

Messenger

Judson Memorial Baptist Church

A Welcoming and Affirming Congregation

September 2011

JUDSON – OUR FUTURE by Gayle Foster Lewis

The next step in the interim process is about to begin.

What: Small group discussions

When: September

Where: Judson Church

Day and time: Groups scheduled Monday – Saturday

How many meetings: Each group will meet once a week for three consecutive weeks, that is, each group has a total of three meetings

What will the meetings cover?

Who are our neighbors?

Who are we?

What is God calling us to be and do?

There will be a structure for each meeting that will include a presentation of the topic for that session, some critical questions to discuss, and time for general comments and discussion.

Why are we having these meetings?

This is your opportunity to have input into the future direction of Judson Church. The outcome of these discussions will help determine the ministries and programs our church will focus on and will provide a profile of Judson for the Pastoral Search Committee to use as they seek candidates for a senior pastor.

YOUR PARTICIPATION IS CRITICAL. So please sign up for a group on the sheets that are available in the back of the sanctuary. We look forward to your attending.

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Rally Sunday Potluck Sept. 11

You say....RALLY

We say....SUNDAY

RALLY SUNDAY, RALLY SUNDAY!

Following the services on Sunday, September 11th we will celebrate Rally Sunday Pot Luck style! After Sunday School and Adult Ed. we will gather in Fellowship Hall to celebrate the beginning of the year. Please bring a dish to share. There are refrigerators, ovens and outlets available for you to use. Beverages will be provided.

It Gets Better From Jim Kuether

I consider myself lucky. I managed to escape my childhood relatively unscathed by the trauma of bullying. I was picked on a bit, but somehow, I was able to keep a low-enough profile and “fly under the radar” effectively enough to avoid being a target. Not that it wasn’t a lot of work and came easily...as I grew and recognized the threat, I became a master of studying my surroundings, looking far enough ahead on the path or the street or the school hall to see a potential threat and alter my course. From as early as I can remember, I operated in stealth mode.

You see, I knew I was different, and somehow, innately, knew that meant I wore a bull’s-eye. Early on I couldn’t put the term “gay” or “homosexual” to it, but I knew there was something about me that didn’t quite mesh with the world I saw on TV or in the movies. Later, of course, I figured out what it was that made me different, and then - well, all I can say is thank God for those years of training. The stealth went into overdrive and stayed on for a long, long time.

And even with that, I considered suicide frequently. Came close to acting on it a couple times too. You see the thought of living a life burdened with being gay was just...too much. Always being the target, living life in the shadows or closeted and always fearful. Luckily, I never went through with it. Luckily I’m alive, and happier than I ever thought possible in a loving, caring relationship with people around me for which my sexual identity is simply not an issue.

A lot of youth aren’t as lucky. They either don’t have the stealth or, more appropriately, choose not to use it. They be themselves. And many pay a dear price.

The issue of LGBT bullying has gotten a fair amount of press in the past couple of years, in no small part due to the abhorrent policies of the Anoka/Hennepin School District. LGBT youth are four times more likely to attempt suicide than their heterosexual peers, and for every completed suicide by a LGBT youth, it is estimated there are 100 – 200 attempts. But I think it’s also important to point out that the bullying and ostracism that take place is not just to LGBT youth, but also to those youth that are straight supporters of their LGBT peers, and those youth that choose to act differently than the majority of their counterparts.

In September 2010, syndicated columnist and author Dan Savage created a You Tube video with his partner Terry to inspire hope for young people facing harassment. In response to a number of students taking their own lives after being bullied in school, they wanted to create a personal way for supporters everywhere to tell LGBT youth that, yes, it does indeed get better.

Since then, the It Gets Better Project has turned into a worldwide movement, inspiring over 10,000 user-created videos viewed over 35 million times. The website www.itgetsbetter.org is a place where young people who are lesbian, gay, bi, trans or are simply sensitive to LGBT issues, can see how love and happiness can be a reality in their future. It’s a place where straight allies can visit and support their friends and family members. It’s a place where people can share their stories, take the It Gets Better pledge, watch videos of love and support, and seek help through the Trevor Project and GLSEN.

And now you have a chance to be part of the movement.

On August 14th, we announced the Judson It Gets Better project. This is an opportunity for members and friends of Judson to record their own message of support to LGBT youth. We’re also looking for people to help

Continued on page 3

Articles for the next issue of the Judson Messenger can be submitted via email to

judsonmessenger@yahoo.com. The deadline is the 20th of each month.

For hardcopy submissions see any editor listed on the address page.



Fran Nelson sends her profound thanks to the Judsonites who sent cards and messages and made personal calls during her recent 10-day hospitalization. A case of cellulitis has kept Fran out of circulation, but she is recovering nicely at her new apartment. Special thanks to Suzan Ireland, Kathy Urbaniak and Barb Balcom for hospital calls and to Barb for planting and caring for Fran's garden plot with its Christmas-tree size tomato plant at Vernon Terrace.

It Gets Better Continued from page 2

develop exactly what our video will look like and include. On the first day of the announcement, we had 11 people sign up, which is FANTASTIC! But we want so many more.

We need your voices. As a gay man, I can tell you that the testimonials of straight people, families, older persons, and youth are as important as the messages recorded by LGBT men, women and families. I can't begin to express what it would have meant to me to have heard the thoughts people are expressing through this project. If we can prevent one suicide or give one troubled youth comfort, it will have been worth it.

As an open and affirming church, and as a community dedicated to social justice causes, we owe it to ourselves to participate in this important program. If you ever had a moment when you were desperate, and either had someone, or wished that someone had told you that it would get better, then you owe it to yourself to participate.

To sign up, look for the sheets at the back of the sanctuary after worship, or contact Rev. Ross Aalgaard (revross@mninter.net) or Jim Kuether (jkuether@comcast.net) to sign up or with any questions. Every voice matters. Every voice will be heard.

Liturgist Reflections in the Life of Judson by Déadra Moore

One of the components of Judson's worship services is the Liturgist Reflections. This has been a regular thing since before I began attending in 1999, so I am not sure how long it has been going on. I do know that Diane used to call and ask various persons to be the liturgist on particular Sundays, and I know that over the years some have volunteered. This summer there has been a sign-up sheet for persons to volunteer this way. Whatever the original reasoning was behind offering this opportunity to the lay members of the congregation, I am certain that this feature has more than met the vision. Liturgist reflections provide a vehicle of spiritual growth and a sense of community for both the individual offering the reflections and for the congregation as a whole.

There is something powerful and cathartic for an individual to take time to reflect upon where they are at along the spiritual journey and then to share it with a loving, caring community. It is one way to take a look at what has gone before, where one is now, and where one might be heading. The community at large is able to hear and enter into the individual's story; becoming more aware that we are made up of intertwining stories and that none of us is alone on our path. Listening to each others' stories is one way for us to learn who we are as a community.

I encourage anyone who has ever wondered what it might be like to give a reflection to step right up. Please do share your story with the Judson community. If you are waiting to be asked, consider this it!

INTERESTED IN ADULT EDUCATION AT JUDSON?

If so, there are plenty of opportunities for you to participate or help out. Beginning September 11, Adult Forum will meet each Sunday at 11:00 AM in Ann Judson Room. This year, Adult Forum will provide opportunities to explore the theme, "Embracing Our Faith, Engaging Our World." Through a variety of discussion formats, practice sessions, panel discussions, and guest speakers, we will invite the adults at Judson to better understand the rich traditions that have nurtured our individual and collective faith and how this understanding can challenge, equip, and empower us to better engage the work for justice in our world. We would love to have you take part in these interesting and diverse conversations.

If you would like to help plan or facilitate some of the Adult Forum sessions, we would welcome your gifts. Please contact Kevin Brown or Gayle Lewis for more information or to volunteer.

On to the next step... Déadra Moore

It is with a very mixed bag of feelings that I inform everyone that I will be missing at Judson for while as I enter into my field internship requirement at United Seminary. The good news is that I will be the next intern at University Baptist. The sad part is that I will need to immerse myself there for the next nine months (September 1 - May 20) and will not be able to participate at Judson during that time. I will miss you all and do my best to stay in touch. But be warned...I will be back!

TRUST Youth Trip to Washington, D. C.

A Week of Faith and Advocacy

Last fall, the youth ministers of TRUST were deeply concerned about the bullying/suicides that were happening around the country and in our own backyard. As we discussed how to deal with this difficult issue, we decided that we wanted to help our church youth be able to find their “voices”. We wanted them to be able to speak up against or for things in which they strongly believed and how does their faith challenge them to do this.

“...one memorable point for me was the Lincoln Memorial, and looking up at that great statue of the president himself. It really struck me how great an advocate this man was.”

-Carly Goodrich, Lynnhurst UCC

“I remember how tons of innocent people died in the Holocaust because of the bystanders...they could have stood up and helped the victims stay safe.”

-Ben Gustafson, Judson

From this thought grew a trip to Washington, DC which included five TRUST congregations and 34 youth. St. Johns Lutheran, Linden Hills UCC, Judson Memorial Baptist, Lynnhurst UCC and Lutheran Church of Christ the Redeemer.

“During this trip to DC, I learned much about advocacy and how it effects us as a society. I will take the advocacy skills that I leared here and apply them to my everyday life...”

-Nathaniel Koch, LCCR

“If you do not speak up then the problem will continue and people’s lives could end up damaged. The Holocaust is an example of this. At the Museum, I thought about how horrible it all was and how very few people stood up against it.”

-Madison Clague, Judson

Each participating youth chose one of the following topics (economic justice, GLBT/anti-bullying, environmental justice and humanitarian aid) to help prepare and give a presentation to church lobbyists and our elected officials, come up with a plan of action they wished to have done. Each group consisted of 8 – 10 youth who have worked on this since last spring. In addition to the presentations, other aspects of the week revolved around advocacy topics (Holocaust Museum, Frederick Douglass’ home, and many memorials).

“A memorable point in this year’s mission trip...were meeting and presenting to people in the federal government and talking to our church lobbyists about our topics. They really helped me learn about government and how if you want something done, you just have to agitate.”

-Jack Hurbanis, St. John’s Lutheran

“I learned that to be an advocate, you can’t be afraid to speak your mind to other people. Also, I learned you have to really believe in the topic you are talking about to really become a great advocate.”

-Lulu Johnson, Judson Baptist

Our group was represented by our four high school graduates as they were honored to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. They were Alex Hilden (LCCR), Maren Aalgaard and Anton Hesse (Judson) and David Smith (Lynnhurst UCC).

“My two most memorable points of the mission trip were the thought of seeing a representative of MN in person and the huge sense of accomplishment after I told my story to Congressman Ellison’s staff.”

-Anders Nelson, Linden Hills UCC

“I loved exploring my justice topic...I learned so many new facts about homelessness and hunger. I was really proud of the people who did present the topic for my group.”

-George Marshall, Linden Hills UCC

Another aspect of our trip was to study different faith backgrounds. On Friday evening we attended a Shabbat service at Temple Sinai, participated in the Eucharist service Sunday at the National Cathedral and met with three Islamic groups. On Thursday evening we ventured to Lutheran Church of the Reformation to visit with a panel of “regular” government workers on how their faith leads them in their daily work lives.

Youth Trip continued

“The people who talked about faith in their work were really cool about how they incorporate faith in their everyday workday. Lots of us do it without realizing.”

-Sam Clague, Judson

The week was everything we had hoped for. The youth eloquently spoke their minds and problem solved each of these justice issues. The congressional staffers and denominational lobbying groups spoke very highly of the excellent work the TRUST Youth did and that they were one of the best prepared youth groups ever to present.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this trip possible. We could not have done this without you. We invite you to hear more about the trip from the youth at a luncheon on Sunday, September 18, 12:30 pm, at St. John’s Lutheran Church.

“The ‘free time’ actually allowed us to talk more to each other, both about serious issues surrounding faith and also, just fun topics.”

-Danny Peterson, Linden Hills UCC

“Not to be cliché, but I think the most fun part of this trip was making friends with each other.”

-Joey Sogard, Linden Hills UCC

LUNCHEON FOR SUPPORTERS OF TRUST YOUTH

Sunday, September 18, 12:30 PM

St. Johns Lutheran Church (4842 Nicolett Avenue)

Everyone is invited to a luncheon to hear stories from TRUST Youth about their recent Faith & Advocacy trip to Washington, D. C. Enjoy some great food, good company, and learn about all our youth saw and experienced. You won’t want to miss this opportunity. We hope to see you there!

COMMEMORATE THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF SEPT. 11TH

“Pray for peace,
Work for justice,
Unite in hope”

September 11, 2011 marks the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. In observance of that day a coalition of faith organizations is presenting a community observance which will honor the ideals of freedom and democracy, lament loss, offer healing, and create hope and inspiration for great cooperation in our diverse state and nation.

**The public ceremony will take place on Sunday, September 11, 2011
from 2:00 – 4:00 in the afternoon on the Capitol Mall in St. Paul.**

The ceremony will feature an unprecedented coalition of religious, civic and public officials, musicians and artists from across Minnesota. It is organized by the Minnesota Council of Churches, the Commission on Ecumenism and Interreligious Affairs of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, the Downtown Minneapolis Interfaith Association, Interfaith Youth Leadership Coalition, Islamic Community Center of Minnesota/Masjid Al-Iman, Islamic Resource Group, Jewish Community Relations Council of Minneapolis and the Dakotas, Minneapolis Area Interfaith Initiative, Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Team, Saint Paul Area Council of Churches, Saint Paul Interfaith Network, Spirit in the House, State Chaplain’s office, Minnesota Army National Guard, United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, and the Unitarian Universalist Association, Prairie Star District.



Choir rehearsal will start again on Wednesday, September 7, 2011. We are always looking for more singers to join us. You can join for a few months or for the year (sep-May). Rehearsals run from 7 pm to 8:30 pm on Wednesday evenings. We will be singing on September 11 (Rally Sunday). We have a short warm-up/rehearsal on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am. Hope to see you there.

John De Haan, Music Director

CHURCH WIDE PROPERTY REPAIR, RENEWAL & IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN

The Property Committee will be coordinating its annual fall series of maintenance, clean up and building and grounds restoration projects over a three day period from September 8 – September 10.

In light of the church's current budget challenges, it is most important and most urgent that our faith community at large take "***an all hands on deck***" approach to getting both our physical and spiritual dwellings in order. In pursuit of that goal, we are summoning all active members of Judson to ***SIGN UP, SHOW UP and HELP OUT*** on one or more of the designated project work days. Your talents and skills will be well utilized and greatly appreciated as we tackle the wide array of cleaning, repairing and building restoration tasks, as well as refreshing, enhancing and improving the overall appearance of our sanctuary, classrooms, fellowship hall and overall outside landscape and grounds.

Not available or not able to help out on one of the designated work days, you say. Not a problem... Contact George Burbie [georgeburbie@comcast.net; phone: 651-688-2338] or Ron Cottone [rcottone@tcq.net; phone: 612-861-2674] to make arrangements to work on one or more critically important tasks on your own time schedule and terms within the next three weeks. Following is a master list of the major projects that the property committee hopes to get completed before the winter season begins.

In 2010 the hearts, faces and spirits of many of Judson's children, youth and their adult leaders were greatly uplifted when they returned from their summertime break to a warm, inviting newly refurbished Worship & Wonder center. Wouldn't it be terrific for our faith community as a whole if our buildings and grounds evoked similar feelings and reactions on Rally Sunday when we return from this year's summer hiatus? Help to make this possibility a living reality by coming together and combining our collective skills and talents to get our physical facilities in good working order. Many hands make for light work!

JUDSON'S REGULAR PROPERTY MAINTAINANCE, REPAIR & IMPROVENTS:

2011 PROJECT LIST

2011 Priority Maintenance and Repair Issues

- Replace leaky, worn out windows in preschool classrooms
- Repair or replace broken tiles; strip, wax and seal tile flooring in basement hall way and Fellowship Hall
- Check and clean all kitchen appliances and facilities thoroughly
- Shampoo carpeting and rugs in the sanctuary, class rooms, stairs and hall ways
- Investigate the cause(s) of recent leaks in Sanctuary ceiling and bath rooms on the basement level and make necessary repairs
- Explore feasibility of making basement level fully accessible
- Clean all lighting fixtures and replace burned out light bulbs as needed
- Prepare rental property next door to the church for occupancy by new tenants in early September (i.e., make necessary repairs, clean and paint interior walls, inspect and service all appliances, shampoo carpeting, etc...)
- Spruce up church lawn, flower beds and freshen up landscape
- Remove prairie grass from rental property yard and re-seed or sod cleared area with an appropriate perennial grass lawn.

JUDSON'S MAJOR LONG TERM PROPERTY MAINTAINCE, REPAIR & IMPROVENTS: MASTER PROJECT LIST

Building Systems

Heating Ventilation and Cooling (HVAC) System Repair / Upgrade

- Replace / upgrade non-functional furnace in the Harriet Ave. arcade area;
- Replace the heat pump in the Music Library

Electrical

- Upgrade electrical outlets in Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall to meet current building codes

Exterior Surfaces & Trim

- Some areas of the brick exterior need to be tuck pointed
- Repair, caulking, sealing & painting of several deteriorated window sills is long overdue
- Crack in the entry steps (esp. on the 41st Street entry) need to be filled and caulked
- Repair gutters and down spouts; clear window wells and

Plumbing

- Repair and maintain water supply lines and tank valves in bath rooms; repair / replace worn out kitchen sink faucets
- Service and maintain sink drains and sewer lines

Roof

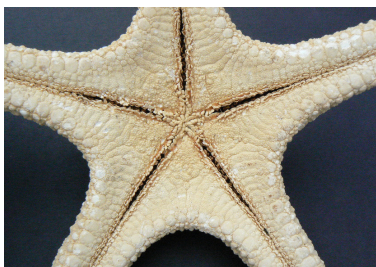
- Inspect all section and levels of both the pitched and flat roofs at least annually
- Clear debris and other foreign materials from the roof to prevent clogged gutters and undesired water dams which tend to cause leaks in the north Sanctuary alcove areas.

Windows

- Many of the stained glass windows in the Sanctuary and Worship & Wonder Center are in very poor condition. Repair or replacement of at least 8 stained glass windows needs to be completed as soon as possible.

Rental Property

- Inspect, repair / service furnace unit
- Renovate lawn and garden area
- Inspect, repair and keep property in sound condition to minimize costly unplanned expenses and maximize revenue from rental income.



Thank you again for your generous contributions to our Starfish Ministry. This month we've been helping folks with their utility bills. The utility companies are busy collecting past due balances before the moratorium starts in the fall when they won't be able to disconnect customers.

Once again, one big problem we deal with is how to raise funds. We are working on an idea for a fundraiser for the fall. One idea we've been toying with is a harvest pie and ice cream social with an old fashioned sing-a-long of old favorite hymns. I think it sounds like fun!

Thank you for your continued prayers. We pray for you too!

Diane Clark

Starfish Ministry Coordinator



Sunday morning schedule change

At the July 19 Executive Council meeting we approved to change the order of the Sunday Service starting on September 11 (Rally Sunday). The Worship Service will be from 9:30-10:30am, with coffee hour after worship (10:30-11am), and Sunday School and Adult Education from 11am-noon. Note that the hours have not changed, just the order of programming.

The Executive Council decided to make the change for a few reasons.

- 1) A number of members in the congregation (including those with young children) have mentioned that they did not like having worship at the end of our Sunday schedule.
- 2) The previous schedule made coffee hour seem a little out of place. For example, some think we are missing an opportunity by not being able to invite newcomers to coffee hour after our worship service.
- 3) We decided that it would be healthy to try this reversed schedule and assess how well it works compared to the previous schedule.
- 4) We heard from some parents that the order of the programming didn't matter as much; the issue was getting done by noon. This change in the order of the schedule should not impact when Sunday programming ends.

We will give this new order a try for a year and then assess which order seems to work best.

On behalf of the Executive Council,
Joel Frederickson

The Messenger

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