

# THE HERALD



## ***From the Pastor:***

**February 2012**

We have been thinking about the *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*, which is the title of a book authored by Robert Schnase, a bishop in the United Methodist Church. The five practices are 1) the Practice of Radical Hospitality; 2) the Practice of Passionate Worship; 3) the Practice of Intentional Faith Development; 4) the Practice of Risk-Taking Mission and Service; and 5) the practice of Extravagant Generosity. This month we will consider the Practice of Intentional Faith Development.

Jesus worked for three years with his disciples. We read that when Jesus called them to follow, they did so immediately. But that does not mean they were perfect from the beginning. They had a lot to learn and they made many mistakes along the way. But they grew in their faith. Even after their three years with Jesus, after he ascended to heaven, they continued to grow in their faith and discipleship. Today we are given many opportunities for life-long learning. Our learning does not end when we graduate. Southeast Community College offers a variety of classes. You can take classes in cooking, photography, woodworking, just to name a few. Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) is a program housed at UNL that offers a variety of courses to “promote lifelong learning for adults 50 years and older.” Growth in our faith is also a lifelong practice. Unfortunately too many people think that once they have been confirmed, they no longer need to go to Sunday School. Why is it that in most churches there are a lot more children in Sunday School than adults?

As Rev. Schnase wrote, “Learning in a community replicates the way Jesus deliberately taught his disciples.” Our faith is relational and we learn in the presence of others. We learn not just by reading books and studying Scripture, but also in community. The practices of our faith are too demanding without the support of a community. Small groups that gather together to study, grow in their faith, support one another, and hold one another accountable is a necessary component in keeping our faith alive. We all need the Practice of Intentional Faith Development and it needs to be done in a community of faith.

I have been very pleased to see the number of people that have been coming to the adult Sunday School classes on Sunday mornings. We have been having about seven to nine people and have been studying many different topics. Right now we are studying the Old Testament prophets. But we need to expand our class offerings. Some people cannot attend on Sunday mornings. Some of our adults are in choir practice or teaching children in Sunday School during that time, and so we need to offer choices other than Sunday morning and in locations other than the church building. And we need others to teach or facilitate learning experiences, both short term and long term, and at various times. Being a group leader doesn't require you to be an expert or Bible scholar. We can learn together as we strive to develop our faith intentionally! Please contact me or a member of the Christian Education Committee if you might be willing to lead a small group learning experience.

*Raymond A. Meester*

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## **PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT 2012**

*Heritage pays a per capita assessment each year for every active member to cover certain costs of the Presbytery Synod, and General Assembly. For 2012 the cost is \$32.17 per member. Please consider writing a check and placing it in the blue “Per Capita” envelope in the pews – and place it in the offering plate or mail to the church office. This will allow more pledges to go to the mission and ministry of the church.*



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

- 02 Benjamin Kendle
- 02 Nancy Weyers
- 04 Adam Treffer
- 07 Jordan Wilson
- 07 Tamra Broeder
- 10 George Neill
- 11 Don Stansberry
- 11 Gary Siemers
- 12 Gale Cooper
- 12 Helen Jones
- 12 Jim Newman
- 12 Willis Duerksen
- 13 Austin Wenzl
- 13 Brandon Ell
- 13 Glenice Gibson
- 17 Ramona Meester
- 18 John Jack
- 19 Diane Olsen
- 22 James Oliver
- 22 Ken Olsen
- 22 Savanna Newman
- 24 Kai Alan Burkey
- 25 Bob Foreman
- 25 Karen Hartman
- 27 Barbara Kennedy

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 02 Jay and Nancy Weyers
- 16 Ty and Jen Burkey
- 18 Eva Abbey
- 27 Scott and Patrice Gaines

*Please notify the church office if your birthday or anniversary was omitted or incorrect so we can make the necessary changes.*



## OUR SYMPATHIES

...to the family and friends of Gene Colberg who died January 11, 2012 in California. Gene is the father of Melody Ell, Sylvia Fuller, and David Colberg.

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptized at Heritage on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011:

Sameera Raad Al-masaudi (born December 19, 2011) infant daughter of Shawna Haas and Raad Al-masaudi



## FINANCIAL INFORMATION THROUGH 12/31/2011

Expenses	\$150,911.64
Receipts	132,892.41

In order to balance the budget at the end of the year, it was necessary to transfer \$18,019.23 from the endowment fund.

## GIVING TABLE/FOOD PANTRY

Heritage will have their next Giving Table on February 19<sup>th</sup> with donations directed to the Food Pantry at Eastridge Presbyterian Church. During communion “you may freely give as you have received”. It is not required to donate to take part in communion.



## PEACEMAKING WORKSHOP XXVI

Jim Hightower will be the keynote speaker at the annual Peacemaking Workshop March 4, 2012, at 1:30 PM at First United Methodist Church, 2723 North 50<sup>th</sup> St., Lincoln, Nebraska. The subject of the workshop is the growing gap between rich and poor. His presentation, titled “America’s Leaders Are Small, But Americans Are Not: Turning Our Leaders’ Failure Into Our Inspiration” will be followed by workshops, guest speakers, book and displays by peacemaking groups. This Peacemaking Workshop XXVI event is offered free, thanks to donated support from a number of individuals and organizations. It is open to the public and all interested persons are encouraged to attend.

## HERITAGE BIRTHDAY CLUB

*Congratulations to Harvey and Kay Traudt on joining the Heritage Birthday Club, and to Beverly Traudt and Helen Weber for renewing their membership.* Donations (usually 1 dollar per year of life) are made to our endowment fund. These gifts will be used to ensure that our ministry can continue in the future.

## WINTER WEATHER POLICY

KFOR Radio and local television stations will be contacted by 8:00 AM on Sunday morning if worship will be cancelled due to inclement weather.



**HERITAGE NEW OFFICE HOURS**  
**9 AM TO 2 PM**  
**WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY**



**RAMONA & GINA MEESTER WITH TIERRA FERTILE COFFEE FARMER**

Ramona & Gina were blessed to participate in the 2012 Fair Trade

Delegation to Nicaragua which was sponsored by the Presbyterian Hunger Program of the PC(USA) and Equal Exchange.

While in Nicaragua they learned about the history & culture of Nicaragua and Fair Trade while visiting the Tierra Nueva Coffee Cooperative, the Women's Pottery Cooperative of Ducuale Grande, & Zona Franca Masili (a fair trade sewing cooperative), & Esperanza en Acción (a small non-profit organization that serves artisan groups in Nicaragua helping them to improve their small businesses by offering trainings and capacity building workshops, assistance in calculation of a fair wage and connections to local and international fair trade organizations). Of course, picking coffee and the home stay were a few of the highlights of the trip, but they look forward to sharing many photos & stories with you. They are grateful to Heritage's Mission Committee for their scholarship support.

**HOSTING HOMESTEAD PRESBYTERY FEBRUARY 18**

**—CAN YOU HELP—**

Heritage Church will be hosting the meeting of Homestead Presbytery on Saturday, February 18, 2012. We will need some people to act as hosts and to help in the kitchen and serve lunch. We will also need some help with setting up the day before. If you are able to help, please contact the church office.



**THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN**



...will be "hiding" their "Alleluia's" on *Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>*, during the worship service. The children hide their butterflies in a trunk on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday.

**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING 2012**

More than 20 years ago, the *Souper Bowl of Caring* began with a simple prayer from a single youth group: *"Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat."* Since that day, more than \$81 million has been raised for local charities across the country through the *Souper Bowl of Caring*.

**On FEBRUARY 5TH** we will join churches all across the country in the *Souper Bowl of Caring* and collect money and food for the hungry and homeless in our community.

This year we will be collecting for Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach (MTKO) in Lincoln. For nearly 20 years MTKO has served the homeless and near homeless. Feeding the hungry is at the core of their mission— MTKO serves a hot nutritious lunch and dinner every day of the year. More than 100,000 meals were served in 2011. Matt Talbot also provided over 20,000 homeless prevention services in 2011 such as life skills training, drug & alcohol counseling, case management, and health screenings..

Our youth will hold soup pots at church doors on Sunday, February 5th. Checks can be made out to Heritage Church with a note "Super Bowl of Caring 2012". Be part of this movement that is sharing God's love with those in need. Please give generously on Super Bowl Sunday. A gift in any amount is greatly appreciated and truly makes a difference!

**SYNOD SCHOOL 2012 IS ONLY A FEW MONTHS AWAY – PLAN TO ATTEND NOW.**



It's only a few short months before summer returns and that means Synod School 2012, the annual midsummer ministry of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies. Synod School 2012, with the theme, "Singing the Lord's Song in a Strange Land," offers fun and mind-stretching courses, worship and singing that will be long remembered, and time for both fellowship and private reflection. The Meesters, The Thompsons, Marilyn Smith, and Jane Bitney have attended and can tell you more about it. Synod School 2012 runs July 22-27 at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa. For an advance look at plans: click <http://www.lakesandprairies.org/school.html>



# AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY DAFFODIL DAYS

The daffodil is the first flower of spring and is chosen for this event because it represents hope – hope for a community free from cancer. Daffodil Days funds cancer research, education, advocacy and service programs for your American Cancer Society.

Just some of the services available are: free wigs, helping support transportation to treatment, information for cancer patients and their families 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. (cancer information Center 1-800-ACS-2345), cancer patient lodging – the Guest Room Program, fighting back by working with lawmakers to pass laws to defeat cancer and rallying communities worldwide to join the fight, and many more

Daffodil bouquet - \$10.00 per bouquet	Quantity _____
Cheer bouquet (bouquet and glass vase) - \$15 per bouquet	Quantity _____
Bear and a Bunch bouquet (Limited Edition Boyds Bear and bouquet) for \$25.00	Quantity _____

I have enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_. (Checks should be payable to the American Cancer Society)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

*You may give your orders to Pat Zink (402-488-2847) or the church office.*

***Orders must be in by February 12, 2012.***

## 2012 Committees

### Buildings & Grounds

Lew Sieber – chair  
 Karen Paulsen  
 Jim Newman-will head up “Green Team.”  
 Ron Miller (not a member of committee, but will head up mowing team)

### Christian Stewardship

Karen Stork– chair  
 Bruce Snyder (ex officio)  
 Andy Singaas  
 Patty Doering

### Christian Ed

Patrice Gaines  
 Bev Traudt  
 Kelly Jack  
 Kate Singaas  
 Chanell Carpenter  
 Cindy Pierce

### HEARTeam

Denise Lagueux - Co-chair  
 Mike Lagueux – Co-chair  
 JoAnne Lahm  
 Bob Foreman  
 Phyllis Foreman  
 David Thompson

### Human Resources

Jeff Pierce – chair  
 Kelly Jack  
 Ron Miller  
 Scott Gaines

### Mission

Karen Sieber - chair  
 Barb Shaeffer  
 Pat Zink  
 Jane Bitney  
 Leanne Miller



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.....A HEARTfelt thank you to all my Heritage family for their prayers and cards during my recent surgery and recovery. A special thanks to Pastor Ray for his visit and phone calls to monitor my progress. **Ron Smith**

.....Thank you for the goody bag at finals time, full of snacks and encouraging messages. It was a nice surprise. Thank you for thinking of me. I enjoyed the winter break and now I am ready to start fresh with the new semester. Thanks again. **Haylee Carpenter**

.....Thank you Heritage Church friends for my gift card for Valentinos and my lovely Christmas card. I pray each and every one of you had a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year. Again, thanks.

**Barb Queen**

... ..Thank you to all of you who sent Christmas cards and gave gifts this last holiday season. We truly appreciate your thoughtfulness. **Ray, Ramona, and Gina**

.....Thank you to the people of Heritage Church who go up to see my mom, Alberta Worth, and for the lovely gift basket at Christmas. Mom was thrilled to get that basket full of goodies. Thanks again for all you do. **Connie and Jim Risor.**

.....Dear Friends: Your kindness and gift were so unexpected and thoughtful. You all are truly a blessing. **Marilyn Smith.**

.....I appreciate the Super Saver gift card more than you can imagine. Thank you so very much for your kindness. **Sonia Colberg.**

.....Dear friends, Thank you for your kind wishes and the gift cards. It is so nice to know that you are appreciated by your church family. The people of Heritage mean a lot to me. **Bev Traudt.**

.....Thank you Heritage Church for your cards and gifts at Christmas. It was very thoughtful. **Lil**

.....The Church Office also received a number of phone calls from others who had received cards, Christmas baskets, gift cards, and well wishes, to express their thanks and appreciation for having been remembered this past Christmas by the Heritage Church community.