



MERE LYS newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

March 2012

A VIEW FROM THE HILL

The Great Nora Well Saga of 2011/2012 continues.



I've been drinking bottled water since summer. Darrell and Warren and I are on first name terms with the well water tester from Minnesota Department of Health. You've all seen the contaminated well postings go up and then back down again over all the church sink. And two days ago (as I write) you voted to replace the well and seal both of the old wells. We're still hoping that the old well will last through spring, that we will receive a grant for half the cost, and be able to do the work in early summer.

I grumble sometimes, when my bath water goes from orange to clear to gray and back to clear again. When I haul my whites to the laundromat. When my dishwasher didn't get dishes clean because the water softener was removed for a while. But I have nothing to complain about.

World-wide one in six people lacks access to safe drinking water. Over two million die annually in the developing world due to lack of access to safe drinking water and inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene. Women in Africa and Asia walk an average of six kilometers (almost 4 miles) to get water. As an average American I use up to 35 times more water daily than an average African family. The numbers go on and on.

I know every day, at the back of my mind, that I live an incredibly privileged life. Water is just one example. Food, medical care, education, personal safety, freedom. I've got it all, as a white, middle-class North American. This temporary water situation is an invitation for me to move the awareness of my abundant blessings from the back of my mind to the front. To transform my casual gratitude into deliberate and regular action--conserving water, passing along information, supporting organizations bring clean water to under-served areas of the world.

Lent begins this week. I think I'll give up taking my blessings for granted. What about you?

UU Humor

Now I'll tell you a real story that happened in our Sunday school. The Kindergarten class was discussing "prayer", and the children seemed aware that the way you end a prayer was with "amen." Does anyone know what "amen" means, the teacher asked. There was a long silence. Then one little boy piped up, with appropriate, computer-age gestures, and said, "Well, I think it means, like, "send".

(from the First Unitarian Church of Albuquerque, New Mexico)

LUNCH BUNCH



Time Marches on and the next Lunch Bunch date is fast approaching. We will meet at the Kaiserhoff in New Ulm on Tuesday, March 13, at 11:30 a.m. to celebrate the return of Daylight Saving Time (OK, there's no real connection). Don't be confused by the time change; we'll be glad to see you when you get there.

NOTES FROM THE BOARD

Congratulations to Julie Peck and Susan Allen who were elected for the trustee positions being vacated by outgoing board members Diane Becken and Pat Kunerth. The election went smoothly even though Duck tried to enter the race at the last minute.

Other business at the congregational meeting was to approve expenditures related to the new well. Perhaps the new well will last another 60 years or longer.

Thank You Scott Schmiesing

THANKS FROM THE BOARD

Thanks from the Board this month goes to our Nora "snow elves" who keep the parking area and sidewalks clear. Even though our winter white has been minimal this year, we are grateful they are always on call.

We also want to thank our "He who must not be named" handyman for his continuing effort to keep things in tip-top shape. His latest effort was replacing the damaged wall going up to the balcony, a job well done.

MARCH MATCH MONTH

March is a particularly good time to donate to Minnesota food shelves. Minnesota Food Share does a match on contributions received during the month. Cash donations are needed to take advantage of specials at local grocery stores. Another supplier to local food shelves is

Second Harvest, located in Maplewood. Deliveries are made monthly.

Local food shelves are the New Ulm Food Shelf at 1107 South Valley in New Ulm 56073 and the Watonwan County Food Shelf at 108 South 8th St. in St. James 56081. A box for food is located in the entryway. Items in short supply currently are canned fruit, cold and hot cereal, pudding and Jell-O. Soups and vegetables are always useful. Thanks in advance.

UPDATE INFORMATION ON THE PRAIRIE BEACON TURBINE

As of Jan 1, 2012 the turbine on Mt. Pisqua has produced over 20,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity. Power is first used by Nora Church with the excess being sent out to Alliant's energy grid. At .0792 cents, the retail rate paid by Alliant, we have produced \$1584 worth of electricity.

To this point the turbine and tower have been trouble free. It was serviced in October for \$300. This included changing the oil in the gearbox and greasing the bearings. After this it will need to be done annually.

Publicity on construction has been good and Nora has been complimented on the congregation's action.

The Nora Church board is the sole shareholder of Prairie Beacon, Inc. They have elected Mark Wiger, Pat Kunerth and Darrell Hinsman as board members. Lee Drogemuller replaced Angie Becker who resigned in September.

The project was a lot of work but at this point business activity is fairly routine involving mostly accounting. The corporation will be filing taxes this spring although it's unlikely any will be owed.

The turbine has been producing for 8 months (since April). In 2011 income received from Nora Church was \$844. and income from Alliant was \$724. Production has been consistent with projections, although it's still somewhat uncertain how our income will be affected by a full year of seasonal wind patterns. So far pay-

ments from Alliant have varied widely from just \$2.00 to \$159.00 a month (average \$90.). The church's use is more consistent in the \$70 to \$80 a month range although it has been as high as \$150 a month.

On the expense side, figures are more certain. Prairie Beacon pays \$138 per month for insurance. Tower insurance is a specialty and the premiums were not accurately figured into the pre-construction projections. Therefore this cost is more than what was anticipated. Also fixed is the monthly \$150 for interest on the remaining principal of \$56,000 . We were successful in receiving a \$20,000 USDA grant and an IRS rebate of \$23,324. The remaining loan is backed by CD's owned by Nora Church and held at Citizens Bank. Prairie Beacon pays a 2% premium over the rate the church receives. The turbine has produced the anticipated 1 and ½ times the church's use. However Prairie Beacon's main concern will be generating enough income to meet expenses on a consistent basis. If this is not the case our account balance will be reduced. Two things could favorably affect cash flow 1) increased income if the electric utility rate rises or if there is higher than anticipated production or 2) lower expenses from reducing insurance or interest expense.

We appreciate the support and interest of church members and will try to answer any questions. Prairie Beacon Board members are available to provide an update anytime.

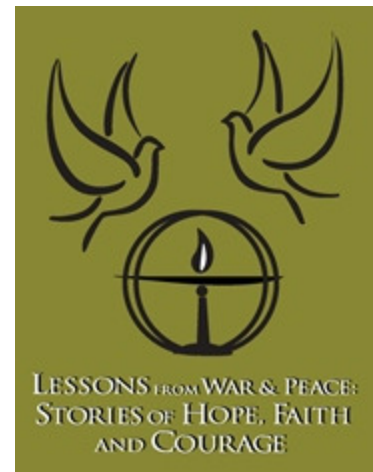


Prairie Star District Annual Conference 2012

Conference to Explore War & Peace

Join fellow UUs the weekend of April 13-15, 2012 in Bloomington, Minnesota, for the Prairie Star District Annual Conference which will address the challenging theme, "Lessons From War & Peace: Stories of Hope, Faith, and Courage."

As our country is engaged in war on the other side of the globe, every one of us is affected by the enormous emotional and financial burden of sending our young people into battle. Many of us have served our military, or have family members proudly serving now. Or perhaps we have just been horrified by the articles in the paper about the rising suicide rate among veterans. We invite you to join us for a deeper exploration of the costs of war, how to heal from it, and how we, as people of faith, can become instruments of peace in our everyday lives.



In addition to examining this profoundly moving theme, you can benefit from workshops designed to strengthen your congregation, deepen your social justice work, and enrich you on a personal level. Folksinger Ann Reed is offering a songwriting workshop, and we welcome back several popular presenters on topics such as writing, spirituality, and solving congregational conflict. Youth will take part in CONscience (a youth con), and programming for children will be provided. Come and experience some of the PSD's top talent, culminating with the joy of shared worship and musical celebration on Sunday morning.

For more information about the conference schedule and workshops, please visit <http://www.psduua.org/AnnualConference2012>. Registration is open now. Register early to take advantage of reduced registration costs.

The District Office can provide a hardcopy of conference information if necessary. Phone 612-870-4823 to make a request

To Keep In Touch

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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

March 2012

	MUSICIAN	SERVERS	GREETERS/USHERS
4	Muffy Kaim	POTLUCK Karen Farrell; Edith Beckius	Pat Kunerth
11	Sally Hanson	Ron & Julie Peck	Christopher Olson
18	JoAnn Huss	Scott & Tracey Schmiesing	Jerry Peterson
25	Jordan Rathman	Colleen Tasto; Vickie Sieve	Scott Chambard

April 2012

	MUSICIAN	SERVERS	GREETERS/USHERS
1	Mimi Kamleiter	POTLUCK Alan & Carol Chambard	Bonita Blomquist
8	Muffy Kaim	EASTER Diane Becken-Edith Beckius	Christina Schmitt
15	JoAnn Huss	Nita Gilbert-Shannon Weiss	Kristi Paulson
22	Sally Hanson	Warren & Kristine Paulson	Mimi Kamleiter
29		Clean Up Sunday	

May 2012

	MUSICIAN	SERVERS	GREETERS/USHERS
6	Jordan Rathman	POTLUCK Lee & Lynn Schmitt	Jeremy Schmitt
13	JoAnn Huss	John & Julie Schmitt	Nancy dickson
20		Syttende Mai	
27	Muffy Kaim	Noah & Janet Rosenbloom	Algot Blomquist

June 2012

	MUSICIAN	SERVERS	GREETERS/USHERS
3	Jordan Rathman	POTLUCK Julie Sellner; Joy Rathman	Susan Evers
10	Sally Hanson	Elroy & Ardis Wellman	Lee Drogemuller
17	Mimi Kamleiter	Gil & Sally Hanson	Christopher Olson

UPDATED & CORRECTED

Please remove this page and put it with your calendar

SERVERS ~
GREETERS/USHERS:



- ⇒ If your name is not on this list and you would like to participate, please call Susan Allen 359-2856.
- ⇒ If your name is on this list and you are not able to help, please call and try to arrange to switch with someone else.
- ⇒ Attention Greeters: if you are scheduled for a Pot Luck Sunday, please check with Servers to see if they need cakes.

NORA CHURCH CALENDAR

MARCH 2012

Parsonage: 507-439-6240
 Lisa's cell: 507-766-5682



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 10:00 AM Coffee Time 10:30 AM Service 11:30 Pot Luck	5	6	7	8	9	10  turn clocks ahead before you go to bed
11 10:00 AM Coffee Time 10:30 AM Service	12	13 Lunch Bunch Kaiserhoff, New Ulm	14	15	16	17 
18 10:00 AM Coffee Time 10:30 AM Service	19	20	21 Newsletter articles due . Thanks for being prompt!		22	23
25 10:00 AM Coffee Time 10:30 AM Service	26	27	28	29	30	31

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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

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25 Jordan Rathman	Colleen Tasto; Vickie Sieve	Scott Chambard

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

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Hanska, MN 56041



March 2012

EMAIL
norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

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

Nora Church Sunday Services MARCH 2012

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

March 4 Keeping Faith in the
Midst of Failure

March 11 Now As Then

March 18 The Tipping Point

March 25 guest day

