

NOVEMBER
2009

Pastor's Report



This has been a year of ups and downs - even more than most years. One year ago the Stock Market went down, banks folded and businesses laid off workers or closed completely. Over the course of the last year we have felt many repercussions from this. Some of our members have lost their jobs and are having a hard time finding work. We are more careful with our money, trying to spend less and save more.

But in the midst of an economic downturn, we have also had some ups. Our worship attendance hit a new high during the Worship Attendance Crusade in the spring. Everyone worked together to invite people and to create an exciting atmosphere around worship. Easter was a spiritual and emotional climax for us as we celebrated Christ's resurrection with almost 500 people attending our three worship services.

This fall, however, our attendance has been down. In fact, our September attendance was worse than our August attendance, and October looks like it will be even lower. So far I am blaming it on H1N1 - when one child gets sick, the whole family stays home. I am glad that people are concerned about not spreading the virus, but we need to be careful that we don't fall into the habit of missing worship.

Our giving has been an up for the church in the last year. Despite economic challenges and faithful givers out of work, our giving has stayed level with last year. This has challenged us to find some creative ways to do things as we try to keep costs down.

We have lost some good people in the last year, which is a down. Some of our faithful saints have gone on to glory and some have just moved to other churches. But even as some have left us, others have found a home at Wedgewood. People are learning about Jesus Christ and making a commitment to serve him through the church.

We have some people that are struggling financially, emotionally, spiritually, and physically. But the people of the congregation have responded in amazing ways with cards, prayers, financial help, and physical support. It is in times of difficulty that we learn to rely on God and learn to help each other beyond what we thought we could do.

We have had many exciting programs in the last year. Vacation Bible School, Spaghetti Dinner benefit for Casey Miller, working with Sawyerwood, Fall Festival, Mission Saturation Weekend, Open Gym, Bible Study, Sunday School, our excellent Music groups, and Scouts are just some of the ways we reach into the community and grow together in service to Christ.

Wedgewood will continue to experience ups and downs. But I am thankful that we can rejoice together in the good times and help and challenge each other during the difficult times. *Together we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.* (Philippians 4:13)

What's Good at Wedgewood

Stewardship Campaigns are usually run at Wedgewood in the fall. The Finance Committee designs them and sets the theme. We try to rotate types of campaigns with our Stewardship Fair, letters by mail, and small groups. This year it was time for the **Stewardship Small Groups**.

The Finance Committee decided on the theme of AMaking a Difference: How We Can Make a Difference in Our Church, Our Community, and Our World.@ John Hartley created a powerful video with the help of many members of the congregation on



the ways the church has made a difference in their lives. This video was shown at **small groups** hosted and led by members of the church. Thanks to those who hosted the small groups: Irene and Harry Spellman, Marla Zwoil, Jane Bowser, Paul and Rue Blum, Jason and Sandra Bartley, Mark and Becky Duhon, Niki McGaffick, and

Dan and Jenny Falls. Thanks also to those who led the **small groups**: Tony Suncire, Paul Green, Doug Merideth, Julia Sager, Pam Varga, Walter Welker, and Jenny Falls.

Those who attended the **small groups** found it to be a wonderful time to share with old and new friends. They were moved by the video and had a chance to ask questions about the church budget and spending. **STEWARDSHIP SMALL GROUPS** is just one more thing that is **GOOD AT WEDGEWOOD**.

Update About the H1N1

The following is information provided by the General Board of Discipleship and is used with permission.

News about the H1N1 Virus/Swine Flu had diminished after the early scare of the late spring flu season. With the fall flu season upon us, and schools and colleges back in session, it is expected that the virus will have new opportunities to spread. In addition to our existing resources on the Swine Flu and Holy Communion, here is a list of the ADO's and Don'ts@ for worship that balances attention to theological integrity with appropriate pastoral concern.

What's the Deal

First, let's be clear about this. The correct name of this virus is H1N1. It's Anickname@ of

Aswine flu@ is a misnomer that can create confusion. *Pigs and pork are NOT a means to catch this virus*. As you have the opportunity to stop false information based on a Anickname@ by all means do so.

The H1N1 virus has begun spreading more rapidly in some parts of the world again, including the United States. Vaccines for this virus are expected to be made available by

the end of October, in the U.S., and at other times elsewhere. Although this virus was declared APandemic@ in June, the term means only that the disease has been shown to be spreading simultaneously on two or more continents. APandemic@ does not mean Aeadly.@

Indeed, H1N1 has not been as se-

vere as many seasonal flu virus strains have been. At the same time, it has shown the capacity to out compete seasonal flu viruses without being substantially altered. The bad news is that this means it may be less likely to mutate itself into a less infectious form. The good news is that once an effective vaccine is made available, this virus should be much easier to eliminate from the human population.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention notes that the primary means by which this virus spreads is by airborne particles (from coughs or sneezes) and by skin-to-skin contact spreading these particles. For worship, Sunday school, and other interactive elements of congregational life, this means that the most likely means of spreading H1N1 are ac-

Update About the H1N1 (continued)

tions such as shaking hands, offering hugs, or other forms of skin-to-skin contact. It also means that the most effective prevention measure is regular washing of hands or the regular use of hand sanitizers containing alcohol.

What Not to Do

1. Do not come to worship if you are sick with something you can easily spread to others. That applies to pastors, worship leaders, and participants in the congregation. There are no special ABrownie Points@ awarded for showing up at worship, work, or anywhere else you can spread what you have. Stay home. Take care of yourself, and get well. Then come to worship and thank God for helping you recover.

2. If you are well and able to come to worship, do not fear germs more than you love Jesus! Unless your own immune system is seriously compromised, don't bother with face masks, latex gloves, or other medical paraphernalia that give the impression that worship

may be an unsafe place to be or (cont.) that the elements of blessed bread and wine we share may be more physically dangerous than holy. If your immune system is seriously compromised, consider staying home and letting others extend the Lord's Table to you.

3. Do not cough or sneeze on others if you do come to worship. If you have a cough or are likely to sneeze, practice making it a habit to grab a tissue and cover your mouth each time.

Then, if you're in an area where an infectious disease is spreading rapidly, excuse yourself to wash your hands, or use hand sanitizer at the earliest convenient time. Remember, it is airborne particles (from coughing or sneezing) and skin-to-skin contact (if you have these particles on your hands) that are by far the most likely means of transmitting H1N1 and many other infectious agents.

4. Be not afraid! This bears repeating. When we gather for worship, we are there to offer ourselves in praise, thanksgiving, and joy to our God, in songs, prayers, dance, art, music, drama, and with water, Scripture, bread and wine. The perfect love of God who meets us here casts out all fears. So do worship! And do show reasonable concern for the health of others as you worship, especially during times when illnesses are spreading rapidly. But do not confuse appropriate concern for over-reactive panic. Rejoice, and fear not!

What to Do

1. Do celebrate worship and the sacraments fully, and be not afraid! Use common sense, but always remember this: Jesus is more powerful than germs!

2. Have hand sanitizer available for all worshipers at the entrances to your worship space. (There is hand sanitizer on the table in the narthex and on Jean's desk.)

3. Wash your hands before you touch food you will share with others. Those who prepare communion elements do wash their

hands, as does the pastor. They also use hand sanitizer during the service when appropriate.

4. Receive the bread (rather than taking it) from servers who have washed their hands. This has actually been the instruction in every official ritual the United Methodist Church and its predecessor denominations have published. We all receive from others, rather than taking the bread for ourselves. When you come to receive the bread, hold out your hands, cupping one beneath the other, rather than trying to take the bread with your fingers. This will allow the server to place the bread into your hand without touching your hand or fingers directly.

5. If any infectious disease is actively spreading where you are, exchange the peace and greet others in ways that don't require you to make skin-to-skin contact. Keep in mind that clinical studies have shown that Communion itself poses very low risk for spreading disease. The major ways people catch this or nearly any other flu are through skin-to-skin contact and through airborne particles (coughs and sneezes). Find what works best to convey peace without skin-to-skin contact where you are. For some, it may mean a gesture of blessings. For others, it may be the peace sign. For still others, it may be bowing and saying words of peace.

Written by Taylor Burton Edwards who is the Director of Worship Resources for the General Board of Discipleship of the United Methodist Church. (Copyright 2009 the General Board of Discipleship. Used with permission.)

Kids' Club 2009-2010

**TOLERANCE
and
ACCEPTANCE
of people different than
ourselves.**

We will focus during the months of November and December on everyone having different spiritual gifts given to us by God. No gifts are greater than another person's gifts like no person is more important in God's eyes than another person.



**WE WILL ALSO
CELEBRATE
CHRISTMAS!**

**JOIN US AND INVITE
YOUR FRIENDS!**



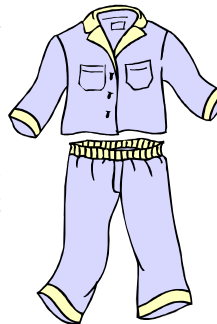
November/December

Bible Verse: *Together you are the body of Christ. Each one of you is part of his body.* (1Corinthians 10:31)

Pajama Program

Please help us provide **new** pajamas and books to children-in-need. Many of these youngsters have been abused or abandoned and in many cases, have never enjoyed the simple comfort of having a loving mother or father tuck them in at bedtime.

Through the Pajama Program we hope to contribute to a warmer, more loving environment for children when they are at their most vulnerable. Please place the pajamas and books



in the containers in the Gathering Area and Narthex. We will be collecting them through mid December. They will be given to several organizations that care for these children in our area.

Acme Tapes Cash Back Program

Once again we are collecting Acme tapes as part of their 5% rebate promotion. Please save your tapes and encourage your friends to save theirs also. This rebate program funds our mission program. Rev. Karen uses part of the money to

purchase food and gas cards for people in need. We also use it for other mission work. It's amazing how much we can receive when people turn in their tapes. The program ends on February 20, 2010, but you can bring your tapes in until

February 28th.

There are boxes in the Narthex and on the lower shelf in the mail boxes in the gathering room.



UMW Salad Supper & Special Program

Tuesday, November 17th at 6:30

All women of the church (18 & older) are invited to attend the Salad Supper & Special Program. We will be asking the other area

UM Churches to join us. Bring along a favorite Teddy Bear if you have one. The special program will include the teddy bears. Come for an evening of fellowship and fun.

Please make a reservation for this. Any questions, please see Becky Cooper or call her at 896-3032. *(All members of the UMW are asked to bring a salad dish B bean salad, pasta salad, potato salad, etc)*

Jesus' Birthday Party

Celebrate Jesus' birthday with Olympic Games, Cutting-Out & Decorating Cookies, Christmas Craft & a Sing-a-Long.



Sunday, December 6th

2:00 - 4:00 pm

Admission:

Unwrapped Toy or Non-Perishable Food Item

Ages: Preschool and up Adults are welcome to stay.

(We could use your help - We have group leaders, but we need helpers. If you are coming with your child or grandchild, you can be a helper.)

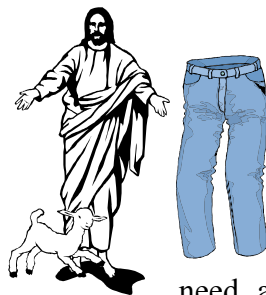
Book Review

All I Need is Jesus and A Good Pair of Jeans

Written by: Susanna Goth Aughtmon

Submitted by: Susie Armbrust

Susanna has a way of looking at life that will make you laugh and think. She shares her personal



struggles as a tired super girl and her longings, including a good pair of jeans. We need a whole lot of

Jesus and she explains her journey and search for his unending grace. *(To learn more about Susanna's writings go to www.TiredSupergirl.com)*

Food Drive for Good Neighbors

This year we are collecting food items that Good Neighbors has identified as food they need the most.

The Sunday before Thanksgiving will be our usual request to bring bags full of miscellaneous grocery items. Please bring the following items to church with you on the designated Sundays:

November 1 -

Cans of green beans, baked beans & kidney beans

November 8 -

Macaroni & Cheeses boxes,

plain macaroni boxes, side dish boxes (*noodles, rice, stuffing, etc.*)

November 15 -

Jars of jelly/jam, cans of soup

November 22 -

Bags full of any non-perishable food items

Thank you for helping feed the hungry men, women and children in the Ellet area!



Boy Scout News

The Boy Scouts . . .

will be making and selling sauerkraut balls during the month of November. They will be ready for sale November 8th. The price is \$5.00 per dozen.

Birthdays this Month

1	Judy McCune	11	Jenny McKeel	18	Katie Berringer
1	Andrew Yee	11	Noah Gannon	18	Kathy Summers
1	Casey Greenwald	11	Kimberly Goehler	18	Chloe Burton
3	Kelly Oliver	13	Doug Merideth	21	Jennifer Yankulov
3	Frank Sabo	13	Robyn Gable	24	Marty Scheck
4	Spencer Shepherd	14	Rocky Cross	25	Heidi Blum
5	Kyleigh Kaiser	14	Kelsey McKinney	26	Hannah Blum
7	Carmen Tenney	15	Bob Hill	28	Julie Eshelman
7	Heather Wytrzyaszczewski	15	Mike Witwer	29	Earl Van Pelt
7	Pamela Harrison	16	Rosanna Lugenbeal		
7	Mark Verrona	16	Beth Greenwald		
8	Michelle Jenson	16	Matthew Jenson		
9	Nancy Vought	17	Andrew Falls		
10	Rev. Karen Hartley	18	Melissa Saloiye		



Serving the Church in November—9:30 Service

Greeters

- 1 Edee Franks & Irene Spellman
- 8 John & Brenda Ferguson
- 15 Cindy Scheck & Jean McGaffick
- 22 Jason & Star Elijah
- 29 Eleanor Recob & Dinah Riggs

Nursery

- 1 Dawn McKeel & Erin Ingham
- 8 Irene Spellman & Dolores Clifford
- 15 Dottie Ranson & Eleanor Recob
- 22 Heidi & Hannah Blum
- 29 Diane Huth & Jean McGaffick

Acolytes

- 1 Sarah Tucker & Austin Croft
- 8 Casey Oliver & Alex Biege
- 15 Megan Wytrzyaszczewski & Sydney Dutton

Liturgists

- 1 Kelli Mensch
- 8 Mark Duhon
- 15 Gwen Welker
- 22 Paul Green
- 29 Chelsea Scheck

Toddler Room

- 1 Star Elijah
- 8 Heather Herbst & Jennifer Richmond
- 15 Michelle Jenson & Megan Mills
- 22 Helen Smith & Pam Boothe
- 29 TBA
- 22 Sydney McGaffick & Alex Dutton
- 29 Madison Summers & Bethany Witwer

Ushers

George Barron, Dave Ranson, Wilson Fry, Bob Brown, Don Ambrust and Marty Scheck

Children's Time

22 TBA

Altar Flowers

- 1 **OPEN** - Would you like this date?
- 8 Dr. David & Betty Clymer - In celebration of Rev. Karen's 50th birthday.
- 15 **OPEN** - Would you like this date?
- 22 Ed Daniel - in honor of Mark's birthday & in memory of Rita's birthday.
- 29 **OPEN** - Would you like this date?

Serving the Church in November—11:30 Service

Head Usher

Denise Markland

Nursery

1 Jennie Anderson

8 Alexis Messenger

15 Debbie Engelhart

22 Charlene McKeel

29 Kenetha Tenny

Scripture Reader

1 Jenny McKeel

8 Mark Verrona

15 Julia Sager

22 Dave McCune

29 Becky Cooper

Children's Helpers

1 TBA

8 Pam Varga

15 Alex Biege

22 Jenna Messenger

29 Nick Varga

Children's Church

1 Shelly Biege

8 Jenny Falls

15 Becky Cooper

22 Nancy Messenger

29 Marcy Venarge

Children's Time

22 TBA

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 <i>Genesis 21:9-21</i></p> <p>9:30 Worship Service</p> <p>10:45 S. School & New Members</p> <p>11:30 Worship Service</p> <p>12:30 Praise Band</p> <p>6:00 YF</p>	<p>2</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>11:00 Prayer Group</p> <p>7:00 Cub & Boy Scouts</p>	<p>3</p> <p><i>FLC in Use</i></p> <p>7:00 Crafts</p> <p>7:00 Nominations Comm.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:00 & 7:00 W. Watchers</p> <p>5:30 Dinner</p> <p>6:00 Teen Choir & AMF</p> <p>6:30 Adult Study & H. Help</p> <p>6:45 C. Choir & Girl's Study</p> <p>7:15 Kid's Club</p> <p>7:30 Adult Choir</p> <p>8:15 Open Gym</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:00 Hand Chimes</p> <p>6:30 Girl Scouts</p> <p>7:00 Church Conf.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>4:30 Spaghetti Dinner</p> <p>7:00 Auction</p> <p>7:30 CODA</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8:00 Men's Breakfast</p> <p>10:00 AFM B Ordering</p> <p><i>FLC in Use</i></p>
<p>8 <i>Isaiah 57:14-21</i></p> <p>9:30 Worship Service</p> <p>10:45 Sunday School</p> <p>11:30 Worship Service</p> <p>12:30 Praise Band</p>	<p>9</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>11:00 Prayer Group</p> <p>7:00 Cub & Boy Scouts</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:30 UMW Board</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:00 & 7:00 W. Watchers</p> <p>5:30 Dinner</p> <p>6:00 Teen Choir</p> <p>6:30 Adult Study & H. Help</p> <p>6:45 C. Choir & Girl's Study</p> <p>7:15 Kid's Club</p> <p>7:30 Adult Choir</p> <p>8:15 Open Gym</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10:00 Hand Chimes</p> <p>7:00 Venture Crew</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:30 CODA</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00 Clean-UP Day</p> <p><i>Fellowship Hall in Use</i></p>
<p>15 <i>Jeremiah 24:1-10</i></p> <p>9:30 Worship Service</p> <p>10:45 Sunday School</p> <p>11:30 Worship Service</p> <p>12:30 Praise Band</p> <p>6:00 YF</p>	<p>16</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>11:00 Prayer Group</p> <p>7:00 Cub & Boy Scouts</p>	<p>17</p> <p>11:00 Crafts</p> <p>6:30 UMW Salad Supper</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:00 & 7:00 W. Watchers</p> <p>5:30 Dinner</p> <p>6:00 Teen Choir</p> <p>6:30 Adult Study & H. Help</p> <p>6:45 C. Choir & Girl's Study</p> <p>7:15 Kid's Club</p> <p>7:30 Adult Choir</p> <p>8:15 Open Gym</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:00 Hand Chimes</p> <p>6:30 Girl Scouts</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:30 CODA</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10:00 AFM B Pick Up</p> <p>8:00 Dodge Ball</p>
<p>22 <i>1 Thessalonians 2:1-9</i></p> <p>9:30 Worship Service</p> <p>10:45 S. School & Fellowship</p> <p>11:30 Worship Service</p> <p>12:30 Praise Band</p> <p><i>FLC in Use</i></p>	<p>23</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>11:00 Prayer Group</p> <p>7:00 Cub & Boy Scouts</p>	<p>24</p> <p>5:00 We Care Committee</p> <p>6:30 Ad. Council</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:00 & 7:00 W. Watchers</p> <p>7:30 Adult Choir</p>	<p>26</p> <p><i>Give Thanks</i></p> <p><i>FLC in Use</i></p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:30 CODA</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8:00 Dodge Ball</p>
<p>29 <i>Romans 8:31-39</i></p> <p>9:30 Worship Service</p> <p>10:45 Sunday School</p> <p>11:30 Worship Service</p> <p>12:30 Praise Band</p>	<p>30</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>11:00 Prayer Group</p> <p>7:00 Cub & Boy Scouts</p>					