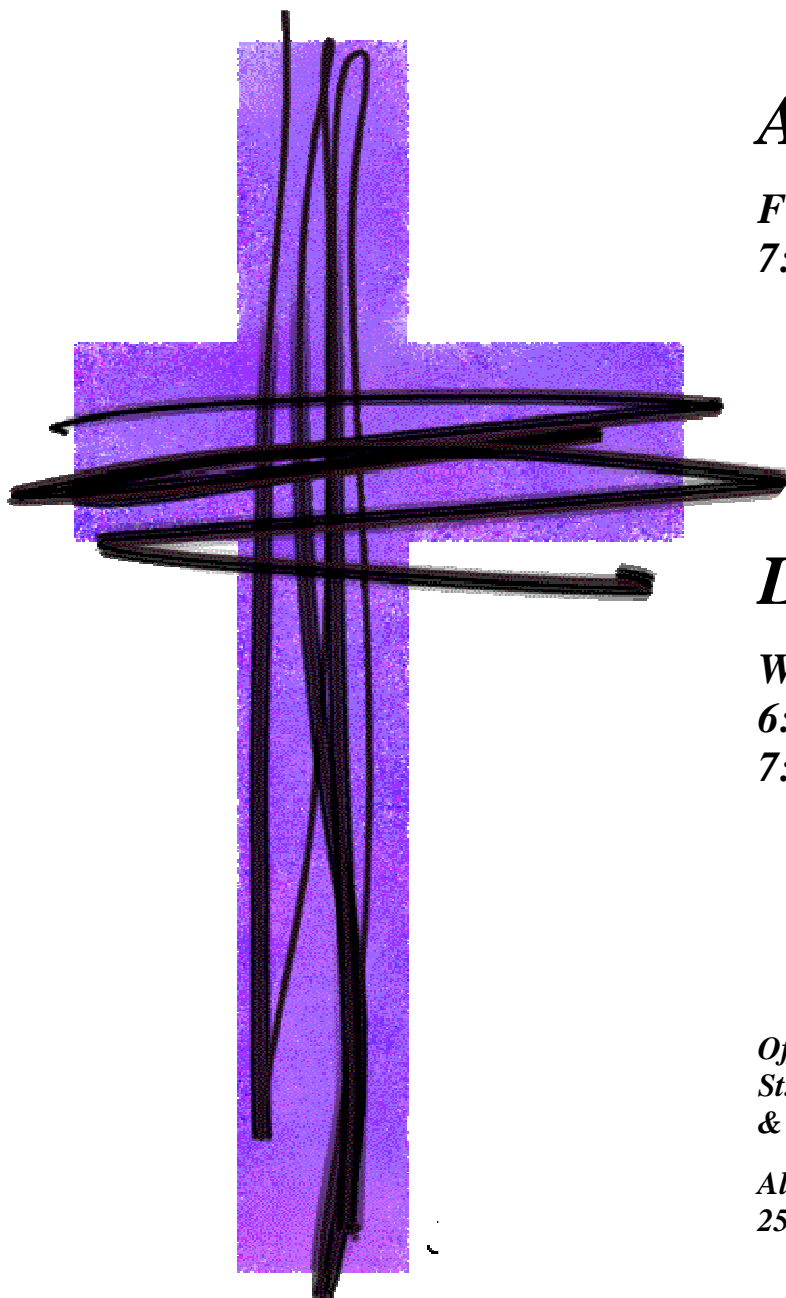


February 2012



St. Paul's Lutheran

MESSENGER



Ash Wednesday

February 22

*7:00 pm Holy Communion and
Imposition of Ashes*

Lenten services

Wednesdays during Lent

6:00 pm Soup supper

7:00 pm Lenten service

Offered in partnership by:

*St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Minnetonka
& Lutheran Church of the Reformation*

*All services (including Ash Wednesday) at:
2544 Highway 100 South, SLP 55416*

Phone: 952-938-4683

www.saintpaulslutheran.org

Fax: 952-938-1141

We are "an open and inviting church spreading the Good News of Christ."



**St. Paul's
Evangelical
Lutheran
Church**

WHO WE ARE

A Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Minneapolis Area Synod, Western Parks and Lakes Conference.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to be an open and inviting church spreading the Good News of Christ.

WORSHIP TIMES

You are invited to join us regularly on Sunday mornings for 9:30 AM worship followed by refreshments and Christian education. Please check the enclosed calendar for days and times of activities and events.

Also, an interactive calendar is available on our website:

www.saintpaulslutheran.org

Just click the "Calendar" button at the top of the web page and click on the time and event for details and map.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The office is lightly staffed. Regular office hours are 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM, Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays. Please call before coming in case of unexpected closure.

Phone: 952-938-4683

Fax: 952-938-1141

email:

StPauls@saintpaulslutheran.org

MAILING LIST

Please notify the church office when you notify the Post Office you will be temporarily away. This is because our newsletters are not forwarded but are returned to us at a cost.

The community of St. Paul's is pleased to send you this newsletter. However, if you prefer not to receive it, please call the church office or e-mail us. **The newsletter is also available on our website and in color! Save paper and postage; view it online.**

CONGREGATION RELATIONSHIPS

Partners

Iglesia Vida Abundante en Cristo, (Abundant Life in Christ), provides a worship service in Spanish at St. Paul's on Sunday, 1:00 – 3:00 PM and Friday, 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Bet Shalom Reform Congregation, Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve service
Lutheran Church of the Reformation, Lent & Holy Week services
Mizpah United Church of Christ, Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve service
Oak Knoll Lutheran Church, Confirmation Ministry

Mission

Agora Ministries
Alcoholics Anonymous
Augustana Chapel View Care Center in Hopkins
Augustana Emerald Crest
Children's Lighthouse of MN
Families Moving Forward
Feed My Starving Children
Gay Straight Alliance (GSA)
Intercongregation Communities Association (ICA)
Lutherans Concerned/North America (LC/NA), (RIC)
Lutheran Social Services (LSS)
Lutheran World Relief (LWR)
Meals on Wheels
Our Saviour's Housing
ResourceWest of Hopkins
Synod Disaster Relief
Teens Alone
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

ARTICLE SUBMISSION

Please submit articles as Word documents with your clip art to stpauls@saintpaulslutheran.org. Include your contact information. For pre-printed fliers or brochures, provide a condensed version that can be directly inserted into the newsletter. Submission deadline is the fifteenth of each month. All submissions are subject to editing for space and content. All rights reserved by St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH COUNCIL & ASSISTING ADMINISTRATORS

Officers

Election of 2012 officers will occur at the February 14 Church Council meeting.

Council Members At-Large

Aly Bonner
Jess Harris
Mary Hromatka
Vince Jacobson
Kathy Powers

Pastor

Rev. Louise Mollick

Staff

Administrative Assistant
Linda Dundas

Choir Accompanist
Linda McGee

Facility Use Coordinator

Mary Hromatka

Finance Committee

Assistant Treasurer – Bernie Johnson
Financial Secretary – Mary Kay Peterson

Webmaster

Vince Jacobson

AUXILIARY BUILDING USE

St. Paul's encourages use of its facility by groups that will support our mission statement. Examples are the 12 Step recovery programs, local neighborhood organizations, and congregations seeking meeting space. Please contact us for more details.

PUBLICATION

The Messenger is published monthly by St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church ELCA, 13207 Lake St. Ext., Minnetonka, MN 55305.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Out of Service

I was “out of service” last weekend. I have learned over the years that the best way for me to avoid being overtaken by an impending illness is to take myself “out of service”.

To be specific, I mega-dose on a food supplement whose ingredient list reads like the index of a book about pumping up your immune system, and I go into full couch potato hibernation mode for a day or so. The whole process is dependent on early action. If I act before becoming feverish, the success rate is nearly 100%. If I wait for more significant symptoms, the illness frequently overtakes me.

I take reasonably good care of myself; diet, activity, and all of that (in moderation), and am blessed with reasonably good health. I believe that an impending illness is more likely to present itself because of unusual external circumstances than because of heightened immune system vulnerability, although it is clear that the two often conspire in an attack. If I were to adopt a consistent regimen of “mega-dosing”, I expect that it would be neither sustainable nor healthful. Taking myself “out of service” permanently would be absurd.

I have a similar experience with my spiritual immune system. I take reasonably good care of my spiritual health; scripture study, worship, faith discussions, and all of that (clearly with a sense of moderation). I come together with my Christian family to feed my spiritual immune system, and go out into the greater community where it often faces challenges. As with my health immune system, my “normal” level of spiritual immunity is “normally” up to the challenge.

Sometimes unusual external circumstances present exceptional spiritual challenges. Also, when my sense of moderation becomes especially sparse, my spiritual immune system becomes more vulnerable. When either of these occurs, and especially when they conspire, there is a

substantial risk of being overtaken by a spiritual illness.

We all know many of the symptoms. Our doubts become more powerful and unrelenting. We become increasingly impatient for God’s timing to match ours. We fail to receive satisfaction from pondering important questions, etc.

So what is the remedy? My experience points to early detection, mega-dosing on things that pump up the spiritual immune system, and temporarily taking yourself “out of service”.

- Early detection – Know yourself. Be especially sensitive to the symptoms of challenges to your spiritual immune system. Be prepared to act quickly.
- Mega-dose – Pump up your immune system. The things that pump up our spiritual immune systems vary for each of us, but with a little self-inspection, it should be apparent. It typically involves Scripture and nurturing Christian fellowship.
- Take yourself “out of service” – Temporarily restrict activities that take you to circumstances where you find your spiritual self challenged. Go into couch potato mode, sharing the couch with The Lord.

What if it doesn’t work? It won’t always, but avoiding an illness is usually better than having to recover from it. Even if you don’t succeed in avoiding it, its severity could be significantly reduced. But when a spiritual illness does actually overtake us, we must seek out the aid of the Great Physician who will lead us through the healing process.

PRAISE THE LORD!

Blessings
Vince Jacobson



COUNCIL NEWS

Council Meeting Highlights

January 10, 2012

GATHERING:

President Vince Jacobson called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. Present: Vince Jacobson, Mike Mikulay, Jeanne Moe, Pr. Louise Mollick, Mike Smith, and Kathy Powers. Absent: Mary Hromatka, Jess Harris, and Aly Bonner.

Pastor Louise opened the meeting with a beautiful reflective reading from "Out of the Ordinary". Confirmation of the October Council meeting minutes as being approved at the 12/13/11 meeting. Corrections were made to the 12/13/11 minutes with acceptance by Mike M. and second by Mike S. Motion passed.

REPORTS:

- **Pastor's Report** – Pr. Louise reviewed pastoral contacts. An update of the Creative Expression program noted 18+ children in attendance and growing. Bethlehem Inn was successful. Overall, Creative Expression is a wonderful ministry. Pr. Louise is filing for a grant proposal to the Mpls. Synod for a part-time Outreach Coordinator to work with our Lighthouse, PFLAG (Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays) and families with same gender parent programs.

- **Ministry Team** – Two job descriptions were developed for a Music Director and Accompanist openings. An ad was sent out to colleges/ seminaries. Regina Jonson has accepted the position as Interim Choir Director.

- **Dream Team** – The Design Team, subcommittee of the Dream Team, now has an elevation drawing of the proposed upgrade to the sanctuary. It is planned that the team will finalize the proposal and present it to the Church Council prior to the annual meeting. A proposal with estimated budget and completion phases will be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on January 29, 2012.

- **Finance Report** – Mike M. reviewed finances and his proposed budget. The council discussed possible revenue streams and further expense

reductions. Pr. Louise noted how low the actual cost of Children's Ministry is because people are so generous with donated supplies and do not ask for reimbursement. She also recommended that there should be a record of expenditures kept and that people should submit receipts for reimbursement. Budget recommendations were reviewed and discussed at length. Mike S. made a motion to recommend a budget to the congregation based on the 2012 Operating Budget with adjustments to salary and benevolence not to exceed a \$20,000 deficit. Jeanne M. seconded the motion with all in favor. Vince recommended the Treasurer create an updated Operating Budget for review prior to the 1/29/12 meeting.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

- **Going Green initiative** – Kathy reported that we now have 2 years worth of biodegradable/ compostable bags for "organic" refuse. Continuing education for all building users is being planned. Some cleaning supplies have been designated as organic. The current recycling program for Minnetonka did not include non-profits in the renewal contract. This will be readdressed by the City recycling committee and they will get back to us at a later date. In the interim, Mike S. and Mike M. agreed to deliver our recycling to the center for the next month. The plan is to reassess and follow final committee decision.

- **Nominating Committee Report** – Pat Tollefson and Kathy Pfaendtner volunteered to be candidates for Church Council elections on 1/29/12.

- **Annual Meeting/Annual Report** – Vince has started the report following the 2011 format. All ideas are welcome as the meeting agenda is prepared.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Newsletter** – Pr. Louise would like a review of potential electronic delivery of *The Messenger*.

SENDING:

Meeting adjourned 10:01 pm. Pr. Louise provided closing prayer.

Next meeting has been moved from February 14 to February 8, 2012. Council officers will be elected. It is an open meeting, all are welcome.

Preparing for Lent

Center the environment for the Lenten season around the three classic Lenten disciplines: almsgiving for the poor, praying, and fasting.

1. Alms for the poor – Food pantries and soup kitchens are two primary ways congregations collect alms. Although almsgiving is wider and deeper than simply collecting food, this is a good place to start.

2. Praying – Worshipers are especially encouraged to pray and pay daily, for example, using the prayer of the day all week each week.

3.) Fasting – “Fasting and bodily preparation are in fact a fine external discipline.” Many Lutherans know, from the general culture, that you can give something up for Lent. The focus here is on selecting some external discipline.

*Excerpts from Sundays and Seasons, page 106
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Ash Wednesday & Lenten Mid-Week Worship

Lutheran Church of the Reformation, in partnership with St. Paul's, has extended an invitation to the community to join them this year for **Ash**

Wednesday service with Imposition of Ashes at **7:00 PM** on **February 22** and **weekly during the season of Lent.**

On each Wednesday, from February 29 to March 28, you are invited, and encouraged, to gather for a soup supper at 6 PM followed by 7 PM Lenten worship at 2544 Highway 100 South, St. Louis Park, 55416.

The congregation of St. Paul's will be contributing to the suppers. Look for a sign-up sheet to provide soup, beverages, or desserts under the office window.

St. Paul's Lutheran will host the services of the Triduum during Holy Week: **Maundy Thursday,**

Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter, April 5 – 7 at 7:00 PM.

Lutheran Church of the Reformation participated well in our soup suppers and Lenten services last year. Let's be sure to reciprocate!

Directions from St. Paul's are: North on Baker Rd. to Minnetonka Blvd. Turn right onto Minnetonka Blvd. to Webster. It's approximately 5 miles from Baker Rd. to Webster. Turn left onto Webster. Turn right onto 27th Street. Drive to the last street in front of Highway 100 which is Utica. Turn left onto Utica. The church is a big gray building on the left. The first parking lot (the upper lot) is closest to the entrance to the fellowship hall. The lower lot is the closest entrance to the sanctuary.

Bible Readings

February 5 – 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 40:21 - 31
Psalm 147:1 - 11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9:16 - 23
Mark 1:29 - 39

February 12 – 6th Sunday after Epiphany

2 Kings 5:1 - 14
Psalm 30
1 Corinthians 9:24 - 27
Mark 1:40 - 45

February 19 – Transfiguration of Our Lord

2 Kings 2:1 - 12
Psalm 50:1 - 6
2 Corinthians 4:3 - 6
Mark 9:2 - 9

February 22 – Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1 - 2, 12 - 17 or Isaiah 58:1 - 12
Psalm 51:1 - 17
2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10
Matthew 6:1 - 6, 16 - 21

February 26 – 1st Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8 - 17
Psalm 25: 1- 10
1 Peter 3:18 - 22
Mark 1:9 - 15

Families Moving Forward

Opening doors to brighter futures



Coffee donations collected first quarter 2012 will be donated to Families Moving Forward, a faith based nonprofit organization that provides temporary emergency shelter, permanent affordable housing and supportive services to low income families with children. Visit familiesmovingforward.org for more details.

Employment opportunity

St. Paul's is looking for a creative individual to lead our music ministry and accompany worship. For more information, visit our website: saintpaulslutheran.org.

Please send resume and cover letter to:
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Attn: Pastor Mollick
13207 Lake Street Extension
Minnetonka, MN 55305
or email to: louisemollick@yahoo.com

The Mom's Connection is off to a great start!

NEW FOR 2012, St. Paul's is hosting a bi-monthly play date for moms with babies (newborns to 18 months) in our nursery. This is a place for moms to get out of the house to enjoy some fellowship with other moms and have a safe space for the babies to play.

Plan to meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays from **1:30 - 3:00 PM** (note new time). We will continue for the winter months and then, in the summer, the meetings may move outdoors to take advantage of the weather and walks in the parks.

A minimum free-will offering for facility use will be collected. Please contact Brenda Boone at 651-238-1650 for further information.



St Paul's Book Club

Invites you to join them
7 - 9 PM

February 9

2nd Thursday of each month

Munkabeans & Sunshine Café

1206 Mainstreet, Hopkins

Please come even if you haven't read the book.

Feb - "Heaven is Real: A Little Boy's Astounding Story of His Trip to Heaven"

by Todd Burpo with Lynn Vincent

The Sunday Service Team needs you.

There are several opportunities to serve for February. Especially needed are altar care, acolyte, communion server, and kitchen. The sign-up calendar is on the office door. Please check it weekly, sign-up ASAP and as often as you are able. If service needs are not met, you may be contacted by the Coordinator, Laura Eggert.



Dust Buster position available!

St. Paul's is looking for volunteers to dust and straighten up the sanctuary, narthex, and library on a weekly basis. Qualities wanted: always smiling, joyfully generous with time, and detail oriented. Teams may apply as well as individuals. Please call 952-938-4683 or email: secretary@saintpaulslutheran.org.

Reminder: Sunday, Feb. 19th returns on the \$1 investment given out Nov. 13th will be offered back.

see Matthew 25:14 - 30

NOT JUST FOR COUPLES!



Don't miss St. Paul's Valentine Event
"The Annual Progressive Dinner"
Saturday, February 11

The evening begins with everyone gathering at Bill Schwitzer's place for **appetizers** from **5 – 6:30 PM** in the party room at the Beacon Hill senior apartments in Glen Lake. The large group then divides into small groups that travel to one of several hosting houses for the main course. Later, everyone reunites for dessert at another location.

All adults welcome and all contribute to the dinner as a host, a "host helper", or provide food so the work involved is minimal. Hosts are always needed, particularly for the main course. Host houses accommodate 5 - 6 people or up to as many as will fit around your table. Rides can be arranged for people who don't wish to drive. Some just come for the appetizer course or meet us at the 9:00 PM dessert course, but be sure to indicate that on the sign-up sheet. **Reservations are required.**

Plan to bring along visiting relatives and friends or ask neighbors that may be interested in St. Paul's community. Look for the sign-up sheet under the office window. **EVERYONE** is encouraged to attend this most enjoyable event. It's looked forward to all year. **Call in your reservation today!**

Senior's Valentine event

The congregation of Spirit of Christ Lutheran Church, 5801 Minnetonka Blvd, St. Louis Park 55416 has extended an invitation to attend their Active Senior's event on Thursday, Feb. 16. Dessert will be served at 1 PM followed by music provided by Tony Garry. Come for the fellowship and fun. Contact Pr. Wes Syverson at 952-929-6465 with any questions or concerns.



- 7 Cassidy Streater
- 14 Eric Campbell
- 16 Elsie Hanning
- 18 Lorraine Smith
- 21 Peter Tollefson
- 22 Mike Mikulay
- 25 Jeanne Moe
- 26 Bernie Johnson

and Anniversaries:

- 4 Dean Bonner & Mary Hromatka
- 28 Tom & Kim Streater
- 28 Phil Eckhert & Sheri Brenden



**St. Paul's
Annual Rummage Sale
is happening again May 5th!**

**Tell your friends!
Tell your neighbors!**

**Donations wanted of
clean, reusable items!**
(no TVs or electronics please!)

Help needed too!
call Rachel Larson at 952-934-7161
or Jan Guetschow at 952-935-0050

watch for details next month!

Creative Expression

You are cordially invited to attend our
Art Show and Reception
following worship on February 19th.

Special Thanks

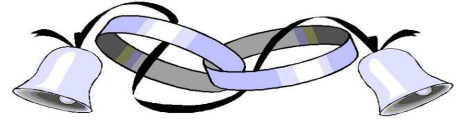
- “To Knitters & Stitchers at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church. Thank you for all the beautiful hand knit hats and scarves that you made for “Hats for the Homeless”. On Dec. 20th, my friend and I loaded 1,200 hats and scarves into my station wagon and made the rounds to all the shelters downtown starting with Sharing and Caring Hands and ending up at Harriet Tubman. It was one busy and joyful day for us. Please pass along my thanks to the many knitters and stitchers in your congregation! Thanks for your gift of warmth to the homeless!” *Barbara Melom*

- To all who helped decorate the sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas seasons. This includes Rey Lindquist for the tree, the “Handy Helpers” who put it up and Ruth & Bernie Johnson, John Riggle and Laura Eggert who decorated it. Additional thanks to all who purchased plants for the season and to Ruth Johnson for providing them. To Ruth & Bernie for hanging the huge wreaths in the front and for greening of the entryway pots and more thanks to Kris & Vince Jacobson who hung the ribbons from the ceiling lights. Well done to all!

- Thank you for your loyalty to ICA and your generous support of our mission. ICA’s current programs for Our Neighbors in Need include food, financial assistance, holiday assistance, job coaching (*new*), grocery delivery (*new*), and referrals to other agencies. In the past three years, we have realized an 81% increase in the need for assistance. In 2011 we gave out a record breaking 1.4 million pounds of food. Contributions from St. Paul’s were:

Cash	\$1,097.41
Pounds of food	553 pounds

- For your generous gift of \$127.74 to the Minneapolis Area Synod for disaster relief following the tornado in north Minneapolis. Your gift, together with other gifts, is making it possible for the Synod to partner with Luther Disaster Response and the Neighborhood Hub to immediately get your donations to the people who have been directly affected.



Linda & Tom McGee
are pleased to announce
the marriage of
Ann Marie and Tom McGee Jr.
On Saturday, December 17, 2011
in Libertyville, Illinois.
The couple is now at home in
Virgin Beach, VA

Tom Jr. will be deployed in March
on the USS Enterprise.

In Honor & Memory of Floyd Robert Dahl



Floyd Dahl, age 88,
of Minnetonka, died suddenly on
December 22, 2011. He resided at
Presbyterian Homes in Glen Lake,
Minnetonka.

Floyd was a veteran of WWII and
became a prisoner of war during
the Battle of the Bulge. When he
returned home, he founded Peg
Board Systems. Floyd will always
be remembered for his playful
sense of humor. He loved to hunt,
fish and travel. Floyd was a
charter member of St. Paul’s.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church
13207 Lake Street Extension
Minnetonka, MN 55305

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Please deliver before February 1, 2012



WELCOME STATEMENT

We at St. Paul's are committed to welcoming you . . .

- If you are lesbian, gay, bisexual, intersexual, transgendered or straight.
- If you are seven, seventeen, forty-seven or one hundred and seven.
- If you are black, brown, red, yellow, white or any shade in between.
- If you are broken, healed or in recovery.
- If you are rich, poor, or somewhere in between.
- If you are able-bodied, disabled or differently-abled.
- If you have a strong faith, have doubts about your faith or aren't sure you have any faith at all.
- If you have accepted Christ's love, question Christ's love or don't know if you are loved.
- If you are looking for a church home, have never had a church home or need a place to find peace.

**We are committed to welcoming everyone, living as a reconciling people
in our life together and in our outreach to the community.**