

## From the Pastor...

*The Lord will guide you continually,  
and satisfy your needs in parched places,  
and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water whose waters never fail.  
Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in. – Isaiah 58: 11-12*

These words from Isaiah are among my most favorite of many favorite biblical texts. They are credited to Isaiah and were written to offer hope and encouragement to the Israelites long captive in Babylon but now presented with the chance to return to their homeland and begin the arduous task of rebuilding their nation. The really amazing part of this text is that even though it was written sometime in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE, it still speaks to our human condition today just as powerfully now as it did then.

Think about it. We all know what it's like to feel parched and weary when life has asked too much of us. Challenges at work or in our families are exhausting and take a lot of energy. Our very souls can become parched from the stress of it all. We know what it's like to feel bone tired, wondering how we'll go on, especially when the task ahead, whatever it is, seems so daunting. It is at these precise moments when our own strength and desire to push ahead are lagging, Isaiah tells us, that we need to remember that God is right in the midst of things with exactly what we need to move forward. Like well watered gardens fed by unknown, unseen springs of water, we are restored once more by God's abiding presence in our midst. The only catch is that we have to remember God is part of it all in the first place. Instead of relying only on ourselves, we have to remember God is here with us in the midst of it all, sustaining and guiding us forward.

God is right here, right now! And because of that we can do anything we make up our minds to do. We can become the church so many of you envision us to be. We can rebuild new life for this

community of faith and the green shoots of new growth are already visible. The Church Picnic is happening once more this Sunday and a new pictorial directory is underway. A new program for families and children called Family Fun Fridays launches later in September and excitement is high! Adult educational opportunities will begin soon including a Sunday morning series called "Bad Girls and Bad Boys of the Bible" with more educational offerings planned too. The exciting "Get Connected" Stewardship Campaign will begin in a few short weeks offering opportunities for me to meet with all of you in delightful small group gatherings to talk about how we make real our dreams for this church so that we are ready to raise up foundations of many generations right here.

So as September rolls around and our calendars fill up once more, I hope you will join me in claiming the roles Isaiah names as so important to who we are as members of God's Beloved Community, followers of the Risen Christ. May we all rejoice to be called repairers of the breach and restorers of streets to live in. God knows how much our world and our community need us to do just that. What about you?

Blessings,

*Pastor Ruth*

## **A NEW CHURCH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY IS IN THE WORKS!**

Photography dates are set for Friday, September 21<sup>st</sup> from 2:30 p.m. – 8:40 p.m. and Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 4:40 p.m. Lynn Murray and Barbara Sadowski have volunteered to be coordinators for this event. Please sign up with them for an appointment for your photograph.



consider adding to your grocery cart: **instant mashed potatoes or instant rice.** Of course, any and all donations are so needed.

There is a red bucket in Fellowship Hall and in the upper parking lot sanctuary foyer. *Every second Sunday*, the Mission Committee will place an in-worship collection basket on the chancel (near the altar), to help remind us to make food donations part of our monthly or weekly offering. Thank you again for all you do for others in need. Remember the words from Micah 6:8: *"...what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"*

**REMINDER:** The meal for Sunday, **September 9<sup>th</sup>**, is going to be the responsibility of the *Board of Trustees*.

### **Healing & Peace Service**

**A Service for Healing and Peace** will take place on **September 19 at 7:00 p.m.** in our sanctuary. Plan now to join us for a brief meditative service offering prayers and anointing for healing along with our ponderings of *shalom*, God's vision of peace for the world which fills the pages of our Bible.

## **SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

**Happy Birthday to:**

Brian Edmond - 6  
Ken Oehrle - 11  
Jan McCrary - 26

*Please add in your special days by calling the church office!*

## **THANK YOU ...**

...Many thanks to everyone who donated to the UCC Beacons of Hope **Relay for Life** team. The Westerly relay this year raised \$132,000 for cancer research and patient support services.

...to the Congregation for your offering to UCC's "**Strengthen the Church**" in May. You contributed a total of \$243.00.

## ***Operation Christmas Child***

**Operation Christmas Child** will be beginning soon. We will once again be filling shoe boxes with items for children in need. Please collect *small toys, non-liquid toiletries, school supplies, and other items* you feel a needy child would appreciate. The age ranges are 2 - 4, 5 - 9, and 10 -14. More information will be available soon.

- Lynn Murray

### **REMINDER:**

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR & TEA  
& SILENT AUCTION  
Saturday, December 1, 2012**

*This will be here sooner than you think!!*

Please remember the **Silent Auction**. Do you have a treasure or "favorite thing" that you could part with for the Silent Auction? You may bring clean, saleable items to church and place them in the room next to the craft room on the middle level of the church. Thank you.

## **ICE CARD**

*Would you be interested in a **UCC Westerly ICE card**?*

An ICE card is a wallet size "In Case of Emergency" card which you would keep in your wallet with your medical cards. It provides official written permission, with your signature, for the hospital to call Pastor Ruth if you are admitted to the hospital when you may be unable to give permission yourself. This is very important because the new federal HIPPA regulations forbid the hospital from contacting anyone about you without your permission. These cards would not replace your other emergency contact arrangements with family members. It just gives the hospital permission to notify Pastor Ruth you have been admitted. Blank ICE cards are available on the table outside the sanctuary door which leads to Fellowship Hall. Please speak with Pastor Ruth with any questions you may have about the ICE card.

## **LIFE'S JOURNEYS**

*Received into the arms of God's mercy and eternal rest:*

***Daniel LeRoy***

***Andy Rines***