



Rainbow Notes

WHAT ARE APPORTIONMENTS?

The main way we support the ministries of the church is through our apportioned funds, a method of giving that proportionally allocates the global and Minnesota church budgets to local congregations. Each year, every local church is assigned “a portion meant for others.” The formula that determines how much money each congregation is asked to pay is determined based on a formula that, in Minnesota, is based 15 percent on each congregation’s number of members and 85 percent on each congregation’s expenditures.

Together, through our connected congregations, we accomplish what no single church, district, or annual conference ever could hope to do alone. In this way, each individual, each family, and each congregation contributes to the church’s work. We combine our prayers, presence, gifts, and service to make a significant difference in the lives of God’s people.

Apportionments started with John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement. He realized that people in the small faith groups he helped organize could do more with their combined resources than they could as individuals in terms of funding new preaching houses, supporting clergy who traveled among worshiping congregations, and providing relief for those in the paupers’ prisons

where Methodists also shared the good news of Jesus Christ. As the church grew, the Methodist connection spread across the world, delivering hope.

In addition to helping people in other countries, paying your apportionments also provides direct benefits to your local church. Apportionments support:

- **Your pastor**, who was trained, credentialed, appointed, and is supervised through the Ministerial Education Fund, the conference’s Board of Ordained Ministry, the bishop, and the district superintendents, which are supported by apportioned funds. Ongoing training and resources are also provided to clergy and lay leaders.

- The complicated task of **administering pension and health insurance plans** for your pastor.

- **Grants from the conference** to help churches reach new people and boost spiritual vitality. Your may have previously benefited from such a grant, or perhaps you will in the future. There are two primary types of grants administered: investing in congregations grants, which support emerging ministries like new worship services, outreach strategies, and staff positions—and equitable compensation grants, which provide temporary assistance to pay for appointed leaders.

- The Minnesota conference’s

camping ministry, considered to be one of the best across the United Methodist connection, which is there to support your local church’s spiritual development efforts by providing “time apart” in God’s creation.

A wide variety of **Christian education tools**, Bible and adult small group studies, DVDs, and other resources available to your church through the Resource Center for Churches.

Launching new faith communities is one of the ways we fulfill the United Methodist mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world—and apportionments provide necessary funding for those new faith communities.

Almost every church within the state was started with financial and other support from the Minnesota Conference and/or from “mother churches.” There are currently 24 Minnesota churches in their infancy, each of which requires startup funds from the conference. In fact, first-year conference startup grants average \$25,000—and those grants are made possible thanks to apportionments. In other words, your apportionment dollars are directly helping to build the kingdom of God and make more disciples to transform the world.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Once upon a time, there was a far-away land that was ruled by a vicious king. His iron hand reached into every corner of his subjects' lives. Every corner - except one. Try as he might, he couldn't destroy their belief in God.

In his frustration, he finally summoned his advisors and asked them: "Where can I hide God so the people will end up forgetting about him?"

One suggested hiding God on the dark side of the moon. This idea was debated, but was voted down because the advisors feared that their scientists would one day discover a way to travel into space and God would be discovered again.

Another suggested burying God in the deepest part of the ocean. But there was the same problem with this idea, so it was voted down.

One idea after another was suggested and debated and rejected. Until finally the oldest and wisest advisor had a flash of insight. "I know," he said, "why don't we hide God where no one will ever even think to look?" And he explained, "If we hide God in the ordinary events of people's everyday lives, they'll never find him!"

And so it was done. And they say people in that land are still looking for God - even today.

The knowledge that time is limited is not new. In the ordinary we can find meaning and life. In these past few weeks I too have relearned that out of death life comes. In the ordinariness of everyday, doing the dishes, the laundry, sweeping the floor, changing the car oil, God is present. And at the end of the day I reflect upon my activities. How was God present in all I did? What insight was God attempting to get through to me? Simple questions, yet, they lead to experiencing the movement of God in the small things that will allow a greater vision of what more God seeks to show.

The harvest from the fields is being gathered. It is obvious to see God's hand in the fruits of the earth. A small child shares a toy with a friend, a neighbor brings the mail in from the mail box to one on crutches, a stranger pays for a cup of coffee for someone they don't know who in turn does the same. This is no less a presence of God than the harvest of the fields. It is a harvest of goodness and of the heart. It happens in everyday kinds of ways and we once again have found God in our midst.

See You Sunday

Pastor Dana

Hope Church Council Meeting September 3rd, 2014; 7 PM

Present: Carolyn Hanson, Harold & Carole Schneider, Pastor Dana Houck, Mel Sanborn, Carol White

Acceptance of Minutes: Mel made a motion to accept the minutes from July 2nd, 2014. Carole seconded. Motion carried.

Finance Report: Carol went over the hand out. There is a balance of \$2,946.25 in Checking. There is a balance of \$1,203.91 in the Building Maintenance Fund. The amount due on principal for the building loan is \$32,466.58. Carol will give Carolyn info needed for the membership loan for JO. Mission giving so far this year is: Faribault Food Shelf - \$350.00, Church World Service - \$80.00, Feed My Starving Children - \$1,373.75. Amount collected for aluminum cans - \$130.00.

Trustee Report: Mel went over items. Some of the lights in the church have been worked on – bulbs replaced and some ballasts replaced. Plants in the flower bed planted.

The mold on the beams in the ceiling of the Narthex was treated.

Tiling above the sinks was completed in the kitchen.

The church should offer Mr. Anderka a small gift of money for the use of the scaffolding when replacing the light bulbs and ballasts.

Scott Glende leveled the seconded playground area and added some dirt so it can be seeded. Mel got grass seed to seed area.

Kirk Flom had to unplug the drain field – the alarm went off, which meant there was a problem with the draining of the septic tank.

To have Reynold's fix the parking lot will cost \$2,050.00. Reynold's agreed the church can make three payments of \$700.00, the third payment the balance of the entire cost of project. Mel made a motion to have Reynold's patch the broken areas, route and seal cracks. Carolyn seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Everything is going well. There is a good feeling within the church. Jeni Larson will be doing a Facebook page for Hope Church about what is going on in the church. Sept. 21st is the All-Church Picnic at Fourth Ave. UMC at 10 AM. Bring a dish to pass.

Old Business: Square Dancers use of space – The church wants to have the club be on a probationary status– the church wants to be able to reaccess at 30, 60, 90 days, 6 months, 9 months, and one year.

The church will have the final say whether the club can use the church any given night if the need arises. There may be a problem with the floor surface because of the shoes the square dancers use.

Snowplowing during the winter may be an issue. The club will be responsible for seeing that the parking lot will be plowed. Scouts – working with the club to have the Scouts clean the highway area of debris. Carolyn will talk to them.

There is a place in Mankato where they prepare food to be sent out to people for “Feed My Starving Children”. Can check on line for info.

Would like to see someone higher up speak to the congregation about Apportionments – what they are and what they are used for. Pastor Dana will see if Clay will do so. Should bring up at Charge Conference. The church should pay monthly as much as we can – at least \$300.00/ month or as close to that number as we can.

New Business: Newsletter – add in Financial Report and add in the Bulletin bi-weekly. Leave out info about membership loans. Mary wants to use the instruments for Sunday School. Carol will look for.

Movie night will start soon – Wednesdays - September 24th, October 29th, November 26th. Eat at 6:00pm – movie at 6:30 pm – done by 8:30pm.

Need to have a Council Meeting in December before the snowbirds leave for the winter. Could have a meeting after church one Sunday. Julie Carlson will do

Bulletin during the winter months when Carolyn is gone.

Adjournment: Harold made a motion to adjourn. Mel seconded. Motion carried.

Hopes Happenings

Faribault's Christian Women's Connection will hold a luncheon at noon on Tuesday at the Faribault Moose Lodge, 1810 Fourth St. NW. The special feature will be **Rock & Roll Review featuring MN Rock Music Hall of Fame inductee Raymond Berg.**

Guest speaker will be **Suzanne Berg From Mound, MN-JOY IN THE JOURNEY.**

This group is open to all women. Cost is \$8.50 for the lunch. Call 334-7481 for reservations.



The mission of Stonecroft Ministries is to impact women and their communities with the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Sunday School Teachers for November:

- November 2-Rose Marraccini
- November 9-Sayaka Arts/Crafts with Andrew Chou-Helper
- November 16-Nancy DeCoux
- November 23-Heather Grambart
- November 30-



Haunted? Even Wesleys heard 'bumps in the night'

Churches are havens of safety, places of welcome and respite, a heavenly pathway to God - but that doesn't mean they can't have their own tales of unexplained happenings.

Some United Methodist churches, cemeteries and at least one home of a well-known Methodist reportedly have things that go bump in the dark (or daylight) - when no living soul is around. The most famous Methodist of all - John Wesley - was believed to

have had a ghost in his childhood home that his family named "Old Jeffrey."

"Old Jeffrey" plagued the Epworth Rectory with mysterious loud noises and knockings and made his first "appearance" Dec. 2, 1716. Susanna Wesley was quoted as saying, "there was such a noise in the room over our heads, as if several people were walking, then running up and down stairs that we thought the children would be frightened." As she and her husband searched

the house in vain for the culprit, Old Jeffrey continued "rattling and thundering in every room, and even blowing an invisible horn at deafening decibels."

[Old Jeffrey disappeared in January 1717 just as suddenly as he had appeared.....](#)



Cash	Flow	IN	OUT	Overall Total
Sept.	\$8,172.63	\$8,794.15	-	\$621.52
Oct.	\$8,662.58	\$14,509.33	-	\$5,846.75

Practice What You Preach

Answer to: It is hard to be this when you think you are great!

Humble!

The Worship Committee will be purchasing Poinsettias this year. They are 6 1/2" with 4-6 blooms. If you wish to purchase one in honor or memory of a loved one sign up on the sheet on the back table. The Cost is \$9. If you have questions see Mary Sanborn.



Practice what you preach!



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It is hard to be this when you think you are great!

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1 2 3 4 5 6



Matthew 23:1-12

Words: Teacher, Must, Obey, Preach, Must



Our Words Can Hurt !

Children's Devotional

Read: James 3: 1-12

What we say to others can really hurt their feelings. We need to be very careful with what we say to others. Have you ever been called names? How did that make you feel? Have you ever called anyone names? How do you think that would make them feel? It makes God very sad when we say hurtful things to other people. He loves all people the same. Even if we don't like someone, God does. He loves that person just as much as He loves us. If we try to remember that, we may not want to say something mean to them. Remember that God loves you, and cares about how you feel.

A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. - Proverbs 15:1 (NIV)

Lord, help me never say
Words that hurt another
Help me always speak with words
That will uplift and encourage

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AIRPLANE: What Mom impersonates to get a 1-yr.-old to eat strained beets.

APPLE: Nutricious lunchtime dessert which children will trade for cupcakes.

BABY: 1. Dad, when he gets a cold. 2. Mom's youngest child, even if he's 42.

BATHROOM: a room used by the entire family, believed by all except Mom to be self-cleaning.

BECAUSE: Mom's reason for having kids do things which can't be explained logically.

BED and BREAKFAST: Two things the kids will never make for themselves.

CAR POOL: Complicated system of transportation where Mom always winds up going the furthest with the biggest bunch of kids who have had the most sugar.

COUCH POTATO: What Mom finds under the sofa cushions after the kids eat dinner.

DATE: Infrequent outings with Dad where Mom can enjoy worrying about the kids in a different setting.

DRINKING GLASS: Any carton or bottle left open in the fridge.

DUST RAGS: See "DAD'S UNDERWEAR."

EAR: A place where kids store dirt.

EAT: What kids do between meals, but not at them.

ENERGY: Element of vitality kids always have an oversupply of until asked to do something.

EYE: The highly susceptible optic nerve which, according to Mom, can be "put out" by anything from a suction-arrow to a carelessly handled butter knife.

FOOD: The response Mom usually gives in answer to the question "What's for dinner tonight?" See "SARCASM"

GENIUSES: Amazingly, all of Mom's kids

HAMPER: A wicker container with a lid, usually surrounded By, but not containing, dirty clothing.

HANDI-WIPES: Pants, shirt-sleeves, drapes, etc.