

# the Inside Scoop



## "WHICH WAY DO YOU WANT TO GO?"

By Gwen Bartels, Worship Committee

One thing we enjoy doing, especially on our summer vacations, is to get outside and breathe some fresh air, get a little exercise, and discover and explore something/somewhere new and different. For a couple summers, we have spent a week hiking in the Adirondack Mountains in far eastern New York State. Many times we've discovered that the easiest trails are not the ones our guide has chosen. These folks know the mountains, terrain, and trails and know the sights, and quite often we come to a fork in the path with a choice - the nice wide smooth trail or the rough rocky narrow trail. More often than not, what they wanted us to see and where they wanted us to go was up the steep, rocky, tree-rooted way with the crevices or ladders (or through the mud by the swamp). When we've hiked through those tough places, wondering where we're going to end up, we'd get to a ledge with an open expansive view, a gorgeous vista, or an opening in the trees that revealed a beautiful, crystal clear lake. Whatever the reward, when we got to see it, it made all the rest of the challenging miles and rocky way behind us worthwhile. (And one of the extra 'bonuses' was the camaraderie and bonding with fellow hikers as we experienced the challenges together.)

This month of the year does not contain any of the 'big' Christian holy days like Resurrection Day or Pentecost, but it is part of that more 'ordinary time' where we keep 'hiking' along, staying faithful in our quest for spiritual growth, knowledge, and our relationship with God. Here at our church, we've planned our Celebration of Graduation for our High Schoolers on Sunday, June 7, and then we'll recognize and honor our earthly fathers on Fathers Day, June 14. (A couple weeks prior to that, we will ask you to share a photo of your father or someone who was like a father to you so we can create a display.) Because it's the summer, perhaps we think of these months as an 'easier' time of year - a time of less commitments or meetings or rehearsals or ... (you name it). But isn't that like taking the smooth path? Why not use this summer to challenge yourself to read a portion of the Bible, worship at another church if out of town, join a summer Bible study, volunteer with our VBS, help on a Habitat build, attend a church camp or our Church of the Dunes Family Camp, read a Christian book, sew - knit - create something for the church bazaar, invite your neighbors to church with you or invite them for a BBQ, (or an ice cream social like we plan to do), ...and the list could go on. If any of these things are 'out of your regular routine or comfort zone,' isn't that like taking the rocky path? Take the challenge. You will be blessed with an unexpected view, a beautiful outlook, a new friendship, a closer walk with God.

## BOOK DISCUSSION NEWS!

The book group will meet again on June 11, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Ryder Lounge. We will discuss *I Thought I Heard the Lion's Roar*, by Cindy Allen. The subject matter is downsizing and discerning God's voice in turbulent times. The author is from West Michigan. If you have difficulty finding the book, please contact Karyn Gillan, 616-842-1362 or karyn.umcdunes@gmail.com. All are welcome!

## HELP NEEDED FOR WELCOME CENTER

Check out the plans for the new Welcome Center on the easel in the narthex! It will be a welcoming spot for all visitors and information spot for members. We have collected \$175.00 so far and need a total of \$1500.00. Please prayerfully consider making a donation for this important ministry. Thank You!

## HOLLY BERRY BAZAAR UPDATE

Well, here we are into the month of June already and that means the Bazaar is only 6 months away! Yikes! WE REALLY NEED YOUR HELP THIS SUMMER. WE NEED SOME NEW PRODUCT IDEAS, SO KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN AT CRAFT SHOWS. Also, anyone who has an idea and would like to lead a work bee and teach us how to make something, that would be GREATLY APPRECIATED. Is there anyone who could teach us basket making? We have a large supply of cross stitch cloth. If anyone works with this, they are welcome to take some of it.

COME TO THE SOCIAL HALL ON TUESDAY MORNINGS AT 10:00 a.m. and see what is going on. You are welcome to come and bring your own projects and work on them with the group. This is a great opportunity to meet others and socialize as well as work for a good cause. Remember contributions to all the area charitable organizations are down this year because of the economy so all the money we take in at the bazaar will really help these groups. Also if we can provide some really nice quality items that people can use for Christmas Gifts we will be helping the community in two ways. If you have questions, call Beth Sheffield at 846-5255 or Marion Fitch at 296-0844.

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## SERVING GOD THROUGH VOLUNTEERING

By Karyn Gillan, [karyn.umcdunes@gmail.com](mailto:karyn.umcdunes@gmail.com)

As the school year comes to a close, so does our church year in many ways. There are volunteers all around us; probably sitting next to you on Sunday morning or mingled throughout coffee hour, who will take a hiatus for a few months. Romans says God has gifted us with abilities so we can make a contribution to his kingdom work. We, here at the Dunes, are very grateful for those who put these gifts to good use.

There are many who share their gifts weekly—fabulous Sunday School and Son Club teachers and helpers, terrific youth leaders and helpers, dedicated singers and ringers, joyful bulletin folders, a committed pew restocker and worship bag replenisher, two wonderful head ushers, the saavy sound board guys, the entire Wednesday night dinner crew, folks who send welcome cards to visitors, and a friendly coffee/tea/hot chocolate server!

Many others share themselves generously. There are dynamic host/greeters and ushers, articulate liturgists and Children's Time message givers, accurate money counters, energetic Digest folders and mailers, brave acolytes, creative communion preparers and servers, talented committee chairpersons and members. We also have a dedicated volunteer Digest editor who puts in countless hours and a skilled webmaster who keeps our website up to date. We have the Old Fogies who do a variety of services, many folks committed to prayer, drivers, bakers, meal preparers, knowledgeable librarians, guys with umbrellas, clean-up crews, nursing home visitors, knitters and crafters, and confirmation mentors.

I'm sure I've forgotten some, but thanks to all who do God's work so beautifully. Your hard work and dedication is appreciated!

As we take a break from our yearly volunteer jobs, may we reflect on the opportunities we have had to serve others and God. Contemplate the things that went well and consider the possibilities for change. Thank God for the blessings and for the challenges. Rest, reflect, relax, but recommit. And if you haven't found that place to serve, ponder where you can give of yourself this year. God smiles on us and is glorified when we serve others.

## Tools of Hope

A way to make that  
Father's Day card even  
more special

For decades, Church World Service has sent blankets around the world to refugees and disaster victims and we were there supporting their Blanket Sunday program. Their program enlarged to include tools several years ago and that is when we combined this special Sunday with Father's Day.

Once again, we will be providing ways for you to donate to Tools of Hope Sunday and receive a small note to place in your Father's Day card to add that extra meaning to the day.

Missions Commission volunteers will be available after services on Sundays June 7th and 14th and also on Father's Day June 21st.