



# Thoughts on Faith

At the beginning of April a group of us went to see Professor Marcus Borg speak at First UMC in Evanston. It was an exciting day, full of learning, growing and being challenged to think. I expected all of that. What I didn't expect was that he would start reciting poetry in the middle of the lecture. The poem was "The Avowal" by Denise Levertov, and is printed on this page for you to read.

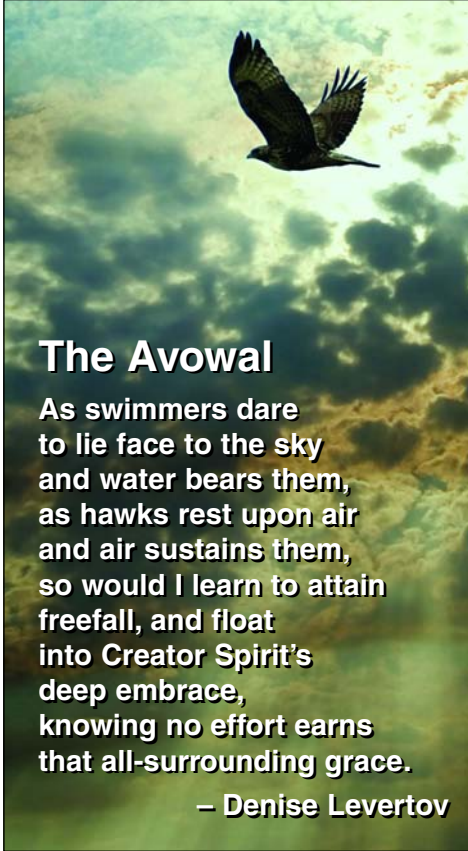
My mind had been concentrating hard to catch every word and concept, and my fingers scribbled notes to remember for later. But as he started to recite this, it was as if everything else fell away and I was invited to be grounded and centered in the One I was there to learn more about. "The Avowal" speaks to me of faith as that ability to allow ourselves to let go and sink into the spirit of God that holds us and fills us. It takes risk and daring to do this, because we so often prefer to remain grasping onto our fears, hurts, worries and expectations.

During the confirmation retreat that I led early in May, we tackled the question of "What is faith?" These are some of the answers that the confirmands, parents and sponsors came up with:

- Belief when reason tells you otherwise.
- Trust.
- Confidence in who God is.
- Your connection with God.
- Opposite of fear.
- A way of thinking that leads to hope.
- Belief in the unproven.

We also realized that faith implied action. Was faith really faith if we didn't live out of that faith? No wonder it is called a "leap of faith" and that if we "talk the talk" we need to "walk the walk." The poem speaks of swimmers daring to allow water to hold them up, and the hawk daring to be borne on the wind. Somehow faith seems harder; after all I can touch water or feel the wind!

I think the best answer given at the retreat for "What is faith?" was that faith is a journey. It is not a switch that we turn on and off. It is not a destination that we arrive at and are finished. It is a constant moving through the twists and turns of life when it is sometimes easier to believe and sometimes harder. Sometimes we need others to hold our faith for us until we can have faith again. And sometimes it feels as if we are enveloped by God and all doubt is gone.



## The Avowal

As swimmers dare to lie face to the sky and water bears them, as hawks rest upon air and air sustains them, so would I learn to attain freefall, and float into Creator Spirit's deep embrace, knowing no effort earns that all-surrounding grace.

– Denise Levertov

As we move into the journey of summer, may we also continue our journey of faith. May we be aware of the many ways that God is revealed to us. And if you need me to hold onto that faith for you for a bit, let me know.

*Pastor Kaye*

Peace,  
Kaye





I just finished mowing my lawn.

So, what's this got to do with our building project? Well, let me tell you.

We've been working very hard on this project for some time now. We're working with a great team of architects, engineers and our builder. All of them have devoted a lot of time to this project and the results they've come up with are outstanding. When this building is completed, we'll all have something to be very proud of.

The problem for all of us is the many frustrations we've endured trying to jump through all the bureaucratic hoops that have confronted us. We've successfully jumped through many of those hoops, but there is still one that is causing us more delays. That is the drainage situation off the east end of our property.

It seems that we are going to have to install a drainage pipe underground from our detention pond through part of the property used by the Racine Area Soccer Association, into a large concrete bottom ditch that Caledonia owns, that runs north and south through the soccer fields. This concept has been approved by the Caledonia Drainage Commission. Now we have to do detailed drawings of the concept, survey the properties and obtain legal easements to install the pipe. This will take some time, as there are at least two more municipal meetings to get by, but at this point it looks positive for final approval.

Unfortunately, this "final" hoop is going to cause somewhat of a delay in getting started, however after talking with our builder, hopefully that delay will be minimal. Our target date to get started is still early to mid June.

But let's get back to the lawn mowing. As we all know, sometimes delays and "hoops" can cause frustrations. That's what's been happening to me lately, but I've discovered a way to help diminish those frustrations. Yup, you guessed it; jump on the mower and cut some grass. Sitting on my mower for an hour gives me a chance to think about all the good things that are happening in my life and in the life of our church. It gives me chance to talk to God and thank him for all these good things. It humbles me and makes me realize that all these frustrations are really part of life and yes, we will get through all the hoops and our building will be built and the frustrations will become distant memories.

To that end, we all need to thank God for what we have and for the opportunity he is giving us to help the many people of our community and our world become more enlightened as to his constant presence in our lives.

Arnie Sieg  
Chairman – Building Committee

**NEW NEWS FLASH!** Since writing this, another scenario has come about that may just be the best answer yet. There is a good possibility that we might not have to install the pipe. RASA has had a change of heart and is considering allowing us to surface drain our pond into their tile system that already exists. We now think there is a good possibility that this will happen, and if it does it will make the whole situation a lot simpler. And in addition to that, it will save us a great deal of money.

Let's ALL pray that this will be the final answer. We'll keep you posted.

# 'Building Our Legacy' in 1982

During the last council meeting, May 19, 2008, Lois Fritchen showed me a bulletin with an article written by her husband Fred Sr. It was about the building addition planned for back then. He was head of the Church Council in 1982, so I can relate. I've copied it for your reading pleasure as well as linking us to the congregation of 1982.

– Gil Mann

## BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORTS: CONSTRUCTION START

The ground breaking ceremony on May 9 marked a new beginning for us. The addition to our church, after several years of planning, is becoming a reality. As Emma Jones lifted the shovelful of dirt, many people could finally visualize the new addition.

Construction began in early June with an October completion date planned. Look forward to the many changes that will be taking place in the next few months. General Contractor is Bukacek Construction. Ray Rassmussen Plumbing Inc., Davis Heating Company, and Bohn Electric Company are the sub-contractors.

Louie Monty, representing the building committee, will meet with the contractor weekly in order to keep everyone informed of the progress being made. The building committee will be meeting frequently to make decisions on any changes or problems. (We'll also have an unofficial Superintendent seeing that things are done right. Ted Jacobs is a long time employee of the general contractor.)

Now that the building is becoming a reality, you may want to increase your pledge. If you have not previously made a pledge to the building fund you may wish to add to your pledge or you may wish to make a special or memorial gift. To the right are forms for your convenience to share in the building program. The memorial committee is making a list of possible memorial items.

Questions or comments about the construction should be forwarded to the building committee.

Dale VanSwol  
Diane Christensen  
Norm Gibbs  
Bob Brewer  
Louie Monty

Pastor Ken  
Ken Doolittle  
Roger Exner  
Cheryl Welch  
Dean Christensen

God Bless

Fred Fritchen, Sr.



**As they were, so are we. They set the standard that we will carry on.**

**– Gil**

# OBSERVATION ON GIVING

As we get closer and closer to starting our church expansion, the desire to give gifts for the needs of the inside of our new sanctuary, narthex and additional Sunday school/youth area will become apparent.

There are many instances in the Bible about the spirit of freely giving, not looking for anything in return or attaching conditions - unconditional giving with no strings attached. One of the great examples is of the poor woman who, having only two cents, gave it all freely to the church without question. She believed only in the faith of her God. How about Peter and the disciples who gave up their families and all that they had to follow Jesus without question? Remember Saul who was a very rich tax collector and hated the Jews? After turning to Christianity he changed his name to Paul and became one of Jesus' great disciples and teachers, eventually giving up his own life.

There are many modern day disciples. Mother Teresa gave her whole life to, and for, the poor, while asking nothing for her self. There are many Moms and Dads who give of their money, time and talent (without complaint) so that their children can grow up and be successful

I remember my Grandma Aude, my first Mother's Mother (my Mother died at the age of 28) who, after raising her own family while putting up with an alcoholic bum of a husband and father, helped raise three more families (including my brother and I). She never asked for anything, but to love us. When she died her loss did not cripple me, because her strength, perseverance and undying love for her families has nurtured me for the rest of my life.

Needless to say the greatest gift of all was God giving his only Son to save us all no matter who we might be. Come follow me and I will give (unconditionally) you rest in the kingdom of Heaven. It is these examples of Christian heroes that will allow us to contribute to our expansion, receiving the glory of giving freely to further God's word through successful programs going on at Franksville United Methodist Church.

Gil Mann

### IRS Rebate Checks – An Opportunity for Ministry!

Have you ever considered the notion that the Internal Revenue Service is in the business of helping people to be in ministry? They are and they don't even know it! Early in May the IRS began sending out the special "tax Rebate" checks that Congress and the President authorized as a way to stimulate the economy. I hope that you will look upon this special rebate as an opportunity to "stimulate ministry" as well.

Please think about giving a "tithe" (10%) of your tax rebate to the church as an extra gift, above and beyond your regular giving to the church. If 10 families in the congregation were to do this, we could raise about \$1500. If 100 families were to do this, we might raise about \$15,000! Think about the possibilities for ministry that that would create!

Any gifts that you care to share in this way will be most appreciated. To help us keep track of these gifts, please mark them "Tax-Rebate Gift." Many thanks.

**Attendance Comparison May 2007 vs 2008**

2007	8 a.m.	10:30 p.m.	Total
<b>April 29</b>	69	134	203
<b>May 6</b>	45	97	142
<b>May 13</b>	36	109	145
<b>May 20</b>	38	95	133
<b>May 27</b>	51	66	117
2008	8 a.m.	1030 a.m.	Total
<b>April 27</b>	60	121	181
<b>May 4</b>	n/a	n/a	157
<b>May 11</b>	45	117	162
<b>May 18</b>	70	150	220
<b>May 25</b>	40	62	102

# Stewardship

There is a folktale in which a man offers to leave his cottage to whichever of his sons can fill it completely with any one thing. The eldest brings a wagonload of sand; the next son one of sawdust. Neither reaches the ceiling. However, his third son succeeds. With his lantern, he fills the cottage from floor to ceiling with light.

Through the Holy Spirit, God has given us our many blessings including the Church. Shouldn't we do our best to fill it with light?

Of course, there are many ways to provide illumination. There is the light of joy the choir's anthems bring to hearts. There is the light of understanding religious education gives to minds. There is the light of community outreach through the school lunch program, the school supplies program and the mission trips such as ASP and Wildfire. There's even the literal light brought by light bulbs and candles that someone must buy and someone must change.

Christ said, "You are the light of the world." The building expansion will provide additional space and be a resource in which to be the light of God has asked us to be. As Christians, we must remember to give our light to others in whatever ways we can.

How are you sharing the light today?

Be the light in cheerful giving,

Robin Smerchek

## Finance Committee Monthly Update

Average weekly giving for April	\$ 4,110.00
Amount needed to meet weekly budget	\$ 5,289.00
Amount received YTD	\$ 72,710.00
Amount needed YTD to meet budget	\$100,481.00
Asset Account Balances	
Building Fund (money market)	\$261,315.00
Liability Account Balances	
Church and Parsonage Repair Loan	\$ 38,650.00

[This winter our snow removal cost and energy bills were higher than last season, causing us to dip in to our reserve funds to meet monthly expenses. Please prayerfully consider a special designated contribution to help offset this deficit.]

**Contributions for the Building our Legacy Capital Appeal** for the building expansion continue to be received from members and friends of the church. A **HUGE** thank you to all of you that have contributed to the Building our Legacy campaign. The funds are being used for activities required in preparation of the actual construction including preliminary engineering, drawing preparation, drainage and site planning and building permits. In addition a down payment of \$242,000 will be required at closing.

The current building fund is \$267,287.00. Additional money gifts will provide a sound financial position for the church as we travel through the building process. If you provided a one time gift last year and wish to contribute an additional gift this year you are encouraged to do so. If you are giving weekly or monthly and can advance your contributions of the Capital Appeal, that would also be appreciated. Many thanks for considering giving to the Capital Appeal funds during the month of June.

With God all things are possible,

Robin Smerchek

## Fun and Fellowship Event!!

We are planning to attend the Racine Symphony Orchestra Pops Concert at the Festival Hall, 5 Fifth St., in Racine on Friday, August 1<sup>st</sup>.

The concert starts at 7:00 p.m. The concert is called "Happy Feet" and will feature waltzes, polkas, big band, and tap... an eclectic assortment of dance music that "will keep your head bobbing and toes tapping!" Works by Johann Strauss, Scott Joplin, Duke Ellington, Peter Tchaikovsky, selections from Marvin Hamlisch's Chorus Line, and a salute to the Big Bands will be featured.

Please sign up in the Narthex. Tickets are \$20.00 for adults, \$5.00 for students (13-22), and \$1.00 for children (12 and under). With ten people signed up to attend we will receive a 10% discount.

## Harmony Club needs you!

Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, is our next Harmony Club. Harmony Club is an opportunity for adults who are suffering from Alzheimer's, related dementia or social isolation to get together with their peers and enjoy a day away from home in a pleasant, safe environment. We play games, make a 'take-home' craft, enjoy sing-a-longs, and have lunch. It is so rewarding to spend the day with these guests in becoming a volunteer companion may be just what you need, and they need you. The hours are 9:30-3:30 and it is possible to share the hours with another volunteer if you are unable to be there all day. Please give Kate Seitz a call at 886-0326 for more information on how you can volunteer.

## Caroline Circle Spring Outing

The Caroline Circle will have their Annual Spring Outing on Wednesday, June 11th and will be eating lunch, 11:30 a.m., at the Cabbage Heads Grill in Franksville. [Cabbage Heads Grill is located on Hwy H, directly north of Rudy's Grocery.] There is a wide array of sandwich choices, reasonably priced, and two daily 'made from scratch' soup choices.

We will meet at the Grill and following lunch, those attending will then go to the church for an afternoon of games, fun and fellowship.

If you plan to attend please call Lois Fritchen, 835-2125, no later than June 9th.

## Your Window To The World: United Methodist Women - The Reading Program

Leah Hinze, Program Resources

It is June already and this is just a reminder that all Reading Program report sheets are due to me August 1, 2008. We still have 2 months to complete our program for this year!

"Education for Mission" category:

**Journey to Dignity** by Eugenio Pomo, who tells the story of how he was impacted by Methodist mission work in Bolivia and the results that are achieved by our mission work.

**End of the Spear: A True Story** by Steve Saint (Available at Racine Public Library in both book and audio-book format.) Told by the son of a martyred missionary whose killers became like family to Steve. This is an amazing story of grace and forgiveness, while being an entertaining and informational book about Steve's work among the Waodani people of the Amazon.

"Nurturing for Community" category:

**I Choose to Stay: A Black Teacher Refuses to Desert the Inner City** by Salome Thomas-El. The real-life story of mentoring and how a reformation of the U.S. educational system can begin with just one school.

"Social Action" category:

**Hard Line: Life and Death on the U.S.-Mexico Border** by Ken Ellingwood. This book contains stories of undocumented immigrants and the border agents who track them through the desert, as well as human-rights workers, and Native Americans, who are divided between the two countries.

"Spiritual Growth" category:

**Walk in a Relaxed Manner: Life Lessons from the Camino** by Joyce Rupp. Excellent author Joyce Rupp, at age 60, joins her walking friend, Tom, a retired pastor, on a 37-day pilgrimage along the Camino de Santiago in Spain. The lessons she learned can help us all on life's up-and-down journey.

Enjoy the wonderful summer days with a good book, remember, all these and many other great "reads" await you in the UMW Reading Program.

Thank you, thank you to all who sent cards, said prayers, brought food, and provided rides to therapy for me.

With love,  
Margaret Baker



## A Blessing of the Animals

As we recognize our interconnectedness with all of God's creation, we also recognize the gift that God's creatures are to us. Specifically, this is a chance to celebrate, honor and remember the animals in our lives. Join us on Sunday, June 22nd for two special outdoor worship services during which we will be blessing the animals among us.

Services will take place at 8 and 10:30 a.m. and the Guitar Guys will be providing music.



If there is inclement weather we will move to our Fellowship Hall.



## ASP News

It is hard to believe, but our group of 27 will leave for Chavies, Kentucky on Saturday, June 28th! Here are a few things you need to know:

- Thank you to everyone who made the Rumage Sale in April a big success! We raised over \$1,000 for the mission trips.
- The Concert for Youth Missions is on Sunday, June 8th from 4 – 7:30 p.m. This is our biggest fundraiser and we need everyone's help! Please volunteer, get the word out, or bring friends and come and enjoy the afternoon. See the back of the Beacon for more information.
- If you would like to adopt an ASP volunteer and put together a care package for them (food, toys, writing stuff, etc.), please see Mandy for a name. Care packages must be at church by Friday, June 27th.
- Sunday, June 22nd we will commission volunteers at the 8 a.m. service.
- Wednesday, June 25th will be the final ASP meeting at the Perry's house at 6 p.m.
- Come see the group off on Saturday, June 27th. We load up vans at 7 a.m. and leave at 8 a.m.
- ASP returns to church Saturday, July 5th.

## Summer Sunday School Schedule

The regular Sunday School year will end Sunday June 1<sup>st</sup> with our walking trip to Kids Connection. There will be a one week break to get ready for Summer Sunday School. Then on June 15<sup>th</sup> we will begin to explore the wit and wisdom of vegetables (in other words we'll be having fun with Veggie Tales). Summer Sunday School will meet June 15, 22 and 29. We will not meet on July 6, but will continue on July 13, 20 and 27. August 3 will be our last class so that Vacation Bible School can get the "beach" ready for their fun week, August 11-15. Regular Sunday School classes will resume on Rally Day September 7.

June 1 is also the last day that Puppets and Co. will meet for the summer. We will resume meeting September 14.

The Middle School Class will not have summer meetings, however we welcome anyone from 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up who would like to assist or teach in Summer Sunday School. (You will have an adult to give you a hand), and you adults, we look forward to your volunteering for a class or two this summer. It's going to be lots of fun.

Jan Stape & Penny Giese

## NEEDED...Donated Dessert Items

Donated dessert items are needed for the **Concert for Youth Missions** Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. There is a signup sheet in the narthex for you to sign if you will donate some dessert 'goodies'. These desserts/baked goodies **MUST** be in the church kitchen by 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. [Another encouragement 'to donate' a dessert and/or baked item...There is also going to be a Bake Sale at the concert as well. ALL proceeds will go to benefit the youth mission trips to Appalachia, in Kentucky, and Superior, Wisconsin.] Thanks for your donation and attendance at the concert!

### In-gathering REMINDER

ALL items (knit baby hats, school supply kit, and donated pennies) are due on June 1 for Pastor Kaye to deliver to annual conference.