



The Messenger: October 2015
Edina Morningside Community Church, UCC

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From Pastor Howard

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**Message from Interim
Pastor, Rev. Howard K.
Bell**



Adjusting the Sails

One of my favorite quotes from facilitating the Renewing Life program at Pathways was this one: "You cannot change the direction of the wind, but you can adjust the sails." In the context of persons dealing with life-threatening illness, I took meaning from this quote, that even though we might not be able to change the outcome of our illness, we are able to take charge of our lives in ways that make each day full of meaning and purpose. As we would discuss this quote in groups, I came to learn from people who were experienced sailors, that by adjusting sails, you are able to get where you need to go, even when there is a strong wind against you. Thus, the group provided a deeper meaning suggesting that by living fully in the present moment- adjusting our sails - we can overcome the challenges of illness, sometimes in miraculous ways. I am privileged to have witnessed many people who seemingly have changed the direction of their life-threatening illness. By living well, they have far exceeded their expected prognosis.

I am wondering how this quote might apply to the chapter of our book (see my article in the September Messenger) that we are currently writing for Edina Morningside Church. We seem to be facing some strong winds. Both our membership and worship attendance numbers are in decline. Our building is in need of major repair. We currently are operating from a deficit budget position. When we have balanced budgets over the past several years it has been at the cost of a reduction in ministry budgets,

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Pastoral Care

Taize Worship 101



Sunday October 18th 6:30-7:30

Join us in the library on Sunday, October 18th, for a candle lit soup supper and an introduction to how our monthly Taize Service is run. We will break bread, enjoy delicious homemade soup, then learn the simple Taize songs that we sing in those services. And we'll talk about silence :-)

particularly in terms of our mission giving to the United Church of Christ (OCWM). We continue to struggle with a governance structure that demands more and more from lay leaders. Our approved "Mission and Vision Statement" lacks specificity that can guide us through troubled waters. While not being a church with current conflict, we do experience residual effects of past conflict. Our search for a settled pastor is currently taxed with how to provide an attractive, yet authentic, church profile given these realities.

I have listed these challenges - not because I believe that we are in a life-challenging situation - but because I believe that we can navigate our path forward best when we have a clear understanding of the troubled waters that we are in.

From my perspective, we are already deeply engaged in adjusting our sails. In just this past month we celebrate that Rally Sunday was a wonderful re-connection day that was filled with high energy and expectations for the ministries of this church that are planned for the year ahead. Christian Education and outreach activities seem re-energized, particularly with the initiation of the exciting Morningside U programs. Confirmation is underway with eight confirmands. The Pastoral Search Committee has assigned tasks individually and has met two more times to review progress. Our new website is taking shape with launch expected before the end of 2015. Worship attendance this Fall is at least equal to one year ago with wonderful worship and music experiences. Our worship and music survey is underway which will provide us good data for affirming our current worship and music program and/or in considering any needed adjustments. Morningside Preschool is thriving. 2016 plans are underway for both the Summer Theater Camp and Morningside After Dark community outreach programs.

Please sign up in the Narthex, so we can plan accordingly.

(Regular Taize Worship will resume on Sunday, November 15th in the sanctuary, from 7-7:30, followed by a light soup supper in the library. All are welcome.)

VEAP UPDATE



*Meeting Basic Needs.
Building Stronger Communities.*

Back to School Program

Here is a summary from the VEAP newsletter on the 2015 Back to School program, a recap in numbers. Thanks to all who contributed!

3,142 Children were served with new Backpacks and Supplies from 1,358 Households. 172 Volunteers, 1,113 Hours of Service, 4 Leads, 12 hours sorting &

A most important adjustment of our sails is occurring this month. Small groups are being formed. These are similar to the small groups used in the Revision process of 2013. We need broad participation in order for them to be successful. We are asking for input as to the specific ways we are choosing to "live in" to our vision. Please say "yes" when asked to participate. Please come prepared with your hopes and dreams for this church. Please let us know if you believe we need to sail in new directions. What old and new destinations do you have in mind for our journey?

Finally, the next major agenda will be this Fall's Stewardship Campaign followed by the development of the 2016 church budget. Stewardship is a spiritual practice. We give of our financial resources to this community not because of the specific budget needs, but because our giving is the expression of the goodness of God in our lives and in our community. I do believe that it is miraculous how the giving of this church has been relatively stable over the last several years despite the declines mentioned above. Thanks Be to God for your generosity to God's work. Every member and friend of this congregation is asked to prayerfully consider what God is calling you to commit in the coming year. By increasing your giving, you will also help to assure that we can maintain current ministries and balance the budget for the coming year and into the future.

This is a blessed community. I do believe that by adjusting our sails, and with God's guidance, we will be able to transform this community in meaningful ways for a vital future. Thanks for the privilege of sailing with you this year.

counting supplies, 8.5 hours packing backpacks, 5 Days of Distribution & a record 322 Households served in 3 hours on Saturday!! 70,000 supplies and backpacks were donated (and counted) this year. 90 Collection Boxes provided @ 31 Public Collection Sites & 23 Private Company Drives served by 8 dedicated courier volunteers. Plus we had donations from dozens of churches and hundreds of individuals to fill 33 pallets with donations, including a record 8.5 pallets filled in one day, and \$12,944 in cash donations! VEAP's Back to School Program provided (value) more than \$100,000 in product!

Upcoming Activities

Thanksgiving

VEAP's Holiday Meals program delivers hot meals, donated by local restaurants and congregations, to home bound low- and fixed-income seniors and disabled adults on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. These deliveries not only provide a hot meal on the Holiday, but also a friendly visit. Monetary donations to VEAP support these upcoming meals.

Holiday Toy Drive

Moderator's Corner

by Sonja Martens

MISSION STATEMENT: At Edina Morningside Community Church, we are building a vibrant home for spiritual exploration and growth, where we care, learn, create and serve with each other in times of joy and in times of challenge. We warmly welcome people of all backgrounds and beliefs. Together, we deepen our connection with our Creator, and live Christ's commandment to love one another.

VISION STATEMENT: We welcome all into our loving Christian community. We strengthen families, friends, each other and our wider community as we joyously rise to the challenge of living Jesus Christ's example.

Last night I heard Elizabeth Gilbert speak about creativity. Her words were insightful and encouraging. As a short, rather inadequate summary, her message was that we all are creative and we all need to follow our curiosity. Every creative act counts.

Here at Edina Morningside, we are moving forward to find our creative spirit as a congregation. We are building on the revisioning work we have already done (see the Mission and Vision statements, above) and figuring out where our curiosity will take us in the quest to live out our Mission and Vision. The discussion continues as we put together small groups to talk about what that will look like for us. These small groups will be occurring in the next month. I encourage you to take part in one of them and let your creativity be part of what we are becoming together. The insights and feedback from these sessions will help to inform our future as a church and the Search Committee as they begin their search process.

VEAP will be looking for toys, games, and winter clothing to be collected by December 12. VEAP's goal is to provide one toy, one book, and two winter wear items per child and one game per household for low income families in Richfield, Bloomington, Edina, and south Minneapolis. All donations must be NEW items. In an effort to be equitable, VEAP will only distribute items valuing \$10-\$20.

And don't forget that the food shelf can always use donations, at any time of the year. Let's fill up our narthex grocery cart!!

[Barb Green](#), Deacons

October Calendar

[October Calendar](#)

Women's Fellowship

Get Ready for the

There are a lot of other exciting things happening too. A big one is that Steve Ray and the Membership Committee are in the midst of completely remaking our church website. I have seen the prototype and it is fabulous! Stay tuned as we move toward bringing that on line. It will be live by the end of the year. If you see Steve, Robin, Karin or Charlie, tell them thank you for the hours of time and effort they are spending on this!

Janet Anderson and BOCE continue to offer interesting opportunities, from Morningside U (check it out - there is probably something you would like to learn about) to Adult Conversations to opportunities to socialize over a meal while supporting economic growth in struggling communities. The first Morningside U class, led by Mary Rogers, received rave reviews and may make a second appearance for those of us who couldn't come the first time.

If you haven't been to church lately, we would love to see you. Come to worship, have a cup of coffee with us, and see what the buzz is all about!

Christian Education

DOUBTER'S SUNDAY

Our next Family Sunday will be October 11th and will be organized around our experience of doubt. Doubt can close off avenues of experience, but it can also be the spark that pushes us toward new discoveries and capabilities spiritually, just as it can do physically, intellectually, or emotionally. When we question, we learn. It's never too late to decide to serve on Family Sunday! Connect with

MEATLOAF LUNCH!!! Sunday, November 1st.



Women's Fellowship is already planning this sumptuous lunch for Sunday, November 1st right after worship. Meatloaf, baked potatoes, corn, jell-o cups, dessert..... YUM! Come Hungry!

Tickets:

- \$12/adults
- \$6/children
- \$30/family maximum

If you want take-out meals, sign up in advance and we'll have the meals packed and ready to go right after church. No waiting!

Tickets go on sale Sunday, October 11th. Purchase them at church or contact the office - 952-926-6555.

Janet Anderson if you would like to help take ownership of worship through reading, performing music, passing the offering, ushering, or something else. And if you want to just sit in a pew and enjoy the talents of fellow congregants, you are ensured a good time. See you there!

HALLOWEEN PARTY!



The annual Halloween Party & Spook House get underway this month with planning meetings scheduled on Wednesday evenings the 7th and 21st from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Some set-up will take place on Saturday the 24th from noon to 2:00 p.m. Note that this follows Dan Jurgens morning event on Creating Comics. Lunch will be served for Halloween Party planners at 11:30 a.m., so come for all of the fun that day. The party will take place from 3:00-5:00 p.m. on Sunday the 25th, with final set-up to begin no later than 2:00 p.m. If you are interested in planning and/or volunteering in the spook house or at the costume party for wee ones, come to the planning sessions or contact [Larry Williams](#).

CONFIRMATION & SECOND HARVEST SERVICE OPPORTUNITY



Confirmation meetings will be held on Wednesday the 14th and Wednesday the 28th this month. On the 14th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. confirmation class students will meet at Second Harvest in Golden Valley to help pack food for those in need. The entire congregation is welcome to join them. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex, or you may contact Janet Anderson to commit. We need to



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Oct 1	Jane Williams
Oct 4	Kyle Eidsness
Oct 5	Cathy Baldwin
Oct 7	Constance Fantin
Oct 9	Tyson Thomas
Oct 18	Jordan Thomas
Oct 20	Natalie Preston
Oct 23	Laura Benson
Oct 25	Emily Neuhaus
Oct 26	Connor Williams

Please let us know if we've missed your big day!!



PRESCHOOL NEWS

Fall is here! The preschool children have had a great few weeks of school. We enjoyed walking to 44th Street Dental to see what the

know the size of our group one week in advance so that an appropriate task can be assigned. Second Harvest has a bright, clean facility and the work is fun. Sign on to this great opportunity for intergenerational gathering!

MORNINGSIDE U: CREATING COMICS WITH DAN JURGENS



Our own Dan Jurgens is an award-winning creator of the most iconic characters in comics, including Spider-Man, Thor, Captain America, Superman, and Batman. He will be offering a Morningside U class on Saturday, October 24th from 10:00-11:30 a.m. about how comic books are written and illustrated. What is the role of a penciler or inker? How does the artist approach setting, angle, drama, and color? If you are a writer or artist of any kind, come and be inspired by learning about someone else's process. Comic book fans also welcome! And don't forget to invite your friends to this and other Morningside U events!

BOCE MEETING

Thursday, October 8th at 7:00 p.m.

[Janet Anderson](#)

Director, Children, Youth & Family Life

Settled Pastor Update

dentist is like. The children were given a tour of the dental office, saw x-rays, looked at the tools used to clean teeth and took a goodie bag home.

Our theme for October is "Our World" and our social goal is curiosity. We will be looking for fall changes outside. We will be going on a fall walk on Thursday, October 8th to look, see and feel the season changes. The Edina fire department will visit preschool on Wednesday, October 14th. The children will be able to see fire fighters get dressed in their gear and explore in the fire truck.

We will be trick or treating at Jones Harrison retirement center with the children on Thursday, October 29th. The children can dress up for Halloween and visit the seniors. This event is enjoyed by everyone!

Preschool is in need of some supplies! Please consider using the giving tree located by the stairs in fellowship hall. If you would like to contribute take an owl from the tree and purchase the items on the owl. Return the items with the owl tag back

Greeting from the Settled Pastor Search Committee. We started our committee meetings, and I want to make sure the search process is as transparent as possible. From a timing perspective our overall goal is to:

- 1) Have the Church Profile completed and ready to send out by the end of 2015. It will be a lot of work to pull this together in a short time frame.
- 2) Post the job opening in January and conduct phone/Skype interviews as the candidates apply.
- 3) Hold in person interviews for the final candidates in February and March.
- 4) If all goes well... present the final candidate to the congregation in April for a May start date.

Our first task is writing the Church Profile document. The Church Profile is essentially the marketing booklet that we send out to applicants. It contains a lot of information about the church, our history, mission/vision, outreach programs, finances, and staff.

Each search committee member is pulling together information on these areas of the profile:

Local Search Profile: Laurie Cory

Church Finances: Barb Green

Financial Support of Ministerial Leaders:

Doug Toth

Characterisitics: Karin Miller

to school. The owls will be reused for he next time those items are needed and placed back on the Giving Tree. Thank you for your support at Edina Morningside.

Volunteer opportunities are still available. Please let [Melissa](#) know if you are interested. These opportunities include: helping with lunch every Tuesday and Wednesday, fall walk on October 8, Fire truck visit on October 14, cooking project on October 20 and writing children stories during preschool class time.

Thank you,
Melissa, Jessie & Destiny

Messenger Deadline



October 26th is the deadline for articles to be included in the November Messenger.

Community

Congregational Life: Larry Williams with support from Cathy Baldwin and Don Patrick

Wider Church Connections: Cathy Baldwin

Relationship with Ministerial Leaders: Martha Phelps

General: Jeff Strickler

If you would like more information about the Church Profile, [click here](#) for a full description of the document from the UCC.

Overall, when reviewing a Church Profile, prospective pastors are looking for information in four areas:

- 1) Trends in membership and church finances
- 2) Compensation - what are we able to offer
- 3) History - what is the history of the church and how did we deal with any conflict
- 4) Other qualities - What is it about our church mission & outreach that makes us a great fit for their unique gifts

Please let me or any committee member know if you have any questions, comments or concerns. We appreciate all your thoughts and prayers as we work through the settled pastor search process.

Doug Toth, chair, on behalf of the Settled Search Committee members *Laurie Cory, Barb Green, Karin Miller, Larry Williams, Cathy Baldwin, Don Patrick, Martha Phelps*

Event

Dave and Margot Chatterton used to be long time members at EMC, prior to moving away about 10 years ago. Their youngest son, John, died suddenly 20 years ago at the age of 28. His parents established a scholarship at the Uof M in his name. There will be a memorial concert featuring the scholarship recipients in Lloyd Ultan Recital Hall on Friday, October 9th at 7 pm. The concert is free and open to the public. There is a flyer posted in the narthex If you would like more information.

Thanks!

Cathy Baldwin

Loaves and Fishes



and Jeff Strickler.

DAYLIGHT CENTER & SCHOOL, KENYA



EMC Contact:

Pam DeLaitre

pdelait@earthlink.net

Click on the link below to read about Norm Lemay's mission trip from Minnesota to Kenya and how he connected with the people at Daylight.

[Daylight October Update](#)

Please continue to keep the people of Kenya, the dedicated people who support Daylight, and the staff and children at Daylight in your prayers.

Blessings!

Pam

Financial Update

August 31, 2015 Update on Status of Pledged Income

Pledge Income	Month of August	YTD August 31
Budgeted Pledge Income	\$16,185	\$129,480
Actual Pledge Income	\$20,417	\$121,743
Variance	+\$4,232	-\$7,747

To our faithful Loaves & Fishes volunteers:

We received the disappointing news this week that Loaves and Fishes has closed their Faith Lutheran site, where we have served since 2004. We have prepared and served well over 12,500 meals at Faith, all of them accompanied by a smile and greeting from our faithful volunteers. Our taco salad meal has been the most popular item on the menu at Faith, and our guests always go out of their way to tell us how much they appreciate what we have provided. The generosity and commitment of our congregation, both in terms of money and time, has made this outreach ministry possible. We hope that we will be able to find another Loaves and Fishes location where we might serve in the near future. As we evaluate the possibilities, we will keep in mind that something closer to church would enable more of you to participate. In the meantime, please keep our guests from Faith Lutheran in your prayers, as they cope with one more challenge in their lives.

If your pledge amount is behind schedule, please consider getting caught up prior to the end of October. Also, please consider an increase to your giving to decrease the \$31,000 approved budget deficit, if possible.

Laurie Cory

Stewardship Pledge Drive for 2016

It's Fall and a sense of excitement fills the air!

Why? Because it's the start of a new school year...because it's the start of a new church year at Edina Morningside...and because it's time to launch the 2016 annual pledge drive to secure financial commitments for Edina Morningside's annual operations!

- Two years ago, a slightly different approach was taken...pledging took place before the Trustees created the budget, and this worked well.
- This year's pledge drive will take place in similar fashion, so be on the look-out during the next few weeks.

In the meanwhile, here are a few take-aways gleaned from a national UCC meeting I attended last week with church leaders from around the country...points to ponder as we begin the pledging process.

- "Taking a risk is risky! Life is a risk! Every choice is a risk!" Sina Ashoon of the First Samoan UCC (Phoenix, AZ) when describing her church's decision to build.
- "Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, live righteously and he will give you everything you need"(Matthew 6:33) Live as if it is already here, and God will give you all the money, people and expertise you need. Re-think the "Mindset of Scarcity" to a "Mindset of Abundance"
- Deploying assets for mission - Concept of leveraging one's assets for the advancement of the mission and ministry of the

church.

- 73% of churches receiving building loans from the UCC are Open and Affirming! Growing and vital churches embrace and are committed to diversity.
- Invest to generate a return that grows the economy of God - Put God's economy first

Charlie Green

Chair, Board of Stewardship

Front Porch Friday Returns



The Pavek Museum of Broadcasting is an interesting little gem of a museum that most people haven't discovered. It showcases the history of broadcasting, and also much local radio history and memorabilia. I have driven past it forever, and never explored it. We have a chance to remedy that on FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23. We will meet at church at 10:30 to carpool to the Museum at 3517 Raleigh Ave, St. Louis Park. [It's right in the neighborhood! Right across from the St. Louis Park Beltway Post Office - near Byerly's and Target] We will have a guided tour at 11:00. Cost is \$7 each. We will "do lunch" afterward in the neighborhood.

Looking forward to November, we hope to set up a visit to the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. They are hosting a major exhibit of paintings by Delacroix, which should be very good. Stay tuned! Contact [Molly Cox](#) or [Laura Simonson](#) for more information.

Contact Us

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Edina Morningside Community Church is Open and Affirming.

Find us online: [EMC's Facebook page](#)

And find archived newsletters and calendar information at our web site:

[Edina Morningside Community Church](#)