



MERE LYS newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

March 2010

A VIEW FROM THE HILL

I almost missed it.

In my typical pay-no-attention-to-the-commercials fashion I was walked out of the room when the tag-line for a car company flashed across the screen and caught my eye. "Joy is futureproof."

Just days earlier I had told the Nora Church Board of Trustees that I believe my mission in ministry here is to walk with you as you discover--or perhaps remember--your joy. Not your individual joys, though of course those are precious, but your collective joy as a congregation.

So I got pretty excited when I saw that tagline. "Yeah! That's it!" I thought. "That's why we should concentrate on joy. Because it's futureproof. If Nora finds its joy the next 130 years will take care of themselves!" Thanks to BMW I'd be able to communicate my vision with no effort or further thought and development at all.

Until I thought about it for an hour or two. *Futureproof?* What does that even mean? And if we could figure out what it meant, why would joy be any more futureproof than, say, anger or frustration or disappointment?

Alas, the gulf between the ways of advertising and the ways of ministry, the ways of religious community, is wide.

I haven't change my mind about joy being crucial to what we should be about together, here at Nora in the coming months and years. Just about having BMW help us figure it out. A man of faith and wisdom might be a better guide.

Presbyterian minister and writer Frederick Buechner contends that "The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."

In my observation, Nora is already a place of great gladness, even joy. You rejoicing in being together whenever possible. You rejoice in your rich history. You rejoice in being hospitable. I'm not worried about *making* you glad or joyful, or *bringing* you gladness or joy. I want us, together, to reveal Nora Church's *central* gladness, so that we might then serve the world with renewed purpose and vitality.

I told the board, our mission in ministry, as you approach 130 years of existence, is to move into that junction of gladness and hunger, to occupy it mindfully, and to serve the world from it. If we can do that, the future will take care of itself.

-Lisa



The Lunch Bunch will meet at the Pizza Ranch in New Ulm on Wednesday, March 24, 11:30 AM. Everyone is welcome to meet and eat. Hope to see you there.

COMMITTEE CONUNDRUM ADD YOUR VOICE!

Could you be on a church committee and not know it? Could you be on a committee without the committee knowing it? Do we have a committee for every need? Do all of our committees exist to serve a purpose? What if we had a committee meeting and no one came?

The minister and the Committee on Ministry will tackle these and other committee related riddles during the month of March. Look for rosters in the social hall and make use of them to let us know which Committees you think you're already a member of and which committees you think you might like to be a member of. Space will also be available for additional suggestion, questions, and committee related trivia.

LET'S MAKE A KITE!

Join Rev. Lisa for an all-age kite making workshop at the church on Saturday, March 13, from 1 - 4. We'll paint kites with symbols inspired by a tale of Chinese prayer-kites. Once complete they will be suitable for flying or hanging on the wall.



Please rsvp to revlmd@yahoo.com or the church phone 507-439-6240 by Wednesday, March 10 so Lisa can get supplies.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE WORKSHOP April 10, 2010

Lead by: Reverend Richard Gilbert
Location: Peoples Church Unitarian
Universalist, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Time: Saturday from 9 AM to 4 PM.
Cost: \$20.00, Lunch will be provided
Richard S. Gilbert retired in June 2005 after serving 44 years in the Unitarian Universalist

ministry in Cleveland, Ohio, Golden, Colorado, Ithaca, NY, and for 32 years at the First Unitarian Church of Rochester, NY. He received an M.Div. from St. Lawrence University Theological School, a D. Min. from Colgate Rochester Divinity School and an honorary doctorate from Starr King School for the Ministry. He is the author of the Building Your Own Theology adult religious education series, as well as three Skinner House Books: The Prophetic Imperative: Social Gospel in Theory and Practice, How Much Do We Deserve? An Inquiry in Distributive Justice and In the Holy Quiet of This Hour, a book of meditations. Currently he is part-time Social Justice Coordinator for the St. Lawrence Unitarian Universalist District, does guest preaching, social justice workshops and is working on several books including the religious life of Susan B. Anthony and the history and philosophy of UU religious education.

His workshop will be on economic justice with a focus on Iowa and the Midwest. **Those interested in working on the Iowa Social Justice Network will have dinner with Reverend Gilbert at 6 PM Saturday night.**

On April 11, 2010, Reverend Gilbert will also lead the Adult Forum at 9:45 AM, and preach on Sunday at 11 AM at Peoples Church. Contact Reverend Tom Capo at Peoples Church 319-362-9827 or email him at tcapo@uuma.org for information and to register. Childcare will be available upon request. Please make childcare request by April 1, 2010.

PSD ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Plan now to attend the Prairie Star District 2010 Annual Conference in Davenport, Iowa! We invite you to join us April 23-25, 2010 for **Roots and Wings: Weaving Multigenerational Dreams!**

The 2010 conference program is designed to appeal to all ages. By attracting people of every generation, we hope to enrich the conference experience for everyone.

Everything you need to know about the conference including registration is on our web site. See <http://www.psduua.org/AnnualConference2010>. The District Office can provide a hard copy of conference information if necessary. Phone 612-870-4823 to make a request.

UPDATE FROM KRISZTINA

It cannot believe that it past almost one year after my accident. It pasted so fast. The time simply slid away.

It happened a lot from 10th of March.

I had surgeries, I stayed in bed 2.5 month, I cried a lot, and my family cried a lot and my friends too. FRIENDS!!! It has to happen this accident to realize how many friends I have, who stayed near me in bad situations, encouraging me in hard times. Staying in bed I had time to be more and more and more with my family. I realized that they are the best!!! After 3 month I began to learn walking. With hard work, exercises, what I have now, too I can walk now without any helpers, any sticks. I tried to dance, too. The problem is, that I cannot wear shoes with heels. Before, I had worn elegant clothes. Now I became sporty girl. I still cannot get dressed alone, wash my right foot etc, I still cannot sit and walk in normal position. That's why I have pains on my back, not just on my leg.

But I try to be independent as I was before the accident. I tried to drive, but it is not too easy, so I gave it up for awhile...But I didn't give up with work.

I have begun to work, to write projects, grants for my community and for the school. I earned them, now I am on way to implement these grants. I wrote a book with title: Fruits in Salt Valley and its methods of using. The English version of our Community newsletter appears every month in our Partner Church from USA. The newsletter is created, translated by me. I got ISSN (International Standard Serial Number) for my 2 newsletter created by me: community newsletter and school newsletter. I finished another faculty in Bucharest. Now I am preparing for another exam. And the most important I celebrated my 30th birthday on New Years Eve. Almost every day I swim, I make special exercises, too. On 15th of March I will go to Portugal with a grant earned by me. Returning home I will have another 2 surgeries. Every day I am thinking on it. It appears fears when I am thinking on it . But I know that after it will be better. I hope so.

A good thing is that I am a real, alive meteo system. I can predict the weather.

The most important is to be optimist even when you have pains, troubles. We have a saying: after rain sunshine comes ...

I would like to thank you again who is thinking of me and praying for me. And again THANK you for all persons who make my dreams real, exactly that I could visit USA. Because it was one year ago...And I never forget it!!! The memories appear almost every day, especially when I am watching a movie from USA, places where I was. I am so glad that I was there and I hope that there will be again possibility to go again.

I send 2 pictures with me and 30 flowers and with my boyfriend.

I wish for everybody a Very Happy New Year!!!! Pall Krisztina, Transylvania



**The Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF)
is having a spring UU jewelry sale.**

A 20% discount will be offered on pewter pendants, pewter lapel pins, and enamel lapel pins.

From the CLF site (www.clfuu.org), click on "CLF Shop." Your 20% discount will be processed within a week, and offered as a credit card refund, when you write the words "CLF Rocks!" in the **Add Comments** field!



**WHY ST. PATRICK'S DAY IS
CELEBRATED EACH YEAR IN AMERICA**

The reason the Irish celebrate St. Patrick's Day is because this is when St. Patrick drove the Norwegians out of Ireland.

It seems that some centuries ago, many Norwegians came to Ireland to escape the bitterness of the Norwegian winter. Ireland was having a famine at the time, and food was scarce. The Norwegians were eating almost all the fish caught in the area, leaving the Irish with nothing to eat but potatoes. St. Patrick, taking matters into his own hands, as most Irishmen do, decided the Norwegians had to go.

Secretly, he organized the Irish IRATRION (Irish Republican Army to Rid Ireland of Norwegians)

Irish members of IRATRION passed a law in Ireland that prohibited merchants from selling ice boxes or ice to the Norwegians, in hopes that their fish would spoil. This would force the Norwegians to flee to a colder climate where their fish would keep. Well, the fish spoiled, all right, but the Norwegians, as every one knows today, thrive on spoiled fish. So, faced with failure, the desperate Irishmen sneaked into the Norwegian fish storage caves in the dead of night and sprinkled the rotten fish with lye, hoping to poison the Norwegian invaders.

But, as everyone knows, the Norwegians thought this only added to the flavor of the fish, and they liked it so much they decided to call it 'lutefisk', which is Norwegian for 'luscious fish'.

Matters became even worse for the Irishmen when the Norwegians started taking over the Irish potato crop and making something called 'lefse'. Poor St. Patrick was at his wit's end, and finally on March 17th, he blew his top and told all the Norwegians to GET OUT!

So they all got in their boats and emigrated to Minnesota or the Dakotas---- the only other paradise on earth where smelly fish, old potatoes and plenty of cold weather can be found in abundance.

The End.

To Keep In Touch

♥♥♥

Algot Blomquist has been resting at home, patiently waiting for his broken and cracked ribs to mend following a fall in his home on January 19th.

♥♥♥

Dorothy Swanson passed away on February 23. She was a long-time member at Nora. Condolences can be sent to Al Swanson, 1207 College Way, Worthington, MN 56187

♥♥♥

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

Georgine Tepley (chair)
359-3060 (weekdays after 5 pm)
Shirley Olson - 354-1866
Carol Chambard - 354-2242

THANK YOU! Caring Committee

NORA CHURCH CALENDAR

MARCH 2010

Parsonage: 507-439-6240
Dana's cell: 612-229-5907



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 Spirituality Group in New Ulm - 6:30 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 9:00 AM Choir 10:00 AM Coffee Time 10:30 AM Service 11:30 Pot Luck | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13  <i>turn clocks ahead before you go to bed</i> |
| 14 10:00 AM Coffee Time 10:30 AM Service | 15 | 16 | 17  Spirituality Group in New Ulm - 6:30 | 18 | 19  Newsletter articles due . Thanks for being prompt! | 20 |
| 21 9:00 AM Choir 10:00 AM Coffee Time 10:30 AM Service | 22 | 23 | 24 Lunch Bunch - Pizza Ranch New Ulm  <i>Lets do Lunch!</i> | 25 | 26 | 27  |
| 28 10:00 AM Coffee Time 10:30 AM Service | 29 | 30 | 31 | EASTER SUNDAY Plans are underway for an Easter Breakfast. Please watch for information in the April newsletter and the Sunday bulletin. | | |

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

WEEKLY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS
ARE DUE BY THURSDAY NOON

cindymo@sleepyeyetel.net

please be sure to include "NORA"

in the subject line

(507) 439-6380

20894 County Road 6, Hanska, MN 56041
Thanks for your help in getting articles to me.
Cindy Mosenden, Office Administrator

| | MUSICIAN | SERVERS | GREETERS - USHERS |
|----|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 7 | Muffy Rathman | Warren & Kristine Paulson | Vicki Sieve & Colleen Tasto |
| 14 | JoAnn Huss | Roger & Norma Breu | Ann Nelson |
| 21 | Jordan Rathman | Ron & Julie Peck | Edith Beckius |
| 28 | Mimi Kamleiter | Lee & Lynn Schmitt | Karen Farrell |



PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

Pastor Lisa will have Mondays off.
Friday will be sermon writing day.

She can be reached on her cell when not in the office:
507-766-5682



Nora Unitarian Universalist Church
12333 155th Avenue
Hanska Minnesota 56041-4310

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
United States Postage Paid
Permit No. 2
Hanska, MN 56041



March 2010

EMAIL
norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

WEB SITE
<http://www.norauuchurch.org>

Nora Church Sunday Services

MARCH 2010

Coffee Time 10:00 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM

March 7 ~ "This One's for the Girl"

March 14 ~ "What's in a Name"

March 21 ~ "Balancing Eggs"

March 28 ~ guest "Minnesota River Basin Trends" Kim Musser and Scott Kudelka of the Water Resources Center at Minnesota State University Mankato will present: "Minnesota River Basin Trends" a power-point presentation on trends related to the Minnesota River Basin including water quality data, wildlife and conservation practices.