



# The Olivetian

THE NEWSLETTER OF OLIVET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,  
(UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST), ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

November 2011, Vol. 61, #11



Sunday, November 13:  
Faith Promise Sunday  
"Growing in Faith;  
Faith in Growing"

*See page 10 for related articles.*

November, 2011

## Sunday Worship Schedule

*The heart of our life together*

10:00 a.m.: We gather for worship in the Sanctuary  
Rev. Michael Wasylik presiding  
Nursery provided for children ages 3 and under

**November 6: Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost.  
(Communion Sunday).** Lectionary texts include Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Psalm 78:1-7; Matthew 25:1-13.

**November 13: Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost.  
(Faith Promise Sunday)** Readings include Judges 4:1-7; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Psalm 123; Matthew 25:14-30.

**November 20: Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost  
(Confirmation Sunday; Reception of New Members)**  
Readings include Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Ephesians 1:15-23; Psalm 100; Matthew 25:31-46.

**November 27: First Sunday of Advent.** Readings include Isaiah 64:1-9; I Corinthians 1:3-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Mark 13:24-37.

### Inside This Issue

From the Pastor	2
From the Moderator	3
Council Minutes	4
Treasurer's Report	5
Faith Formation	6
November Calendar	8
Stewardship	10
Announcements	13
November Celebrations	15
The Prayer List	15

The Olivetian is published monthly by Olivet Congregational Church (United Church of Christ), 1850 Iglehart Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104. Contact the church at (651) 646-1478 or [contact@olivetucc.net](mailto:contact@olivetucc.net) to comment, contribute, or note changes of address.

## Thanksgiving Eve Ecumenical Candlelight Contemplative Service

Wednesday, November 23, 7:00 p.m.

at Olivet Congregational Church

Leave hectic dinner preparations behind for a little while and join participants from Olivet, Immanuel Lutheran and Pilgrim Lutheran Churches for a 45-minute service of readings, songs, silence, and prayers of gratitude for the blessings in our lives this year. Combined choirs of the three churches will provide music under the direction of Mark Stahura and organist Larry Wilson of Pilgrim Lutheran.



## From the Pastor

The Rev. Michael Wasyluk

In 1620, the Pilgrims prepared to leave Europe for the New World to seek their spiritual freedom. Their leader was the Rev. John Robinson, who was one of the early leaders of the English Separatists, and is regarded as one of the founders of the Congregational Church, forebears of the United Church of Christ. Although his health did not permit him to join the Pilgrims on their voyage, John Robinson wrote a farewell letter that urged the Pilgrims to keep their minds and hearts open to new ways. “God,” he said, “has yet more truth and light to break forth out of his holy Word.”

The *Mayflower* embarked on September 16 with 102 passengers (approximately the number we have in worship on a Sunday morning). I can imagine how this lone vessel looked silhouetted against a vast ocean. It is likely one of the Pilgrims also sensed the sheer insignificance of such a craft on the tides of water and of history – yet remembered the promises that God made first to Abraham and fulfilled for us in Christ. Perhaps this Pilgrim opened his or her Bible and read:

**Hebrews 11:12** *Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore." 13 All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and [pilgrims, Geneva Bible] on the earth, 14 for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. 15 If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.*

When someone asks me what it is like to be a Christian, I often cite my Pilgrim spiritual heritage. I describe how the Separatists wanted to break away from the established world order

because they were seeking a homeland. I describe their courage to make a grueling voyage, and sail into uncharted territory in order to live a life devoted to God. I describe how they gave up *everything* and lived on God’s promises alone. Admittedly, this may not be the best sales pitch for someone who is looking for a comfortable, low-maintenance church. However, it might be the *perfect* sales pitch for someone who is looking to make a difference in the world with the time they’ve been given.

Faith Promise Sunday is on the horizon; so let me make my completely improbable pitch to you. We have the opportunity to sustain a pilgrim church for the neighborhood of Merriam Park, Saint Paul – a church that rejects the death and logic of the world, but instead seeks a better land, that heavenly country. Like the Pilgrims, we will do our best to plot our course, even though we may not always know where we’re going, and the voyage at times will be grueling. Like the Pilgrims, the cost of following God will most certainly be high, for not only does Christ urge us to loosen the grasp on our material possessions, but we must also be willing to give up our treasured ways of being – for it is as John Robinson said: “God has yet more truth and light to break forth out of his holy Word.” Yet, my request to you is that you help meet basic needs along the way. For, like the Pilgrims, we must feed the hungers of body and spirit, and create and sustain shelters of many kinds.

If you feel the call of God in this great journey through life, then I invite you to be a pilgrim within the community of Olivet Congregational Church. Think of Faith Promise Sunday as booking passage for that distant land. Know that the Church Council has been working faithfully through listening to God, and developing a concrete vision for our future – one that carries forward our cherished identity and traditions, while keeping our minds and hearts open to new ways. And may we one day sit together at the Thanksgiving Table, surrounded by the fulfillment of God’s promises, in the bounty of the land and of friendship built of common purpose.

– Michael



## From the Moderator

Jeff Benjamin

Dear Olivetians -

It is that time of year again. The Council is assessing how we're doing in 2011. Of course that always includes where we are with 2011 pledges. So, please get your pledging up to date if you are behind. It is important that pledges come in on a consistent or monthly basis or we can't manage Olivet's business well.

We're also looking ahead to 2012. The Council had a productive retreat to discuss goals and areas of fo-

cus. During these discussions, I often think we tend to focus on what we can change and don't spend much time recognizing the quality of our current programs. We do a great job with our Olivet programs and much of that has to do with all of you who volunteer to make that happen. Thank you all for your time and efforts. I encourage each of you to find somewhere at Olivet where you can pitch in. This is a great way to get to know other church members and it helps Olivet continue to offer the opportunities for growth we have today.

Thanks,  
Jeff

### **What Do You Love About Olivet?**

*On Rally Sunday, posters in the Fellowship Hall invited Olivetians young and old to write their answer to that question on a colored strip of paper, which later formed a link in the chain of those responses.*

#### **From Kids:**

I like the friends.  
I love everything.  
I love the happiness.  
The trumpet.  
I love Olivet.  
I love it.  
I love the Godly Play.  
Friends.  
I like each other.  
I love the church.  
I love singing.  
When Buffy plays the trumpet.  
The nice people at Olivet!!!  
Make good friends there.  
Fun!  
Everything!  
When the band plays.  
I love to play with Gwen.  
I love Olivet.



#### **From Youth and Adults:**

God + Love + Community.  
What everyone here has done for me.  
I feel so much love and support each time I walk through these doors.  
Olivet celebrates life!  
The rich history of beautiful music.  
It nurtures my family.  
God blesses me at Olivet through love, support and wisdom.  
I love Olivet friends.  
Church family on Wednesday nights.  
I love Olivet because of the music.  
Olivet blesses me through the amazing youth!  
I love Olivet because I feel God's love, reaching out and reaching in.  
I love Olivet – the history and the future.  
I love Olivet because of its acceptance.  
Our life shared with the Wasyls.  
I love Olivet's music.  
It is my family.  
Friendship.  
It's a small community with a big heart.  
Participation in music.  
Love Olivet because people make me feel at home and treat me like family.

# Olivet Church Council Minutes

## Church Council Meeting, September 13, 2011

**Present:** Carrie Beach, Jeff Benjamin, Nancy Berry, Paul Clasen, Cris Lien, Joel Peterson, Sarah Senaratna, Christian Soltermann, Holly Stoerker, Caroline Stone, Margaret Tabar, and Rev. Michael Wasylik.

**Absent:** Barb Nilles

**Opening:** A candle was lit, Rev. Wasylik offered an opening prayer, and council members shared joys and concerns.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the August 9, 2011 meeting were approved.

As a prelude for creating a plan for 2012, Council members discussed the broad topic of growth as a goal for Olivet. Growth could be apparent in ways such as spiritual vitality, enthusiasm, increase in young families, teaching and learning opportunities, congregational involvement, and community activities.

**Moderator's Report:** Carrie Beach was elected to the vacant Council position and will be the Christian Education representative for the remainder of the year. She will continue to chair the CE committee for the following year. In an effort to ensure Wednesday night kitchen duties are performed equitably, those who sign up for kitchen duty will receive a free family meal.

**Finance Committee:** Barb cautioned about the current decline in pledge income and the reliance on prior year's surplus and the endowment draw. Although the 2011 budget is conservative, she cautions the Council to examine closely expenditures as the final months of the fiscal year approach.

**Dossal & Stole Steering Committee:** Several original dossal stitchers will lead the first Wednesday night Adult Ed class and some of the original design plans will be on display. Activities for the children to learn about the dossal screen are being scheduled for Wednesday nights this fall. Opportunities to provide linkages between the dossal tapestry images and scripture lessons have been identified for the upcoming lectionary year.

**Community Works:** Olivet is supplying volunteers for Project Home October 20-23 and will forward a monetary donation towards guest needs, such as diapers, toothpaste, socks and food. Olivet will serve lunch at The Family Place on October 8, possibly involving the youth group. Phil Friedlund is recruiting participants for the CROP walk. The knitting group is resuming and a monetary donation will be sent with the next delivery of homemade baby clothes to Bundles of Love.

**Buildings and Grounds:** The funds needed to restore several of the stained glass windows will be considered in the 2012 budget.

**Christian Education:** The search for the Director of Faith Formation continues and interviews are in progress by the team of Kathy Oakley, Erik Lien, Michael Wasylik and Carrie Beach. A decision is expected shortly. Teachers and volunteers are needed for both the fall and spring semester. The committee is planning curriculum for the 2012-13 school year and hopes to have most of the groundwork complete before the newly hired Director of Faith Formation arrives. The Council approved a salary scale for the new hire.

**Adult Education:** The members of the Adult Christian Ed /Faith Formation Committee believe it has a role to play in helping those who want to create a new small "covenanted" group by assisting with arrangements and publicity. The Council requested the committee to develop "best practice" guidelines for small groups as they are created. The Council encourages the existence of small groups and hopes more will develop as interests and needs develop.

**Stewardship:** On September 18, Olivetians will be asked to contribute funds for the UCC's drive for drought/ famine relief work in the Horn of Africa. The September 21 Wednesday evening dinner will focus on foods of Africa to help raise awareness. Arrangements are being made through the UCC and the Vanco Services Company to offer Olivetians an automatic bank withdrawal option for monthly pledges.

**Worship:** Members will be reading and discussing the writings of author Marva Dawn, to stimulate

conversation about the heart and practice of worship.

and a consideration and discussion of Nehemiah 1.

**Other new business:** Compliments and thanks were expressed for the testimonies given by Cris Lien and Roger Larson on Rally Sunday. A request was made to investigate having these available on podcast.

The council reviewed the Olivet Mission Statement and Long Range Planning Goals approved by the council in 2009. The objective of this meeting was to construct a 2012 plan around a set of initiatives that will advance the church toward the 2009 goals. This plan will be used in the formation of the 2012 budget and pledging materials.

The Council Retreat will be on October 1 at a place yet to be determined. Next Council Meeting: October 11, 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Margaret Tabar*  
Olivet Church Clerk

In advance of the meeting, each committee chair submitted a short summary of the current status of their committee; a vision for the future; and possible goals and initiatives. Council members listened, commented, and asked questions as each committee chair presented.

**Church Council Retreat: October 1, 2011**

**Present:** Carrie Beach, Jeff Benjamin, Nancy Berry, Paul Clasen, Cris Lien, Joel Peterson, Sarah Senaratna, Christian Soltermann, Holly Stoerker, Caroline Stone, Margaret Tabar, and Rev. Michael Wasylik.

In concluding the meeting, moderator Jeff Benjamin identified themes heard during the presentations and will summarize these for further discussion at the October 11 Council meeting.

**Absent:** Barb Nilles

The meeting closed with a prayer.

Members of the Church Council gathered on Saturday, October 1 in a conference room at United Theological Seminary for a six-hour retreat. Rev. Wasylik opened the session by leading the members in prayer

Respectfully submitted,  
*Margaret Tabar*

*(See page 12 for October meeting minutes.)*

**Treasurer's Report: Operating Budget**

(as of September 30, 2011)

	Year End Budget	YTD 2011	YTD 2010
<b>INCOME</b>			
Pledges	209,500	152,242	170,743
Endowment Draw	37,500	28,125	23,664
Other	64,122	38,127	34,772
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>311,122</b>	<b>218,494</b>	<b>229,179</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Pastoral & Staff	213,439	155,865	146,335
Program & Benevolence	36,505	24,757	30,270
Building & Office	50,197	42,876	35,043
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>300,141</b>	<b>223,498</b>	<b>211,648</b>
Net income over expenses	<b>10,981</b>	<b>-5,004</b>	<b>17,531</b>

**Stock Gifts**

When giving stock as a gift to the church, please contact the church office and let us know the following information:

1. **What** stock is being transferred, **when** it is being transferred, from **whom**, and **the number of shares**. When we receive stock at the brokerage firm it doesn't always say who it's from. Unless the office has been informed, we don't know whom to credit.
2. Call the church office for a letter template to transfer stock to Morgan Stanley Smith Barney.

- Barbara Nilles, Treasurer

**Faith Formation**  
*Supporting Christian Education for All Ages*



**Olivet Congregational Church**  
**Faith Formation Task Force**  
**January 8- February 19, 2012**

*“One generation shall praise your works to another!”*

These words are etched into a cement plaque commemorating the capital campaign at Olivet that was completed in 2007. These words also illustrate Olivet’s commitment to faith formation for the next generation.

For years, the words “Christian education” described the primary means for passing faith on to the next generation. Children learned Bible stories, memorized verses, were taught the doctrine of a particular denomination... and pronounced ready for adult life in the congregation. And, for decades, Christianity was the dominant religion in the United States. Stores were closed on Sunday mornings. Wednesday evenings were reserved for church activities. Like it or not, one was expected to be at church on Sunday morning. Many of us have nostalgic memories about a time gone by when the church was the center of community life.

We’ve all seen and felt the signs that things have changed. We live in a world characterized by globalization and pluralism. We’re still struggling with the challenges of Darwinism and relativism, and historical and literary criticism of the Bible. As the world has changed around us, Christian education practices have continued to be the primary tool used for children and youth ministry. Educational programs like Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and Confirmation are used in approximately 92 percent of churches. However, these programs are no longer sufficient for producing lives of faith in our changing world.

In his book *Emerging Adulthood*, Jeffrey Arnett shares the results of his research with young adults. He found no correlation whatsoever between years of religious education and any kind of religious belief or practice! In fact, young adults tend to hold highly negative opinions of the church. In the United States, we’ve seen steadily declining numbers of Christians, and an increase in people with no religious affiliation. In the United Church of Christ, the trend has been remarkable. In 1975, there were more than 2,000,000 youth involved in UCC congregations. Today, there are about 250,000.

Here at Olivet, we know that Christian education is one very important aspect of faith. But we also know that there is more to faith than a simple amount of knowledge. Faith formation happens when God’s love becomes a central part of our very identity. As we grow in faith, we experience God’s unconditional love for us. We act in love toward one another, and we reach out in service to those in need.

Here at Olivet, we are making a shift from strictly Christian education to a broader focus on faith formation. We want to invest our time and energy into programs that develop actual lives of faith in our young people. To guide our work, we are forming a Faith Formation Task Force. The task force will study three critical questions: What are the social and cultural forces affecting faith formation at Olivet? What are the spiritual and religious needs of people today? What are the most effective faith formation practices?

From there, the task force will create a faith formation mission statement and outline our program goals for families with children, birth to eighteen years. We’ll use the Faith Formation 2020 Scenario Planning Process developed by John Roberto. [www.faithformation2020.net](http://www.faithformation2020.net) If you’re interested in being part of this important work, please let me know! (Amber.espinosa@comcast.net)

Growing in faith together,  
*Amber*

## “Wednesday Night at Olivet” - All Are Welcome!

Join adults, youth and children of Olivet for a mid-week refresher of that good Sunday feeling! Events begin with a delicious, low-cost fellowship dinner prepared by chef Pat Peterson, followed by education options for all ages.

*(Please consider helping with clean-up after dinner! If you volunteer to clean up, your family's meal will be free. Sign-up sheet is located on the table where the dishes usually go.)*

### Usual Schedule:

5:15 p.m. Adult Bell Choir  
5:50 p.m. Dinner, Fellowship Hall  
6:15 p.m. Children's Bell Choir  
6:30 p.m. Faith Formation for All;  
Youth Group Meets  
7:35 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

### Teachers for November

Godly Play: Caroline Stone (storyteller);  
Karen Tarrant (door person)  
Grade 1: Kate Wasyluk  
Grade 2-3: Susan Bluhm  
Grades 4-5: Bruce Nelson  
Grades 6-8: Karen Inman

Our youth grades 9-12 are invited to stay in worship. If you are in 7<sup>th</sup> grade or older and have completed the Red Cross Babysitter training, you can volunteer in the nursery. Please contact Amber Espinosa for more information or to volunteer.

### Youth Group

Youth Group meets **Wednesdays from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.**, led by Heidi Wermedal. All youth grades 6-12 are welcome. For more information, call Heidi at 651-253-4663 or e-mail her at [halhei@bethel.edu](mailto:halhei@bethel.edu).

### Nursery Care

Nursery care is available each Sunday morning from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. for children birth through 3 years of age. On Wednesdays from 6:15 – 7:45 p.m., child-care is also provided for children from birth to age 3.

### Faith Formation Committee Meeting November 20

The next Faith Formation Committee meeting will be on Sunday, November 20 at 8:30 a.m. in the library. For more information, please contact Amber Espinosa at [Amber.Espinosa@comcast.net](mailto:Amber.Espinosa@comcast.net).

## Adult Faith Formation: November

*This fall, the Adult Faith Formation Committee is offering Wednesday night discussions centered on worship. What do we value and proclaim of worth? What is Christian worship? We use the acronym ACTS to center our discussions. The first sessions were on Adoration, especially through the arts. We explored Confession and Forgiveness in October and now move on to Thanksgiving in November.*

### October 26, November 2, and November 9: “Forgiveness and our Life Together”

*Presenter: Dr. John Henrich*

These three sessions will give us the opportunity to reflect on the concept of forgiveness. Forgiveness is both a theological concept and a psychological process. Participants will learn about new research into the psychology of forgiveness and explore the process of forgiveness. We will look at a variety of conceptions of forgiveness, obstacles to forgiveness, and how the process of coming to forgiveness occurs for many people. The format will include brief presentations, reflective exercises, and discussion of case presentations.

*Dr. John Henrich is an ELCA pastor, and licensed psychologist. He served as a parish pastor, hospital chaplain, and interim pastor for 18 years before becoming a psychologist. He is a staff psychologist at North Central Ministry Development Center in New Brighton and teaches developmental psychology and counseling at St. Mary's University in the Twin Cities.*

### Section Three: THANKSGIVING

#### November 16: Living Thankfully in a Broken World

*Presenter: The Rev. Martha Postelthwaite*

Thanksgiving is an integral part of every worship service and yet, when others have so much need, we can feel guilty thanking God for our own blessings. Sometimes it can even be hard to truly feel thankful when we see so much brokenness in the world. *The Rev Martha Postelthwaite will address this paradox. She is the Chaplain and Associate Professor of Spiritual Formation at United Seminary in New Brighton, and an engaging and provocative speaker.*

#### November 23: Thanksgiving Break – no class

#### November 30, December 7, December 14, December 21: Special Advent Series



# NOVEMBER 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
		1
<p style="text-align: right;">6</p> <p><b>Sunday Schedule*</b> <b>COMMUNION SUNDAY</b></p> <p>Open Basketball, 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall</p> <p><i>Brass Quintet rehearsal, Sanctuary, 7:00 p.m.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">7</p> <p><i>Yoga, Fellowship Hall 7:00 p.m.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">8</p> <p>Church Council Meeting, Parlor, 7:00 p.m.</p> <p><i>Minnesota Philharmonic sectional rehearsal, 7:00 p.m., basement</i></p>
<p style="text-align: right;">13</p> <p><b>Sunday Schedule*</b> <b>FAITH PROMISE SUNDAY</b> <b>Holiday Bazaar, 11:30 a.m.</b></p> <p><i>Capitol City Brass Quintet Concert, 3:00 p.m., Sanctuary</i> Open Basketball, 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">14</p> <p><i>Yoga, Fellowship Hall, 7:00 p.m.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">15</p> <p>Deacons Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Parlor</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p>Christian Education Meeting, 8:30 a.m., Library</p> <p><b>Sunday Schedule*</b> <b>Confirmation Sunday</b> <b>Reception of New Members</b></p> <p><i>Twin Cities Recorder Guild, 2:00-5:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall</i></p> <p>Open Basketball, Fellowship Hall 6:30 p.m.; <i>Brass Quintet rehearsal, Sanctuary, 7:00 p.m.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">21</p> <p><b>DECEMBER/JANUARY OLIVETIAN ISSUE DEADLINE</b></p> <p>Bundles of Love meeting, Parlor, 7:00 p.m.</p> <p><i>Yoga, Fellowship Hall, 7:00 p.m.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">22</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">27</p> <p><b>Sunday Schedule*</b> <b>First Sunday in Advent</b></p> <p>Open Basketball, 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall</p> <p><i>Brass Quintet rehearsal, Sanctuary, 7:00 p.m.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p> <p><i>Yoga, Fellowship Hall, 7:00 p.m.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">29</p>

<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>2</b></p> <p><b>Wednesday Night at Olivet</b>            5:15 p.m. Adult Bell Choir            5:50 p.m. Fellowship Dinner            6:30 p.m. Faith Formation            7:35 p.m. Adult Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>3</b></p> <p>Worship Committee,            7:00 p.m., Parlor</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>4</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>5</b></p> <p>Building &amp; Grounds,            8:00 a.m., Parlor             Bit x Bit, 9:00 a.m.   <i>Bach Society rehearsal,</i>  <i>10:00 a.m. Sanctuary</i></p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>9</b></p> <p><b>Wednesday Night at Olivet</b>            5:15 p.m. Adult Bell Choir            5:50 p.m. Fellowship Dinner            6:30 p.m. Faith Formation            7:35 p.m. Adult Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>10</b></p> <p><i>Yoga, Fellowship Hall,</i>  <i>7:00 p.m.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>11</b></p> <p><i>Bach Society rehearsal,</i>  <i>6:00-9:00 p.m., Sanctuary</i>             Second Friday Movie,            Parlor, 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>12</b></p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>16</b></p> <p><b>Wednesday Night at Olivet</b>            5:15 p.m. Adult Bell Choir            5:50 p.m. Fellowship Dinner            6:30 p.m. Faith Formation            7:35 p.m. Adult Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>17</b></p> <p><i>Yoga, Fellowship Hall</i>  <i>7:00 p.m.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>18</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>19</b></p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>23</b></p> <p><b>No Wednesday Night at Olivet</b></p> <p><b>Thanksgiving Eve            Ecumenical Candlelight            Contemplative Service,            7:00 p.m., Sanctuary</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>24</b></p> <p><b>THANKSGIVING DAY—            OFFICE CLOSED</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>25</b></p> <p><b>THANKSGIVING            HOLIDAY—OFFICE            CLOSED</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>26</b></p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>30</b></p> <p><b>Wednesday Night at Olivet</b>            5:15 p.m. Adult Bell Choir            5:50 p.m. Fellowship Dinner            6:30 p.m. Faith Formation            7:35 p.m. Adult Choir</p>		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; background-color: #f0f0f0;"> <p><b>*Sunday Schedule</b>            8:30 -11:30 a.m. Nursery available            8:30 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study            10:00 a.m. Worship            10:15 a.m. Sunday School Classes            Worship is always followed by a            Fellowship Coffee Hour.</p> </div>	

## Stewardship



### **“GROWING IN FAITH – FAITH IN GROWING” PLEDGING AND PLANNING BEGINS FOR OLIVET’S NEW YEAR**

After three years of transition at Olivet, not to mention a challenging economy, we’re ready to start preparing for a new year of growth in our faith and faith in our growth.

November 13 is Faith Promise Sunday – the day all of us walk down the aisle and make the anonymous pledges on which all of our planning for 2012 will be based. If you’re new to Olivet, here’s how it works. Come to church on the 13<sup>th</sup> with the Faith Promise card you will receive in the mail filled out and separated into the three parts. The part that states your annual pledge commitment goes into one box, while your signature and contact information goes in the other box. The third part of the card is for you to keep for your records – as a reminder, because no one else will know what you pledged. At Olivet, we treat that as a covenant between you and God.

Our communal concern and hope centers on the total amount of the pledges we receive. That amount will be announced by the end of the service. The following week we will work hard at contacting everyone was unable to join us on November 13.

Energized by our creative and inspiring professional staff, Olivet’s Council and committees have been focusing their efforts on programming opportunities for us all to deepen and grow our faith next year and into the future. We do this with the conviction spoken of so often in the Bible that, as the vitality of our faith increases, so too we will grow as a community.

Growing will be a challenge for a number of reasons. First of all, the economy has been tough on many of us. Many have lost jobs, lost income, lost on investments. Secondly, our base of families or individuals pledging during our three transition years has slipped slightly from 90, to 84 and then to 82. Lastly, in order to manage last year’s decrease in pledges, we have had to defer some issues such as richly deserved staff salary increases and had to draw on resources we otherwise try to keep in reserve.

Despite these challenges, we’re hopeful that next year can be a year of growth. We’re hopeful because we have been blessed with new households that have joined us over this first year that Michael has been with us, and we hope these gains will start us on a roll of increasing pledges. We’re hopeful that this year, among the sixty or so households on our mailing list who have not made pledges in recent years, more will be able and willing to join us in making the Faith Promises on which we can build a solid budget for 2012. We’re hopeful because this congregation has shown such incredible compassion and generosity in giving for disaster relief in Japan and Africa this year. And ultimately, we’re hopeful because we are people of faith with conviction that growing in faith is connected to faith in growing.

Please keep the image of growing all that we can do and all that we can be in your thoughts and prayers as you consider what you can pledge on Faith Promise Sunday.

*Joel Peterson and the  
Stewardship Committee:  
Hervey Evans, Jean Fabel, Phil Friedlund,  
Buffy Larson, Tom McClellan, and Steve Nelson*

### **Olivetian Compassion Is Reflected in Extraordinary Giving for This Year’s UCC Disaster Relief and Special Offerings**

Between our fund raising efforts for relief efforts in Japan and Africa this year Olivetians have contributed \$4,462 beyond the \$2,130 we have given to the UCC’s annual drives for One Great Hour of Sharing and Neighbors in Need. Even with one more annual drive yet to go (The Christmas Fund for retired UCC ministers in need), Olivetians have already donated \$2,862 beyond the generous level the congregation gave in 2010.

All of this comes on top of the \$10,000 giving budgeted for critical local needs through the Community Works Committee and the \$13,400 budgeted to support on-going UCC programs across the nation and around the world.

It is giving like this that inspires the Stewardship Committee and Church Council to have faith that Olivet is a church which is vital and poised for growth in spirit and purpose.

### **E-Giving To Become a New Option in February**

Many of us have come to prefer the convenience of having our set expenses automatically drawn from our bank accounts rather than writing out checks each month. Starting in February it will be possible for any of us to have our monthly pledge to Olivet transferred automatically to the church's account by ACH (Automated Clearing House) transfers.

If you choose to use this option you will be able to set the amount and the date of withdrawal (1<sup>st</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> of each month) and, if necessary, change the amount. There is no cost to you and only a very minimal cost to the church. In return the church benefits by having a much more predictable stream of revenue, uninterrupted by vacations and other events that sometimes keep us away on Sundays.

We will be working with a local company, Vanco Services, which is endorsed by the UCC and many other denominations across the country. Vanco's software interfaces directly with our Olivet software so that there will be no change in the individual quarterly and year-end records of giving you receive from Olivet. The same safeguards for anonymity in our pledging are preserved with the e-giving system. Expect to hear more details about e-Giving in coming issues of *The Olivetian*.

### **GUIDELINES FOR GIVING**

Our denomination, the United Church of Christ, suggests three potential levels of annual pledge giving. The first is an "Introductory" level of pledging of 3% of a household's income – for those who consider Olivet their church home and feel they are a part of the Olivet community.

Beyond the "Introductory" level, there is the "Active Support" level of 5%. This is for households that view Olivet as an important channel for forming social, spiritual, and family values and that make good use of Olivet's ministries -- such as the faith formation programs, youth groups, and music groups.

For those households deeply committed to the support and growth of Olivet and its ministries and who see the church and Gospel as central to their understanding of what it means to be faithful human beings in God's world, the UCC recommends giving at a leadership level of 7% to 10%.

### **10 TOP REASONS FOR GIVING TO MY CHURCH**

by Bob Sturtevant,  
Plymouth Congregational Church,  
Fort Collins, Colorado

*The following Letterman-style list from the UCC website caught the attention of the Stewardship Committee. We'd like to share it with you:*

10. Because my parents set the example by giving generously to the church.
9. Because it feels good to give.
8. Because I believe in what this, the greater Church stands for, and what it does to make our church, our community, and our world a better place.
7. Because, during tough economic times, I know that other people are hurting much worse than I am.
6. Because when my money is added to your money it has greater power.
5. Because there are many other items I could buy with the money that I really don't need and which will not add to the value of my life. Yet the same money can make a huge difference to someone with more basic needs.
4. Because it is a way to say "thank you" for all the gifts that God has given me.
3. Because this is one more way I can make a difference in this world.
2. Because, as someone who is dedicated to the stewardship of our natural resources, carrying this same concept into church life is easy. I want to make sure that this church, and its ideas, is here for the generations to come.
1. Because God asked me to.

(Council meeting minutes continued from page 5)

## Church Council Meeting – October 11, 2011

**Present:** Carrie Beach, Jeff Benjamin, Nancy Berry, Paul Clasen, Barb Nilles, Joel Peterson, Sarah Senaratna, Christian Soltermann, Holly Stoerker, Caroline Stone, Margaret Tabar, and Rev. Michael Wasylik.

**Absent:** Cris Lien

Caroline offered an opening prayer and Council members shared joys and concerns.

The minutes of the September 13, 2011 meeting were approved.

Continuing discussions held at the October 1 Church Council retreat, Council members further considered the identification of themes to be reflected in the 2012 church year. They agreed that the Olivet mission statement is the ultimate guideline for the congregation. In no particular order, the themes of “Worship focus, “Faith formation,” “Growth of lay leadership and discipleship,” and “Membership/ neighborhood/ establishing community/sense of place with an intergenerational emphasis” would be reflected in activities and programs.

**Stewardship:** In preparation for the annual pledge drive, the Council offered suggestions and revised the draft of the background materials Joel had prepared. In addition to printed materials, additional information will be included in the November *Olivetian* and possibly the Olivet website. There will be “Moments for Stewardship” in the three services preceding the November 13 Faith Promise Sunday.

**Finance Committee:** Third quarter contribution statements have been distributed and pledge income is being watched closely. In light of decreased income, committees are advised to limit spending. The committee will meet with financial advisors Chuck and Marcia Kerl soon to discuss the endowment investment strategy.

**Buildings and Grounds:** The new meeting room space [old storage room] has been cleared. Old tables and a metal desk are available to whoever would like to have them. Sarah and Christian will

investigate using remaining Capital Campaign funds to begin repair on sanctuary stained glass windows.

**Christian Education:** Amber Espinoza has accepted the position of Director of Faith Formation and will begin on October 4, 2011. The discussion of curriculum will begin at the next meeting.

**Adult Education:** Fall programs are in progress and the committee is preparing the spring offerings. Hervey Evans will provide a “Best Practices” guideline which will be useful for current and developing small groups.

**Worship:** Michael is collaborating to arrange Olivet’s participation in an Ecumenical Thanksgiving service with Pilgrim Lutheran Church and possibly other denominations in the community. Olivet will not be hosting the service. [Update: Olivet WILL host the service.] Jointly, the committee is reading and sharing thoughts from the writings of Marva Dawn. They are looking ahead to arrange the Advent season services.

### **Other new business:**

The Nominating Committee to fill vacant Council seats for the 2012 term will consist of Nancy, Caroline, Paul, and Holly. Chair positions are open for the Worship, Community Works, Christian Education and Membership committees.

Pat Peterson sent communication to the Council alerting them to recent changes in Minnesota law which require food safety training for people who cook and serve food at some faith-based and community events. Pat is a Certified Minnesota Food Manager and has Serve Safe certification. The Council will request legal interpretation as to the ramifications of the law for Olivet. Michael will ask the UCC conference for a set of best practices concerning the law.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment.

Next Council Meeting: November 8, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Margaret Tabar  
Olivet Church Clerk

## Announcements

### OF GENERAL INTEREST

#### Pastor's Schedule

The Rev. Michael Wasylik has office hours on Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. or by appointment. You may contact him at the church at (651) 646-1478 or [Michael.Wasylik@comcast.net](mailto:Michael.Wasylik@comcast.net). In the event of a pastoral emergency, you may reach him on his cell phone: (708) 752-3034.

#### Upcoming Lectionary Readers, Altar Guild, Deacon, and Coffee Hour Hosts

Readers: Cheryl Garceau (November 6); Connie Nelson (November 13, 20, and 27). November Altar Guild: Adam Rynkiewich. November Deacon: Adam Rynkiewich. November Coffee Hour Coordinating Hosts: Lisa Isenberg and Philip Friedlund.

#### "Bit x Bit" on November 5

Please help members of the Building and Grounds Committee in checking off items on the church's "To Do" list of small repairs, chores, and cleaning on Saturday, November 5. The fun begins at 9:00 a.m. with coffee and treats; everyone's done by 12 noon at the latest.

#### Capitol City Brass Quintet Concert November 13

On Sunday, November 13 at 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary at Olivet, the Capital City Brass Quintet will present "You Oughta Be in Pictures," film music for brass quintet. Come join us as we explore music from documentaries, spy flicks and everybody's favorite, *The Wizard of Oz*. Admission, as always, is free with a reception to follow. - *Buffy Larson*

#### Olivet Web Home Page Update

Take a look at Olivet's website at [www.olivetucc.net](http://www.olivetucc.net). The home page has been updated with new copy, approved by the church council, and photos of our life at Olivet. With a theme of "What are you seeking?," the home page describes some of the unique qualities and programs that attract current members to Olivet and that may hold the same attraction to others. Use the home page as a link to share with friends and family about "that beautiful little church at the corner of Dewey and Iglehart."

Note, too, that the *Olivetian* is always available online at [www.olivetucc.net/12701.html](http://www.olivetucc.net/12701.html) to send to others or to read when you're not in St. Paul.

### COMMUNITY WORKS

#### Bundles of Love and KIVA Project Updates

Bundles of Love: Please mark your calendars for a brief get-together at Olivet on **Monday, November 21, at 7:00 p.m.** We will discuss the format of the group - those who wish to meet regularly to work together (and when), those who would like to work independently. Send an e-mail RSVP to Connie Nelson so an accurate contact list can be set up. KIVA: Check the bulletin board for an up-to-date summary of our Third World economic development micro-loan lending and repayment efforts. - *Connie Nelson*

### New in the Library

Described in the *Booklist* publication as a classic of religious and world history, *The Case for God : What Religion Really Means* is a recent addition to the shelves of the Olivet library. Author Karen Armstrong, who is a contemporary historian of religion, presents her passionate argument for belief in God as an alternative to religious fundamentalism and atheism. Concentrating on Christianity and referencing Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Chinese spiritualities, the text explores how elements of belief and ritual have changed through the centuries. Armstrong proposes that religion was never intended to provide answers to questions better suited for human reason. She believes a practical discipline of faith, ritual, and hard work is the means to compassionate living. To read more, find this book on display or at "211 Arm" in the library. - *Marghe Tabar*

Olivet Women's Fellowship  
**Holiday Bazaar and Bake Sale**  
Sunday, November 13, after the service

Home-Baked Cookies, Bars, Cakes and Pies!  
Christmas Gifts, Crafts and Decorations!  
Bring your shopping list, appetite and wallet!

Contact Donna Foss, (651) 644-6437 or [dfoss@sandpconstruction.com](mailto:dfoss@sandpconstruction.com)  
to contribute or with questions.

*(All donation should be delivered plated, wrapped and priced  
to the Fellowship Hall prior to the service.)*

An Invitation of Special Interest to Everyone  
at Olivet:

*Macalester Plymouth United Church*  
*Presbyterian/ United Church of Christ*

Cordially invites you to attend the  
Service of Ordination to Ministry  
for Grace Anderson

Sunday, November 13, 2011

2:00 p.m.

Macalester Plymouth United Church  
1658 Lincoln Avenue  
Saint Paul, Minnesota

# November Celebrations

## ANNIVERSARIES

Jonathan and Martha Morgan 11/2  
Richard and Nancy Dana 11/20

## BIRTHDAYS

Ben Stansbury-O'Donnell	11/1	Yuko Heberlein	11/17
Eve Wasylik	11/4	Jean Fabel	11/21
Callie Beach	11/11	Isabella Soltermann	11/24
Nancy Dana	11/14		

## THE PRAYER LIST

*We pray for those who live with grief, pain, or illness and those in need of courage, wisdom, or peace.  
We pray for Olivet's ministries and our neighbors – both near and far, both stranger and friend.  
And in particular, we pray for those who have asked to be named before God:*

Lana CHEATHAM, recuperating from neck surgery.  
Gordon DEANE, facing the challenges of prostate cancer.  
Virginia DURAND, at home.  
Joyce GUSTAFSON, at Lyngblomsten Care Center.  
Jacob WETTERLING, and all missing children.

### **December / January Olivetian Deadline**

**Monday, November 21**

All articles and calendar items for the  
**combined** December 2011/January 2012 is-  
sue of *The Olivetian* are due in my inbox  
([contact@olivetucc.net](mailto:contact@olivetucc.net))

**by Monday, November 21.** Thanks!

- Kathy Oakley, Office Manager

**Olivet Congregational Church**  
*United Church of Christ*  
1850 Iglehart Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55104-3524

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
TWIN CITIES, MN  
PERMIT NO. 2127

**TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL**

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**



---

### **Olivet Church Staff and Officers**

---

The Rev. Michael Wasylik	<i>Pastor</i>	Jeff Benjamin	<i>Moderator</i>
Paul Boehnke	<i>Organist/Choirmaster</i>	Barbara Nilles	<i>Treasurer</i>
Amber Espinosa	<i>Director of Faith Formation</i>	Margaret Tabar	<i>Clerk</i>
Kathryn Oakley	<i>Office Manager</i>	Holly Stoerker	<i>Senior Deacon</i>
Leonard "Butch" Schultz	<i>Facilities</i>	Gwen Lilly	<i>Lead Childcare Provider</i>
Heidi Wermedal	<i>Youth Program</i>	Adam Rynkiewich	<i>Altar Guild</i>
Buffy Larson	<i>Bell Choir Director</i>	Paul Clasen	<i>Head Usher</i>

Office Hours: Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

*The Olivetian* is published monthly.

Phone (651) 646-1478 Fax (651) 644-3838

[www.olivetucc.net](http://www.olivetucc.net) [contact@olivetucc.net](mailto:contact@olivetucc.net)