



STORM Camp goes missional once again

In 1990, before the word “missional” was part of the church’s vernacular, a small band of entrepreneurs from the United Methodist churches in Menahga, Sebeka, and Hubbard were determined to reach out to Wadena and Hubbard counties by “serving Jesus by serving others.” This passion was ignited when the charge youth group took a mission trip to Mountain T.O.P. (also known as the Tennessee Outreach Project).

As three adults drove separate vans full of youth and tools back to Minnesota when it was over, vision was cast over CB radios: “Wadena County is one of the six poorest counties in the state.” “We have Northern Pines Camp in our backyard.” “We have the Annual Conference to draw youth and adults to serve.”

The first STORM Camp (Service to Others in Relational Ministry) in 1991 attracted 35 students and 12 adults from six congregations, and they collectively served 25 families.

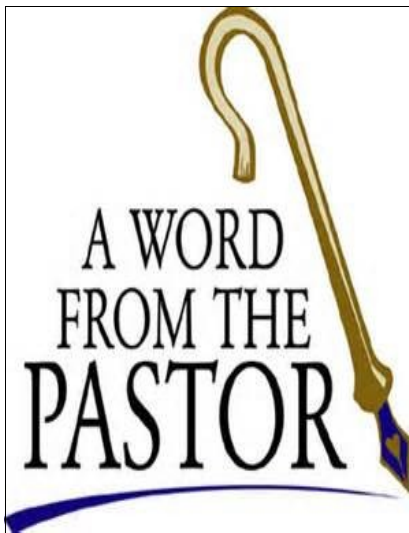
After STORM Camp at Northern Pines last year, a decision was made to “export” STORM week to a local church in 2013 so that the missional vision of STORM could be experienced in a neighborhood, local church setting—that is, to be a missional model for what a local church could do on a regular basis.

Pastor Brown had previously served Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church in Faribault for two years. He knew that the community had many social service groups seeking to meet the needs of this growing community. Relational connections through the Rotary Club, the people of Fourth Avenue UMC, and current Fourth Avenue UMC Pastor Dennis Tamke sealed the deal for going to Faribault. Rice County’s population exceeds 60,000 and its poverty rate is approaching 12 percent, so organizers knew there would be much work to do there.

The STORM Camp team was on board with the move. Fourth Avenue UMC gave permission for STORM to storm the building the last week of July of this year. Jobs were filled thanks to an ad in the local paper and flyers posted around town and in local churches. Campers from youth groups and individual students registered for camp. Prayers were prayed. Three pickups and a trailer of tools were moved from Park Rapids to Faribault. Air mattresses were purchased. Sunday School rooms were cleaned and made ready for campers. Food was purchased from local stores. Accounts at lumber yards and hardware stores were set up.

On July 21, 63 students and 12 adult drivers from 14 congregations arrived in Faribault. The STORM Camp Band, led by Pastor Paul Baudhuin, was fired up and ready. Seventy families in the surrounding community had contacted STORM organizers about work that needed to be done—work ranging from painting and yard work to staining decks. Biblical messages of hope had been prepared. Fourth Avenue UMC had secured commitments from more than 50 members who would help with tools, serving meals, and preparing food.

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I was reading an interesting article about What Young People and the church and what they are looking for from the Church. I share a few insights I gleaned from the article and I hope you will appreciate it as well.

1. Life is complicated and the Church Better Be Honest About It.

Today's Youth have grown up in a culture and among peers who are often neutral or resistant to the gospel. And life feels accelerated compared with 15 years ago—the ubiquity of information makes it harder for many to find meaning in institutions that feel out of step with the times. Many often describe church, for instance, as 'not relevant' or say that attending worship services 'feels like a boring duty.'

“Furthermore, many young Americans say life seems complicated—that it's hard to know how to live with the onslaught of information, worldviews and options they are faced with every day. One of the specific criticisms young adults frequently make about Christianity is that it does not offer deep, thoughtful or challenging answers to life in a complex culture.”

What they do not want is a warmed over version of Saturday night on Sunday morning and it does little to connect them to God and it does even less to address the complicated life situation and question of young adults.

2. They are looking for people to Live the Faith – vocational Discipleship

If you want to connect with young people, find ways to talk about calling in real and practical ways. Challenge people to discern where God might be calling them. Lord knows we need more conversations about how life is more than just the paycheck you earn or the bills you pay. Young people are especially searching for meaning as they embark on what will become the rest of their adulthood. What better time to teach about God's unique calling in our lives!

3. The Need to Connect People With God

Before we worry about paying our bills, filling our buildings, and surviving for another generation, we need to remember the basic task of the Church — connecting people with God. And yes, this comes even before “making disciples.” Remember, if young people show up at your church the odds are they're looking for something, a connection of some sorts. They're a minority and most of their friends are probably at home on Sunday mornings. It's not the norm for young people to come to church. So when they do, what are we doing to connect them with the great and wonderful mystery of God? And second, how are we helping them take that connection into their daily lives so that Sunday morning is more than just a spiritual Xanax?

It is something to think about for their future and for ours.

Pastor Houck

Lord of The Dance

I cannot carry a tune in a bucket! I have been told by many that I have no rhythm. When we clap at church, I always watch the leader to make sure I clap at the right time. So why in heaven's name would I pick *Lord of the Dance* as my favorite hymn? It's simple – God has a sense of humor! He made me the way I am. And even though I'll never be on America's Got Talent, to God, I can sing like Bing Crosby and dance like Fred Astaire. (Am I dating myself?) This simple song fills me with such hope and assures me that Christ is in control and has a plan for my life. "I danced in the morning when the world was begun." He danced at the creation because he saw the world his father created was good. He came to earth and danced for everyone during his ministry: "I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee." He danced for all of us, but some chose not to join his dance: "But they would not dance and they would not follow me." But those who did dance with him will live forever: "They came to me and the dance went on." Even though he was beaten and whipped and hung on a cross to die, he overcame death and his kingdom will last forever: "I am the life that will never, never die..."

This is a wonderful promise: "I'll live in you if you live in me..." so, sing and dance wherever you may be – and let Christ be in control of your life!

By *Asbury Web Ministry*



Storm-continued from page 2

By July 27, 70 families in Rice County had received the help they sought. The whole community knew that STORM was in town, partnering with Fourth Avenue UMC and "serving Jesus by serving others." All 63 student participants discovered that serving others can be fun and is the way of Jesus. They also learned firsthand that they have a community of supporters who will help them get through difficult times in life—and that God will always love them and be with them. Prayers were answered.

This is a typical evaluation that STORM organizers receive from the people it serves: "I wasn't sure what to expect when the students arrived. I showed them what I wanted done and they immediately got to work and accomplished more than I expected. I am very pleased with their service. They are a great group of

young people who blessed me immensely."

And here are a few comments from campers:

"I loved it so much. I saw many old friends and made new ones. I learned that serving others makes me feel really accomplished."

"I had an awesome time at camp making new friends, connecting with my [team in mission] group, praising God through service and worship. I learned a lot about hope and what the Bible has to say about it."

"It was amazing, we had an awesome time...I loved every moment of camp. I learned that you can have hope for other people 'serving Jesus by serving others.'"

STORM expects to be back in Fari-bault next year and is limited to 90 students. Organizers would love to partner with new youth groups, even ones that include just one or two students. They are also considering expanding STORM to another local church or two during a different week of the summer. If you are interested in becoming more missional in your community, contact Pastor Brown at :

davidebrown55@yahoo.com.

Hope is looking for a new mission. Would this be a good place to start? Share your thoughts with tPastor Dana or a member or the Council.

Lord, guide us in your gentle mercy, for left to ourselves we cannot do your will. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. AMEN

Hope's Happenings

Faribault's 23rd annual CROP Walk will be held on Saturday, October 5. Registration will be at 8:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of Our Merciful Savior and the WALK will start at 9:00. If you still wish to participate by walking or giving the envelopes are available at the time of registration at the Cathedral.



UMW October 5th meeting will be held at the Sweet Shop. Meeting time is 9:30.

All women of the church are invited to join us. Hope to see you there.



Faribault's Christian Women's Connection will hold a luncheon at noon on Tuesday, October 8, at the Faribault Moose Lodge, 1810 Fourth St. NW. The special feature and speaker will be Anne Henzlik. The cancer survivor tells how she found a way out of a "no way" situation. The Group is open to all women and no membership or dues are required. Call 334-7481 for reservations to the luncheon.

"Rice County Food Shelf "Food of the Month

October—Canned fruit and fruit juice

November— Canned vegetables

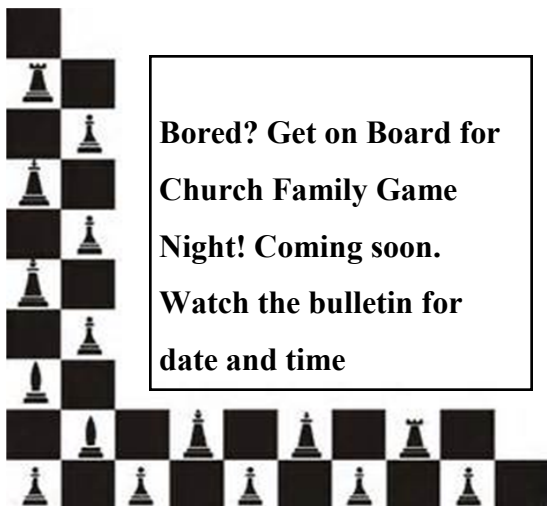
December-Rice



Looking Ahead

The Charge Conference will be held as a cluster (with 5 other churches) in Owatonna at the United Methodist Church, Thursday November 7th from 7-8 pm.

Bored? Get on Board for Church Family Game Night! Coming soon. Watch the bulletin for date and time



When you are going through something hard and wonder

where *God* is

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remember the teacher is always quiet during a test.

Hope Church Council Meeting Minutes from September 4th, 2013; 7 PM

Present: Harold & Carole Schneider, Bev Witt, Rosemarie, Marraccini, Carolyn Hanson, Carol White, Pastor Dana Houck

Acceptance of Minutes:

Bev made a motion to accept the minutes from July 3rd, 2013. Carole seconded. Motion carried.

Finance Report: Report made by Carol White.

Hope Church Checking Account balance as of Sept. 1st, 2013 is \$1,153.82

Apportionments to be paid in 2013 \$9,194.00. As of Sept. 1st, 2013 \$1,961.00 has been paid out. Balance to be paid is \$7,233.00. FOCUS Dollars paid out is \$7,905.00.

Building Maintenance Fund Balance is \$10,126.12 Seeds of Hope Gifting to date is \$3,850.00.

Missions: Flood Kits - \$176.00; Love Offering - \$380.00; Sunday School - \$100.00; Basic Blessings - \$216.00; Prom Dress Donation - \$30.00.

Pastor's Report:

After the Daycare closed things changed quickly. There may need to be some grieving time. Now we need to take some time to take a breather and see what direction the church will be going in the future.

The Chanhassen Dinner Theater experience with the Youth Group went very well. The Twins game trip went well.

One possible use of the space could be home - schoolers. Krista Ahlmann suggested we could still use the name "Seeds of Hope", but it wouldn't have to be the Daycare.

Old Business:

Materials for the roof have been purchased. Plans to do the roof ridge will be soon.

Septic system update is finished. We shouldn't grow anything on the mound.

First English Church will use the old copier. The Annual Picnic will need to be discussed more. UMW will take care of the beverages. The Bishop will attend the picnic. The UCC head person will be attending also. Service at 10:00 AM and the food will be served from 11:30 – 1:00.

The men's room light fixture is working again.

"Movie Night" will start up again on the 4th Wednesdays of the month.

Snowplowing will need to be set up with Glende's Excavating again. Mel will look into.

Mel will check into Reynold's about the parking lot too.

can put their name on this list. If there are duplicates of items wanted, the church will keep the nicest ones. We will be keeping only one fenced in area. The items left over will be put on an auction/consignment site to be dispersed. Harold made a motion to have the Council disperse of Seeds

New Business:

The new dishwasher is installed and paid for.

Daycare – There has been a wish list started if the parents want some item's they would like to buy they can put their name on this list. If there are duplicates of items wanted, the church will keep the nicest ones. We will be keeping only one fenced in area. The items left over will be put on an auction/consignment site to be dispersed. Harold made a motion to have the Council disperse of Seeds of Hope Daycare property and items as they see fit. Carole seconded. Motion carried. There are outstanding payments from parents needed to be paid the daycare yet. Reese & Winter will send out W2 info and will do tax prep. There are outstanding bills that must be paid by the daycare yet. The amount estimated needed to cover these expenses is \$4,300.00. Bev made a motion to borrow \$4,300.00 from Hope Church Building Maintenance Fund to cover these expenses which will be paid back from Seeds of Hope Daycare's income from child care owed and selling of property and items left in the daycare. Rosemarie seconded. Motion carried. Insurance cost will be a refund possibility. Mary will see that the daycare's phone is disconnected. Carolyn will talk to Eric to make the change of information on the web site. The ad in the newspaper will need to be changed, etc.

Could use the space for a community garden, gatherings, wedding receptions, etc.

Still would like to look into apple wood chip selling.

Would like to see the water heaters replaced as soon as possible. Have one bid so far from Jim Keilen Plumbing & Heating for \$1,750.00 - \$1,800.00. Will look into getting two more bids for replacing water heaters. Carolyn will ask her nephew about a bid from Northfield Plumbing. Ask about going with a tankless water heater too.

Tamara Cross will be having a wedding here the 5th of Oct. Carolyn will mail a form out to her.

Mail will need to be picked up. The Pastor will bring it in on Weds. Carolyn on Saturdays. Maybe Mary and/or Mel on Thurs?

Deliveries will have to be planned as there won't be anyone here during the week.

There are some tables which need to be replaced. Mel and Carolyn will look into this.

Carolyn would like to see if Twiehoff's will let up put up a signage for our church on their property.

They didn't say no, but want to know more details. We should get the specifics and approach them again.

Adjournment:

Harold made a motion to adjourn. Rosemarie seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully,

Carol White

Secretary

Hope Church Council Meeting Minutes from Sept. 22nd, 2013; 10:30 AM

Present: Mel Sanborn, Bev Witt, Carol White, Pastor Dana Houck, Judy Lee

New Business:

Pastor Dana said a Boy Scout group would like to use the church once a month. We all agreed this should be made possible. Mel made a motion to let the Boy Scout group use the church once a month for their meetings. Judy seconded. Motion carried.

Also, the church will need to be re-keyed soon. The cost will be around \$250.00. Mel made a motion to have the outside locks and any interior doors that needed to be re-keyed be done. Judy seconded. Motion carried.

Mel called Glende's Excavating and set up a snowplowing plan for this season. Cost will be \$65.00/ per time and \$50.00 for sanding. Will plow and/or sand Saturday nights/ Sunday mornings. Will shovel front walk. Will also plow if needed for funerals/ weddings/other occasions. We will need to call ahead.

It was suggested numbers for services needed be posted by the mailbox.

Also, a good idea to post schedule for Scouts, Minnesota Nice, and other groups as they come up so no overlapping of space will occur.

Respectfully,

Carol White

Cash Flow for August 2013

<u>IN</u>	<u>OUT</u>	<u>Overall Total</u>
\$13,266.48	\$12,491.06	\$+775.4



For what it's worth: it's never too late or, in my case, too early to be whoever you want to be. There's no time limit, stop whenever you want. You can change or stay the same, there are no rules to this thing. We can make the best or the worst of it. I hope you make the best of it. And I hope you see things that startle you. I hope you feel things you never felt before. I hope you meet people with a different point of view. I hope you live a life you're proud of. If you find that you're not, I hope you have the strength to start all over again.

-F. Scott Fitzgerald

Kid's Page



The Rich Man and Lazarus



Complete the paragraph by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank at the bottom of the story.

"There was a _____ man who was dressed in _____ and fine _____ and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a _____ named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to _____ what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

"The time came when the beggar _____ and the _____ carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. In _____, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in _____ and cool my _____, because I am in agony in this fire.'

"But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your _____ things, while Lazarus received _____ things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony.'

Luke 16:19-25 (NIV)

angels	died	hell	rich
bad	eat	linen	tongue
beggar	good	purple	water

Hope United Church Methodist

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Faribault, MN 55021

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A prisoner in jail received a letter from his wife:

"I have decided to plant some lettuce in the back garden. When is the best time to plant them?"

The prisoner, knowing that the prison guards read all the mail, replied in a letter:

"Dear Wife, whatever you do, DO NOT touch the back garden! That is where I hid all the gold."

A week or so later, he received another letter from his wife:

"You wouldn't believe what happened. Some men came with shovels to the house, and dug up the whole back garden."

The prisoner wrote another letter:

"Dear wife, NOW is the best time to plant the lettuce!"

"Just relax", the hospital staff kept telling Jim, but it was to no avail. Jim's wife was in labor and Jim was a nervous wreck. After what seemed like a week, to both Jim and the hospital staff, a nurse came out with the happy news, "it's a girl", she cried. "Thank G-d, a girl", said Jim, "at least she won't have to go through what I just went through!"...