

**JULY 2012**

# REYNOLDS NEWS WRAP

**Reynolds United  
Methodist Church**

2496 Reynolds Road

Ashton, IL 61006

**PASTOR ALAN MEYER**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Letter	1
Conference Reports	2 & 5
Prayer Concerns	3
Serving in July	3
Committee Reports	4
Birthdays & Anniversaries	6

**AUGUST NEWSLETTER  
REPORTS AND ITEMS DUE  
SUNDAY, JULY 15TH**

**PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY EVERY  
WEDNESDAY AT 9:30 AM.**

*Now faith is being sure of  
what we hope for and certain  
of what we do not see.*

*Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)*

***The greatest victories are the victories of faith. It is not so much what we can do that counts, but what we can trust God to do.***

Dear Reynolds UMC Members and Friends,

Church, we don't really have to say much to teach our children about God. Our attitude and deeds at home and the values we live by all teach our children how important God is to us. It is very important that we become godly examples of God's love and forgiveness. We need to always surround our children with faith and a love that will lead our children living lives leading to victory.

As I was sitting in Conference this year, I looked at a young teenager taking part in the life of the church. Not just talking about getting involved but letting her talk turn into action. I watched with joy in my heart as she represented this congregation with seriousness, love for her church, and a heart for others. As she stood with the Bishop Hee-Soo Jung and was named before the Conference, I felt again like a proud parent watching his children grow up. We at Reynolds are truly blessed with talented and committed young adults who love God and His Church. But I also thought of her testimony and walk with Jesus. It came to me that no matter what is going on around us in our lives, that faith never gives up. It doesn't matter whether we are sinking in quicksand up to our chins and hardly able to breathe. Sinking more and even closer to the end we begin to question, "Why Lord? When Lord? Anytime Lord! " Jesus answers us back, "Believe. All things are possible."

Church, it is when we start to sink that our faith should tell us that we are going to be pulled out. It's coming- hold on! Through Jesus we will be saved and victorious. Strong faith can see us through any situation. The question for all of us is how we develop a faith that never gives up. Take time to read Romans 10:17. Faith comes from hearing, hearing and hearing again. Just because we hear the Word once doesn't mean we have faith. People often get off track when they stop hearing.

Although we may hear the Word again and again we need to put it into action. Faith must become the foundation of our lives. Church, when life seems to be overwhelming and we are sinking in the quicksand, we need to keep the faith. God's Word is the rock we can build on. That is why it is so important that we all take the time to worship and hear the Word together each Sunday. Faith NEVER gives up.

*Pastor Al*

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT

Rhonda Brown

As I sit and reflect on the Annual Conference I realize that I still like the Praise and Worship time much more than the business time. However, this year there was a lot less business to take care of, so the pace was much slower and more relaxing than last year. Well at least for the part I attended, it was.

There are a few of the business items I will share with you. We approved the budget and the apportionments should not go up. We approved the salary and benefits for clergy as well. There also were a few other things we voted on. If you are interested in seeing any of the documents, just contact Pastor Al, Kathy, or me and we will show them to you.

The Harvest 2020 Campaign is probably the most vocal group at the Conference. The main goal of Harvest 2020 is to have 100 new faith communities in Northern IL by the year 2020. They want to raise \$5.5 million dollars by 2013 to launch the second round of the new faith communities. They currently have \$1,692,922. There are 25 existing sites and 27 more potential launches. One of the arguments they use for launching new faith communities is that people who are looking for a church home no longer want to go to an existing church *because of the fear of not being welcomed or fitting in*. I can somewhat understand this. However, I think it depends on the individual church and its members. I feel that existing churches can be very welcoming. I think Reynolds is.

The theme this year was “Celebrate God’s Amazing work.” However, one of the main topics was “ReThink Church.” Once again we were encouraged to go out in the community and meet the people where they are. If we want our churches to grow, then we need to stop just talking about God’s love and forgiveness, leave the building, and show God’s love in the community by serving the people. As I have said many times in the past year, if you want to fill the pews, then you have to leave the pews. Many of the old way of doing things just aren’t working anymore, and churches are at risk of closing if they aren’t willing to change and grow. Now once again, I don’t think we have to change everything about us. I think we have made some great strides in our community outreach. We also do very well with missions. But it is more than just throwing money at a cause. It is about serving God’s people by working along beside them.

Because of my work schedule I missed the Bible Study most days. However on Saturday, they had the youth do the worship service. There were 4 speakers, songs, dance, martial arts demonstration, and skits. The main messages were based on Matthew 25:30-46. I will share the verses 34-46:

<sup>34</sup> “Then the King will say to those on his right, “Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. <sup>35</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, <sup>36</sup> I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

<sup>37</sup> “Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? <sup>39</sup> When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you? “

<sup>40</sup> “The king will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers or sisters of mine, you did for me.”

Each of the speakers’ messages was so clear. I was blown away by their insightfulness. My favorite part was the last speaker when she shared:

*“Only Jesus can turn a mess into a message, a test in a testimony, a trial into triumph, a victim into a victory.”*

It doesn’t matter how much we may feel that we can’t share God’s love because we have too much going on in our own life, God can use anything to help us reach others. We just have to remember to accept others for who they are and not sit in judgment. Acceptance can be our biggest testimony to the community. Their messages reminded me of a new song by Casting Crowns called “Jesus, Friend of Sinners”. Here is the first verse and chorus:

(continued on page 5)



**INDIVIDUAL CONCERNS:**

6 yr old Emma; Adam Devine; Ashley Roux’s friend who is pregnant and found out there is a problem with the baby; Baby Molly; Bob Cheeseman; Carrie Becker’s mother; Cecil Brake; Chris, Nancy Egger’s daughter and granddaughters (Jill & Jenna); Debbie VanDyke; Diane Mammen; Duane Truckenbrod; Jill Cox; Jill Meadows; Jim Steder; Lelia Place; Linda Meyer’s mother; Louie Frye; Marie Kurz’s sister and niece; Neil Miller; Neva Becker; Pastor Al & Linda; Steve Pfeiffer; Vi Lawrence; and Virgil Page.

**OTHERS:** All those mentioned in previous weeks; Cancer patients; Tornado victims; Families who have recently lost loved ones; Members of the Armed Forces and their families; Struggling families who are facing life challenges; Families dealing with depression and income problems; and all ‘Unspoken Requests’.

**SERVING IN JULY**

Ushers: Justin Rueff, Joe Phipps, Rich Vogeler, Jeff Pfeiffer.

Greeters: July 1st & 8th : Jeff Cappel Family  
 July 15th & 22nd : Help Needed  
 July 29th : Duane Ackland

Flowers: Linda Meyer or Lynnette Lawrence

Church Hostess: Frances Cappel

<u>Date</u>	<u>Children’s Moment</u>	<u>Nursery</u>	<u>Media</u>
July 1st	Kathy Clark	Help Needed	Ed Uphoff
July 8th	Pastor Al Meyer	Kathy Brown	TBA
July 15th	Kathy Becker	Help Needed	TBA
July 22nd	Lois Heimbaugh	Help Needed	TBA
July 29th	Rhonda or Kathy Brown	Help Needed	

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lawn Mowing</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>
July 1st	Dennis Pfeiffer	Rueff Family	Gerri Underhile
July 8th	Dennis Pfeiffer	Knight Family	Lois Heimbaugh
July 15th	Keith Roop	Edlund Family	TBA
July 22nd	Help Needed	TBA	Leslie Gittleson
July 29th	Bill Kirchhofer	TBA	Sue Bertenshaw



**July Mission Project: Local Families- School Supplies  
 Bring Mission Offerings on the 4th Sunday (July 22nd )**

**MOTIVATION:** A fellow was walking through a cemetery late at night who fell into an open grave. He didn’t know that sometime earlier that night another man had fallen into the same grave. He felt around the walls of the grave and tried to climb out , but he couldn’t quite make it. Suddenly, behind him in that open grave he heard a voice, “You can’t get out of here.” BUT HE DID!!!

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Rhonda Brown, Chair

### SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

We have decided to do something a little different for Sunday school during the summer. Three classes will be combined (PK-6th grade). We are looking for people to teach about the "Heroes of the Bible" for the combined class. If you are interested please write your name on the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall We still need people for two Sundays - 7/22 & 8/12. Thank you.

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

DATES: July 9th-13th - A light meal for the kids and adult staff will be provided at 5:30pm just prior to VBS starting at 6:00 pm. There is a list of items yet needed in the Sunday bulletin. Snacks are still needed for the College Students /Teachers. .

### YOUTH REPORT

There were a total of 10 youth attending camps at Reynoldswood at Dixon. **Attending the JOY Camp were:**

- Morgan
- Shannon Brown
- Kathy Brown
- Sawyer Murphy
- Allana Gittleson
- Olivia Rueff
- Andrew Phipps
- Kimberly Townsend

### Attending Treehouse Adventure Camp:

- Conner Winterland.

We pray that a good time was had by all and that next year will find repeat attendances.

## STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Frances Cappel, Chair

The Committee met to begin working on the Benevolent Fund Guidelines. The plans for a Benevolent Committee and guidelines were presented to the Church Council and approved. A letter will go out to all church members.

## TRUSTEE'S MEETING

Joe Phipps, Chair

The following items were discussed at the May meeting:

- New Windows for Parsonage
- Outside Faucet
- New Thermostats for the Church
- New shrubs on the East side of the Church

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Kathy Becker, Chair

The following were discussed at the meeting on May 28th:

- June 3rd - Graduation Sunday
- June 17th - Fathers Day - Puppet Skit
- July 9-13 - 6 to 8pm. - Vacation Bible School. Friday night program. Five North Central college students to be presenters.
- Education Report-  
Puppets to perform every other month  
Summer Sunday School - Adults needed to help
- July 18th- Pastor Al gone.

Two weddings coming up - September 8th (Lawrence) and another in early December.

There will be a meeting soon to update the Guidelines for Use of the Church and a Booklet/Pamphlet to be prepared for distribution to any who request special use of the church .

### PERSPECTIVE

Garbage collectors were picking up our trash as my wife walked back into our house. A particular barrel was very heavy. "Lady, we can't take this," one man called out. "It's way over the weight limit".

My wife turned her eight-month-pregnant figure toward him. "it didn't seem that heavy when I carried it out," she said. Without another word, the man emptied the barrel



*(continued from page 2)*

Jesus, friend of sinners, we have strayed so far away  
We cut down people in your name but the sword was never ours to swing  
Jesus, friend of sinners, the truth's become so hard to see  
The world is on their way to You but they're tripping over me  
Always looking around but never looking up - I'm so double minded  
A plank eyed saint with dirty hands and a heart divided.

Oh Jesus, friend of sinners  
Open our eyes to the world at the end of pointing fingers  
Let our hearts be led by mercy  
Help us reach with open hearts and open doors.  
Oh Jesus, friend of sinners, break our hearts for what breaks yours.

So let all of us do our part to keep the church growing. Let's serve others with an open mind and acceptance.

### **CONFERENCE REPORT**

**By Kathy Brown**

**If someone asked you, "Do you believe in God?" What would your answer be? It was my first year going to Annual Conference, and I was the youngest delegate there. We had a speaker who told us when she was younger, she asked her grandma if she believed in God. The response was "No, I believe God!" she was one of many great speakers I was able to hear at Annual conference.**

**The Bible Study was great. The speaker was from Africa and did an amazing job on the scriptures she had broken down for us. We learned about Mark 10:47-53. she also taught about Genesis 29:31. She taught by using humor. She was supposed to give the Bible study on Saturday as well. However, she was called away. We did learn that she has been appointed to a church in Naperville, so it is possible that I may be able to hear her speak again.**

**Each day we had sessions and plenaries. I was able to vote on many different things. I have copies of the documents if anyone would like to see them. I enjoyed learning how things are done within the conference.**

**On Saturday there was youth worship. It was really fun to watch. The theme was about helping others as a way to serve God. Each of the speakers was very good. It was outstanding that they are so young but still did that great of a job.**

**There were several different meals with special programs. I attended the breakfast with North Central College. I was able to meet current students, alumni, and even the pastor whose congregation started North Central College 150 years ago. I also met the leader of the New Beginnings group who is coming to Reynolds to lead VBS. There was the retirement service to recognize everyone that is retiring. We also went to the Bishop's dinner and program to honor him.**

**The best part for me was being able to talk to several of the Pastors I know from JOY camp. I also talked to many of the people who chaperoned the New York trip. I met Pastor Lisa who used to preach at Reynolds about 20 years ago. She told me to you all 'Hello'. I was re-introduced to the District Superintendent. One of the people who I know from the New York trip introduced me to the Bishop. Then the Bishop had his assistant announce to the whole conference that I was the youngest in attendance.**

**All in all, I had a great time and a wonderful experience. I met a ton of great people, and reconnected with others. I really learned a lot. I am looking forward to being able to go back next year if I'm allowed. It was really cool to be the youngest delegate there.**

**So remember, if anyone asks you "Do you believe in God?", tell them "No, I believe God!"**



Reynolds United Methodist Church  
2496 Reynolds Road  
Ashton, IL 61006  
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Katherine Brown
- 4 - Zayne Becker  
Jessica Townsend
- 5 - Randi Gittleson
- 7 - Bob Cheeseman  
Jacob Becker
- 8 - Lois Heimbaugh
- 10 - Helen Pfeiffer
- 12 - Katrina Underhile
- 13 - Sterling Cone
- 16 - Otto Horner  
Derek Troha
- 17 - Jacob Scott  
Sue Bertenshaw
- 19 - Peyton Bertenshaw
- 20 - Shawn Townsend
- 22 - Bill Kirchofer
- 23 - Alex Cheeseman
- 28 - Neil Miller
- 30 - Ryan Cheeseman
- 31 - Jim Knight

### ANNIVERSARIES

- 8 - Kyle & Lindsay Stumpfenhorst
- 14 - Jeff & Laura Pfeiffer
- 19 - Jeff & Annette Cappel
- 21 - Bill & Barb Uphoff
- 24 - Jake & Dolores Scott
- 26 - Bob & sue Bertenshaw

### OTHER SPECIAL DATES

9th - 13th -  
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL  
Program on Friday night!