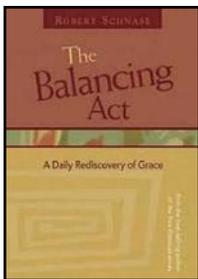




THE VISITOR

Readers, Greeters, Treats

- Feb 3: Reader: Carolyn Kanne
G & T: Chuck & Linda Danks
- Feb 10: Reader: Patti Ellingson
G & T: Carol Karsten
- Feb 17: Reader: Hjordi Churchill
Greeter: Jake & Summer Goldsmith
Treats: Tracie Spinler
- Feb 24: Reader: Linda Danks
Treats: Char Frankberry
Greeter Needed



Lenten Book Study

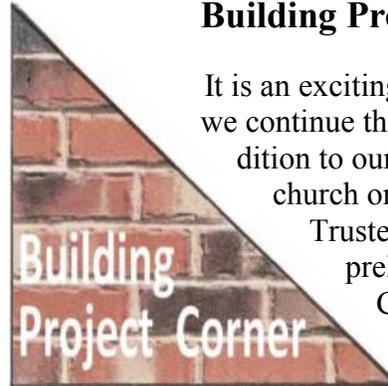
Starting Sunday, March 3rd the pastors will host a book study during the season of Lent. The book is called: “The Balancing Act: A Daily Rediscovery of Grace” by Bishop Robert Schnase – of the Rio Texas Conference of the UMC. The book’s focus:

- Our lives are filled to capacity with routines, habits, conversations, surprises, and disappointments. With all that's going on in life, it's easy to miss those quiet moments of grace which come more often than we realize. But they are there.
- In *The Balancing Act*, a collection of thirty short and insightful devotional readings originally written for his blog at www.fivepractices.org, Bishop Robert Schnase invites readers to take a daily look at how to watch for and include God in their lives.

The cost of the book is \$10.00. If you would like to join the book study, please consider making a donation to the church to cover the cost, or you can locate your own copy.

The pastors would like to offer this book study two times in order for more people to enjoy it. The times will be decided based on input from members of the congregation...with one option of Sundays at 11:45 A.M. Please contact the pastors to let them know if you are interested and your preferred day of week and time.

Building Project Update



It is an exciting time at BGUMC as we continue the exploration of an addition to our beloved ‘two-steepled church on the prairie’. The Trustees have presented preliminary plans to the Church Council that include 1) making our building handicap

accessible, including main floor bathrooms and 2) adding a new fellowship hall. Their work has laid a strong foundation (pun-intended) upon which to continue the exploration process.

A Building Project Team has been formed to oversee multiple aspects of the project:

- ◆ Communication with the Church Council, church members, friends of the church, District Superintendent, and the MN Conference.
- ◆ Financing and funding needs.
- ◆ Overseeing Church Council and church membership approval of the project.
- ◆ Approval of final design and specifications.
- ◆ Oversight of construction.

Your Building Project Team members and areas represented are:

- Hjordi Churchill (Church Council Chair and Building Project Team Chair)
- Brian Kanne – Finance
- Carolyn Kanne – UMW
- Judy Mahler – Communications
- Marlis Mahler – Education and Events
- Brad Saufferer – Trustees
- Brad Spinler – Trustees
- Pastors - JJ Morgan and Stefanie Morgan

Stay tuned for more exciting information as the Team continues our work!



Pastor's Page

We are walking together through the Gospel of John in the next few weeks, until Lent begins (in March). It is refreshing to me to read through the book of John again, and again, in preparation of upcoming sermons. It is refreshing to read through familiar (and the not-so-familiar) passages, finding comfort in words I know well, and having my eyes opened as some of the words and the stories seem fresh and new.

This is what is meant by the Bible being the living Word of God. The Holy Spirit speaks to us through the words upon the pages, and new revelations can happen each time we read the Scriptures. Our eyes can be opened to greater depths of the love that God has for us, new revelations can open our hearts to the wonder God has created us for, and we learn to love both God and neighbor in new ways.

John's Gospel is told to tell who Jesus is...the Messiah, the Son of God, the Light of the World. John spends time telling us who Jesus is, through Jesus' words themselves. Jesus says, "I am..."

"I am the Bread of Life."

"I am the Light of the World."

"I am the Gate"

"I am the Good Shepherd."

"I am the Resurrection and the Life."

"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life."

"I am the Vine."

Each of Jesus's statements describe a different aspect of the Christ. The way of salvation, of truth, of new life, of redemption, of freedom, of joy, of necessity, of love.

The United Methodist Church is preparing for the specially called General Conference at the end of February, as we hope to come to some kind of resolution over the impasse that we are at with the topic of human sexuality. As we enter this month of February, we ask that you pray for our denomination, pray for our leadership as they gather together from all corners of the globe to make decisions for the future of our church. We ask that you pray for God's will to be done, for the Holy Spirit to flow in the hearts and minds of the delegates, and for love and grace to be the way in which every person interacts with another.

As we look to the future of the church, we must look at our heritage, our beliefs, our faith. We must remember that we are centered in the Great I AM, the God of creation, the God of redemption, the Triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We put our trust in Jesus to be our guide, our shepherd, even through what many feel is a valley of darkness. Let our eyes be open to the Holy Spirit's movement in our lives, let our ears be opened to hearing that still, small voice that speaks to us, invites us, convicts us, and whispers words of love to us. Let us lay our worries and our fears at the foot of the cross. Let us put our trust in the God who loves us, who loves us so much that Jesus was sent to this earth to save us, so that we could have abundant life. Let us love one another, in the way Christ taught us, sacrificially and fully.

Pastors JJ and Stefanie Morgan

Healthcare Directive Class

Advance Care Planning is a process that includes thinking about, talking about, and writing down your wishes for future medical care in the event that you are unable to communicate or make decisions for yourself. Join pastors JJ and Stefanie Morgan and Pastor Elden Ecklund for a FREE class series to help with each step of the process. Classes at Peace UMC, Morristown.

- Sunday, 2/10: It's About the Conversation
 - Sunday, 2/17: How to Complete Your Health Care Directive
- Both Sundays: Soup lunch at 11:45 with class from 12:30—2:00.
Please register by February 6th by calling Kerry at 507-497-3061.

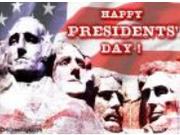


Prairie Lakes Parish Activities

Waterville Evangelical
 Worship 8:30 am
 Sunday School and Adult
 Bible Study 9:45 am

February 2019

Blooming Grove
 Worship 10:30 am
 Sunday School 9:30 am

					1	2  11:30 am GH Worship at SCDC
3  Super Bowl	4	5	6	7 GH Bible Study/RC jail	8	9 11:30 am GH Worship at SCDC
10 11:45 am Healthcare Directive Class at Morristown Peace UMC	11	12 Abraham Lincoln's Birthday 	13	14 	15	16 11:30 am GH Worship at SCDC
17 11:45 am Healthcare Directive Class at Morristown Peace UMC	18 	19	20 6:30 pm A Conversation on a Way Forward in BG Fireside Room	21 GH Bible Study/RC jail	22 George Washington's Birthday 	23 11:30 am GH Worship at SCDC
24	25	26	27	28	Coding Information GH—Gathering House ODC—Owatonna Detention Center SCDC—Steele County Detention Center RC—Rice County	
				Save the Date Sunday, March 3—9:30 am Men's Pancake Breakfast		

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

10 Sun	11:45 am	Health Care Directive Class
17 Sun	11:45 am	Health Care Directive Class
20 Wed	6:30 pm	Conversation on a Way Forward Update
March		
3 Sun	9:30 am	Men's pancake breakfast

Cleaning

February 10, 24 Nancy & Susan

Paraments

February 3	Green
February 10	Green
February 17	Purple
February 24	Purple

Happy February Birthday

1	Jake Full
6	Kristin Nagel
9	Alicia Fyvie
11	Jaeda Koziolk
11	Kristin Krell
13	Amanda Riecke
16	Ivan Buchholz
16	Katie Martin
16	Kendra Yule
22	Leighton Nicholson
24	Deanna Kanne
24	Tracie Spinler
25	Ben Full



Happy Anniversary

February 4th to Mike & Jenny Nicholson

Dear BGUMC,

Last November I went to "The Event." I had fun swimming and learning about God. I got to listen to some amazing music and even got up on the stage. Thank you BGUMC!

Mandi Riecke



Treasurer's Report

December 26, 2018 thru
January 26, 2019



General Budget Income

\$3,821.02

Expenses

Pastors Salaries	1,663.49
Electric for parsonage	50.59
Water for Parsonage	50.79
Cable TV	25.80
Cell Phone	35.00
Health Insurance	550.00
Pension	222.46
Parsonage	100.00
Centerpoint Energy	35.24
Internet	9.98
Continuing Ed	250.00
Cleaning	126.00
Church Bldg Insurance for year	2,798.00
Excel Energy	57.20
Copier	22.50
Copier Maintenance	245.87
Worship	6.49
Adopted Family	100.00
Total Expenses	\$ 6,349.41

(Net Income: - \$2,528.39)

Other Income Received

Cemetery	500.00
Restoration	250.00
Poinsettias	43.00

From the Mailbox:



Dear Friends and Relatives, This is
Bruce Christie.

I am still living with Alzheimers and dementia. Just had tests done again, 12 months after the last tests. This time it showed a further decline in cognition. That means even though I might forget your name, (I used to know and remember OVER a hundred in my work and my immediate friends and family I still know) I will know you in other ways. You will see my smile and I will feel you inside of me.

I would love it if you would write me and/or call me. My phone number is 1 (970) 226-0555. Please leave a message if no one answers. If you write me, my address is:

4500 Seneca Street, Unit 23
Fort Collins, Colorado 80526

Sending this to you has me already looking forward to hearing from you.

Love, Bruce

With Deepest Sympathy

Jane Lines, age 90, passed away on Saturday, January 5th at Colony Court in Waseca. Born in Faribault County in 1928, she was the daughter of Henry and Helena (Meyer) Hagemann. She attended school in rural Faribault County District #107 before graduating from Wells High School in 1947. She married Richard Dean Lines on July 18, 1948 at the Rice Lake Evangelical United Brethren Church in Faribault County. After their marriage, they moved to Texas before returning to the Wells area to farm. Jane enjoyed crafts and music. She frequently sang at many church functions. She attended the Evangelical United Methodist Churches in Wells and Waseca, and also the Blooming Grove United Methodist Church. We at BGUMC were blessed to be recipients of Jane's love of music during the time she worshipped with us - as she shared her voice and spirit with us, both as a choir member and as a soloist.

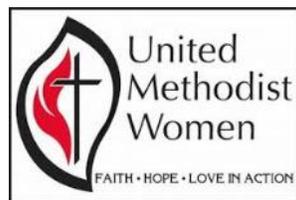


Lorraine Reineke passed away January 15th at the age of 96. Lorraine was married to Merle Reineke and they farmed 63 years. They lived on the corner just north of Blooming Grove UMC. She is survived by five children, Melvin, Stanley, Beverley Deming, Duane

and Gloria Seifert.

UMW MINUTES

The UMW met January 15th at Faye's. Char gave the lesson.



The secretary's report was accepted as read. The Treasurer reported a balance of \$501.53 in the general budget and \$598.50 in the scholarship fund.

Carolyn received a message from Medford H.S. stating that all donors for scholarship funds would need to be in place in February. We will give two \$300.00 scholarships this year.

We need ideas for a fund raiser for scholarships. Carolyn mentioned the possibility of working at the Aurora food stand at the Steele County Fair. She will get more information.

Other ideas were having some musical event in the Fall-possibly asking the Bad Tangerines, a rib fest. Other ideas are welcome.

Tracie will talk to Kris Nagel about a date for Emily's bridal shower.

We had a short meeting November 15th following worship service. Char volunteered to act as President this year. All other offices stayed the same. She will take over at our next meeting in March. We will plan for our Easter Breakfast at that meeting.

Schedule for this year is as follows:

Date	Hostess	Lesson
March 20 th	Tracie	Carolyn
May 15 th	Theresa	Tracie
September 18 th	Carolyn	Cindy
November 20 th	Cindy	Faye

All meetings will start at 7:00.

Warm Fellowship & Sweet Treats A Conversation on A Way Forward Wednesday, February 20, 2019 6:30 P.M. – BGUMC Fireside Room

In a few short weeks (February 23-26), the United Methodist Church will hold a special session of General Conference in St. Louis, MO. to determine a way forward through our deep disagreements about same-sex marriage and the ordination of LGBTQ clergy.

What is decided there will affect all of us. All around the world, United Methodists are dealing with questions and uncertainty of what the future of the church looks like.

On Wednesday, February 20th, you are invited to gather as a BGUM church family for casual conversation about this upcoming decision – all while enjoying warm fellowship around sweet home-made treats and hot beverages! This is an opportunity to ask questions and lift-up any thoughts or concerns about the future of the United Methodist Church that you may have.

As part of her General Board of Global Missions work and her UMW National Board work - Cindy Saufferer has been in on continuing and up-to-date conversations about the ever-evolving aspects of the coming General Conference – and will share information with us in our informal conversation.

By February 17th, please let Cindy Saufferer or Judy Mahler know if you are able to join the February 20th conversation. You may also sign-up on the sheet at the front of the church on the piano. If you are unable to attend on February 20th, but would like to be in conversation, please indicate as such as well and we will set another time.



Please keep the following people in your prayers.

- Members of Prairieville UMC (east of Faribault, on the way to Kenyon) as they held their last worship service as a congregation on December 30th and have had to close their doors.
- Char Frankenberry's cousin, Peggy, who has been fighting leukemia, and who is now also fighting an invasive fungal infection. Please pray for Peggy, her medical staff, and her family as she recovers from surgeries to remove tissue and bone affected by the fungus and as she is treated with high doses of anti-fungal medication.
- The wife of a co-worker of Brad Saufferer who is recovering from a difficult surgery.
- For Marlis Mahler as she continues the journey in addressing house concerns after sustaining significant water damage two years ago.
- The family of Dave Schroeder, who passed away on January 28th following a battle with aggressive brain cancer. Dave's wife, Sue, is a co-worker of Marlis Mahler.
- For the Special Session of the General Conference of the UMC to be held in February 23-26 in St. Louis, Missouri. In particular, pray for bishops and delegates from all around the world as they come together to determine a way forward through our deep disagreements about same-sex marriage and the ordination of LGBTQ clergy.
- Eleanor Saufferer as she continues in her recovery from recent medical concerns.
- Prayers of thanks for Theresa Riecke who is having success with treatments for headaches.
- Cindy Saufferer's mother, Marge, who continues in medical care for new health issues.
- People who are homeless or stranded in this severe cold and snow of winter.
- All persons struggling with colds, flu, and fevers this winter.
- Members of Congress, and the Cabinet, as they continue in negotiations after a temporary reversal of the government shut-down.
- Non-profit agencies – lifelines for persons in need – that have been, or are close to being, negatively impacted in their funding and their ability to provide assistance due to the government shut-down. In particular, pray for the Emma Norton Residence, whose clients could be at significant risk.
- Government workers and employees of businesses who contract with the government, as they try

to find their way back after the government shut-down and as they live in concern for what lies ahead.

- The family of Craig Cook, 58, of West Concord, who passed away on January 10th unexpectedly at his home. Craig was preceded in death by his sister, Cindy Karsten. Cindy was married to Christ Karsten and was the daughter-in-law of Carol Karsten.
- Bruce Christie, former pastor of BGUMC, who is battling health concerns.
- Tracie Spinler's co-worker, Joan, whose cancer has returned and who will undergo surgery to determine its extent.
- Jonathan Zierdt, friend of several members of BG, who in March, will step down from his position of president and CEO of Greater Mankato Growth to focus on his health and the pursuit of personal interests. He remains in active and palliative treatment for aggressive metastatic and treatment-resistant prostate cancer and is currently recovering from an alternate, and complicated, cancer-freezing procedure.
- Leaders of our country and around the world.
- Caregivers of persons with health concerns.
- Prayers for the safety and well-being of children in the midst of concerning family situations.
- For all of us to remember we are all a part of the community and body of Christ in the world.
- All others who have been lifted in prayer this past month, both aloud, and silently.

Thank-You for Prayers



Thank you to members of BGUMC for ongoing prayers for Norwood Young America Church of the Maples -- from a member of the church who lives next door to Dave and Sheryl Brisel's daughter. She asks that we continue in prayer for them as they discern what to do next after their church was destroyed by fire in December, just three months after celebrating its 160th anniversary.

Editor's Note from MN UMC Conference News: The fire was most likely caused by an electrical issue. Not much of the building or its contents is salvageable, with the exception of the large bell that fell from its bell tower, and potentially some wood from the pews. The church, which averages five to 10 persons in weekly worship, will now meet at Church of Peace in Norwood Young America. Minnesota Conference leaders will work with the members of the congregation and their pastor as they say goodbye to their building, which will need to be torn down, and as they determine plans for the future.

Blooming Grove UMC 2019 Officers, Teams and Committees

Church Council (· Denotes Voting Member)

• Chair	Hjordi Churchill	(507) 456-1825	hjordi.hc@gmail.com
• Vice-Chair	NA		
• Lay Leader	Allison Janke	(507) 456-7840	jankema@hotmail.com
• Recording Secretary	Char Frankenberg	(507) 676-3544	frankenberryc@gmail.com
• Board of Trustees	Brad Spinler	(507) 461-2354	bspinler@outlook.com
• Church Treasurer	Tracie Spinler	(507) 461-2194	tspinler@outlook.com
• Co-Financial Sec.	Brian Kanne	(507) 456-8968	bckanne@fmwildblue.com
• PPRC Rep	Allison Janke	(507) 456-7840	jankema@hotmail.com
• UMW President	Char Frankenberg	(507) 676-3544	frankenberryc@gmail.com
• Youth Rep.	Mikayla Spinler	(507) 461-6424	
• Education & Events	Patti Ellingson	(507) 339-2477	peppermint_e@hotmail.com
• Memorials	Chery Southworth	(507) 339-3534	cherysouth@gmail.com
• Lay Delegate to AC	Cindy Saufferer	(507) 363-9380	cindy.saufferer@gmail.com

Pastor Parish Relations Committee

Allison Janke (Chair) Lay Leader		(507) 456-7840	jankema@hotmail.com
Judy Mahler	(2019)	(507) 456-3937	hcjm@charter.net
Cindy Saufferer	(2020)	(507) 363-9380	cindy.saufferer@gmail.com

Finance Committee

Church Council Chair	Hjordi Churchill (Chair)	(507) 456-1825	hjordi.hc@gmail.com
Lay Leader	Allison Janke	(507) 456-7840	jankema@hotmail.com
Trustee Rep	Brad Spinler	(507) 461-2354	bspinler@outlook.com
Treasurer	Tracie Spinler	(507) 461-2194	tspinler@outlook.com
Financial Secretary	Brian Kanne	(507) 456-8968	bckanne@fmwildblue.com

Worship Planning

Pastor			
Patti Ellingson		(507) 339-2477	peppermint_e@hotmail.com
Faye Kanne		(507) 475-0101	hfkanne@gmail.com
Carolyn Kanne		(507) 475-0100	bckanne@fmwildblue.com
Judy Mahler		(507) 456-3937	hcjm@charter.net

Parsonage Committee

PPRC Rep	Judy Mahler	(507) 456-3937	hcjm@charter.net
Trustee Rep	Linda Danks	(507) 456-7961	cldanks@hotmail.com

Membership Secretary

Carolyn Kanne		(507) 475-0100	bckanne@fmwildblue.com
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(Continued on Back)

Blooming Grove UMC

2019 Officers, Teams and Committees—Continued

Trustees

Class of 2019

Mike Nicholson	(507) 213-8881	grampanich@gmail.com
Linda Danks	(507) 456-7961	cldanks@hotmail.com

Class of 2020

Brad Spinler (Chair)	(507) 461-2354	bspinler@outlook.com
Dave Brisel	(507) 521-4742	dsbrisel@gmail.com

Class of 2021

Michael Janke	(507) 456-4806	jankema@hotmail.com
Brad Saufferer	(507) 363-6579	b_saufferer@msn.com

Committee on Lay Leadership

Pastor	Chair		
Allison Janke	Lay Leader	(507) 456-7840	jankema@hotmail.com
Char Frankenberry	2019	(507) 676-3544	frankenberryc@gmail.com
TBD	2020		

Education & Events Team

Patti Ellingson	Chair	(507) 339-2477	peppermint_e@hotmail.com
Sheryl Brisel		(507) 521-4742	dsbrisel@gmail.com
Marlis Mahler		(507) 461-1260	mmahler@owatonna.k12.mn.us (work)
Tanecka Poe		(507) 838-5561	taneckapoe@yahoo.com
Allison Janke		(507) 456-7840	jankema@hotmail.com

Communications

Chery Southworth	(507) 339-3534	cherysouth@gmail.com
Judy Mahler	(507) 456-3937	hcjm@charter.net
Carolyn Kanne	(507) 475-0100	bckanne@fmwildblue.com
Faye Kanne	(507) 475-0101	hfkanne@gmail.com

Memorials

Chery Southworth	(507) 339-3534	cherysouth@gmail.com
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Church Historian

TBD

Communion Steward

Hjordi Churchill	(507) 456-1825	hjordi.hc@gmail.com
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Auditors

Don Frankenberry	(507) 676-3545	frankenberryd@gmail.com
Dick Fisher	(507) 461-2044	dfisher56060@gmail.com

Pastor JJ Morgan 507-995-6623 pastorjjmorgan@gmail.com

Pastor Stefanie Morgan 507-995-6624 stefaniemorganmt@gmail.com

BLOOMING GROVE BUDGET

	<u>2017 Budget</u>	<u>2018 Budget</u>	<u>2018 Actual</u>	<u>2019 Budget</u>
Pastoral Support				
Salary	\$20,000.00	\$19,606.00	19,606.00	\$19,962.00
Parsonage Utilities	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,298.00	2,880.00
Health Insurance	5,568.00	7,535.00	7,060.00	6,600.00
Workman's Comp	650.00	500.00	124.00	125.00
Travel	500.00	1,750.00	1,353.00	2,000.00
Pension	4,000.00	2,660.00	2,659.00	2,669.00
Continuing Education	400.00	2,075.00	659.00	817.00
Conference Registration	300.00	175.00	458.00	250.00
Other Professional Expenses	<u>750.00</u>	<u>250.00</u>	<u>130.00</u>	<u>250.00</u>
Pastoral Support Total	34,668.00	37,051.00	34,347.00	35,553.00
Apportionments (Total)	7,200.00	7,602.00	7,602.00	7,698.00
Local Church Ministries				
Program				
Confirmation	500.00	500.00	0.00	0.00
Pulpit Supply	400.00	400.00	300.00	500.00
Misc.	500.00	600.00	351.00	600.00
Educational Materials	1,750.00	1,750.00	1,446.00	1,750.00
Administration				
Printing/Postage/Office/Copier	700.00	700.00	756.00	750.00
Communication	700.00	700.00	868.00	725.00
Maintenance				
Furnace Fuel	1,750.00	1,581.00	2,283.00	2,500.00
Electric	850.00	850.00	805.00	850.00
Cleaning	1,300.00	1,300.00	1,412.00	1,500.00
Insurance	3,592.00	3,600.00	3,244.00	3,600.00
Advertising	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
Repairs	2,500.00	2,000.00	579.00	2,000.00
Waterville—Parsonage	0.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
Special Projects/Misc.	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,395.00	1,000.00
Mowing	<u>4,000.00</u>	<u>4,000.00</u>	<u>2,836.00</u>	<u>4,000.00</u>
Local Church Total	19,642.00	20,281.00	17,475.00	20,975.00
SUMMARY				
Pastoral Support	34,668.00	37,051.11	34,347.00	35,553.00
Apportionments	7,200.00	7,602.00	7,602.00	7,698.00
Local Church Ministries	<u>19,642.00</u>	<u>20,281.00</u>	<u>17,475.00</u>	<u>20,975.00</u>
TOTAL CHURCH BUDGET	\$61,510.00	\$64,934.00	\$59,424.00	\$64,226.00



“Love one another as I have loved you”

John 13:34

Is it much of a challenge to figure out our theme for February’s **Second Sunday – Fun Day**? We have several loving/caring/sharing activities -- and a challenge – planned for Sunday February 10th. Some may involve folding, stickers, candy; some may involve sticky fingers (yup, **again**) and frosting; some may involve colorful heart dangles. *ALL* will involve *YOU*, but, *only if you come!!!* Remember **EVERYONE’S WELCOME**. Last month we welcomed an alligator and a snake, so of course we’ll welcome you, however you come. Just show up in the **Fireside Room on Sunday February 10th from 9:30 to 10:15.**

Be aware – participants may come away with a sense of belonging and of being cared about.

Education & Events



230 busy fingers (maybe not all “nimble” fingers necessarily) and 23 smiling faces participated in our January **Second Sunday – Fun Day** held on January 13th. All 4 Sunday School rooms and 6 tables were used, as a widely diverse group including 15 adults, 2 young-adults, 6 kids, 1 plastic alligator and a plastic snake worked



The whole happy crew surrounding a table filled with completed blankets.



Work accomplished from many positions!

companionably together to tie colorful, fun-themed fleece blankets. Diverse group? Yes! Men, women, guys and gals; pre-schoolers, grade schoolers, high schoolers, college, post-college, parents, and grand-parents; and yes, the alligator and snake. A few full-sized blankets and several youth-sized blankets were tied; the fun patterns on the youth blankets included such things as monkeys, sheep, airplanes, penguins, butterflies, frogs, teddy bears, snowflakes, Eeyore and Tinkerbell. While some adults measured and used the sharp scissors, the youth and other adults were busy tying the knots to create double-sided, snuggly-warm fleece blankets. If you look



Smiles, smiles, smiles... & a ‘Bradley Burrito’



NOT just “women’s work”; peek-a-book Raelyn!

closely at the pictures, you’ll note that some work was performed while standing, some while sitting in chairs, some while sitting or kneeling on the floor, and even Emmelou worked while laying on her back on the floor! Look closely, it’s not just the young ‘uns taking to the floor – the young at heart were also on the floor.

They say many hands make light work..... so true! As soon as 1 blanket was completed, there was a quick flurry to begin a new one and/or to find another “blanket station” where they could help out. From room, to room, to room, to room you could hear conversation, intermittent



multi-generational fun

infectious laughter, and the sounds of the simple joy of working together on a worthwhile project. I believe some of the laughter *may* have been due to the alligator’s and snake’s lack of manual dexterity and tendency to lollygag around on the fleece, or perhaps due to the “peek-a-boo” or papoose-ing in the fleece (someone’s gotta do Quality Control to make sure the blankets perform properly)! In total, 12 tied-fleece blankets were made. 9 blankets were completed on Fun Day, and an additional 3 completed later; some were passed through the congregation and



Completed blankets; & upper right: busy fingers

prayed over as we do with our prayer shawls. These blankets were then gifted to **Ruth’s House** of Faribault, where adults and kids receive safe shelter in a supportive and healing environment. Upon delivery, the receptionist and the Program Manager Meghan both enthusiastically responded, “Ooohh!” “Oh, look at... these are fantastic!” “They’ll be much appreciated!” Both ladies at Ruth’s House wanted to be sure our group is thanked. So - THANKS!



extra “helpers(?)”

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED to:
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Men's Pancake Breakfast

March 3rd

9:30 a.m.

The men of the church will cook up pancakes, French toast and sausage along with juice and coffee.

A free will offering will go towards the food shelf and the church handicap accessibility project.

Men and boys will be needed to help.

Contact Brad Spinler to volunteer @ 507-461-2354

or bspinler@outlook.com

