



# The Cross & The Flame

## Special Points of Interest...

- Two more chances for SNOW DAYS...
- Your mind matters, lets test it!
- Narthex remodel soon? Maybe? We hope?
- Soup & Subs..YUM YUM
- Valentines Potluck– Won't you be my date?
- Church Secretary Opening (call the office)



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## Big Events For The Coming Year...

This is a momentous year. We have the Summer Olympics in London, we also have the General Conference and Jurisdictional Conferences for our United Methodist Church and we have the Presidential election along with other elections. Each of these events will affect us in different ways depending on who we are.

This summer when athletes gather in England for the myriad of sporting encompassed by the Olympics many of will watch American and other athletes compete against each other and the clock to see who in the whole world is the best at each of the events.

In late April men and women, clergy and laity representing United Methodists from around the world will

gather in Tampa, Florida to discuss and vote on issues governing the United Methodist Church. In July, those same delegates as well as additional delegates will gather in regional gathering called Jurisdictional Conferences to elect Bishops and deal with a number of other issues related to leading and governing the United Methodist Church.

The Presidential, which began months ago (years actually), will continue to play out until November. The months between now and then will be exciting for some people and tedious for others. Yet early in November we will elect the person who will lead our nations for the next four years. Who ever that will be, the sad reality is that many people will be angry over the results.

I must admit that as interested as I am

Conforming the Church and Bible to your beliefs?

Rev. Ethan Larson

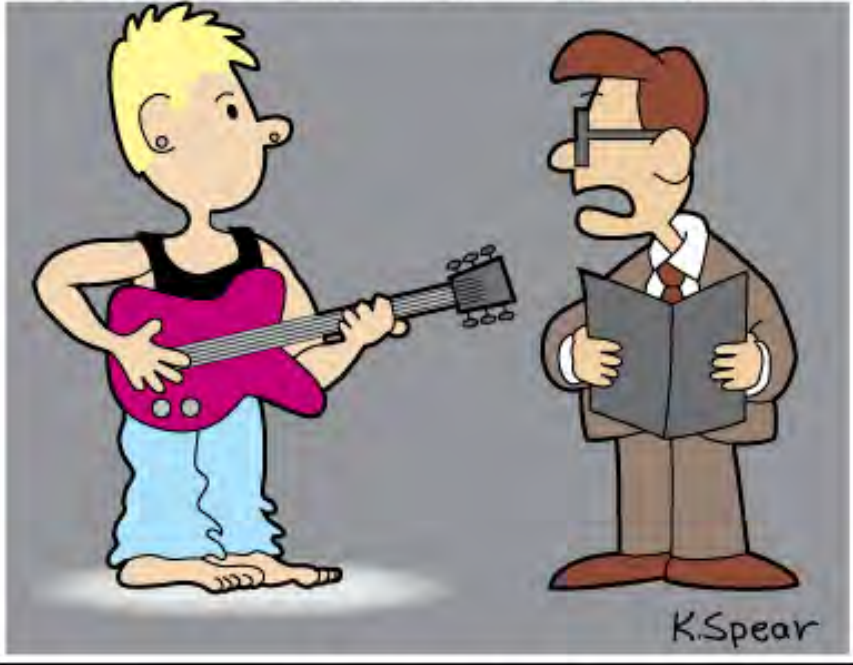


in the Presidential elections and the whole process or as I've enjoyed watching the Olympic every four years, the event that most has my attention this year is the General Conference gathering of the United Methodist Church in April and May. Much of the world will take little notice concerning what happens during those two weeks but for United Methodist this gathering could be pivotal for the future of our Church.

There will very likely be a few demonstrations by people who want to see major historic changes in what the United Methodist Church believes and teaches. As for with the Presidential elections, whatever results play out will leave some people angry. The presenting and flash point issue is homosexuality. The United Methodist Church

*Continued on Page 4*

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"That was great, Spike.  
But can you make it a bit more worship-py?"

## February Laugh Corner

### The Christian Barber

There was a barber that thought that he should share his faith with his customers more than he had been doing lately. So the next morning when the sun came up and the barber got up out of bed he said, "Today I am going to witness to the first man that walks through my door."

Soon after he opened his shop the first man came in and said, "I want a shave!" The barber said, "Sure, just sit in the seat and I'll be with you in a moment." The barber went in the back and prayed a quick desperate prayer saying, "God, the first customer came in and I'm going to witness to him. So give me the wisdom to know just the right thing to say to him. Amen."

Then quickly the barber came out with his razor knife in one hand and a Bible in the other while saying "**Good morning sir. I have a question for you... Are you ready to die?**"

## Mind Matters

Instructions  
For QuoteFall:

Find the common two and three letter words first. Do the columns with all the same letters if there are any. Keep going until you have found all the little words.

**REMEMBER** - each letter is used ONLY once. As you use a letter CROSS it out so you don't use it twice. Each column has the exact number of letters for that column - **don't mix columns**. After all the small words are filled in then it becomes a process of elimination and deduction. **REMEMBER** - some of the words wrap around to the next line.



## January Doublepuzzle Answer

Shake  
Noise  
Rows  
Ford  
Doing  
Lost  
Consider The Work Of God  
-Ecclesiastes 7:13

QUOTEFALL 41

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N	L	E	H	S	I	N	E	A	E	O	O	F	W
B	H	E	S	E	I	G	G	S	D	C	R	O	S
T		T		R		H	H	T			U	S	

February Answer:

Blessings crown the head of the righteous  
(Proverbs 10:6) NIV

# Happy Birthday

Chuck Mulvaney-Kemp - February 2<sup>nd</sup>

Jamie Schipper - February 4<sup>th</sup>

Lynn Whitney - February 10<sup>th</sup>

Iva Cade - February 17<sup>th</sup>

Sonja Bjerkos - February 19<sup>th</sup>

Katie Mulvaney-Kemp - February 20<sup>th</sup>

Gayheart Gilbertson - February 25<sup>th</sup>

Elizabeth Peterson - February 29<sup>th</sup>

**Happy Birthday from the Viroqua & Liberty Pole United Methodist Churches!!!**

# Happy Anniversary

Dale & Jolene Gudgeon - February 2<sup>nd</sup>

Gayheart & Ruth Gilbertson - February 11<sup>th</sup>

Larry & Annabel McGarry - February 14<sup>th</sup>

Eddie & Joanne Frederick - February 28<sup>th</sup>

# SNOW DAYS

Join us For:

Downhill Tubing, Broomball, Cross-Country skiing, Ice Skating  
*(Lunch & Hot Chocolate included)*

**A GREAT Event for:**

Individuals, Families, Scout Troops, 4-H Groups, Youth Groups, School Groups

**February 12 & 26 1:00-5:00pm**

WWW.LWBC.ORG/SNOW  
Part of LWBC Community Days  
Cost: \$4.00 (Max of \$20/family)

Living Waters Bible Camp  
E8932 Reo Ave.,  
Westby, WI 54667



## From Our Library

Have you visited the Viroqua United Methodist Church Library recently? If not, you are missing out! Here's something we offer that might interest you:



**Adults (Meditational)**

*A Life-Shaping Prayer: 52 Meditations in the Wesleyan Spirit*

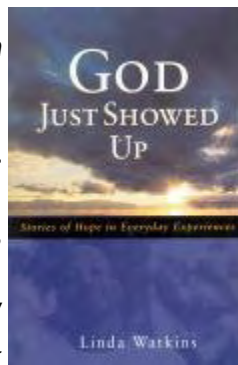
By. Paul Wesley Chilcote

Chilcote has developed 52 modern meditations around the prayer's four key questions: *Who is God to me? What can I give to God? How does God shape my life? How do I live as a disciple of Christ?*

**Adult (Non-Fiction)**

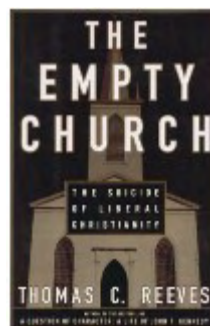
*God Just Showed Up: Stories of Hope in Everyday Experiences*

Linda Watkins



This book tells the true stories of nineteen African-Americans who discovered firsthand that the God of hope, peace, healing and direction sometimes just shows up in the lives of ordinary people. This book revolves around a powerful and life-changing message:

God is real. He loves us all. And most importantly, He offers to everyone who seeks Him a vibrant and personal relationship with Him.



**Adult (Spiritual Guide)**

*The Empty Church: The Suicide of Liberal Christianity*

By. Thomas C. Reeves

Historian Reeves looks at the liberalism of mainline Protestantism from a historical perspective. The author juxtaposes the crisis of declining membership and why it is happening against reasons why the more evangelical and fundamentalist denominations are increasing their memberships, often with the disenchanting who have left the mainline Protestant churches. Some of the reasons Reeves cites are the moral crisis in America, secularization of the churches, and the influences of secular religions (the Enlightenment, communism, science). Reeves ends his book with a discussion of how the mainline churches can be renewed through both its lay and clergy. A well-documented book written for a broad audience; recommended for academic and public libraries.

**\*\*Don't forget to come and check out the other selections throughout the Library!**

*Continued from Page 1*

currently stands in line with both the historic understanding of the Christian Church and the overwhelming majority of Christian denominations in stating that homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. The Church goes on to state that all persons are created by God and of sacred worth. We further state in our Denominational documents that violence against persons who live this lifestyle is unacceptable, in my words, a sin. I believe that the United Methodist Church takes a balanced approach to the issue; but the reality is that it is only the presenting issue.

The real issue that is represented by this conflict is the authority of Scripture in the life of the Church and individuals. Does or even should the Bible have an authoritative place in what we profess to believe and how we live out our lives; should we conform the Bible or should it conform to our beliefs.

My problem with the second option, conforming the Church and the Bible to our beliefs, is that there is no standard by which to judge right and wrong. Some people have argued that if you grant the Bible authority or the Church and your life then you must obey all the laws from the Old Testament books including stoning for disobedience in children and

adultery.

This argument neglects a major aspect of the historic reality. The people of Israel were given limits to the penalties they could impose rather than having every crime or sin being a death sentence. It also neglects the teaching from Acts 15 given by James, the half-brother of Jesus, "It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from the food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood."

James, the leader of the Mother Church, in Jerusalem, gave us some guidelines on how to use the Old Testament. This doctrine was fleshed out in the first three centuries of the Church, just as were the major doctrines of the Church culminating in the Nicene Creed written by Bishops of the Church (not by a Roman Emperor as some are saying) gathered from the Roman and Persian Empires as well as the Armenian and Ethiopian Kingdoms. It was a document for the whole Church.

Please be praying for our United Methodist Church, especially during the weeks of General Conference. ■

## *Health Corner For Healthy Living*

### **Spiritual Health:**

#### **Be Like An Ant:**

1.) The ant works hard all year long to store up for winter, while



the grasshopper plays and gathers nothing. When winter hits the grasshopper begins to starve and must go the ants in order to survive. The ants have plenty and are able to help the grasshopper out in his need.

2.) In order for the ant to gather and prepare for the future, she must have a storehouse. Even as springtime begins the ant is still living off her storehouse and immediately begins again working on gathering to replenish for winter.

3.) Even if an ant can only put one grain at a time into her storehouses, she still does it. She is diversified into many storehouses that if one is destroyed by a storm, the others will still be intact.

4.) Like the grasshopper, if we do not have a storehouse, we are subconsciously planning for somebody else to take care of us. An ant takes responsibility for meeting her own needs.

5.) No man or woman is an island. God did not create us to be completely independent, we all need counseling. We depend on other people like in a community, helping each other—we should realize that sometimes the burdens we face can take several of us to handle.

6.) The ant waits for no one. She gets up in the morning and hits the road. Her actions say, "I am not a victim. Life may throw some curves at me, but I'm bigger than the curves of life. Life has given me obstacles, but I will go around them. I will go over them. I will go through them, if necessary. I am going to do whatever I can today— even if it is only a little.

7.) Hold on to hope. Wherever you are, your situation is not hopeless. Wherever you are today or whatever has happened to you in the past, start preparing for tomorrow. Look at what you have— whether it is time, talent, treasure, or any combination of these— and start building storehouses for your future.

**Foods That Boost Your Mood**

1) **COLD CEREAL**

**Eat it for your brain:** A handful of MultiGrain Cheerios or Kashi Heart to Heart offers folic acid, which can help fend off the blues. Those with

low levels of the nutrient experience more symptoms of depression and a folic acid deficiency may prevent your antidepressants from working.

**Eat it for your body:** A quick bowl of whole-grain cereal brims with iron and vitamins, and gets your metabolism humming. People who skipped breakfast only once every three months were 34 percent more likely to be obese than those who didn't. So even if your body doesn't want it when you first wake up, find a breakfast you can live with, and eat up.

2) **FISH**

**Eat it for your brain:** Those with the highest levels of omega-3 fatty acids, found in several kinds of fish, were happier than those with lower levels. Omega-3 fatty acids enhance areas of the brain that affect disposition. Certain fish also pack B12, a known mood booster, which wards off the doldrums by stimulating the brain's production of serotonin, helping you relax.

**Eat it for your body:** Wild salmon, trout, herring and other cold-water fish are filled with vitamin D, which helps curb appetite, as well as omega 3's, which lower the risk for heart disease. Research also shows that eating fish regularly improves insulin insensitivity, which helps build muscle and decrease belly fat.

3) **CHOCOLATE**

**Eat it for your brain:** Sweeten your mood by indulging your chocolate urges. Half of depressed people reported craving chocolate, and most of them felt soothed after indulging (munch just 1 ounce and savor every bite!).

**Eat it for your body:** Eating a couple ounces of dark

chocolate a week may cut your risk for heart disease by 33 percent. Plus, it has more disease-fighting antioxidants than green tea, red wine or blueberries.

4) **FRUITS & VEGGIES**

**Eat them for your brain:** People who ate the most fruits and veggies were least likely to feel depressed.

**Eat them for your body:** Munching the recommended 2 cups of fruit and 2 1/2 cups of veggies a day reduces your calorie intake and bolsters your immunity. The darker and more colorful, the better! Color yourself healthy!

<http://health.yahoo.net/experts/healthieryou/5-foods-boost-your-mood>

**Now We're Cooking Corner**

**Double Kisses Truffles**

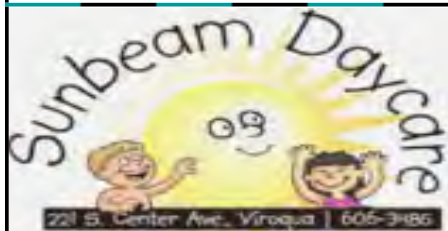
Ingredients

- 28 HERSHEY'S KISSES Brand Milk Chocolates\*
- 2 TB & 2 tsp whipping cream
- 10 HERSHEY'S KISSES Brand Milk Chocolates filled with Caramel
- 1 cup ground pecans



1) Place milk chocolates and whipping cream in medium microwave-safe bowl. Microwave at MEDIUM (50%) 1 minute; stir. If necessary, microwave at MEDIUM 15 seconds at a time, stirring after each heating, until chocolates are melted and mixture is smooth when stirred. Cover; refrigerate 4 to 6 hours or until firm.

2) Using about 1 TB milk chocolate mixture for each truffle, shape chocolate around each unwrapped caramel chocolate piece; roll in hand to make ball. (Be sure to cover each chocolate piece completely.) Roll in pecans; refrigerate until ready to serve. For best chocolate flavor, allow truffles to soften at room temperature about 5 minutes before eating. 10 truffles.



\*\*February 14– Valentine's Day Party

*Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.*  
-Mother Teresa

*Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.*  
-Martin Luther King

**February Themes**

- Groundhogs
- Valentines
- Taking Care of our Teeth
- Bears

**February Birthdays**

Zoelyn– February 9<sup>th</sup>

**Sunbeam Daycare Welcomes The Following Donations:**

- Juice, Canned Vegetables, Canned Fruit, Toys, Games, Construction Paper, Trash Bags (13 gal), Paper Towels, Paper Plates.

**Thank You to those who have donated items recently!!!**

**FOR UPDATES PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE, WWW.VIROQUAUMC.ORG/DAYCARE/INDEX.HTML**

# February 2012



Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>

1:15pm Prayer Group @ (V)  
3:30pm Confirmation @ (V)

Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>

12:30pm V UMW Executive Meeting  
1:30pm (V) Lydia Circle-Gloria Freiling (hostess)

Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>

8:00am Viroqua UMC Early Worship Service  
9:00am Liberty Pole UMC Worship Service  
Sunday School (during service)  
9:00am Viroqua UMC Sunday School (adults)  
9:30am Viroqua UMC Sunday School (children)  
10:30am Viroqua UMC Worship Service  
Pick up your Soup & Sub orders today

Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>

7:00pm Men's Group @ (V)

Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>

7:30pm (LP) Ad. Council

Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>

9:45am Past Larson @ Schmitt Woodland Hills  
1:15pm Prayer Group @ (V)  
3:30pm Confirmation @ (V)  
5:30pm LP UMW Executive Committee

Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>

8:00am Pastor Larson @ Camp Lucerne

Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> (Recognition of New Members)

8:00am Viroqua UMC Early Worship Service  
9:00am Liberty Pole UMC Worship Service  
Sunday School (during service)  
9:00am Viroqua UMC Sunday School (adults)  
9:30am Viroqua UMC Sunday School (children)  
10:30am Viroqua UMC Worship Service  
Noon Valentines Potluck Dinner @ (V)

Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> (Valentines Day)

1:00pm (V) Care & Nurture  
6:30pm (V) Trustees

Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>

1:15pm Prayer Group @ (V)  
3:30pm Confirmation @ (V)

Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>

10:30am Circuit Meeting

Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>

Circuit Pastors in Viroqua

Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>

8:00am Viroqua UMC Early Worship Service  
9:00am Liberty Pole UMC Worship Service  
Sunday School (during service)  
9:00am Viroqua UMC Sunday School (adults)  
9:30am Viroqua UMC Sunday School (children)  
10:30am Viroqua UMC Worship Service  
Noon (V) Education Committee Meeting

Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>

1:00pm (V) Missions Committee

Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>

1:00pm LP Esther Circle  
6:00pm (V) Finance Committee  
7:00pm (V) Ad. Council Meeting

Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> (Ash Wednesday)

1:00pm (V) Ash Wednesday Service  
3:30pm Confirmation @ (V)  
7:00pm (LP) Ash Wednesday Service

Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>

9:30am Pastor Larson @ Morrow Home (Sparta)  
**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>

8:00am Viroqua UMC Early Worship Service  
9:00am Liberty Pole UMC Worship Service  
Sunday School (during service)  
9:00am Viroqua UMC Sunday School (adults)  
9:30am Viroqua UMC Sunday School (children)  
10:30am Viroqua UMC Worship Service  
(V) Missions Bake Sale

Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>

7:00pm Bethel Home Annual Meeting

Wednesday, February 29<sup>th</sup>

Noon Lenten Study  
1:15pm Prayer Group @ (V)  
3:30pm Confirmation @ (V)  
7:00pm Ecumenical Lenten Service @ Immanuel

# Liberty Pole News



Veryel, seconded by Orvis to approve financial report– unanimously approved. Veryel presented the Memorials & Designated Funds financial report, as well as the Capital Campaign report. A payment of \$10,000 to Robert Hoppe for the organ repair was the major expense from these funds for the month. The balance on hand as of December 31 was \$21,542.52. We have a balance of \$8,070 due on the organ repair and an electrical bill of \$1,300, which is also related to the organ repair. Motion by Orvis, seconded by Greg, to

approve the reports– unanimously approved. New Business: I am happy to report that the 2011 goal of 70% apportionments paid was met and exceeded. Doctor Starr motioned that we set a goal of 80% for 2012. The motion was seconded by Orvis and approved. Greg requested that the daycare begin submitting quarterly income and expense reports. All committee members agreed this would be useful. Pastor Ethan will take the request to the daycare

*Submitted by:  
Sonja Bjerkos*

## LIBERTY POLE FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	December 2011
Monthly Receipts	\$5,508.42
Monthly Disbursements	\$9,380.42
Year-to-Date Receipts	\$61,933.15
Year-to-Date Disbursements	\$66,106.34
Balance on Hand (12/31/11)	-\$1,915.09
Conference Apportionment Paid to Date	\$9,072.00
Missions/Special Gifts	\$980.00
Conference Apportionments for the year	\$9,072.00

## VUMC Finance Committee

Timing is everything! Pastor Ethan’s message on January 8 was just what I needed to hear in preparations for my first meeting as your finance committee chairman. Whether it was God calling me to accept the position, or Pastor Ethan’s “invitation”, I decided I might have something to offer, so here I am. My major concern was that I had no idea what I was getting myself into. Would the rest of the committee think they’d gotten a lemon? Pastor Ethan’s message about accepting new ideas and helping each other use our gifts was perfect. I realized that I will be working with a great group of people who will, I’m sure answer all my questions, listen to my input and help me do the job I’ve signed on for. While I’m sure I have a lot to learn, I

look forward to working with this great group of people! The Finance committee met on January 17 with the following members present: Pastor Ethan, Sonja Bjerkos, Veryel Gerdl, Orvis Primmer, Greg Cheever, Doctor Starr, Tony Rubasch and Cavan Fang. Pastor Ethan opened the meeting with a prayer. Minutes of the last meeting had been reviewed by all members prior to the meeting and were unanimously approved (motion by Dr. Starr, second by Veryel). Greg presented the final financial report for 2011. He also requested email addresses from all members so he can email the financial reports prior to the monthly meeting. This should be a big time saver. Our December funds exceeded expense by approximately \$6,000. Motion made by

### Liberty Pole UMC Service Assistants

#### Ushers/Greeters

February 5:  
February 12:  
February 19:  
February 26:

#### Liturgist

### Viroqua UMC Service Assistants

#### Ushers

February 5: David & Lorna Peterson  
February 12: Greg Cheever & Dan Casper  
February 19: Ardith Olson & Gloria Freilinger  
February 26: Veryel & Lorraine Gerdl

#### Greeters

February 5: Annabel McGarry  
February 12: David Peterson  
February 19: Jerry Schroeder  
February 22 (Ash Wednesday): Dan Casper  
February 26: Jerry Schroeder

#### Liturgist

## Viroqua Administrative Council Meeting January 17, 2011

*Respectfully  
Submitted by  
Robert A. Starr*

The meeting opened at 7:00 pm by Cavan Fang.

**Present:** Janet Welch, Ardith Olson, Cavan Fang, Sonja Bjerkos, Veryl Gerdl, Orvis Primmer, David Peterson, Ethan Larson and Robert Starr.

The meeting opened with Song, This is the Day and Prayer.

**Finance Report:** This was given by Cavan.

**Wills, Memorials & Gifts:** This report was given by Veryl. He displayed a beautiful Memorial Plaque that tells of the Marge Brewer Fund which was used in the Organ Restoration.

**Trustee Committee:** This report was given by Orvis. The committee authorized a new refrigerator that will be placed on the first floor and will minimize trips to the basement. A new garage opener has been installed in the parsonage garage. The pipes in the basement rooms used by Head Start have been re-wrapped. They are accepting bids for some remodeling of the Narthex. Everyone has been pleased with the new church sign. The church secretary will be instructed to change the sign as needed.

**SPRC:** This report was given by Ardith. The Committee will be interviewing 3 candidates for the Church Secretary position. She will be available in the office from 9 am to 1 pm.

**UMW:** This report was given by Janet and is in the newsletter.

**Worship Committee:** This report was given by Cavan. The Worship Committee met on Thursday January 12 at 5:30pm. We had 67 people at the Community Carol Sing on December 11 and 31 people at the Blue Christmas worship service on December 19. We are interested in hearing everyone's feedback on our Advent activities. Please tell a worship committee member what you liked or disliked about the Advent devotional, A-Frame angel display, wreath-lighting ceremony, Community Carol Sing, Living Nativity, Blue Christmas, Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols service, and Christmas Day worship.

The handheld wireless microphone appears to be fixed. Let Cavan know ASAP if it starts acting up again. Also, if Ethan's lapel mic appears to be off during worship then please interrupt and tell him. The Annual Circuit-wide praise and song meeting will be at 1 p.m. on January 28, at the Temple Theater. We encourage everyone to come and enjoy the free music, as area musicians lead us in praising the Lord.

On February 12 we will be celebrating "Servant Sunday", when we recognize the service of members and friends who are retiring from or joining committees and other leadership positions in the church. Please tell the Lay Leadership committee if you know of someone who should be honored on Servant Sunday, so we don't accidentally leave a name off the list. And if you yourself have newly joined or are going off a committee, then please come on February 12 so we can celebrate and bless your service to the church.

The Eckhart Park large shelter is reserved on July 22 for our annual outdoor worship and potluck picnic. We welcome any suggestions for that Sunday's program.

Lent is coming soon. Ash Wednesday services will be on February 22: 1 p.m. at Viroqua, and 7 p.m. at Liberty Pole. The Liberty Pole UMW will be serving a soup supper before the evening service.

During Lent we will be having a Lenten lunchtime Bible study group, a Lenten Devotional, the usual Wednesday evening ecumenical and joint worship services, and other events. The February newsletter will have more information on all of these.

We have been working to reduce the number of announcements from outside organizations that are printed in the bulletin, to minimize clutter and make the inserts more readable. However, we also feel we should try to accommodate other organizations' requests for announcements, because we sometimes ask other churches to print our announcements.

Although the secretary has wide latitude to design the announcement insert as he/she likes, we are proposing a formal bulletin announcements policy that the secretary can point to in case some organization gets angry that their announcement was not printed.

The proposed policy reads as follows:

"The Viroqua & Liberty Pole UMCs will print Circuit and Conference-related bulletin announcements

...continued from page 8

whenever possible. We accommodate reasonable requests by other organizations to print bulletin announcements that might be of interest to our worshipers, whenever enough space is available without disturbing the layout or adding extra sheets of paper to the bulletin. We give priority to local churches' announcements over other organizations', and we reserve the right not to print any announcement for any reason. The Pastor has final say over what gets printed."

We are also considering ways to change the Announcements time during worship so that it takes less time and does not interfere with the mood and flow of worship. If your committee needs to make an announcement during worship, then it would be helpful to keep your announcement short and to the point. We are less concerned about announcements such as Mission Moments, Stewardship Moments, or anything Joys/Concerns-related, because these are in fact part of worship, and not outside business.

The family of Art and Lynne Amundson are donating a new altar for the Sanctuary. Our organ builder is helping us with a design proposal for the new altar, that will complement the new console.

Please contact us if you would have suggestions for the new altar, or are interested in helping with the design and implementation.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday January 25 at 5:30.

**Care & Nurture Committee:** This report was given by David. He stated that the Fortney Hotel Meal will be provided by the Education Committee next month.

**Mission Committee:** This report was given by Bob Starr. The Committee had met on January 16 and 6 members were present. They plan to raise \$200 for Tshalla's ministry and will continue with our pledge to raise \$1,048 for Paul Webster's Ministry in 2012. There was a discussion about the Viroqua High School and the Middle School Pantry needs. There is a significant need for some students if they are not at home and there is no income coming in. The Committee was made aware of this need by an article in the Viroqua Broadcaster recently. Kathleen Stelzner will call the school guidance counselor, Jenny Schneider or Principal Kathy Klos to check on the needs.

There will be a Human Relations Day envelope in our Church Bulletins on January 29th and on February 5th. Kathy Stelzner will give a brief talk con-

cerning this on the 29th.

On February 12th, Valentine weekend a Pot Luck Dinner will be held. The free will offering will be given to our Good Samaritan Fund. On February 26th, a Bake Sale will be held in the Narthex before and after church services. The proceeds of the bake sale will go toward our Paul Webster pledge. The meeting ended with a prayer by Pastor Ethan. The next meeting will be held on February 20th.

**History Committee:** No meeting.

**Education Committee:** This report was given by Sonja. She stated that the Soup & Sub meal will go on as before and the funds will go to the Sunbeam Daycare. The Taco Supper will be held on February 29th. The Easter Breakfast will be held as usual. They also recommended that the Scholarship that is given by a former church member should be offered first to a United Methodist Student that is an active member of his or her church.

The Acolytes have not been showing up regularly and it was suggested that this function could be asked of the Ushers.

The meeting was closed with the Lords Prayer.

## Mission Committee

January 16, 2012 @ 1:00 pm



*By. Lorna Peterson*

Members present were Bob & Janet Starr, Kathy Stelzner, David & Lorna Peterson and Pastor Ethan.

On Sunday, February 12 at Noon, a potluck meal will be held in the Church fellowship hall. A free-will offering will be taken and used to benefit the Good Samaritan Fund.

We talked about how the Viroqua High School is helping homeless students in the district. We hope we can help this situation by donating supplies or money for this project.

We decided to have a bake sale on Sunday, February 26th. This is a fund raiser for our missionaries.

Human Relations Sunday is January 29.

Our next meeting is February 20. Pastor Ethan closed our meeting with a prayer.

**VIROQUA FINANCIAL SUMMARY***By. Greg Cheever***December 2011****Cash Flow**

Beginning Balance	\$13,287.08
Deposits	\$19,804.76
Disbursements	\$13,655.67
Ending Balance	\$19,436.17
<b><u>Financial Highlights:</u></b>	
Monthly Income	\$17,318.96
YTD Income	\$138,381.59
Monthly Expenses	\$10,466.88
YTD Expenses	\$132,104.43
LP Balance	\$1,796.95**
Daycare Balance	\$3,322.54**
NH/Retreat Balance	\$754.02**
YTD Apportionment Paid	\$14,420.00
YTD Missions/Special Gifts	\$9,553.02
Savings Balance	\$1,014.03

**Viroqua UMW***By. Janet Welch*

Our Executive Committee met on January 4th in the church lounge. We compiled our 2012 handbooks changing dates and meetings for the new year.

The February Executive meeting will be held on Thursday at 12:30 p.m. and the Lydia Circle will meet on Thursday at 1:30 p.m. in the church lounge with Gloria Freiling as hostess. The program is on "Prayer and Self-Denial". This special offering goes to the district and on to missions. We would gladly accept offerings from anyone and encourage them to come to the meeting.

February coffee and cookies will be served by Hospitality I, Annabel McGarry contact person.

**Dates to Remember:**

*February 2<sup>nd</sup>: 12:30 P.M. Ex. Meeting*

*February 2<sup>nd</sup>: 1:30 P.M. Lydia Circle – Gloria Freiling-Hostess*

**Confirmation:** The confirmation class did not end up buying for a Christmas family. We still plan to continue this service, whether it is the confirmation class or the youth.

**Old Business**

**Christmas Program:** Both the Christmas program and the fellowship afterward went well this year. We thank everyone who was involved. There were enough cookies left to use for the Blue Christmas, shepherd's run and Christmas day coffee.

**Bibles:** Kathy will order the new Bibles for her classroom when she needs them.

**Nursery:** Kathy would like to give up the job of creating the nursery schedule to anyone else who would like it. She plans on talking to Jennifer Wade about a nursery plan.

**MacInnis Scholarship:** The United Methodist Foundation sent a new memorandum which included the proposed revisions. Pastor will contact Bill Helwig and Jenny Schneider to let them know who the contact for the church should be. A committee to review the scholarship applicants was formed which includes Pastor Larson, Sonja and Linda. We will ask Kristin

**VUMC Christian Education Committee Meeting Minutes**

*By. Kathy Hanson  
&  
Janette Hanson*

**Present:** Joanne Hornby, Chuck Mulvaney-Kemp, Pastor Ethan Larson, Kathy Hanson, Sonja Bjerkos, Linda Weillau and Janette Hanson.

**Opening:** Pastor Larson opened with prayer and a potluck was shared. Janette shared a reading about parenting.

**Approve Minutes:** Sonja made a motion to approve the minutes. Joanne seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**Reports**

**Sunday School:** The older children are learning about Jesus' life. The younger class is going fine. Joanne's adult class misses Betty Ross since she is down south.

**Youth:** No report.

**Daycare:** Two new children from the same family started this week. The daycare is in the same financial spot that it's been in. The \$500 budgeted last year that was going to be used for insurance was carried forward to this year. The amount budgeted for the daycare will now be put under missions, not education. This will be effective for 2012.

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if she wants to be a part of since she wasn't at the meeting.

**Acolytes:** The acolyte schedule will be reevaluated at the end of the SS year. Other options will be looked at to make it more effective.

### New Business

**Soup & Subs:** Soup & Subs is planned for Sunday, February 5 and order forms will be available this Sunday.

Linda will check on buying some new containers for the soup. Mary Mulvaney-Kemp and Sonja will plan to make the soup on Wednesday, February 1, and the subs will be made on Saturday February 4 if anyone wants to help.

Ben Hanson (confirmation class) will be asked if he wants to help with the Soup & Sub fundraiser.

**Fortney Hotel Meal:** We will prepare the Fortney meal after church on Sunday, February 19. Sonja will make 2 gallons of soup ahead of time and we will make ham and turkey subs that day. We will include crackers for the soup and Janette and Joanne will each make 2 dozen cookies. We'll need to serve the soup hot, so Janette will ask David what containers we should deliver it in and if we need to take some disposable eating bowls.

**Taco Supper:** We are still waiting on dates for this event.

**Easter Breakfast:** Easter is on Sunday, April 8, so we will make plans for the breakfast at a later meeting.

**Baptism:** Sonja made a motion to use the \$20 that was donated and buy a few books and cards to have on hand when there is a baptism. Chuck seconded it. Motion passed. Janette will buy the books and cards and leave them in Pastor's office. Janette or Pastor will present a book for the Strasser baptism.

### New Business

Melissa Weillnau sent a letter asking for financial assistance for a Habitat for Humanity trip to Florida this spring. Sonja made a motion to give Melissa \$150 for her trip. Pastor Larson seconded it. Linda abstained. Motion passed. Chuck Mulvaney-Kemp will write a check from the youth fund and give it to Linda.

Janette read a nice note from an anonymous couple. They donated a special Bible prayer book and \$20 to the SS classes.

Pastor asked if anyone knew who took care of the clothes pantry at the school. No one knew so we said to just call the school.

**Next Meeting:** Sunday, February 19, 2012 at noon (after church). We will meet while preparing the Fortney Hotel meal.

## Care & Nurture Committee

*Respectfully submitted by. Gloria Frelinger*

We met at 1:00 p.m. with the following members present: Pastor Ethan, Church Stelzner, Gloria Frelinger and John Eumurian.

John opened the meeting with a devotion.

We reviewed the cards and mailbox. Pastor was given the flags for Veteran's Day from New Hope Church with the suggestion that we contribute to their food bank in return. Chuck made the motion, seconded by Gloria that we donate \$35.00 to their food bank. Motion approved.

Pastor reported that there are about 14 attending the 8:00 a.m. service on the average.

The new directories have finally arrived.

The tuning of the organ is expected to be complete by the end of January and the dedication probably in March.

There were about 40 people attending the Blue Christmas service.

We welcome Chuck as a new member of this committee.

We will need to obtain more letters for our sign.

Our education committee will be in charge of the Fortney Hotel meal in February.

We are planning a potluck dinner on February 12th to celebrate Valentine's Day and in honor of Boy Scout Sunday with the proceeds to go to the Good Samaritan Fund.

Pastor Ethan will report at the Ad. Council meeting.

Our next meeting will be on February 14th at 1:00 p.m.

We adjourned at 2:00 p.m. with a prayer by Pastor Ethan.

The Cross & The Flame is published monthly by the Viroqua and Liberty Pole United Methodist Churches for our congregation and friends. We welcome you with open hearts, open arms and open doors.

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### OFFICE HOURS

9:00-1:00 p.m.

Monday-Friday

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DATE SENSITIVE

THE CROSS & THE FLAME

LIBERTY POLE & VIROQUA UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES



### **SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Liberty Pole United Methodist Church  
9:00 A.M.

Viroqua United Methodist Church  
8:00 A.M.  
10:30 A.M.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Liberty Pole UMC  
\*\*During the Service  
Viroqua UMC  
9:00.A.M. (Adults)  
9:30.A.M. (Children)

### **February Acolytes**

February 5: Mallory Hanson  
February 12: Ted Hanson  
February 19: Mackenzie Stalsberg  
February 26: Mitchell Hanson

*"I have seen many men work without praying, though I  
have never seen any good come out of it;  
but I have never seen a man pray without working."*

*Written by Hudson Taylor*