

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