

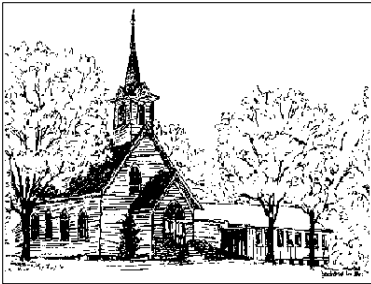


MERE LYS newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

September 2006

VIEW FROM THE HILL



I want to tell you about a man I met today; let's call him Bill W. He's in a substance abuse program, but booze and pot are not the most pressing issues Bill's facing. He's just been told that his liver is beyond repair, and that his diabetes is so advanced that he almost certainly will not be a candidate for a transplant. Oh, and he's also been diagnosed with early MS.

It's not my habit to use this space to talk about pastoral care issues, especially those that are life-threatening, but Nora Church was on my mind as Bill and I talked. Truth is, without all the work and love that has sustained this little church, perhaps Bill might not have found an ear for his story today.

I could go on and on about the people and problems that I, like any minister, encounter in the course of a week; people are hurting right here, too. It's my privilege to represent you and to seek to be the sometimes "official" extension of your compassion. I don't always get it right, but I never forget that part of my job is to join you out there in the world, trying to make a positive difference.

Keep Bill close to your heart over the coming days. I'll stay in touch with him, letting him know that folks he's never met, and perhaps never will, stand ready to help. It's one of the things we do well here at Nora. Our help is our prayers and wishes made manifest whenever, wherever and however. What a privilege to be part of this ongoing liberal religious tradition on the hill!

*Blessings,
Don*

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

FOOD FOR ALL - Is the 2nd Saturday in September at the Presbyterian Church in St. James. Nora church will furnish volunteers to distribute food at the monthly distribution. We'll meet at Nora church at 7:30 a.m. and carpool. Brenda Weger or Jeanie Hinsman can be contacted for more information. The Coming of Age class and their mentors are participating in this service project. Other volunteers are also very welcome.

This program supports a large number of elderly and families who come from a wide geographic area.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES met August 1 and elected officers for the 2006-2007 church year. Sheldon Rieke was reelected president; Julie Peck, vice president; Sally Hanson, treasurer, and Janet Rosenbloom, secretary. The board discussed goals for the year and the roles of committees in achieving them.



LUNCH BUNCH meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 20 at 11:30 AM. Place to be announced.

125TH ANNIVERSARY ITEMS AVAILABLE:

Christmas ornaments - \$10 100th Anniversary plates - \$3 Directories - \$3
Pre-orders are being taken for the 125th Anniversary Book @ \$12. If interested, please contact Shirley Olson on Sundays or call her for a mail order.

POSITION AVAILABLE:

The cleaning person for the church has resigned for health reasons. If you are interested in this position, please contact Sheldon.

RNs AND LPNs are needed: Unique, in-home nursing opportunities available with adults and/or child. Full and part-time hours available in New Ulm. Benefits may include health, dental, and vision insurance; short and long-term disability, fitness center membership, educational scholarships, 401(k) and up to \$1000 sign-on bonus. Call Jane or Vicki at (507) 354-3808 for more information.



UNITED WAY DAY OF CARING 2006 is scheduled for September 9. To tell about a project or volunteer your time, call the United Way at 354-6512. Also, the United Way of New Ulm is sponsoring a special, alcohol free family-oriented, community event this year to celebrate our caring community. For a \$10 ticket the event includes music, door prizes and dancing. If you wear any year's "Day of Caring" T-shirt you will get free pop and be eligible for the door prizes. All proceeds will go to New Ulm United Way. Tickets will be sold at

Cash Wise, NU Chamber or the United Way.

THE STAR OF THE NORTH FESTIVAL CONCERT SERIES presents "The F. Melius Christiansen 135th Anniversary Concerts." Where: Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis, MN. When: Sunday November 19, 2006 @ 2:00 and 6:30 p.m.

A special choral music event will celebrate the 135th birth anniversary of famed Minnesota choral director F. Melius Chirstiansen who is considered to be the father of a cappella choral singing in America. This special occasion will bring together, for the first time in the distinguished histories, the touring choirs and conductors of five Minnesota colleges and universities: Augsburg, Concordia-Moorhead, Concordia-St. Paul, Gustavus Adolphus, and St. Olaf, singing both individually and as a combined choir.

Tickets available: Orchestra Hall Box Office, 1111 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis: (800) 292-4141; Online: www.minnesotaorchestra.org

125TH ANNIVERSARY REFLECTIONS

As I write this, it is late afternoon after the 125th. Anniversary Service. It has been a wonderful day. A touching service, fun time getting our picture taken, good food, a chance to see old friends, and a chance to make new friends. What more could you want in a day ? So many people worked so hard to make this day so good and so special. Thank you one and all.

As we move forward this year it seems there are two things we can learn from today. First, this day was made possible by some people who tried something they never tried before - planning and organizing this celebration. These people stretched themselves to try something new, and it worked beautifully. The second thing, is that 125 years ago a group of people tried something they had never tried before - starting a new church. Their stretching, dedication and work also produced a beautiful result - Nora Church.

There will be times this coming year when opportunities will arise for everyone to stretch themselves and try something new. Please remember the two previous lessons when the opportunities arise for you to try something new at Nora, and go for it. Also remember that even if you are not successful with your new endeavor that at least you tried to make things better. That is more than most people ever do. -Sheldon Reike



The 125th Anniversary of the Nora Unitarian Universalist church of rural Hanska was celebrated this past weekend, Saturday and Sunday, August 19 and 20, 2006, in what was probably the most perfect weather we have had this summer. The fellowship of more than 200 people on Saturday evening and all day Sunday was enjoyed by many and was especially appreciated by the committee who worked long and hard to make this celebration so successful.

Visiting clergy included Rev. Dr. Sarah Oelberg and husband, Jerry, of Wisconsin; Rev. Harold Babcock and wife, Sabrina, of Massachusetts; Rev. Dr. Paul Johnson, wife Carol and daughter Kristin, of New York; Rev. Wes Hromatko and wife, Marilyn, of Lake Wilson, Mn; Rev. Ben Kjelskus and wife of Kansas City; Rev. Nels Oas of Deephaven, Mn; and Fred Doty and wife, Kathy, of Mankato. Also present for the day were the family of the late Rev. Emil Gudmundson, wife Dr. Barbara Gudmundson and daughters, Holly and Martha, of Minneapolis, and the son of the late Rev. George Walen, Jon and his daughter of Minneapolis.

Our gathering this past weekend had people registering from 26 cities in Minnesota as well as from 10 other states. With our shrinking population in rural America it is very hard to keep all things as we would like to keep them, but small town rural church life is still important to many and worthy of preserving. Those from far away still appreciate and remember fondly their time spent at Nora.

Although our membership is small in numbers compared to the U.U. churches in larger cities, our liberal presence is appreciated by many from Hanska as well as the cities surrounding Hanska. Our roots run deep and we hope our "Beacon on the Hill" will continue to serve the people from the area for many years to come. -Algot and Bonita

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



September is here and that means it's time for Sunday School to begin. **Our first day of Sunday School will be Sunday, September 17th.** Registration forms for the children will be available during coffee hour in the social hall beginning Sunday, August 20th. We ask that you complete a registration form for each child in your family prior to September 17th. Activities will be provided for the children to participate in during the church services prior to September 17th. Anne is looking for people interested in super-

vising the children and activities through September 10th. Please talk with her if you are interested in helping. This would be a great opportunity for the high school youth to help out the congregation.

If you have offered to teach Sunday School, please stop by the Sunday School registration table. There is a calendar of classes and topics for September through January. Please look at your calendars and then sign up for one Sunday a month to teach. Anne will also be contacting the Sunday School teachers about their preferences for classes and dates to teach.

The Sunday School classes will be as follows:

Tweeners: Fritz Rieke; Nora Peck; Courtney Schmitt; Kate Makepeace and Sydney Byro

Juniors: Cole Spilde; Ben Rieke; Nick Bodick; Eva Kunerth; Lydia Helder; Jack Bodick and Thor Weiss

Young'uns: Abbey Bodick; Toby Weiss; Myra Helder; Carson Schmitt Nelson; and James Harbur

Here are September topics for Sunday School:

September:

17th: All Classes - Welcoming Sunday for all classes, get acquainted or reacquainted with one another.

20th: RE Wed., we'll get ready for our smorg. games. Meet at 6:30 at church.

24th: Young'Uns - Bible Story/Autumn Activity

Juniors - **Timeless Themes # 13 - Let My People Go**

Tweeners - **In Our Hands #1 - Defining Peace**

Classes will be during the service after the children's story or the sharing of joys and concerns depending on the individual services.

Smorg. Activities:

The children will be sponsoring a fish pond, grab bags and a raffle at Smorg.. The money they raise will be used to fund service projects for the coming year. We are looking for the following items for the fish pond and grab bags: individual bags of chips, cookies, crackers, candy, small toys, pens, pencils, notepads, and anything you think would be a fun treat to get. Since our raffle was such a success last year, we'd like to try it again. We would like have three raffle baskets: a baby basket ; a kitchen basket ; and a children's craft/activity basket. We are looking for items to fill these baskets. If you are interested in donating items to these baskets, please contact Anne Rieke. Thank you for your help and assistance.



BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

The 125th Anniversary of what was first called the Nora Free Christian church is now history. Although the name of our church has been changed to the Nora Unitarian-Universalist church of Hanska, our mission remains the same as it was back in 1881. It is truly a joy and indeed a religious experience to gather in this beautiful, inspirational, hilltop setting.

We come together as a caring community that encourages spiritual and intellectual exploration in an environment of freedom and acceptance. Our goal is to help provide dignity and justice locally as well as globally. Together we can make a difference.

Those people who came together on August 19th and 20th were greeted by a freshly painted white church and adjoining buildings resting proudly on our green grass covered hilltop setting. As they absorbed the beauty of their religious gathering place they also enjoyed the coffee and cookies served out of the gazebo. This complemented the fellowship enjoyed by many people who had not seen one another as often as they would like.

The Building and Grounds Committee would like to thank the many volunteers who came together to help paint the many buildings, both inside and out, prior to our 125th Anniversary celebration. As the time was getting short and the weather played some tricks on us, we saw the need to hire some professional help to paint the church building. We hired the South Central Painting Crew from Hanska and they did what we think was a wonderful job. We still have the second coat to put on the lower level of the Fellowship Hall, Kaffe Stua, garage and storage shed, but that will be completed by volunteers, hopefully before our Smorgasbord on October 1st.

The painting of our buildings proved to be a most worthwhile project and the timing was right. Unfortunately we had not budgeted for such an extensive undertaking in this budget year. Our treasurer informs us that we are not in “a red alert” or even a “code orange” financial situation, but just as in life, we want to prevent that from happening. For that reason we are accepting contributions to help cover the cost of the unanticipated expense of finishing the entire project this summer.

Some donations were received the day of our celebration which prompted us to suggest additional contributions from any of you who feel so moved. We thank you in advance for your help.

We also encourage all of you to attend the Smorgasbord on Sunday, October 1st, bring friends and also your camera. The beauty of the adjoining fields of soybean will hopefully be in their golden stage ready to be harvested. If the weather cooperates with a bright, sunny day, a picture from the top of the hill looking down to the well groomed farm site of John and Ingrid Bode as well as a picture of the city of Hanska and the tall elevator buildings beyond those golden fields of beans would provide a picture worthy of inclusion in the National Geographic magazine.

Enjoy life!



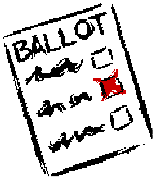


DON'S SCHEDULE

Don will continue with the same (more or less) schedule for the 2006-07 church year. Monday is his day-off and Fridays are reserved for sermon writing. While he continues to have other set commitments (New Ulm Ministerium, drug/alcohol unit presentations, board meetings for Healthy Communities/Healthy Youth, etc.) don't hesitate to call to schedule an appointment.

125TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

If you have not already ordered your copy of the **125th Anniversary Book**, please talk to Shirley or Sheldon. If you have any photos for the book please get them to Don or Sheldon by September 17th.



VOTE
September 12th
Minnesota's primary
election!

"Use your vote or lose your voice" – UUSC



The Red Cross bloodmobile will be at the Family Recreation Center in New Ulm:

Wednesday, September 13: 1 - 7 p.m.

Thursday, September 14: 1 - 7 p.m.

Friday, September 15: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Donors are encouraged to make appointments

1-800-426-2164 ext.4639

or email: www.givelife.org.

Together we can save a life!

To Keep In Touch

♥ **Clark Tuttle**, Long time Nora Church friend, died last month. He suffered a massive heart attack from which he never recovered. Don led Clark's memorial service, which was attended by many of his Nora Church friends. Clark was an attorney, civic leader and champion of those who are marginalized. We extend our deepest sympathy to Clark's family, wishing them strength and peace in the wake of his passing.



If you know of anyone needing our assistance or attention...please call one of the following Caring Committee members:

Georgine Tepley (chair)
359-3060 (weekdays after 5 pm)
Shirley Olson
439-6879
Carol Chambard
354-2242

THANK YOU! - Caring Committee

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ARE DUE BY THE 20TH OF EACH MONTH.

cindymo@sleepyeyetel.net

(507) 439-6380

20894 County Road 6
Hanska. MN 56041

Thanks for your help in getting articles to me.

Cindy Mosenden
Office Administrator



NORWEGIAN SMORGASBORD & COUNTRY STORE

NORA UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
12333 155th Avenue, Hanska, MN

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2006

Coffee at 10:00 a.m.

Country Store, Children's Activities - 10:00 a.m.

Church Service at 10:30 a.m.

Dinner Served - 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Adults ... \$10.00

Children 7 - 12 ... \$4.00

6 and under ... free

MENU

Meatballs, Ham, turkey, Tongue, Herring, Sot Supe, Rice, Rommegrot, Lefse, Flatbrod, Rosettes, Krumkake, Sandbakkels, Fattigmand, Berliner Kranser plus many other smorgasbord foods ... mashed potatoes, gravy, various salads, milk, coffee, lemonade
Take-outs available

Nora Church is handicapped accessible and is located
One mile East of Hanska, just off Highway 257

Website: www.norauuchurch.org



SUNDAY SERVERS**GREETERS/USHERS**

SEPTEMBER

3	Warren & Kristine Paulson Kristi Paulson	Jerry & Susan Allen
10	POTLUCK Julie Grothwohl Michelle Bethke Nancy Dickson Sally & Gil Hanson	Chris Bodick Charles Anderson
17	John & Julie Schmitt	Algot & Bonita Blomquist
24	Algot & Bonita Blomquist	Scott & Ross Chambard

OCTOBER

1	SMORGASBORD	Gil & Sally Hanson
8	Tarrie Swenstad & Vicki Sieve	Diane Becken Doug Anderson
15	John & Anne Makepeace	Edith Beckius Kristi Bodick
22	Sheldon Anne Rieke	Roger & Norma Breu
29	Pat & Laurie Kunert	Darrell & Jeanie Hinsman

NOVEMBER




5	POTLUCK Wally Beverly Wellmann Jason & Katie Monnens Kay Steffle & Mimi Kamleiter	Matt Harbur Kathleen Baril
12	Elroy & Ardis Wellmann	Wayne & Janet Johnson
19	Edith Beckius & Lynn Schmitt	Pat & Laurie Kunerth
26	Ron & Julie Peck	John & Anne Makepeace

DECEMBER

3	POTLUCK Joy Rathmann & Susan Evers Noah & Janet Rosenbloom	Katie & Jason Monnens
10	Doug Anderson Charles Anderson	Clayton & Shirely Olson
17	Mark & Brenda Wiger	Warren & Kris Paulson
24	to be announced	to be announced
31	no church	no church

NORA CHURCH CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																				
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3 9:00 Informal Discussion 9:00 Choir 10:00 Social Hour 10:30 Service	4 	5	6	7 	8	9 "Food For All" United Way Day of Caring																				
10 POTLUCK 9:00 Informal Discussion 9:00 Choir 10:00 Social Hour 10:30 Service	11	12 MN Primary Election	13-14 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">Bloodmobile in New Ulm</div>		15	16 United Way Dance @ George's																				
17 SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS 9:00 Informal Discussion 9:00 Choir 10:00 Social Hour 10:30 Service	18	19	20 11:30 LUINCH BUNCH 6:30 RE Wednesday	21	22 	23																				
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Nora Unitarian Universalist Church
12333 155th Avenue
Hanska Minnesota 56041-4310

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Hanska, MN 56041



If you have not yet stated whether you wish to receive your newsletter by snail mail or email, please let us know. We are still gathering info on this. It can be very cost effective for the church. Send a note to Cindy at: cindymo@sleepyeyetel.net (Please include NORA in the subject line. Thank you.

Nora church @ sleepyeyetel.net
<http://www.norauuchurch.org>

Nora Church Sunday Services SEPTEMBER 2006

Social Hour 10:00 AM

Worship Service 10:30 AM

SEPTEMBER 3: Liberal Religion: UU Christianity – Midwestern converts to our ranks are often surprised to find Unitarian Universalists who are practicing Christians. We'll explore the history and current practice of Christianity in UUism.

SEPTEMBER 17: Liberal Religion: Religious Humanism: There are many different shades and nuances to humanism. This service will explore several interpretations of humanism, but will focus primarily on its religious expression.

SEPTEMBER 24: Liberal Religion: Theism – There is a way of talking about God that neither offends the mind nor ignores the heart. We'll talk about the many ways in which modern theism and UUism intersect.