

Messenger

Judson Memorial Baptist Church

A Welcoming and Affirming Congregation

May 2011

From the Pastor



REFLECTIONS ON RESURRECTION

"Who is this Christ, who interferes in everything?"

–Rilke

As Easter is the new life given to Christ, so Easter is the new life offered to the church — and eventually to the world. The crisis among us now in our society is that the new life to which we are called, one of generous hospitality, is not like the old life we have lost. The new life — filled with joy and shaped like forgiveness — is one of demanding resolve and fidelity.

–Walter Brueggemann

“Dying and rising has consequences. It does not leave us unchanged.

–Marcus Borg, *The Heart of Christianity*

. . . Be like the fox
who makes more tracks than necessary,
some in the wrong direction.

Practice resurrection.

–*Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front* by Wendell Berry

“Rising is a process of letting go. It is giving in to the process of refinement. It is traveling light enough so that we are small enough to get through whatever cracks we can make in the stones. Some of rising is sneaking. Some is just sitting still—and knowing that God is changing us. We are dying and we are rising. We are going to be different.

–Donna Schaper, senior pastor at Judson Church in NYC,
in *Calmly Plotting the Resurrection*

Keep rising!
Grace and peace,
Suzan

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HELP WANTED by Jane Ann Nelson

Judson has immediate “job openings” for:

VIDEOGRAPHER. To focus and push on/off button on video camera on Sunday mornings to record worship service (to be sent to Trish and Joel in Thailand so they can continue to be part of our worshipping community). Could “work” every Sunday or occasional, scheduled Sundays. Need to fill position immediately. Note: must be able to work at great heights (balcony!). Contact Jackie Thureson: jthureson@comcast.net.

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR, PRIDE FESTIVAL. To contact and schedule 8 to 12 Judson volunteers to staff tent at Pride Festival, June 25-26 in Loring Park. To collaborate with volunteer coordinator from

University Baptist Church. To embody the love of God and the inclusiveness of Judson’s welcome to the LGBT community. Contact Dottie Brown: dotbrown10@yahoo.com, 612-210-3065

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR, LOAVES & FISHES.

After many years of putting together volunteers for serving and clean up at Loaves and Fishes the time has come for me to move on. I am looking for a volunteer to coordinate the six times a year that Judson helps out at Loaves and Fishes. It involves making sure we have people to turn out and help on the designated day. I plan on stepping down after the May 23 date. The next date would be in July. I will be happy to help pass on all the information to the next person. Please consider this great opportunity to help out in the

community. You can contact me at 612-819-7969 or at maceileen@aol.com. Thank you. Eileen McLaughlin

MINISTRY PARTNERS. To participate in the numerous ministries of Judson Church (Christian Education, Outreach, Growth, Property, and more). Contact Jim Kuether: jkuether@comcast.net, 612-827-5390.

All “jobs” are part-time and require no previous experience, only willingness to “Deepen Spiritual Connections” with God, with each other, and with our neighbors near and far. Compensation is the joy of knowing that you have indeed been blessed to be blessing

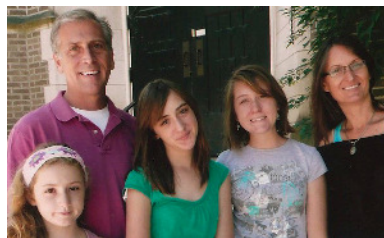
Earthquake Update by Joel Hoefle

Dear Friends at Judson:

Some of you have been asking about the earthquake that took place in Eastern Shan State of Myanmar last month. The quake registered about 7 on the Richter scale (similar to the size of the earthquake that hit Haiti). The epicenter was located 30-40 kms north and a bit east of Tachilek, a large township center across the border from the Thailand town of Mae Sai. That puts Chiang Rai, Thailand where we live, about 90 kms south of the epicenter.

Though we were shaken up, there was no damage to speak of in our neighborhood. It felt and sounded like a truck bearing down on our house, but it was only about 15 seconds long. Fortunately, we are so far inland that there is no risk of another Tsunami here.

In Myanmar, it appears that the greatest damage and loss of life was in and around the town of Ta Lar, where hundreds/thousands of homes and structures collapsed and the greatest number of people were killed



or significantly hurt. One of the biggest tragedies we've heard of was a Lahu Baptist Church that collapsed during the earthquake while a service was going on.

About 300,000 people were significantly affected by this earthquake and right now the post-event danger is with the water supplies which have all shifted with most of the old wells having been contaminated. In addition, the emotional trauma has set this poor ethnic area into a state of true disaster.

The Burmese government has mobilized teams with medicine and food to go to the larger towns. As what might be expected, no foreign workers and few Myanmar support teams have been allowed into these primary sites.

Many of us with International Ministries (our Baptist mission organization within American Baptist Churches USA) work in partnership with the Myanmar Baptist Convention’s social development department. They have gained great experience in relief work and have a team up in the area doing relief work. Our fellow IM Baptist worker Scott Coats has 2 local staff working in Eastern Shan State

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– one of whom is a doctor. We know these people very well. They have been traveling to sites with representatives of other NGOs and have been able to assess and assist with the situation in a really direct way. We'll keep you posted as we get reports back from them.

Our organization in Yangon has been asked to step in and support the post-event trauma and healing work. We have mobilized teams to do this.

Again, thank you for your thoughts and prayers for the people who are suffering in Eastern Shan State. Any financial contributions can be written to Judson Church. We will forward a single donation to ABC-USA International Ministries where it will be directed to our support efforts and/or passed directly to HOPE International.

Missing you all deeply.
Joel, Trish and the girls

THINK THREE SUNDAY:
May 15!

Please bring three (3) items for Joyce Food Shelf on Sunday, May 15. There is a list of items needed on the box in the foyer. They have requested a need for cereal, juice, coffee and tea. Monetary donations are also appreciated. Put the Money in an offering envelope and designate that it is for Joyce Food Shelf. Thank you for your past support and your continued support. THINK THREE SUNDAY, MAY 15.



THINK THREE on **May 15!**

JUDSON AT THE BANDSHELL

May 29, 2011

The good news is that Judson has the honor of opening the season of summer worship services at the Bandshell at Lake Harriet. The not so good news is that it's the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend. But unless things change dramatically between now and then, we won't have to worry about it being too hot! Please put this date on your calendars now and plan to help out. If you'd like to be involved with planning the service, contact Suzan or Kevin.



**Judson's Turn to Help with
Serving at Loaves and Fishes**

Monday, May 23, 2011

5:30 to 6:30 pm



Monday, May 23, is Judson's turn to help serve at Loaves and Fishes. You need to arrive by 5:15 and please bring an apron and a hat if possible. You must be over 16 years old to serve hot food, but children under 16 can help with beverages. You should be done by 6:30 pm. The site is located at: St Stephen's school, 2310 Clinton Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN. This is a wonderful way to help give back to the community. If you can help, please contact Eileen McLaughlin at 612-819-7969 or maceileen@aol.com



Do you play an instrument, sing or have another musical talent? It's time to start thinking about summer music at Judson. There will be a sign up sheet for the Sundays, June through August, on the literature table in the back of the church.

**Stewardship
Thank You**

Thank you—to all of you who turned in your pledge cards on Pledge Sunday, May

1. Your generous contributions to "the work of the church" make possible our community's support of children's spiritual development, youth's growth through mission trips, serving the neighbor near and far, interim leadership, and care for our beautiful building.



If you have not yet done so, there's still time. Please bring or send your pledge card to the church office as soon as you can. As they prepare a budget for the June 1, 2011-May 31, 2012 fiscal year, the Finance Committee will appreciate knowing what you would like to give.

Thank you for all the ways you share the blessings God has given you—in time, talent and finances.

Your Executive Council Wants

You to Know—Pam Joern, Moderator

Mark your calendars for May 15. That is the day of our annual meeting, when we vote on next year's budget and the slate of leaders. This is an important day in the life of our community. The meeting will immediately follow worship, in Fellowship Hall. Child care and a light lunch will be provided.

Mark your calendars for May 15. During worship, a survey will be taken. This is the next step in our interim process. (See Jim's article.)

Mark your calendars for May 15. Kevin Brown graduates from Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis on May 20. We'll celebrate in advance (we think it's safe) on May 15 with a congratulatory cake at the business meeting.

Two highlights I want to mention: the Palm Sunday service was outstanding. First, the children and youth (and a few parents) paraded with palms while the choir processed. We heard the entire Palm Sunday and Passion narratives read from the Gospel of Matthew by several members of our congregation. We learned that Hosanna translates literally as "save us, we pray" during the time with children. Besides the Processional, the choir sang *Pie Jesu* (with two guest soloists who are students of John De Haan) and a rafter-splitting rendition of *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*. John De Haan sang a tender version of *Were You There* from the back of the balcony, his voice soaring out of the darkness. Kevin Brown (on trumpet) and Jim Wentink (on organ) played a fabulous Postlude. Jim also provided delicate, chime-like improvisations to

introduce all the hymns. We are so blessed at Judson to have willing participants—who are also talented.

The second highlight was the sing-through of Randy Baker and Doug Weatherhead's rock opera, *My Green Eyes*, on Saturday, April 16. The original band and most of the original cast were back. Linda Nelson stepped in as a member of Luke's (the Prodigal Son) Band, and the whole thing may have been worth it just to see Linda wearing leopard skin Spandex. (Monica Lewis, one of the originals in Luke's band, wore black lace stockings.) We raised \$906.00 for Judson's budget, but more importantly, we rekindled the amazing spirit that went into the full production in 2006. Both times, we are reminded that creating together is fun, energizing, and spirit-filled.

Thanks to everyone who made both of these events possible, those up front and those behind the scenes. I loved the width of the spectrum—from rock opera to the Passion of Christ—in 24 hours. That our community can embrace both, simultaneously, is what I love about Judson Church.



Knitting Group March 2011



The knitting group will meet on Saturday, May 14, at 1 PM. Sandy Chatfield will be our hostess.

Margaret Buystedt



TRUST PLANT SALE AND SWAP

When: Saturday, May 7,
8:00 am – Noon

Where: Bethlehem Church
Parking Lot, 4100 Lyndale Ave.
S., Minneapolis

Why:

- To "swap" plants for new ones
- To buy homegrown plants
- To get advice from Master Gardeners
- To raise money for TRUST's programs.

TRUST youth will be selling coffee and goodies to raise money for their summer mission trip.

REMINDER FOR SUNDAY MORNINGS

We are a community who loves to socialize, and that's a good thing. Please remember, however, that the choir rehearses during the break between education hour and worship. Some people like to use this time for meditative preparation for worship. Coffee, tea and treats are provided in Fellowship Hall downstairs during this half hour. Also, the Ann Judson Room is available for conversation. Please be respectful of the need for quiet in the sanctuary during this preparation for worship time.

Your Help Needed As We Determine the Future of Judson Church

Sunday, May 15 will mark an important milestone in our interim process. After a successful review of our history last month, we now begin the task of defining a new identity for our future by understanding what it is God is calling us to be and do. There are two components to this task: understanding ourselves, and understanding who our neighbors are.

Developing an understanding of who we are begins on May 15. During worship on that day, we will take the first of several steps to collect information from our members about their desires for Judson's future:

1. During worship on May 15, we will conduct a congregational survey. The survey will be used to establish a preliminary set of needs the congregation has for a senior pastor and to express their desires for Judson's future and the work it is called to do.
2. The results of the survey will be tabulated, analyzed, and the information used as the foundation for a series of small group meetings that all members will be invited to attend. These small group meetings will take place in the fall, allowing time for the content for the sessions to be developed, for small group facilitators to be identified and trained, and to avoid heavy absences due to summer vacations.
3. In the small group sessions, the results of the survey will be discussed, providing everyone an additional opportunity to provide input into what they believe Judson is being called to do and what your hopes are for our community.

All of this information will ultimately be used to help determine the ministries and programs our church will focus on and develop, and to develop a profile of Judson that the Pastoral Search Committee will use as they seek candidates for senior pastors.

In order to better understand who are neighbors are, we will receive demographic information about the neighborhoods within which Judson serves. This information will be provided by an organization that collects and maintains such data specifically for churches going through this process, and will be incorporated into the small group discussions.

We look forward to your participation on May 15 and throughout this process. The Interim Committee will be available to answer questions about the survey, the small groups, and the interim process in general after worship on Sunday, May 1 in the Ann Judson Room.

TREE OF LIFE

Just a reminder that there are forms on the table at the back of the sanctuary to fill out for someone you wish to have on Judson's "Tree of Life." Please fill out the form and place in the box provided. It has been very helpful for the Congregational Care Committee to have more information about each person, and especially who they are related to within the Judson community. Thank you for "Deepening Our Spiritual Connections."

GORDON LEE HAS BEEN MOVED

to the N.C. Little Hospice at 7019 Lynmar Lane, Edina, MN 55435. He and Betty would welcome calls (952-393-2003) and/or short visits

Starfish Ministry

Thank you for your continued support of the Starfish Ministry. We are serving more and more neighbors as the months pass. We have a great success story for one of our moms. She's a single mom with two children who got laid off right before **Christmas**. She had two interviews coming up but needed help with her rent. Due to your generosity, we were able to help. We just heard from her. She got a **JOB!!** She called to thank us for our help and tell us that she was praying for us. Thanks for giving this family the ability to stay in their apartment.



Diane Clark
Starfish Ministry Coordinator



The Gathering, an award winning program coordinated by Lyngblomsten, is a group respite care program for people with memory loss. *Gathering sites have available openings.* Please, let your faith community, neighbors, family and friends know of this opportunity. You can also refer them to <http://www.lyngblomsten.org/services/supportive/gathering>



What is *The Gathering*? *The Gathering* is an enjoyable place for individuals who are experiencing early to mid-stage memory loss to come together for fellowship and stimulating activities while giving respite to caregivers who desire a break. Trained volunteers provide all the activities. *The Gathering* participants and volunteers meet twice a month at an area congregation (see list below). Groups meet from 10 am to 3 pm for a day of fun and companionship. *The Gathering's* Lyngblomsten staff provide the professional support and training. Anyone who is interested in finding out more about *The Gathering*, please call Betsy Hoffman, *The Gathering* Business Specialist, at 651.414.5291.

The Gathering meets at the following sites: (Please, no drop-in visitors for the privacy of those attending.)

Augustana Lutheran Church
1st & 3rd Tuesdays
West St Paul, MN 55118

Centennial United Methodist Church
with St. Timothy Lutheran Church, St. Paul
2nd & 4th Tuesdays
Roseville, MN 55113

Salem Lutheran Church
2nd & 4th Tuesdays
West St Paul, MN 55118

Oak Knoll Lutheran Church
1st & 3rd Thursdays
Minnetonka, MN 55305

1st Presbyterian Church
1st & 3rd Thursdays
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

Calvary Lutheran Church
2nd & 4th Thursdays
Golden Valley, MN 55427

White Bear Lake United Methodist Church
2nd & 4th Thursdays
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
2nd & 4th Thursdays
Minneapolis, MN 55409

**Judsonites volunteer at The Gathering at Bethlehem Church 4100 Lyndale Ave. S. on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month. If you have any questions, please see Jane Ann Nelson, Margaret Mason or Kathy Urbaniak who are monthly volunteers.

STREET FEST SILENT AUCTION

This year's silent auction will have the same wonderful treasures, tickets and gift certificates as in past years. There will be one silent auction from 11 am until 3 pm in the back of the sanctuary. Winners will be able to pick up items they have won beginning at 3:30 pm.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP! Please consider requesting a donation from a local store, restaurant or your place of work. OR, you can contribute to the silent auction by donating a gift card from your favorite store or restaurant. There are letters on the table at the back of the sanctuary. All you have to do is hand the letter to a prospective contributor, and ask them to contact the church or Kathy Urbaniak to make a donation (the church phone number and address, and Kathy's phone number and email address are in the letter). The silent auction is the major profit maker for the Street Fest; please help us make it the best ever! Any questions, contact Kathy Urbaniak, (612-825-0950) or email her at: kathyurbaniak@gmail.com. Thank you so much for your help ensuring that there will be lots of items to bid on at the silent auction.



Many thanks to the Minneapolis Trombone Choir for their generous donation to the Special Music Fund at Judson Church. This year's donation was \$800.

Street Fest Q & A by Wayne Urbaniak

- Q.** So, are we having a Street Fest this year?
A. Yes--on Saturday, May 21, 10:30-4:30, outside and inside Judson Church.
- Q.** Haven't we done this before?
A. Yes--8 times! This is our ninth annual Street Fest.
- Q.** Why do we keep doing it?
A. To build community. To raise some money. To have fun together. And to introduce ourselves to the people in the neighborhood. It's a grand tradition.
- Q.** Isn't it a lot of work?
A. It's work and fun. Everyone pitches in and helps: we go home tired but blessed.
- Q.** What if it's snowing? WCCO says the "possible snow season" goes into May.
A. It won't snow. Past Street Fests have been successful in good weather and bad weather. We move a few things inside if the weather is terrible. But be optimistic: it's going to be a beautiful day.
- I saw the music schedule. It looks good. And I want to bring some kids for all the kid stuff going on.
 Maybe I'll make a day of it. But then we'll get hungry.
- A.** We have food! Mini-donuts, full meal options, and treats

- throughout the day.
- Q.** What treats?
A. Root beer floats, cotton candy, popcorn. This year Youth Ambassadors are taking responsibility for those booths.
- Q.** What's in it for them?
A. Fun. And net profits from those booths will go toward their summer mission trip.
- Q.** That's a great idea. Any other new things this year?
A. The revitalized Washburn High School music program is sending two groups to perform. And Field School is returning--they were with us two years ago.
- Q.** How about the past favorites: Vendors, Plant Sale, Silent Auction, Mouldy Figs, Metropolitan Boys Choir, bagpipes, jazz groups...
A. Check! They will all be happening.
- Q.** OK, I'll be there. What can I do to help?
A. 1. Pass the word--via phone, Facebook, Twitter, Pony Express--any way you can.
 2. Sign up to work a booth; let Keith and Betsy Ford know you're available.
 3. Pray for good weather.
- Q.** When is the Street Fest again?
A. Saturday, May 21, 10:30 - 4:30.



Street Fest

Plant Sale Booth

It has been a cold, late spring, but our plants are slowly peeking out, and now is the perfect time to dig and divide



your perennials. As part of the Street Fest, we will sell these perennial plants dug from our own yards. Do you have plants that are big enough to divide? For each plant you dig, Judson can make about \$5.

Plants sell best if they have labels as to variety and color, and they need to be kept watered and in good condition until the Street Fest on May 21.

If you love plants and want to help man this booth, if you need empty pots, if you need advice or courage to dig, call and I would be glad to help:

Barb Balcom 612-823-4156

ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE FOR MAY 21 STREET FEST

- 10:30 Seward Middle School Jazz Band and Josh's Jazz Combo (outside)
- 11:30 Field School Choirs (singing in the sanctuary)
- 12:30 Field School Rock Band (outside)
- 1:00 Washburn High School Choir (singing in the sanctuary)
- 1:30 Bob Clague on the Bagpipes (wherever he wants to go)
- 2:00 Metropolitan Boys Choir (performing in the sanctuary)
- 2:30 Washburn High School Band (outside)
- 3:30 Mouldy Figs (outside)



JUDSON *Street Fest*

STREET FEST: EXTREMELY INTERGENERATIONAL

We often talk about being "intergenerational" at Judson, and we often do it well--people of all ages spending time and having fun together. One of Judson's wonderful, intergenerational traditions is the Street Fest, where young and old gather together to enjoy the day.

Here are some activities for the young and the young at heart . . .

- * Three giant inflatables, including the double slide
- * Inner-City Tennis Clinic in the morning--outside this year
- * Meals on Wheels Service Project in the afternoon--
package pet food and make artwork for clients (They really appreciate it.)
- * Face-Painting
- * A music schedule which includes performers of all ages
- * Playground outside, Monkey Room inside, and Games
- * Twin Town Guitar's Music Petting Zoo

So be sure to come to the Street Fest. And bring family and friends. And invite others--of all ages--to meet you at the Fest: Saturday, May 21, 10:30-4:30.

The Messenger

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED