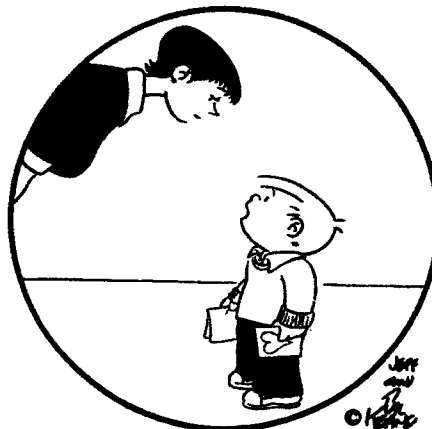


WEEKLY SCHEDULE

- Sun, 8:00am Worship
9:00am Bible Study with Linda Clark
10:00am Worship
5:00pm Methodist Youth, Thurman Hall
- Wed, 6:30am Men's Group, Carrow's
5:45pm Wanderers Study Group with Mary Law
7:00pm Holy Macrels music practice

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

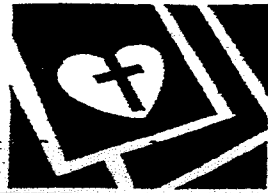


"Is it against the law to be the Valentine of two different girls?"

from *JoyfulNoiseletter.com*
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FROM THE PASTOR

HAVE YOU HEARD THE NEWS?

Hey, have you heard the news? We are in a recession! Times are tough. And you say, "How could I NOT know that."

When we face tough times and economic insecurity, the temptation is to fix our attention on what we lack or what we may lose. Our field of vision becomes narrow and we can become filled with fear. We feel that childlike helplessness creeping back into our adult mentality. We lose the sense that we have any control of our lives.

Our society teaches us early in life to be self-sufficient, self-starters, and self-centered. But true followers of Christ realize we are NOT self-sufficient and we were not meant to be. Deuteronomy 8:17-18 tells us we cannot provide for ourselves without God's help. All that we have, even the strength to work at our jobs, is a gift from God.

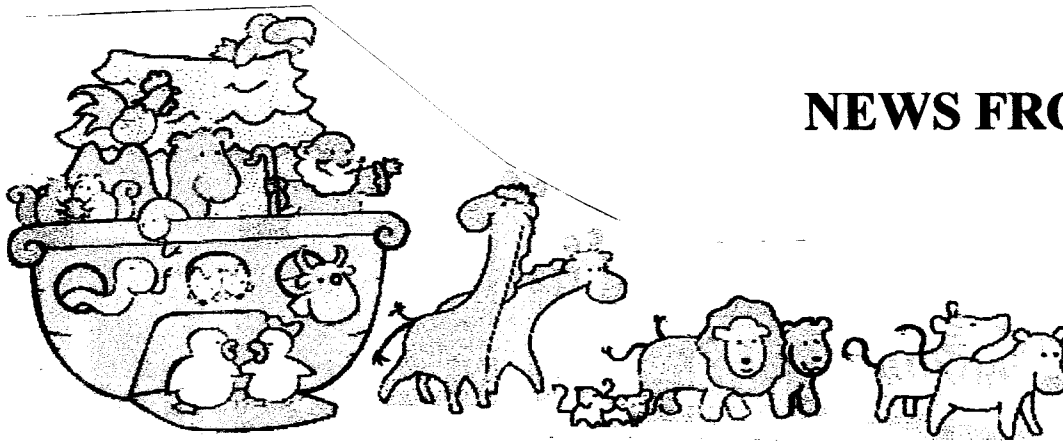
When the human systems fail us, as they inevitably will, people of faith have a more reliable and closer resource. Our God is not only faithful but offers us everlasting security. I think we should all adopt my wife's mantra for this year: **"2009 Will Be Divine"**.

FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE

by Mike Morgan



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NEWS FROM THE ARK

Happy New Year! We are ready for a fun filled 2009 hoping for more snow and less cold. The sleds are out on the hill and we are waiting patiently. We are excited for 2009 and looking forward to lots of fun. Did you make a resolution? How about more time for fun with family? We will start the children off this year talking about our bodies, identifying parts and learning how to keep them strong and healthy. Knowing their knees from their elbows is important. We also want the children to know that putting good food into our bodies, exposing our bodies to clean fresh air and resting our bodies with a good night's sleep will keep us happy and smiling all the day. We love smiles.

Our lessons this month focus on the far away lands where snow shoes and mittens are everyday attire. Learning the facts of winter temperatures, sports and habits is a little easier when we have lots of snow instead of sunshine and chilly temps. There is so much to learn from the snow and snowflakes. Where do they come from and how do they get their pretty shapes.

Our artist for the month is Andy Warhol, our colors are black, white and gray, and our shape is the rectangle. Our letters are M, N, and O and "O" are we going to have lots of fun!

Happy New Year from all of the staff of Noah's Ark.

NOAH'S ARK 2009 WISH LIST

The following items are always needed and welcomed by Noah's Ark. Think about adding one or two things to your basket when out shopping.

Swifter wipes, wet and dry

Metal spoons

Plastic spoons for art projects

Recycled paper (clean on one side)

Fresh eggs

Glue sticks

Frozen Popsicles for cut lips

Round oatmeal boxes

BOOKWORM CLUB

The Bookworm Club meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00, at the Leamy's. A new book is chosen for discussion for each session, with a different hostess.

The selection for February was reviewed in the last Circuit Rider newsletter. On March 11, the selection will be "Mrs Hunter's Happy Death", by John Fanestil. Formerly a Methodist pastor, John Fanestil has witnessed someone dying with remarkable and uplifting grace. His illustrations in this book are touching, sometimes amusing, but always deep, heartfelt descriptions of lives of faith and how their final days were lived with the joy of knowing they would experience the blessing of God in life eternal.

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IT'S HERE! FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Hurry, it isn't too late! The first session of the FPU will be January 29, and since this issue of the newsletter is coming out just before that, it isn't too late.

This is a fun and educational program in finance that will give you the tools to manage your money, get out of debt, build wealth and leave your children a legacy of financial responsibility.

Dave Ramsey's FPU topics will include getting out of debt, relating with money, understanding insurance, retirement and college planning, collection practices and bureaus, real estate and mortgages, saving money and much more.

Cost of material for this class will be approximately \$100 and needs to be paid at the orientation meeting. There is a 13 week commitment for this class. Check out FPU.com, then see Mike Clymer to sign up.

Parents: As an extra bonus, Judi Jensen has volunteered to do child care (at the church) for the little ones. She'll have them ready to rush home to bed when the evening's class is finished.

VALENTINE'S DAY TEA

February 7, 2009

The Girlfriends of the Church are busy planning the annual Valentine's Day Tea (it isn't really on Valentine Day this year, but a week early!). All ladies are invited. Set aside the date now, and invite a friend to join you for this fun time.

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PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Do you knit? crochet? Consider joining this new ministry. Prayer shawls will be made available for those in need of comfort. Co-chaired by Barbara Flint and Carol Leamy, they have been joined by Sheila King, Cathy Rail, Joyce Garcia and Phyllis Hall. The shawls can be made in the comfort of your home and delivered to Barbara at the 8:00 service or Carol at 10:00. Call Carol, 324-7782 for more information or see her at church.

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ATTENDANCE

	8:00	10:00	Total
November 2008			
5 weeks	41	312	353
December 2008			
4 weeks	39	344)	
Christmas Eve		147) total	530

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OUR FINANCES FOR 2008

Bill Strohschein
Chair Finance Committee

We have closed the books on 2008. There is money in the bank; however, we used some of our reserves to make up for shortfalls in our income. The two major areas were our pledges and Noah's Ark childcare. These are a reflection of the present economy.

Our congregation has always been very faithful in support of its ministries both with money and personal involvement. Thank you for that. Even though St. Paul's did not have a stewardship campaign in 2008, we are planning a spring campaign in May. Until then, please continue your financial commitment as you did in 2008 and as your finances allow. Please consider increasing your financial support to St. Paul's.

This congregation has seen difficult financial times before, and because of your commitment and faithfulness, we have come through those times. I truly believe we can do it again.

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PASTOR PAT AND JUDI JENSEN TO HELP REBUILD NEW ORLEANS March 15-20

Have you seen the Mission Tree in the back of the sanctuary? You can support the team's trip to New Orleans by helping "undecorate" it! \$10 covers one night in a bunk bed; \$20 covers my favorite – one day of meals. Include a paper ornament from the tree with your check noted "New Orleans mission" (or cash is good too) See Judi or Pastor Pat for more info, and thank you for your support.

STEWARDSHIP

submitted by
"Triple-Duty" Judi

And God said,"Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion...over all the earth." Genesis 1:26 KJV abbreviated.

When we join the Methodist church, our pledge is to support the church with our prayers, our presence , our gifts and our service.

Over the next few months, the Stewardship Committee will be discussing ways St. Paul's can best use *all* our resources to meet the needs of God's world and God's people. What missions do we do well? Where can we pinch pennies? We welcome your ideas, questions and concerns.

What does stewardship mean to you? How can we be good stewards of not just our money, but our time and talents also? Please contact Judi Jensen, Stewardship Chair, or any of the stewardship committee members. (see list of committees elsewhere in this newsletter)

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GIRLFRIENDS OF THE CHURCH

A yearly planning meeting with election of officers is being planned by the GFOTC. Save time following coffee hour on Sunday, February 15 , for what is expected to be a short meeting.

Nominated for 2009 officers are

President: Carol Leamy
Secretary: Pam Warren
Treasurer: Judy Bastrup

All the women of the church are invited to attend a special GFOTC Brunch on March 21. It will be held at Carol Leamy's, and she asks that you RSVP at 324-7782 if you plan to attend.

LAY LEADER LITANY

Mike Clymer

Wow, has it really been two months since I last wrote you? It is amazing what can be crammed into that time frame. We have had a wonderful Thanksgiving, a blessed and safe Christmas season and we are starting an incredible new year that is divine! (Thanks, Carol!) We have seen the installation of a new soundboard that, even though I knew would really help the sound technicians, absolutely surprised me with its increase in sound quality. One of the most wonderful things I have witnessed is the increase in the number of Charlie's Wish Bags. Linda Leep can't seem to keep up with the demand!

In the Episcopal Church, the Deacons are charged with being the consciousness of the church. One of their jobs is to keep outreach in the minds of the parishoners. During my years as an Episcopalian, I must have had a little of that Deacon stuff rub off on me. I think that a church that is too focused inward on itself, and not stretching beyond its comfort zone in outreach, will collapse in on itself. These are tough financial times, and we are all worried about maintaining our status quo. It is normal to restrict giving as a first line of defense. This goes for the church as well as the family. I think this is the time to give MORE than when times were easier.

During December, I learned how tight St. Paul's budget is. The Finance Committee is having an extremely difficult time balancing the budget. One thing I hear that makes me say "Atta boy!" to each member is the determination to not reduce outreach spending.

St. Paul's has always been a church that has a "Can do" attitude. During the next few months, you will be hearing more about the fiscal side of St. Paul's than you have probably ever heard before. Please pay special attention. Don't chalk it up to a "Here we go again!" These presentations are not another attempt to grab your wallet, but a simple statement of needs. Pray about it, look at your circumstances, and help out if you can.

In the next few articles, I will talk about some of the wonderful outreach programs in which the family of St. Paul's is involved. We have an amazingly long list!

VITAL SIGNS

Over the next three Sundays, beginning January 25, the congregation will be asked to complete a short survey to evaluate St. Paul's vital signs. Are we a strong, growing church, are we "hangin' in there", are we stagnating? What is your perception of the happenings here at St. Paul's?

The information gleaned from the survey will be used to develop a mission and vision statement. Please help in this effort by completing a survey. Only with input from everyone will it be possible to have a clear picture of where we are and how we can improve. And, incidentally, the survey need not be signed.

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### "A Feel Good Moment"

Prescription For Happiness

Attributed to Robert Louis Stevenson

Make up your mind to be happy. **Learn to find pleasure in simple things.** Make the best of your circumstances. **No one has everything...And everyone has something of sorrow intermingled with the gladness of life.** The trick is to make the laughter outweigh the tears. **Don't take yourself too seriously.** You can't please everybody; don't let criticism worry you. **Don't let your neighbor set your standards.** Do the things you enjoy doing. **Stay out of debt.** Don't borrow trouble. **Imaginary things are harder to bear than the actual ones.** Since hate poisons the soul, do not cherish enmities and grudges. **Don't hold post-mortems.** Don't spend your life brooding over sorrows and mistakes. **Don't be one who never gets over things.** Do what you can for those less fortunate than yourself.

**For maximum effectiveness, this prescription should be taken as often as needed.**

**Unlimited refills available.**

**Share with your friends.**

### ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

|                                      |                      |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Chairperson                          | Elizabeth Pope       |
| Co Lay Leaders                       | Bob Vice/Mike Clymer |
| Lay Member of Annual Conference      | Linda Clark          |
| Lay Member of Annual Conference      | Leonard Clark        |
| Recording Secretary of Admin Council | Clarice French       |
| Treasurer                            | George Clark         |
| Financial Secretary                  | Evelyn Vice          |
| Chair of Finance                     | Bill Strohschein     |
| Chair of Trustees                    | Rick Griffin         |
| Chair of SPRC                        | Nord Yamauchi        |
| Chair of Noah's Ark Board            | Colleen Struve       |
| Youth Representative                 | Heather Beesmer      |
| Seniors in Action                    | Judi Jensen          |
| Stewardship                          | Judi Jensen          |
| Girlfriends of the Church            | Judy Baatrup         |
| Youth Director                       | Linda Clark          |

### STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

|                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Penny Harrison | Janie Iveson    |
| Mike Wanco     | Bob Horton      |
| Ray Pallesen   | (c) Judi Jensen |

### WORSHIP COMMITTEE

|                            |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Co-C Linda and Lenny Clark | Linda Havens |
| Lysa Lee                   | Sheila King  |
| Carlos Valles              | Deni Kreeck  |
| Deanna Valles              |              |

### STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

|                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| (c) Nord Yamauchi | Susan Schulte      |
| Karen Suga        | Brent King         |
| Linda Leep        | Kenny Shepherd, Jr |

### SENIORS IN ACTION STEERING COMMITTEE

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| (c) Judi Jensen | Clarice French |
| Marge Rasmussen | Jay Stone      |
| Carol Leamy     | Rita Stone     |

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

|              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| Rich Warren  | David Pardew |
| Ken Shepherd | Bill Jackson |
| Pam Warren   | Dave Hall    |
| Rick Griffin | Ray Pallesen |
|              | Mary Law     |

### NOAH'S ARK BOARD OF DIRECTORS

|             |                    |
|-------------|--------------------|
| Karen Comba | Deanna Valles      |
| Bob Vice    | (c) Colleen Struve |
| Judi Jensen | Judy Wells         |

### Parent Representatives

### COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

|                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Laurie Hillen   | Gwen Shonkwiler      |
| Pat Ryan        | (c) Bill Strohschein |
| Connie Huffmire | Mikie Haley          |
| Bill Schweiss   |                      |

### COMMITTEE ON LAY LEADERSHIP

|                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Pat Ryan       | Susan Schulte   |
| Linda Havens   | Jack Westervelt |
| Elizabeth Pope | Mike Wanco      |
| Pam Horton     | Judi Jensen     |
| Bob Horton     |                 |

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE

|                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| (c) Susan Doctor | Mary Law     |
| Linda Clark      | Judy Baatrup |
| Alice Griffin    | Jan Lyons    |
| Carlos Valles    |              |

\*\* (c) denotes chairperson