

inspire!

A monthly magazine of
Wayzata Community Church

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Volume 40, Number 1

inspire the world with the inclusive love of Jesus



In every step
may grace enfold you
may peace envelop you
may love embrace you.
—Jan Richardson

A new year of grace, peace & love

By Rev. Danielle Jones

There is something exciting about a New Year. Turning the page to a fresh calendar, writing 2018 on important documents, and reflecting on where you have been and where you would like to go is good for the soul. This new year is sure to have its share of ups and downs but it is also sure to be the next leg of your journey with God. What does it hold? You can't possibly know until you begin to walk the road, but you can plan for the journey ahead.

As you set your intentions for 2018, where does your relationship with God fit into the picture? How will you set aside time with God? Where are you feeling drawn to serve? What is bubbling up within you that needs tending? And how does Wayzata Community Church serve as a place where you can plug in, dig deeper, and find fuel for the journey?

You are invited to set your intentions for the coming year with God at the center. Listen to what God is saying to you. Soak yourself in the ways God loves you. And look for new places to connect or old places to reconnect with God at WCC and everywhere the journey takes you in 2018. *In every step may grace enfold you, peace envelop you and love embrace you.*

New Member Class in January **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3**

7:15 to 8:30 p.m. in the Holmes Room

Looking for a new church home? Please join us for a New Member Orientation class on Wednesday, January 3 led by Rev. Danielle Jones. Childcare will be provided. In this class you will learn more about:

- Worship to fit your style
- Inspiring children's and youth ministry programs for all ages
- Adult Faith Formation classes
- Community opportunities to grow your relationship with God and others
- Local, national and international mission and outreach programs

Register for this class online at wayzatacommunitychurch.org/newmemberclass

A

Hooray for Summer Camp!

Summer Camp 2018 kicks-off later this month! Registration will begin on Sunday, January 28th at 7:00 a.m. Find all the camp session dates and more on page 4.

B

Be a Parables Buddy!

The Parables Ministry will be launching a Parables Buddy Program in February, and we would love to have you join us. Read more on page 6.

C

Blankets, Mittens & More

Help us fill all our buckets to overflowing so that homeless teens can stay warm and healthy during the cold winter months ahead. More on page 10.

From the Moderator

Ann Johnson Stewart

Trail Blazers

My original *Inspire* article for this issue was already written as I sat in church today and listened to JR's excellent sermon. Thankfully, I hadn't submitted it yet, and was able to re-write it this afternoon. You may remember the sermon on December 10: JR talked about the importance of remembering and honoring the many trailblazers in our lives. It was thoughtful, relevant, and inspiring. And, while he emphasized the importance of the trails and the courageous, humble, perseverant people who have paved them, my mind was focusing on something else: the blaze itself. I teach surveying, and I was imagining a survey blaze, which is the mark that surveyors leave to record the trail as they work.

Surveyors determine the positions of points and the distances and angles between them. These points are often used to establish maps and boundaries, and after the Revolutionary War, survey teams subdivided over a billion acres of land into the townships and smaller sections that we still use as reference today. As surveyors identify the location of a line or section corner, they routinely score trees in the area with a distinguishable mark to record the ground they've covered, and to provide record and guidance. The blaze is an important way-finding tool for anyone who follows behind or uses their data.

Surveyors only leave blazes on the "true line". What's a "true line" in surveying? A surveyor's work includes two parts: first, they determine the true line, and then they create a series of markers and reference points that "tie in" to the true line (so that if the true line is lost, it can be reestablished). And the tree that contains a blaze is called a "witness tree". The word "witness" is so powerful and important in our Christian tradition, so the analogy between surveying and blazing the trail is easy to make here: blazing leaves an indelible mark on a witness to provide guidance and direction for those who follow on the true line. I love that image!

Traveling in the Colorado mountains with our high school students, I was thrilled every time I saw a blaze on the trail. It was a concrete reminder that someone had come before me, not only clearing the trail, but leaving a mark for me to find and navigate my own way. The blazes helped me to stay on course and provided constant assurance that I was on track. Colorado was surveyed in 1907, and so those marks I saw were over a hundred years old. But they provided clear and consistent communication between me and the trail blazers who made them.



“The tree that contains a blaze is called a “witness tree”. The word “witness” is so powerful and important in our Christian tradition, so the analogy is easy to make here: blazing leaves an indelible mark on a witness to provide guidance and direction for those who follow on the true line.”

For this issue I was challenged to write about who we are as a church. In that context: what trailblazing is ahead of us in 2018? How will we determine our “true line”? What witness or marks will we leave, and how can we make them permanent? Affordable housing, leadership in tri-faith activities, and work with the Parables community are three that stand out clearly, but there are so many more opportunities for us as a church and true “blazers” in this community.

Remember: there's no trailblazing without the blaze. Let's find some ways to leave our marks in 2018 together!



for the moment

Rev. Dr. John F. Ross, Senior Minister

Toxic Charity

When you throw a rock into a pigpen, the pig that squeals got hit.

In 2011, Bob Lupton threw a rock in the form of a book...and there has been a lot of "squealing" ever since. It seems that a lot people (especially Christians) have taken issue with his book *Toxic Charity*. Squeal, squeal.

As the title suggests, Lupton makes the case that there is such a thing as bad (or poisonous) charity. The subtitle makes clear to whom he's speaking: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help. Squeal, squeal, squeal!

How could charity ever be toxic? How is it possible for us to hurt those we seek to help? Under what circumstances is charity more harmful than helpful? What respectable person of faith would ever knowingly participate in something that steals the dignity and self-worth of another human?

These are among the questions we seek to answer through a sermon series in January under the same title as the book. As we ask and answer these and other questions, we will also draw examples from the charitable efforts of WCC.

Robert Lupton, founder and president of FCS Urban Ministries (Focused Community Strategies) spent 40+ years serving the poor of inner city Atlanta. What he witnessed and experienced in well-intended charitable efforts motivated him to take a closer look and ask hard questions.

This is not about throwing rocks into a pigpen, or making anyone squeal. It's about turning our undivided attention to the goals and outcomes of our mission efforts, lest we participate in any toxic charity. I hope you'll join the conversation.

See you in church,

Rev. Dr. John F. Ross
Senior Minister

“How could charity ever be toxic? How is it possible for us to hurt those we seek to help? Under what circumstances is charity more harmful than helpful? ”

in[]between

To supplement the “Toxic Charity” sermon series, Dr. Ross is inviting four mission organizations to speak in between Sunday morning worship services. Join them in Piper Library from 10:10-10:40 a.m. every Sunday in January:

- January 7—Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative (Lee Blons)
- January 14—Innove Studios (Brian Jones)
- January 21—Opportunity International (Lori Olson)
- January 28—Opportunity International/Nicaragua (Gary Johnson)



High School Mission Trip

In High School Ministry, an annual mission trip has been one of the most impactful things for high school students for many years. **This year, we are returning to Mexico, March 29-April 3, to build homes for families.**

High School Ministry sponsors a mission trip to Tecate, Mexico because we know that it is important to provide fun and meaningful experiences for high school students. Being part of the Mexico Mission Trip is a profound, life altering experience. The opportunity to give of yourself physically, emotionally and spiritually is unique, and to do so to improve the quality of life for other human beings is immeasurably rewarding. To serve in this way allows each person to more fully understand the love that is asked of each of us as Christians, and shown to us through the example and teachings of Jesus.

For more information, including registration, please visit www.wayzatacommunitychurch.org/mexicomissiontrip

Summer Camp

THE BEST WEEK OF YOUR SUMMER!



There is something for everyone at Camp!

Whether you are a returning camper, a brand-new camper, inviting friends to consider Camp, or interested in sending someone as a gift... we are grateful for every way campers find to spend a session with us.

We celebrate that 30% of our campers and staff come from outside our church community. In this way, camp is an engaging and approachable outreach for the wider community, with our life-giving expression of Jesus' inclusive love. Camp is also a point of contact for many members who have moved from the area. Through the extended time at Camp relationships are affirmed and rediscovered.

Many campers simply talk about the difference it makes to be loved – just as you are – for their time at Camp, each year.

Please consider children and youth in your life who might benefit from a few days at camp— soaking up the affirmation of a loving community, astonished by amazing fun, buoyed by a break from the pressures and pace of life, and in a place to discover God in God's creation.

Summer Camp 2018 kicks-off later this month!

Registration will begin on Sunday, January 28th at 7:00 a.m.

The Family Ministries Team, Registrar Volunteers and Retreat & Camp Ministry Board are hard at work preparing for Summer Camp 2018.

Did you hear about our 2018 camp home? Returning to Bay Lake!

Over the last 7 years WCC's Camp Ministry has grown in attendance for all ages of campers, as well as our professional college-aged and young adult staff. After 5 summers at our original home at Pilgrim Point Camp, we surpassed all our available time and space. Rather than forcing ourselves to turn away campers who would seek an experience of faith-formation at camp, we have worked to find other ways forward each summer. In 2016 and 2017 we "tried on" two new camp settings, both of which were underutilized, and considering sale of their property, which allowed us the time we needed to offer our sessions.

For 2018 we are thrilled to be going back to our 2017 property on beautiful Bay Lake. The property is located on Church Island, and owned by First Lutheran in St. Paul. We had a great summer there last year, and are excited to see what blessings a new summer will bring!



2018 CAMP SESSIONS

Summer Camp

CHILDREN'S SESSIONS

CC #1 Saturday, June 23 through Tuesday, June 26
CC #2 Wednesday, July 11 through Saturday, July 14

MIDDLE SCHOOL SESSIONS

MS #1 Sunday, June 17 through Friday, June 22
MS #2 Thursday, July 5 through Tuesday, July 10
MS #3 Sunday, July 15 through Friday, July 20

HIGH SCHOOL SESSIONS

HS #1 Sunday, June 10 through Saturday, June 16
HS #2 Wednesday, June 27 through Tuesday, July 3
HS #3 Saturday, July 21 through Friday, July 27

ALL AGES & STAGES OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

Church Camp Friday, July 27 through Monday, July 30

THE 2018 SUMMER SCHEDULE

We are thrilled to offer 9 sessions of camp this summer, including 2 sessions for incoming 3rd-5th graders, 3 sessions for middle school campers, 3 for high school campers, and one glorious weekend of Church Camp, for the whole family of God.

It is with humility and gratitude that we care for your children at Camp. Please begin now to plan for your summer, with Camp in mind... it will be our great privilege to meet each camper there!



New Registration in 2018...

Please take the next few weeks to consider the available sessions. In mid-January we will be introducing our new and improved online registration. We are encouraging campers to create an account before January 28th. Watch for information to help your registration experience be a snap!

How can I register?

The official registration for all camp sessions begins at 7:00 a.m. on Sunday, January 28th! As in past years, registration requires a \$100.00 deposit. Please register early to get your preferred session... many sessions will fill quickly.

Register online at www.wayzatacommunitychurch.org/summercamp

“At camp, you learn to spread light... it’s in every corner of camp.”

JOE KOTTKE
11th GRADE



Parables

Attitudes Matter.

Four years ago WCC launched Parables—a worship service and ministry that empowers and celebrates the gifts of those labeled by society as having “special needs.” This is a ministry of radical inclusivity, but it can also rub up against our deep discomfort with those who are different from us. And that’s where our attitudes come in.

Four years ago, a man named Dan Vander Plaats from Elim Christian Services had a personal experience that challenged him to look closely at his own attitudes towards people with disabilities.

He writes, “I was at a restaurant with my colleagues and some people with disabilities that we serve.

Our waitress came over and went around the table asking us for our orders. When she came across two of our friends with disabilities her tone changed from peer to peer to adult to child. I thought she was just being nice until she used the same tone with me because I have a speech impediment. That experience made me realize that the very attitudes I hated about other people, were the same attitudes I myself had towards people with disabilities. I realized it was all about my attitude and that if I tried to make sense of my own journey, I might be able to help others on theirs.”

Based on that *Aha* moment, Dan came up with a pretty profound assessment tool called “The Five Stages: The Journey of Disability Attitudes” and he encourages each of us to figure out where we fall on this scale.

■ **Level One is Ignorance.** This is the level where people with disabilities are invisible. The prevailing attitude is “I have no interest in getting to know them or to know more about their lives.”

■ **Level two is Pity.** Here, people feel sorry for people with disabilities. They are grateful that they don’t have people in their lives that have them. They don’t really see purpose or meaning in the lives of people with disabilities.

■ **Level Three is Care.** Here, people believe that we are all made in God’s image and therefore the lives of people with disabilities do have meaning. They are happy to support any effort to show them God’s love.

■ **Level Four is Friendship.** At this level, people reach out and befriend those with disabilities. They value them. They believe that their own lives are better for having known people with disabilities.

■ **Level Five is Co-Laborer.** These people believe that each of us has a divine call from God and they believe that ministry is not just to people with disabilities but with and alongside people with disabilities. They partner with them.

Ignorance, Pity, Care, Friendship and Co-laborer. Where do you fall on this scale? And where do you want to be? How about your family, friends, coworkers and church buddies? That’s the real question today. Because, where we fall on these attitudes is critical in our quest to “Inspire the world with the inclusive love of Jesus.”

I invite you to join us in Parables each and every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and experience the friendship and co-laboring that goes on in our beloved Chapel.... And be transformed from within. Friends, Attitudes Matter.

**Blessings on the journey,
Leslie**



Get in on the ground floor....

Be a Parables Buddy!

Attention all 15-25 Year Olds! Come join us at our first (ever) Information Session in February and learn how you can get involved in an immediate way to “Inspire the world with the inclusive love of Jesus.”

The Parables Ministry will be launching a Parables Buddy Program on February 25, and we would love to have you join us. Parables is a Sunday morning worship service and ministry designed to empower people with disabilities and special needs. It’s a sacredly chaotic time where people of ALL abilities come together to celebrate who God uniquely created each of us to be. We have lots of opportunities to get involved—weekly to occasional events— with both long- and short- term commitments. We will provide all the necessary training. **Smiles and hugs are a guarantee.**

This is also a great resume builder for college and job applications down the road. We hope to see you there!

Parables “Kick-Off” Open House for the New Parables Buddy Program

Pizza lunch and drinks will be provided.

WHEN: Sunday, February 25 from
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., immediately following
Parables worship service.

WHERE: The Colonnade

QUESTIONS? Text Rev. Leslie Neugent at
952-220-6612



The Sunday After
December 31, 2017
8 a.m., 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Rev. Rustin Comer preaching



HAPPY NEW YOU!

If you're like most people, each January goes something like this: You choose a problematic behavior that has plagued you for years and vow to reverse it. In fact, you can probably think of two or three undesirable habits—make that four or five. Thus begins the litany of imperfections to be perfected, commonly known as New Year's Resolutions. All of which are typically off your radar by February.

Our resolutions to change seldom work because they center on the type of person we regret being rather than on who it is God is calling us to become. We need vision, not regret. Our list of resolutions also overwhelm our ability to focus. It's okay to want to be a better you—and the New Year is a natural time to start, the natural place to create the new you. The question is, how? ONE Word.

ONE Word replaces broken promises with a vision for real change. When you choose a single word, you have a single focus. You are moving toward the future rather than swearing off the past. With One Word, you're right where God wants you: in God's hands. And it's not an extreme makeover we're talking about. This year, the goal is to see God's work in one area of your life.

We invite you and your families to join us for one of three services on The Sunday After, New Year's Eve Day: 8 a.m. in the Chapel, Celebrations service at 9 a.m. and the Traditions service at 10:45 a.m. **Join us and claim your word for 2018!**

Soul Sisters Retreat

Saturday, February 24 - Sunday, February 25, 2018

Register online at www.wayzatacommunitychurch.org/soulsistersretreat

Women of WCC of every age (18+) and stage are invited to join other Soul Sisters at Camp Courage on February 24 and 25 for the Rest Restore Revive Retreat.

This retreat was created to deeply connect women of WCC with God and with themselves in the context of community. This transformational weekend offers room for rest, fellowship, contemplation, and the reconnection of our spiritual and physical selves through yoga, the labyrinth and the beautiful outdoors lakeside at Camp Courage in Annandale.

Led by our speakers Elizabeth Carlson and Debra Lindell, the retreat program will guide each woman to identify an area of personal longing, using it to grow in her faith journey with God and others. The weekend will provide the opportunity to discover spiritual direction with Rev. Andrea Wichhart Tatley.

The weekend begins at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 24 and ends at 11:00 a.m. after worship on Sunday, February 25. The fee for the weekend is \$125 and includes meals and activities. Registration deadline is January 30, 2018. Cancellation by January 30, 2018 will receive a full refund after the event. **For more information about the retreat please visit www.wayzatacommunitychurch.org/soulsistersretreat**



CORE: Rethinking faith and life

Adult Faith Formation Classes

Five-week classes beginning January 10 & 11, 2018

Register online:

www.wayzatacommunitychurch.org/januaryCORE



Christian Ethics: A deep dive into current moral issues

Teachers: Rev. Rustin Comer and Maggie Pierson

Wednesdays at 10 a.m., 4 p.m. & 7:15 p.m.

Do you wonder how to have constructive conversations with those who differ in thinking about things that matter the most in life? Take a deep dive into the world of Christian ethics through current hot button issues: #metoo and the sexual abuse climate; issues of sexuality; issues of violence; and issues of life and death. We will explore these topics and many more through the lens of Christian practice. \$20 class fee.



The Gift of Being Yourself

Teacher: Rev. Danielle Jones
Wednesdays at 4 p.m. and 7:15 p.m.

Much is said in Christian circles about knowing God. But there cannot be deep knowledge of God without deep knowledge of one's self.

Genuine self-understanding revitalizes our spiritual life and leads to the fulfillment of our God-given destiny and vocation. Join Danielle Jones for a study on David Benner's book, *The Gift of Being Yourself*. \$20 class fee.



Does the Spirit Still Speak through the Hebrew Scriptures?

Teacher: Dr. Ronald Troxel
Thursdays at 6:15 p.m.

The foreignness of the Bible faces us everytime we read it. Its customs, assumptions, and language remind

us that it comes from another time and place. At least the New Testament proclaims Jesus' good news that is central to our faith. But what can redeem the foreignness of the Hebrew Scriptures? Perhaps we should reconsider what these writings afford by understanding how their authors voiced conceptions of faith through the images and ideas current in their world. \$20 class fee.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY


 <p>The Third Thursday Readers All Readers Invited! The Third Thursday Readers meet in the Piper Library at 1:00 p.m. on the Third Thursday of each month. On January 18 we will discuss <i>Killers of the Flower Moon</i>, by David Grann. All are welcome!</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Building Closed for New Year's Day</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Planning Committee, 6 p.m. Wizard of Oz Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m. High School Board, 6:30 p.m. Board of Deacons, 7 p.m. Children's CE Board, 7 p.m. WCCNS Board, 7 p.m. OA, 7 p.m.</p>	
<p>7</p> <p>NEW MEMBER SUNDAY WCCNS CELEBRATION Rev. Dr. John F. Ross preaching</p> <p>8 a.m. Chapel Communion, Chapel 9:00 a.m. Celebrations Worship, Sanctuary Smart Stepfamily Class, 10:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m. Parables Worship, Chapel 10:45 a.m. Traditions Worship, Sanctuary Meridian Manor Worship, 1 p.m.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Archives, 9:30 a.m. Women's AA, 10 a.m. Wizard of Oz Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m. Camp & Retreat Board, 6:30 p.m. Middle School CE Board, 7 p.m. I Am That Girl, 7 p.m. I Am That Girl Moms, 7 p.m. Al Anon, 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Thimble Bees, 9 a.m. Executive Committee, 5:30 p.m. Wizard of Oz Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m. Building & Ground Board, 7 p.m. Personnel Committee, 7 p.m. Parables Candlelight Conversation, 7 p.m. OA, 7 p.m.</p>	
<p>14</p> <p>COMMUNION Rev. Danielle Jones preaching</p> <p>8 a.m. Nominating Board 8 a.m. Chapel Communion, Chapel 9:00 a.m. Celebrations Worship, Sanctuary Smart Stepfamily Class, 10:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m. Parables Worship, Chapel Parables Confirmation, 10:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m. Traditions Worship, Sanctuary Meridian Manor Worship, 1 p.m. Middle School Leaders Meeting, 11:45 a.m.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Middle School MLK Jr Ski, Board & Tubing Day, 8:30 a.m. Wizard of Oz Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.</p> <p>Building Closed for Holiday</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Band of Brothers Breakfast, 7 a.m. Executive Team, 5:30 p.m. Wizard of Oz Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m. Mission and Outreach Board, 6:30 p.m. Council Meeting, 7 p.m. Unique Family Ministry Meeting, 7 p.m. OA, 7 p.m.</p>	
<p>21</p> <p>Rev. Dr. John F. Ross preaching</p> <p>8 a.m. Chapel Communion, Chapel 9:00 a.m. Celebrations Worship, Sanctuary Smart Stepfamily Class, 10:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m. Parables Worship, Chapel 10:45 a.m. Traditions Worship, Sanctuary Meridian Manor Worship, 1 p.m. High School Mission Trip Parent and Student Meeting, 12:30 p.m.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Archives, 9:30 a.m. Women's AA, 10 a.m. Rummage Committee, 4 p.m. Wizard of Oz Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m. I Am That Girl, 7 p.m. I Am That Girl Moms, 7 p.m. Al Anon, 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Thimble Bees, 9 a.m. Wizard of Oz Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m. OA, 7 p.m.</p>	
<p>28</p> <p>CAMP SUNDAY! Rev. Dr. John F. Ross preaching</p> <p>8 a.m. Chapel Communion, Chapel 9:00 a.m. Celebrations Worship, Sanctuary Smart Stepfamily Class, 10:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m. Parables Worship, Chapel Parables Confirmation, 10:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m. Traditions Worship, Sanctuary Meridian Manor Worship, 1 p.m.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Archives, 9:30 a.m. Women's AA, 10 a.m. Wizard of Oz Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m. Al Anon, 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Thimble Bees Handicrafters, 9 a.m. Wizard of Oz Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m. OA, 7 p.m.</p>	
			 <p>Join Rev. Lindy Purdy for Soup, Salad & Song on Wednesday, January 17 at 12 noon in Mithun Hall for delicious homemade soups, salads, bread and dessert! Anyone "55 or Better" is invited to share in this! The lunch is free, and made possible by the committee and by those who wish to share their culinary skills with the group. Each lunch is a unique and wonderful experience of great food and fun.</p>

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

<p>3 Women's AA, 10 a.m. Soul Sisters Lunch, 11:30 a.m. (offsite) Children's/Youth Choirs /Classes, 4:30 p.m. Suppers, etc., 5:15 p.m. Worship on Wednesday, 6:15 p.m. Children's and Youth Classes, 7:15 p.m. Adult Choirs, 7:15 p.m. Middle School Crossroads, 7:15 p.m. High School Acts, 7:15 p.m. New Member Orientation, 7:15 p.m. Al Anon, 7:45 p.m.</p>	<p>4 Women's AA, 10 a.m. Wizard of Oz Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.</p>	<p>5 WCCNS Staff Meeting, 12 noon</p>	<p>6 Saturday Seekers, 8 a.m. Old Timer's Basketball, 8:30 a.m. Art & Design Take Down Christmas decor, 9 a.m. AA, 10 a.m.</p>
<p>10 Women's AA, 10 a.m. Faith Formation Classes, 10 a.m. Faith Formation Classes, 4 p.m. Children's/Youth Choirs /Classes, 4:30 p.m. Suppers, etc., 5:15 p.m. Worship on Wednesday, 6:15 p.m. Faith Formation Classes, 7:15 p.m. 5th Grade Communion Milestone, 7:15 p.m. Children's and Youth Classes, 7:15 p.m. Adult Choirs, 7:15 p.m. Middle School Crossroads, 7:15 p.m. High School Acts, 7:15 p.m. Al Anon, 7:45 p.m.</p>	<p>11 Finance Committee, 6:45 a.m. Women's AA, 10 a.m. Folkestone Bible Study, 11 a.m. Faith Formation Class, 6:15 p.m. Wizard of Oz Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.</p>	<p>12 West Metro League Kids Night Out, 5:30 p.m. Coffeehouse, 7 p.m.</p>	<p>13 Saturday Seekers, 8 a.m. Old Timer's Basketball, 8:30 a.m. Wizard of Oz Rehearsal, 9 a.m. AA, 10 a.m. Parables Respite/ Friendship Group, 10 a.m.</p>
<p>17 Women's AA, 10 a.m. Faith Formation Classes, 10 a.m. Soup, Salad & Song Lunch, 12 noon Faith Formation Classes, 4 p.m. Children's/Youth Choirs /Classes, 4:30 p.m. Parables Young Adult Book Study, 5 p.m. Suppers, etc., 5:15 p.m. Worship on Wednesday, 6:15 p.m. Faith Formation Classes, 7:15 p.m. 5th Grade Communion Milestone, 7:15 p.m. Children's and Youth Classes, 7:15 p.m. 6th Grade Milestone, 7 p.m. Adult Choirs, 7:15 p.m. Middle School Crossroads, 7:15 p.m. High School Acts, 7:15 p.m. Al Anon, 7:45 p.m.</p>	<p>18 Faith Formation Class, 6:15 p.m. Wizard of Oz Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m. Music Board, 7 p.m.</p>	<p>19 Kids' Night Out, 6 p.m. Coffeehouse, 7 p.m.</p>	<p>20 Saturday Seekers, 8 a.m. Old Timer's Basketball, 8:30 a.m. Wizard of Oz Rehearsal, 9 a.m. AA, 10 a.m.</p>
<p>24 Women's AA, 10 a.m. Faith Formation Classes, 10 a.m. Faith Formation Classes, 4 p.m. Children's/Youth Choirs /Classes, 4:30 p.m. Soul Sisters Book Study Group, 4:30 p.m. Suppers, etc., 5:15 p.m. Worship on Wednesday, 6:15 p.m. Faith Formation Classes, 7:15 p.m. 5th Grade Communion Milestone, 7:15 p.m. Children's and Youth Classes, 7:15 p.m. Adult Choirs, 7:15 p.m. Middle School Crossroads, 7:15 p.m. High School Acts, 7:15 p.m.</p>	<p>25 Folkestone Bible Study, 11 a.m. Faith Formation Class, 6:15 p.m. Women's AA, 10 a.m. Wizard of Oz Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m. Bridge, 12 noon</p>	<p>26 Middle School Girls Night, 6 p.m. St. Paul Chamber Orchestra Concert, 8 p.m.</p>	<p>27 Saturday Seekers, 8 a.m. Old Timer's Basketball, 8:30 a.m. Wizard of Oz Rehearsal, 9 a.m. AA, 10 a.m.</p>
<p>31 Women's AA, 10 a.m. Faith Formation Classes, 10 a.m. Faith Formation Classes, 4 p.m. Children's/Youth Choirs /Classes, 4:30 p.m. Soul Sisters Book Study Group, 4:30 p.m. Suppers, etc., 5:15 p.m. Worship on Wednesday, 6:15 p.m. Faith Formation Classes, 7:15 p.m. Children's and Youth Classes, 7:15 p.m. 5th Grade Communion Milestone, 7:15 p.m. Adult Choirs, 7:15 p.m. Middle School Crossroads, 7:15 p.m. High School Acts, 7:15 p.m. Al Anon, 7:45 p.m.</p>	<p>WCCNS OPEN HOUSE TUESDAY, JANUARY 9 Join the WCC Nursery School for an Open House on Tuesday, January 9 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. Meet our Director Sara Luedke and learn more about the amazing programs we can offer your child. Enrollment for the 2018-19 school year begins in January.</p> 		



Coming Up in February

- **Dr. Seuss Book Breakfast: February 10, 9-10:30 a.m.**
- **Ash Wednesday: February 14**
- **Soul Sisters Retreat: February 24-25**

Mission



January Blankets & More Drive

Each year in January, WCC collects blankets for people who have to sleep on the floor at the Salvation Army due to overcrowding. Last year we collected almost 600 blankets with your support.

This year, we would also like to help over 300 students who are experiencing homelessness— with gloves/mittens and hygiene items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, soap, shampoo, and feminine hygiene items.

The Minnesota Internship Center is an alternative project-based high school that serves youth between 15-20 years old. Many of the students had to make the hard choice to either go to school or go to work to help pay rent and bills for their families. MNIC tries to bridge this gap by offering paid internships so students can get their high school diploma and contribute to their families' financial needs. For youth who have fled abusive or nonexistent households, the internships equip them to enter the workforce with real skills and trades. MNIC and HSRA also teach their students important life skills to help them become autonomous and self-sufficient.

Help us fill all our buckets to overflowing so that those who are so young, and cannot exist on what they earn, can stay warm and healthy during the cold months ahead.

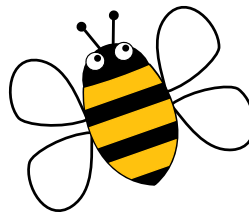
You can help by giving blankets, gloves/mittens and hygiene items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, soap, shampoo, and feminine hygiene items during the month of January. Please place your donations in each of the green buckets located at all WCC entrances.

This winter, EVERY donation counts. Please help us fill all our buckets to overflowing so that those who are so young, and cannot exist on what they earn, can stay warm and healthy during the cold months ahead.

Read more about the Minnesota Internship Center at mnic.org.

Thimble Bees

The women of Thimble Bees help make life a little better for those who need encouragement, help and love in their everyday lives. The Thimble Bees ministry touches many lives with literally thousands of handmade items donated to people in need each year. While many go to area non-profits and hospitals, other gifts stay closer to home. This note came to us from the daughter of a member who received one of our prayer shawls in her mother's final days.



"Thank you so very much for the lovely prayer shawl you made and delivered to my mother. Mom loved it and always asked to be covered with it, close to her face so she could feel its softness. She felt close to her beloved church community with the shawl draped over her. It embraced her with your love. Thank you for your thoughtful gift and your caring prayers."

You are invited to join this loving ministry. We meet the second and fourth Tuesday mornings 9:00 a.m. until noon in Mithun Hall.

1. Smart Stepfamily Study (Winter class starting January 7)

This Blended Step Family program is designed for individuals or couples. Through 8 engaging sessions you will learn useable solutions for everyday living and glean insight and practical tips for becoming a Smart Step Family.

DATES: Sundays, January 7-February 25, between services (10:15-11:45 a.m.) and childcare is available. There is a small fee for class materials (scholarships available) during online registration. Please note, due to class content, materials and time, class size is limited. Please register early to reserve your spot in this class. Register at wayzatacommunitychurch.org/uniquefamilies.



2. Join us on Tuesday, January 23 for Adopt-a-Neighborhood Movie Night at Interfaith Outreach

for our neighbors who live at the Kimberly Meadows townhomes in Plymouth. Volunteers are needed to help bring food, set up and serve dinner and watch a family movie. Please contact Vicki Thompson at peterthompson9@comcast.net or 952-542-9152.

3. Arizona Snowbirds! Please join us for the Arizona Snowbird Dinner on Friday, February 9, 2018

held at Eric and Brenda Thompson's Home: 25009 N. Windy Walk Dr Scottsdale, Arizona 85255. Cost is \$25 per person.

- 4:30 p.m. Cocktail hour
- 5:30 p.m. Rev. Dr. John Ross' Presentation

• 6:00 p.m. Dinner
Register at wayzatacommunitychurch.org/arizonasnowbird



Mission

This need could not be met with fundraising. This need required a gift of the heart, of relationship, of conversation. What they most needed was practice speaking English.



were miraculously transported 2500 miles to work with these students— often from the comfort of our own living rooms! The outcome was a huge success. It was difficult to determine who got the better deal—the students or the volunteers!

In February we are rolling out this opportunity in a big way. Our goal is to pair conversation partners with every student in tenth grade. That's 60 hard working, sweet, kind students.

Their school year begins in mid-February and ends in November. The year is broken down into three ten-week sessions. Would you consider helping? A gift only you can give— from the heart— to really put mission in motion. We are asking for 30 minutes a week, for ten weeks. Five hours total. Who knows, maybe you will be a living, breathing part of the next miracle?

You don't need to know Spanish. You don't need to know how to skype (we'll teach you). You only have to want to find out a little more. We need you. Please contact Lou Vlahos, Director of Mission and Outreach, to volunteer: lvlahos@wayzatacommunity-church.org.



E2 (Y tú) — And you?

BY GARY JOHNSON

Are miracles real? A resounding yes can be heard from 300 students in Nicaragua, where, thanks to you, the finishing touches are being put on their first ever library & media center. Imagine worlds opened by books, a safe quiet place to learn, access to an unknown mystery called the internet, in a country where public school stops in fifth grade, where poverty stoops to an all-time low.

Opportunity International began piloting a revolutionary new way of lifting people out of poverty— by creating a high school, the first of its kind, designed to become not only world class, but also self-sufficient. Emprededora Technical High School is already well on the way to reaching that goal by producing 1100 eggs per day and 400 pounds of organic lettuce a week. Students choose one of two tracks—agriculture or tourism (the fastest growing job areas in the country), so they end up with both a high school diploma and a technical degree. They celebrated their second graduating class in December with an overwhelming majority employed or pursuing advanced training. This is a miracle beyond dreams. Imagine, these students are the first generation to finish 6th grade, let alone high school...and then to consider college.

Several years ago WCC began by visiting the school. We had so many ideas of how we could help. Many of us were humbled by realizing how easily we fell into position of deciding for THEM what THEY needed. Gently we were encouraged to take a step back and let the school tell us their greatest felt need. We heard loud and clear their dream was for a library. We lifted this up to the WCC congregation who responded with amazing generosity through offerings at Easter and Mission Festival.

Last February John Ross and several church members returned for the groundbreaking. We again asked what was their need? The answer was on one hand beautifully simple, yet also difficult. Because this need could not be met with fundraising. This need required a gift of the heart, of relationship, of conversation. For what they most needed was practice speaking English. For five weeks this fall WCC piloted a program of pairing a volunteer with two students who were conversation partners a half hour every week using skype. Using the internet connectivity made possible by the media center we



Thank you!

Thank you for your generosity! As of December 17, 2017 these individuals have made a pledge to Wayzata Community Church to help support our growing ministries.

Kari and Joseph Abood
Judy Adams
Joyce Agnew
Erik and Sara Ahlquist
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Generosity

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 Jim Zimmerman



CARES

If we can be helpful before or during your hospital stay, please call our Pastoral staff at the church, 952-473-8877.

BAPTISMS

- Avery Elizabeth Good, daughter of Charles and Meg, sister of Henry.
- Emma Shea Flaten, daughter of Brent and Christina, sister of Grace.
- William Reeves Schwartz, son of William and Amanda.
- Dean Michael Huddy, son of Travis and Marsha, brother of Daphne.

CONDOLENCES

- Justin Conzemius and family on the death of his mother, Sandy Conzemius, on November 18, 2017
- Friends and family on the death of Ruth Shannon, on November 18, 2017
- Eve Rutter and family on the death of her husband, Thomas Rutter, on November 20, 2017
- George Rye and family on the death of his wife, Barbara Rye, on November 20, 2017
- Mary Kay Mathiason and family on the death of her husband, Jack Mathiason, on November 27, 2017
- Woody Woodhouse and family on the death of his wife, Margie Woodhouse, on December 1, 2017
- Nancy Treschel and friends and family on the death of her husband, HansTreschel, on December 9, 2017
- Jane Shanard on the death of her sister, Susan Shanard Burns-Stidger, on December 10, 2017
- Friends and family of Romaine Shank, on December 9, 2017
- Jodie Wright and family on the death of her husband Jimmie Wright, on December 10, 2017
- Friends and family on the death of Joyce Blaine, on December 21, 2017

inspire! Magazine is published by Wayzata Community Church, A United Church of Christ Congregation. Assigned articles, or story ideas, may be emailed to Cami Farley at cfarley@wayzatacommunitychurch.org. Please call Katie Kraus at 952-473-8877, ext. 228 with address changes or if you would like to be removed from the *inspire!* Magazine mailing list. Upcoming deadlines: 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 2 for the February 2018 issue.

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WAYZATA COMMUNITY CHURCH
inspire the world

A United Church of Christ Congregation

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COFFEE HOUSE

COFFEEHOUSE CONCERTS | FRIDAY NIGHTS BEGINNING JANUARY 12



Experience 6 evenings of great music! Founders Hall will be transformed into a European Coffeeshouse, featuring fabulous music, steamy coffee drinks from **roastlab**, and delicious desserts (included in the price of your ticket)! We have an amazing line-up of music guests again this year. Doors open at 7 p.m., and music begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets (\$10) available at the door.

JANUARY 12: HOUSE BLEND. WCC's incredible worship band and talented friends!

JANUARY 19: ROBERT ROBINSON. The great Robert Robinson returns to WCC with his glorious gospel voice... The *Star Tribune* calls him "The Pavarotti of gospel"!

FEBRUARY 2: MICHAEL MONROE WITH CHRIS JANTZEN AND MARK ANDERSON. Michael's unique creation of music blends rich vocals, guitar, bamboo and glass flutes, combining musical styles of acoustic folk and jazzy reggae.

FEBRUARY 9: COURTNEY YASMINEH. Courtney brings her sassy alt-rock/indie pop singer-songwriter magic to Coffeeshouse with clever lyrics and her amazing band!

FEBRUARY 16: ALISON SCOTT AND HER BAND return to Coffeeshouse with her soulful, organic, and empowering music.

FEBRUARY 23: DAISY DILLMAN ACOUSTIC. Stymie, Feagan & Pat bring the best of "West Coast" Country Rock: Poco, Eagles, Buffalo Springfield and Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young.