



The Olivetian

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

October 2011, Vol.. 61, #10



Olivet Fall Clean-up Day!

Saturday, October 8

Come one, come all, with your lawn and garden tools and work gloves to help with fall raking, clean-up and weatherizing for the season to come. The fun begins at 9:00 a.m.; refreshments provided. See you there!

- Your friends on the Building and Grounds Committee

October, 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

October 2: Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

(Communion Sunday) Lectionary texts include Exodus 20:1-4; Philippians 3:4b-14; Psalm 19; and Matthew 21:33-46.

October 9: Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Readings include Exodus 32:1-14; Thessalonians 1:1-10; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; I Matthew 22:1-14.

October 16: Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Readings include Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99; Philippians 1:21-30; and Matthew 22:15-22.

October 23: Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Readings include Deuteronomy 34:1-12; I Thessalonians 2:1-8; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; and Matthew 22:34-46.

October 30: Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Readings include Joshua 3:7-17; I Thessalonians 2:9-13; Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37, and Matthew 23:1-12.

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From the Pastor

The Rev. Michael Wasyluk

Sola Scriptura: this small phrase has had profound effects within the life of the church, beginning in the time of the Protestant Reformation, and living on to this day within many denominations, including the United Church of Christ. It is translated from Latin to English as, “by scripture alone.” In practical terms, it means that all authorities within the church are subordinate to, and are to be corrected by, the written word of God. In even more practical terms, it means that the daily use of scripture resides at the center of our faith. We are Bible people.

I remember being attracted to this aspect of Olivet when I first read the church profile. The church profile was the document created by the Pastoral Search Committee in order to convey the essence of our church to possible candidates for pastor. In their wisdom, they included the following passage written by a member of Olivet, Timothy Polk, from the preface to his book, *The Biblical Kierkegaard* (the book is dedicated to Olivet Congregational Church): “The fact is – and I should have learned this in the fourteen years that they have been cradling my family and me – this is a congregation full of rapt, discerning listeners, and just as defiant of the conventional labels as my champion (Kierkegaard).”

In fact, we are a people who have long had a lectionary Bible study prior to worship, and who hold true to the tradition of receiving the entire Biblical lectionary during worship as rapt, discerning listeners. Yet even now, God is moving in the life of our congregation by stirring the hearts of those who wish to take another step, and immerse themselves in an intentional weekly Bible study. The goal is not orthodoxy, whereby we all must agree on a “correct” interpretation of

scripture – for if church history teaches us anything, it is that such a goal is impossible. Rather, the goal is Biblical literacy, so that we have a shared language to discuss our beliefs with one another. Please see the ongoing offerings from Adult Education, which begins with a study of the book of Romans, or let me know if you are interested in studying a particular topic.

Finally, it must be acknowledged that this notion of *Sola Scripture* extends to the lives of our children. Those who grew up in a Protestant tradition know that we begin to teach our children Bible verses at the earliest of ages – and this is no accident, for it is our desire to establish the Bible as a life-long source of inspiration for daily living. To this end, there is a large group of people from Olivet who invest their time and talents on the Christian Education committee. Moreover, adults from across the life span serve as mentors and partners in faith to our children, and the congregation gives generously to support three staff positions to teach our young ones. Now, I am happy to announce that Olivet Congregational Church has called a new Director of Faith Formation to help lead us forward in God’s plan for life-long faith formation at our church.

Amber Espinosa will begin work at Olivet on October 4, and comes to us with both scholarly and practical credentials. She will be charged with developing an integrated curriculum from early childhood through young adulthood that emphasizes rites of passage, promotes intergenerational relationships, and maintains biblical literacy as a key value. This position is vitally important to the ongoing strength of our community, and I am very glad that God has called Amber to be in our midst. I pray that God’s intentions for our dear church would continue to unfold in Amber’s life and ministry.

-Michael

UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY ACADEMY FOR VITAL CHRISTIANITY

Want to explore faith questions? The Academy might be for you!
Upcoming Academy classes include:

[Created, Gifted, and Called: Discerning Our Gifts for Ministry](#) – starts October 8

[Creating Significant Worship](#) – starts October 15

[Deepening the Spiritual Life of a Progressive Congregation](#) – starts October 8

[How to Talk about What I Believe](#) – starts October 4

[The Psalms Speak to Today](#) – starts October 8

Find out more about these and additional classes by going to our Web site at www.unitedseminary.edu/CommunityPrograms/academy.asp, where you can get more details and register. You may also contact Renee Flesner at rflesner@unitedseminary.edu or 651.255.6138. Congregational discounts for multiple church members registering as a group are available. Again, contact 651.255.6138 for these special rates.

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Olivet Church Council Minutes

Olivet Council Meeting: August 9, 2011

Present: Sarah Senaratna, Nancy Berry, Cris Lien, Paul Clasen, Holly Stoerker, Christian Soltermann, Margaret Tabar and the Rev. Michael Wasylik. **Guest:** Grace Anderson, departing Director of Christian Education

Absent: Jeff Benjamin, Joel Peterson, Caroline Stone, and Barb Nilles.

Opening: Michael Wasylik offered an opening prayer and council members shared joys and concerns. In the absence of Moderator Jeff Benjamin, Holly Stoerker led the meeting.

Grace Anderson expressed gratitude for having been part of this congregation, especially during the recent period of change. She observed the strength and commitment shown by Olivetians during the change of ministers. She commented that the last few years have been a time of personal growth and professional development and she is thankful for the relationships she enjoyed with many members. The council expressed their thanks and will join Olivetians in extending their best wishes at the coffee hour scheduled for Sunday, August 21.

During the first hour of the meeting, council members discussed ideas presented in an article by Christine Pohl, "Hospitality, a practice and a way of life." To frame the discussion, Michael offered six questions. At the end of the conversation, Paul commented that this discussion should be reported to members of the various committees and would be a worthy topic for each committee to explore.

Minutes: The minutes of the July 26, 2011 meeting were amended and approved.

Building & Grounds: Several stained glass windows are in need of repair, the cost of which is beyond the Building and Grounds budget. A suggestion was made to investigate the status of

memorial funds or other off budget accounts and a request was made for these figures to be available at the next meeting. The decision was postponed. Progress is being made to create a meeting place next to the church office, which will also incorporate storage space. Plans are being developed to landscape the area north of the sanctuary.

Stewardship: Stewardship Sunday will occur on November 13 - between the October Neighbors in Need offering and the Christmas offering. Several

alternatives are being investigated which would allow members to electronically send pledge payments from checking or savings account. Olivetians will be given the opportunity to contribute to the drought/famine relief fund created by the UCC for the eastern Horn of Africa. It was suggested that Joel investigate a possible link with a Wednesday evening dinner, and that he also consult with the Community Works committee about a matching grant.

Christian Education: The Director of Faith Formation job description is being presented to the UCC conference office and hopefully will be posted soon. The committee is planning the leadership of Wednesday evenings until a new staff person is hired.

Deacons Report: Members of the congregation and the Deacons sent 10 written prayers along with the youth group on their mission trip. The Deacons have increased their meetings from 4 to 6 per year and will alternate between a business meeting and a meeting devoted exclusively to prayer.

Treasurer's Report: The financial report is positive and following the planned budget. The pledge income continues to be low compared to last year at this time, so these figures will be watched as the budget year comes to an end.

Dossal Screen & Stole Project: A steering committee composed of nine people has begun meeting. After looking through the dossal screen original drawings, it was agreed to seek assistance in determining the best way to preserve this material. A plan for documenting the preservation of the dossal screen and the creation of the stole is being formed. A reunion of the original dossal stitchers and designers is being organized for September. On Wednesday, September 14, the original stitchers will reflect on the process of creating the screen and the original sketches will be displayed.

The next Council meeting will be on September 13 at 7:00 p.m. Michael closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Tabar
 Olivet Church Clerk

(Due to technology issues, minutes of the September council meeting will be included in the November Olivetian.)

Rally Sunday will be organized by Sarah and Cris for the morning of September 11. The event serves to inform people about the activities of the church and to recruit people to become involved and accomplish the many chores needed to maintain the building and church programs.

Treasurer's Report: Operating Budget

(as of August 31, 2011)

	Year End Budget	YTD 2011	YTD 2010
INCOME			
Pledges	209,500	142,323	161,660
Endowment Draw	37,500	25,000	21,035
Other	64,122	34,058	30,598
TOTAL	311,122	201,381	213,293
EXPENSES			
Pastoral & Staff	213,439	135,579	133,906
Program & Benevolence	36,505	19,702	25,937
Building & Office	50,197	41,776	30,598
TOTAL	300,141	197,057	193,046
Net income over expenses	10,981	4,324	20,247

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

Our new Director of Faith Formation, Amber Espinosa, begins her work at Olivet on October 4. Amber brings Olivet over twelve years of experience as an elementary teacher and leader of church children and family ministry programs. Amber is a recent graduate of Luther Seminary's master's program in children, youth and family ministry. Her thesis on a new vision for the future of children's ministry received the Luther 2011 Children, Youth and Family Prize. Amber shares her thoughts about joining us at Olivet:

Hello, Olivet Congregational Church!

I have heard such wonderful things about your congregation. I am very much looking forward to meeting each of you, and joining in your faith journey. As a way of introducing myself, I'll tell you about some of the ways God has been at work in my life... and ways that I hope my work will be blessing to you.

My first experience of God's love was in the small Iowa town where I grew up; a place where everyone knows everyone. The church and school were central parts of community life, and whether I had a part in the Christmas program or a big basketball game on Friday night, I was surrounded by faithful, encouraging adults. And in their support, I felt God's love for me.

From these experiences, I bring to you the conviction that faith is shaped in community.

As an adult, God has powerfully renewed my faith through children and young people. In my years of teaching elementary school, I was energized and inspired by my students' eagerness to learn about the world. As a children and youth ministry leader, my faith has been renewed by the passion young people have for God's love and justice in the world.

Through these experiences, God has opened my eyes to the wonder, hope and creativity children and young people bring to a faith community.

For the last several years, I've been working in a congregation and studying Children Youth and Family Ministry at Luther Seminary. While at seminary, my education degree and theology came together. I learned to articulate my theological convictions, make connections with educational research, and shape innovative programming.

From my seminary experience, I bring you the theological and practical tools necessary to develop faith formation programming for our changing world.

My husband Nathan and I, along with our three boys, Carver (8), Zachary (3), and Andrew (1) are looking forward to growing in faith along with you!

- Amber Espinosa



“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 October

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 7th 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.

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., childcare is also provided for children from birth to age 3.

Faith Formation Committee Meeting October 23

The next Faith Formation Committee meeting will be on Sunday, October 23 at 8:30 a.m. For more information, please contact Amber Espinosa at Amber.Espinosa@comcast.net.

Adult Faith Formation: October

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 are on Adoration, especially through the arts. We will explore Confession and Forgiveness in October and Thanksgiving in November.

October 5: A Celebration of Poetry

Presenter: Anne Simpson

This is an opportunity for you to bring your favorite poem or two – an old favorite or a new discovery – from a favorite author or one you have written yourself. We will share our selections with each other. Where in it can we see the sacred?

Section Two: CONFESSION

October 12: “The Complex Concept of Sin”

Presenter: Joel Peterson

“Confession” is the second major aspect of worship that we are studying in this year’s Wednesday night series (following our four sessions on “Adoration”). We start off by exploring in depth the notion of “sin” –a concept we usually take for granted in worship but which has had significantly differing meanings and theological implications within our Judeo-Christian heritage as well as other religious traditions.

October 19: MEA Week – no classes

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.



OCTOBER 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
2	3	4
<p>Sunday Schedule* COMMUNION SUNDAY</p> <p>Open Basketball, 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall</p> <p><i>Brass Quintet rehearsal, Sanctuary, 7:00 p.m.</i></p>	<p><i>Yoga, Fellowship Hall 7:00 p.m.</i></p>	<p><i>Minnesota Philharmonic rehearsal/sectional, Sanctuary</i></p>
9	10	11
<p>Sunday Schedule*</p> <p>Open Basketball, 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall</p> <p><i>Brass Quintet rehearsal, Sanctuary, 7:00 p.m.</i></p>	<p><i>Yoga, Fellowship Hall, 7:00 p.m.</i></p>	<p>Church Council Meeting, Parlor, 7:00 p.m.</p>
16	17	18
<p>Sunday Schedule*</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.</p> <p><i>Brass Quintet rehearsal, Sanctuary, 7:00 p.m.</i></p>	<p><i>Bach Society of Minnesota, Parlor, 7:00 p.m.</i></p> <p><i>Yoga, Fellowship Hall, 7:00 p.m.</i></p>	<p><i>Rose Ensemble rehearsal, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Sanctuary</i></p> <p><i>Minnesota Philharmonic rehearsal, Sanctuary, 7:00 p.m.</i></p>
23	24	25
<p>Sunday Schedule*</p> <p>Open Basketball, 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall</p> <p><i>Brass Quintet rehearsal, Sanctuary, 7:00 p.m.</i></p>	<p><i>Bach Society of Minnesota, Sanctuary, 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.</i></p> <p><i>Yoga, Fellowship Hall, 7:00 p.m.</i></p>	
30	31	
	<p>HALLOWEEN</p> <p><i>Yoga, Fellowship Hall, 7:00 p.m.</i></p>	

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Church Council Retreat
5 Wednesday Night at Olivet 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	6 <i>Yoga, Fellowship Hall, 7:00 p.m.</i>	7	8 Building & Grounds, 8:00 a.m., Parlor FALL WORK DAY All Welcome! 9:00 a.m.
12 Wednesday Night at Olivet 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	13 <i>Yoga, Fellowship Hall 7:00 p.m.</i>	14 Second Friday Movie, Parlor, 6:30 p.m.	15
19 NOVEMBER OLIVETIAN DEADLINE! No Wednesday Night at Olivet 7:35 p.m. Adult Choir	20 MEA <i>Yoga, Fellowship Hall 7:00 p.m.</i>	21 MEA <i>Rose Ensemble rehearsal, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.</i>	22
26 Wednesday Night at Olivet 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	27 <i>Yoga, Fellowship Hall 7:00 p.m.</i>	28	29

***Sunday Schedule**
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.

Community Works

Family Place Celebrates Ten Years of Service

A fundraising dinner is being held on October 22 to celebrate The Family Place shelter and its services. Marghe Tabar from Olivet will be attending, and this is a shout-out to anyone else who would like to attend with her. Please contact Caroline Stone@chws@mac.com and we can arrange for tickets for you.

Volunteers and Donation to Project Home.

Olivet church members are staffing the Project Home shelter at House of Hope Presbyterian Church October 20-23. In addition to staffing the shifts requested, we have voted to gift \$500 to Project Home to purchase diapers, socks, toothpaste and other needed essentials for guests during their stay. Karen Inman, who is coordinating the volunteers, will purchase needed items for guests as needs are assessed and reported. Please contact Karen at mskareninman@gmail.com if you're interested in helping staff an evening or overnight shift October 20-23.

Thanksgiving Shopping Planned for November to Benefit Salvation Army Families

For the third year in a row Olivet Youth Group will organize a grocery store shopping event to fill the Thanksgiving meal wishes collected by the Salvation Army in St. Paul.

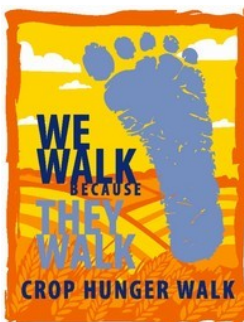
Marcia Kath will be organizing this project with Heidi Wermedal and the youth group shoppers. They will gather the ingredients, all funded by the Harvey Fund, for at least 15 families, Thank you all for your donations!

CommonBond Communities Building "Welcome Home" Baskets

To everyone who moves into a Common Bond housing unit, whether a homeless male, family with a newborn, or senior citizen, receives a "welcome home" basket upon arrival in their new home. CommonBond has provided a list of needed items (brand new) to organizations willing to help with this project, and Olivet is answering the call! We will spend \$1,000 on new items on the CommonBond wish list, to help all of those who finally have a place to "lay their head" feel welcome and get some help on keeping their house clean with needed supplies.

Does Your Small Group or Your Committee Want to Do a Service Project Together?

If you are meeting in a small group this fall, or serving on a committee, and your committee feels moved to do a service project in the community and need funds for supplies, the Community Works Committee would be pleased to fund your idea with our benevolence dollars. Please contact Caroline Stone and chws@mac.com with any ideas you would like to try. For instance, do you want to serve a meal at the Family Place together, or do a craft night at the Family Place? Would you like help brainstorming an idea to those in need? Just let us know; we are here to help.



Olivet To Participate in CROP WALK for Second Year on October 9

Last year was our first year as a church to participate in the CROP WALK, helping to raise \$25,000 locally for the national CROP WALK fundraising effort. 25% of those donations supported local hunger relief programs in St. Paul.

Through the walking efforts of the Friedlund-Isenberg family, Phil, Lisa and Gustav, combined with pledges given to Caroline Stone as a "spirit walker," we raised \$503 for the walk. This year, Phil and Lisa plan to walk again – will some of you consider joining them that day? We can meet at the church and go to the location together. A sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board outside the kitchen.

Let's raise the bar this year and have a bigger turnout and have fun doing it. Getting pledges is not a criteria for walking, nor is walking a criteria for getting pledges! For more information about the CROP WALK go to the Saint Paul Council of Churches web-site, www.spacc.org, and find out how you can build your own "walking for hunger web-site!"

Date: Sunday, October 9, 2011, 1:00 p.m.

Gathering Location: Camphor Memorial United Methodist Church, 585 Fuller Avenue, Saint Paul, 55103. **Walk specifics:** Walkers may walk 2.5 or 5 miles. Pledges are not connected to the number of miles walked.- *Caroline Stone, Community Works*

Olivet Creates Sunshine!



Jeanne, director of the Meals on Wheels program and Margo, the Keystone Community Services community resource manager receive the flower baskets.

The August Flower and Veggie basket project sponsored by the Community Works committee was once again a colorful success. Audrey and Sarah Senaratna shopped at the St. Paul Farmer's Market early in the morning and deliv-

ered twelve huge bouquets to the church kitchen by 9:00 a.m. Volunteers then created smaller bouquets, wrote personal notes for each basket, and adorned each vase with a ribbon.

Over twenty baskets were delivered to Keystone Community Services where they were distributed along with the daily Meals on Wheels deliveries. Guessing that the recipients might appreciate a vegetable fresh from the garden, tomatoes, green peppers, and cucumbers were also provided to go along with the flowers.

Fifteen flower gifts were sent home with or delivered to Olivetians on the prayer list or who for some reason need support from their church community. Thank you to the many Olivetians who contributed by shopping, providing glass vases and blank cards, arranging flowers, and delivering the colorful baskets. Your efforts brightened the day of many.

Welcome to the Lord's Table

by Holly Stoerker, Senior Deacon

On the first Sunday of each month, we come to the Lord's Table for the sacrament of Communion. God beckons us and is waiting for us there. The instructions that are printed in our Sunday bulletin begin with the words "Christ welcomes everyone to the Communion table through the prompting of the Holy Spirit." Christ is there in the gifts of bread and wine.

At Olivet, Deacons have the sacred privilege of assisting the minister in serving Communion by offering the cup. In this act of holy hospitality we welcome everyone to the Lord's Table. Should anyone be unable to come forward from their pew to receive the bread and cup, please notify an usher. The Minister and Deacon will be pleased to serve you where you are seated. Also, we remind everyone that the cup is filled with grape juice rather than wine, as a gesture of hospitality to all those for whom the "blood of Christ" is most accessible if it is free of alcohol. In addition, beginning in October, there will be a small plate of gluten free wafers, which the Minister may offer as an alternative to bread for those who otherwise would not be able to partake of the "body of Christ."

The first Sunday of October is World Communion Sunday. It has become a time when Christians in every culture break bread and pour the cup to remember and affirm Christ as the Head of the Church. On that day, we remember that we are part of the whole body of believers. The Deacons look forward to welcoming you all to the Lord's Table on October 2!





The Story of Olivet's Dossal Screen

On Wednesday September 14, those gathered for the Adult Faith Formation Class had the extraordinary pleasure of hearing the story of the creation of the dossal screen from those who lived that story 35 years ago. A heartfelt thanks to all of the 29 stitchers, many of whom are no longer among us, and to those who shared their memories with us on September 14 - Joan Cox, Jean Fabel, Donna Foss, Linda Mazanec, Connie Nelson, and Marjorie Olmsted.

Given the prominence of the dossal tapestry in the history and ongoing story of Olivet, it's not surprising that it was a central element in the closing statement of Olivet's Church Profile, written as part of the Pastoral Search process in 2009. Fellow Search Committee member, Roger Larson, recently sent me the following email. I share it, with his permission:

"It struck me while listening to the stitchers last Wednesday night how deeply expressive the dossal screen is as both physical object and narrative history. The time and care, the patience, vision, love and discipline that went into making the dossal screen are beautifully emblematic

of what is required for any congregation, but what has been specifically tasked to this congregation to be mindful of and faithful to as we go about forming and reforming ourselves into that strange and wonderful shape-shifter called "church." When one thinks of all the colors, all of the elements bound together in such a way that they are immediately and endlessly available to those gathered in worship in a single, coherent, wondrous flight of doxological fancy ("With what great love hath the Father loved us....!"), it takes your breath away. Think of the simplicity; think of the complexity woven together in that screen, how it's physical reality has shaped us and our identity. Think of the process and the women who humbly and faithfully saw that process through, giving their time, acquiring new skills, submitting to instruction and correction, trusting one another, learning to love and treasure one another's company and through the interweaving of their life stories becoming one with THE one story that flows through all stories - the story of our salvation."

To help Olivet's youngest generation also develop an appreciation and love for the dossal screen, the Wednesday night children's activities on November 9 and 16 will focus on the dossal tapestry. All are welcome!

- Holly Stoerker, Dossal Screen/Stole Project

Stewardship

Over \$700 Raised for African Famine Relief!

As the Olivetian goes to press, over \$700 has been raised for the UCC's African Famine Relief drive, between the September 18 Sunday offering and the September 21 Wednesday night African dinner. We won't know the final total until follow-up donations are given at the September 25 worship service, but I will report the final figure next month. Thanks to all of you who have given so generously!

Faith Promise Sunday Set for November 13

The Stewardship Committee is working on final plans and mailings for our November 13 pledge drive for the 2012 year. We will once again be following our tradition of making a "Faith Promise" to support Olivet at monthly rate which remains confidential while allowing us know the total amount we pledge as a community so that we can plan the 2012 Olivet Budget.

E-Giving?

We are also exploring the option, which some of us may prefer, of having our monthly pledge amounts automatically transferred from our bank accounts to the Olivet account. This would save Olivetians the need to use pledge envelopes or to write out checks. It would also help even out the present ups and downs in the pledge receipts coming in to the church each month. There would be no cost to the giver and only minimal charges for the church. As with any pledge, the monthly amounts can be changed by the giver in case of changes in economic circumstances.

Pledging Receipts

Speaking of ups and downs in pledges, our latest financial statements show pledge receipts to be down from previous years and somewhat short of the monthly pledged amount. Hopefully this is a matter of pledges delayed over the summer while many were away so that this fall we'll be soon be back on track. Nonetheless the Stewardship Committee and the Church Council will be tracking pledge giving closely to make sure we

don't come up short in these last months of the budget cycle. Watch for your pledge statement from the church office in the next ten days to assist you in tracking your own giving.

- Joel Peterson, Chair,
Stewardship Committee

Announcements

Pastor's Schedule

The Rev. Michael Wasylik is in the office Tuesdays through Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and by appointment. You may reach him at (651) 646-1478 or Michael.Wasylik@comcast.net. In the event of a pastoral emergency, contact him at his cell phone number: (708) 752-3034.

Upcoming Lectionary Reader, Altar Guild, Deacon, and Coffee Hour Hosts

Reader: Jeff Benjamin (all October Sundays). October Altar Guild: Adam Rynkiewich. October Deacon: Eden Bluhm. October Coffee Hour Hosts: Nancy and Bruce Berry.

OF GENERAL INTEREST

Second Friday Movie October 14: "Another Year"

Join fellow Olivetian film aficionados for the October Second Friday Movie on Friday, October 14, featuring "Another Year," a harvest poem of sorts, from the British director, Mike Leigh. Splendidly written, performed and directed, this quiet little gem is like a study in oil of a well-tended garden in autumn: serenely surveying the many subtle qualities and varieties of human happiness and unhappiness that depend, more than we often know or acknowledge, on the steadfast love with which we attend, like joy-filled gardeners, to the families, friends and lovers growing all around--and, finally--through us. It is a movie to be seen and talked about in the company of friends--the perfect Second Friday Movie! Potluck appetizers at 6:30 p.m., movie at 7:00, discussion and dessert follow, all in the Parlor.- Roger Larson



As their needles flash and click, veteran knitters Susan Jorgensen and Susan Izard prac-

tice "contemplative knitting." Their book, *Knitting Into the Mystery* is chocked full of inspirational quotes and stories, detailing the use of hand knitted shawls as a medium of prayer, and as healing gifts for loved ones or strangers. This is not a pattern or technique book, but rather is about the process of making shawls to help and comfort others in times of need or celebration. The authors believe that knitted gifts provide extra comfort and warmth beyond the materials because they carry with them the love and wishes of the knitter. The book offers practical steps on selecting yarn and knitting simple prayer shawls, but its most enduring feature is the heartwarming stories of shawls knitted and given as artifacts of prayer. Find this book on display or at call #247 in the church library.

Tokens of Trust is penned by the 104th archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams. This volume of meditations is based on the belief that each of the basic tenets of Christian faith flows from one fundamental belief: that God is completely worthy of our trust. In his writing, he explores questions such as: What does it mean to believe in God? Can God possibly be almighty in the midst of so much evil and disaster? How am I to understand the meaning of Jesus Christ's ministry and resurrection? Using his scholarly knowledge he demonstrates his deep concern for the spiritual welfare of contemporary believers who seek pastoral guidance along with their theology. Find this book on display or at call #230 in the church library.

In the Community

Episcopal Homes Art Affair 2011! Saturday, October 1, 10:00 - 5:00 and Sunday, October 2, 12:00 - 5:00

You're invited to see the work of many quality Twin Cities area artists in one place--paintings, pottery, and photography. If you find a piece you can't resist, a portion of the sales proceeds will help support the senior housing and services that Episcopal Homes provides. Come browse, and invite your friends to join you! **Where:** Our campus in the Midway at 1840 University Avenue West, Saint Paul (University and Fairview Avenues) in Cornelia House and Coventry Chapel. University Avenue is undergoing construction, but the driveway to our campus is open! Visit our website at www.episcopalhomes.org for additional information and a directional map, or call 651-632-8855. See you at the Affair!

November Olivetian Deadline Monday, October 19

All articles and calendar items for the November 2011 issue of the *Olivetian* are due in my inbox (contact@olivetucc.net) **by Wednesday, October 19.** Thanks!
- Kathy Oakley, Office Manager

October Celebrations

ANNIVERSARIES

Sean and Heather Ploen 10/1
Wayne and Madelyn Thompson 10/2
Fred Kaemmer and Kate Tilney 10/4
Jim Schowalter and Stephanie Andrews 10/7
Philip Friedlund and Lisa Isenberg 10/8
Christian Soltermann and Jayne Nadeau 10/12
Bruce and Nancy Berry 10/20
Bob and Linda Mazanec 10/25

BIRTHDAYS

Lana Cheatham	10/4	Leonard Schultz	10/15
Tom Shaff	10/5	Sam Awes	10/17
Maren Lien	10/7	Dmitri Senaratna	10/21
Deb Bartels	10/8	Audrey Olson	10/24
Leah Fabel	10/9	Douglas Anderson	10/24
Jessica Fabel	10/9	Abigail Celandier	10/27
Eden Bluhm	10/9	Helen Johnson	10/29
Caroline Stone	10/13	Mary Street	10/30
Eleanor Heffron	10/14	Margaret Tabar	10/31

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:*

Gordon DEANE, facing the challenge of prostate cancer.

Virginia DURAND, at home.

Joyce GUSTAFSON, at Lyngblomsten Care Center.

Chris MAZANEC, recuperating at home following hospitalization for liver abscesses.

Elfreda REICH, recuperating at home from a fracture.

Jacob WETTERLING, and all missing children.

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Olivet Church Staff and Officers

The Rev. Michael Wasyluk	<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.

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