

Messenger

A Welcoming and Affirming Congregation

December 2010

Our Interim Minister ~ by Jim Kuether

I'm very excited to announce that we have an interim minister!

Suzan Ireland is a professional, intentional interim minister with more than 10 years of experience guiding congregations through their time between senior pastors. Suzan has had experience with churches of many different sizes and denominations, and was most recently interim at a First Congregational UCC in Winona, MN.

The Interim Search Committee conducted a nationwide search for Judson's interim, and met with a number of talented candidates. But it was Suzan's combination of experience, skill and personality that made her the unanimous choice of the committee. Suzan has gone through Intentional Interim training, is skilled in the areas of conflict management and helping churches solidify their vision and mission. She has, as one committee member described it, a prophetic preaching style that uses the power of story and contemporary references to help make her points. Finally, Suzan's personal style is compassionate and nurturing, while still being confident, forthright and authentic.

Suzan will be joining us as soon as she can arrange for housing here in The Cities. Once we have an idea of that timing (it should be sometime in December), we'll announce the date and communicate some of the ways that we'll be introducing Suzan to the community. Keep an eye on the Judson email and the bulletin for those announcements. We'll also make those announcements from the pulpit when appropriate. We're anxious for her to begin her work with Judson.

Interim Pastoral Care Coverage

Judson's Congregational Care Committee and staff have developed a plan to provide pastoral care coverage during this transition time. Until an interim pastor has been hired, Kathy Urbaniak will be the contact person for pastoral care needs. You may contact Kathy either by phone or email (kathyurbaniak@gmail.com or 612-825-0950). Members of the Congregational Care Committee will help provide care to the community, including home and hospital visits as needed and requested. If you would be willing to contact one of our homebound or nursing home residents in the Judson Community during this transition time, please call Kathy to make arrangements.



Inside This Issue

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Moderators Message | 2 |
| The Search Committee | 3 |
| Advent, Christmas, Epiphany | 4 |
| Game Night | 5 |
| Catching Up! | 7 |
| Sara Thomsen | 7 |
| Announcements | 8 |

Executive Council Wants You to Know ~ By Pam Joern, Moderator**For All That Has Been,
Thanks:**

I am writing this the week of Thanksgiving, so let's begin with thanks. Thanks to Jim Kuether (Chair), Melissa Durant, Keith Ford, Anton Hesse, Gayle Foster Lewis, Karla McGray, and Kathy Urbaniak for taking their responsibilities on the Interim Search Committee seriously and delivering to us an excellent and exciting candidate. Thanks to Barb Balcom for serving up a delicious luncheon for the All Church Business Meeting on November 21. Thanks to Kathy and Wayne Urbaniak for putting together the Great Gatherings Silent Auction, a rousing success that brought in over \$3,000. Thanks to Kevin Brown, Leslie Rapp and Jenny Simmonds and the rest of CE for hosting Games Night where a good time was had by all. Thanks to Bob Clague and Bruce Simpson for the installation of pre-school windows. Thanks to Kevin Brown, John De Haan, and Jim Wentink for shepherding us through this pre-Interim interim with meaningful and compelling worship services. Thanks to Ron Cottone for behind the scenes furnace work on the house next door. Thanks to all the liturgists, choir members, Sunday School teachers, leaders of Worship and Wonder, kitchen helpers. Thanks to everyone who shows up on Sunday for Education Hour and Worship. Thanks to Tracy Canfield for making sure the office was covered while she was on her honeymoon and playing catch up on her return. Thanks to Juanita Vargas Cortes for a clean "house." Thanks to Shefali Vyas and Maren Aalgaard for caring for our children. Thanks to anyone who writes a check to Judson Church or drops something in the collection

plate. Thanks to all the committee and Executive Council members for your on-going commitment, prayerful discernment, and hard work. These are only the things I know about and can conjure up at this moment, but for all the things I've either forgotten or go unnoticed, thanks.

Thanks for Judson Church. Thanks for the witness of loving inclusivity and progressive thinking that Judson has sustained in this community for 101 years. Thanks that each of us has a place to call our spiritual home, where we belong and are known and loved. Thanks for the ministry we all carry out from this place to our own families, our workplaces, our neighborhoods, our encounters in the world. Thanks for the love of God, manifested here and everywhere.

For All That Will Be, Yes:

On November 21, we voted to adopt what the Executive Council refers to as a Stub Budget. This is a five-month budget that is, with a few exceptions, an extension of our 2010 Budget prorated for five additional months. We did this to enable us to align our program and budget years so that both will begin June 1, 2011 and end May 31, 2012. You either will receive or have already received a letter asking you to extend your giving through the five months of the Stub Budget.

If you were able to attend the November 21 meeting, you know that the Stub Budget is a deficit budget (see Brad's article), following a deficit budget for 2010. The Finance Committee believes that our reserve funds will enable us to move forward for this limited time, but we do not have sufficient reserves to allow us to pass another deficit budget for June 1, 2011-May 31, 2012. We have some work ahead of us.

I want you to know that the Executive Council spent long, deliberative moments before unanimously agreeing to call an intentional Interim Pastor. We decided that we need someone to help us; someone trained to help us capitalize on our many gifts and deal with the challenges that we are facing. We believe this interim work is an investment in our future. It is our conviction that we have a unique opportunity during this transition time to prepare for new leadership. In the coming months, we'll be talking a lot about forging a vision of who we want to be, what kind of leadership will help us get there, and how we can stabilize our financial base. All of this will inform the Pastoral Search Committee as we look for new leadership.

We love this community, all of us, and we want to make sure we build a foundation that maintains Judson's legacy for modeling the way of Jesus. We ask for your prayerful and full support, your engagement as we talk and pray and work together, your trust that our intentions are honorable and good, and your forgiveness for mishaps and errors along the way.

We are fortunate to have a strong support staff and the leadership of Suzan Ireland, an experienced and specifically trained Interim Pastor throughout this transition. Yet, this is our church, and we cannot expect our staff persons to do our work for us. We can expect good guidance, honesty, and spiritual support. We can trust that God is present among us. We can lean on the great gifts and goodness of the Judson community. We can celebrate, laugh, forgive and love each other. Every day.

What the heck is a Stub Budget, anyway?

By Brad Joern, Finance Chair

At the November 21 business meeting I presented what the Executive Council has referred to as a Stub Budget. Maybe you are wondering where that term came from. When organizations change their fiscal year like we are, there is a short time frame between the end of the old fiscal year and the beginning of the new fiscal year. For Judson, changing from a January 1-December 31 fiscal year to a June 1-May 31 fiscal year creates a 5-month fiscal period that we refer to as the Stub (as in short) period. We need to have a budget for the period January 1, 2011 to May 31, 2011. We are calling it the Stub Budget.

Soon, you will receive a letter soon asking you to continue your current giving (or increase it, if you can) during the Stub period. Please give to the ministry of Judson as you are able.

Given the timing of our annual gift from the Dye and Knopf families (September/October), we always run a significant deficit during the first five months of the year. The Stub Budget will follow that historic pattern, and our reserves will continue to diminish. The size of the projected Stub Budget deficit is affected by the loss of a few pledging units and the current vacancy in the Family Center space. Our financial models indicate it will be imperative for us to adopt a balanced budget for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. This will not be easy to accomplish, and will require prayerful thought and action.

In the Spring of 2011, following adoption of goals for the year, we will enter into a stewardship campaign for the June 1, 2011 to May 31, 2012 fiscal year.

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

By Wayne Urbaniak

Most of the news this month is from the Interim Search Committee; that committee is finishing its search. Meanwhile, the Pastoral Search Committee has begun its work, for the search for a permanent senior pastor. The Pastoral Search Committee had its initial meeting October 11. Each of us shared one thing we are excited about and one worry we have, related to our search committee. We discussed our roles within the committee, and reviewed the church's blessing on our work. We received reports from past search committee chairpersons and members, and from Diane Hooge's exit interview. We considered Biblical verses related to transitions, and we prayed together.

Our second meeting was October 26. We were joined by two additional people: Jim Kuether, chair of the Interim Committee; and--via Skype--Alan Newton, Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches, Rochester/Genesee Region. Alan discussed a number of topics with us: advice for us as a committee; anxiety we may be feeling, as a committee and as a congregation; expectations we should follow in our work together; confidentiality and communication; ways ABC (American Baptist Churches) can help us; timelines and goals; restrictions as to whom we can consider; the interim pastor's role in our search process; and keeping a spiritual perspective. The meeting was very helpful. Afterward, given the input from Alan Newton and Jim Kuether, we agree that we should "slow down." The new Interim Pastor will help our church define its priorities for a new senior pastor, so that our committee can move forward to find someone who best matches those priorities.

Our Pastoral Search Committee's next meeting is taking place at about the time you receive this Messenger": November 30. Read future "Messengers" for monthly updates. Our committee members are: Ross Aalgaard, George Burbie, Mac Chatfield, Cindy Clague, Emily Gustafson, Samantha Hanson, Steve Hirsch, Pam Joern, Monica Lewis, Chris (Pedro) Peterson, Jackie Thureson, and Wayne Urbaniak.



ADVENT, CHRISTMAS, & EPIPHANY AT JUDSON

Sunday, November 28, 11:00 AM – First Sunday of Advent (John the Baptist – Waiting Boldly)

A welcoming service communion, where all are invited to participate

Sunday, December 5, 11:00 AM – Second Sunday of Advent (Zechariah – Waiting Silently)
Featuring music by the University Baptist Bell Choir

Sunday, December 12, 11:00 AM – Third Sunday of Advent (Mary & Elizabeth – Waiting Joyously)

Thursday, December 16, 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM – Advent Day of Prayer and Meditation
Spend some time apart for prayer and reflection in Judson's beautiful candle-lit sanctuary; stay for a few minutes or the entire day – whatever you need in the midst of the hectic pace of life.

Friday, December 17, 7:30 PM – Sara Thomsen Winter Solstice Concert
An evening of soulful vocals with a message of social justice and hope
Tickets are \$15 and will be sold at the door.

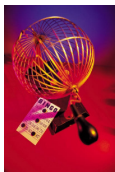
Sunday, December 19 – Fourth Sunday of Advent (Joseph – Waiting Faithfully)
A joyful service of music and celebration to help prepare for Christmas, featuring the Judson brass and choir.



Friday, December 24, 8:30 PM – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 26 – First Sunday of Christmas (Anna & Simeon – Waiting Expectantly)

Sunday, January 2 – Epiphany Sunday (The Magi – Waiting Patiently)
A welcoming service of communion, where all are invited to participate



Game Night at Judson

Bingo, Twister, Hullabaloo, Dominos and Boggle were just a few of the games played at our Judson Intergenerational Game Night and Great Gatherings event on Friday, November 12. Over 60 people filled our Fellowship Hall with energy, laughter and conversation. For two hours, pizza and treats were devoured, door prizes were dispersed and silent auction items and events were bid upon. Participants ranged in age from infancy to, well... much older. It was a wonderful opportunity for our Judson community to connect through fun, food and conversation. "Now THAT is what I call having fun at church!" declared seven-year-old Carter Gustafson on his drive home from the event.

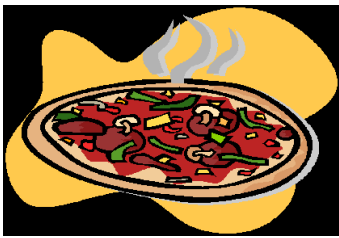
A very special thank you to the Children's Education Committee who hosted the event, as well as the Executive Council for filling our dessert table with goodies. A very huge thanks to Kathy and Wayne Urbaniak who put forth a tremendous amount of work and time to organize and implement the silent auction/Great Gatherings portion of the event. Leave it to the two of them to make a fundraiser so fun.

Looks like Judson may have started a new annual tradition, folks!

- Jenny Simmonds



PIZZA/GAMES/GREAT GATHERINGS AND MORE ~ by Kathy Urbaniak



On Friday, November 12, over 60 people gathered in Fellowship Hall to enjoy an evening planned by the CE (Christian Education) Committee. This was truly an intergenerational event--participants ranged from Beatrix to Fran Nelson. First was a supper of pizza, salads and desserts. Then people played the various games dispersed on all the tables, switching tables periodically to "switch it up" as we enjoyed getting to know one another better. Also, door prizes were awarded throughout the evening.

That same evening was also the debut of the Great Gatherings and More silent auction. From 5:30 on, people signed up for events and bid on services and getaways. The silent auction was also a truly intergenerational event--a few examples were: Cian O'Halloran (and his parents) offered to accompany the winning bidder to a "Time with Children"; Brooks Peterson offered a basement hockey shoot-out at his house; Case, Katherine and Reed Barteling offered an hour of piano background music at a holiday event; and Carter and Charlie Gustafson offered hand-painted mugs. The silent auction resulted in over \$3,000 being raised for Judson. Thank you to the CE Committee for hosting the evening and providing salads and door prizes. Thank you to Executive Council members who brought yummy desserts. And, special thanks to all who participated that night, and all who contributed and bid on "Great Gatherings and More" items.



CHRISTMAS BAGS AND GOODIES FOR HOMEBOUND



The Christian Education Committee and the Congregational Care Committee will join together to

provide decorated Christmas bags and goodies for those in the Judson Community who are not able to get to Sunday services on a regular basis.

On Sunday, December 12, the Judson youth will decorate bags with pictures and stickers. They will also make and decorate napkin rings to go with the festive candy cane printed napkins Margaret Buystedt made for the homebound.

If there is someone you would like to see receive a Christmas care bag, please contact Kathy Urbaniak at 612-825-0950 or email her at kathyurbaniak@gmail.com.

Also, if anyone would like to provide treats or a small gift to put in the bags or help deliver the bags to the homebound, please contact Kathy .



January All Church Business Meeting

We voted last May to align our program and fiscal years. In November, we voted for changes in the constitution and the adoption of a Stub Budget to facilitate this alignment. The primary reason for this shift was so that we could set focused goals together, mount a stewardship campaign toward those goals, and then launch our work in committees to meet those goals. Recognizing that we cannot do everything at once, this will enable us to more effectively marshal our resources. **In January, we will have an All Church Business Meeting where the Executive Council will recommend goals for our work together for the coming year.** We'll all talk it over, and together we'll adopt a focused direction for our community. Don't miss it. (And, there will be a lunch.)

Treasurer's Report

(October 2010)

| | Year End | Year to Date | Year to Date |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | Budget | Actual | Budget |
| | | 2010 | 2010 |
| INCOME | | | |
| Pledges | 217,046 | 165,541 | 180,871 |
| Givers of Record/Loose Offering | 7,400 | 18,639 | 6,167 |
| Other income | *85,100 | 95,115 | 82,625 |
| Adjunct Ministries | 20,800 | 9,625 | 16,400 |
| TOTAL | 330,346 | 288,920 | 286,063 |
| <small>* includes the Dye-Knopf Gift and money from the quarterly fund raisers.</small> | | | |
| EXPENSES | | | |
| Pastoral & Staff | 241,111 | 197,724 | 200,926 |
| Programs | 38,025 | 42,310 | 32,250 |
| Building & Office | 86,100 | 68,820 | 71,750 |
| TOTAL | 365,236 | 308,854 | 304,926 |
| Net income over expenses | (32,140) | (19,934) | (21,154) |



A big thank you to all Judsonites who have helped the Congregational Care Committee the past few months.

Thank you to all who provided meals for Eric and Holley Barreto welcoming new baby, Niko; and David Glanzer and Tracy Vacura welcoming baby, Beatrix.

Also, thank you to those providing meals for Paul Mendez and Ross Aalgaard after Paul had back surgery.

And, special thanks to all who have helped with pastoral care by sending cards, calling and/or visiting our homebound.

We greatly appreciate it.

Congregational Care Committee

Catching Up

by Jane Ann Nelson

I just love catching up! Whether it's finding out what's up with distant friends, clearing the kitchen counter of junk mail and newspapers, getting up to date with email, or paying all the bills, I just love it. How about you?

As we gather on Sundays, we witness the buzz of conversations as we catch up on the joys and challenges in the lives of our Judson community. We love finding out how Trish Magal and Joel Hoefle's work and lives are progressing in Thailand and Myanmar. We delight in the stories of the liturgists each week as we come to understand their lives more deeply, to feel more connected to them, to "catch up" with them. And we've been eagerly waiting to hear who our new interim pastor will be.

As the end of Judson's fiscal year approaches, our community has some catching up to do. As of November 14, our giving to budget was behind by \$33,877.00. While we'll have some savings before the end of December because we will not have a senior pastor for two months, our projected short-fall is about \$18,938.00.

Are you behind on your pledges for the year? If it's within the possibilities of your current finances, I would remind you about the joy you'll feel in catching up! If you happen to be up to date with your pledges and are feeling especially grateful for God's blessings in your life, I invite you to consider making a gift beyond your pledge—to the general budget or designated to one of our "above budget" outreach projects: Joel and Trish's transforming work in Thailand and Myanmar or Hrang Hlei's housing at Luther Seminary as he prepares for transforming work in Myanmar.

As we catch up or go beyond our pledges, we might just experience what Kevin Brown described in his sermon on November 21: "When we respond with gratitude, we open ourselves to the possibility of transformation."

Sara's Back! Eighth year for Judson's winter solstice concert

Sara Thomsen will return to Judson Church this year at the winter solstice—her eighth concert in our sanctuary. Mark your calendars for the evening of Friday, **December 17, 2010** at 7:30 pm. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$15.

Sara is a singer-songwriter with a soulful alto voice, poetic lyrics, and haunting melodies. Her music comes from the heart, and that's where it takes you. With a voice richer than the best mid-west soil, her songs carry you inward and outward—in, to the particulars of your own life, and out into the shared humanity of us all. Her performance style is easygoing and full of humor and depth, capturing the audience's full engagement. Sara's music gently en-folds and unfolds the listener.

Listeners always speak of an evening of late-December calm—one that brings us back to the core of what the coming Christmas season can mean. Sara's concerts are organized in a free-form sort of way, funny, deeply spiritual, and always challenging.

In the tradition of Pete Seeger, Holly Near, and Woody Guthrie, Sara is a weaver of song and community singing. At concerts, conferences, classrooms, workshops, retreats, jails, places of prayer, and lines of protest, to be with Sara is to *want* to sing. Increasing wonder and awareness, deepening spiritual connection, and widening social engagement through song is at the heart of her work. Sara's ability to get people singing magically transforms gatherings into communities empowered with possibility.

Please join us as this amazing woman returns in concert.

Call Beth Waterhouse if you want to help sell tickets or publicize this event. See you there! *[written with the help of Sara's web site, www.sarathomsen.com]*



**THINK THREE
ON SUNDAY
December 19th**

Please bring three (3) items for Joyce Food Shelf to church on Sunday, December 19. Items needed are nonperishable food: boxed cereal, canned fruits and vegetables, soups, tuna fish, Spaghettios, crackers, peanut butter, macaroni & cheese, and rice. Also, personal items needed are: toothpaste, bar soap, shampoo, bathroom tissue, dish soap, and laundry detergent.

Monetary donations are always accepted. Just put the money in an offering envelope and designate that it is for Joyce Food Shelf, and drop in the offering plate. Please put your items in the box in the foyer or in the baskets at the back of the sanctuary.

JUDSON
Street Fest

Street Fest 2011 will be Saturday, May 21. Now going into its 9th year, Judson Street Fest has become a significant and joyful community event. So as you get your 2011 calendars, mark May 21 for "Judson Street Fest."

The Judson



*Knitting
Group*

The December knitting group will meet on Saturday, December 11, at 1 pm at the home of Betty Wedekind. The address for Betty is 9117 Utica Ave S, Bloomington, MN. Her telephone is 952-831-5260.

Margaret Buystedt

The Messenger

Published monthly by
Judson Memorial Baptist Church

John De Haan, Director of Music
jdehaan@aol.com

Kevin Brown, Director of Faith Formation
kbrown@judsonchurch.org

Tracy Canfield, Administrator
info@judsonchurch.org

Office: 612-822-0649
Fax: 612-822-8055
Email: info@judsonchurch.org
Hours: Mon-Thurs, 9 am-5 pm
Friday, 9 am-Noon

Editors: Déadra Moore and this newsletter prepared
by Eileen McLaughlin.

Judson Memorial Baptist Church

4101 Harriet Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55409

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED