

Two Charcoal Fires

By Jim Gorman

I always am disturbed when I hear a great insight for a sermon that I had already preached . . . too late to use it.

So it was when three of us went to hear the brilliant New Testament theologian, N.T. Wright at Elmbrook Church last Sunday night & Monday morning. On Monday morning, he spoke about resurrection & heaven & at one point he engaged the passage from John that I had just preached on the morning before! John 21 where Jesus meets with the disciples on the shore of Lake Tiberias, also known as the Sea of Galilee. They pull their extraordinary catch of fish ashore.

When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. (John 21:9)

After they ate together, Jesus pulls Peter aside. Peter who had denied knowing Jesus three times while Jesus carried his cross on the Via Dolorosa, is now confronted by Jesus by the fire, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

Three times Jesus does this.

Three times.

Three times.

I made that point in my sermon alright. Jesus asks him to affirm his love three times just as Peter denied knowing him three times. But N.T. Wright makes a connection that I had missed entirely.

It's about the charcoal fire. Peter was first confronted by a maid who saw him warming himself by a fire & insisted on knowing whether or not Peter was one of the ones who were travelling with this man (Jesus).

Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards & warmed himself at the fire. (Mark 14:54)

When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him. "You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus," she said. (14:67)

A small detail, but Wright makes this important point. Smells can carry us off to connect places & times that might otherwise seem unconnected & distant. There by the smell of the fire where Peter was warming himself, he denies knowing Jesus three times. Now by the charcoal fire on the shore, Peter is asked three times if he loves Jesus.

The sensory connection is powerful.

And Jesus says to Peter, "Feed my lambs, tend my flock, feed my sheep." Peter is forgiven & once again put at the head of the church. Even in his brokenness, his humanness, he is given the commission to tend the flock.

In the smell & warmth of the charcoal fire, he is forgiven & given work to do.

From time to time, we are made aware of the shortcomings of the church's leadership & that awareness is painfully manifest. But we should not be altogether surprised about it. It has been ever so.

But the work of Christ is still entrusted in human hands, weak & broken as those hands are. We just need to seek forgiveness, receive it from a gracious God & move on to do the work we are commissioned to do.

In the smell & warmth of the charcoal fire, he is forgiven & given work to do.

Minister of Visitation

Rev. Ralph Schultz

The *Value of Names* is the title of the current play, at the Next Act Theatre (through May 2). It was a powerful, thought provoking play, as they almost always are. It was one of those plays that needed some discussion after it ended. Did you understand it, as I did, or did I miss something? What did you make of that one character? What was that one line again?

The *Value of Names* recalls a time, in American life, back in the 50's, when there were HUAC (House on Un-American Activities Committee) hearings. It was patriotic to 'name' someone, even a friend, who just might have communist connections. That name remained on a 'black list!'

Leo had 'turned-in' the name of Benny. And that had made all the difference. It changed Benny's life, for as an actor, he was unable to find work for more than a decade. He remained a marked man.

For the first time in 30 years, Leo & Benny come face to face. Leo is now a successful director & playwright. His belief is that Benny should have forgiven him, after all it's been 30 years, but Benny's life was never the same. 'Put it aside,' were Leo's words to Benny. Just 'put it aside!' But Benny refuses & they see each other for the last time.

Benny's daughter also has a role in the play. She's a budding actress & has been offered a part in Leo's latest play. Benny wants Norma to turn down the role, as a way of his getting back at Leo. But Norma refuses & accepts the part. The play ends, as Norma tells her father that a line had been added to her autobiographical sketch, for she has accepted the part.

'Put it aside!' What are the put it asides in our lives? Who is involved; a family member, our mate perhaps, a co-worker, or someone who used to be a friend, but is no longer, for 'something' has happened? Is more conversation needed, even face-to-face anger, in the hope that the situation might be resolved, a solution reached, civility & relationship restored??

What is the value of a name & thus the value of the person behind that name? Did your parents say to you, 'don't do anything that might bring dishonor to our family name?' Stand behind your name! A handshake will be sufficient, for your name is known & that name is good.

The Hebrew prophet, Isaiah, speaks of the God who knows each of us by name. 'I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you. When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned. For I am the Lord your God. Fear not, for I am with you.' (Isaiah 43:1-5)

We are not just another name, a word, but a person, known & valued by the God who created us & stands with us as we journey through life.

What is the Value of Names? For us, as people of faith, it's the value which God gives to a name, a person, a life which is intended to be lived as a thank you for the gift of life, which God has given us. Also, it's seeing that other person as one who has God-given worth.

A Note:

The role of the Minister of Visitation is to visit anyone in the hospital or nursing home & all who are homebound. Sometimes I wonder ... is there anyone who has "fallen



through the cracks" & should be visited? If you are aware of anyone whose health has changed & is no longer able to attend Sunday worship, please let me know. We would like to

visit such people & add them to our list, so they continue to be an important part of our church. Please call the church office at 262-547-2424.

Hospital Visits

To make sure you receive a visit in the hospital, please list your church as Evangelical & Reformed (E & R) UCC, when filling out forms in admitting. That information is then transferred to a book that clergy can set to in the lobby of the hospital.

Noticed a friend hasn't been in church recently?

Is there someone you have missed seeing in church recently? Why not give them a call or send them a card to let them know you miss seeing them.



From the Presidents Pew

Brian Van Buren, Council President

Just a reminder to attend the last two "Fruitful Ways" to improve our Congregation!!

Thank you to Jim Harris for organizing the Spring Election Day voting here at E & R Church.

Please remember to review your 'This Far by Faith pledge(s)', since this has a major impact on us paying our mortgage.



Please welcome any & all visitors & point them to writing down their names & addresses, so we can contact them.

Hospitality Committee

Heidi Pagel

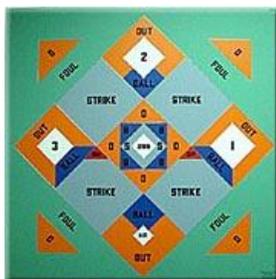
A meeting will commence on **Sunday, May 16th at 10:15am** in the church sanctuary for all ushers, current greeters & any individual that wishes to join the Hospitality Committee, in our efforts to make our church more welcoming. We will be reviewing our process & the duties our ushers & greeters perform to help make us a truly welcoming & inviting place of worship. Please mark this date on your calendar & plan to attend the meeting. As always your individual commitments to our community of faith & this congregation is a gift we all treasure. If you should have any questions, please contact one of the Elders, Heidi Pagel or Sue Manzke.

Dartball . . . The results are in!

Mt. Olive (1) @ St. Lukes (2)
 Beautiful Savior (1) @ Salem (2)
 Redeemer (3) @ St. Marks (0)

The final standings are:

1	St. Lukes	35 - 22
2	Redeemer	33 - 24
3	Beautiful Savior	32 - 25
4	E & R UCC	32 - 25
5	Salem	27 - 27
6	St. Marks	25 - 32
7	Mt. Olive	17 - 40



Beautiful Savior finishes above E & R due to head to head competition.

Sarah Circle

Janet Perkins, Secretary

'A Touch of Glaze' was where we met on a beautiful April morning. We selected our pottery piece, paints & stencils, if needed & then painted. Among the items that we selected to do were a keepsake box, a napkin holder, a cat & plates. It was an interesting & great learning experience for all. We all appreciated that Judy Russell arranged this event for us. It was nice too, that June Ehlke joined us. After we completed our "masterpieces", we enjoyed lunch just a few doors away at the Brewers Two Café. Our next meeting will be for lunch at Culver's on Sunset Drive on **Wednesday, May 12th**. We will meet there between 11 & 11:15 am. Guests are welcome.



Women's Guild

Sue Manzke

The Women's Guild met on Monday, April 5th.

After taking care of our regular business meeting we tackled a few cleaning jobs. Several ladies worked feverishly in the kitchen, scrubbing the stove, convection oven & refrigerator. We also polished all of the stainless surfaces. When polishing the stainless we noticed that there are people who are cutting directly on the stainless surface. There are four big white cutting boards in the kitchen. If they aren't out on a table they can be found in the storage space in the stove. If possible please use the cutting boards so that we can maintain the beauty of our new kitchen & save our knives. A few other ladies tackled the fellowship hall. They polished all of the chrome & took care of any spots on the chairs. Thank you to all of those who helped. Both the kitchen & the fellowship area looked beautiful when we were finished.

Since Worship & Arts has been disbanded, the Guild will take over the Mother's Day & Father's Day events.

Our next meeting will be the election meeting that will be held on Monday, June 7th at 1:00 pm.

We welcome any & all ladies...please join us.

Upcoming Rotating Coffee Hour Hosts

June 6:	Board of Education
June 13:	Gathering Grounds
June 20:	Woman's Guild
June 27:	Interiors



From the Office

Brigitte Unger

. . . A gracious thank you to everyone here at E & R . . . you have all been so kind, friendly & welcoming. I have been here just over two months & have enjoyed getting to know many of you & look forward to putting many more faces to the names I encounter each week.

Thus far this has been a wonderful experience & I am extremely grateful for the opportunity. I am blessed to have the help that so many of you have offered . . . a true 'team' committed to helping the church run smoothly.

I must let you know that I truly feel this job was part of God's plan for me as everything leading up to it fell into place perfectly. After a couple months of waiting & prayer . . . I was thrilled to accept this position . . . & I can honestly say that I love my job! Looking back, I am simply amazed at God's goodness, but I wasn't surprised, because I know that He delights in giving us the desires of our heart.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you & not to harm you, plans to give you hope & a future. Then you will call upon me & come & pray to me & I will listen to you. You will seek me & find me when you seek me with all your heart."
Jeremiah 29:11-13

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Last but not least . . . special thanks to **Sue Manzke** for her countless hours helping me learn every aspect of this position & her continued dedication in working with me as we try to get everything organized & running as efficiently as possible ~ you are a gem! Thank you!!

New Office Email

Please remember to use the new church office email: **EandRoffice@att.net** to reach *Brigitte*. For a general message to the office, use: **Office@uccwaukesha.org**.

Seeking Christian Education Director

We are still in the process of looking for a new Director of Christian Education. We will keep you posted about

our progress in filling this position. If you haven't done so already, please consider adding this important church need to your prayers . . .



Quarterly Giving Statements

Many of you may have found that your first quarter statement did not accurately reflect your records. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused you. We are in the process of verifying all pertinent information & hope to have everything corrected by the end of second quarter. It takes a bit of time to review pledges, contributions & giving accounts & make changes as needed, so we sincerely thank you for your patience & understanding during this process.

Our Ministry Strong

Our regular offerings to support the ongoing ministries of our church need to continue being our first priority in giving. We kindly ask everyone to please keep their regular (**current**) giving strong!

- Budgeted Income: thru March - \$62,987.53
- Actual Income: thru March - \$55,044.12

Other Churches Visited

Members of our congregation occasionally visit other churches & share their bulletins . . . a great way for us to see how other churches express their life in print.

Glenn Koehn visited St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mukwonago.

In Loving memory of . . .

Elaine Laird Anderson (To Benefit the Haiti Project)

Edward & Diane Sinner
 Harold & Sue Manzke
 Joanne & Ed Otto
 Jeannine Prager

Evelyn Golemgiske

Carla Oman
 James Harris



Joys & Concerns

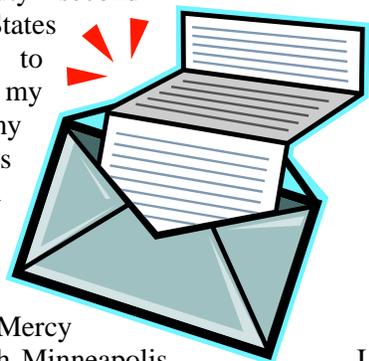
During our time of Joys & Concerns each Sunday, we ask that you please be prepared to offer up **JOYS** as well as **CONCERNS** . . . A birth of a child, a new job after a long time of being laid off, recovery from illness, a promotion, a new home & the like . . .

Thank You's



We received a thank you card from Judy Russell for Reverend Gorman for his visits & the many cards & messages from friends during her recent hospitalization. It was greatly appreciated.

We received a thank you letter from Randy Charles Knutson . . . "I want to thank you for garnishing me with a scholarship . . . to help me pay for books & tuition . . . It will help quite a bit because free time is scarce & work hours are limited. . . I am a junior at the Univ. of Minn. studying Environmental Horticulture with an emphasis on design . . . I joined the Army ROTC program & will graduate an active duty second lieutenant in the United States Army. I look forward to serving my God & my Country . . . With all of my activities & a rigorous class schedule, I obtained a 3.132 last semester & it was nice to see my hard work pay off . . . I currently attend Mercy Vineyard Church in north Minneapolis. I enjoy it & feel welcome . . . I have taken a liking to a group called the Navigators, an evangelism group. I also participate in a Bible study at the Farm House Fraternity. God is a large part of my life & I feel he is leading me down the path that my parent's would be proud of. I have made my own choices, but not without the guidance of the Lord. I am enjoying life & doing everything I can to better myself & those around me . . . I wish the Church the best in their endeavors, I have attended service a few times at E&R with my family & it looks great. With grateful thanks . . . I wish you all the best.



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Scholarships

Scholarships applications are available for pick up in the church office. Applications are due **Fri., May 28, 2010.** **Church Women United of Waukesha County** is also offering scholarship aid to women 21 & older who wish to continue their education or are returning to school after a lapse of time. Applicants must live in Waukesha County. For more information or an application, please call Carol Enders at (262) 547-6411 or Joan Finley at (262) 717-0694. Completed applications, with references, are due by **Saturday, May 15, 2010.**

Pilgrim Center & Moon Beach Camp

Our denomination owns two camps in Wisconsin: **Moon Beach** is in St. Germain in the North Country & **Pilgrim Center** on Green Lake near Ripon. Moon Beach is dedicated to Family Camps & Pilgrim Center's summer program is largely dedicated to youth camping.



Both camps are supported by the Our Church's Wider Mission offering that we give to the statewide church each year. As a second mile gift, our youth fund also will pay one half of the tuition for any camper who wants to attend. This is not a "need based" scholarship; it is an investment in our leadership. Brochures are available in the Fellowship Hall.

Youth News . . . We're on a Mission

The High School Age Youth Group is signed up for the YouthWorks Mission Trip from June 13 - 18th. The Mission site is in North East Minneapolis at the Elim Baptist Church. Most of the work is with the homeless, with children, a wholesale outlet like Salvation Army (cleaning & sorting clothes), a nursing home & the like.



Keep Recycling

We are still recycling used ink jet cartridges to raise money for the youth. Please save your used cartridges & put them in the green box on the coat rack shelf near the south entrance. Recently a full box earned us \$68.00 toward the Youth Group account. A little bit goes a long way . . . Thanks for your help!



• REDUCE • REUSE • RECYCLE •

Easter Breakfast Recipes . . . Yum!

Berry French-Toast Bake

From Diane Backler

1 small loaf of french bread
5 eggs
3 Tbsp. sugar
1 tsp. vanilla
2 ½ cups whole milk
1 cup each of cut strawberries & blueberries **or** 1 bag of mixed berries

Crumb topping:

6 Tbsp. packed brown sugar
½ tsp cinnamon
1 cup flour
¼ cup butter

Grease a 9x13 pan. Slice bread into ¾ to 1 inch slices & fit snugly into pan. Beat eggs, sugar, vanilla & stir in milk. Pour over the bread. Turn the bread over & cover & refrigerate overnight.

In the morning preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Prepare crumb topping. In a bowl combine flour, brown sugar, cinnamon & cut in the butter. Turn the bread slices over again & sprinkle with berries & crumb topping.

Bake at 375 for 40 minutes.

Egg, Ham & Cheese Casserole

From Diane Backler

7 Slices of cheap white bread
7 large **eggs**
2 cups **whole** milk
½ tsp. salt
½ tsp. dry mustard
1½ lbs. ham (can also cut up sliced boiled ham)
3 cups mild cheddar cheese



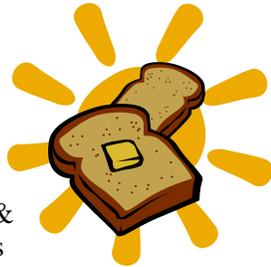
Cube 5 slices of bread & put in the bottom of a 9 x 11 glass baking dish.

Mix together the eggs, milk, salt & mustard & then pour over the bread.

Top with the ham (if you want to add onions, green peppers or mushrooms, etc. you can also do that now).

Top with the cheese.

Melt the butter. Cube the remaining 2 slices of bread & pour the melted butter over them. Sprinkle them over the top of the cheese.



Cover with plastic wrap. Refrigerate overnight. In the morning, remove the wrap & bake at 325 degrees for 1- 1¼ hours. Insert a knife in middle to test for doneness.

Rhodes Frozen Bread Dough Cinnamon Rolls

From Dawn Van Buren

1 loaf white bread dough, thawed & risen
¼ cup butter or margarine, softened
¼ cup granulated sugar
2 tsp. cinnamon
¼ cup raisins (optional)

Glaze:

1 cup powdered sugar
¼ tsp. Vanilla or almond extract
2 TBS milk, add more or less to desired consistency

Thaw dough until soft & risen. Roll dough into a 12 x 16 inch rectangle. Brush dough with butter. Sprinkle with sugar, cinnamon & raisins. Starting on a long side, roll up. Cut crosswise into 6 slices.

Place on a 9 x 11 pan. Flatten each roll to ½ inch with the palm of your hand. Cover rolls with plastic wrap that has been sprayed with non stick cooking spray. Let rise until double in size. Remove wrap & bake at 350 for 20-25 minutes. Drizzle with glaze & enjoy!!

A special note from Dawn Van Buren . . .

Hello everyone, I just wanted to thank everyone who helped me out with the Palm Sunday "homemade cinnamon rolls" for coffee hour. I had a plan, but to be honest since it was the first time, I had to ad-lib a little. Kids - you were troopers & once we got into the swing of using the rolling pin for the dough we really got it going well. **Thanks to Emily, Kylie, John, Jack, Keeley, Natalie, Aarron & Sean & for all the adult help - thanks to Trish, Sue S., Joe, Harry, Brian & a HUGE thank you to Sue M.** for teaching me how to use the ovens & bringing extra powdered sugar so we wouldn't run out of frosting.

I wanted to let all of you in on the fact that y'all helped ME achieve a new year's resolution I made this year which was to have an idea, then make a plan & see it through to the end. I was very nervous about how it was going to turn out - But the Lord blessed me with very wonderful people to help carry this out.

A very big thank you to the congregation for enjoying them & for buying some to take home! At the end there wasn't a single one left. That money was put into the free will offering for coffee hour. Harry suggested that this be the start of a new tradition? What would all of you think of that? I had so much fun!!

Council Meeting

Recording Secretary – Shirley Maile

Council Meeting was held on Monday, March 8, 2010.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Scott Donovan, Carol Austin, Brian Van Buren, Ruth Ann Krause, Gordon Heilert, Arlen Meidenbauer, Glenn Koehn, Mike Suchecki, Toni Perez, June Ehlke, Shirley Maile, Rick Sasse, Rosemary Riemer, Jim Gorman

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Joe Inzeo, Dick Anderson

GUESTS: Mark Maile, Sue Kuhtz, Erik Olson

Brian VanBuren will present devotions next month.

Minutes

Rick Sasse was present last month. La Vina is being supported by the State-wide church to the tune of \$90,000 (not \$90). Typos noted. Rick Moved & June seconded that we accept the minutes as corrected.

Treasurer’s Report

\$6,000 behind after February. Maintenance & Repair is over budget: Snow Plowing was a big chunk of that—several big snow storms in Jan & Feb. Also several bills from Giraffe Electric for updating alarms & security were being contested & were finally submitted. Misc also high—Waukesha West honorarium for Christmas Eve was a part of that. Also Petty cash was high.

Question: Are we on the budget system for We Energies? No. Trustees are willing to look into that. Might wait for the solar panels to be finished.

We paid Southeast dues \$2443.50 for the year.

Pastor Gorman noted that we have gone over the membership list & weeded it down to about 440 from 580 last year. The folks who have been removed from active membership will be placed on an inactive list. That list is being reviewed by the membership committee & will be submitted to the council for review before sending letters to those on that list.

\$12,000 for solar panels has been paid. \$15,000 more in a bill that is awaiting payment. That’s most of that. These are to be paid from the existing building fund.

Dewayne gave a bill for \$67.90 for employee notifications from the state department of labor. Could come out of office account.

June Ehlke ordered the palms for Palm Sunday - \$11.85. So, where should this come from? There was an amount left to the worship & arts committee (\$1,000) from the building fund when it was finally closed out. It might be in the re-building account. Sue Kuhtz will check.

Erik Olson on Mission statement

Regarding the “Mission Meeting” document that went out to council members in prep for this meeting. How to proceed? Should it be passed in some official way by the council or Congregation?

Everyone’s email address will be added to the “to do list” at basecamp.com.

Rick Moved, Toni seconded that we “provisionally” accept the mission statement: “to foster the spiritual growth of a community of devoted followers of Christ”. This will be presented to the congregation in a series of Sermons regarding the 5 practices with a vote, perhaps in June.

Pastor’s Report:

Pastor Jim mentioned that he is doing an ethics presentation for the Conference’s Lay Academy this weekend.

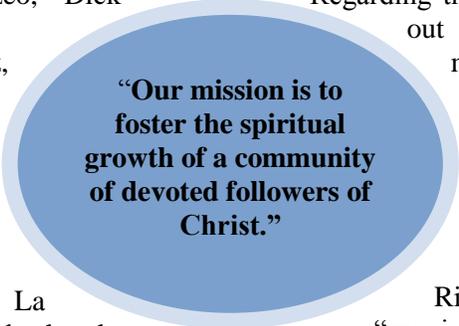
Elders: Welcome table is being discussed.

June Ehlke asks if there are reserved signs for pews for families with children or for baptism. We may have to purchase some. Should we ask the family of the baptized how many pews we should reserve? Pastor Jim should ask when he meets with the family.

June asks, How to make a phone call “out”? There was some confusion when some folks needed to do that. Put a sign on phone saying how to dial out (press “line 1” or “line 2”)

Trustees

Arlen is head trustee. Gordy said he changed deductible from \$500 to \$1,000. Vicki Behrens from Church Mutual is willing to talk with Trustees. Gordy will set up a meeting. Sue made a request about some payments made by Insurance Company. Gordy asked Tim Smith, but Tim wouldn’t give any information.



We need to send a letter to Tim Smith saying that Gordy Heilert has authorization to conduct business with Church Mutual. Gordy will give us the fax #.

Gordy also asked about a shelter in case of emergency (tornado). Basement would be used, but we need to have a sign. Trustees will look at that.

Chi Omega's charity chili supper was successful.

Alarm notification list (1st phone call) changed from Neal to Arlen.

There is a water leak upstairs. The Trustees will caulk.

Hope Center asked for volunteers to help move furniture for needy people. Arlen will set up our volunteers when we hear of our "turn".

Deacons

Pencils & communion cards are not available in the pews. Ushers should see that as part of their job to notice when they need to be sharpened & restocked.

Question about handicapped access button. Marty Maier couldn't open with the panel. Arlen turned it on with a switch above the door & it worked.

Youth

Pilgrim Center workcamp April 23-25. Possible mission trip in Midwest.

Old Business:

1. **La Vina:** Suggestion by the support group (Joanne Thomson, Karen Elizabeth King, Bob Ullmann, Dick Anderson, Jim Gorman) that the Southeast Association pay \$150 **every-other month** rather than every month as provided for in the Covenant. We had budgeted \$1800. That will leave us with a \$900 hole in the budget. Council did not agree with the suggestion from the support group. Pastor Jim will draft a letter to be sent out to the council Google group & then to the Conference & Association leadership that we stick with the agreed upon amount. Then it will go on letterhead & sent over with Brian Van Buren's signature.
2. Fob for Rick Sasse.

New Business:

1. Propose the "Bring a Friend"

- Brian passed out a chapter from the "52 ways to ignite the congregation". Suggests a bring-a-friend-Sunday. Council will review.
2. Personnel Update
 - Glenn reports that we have a new secretary by the name of Brigette Unger. But don't have a DCE yet. We had one candidate but she had taken a position before we could offer. Kristin Sasse is putting a notice on another website.
 - Check on bill(s) for offering envelopes.

Toni Perez moved & Ruth Ann Krause seconded to adjourn.

Adjourn with the Lord's Prayer 8:40.

Hope Center Needs



Dear Hope Center Friends: we are in need of some general items for HC, Project Move & Clothing Shop.

Any help with these items are much appreciated.

- A GPS for our truck for our Project Move Program (furniture pick up & delivery)
- 2 jack stands (for HC van or truck repair)
- Pots, Pans & Silverware
- Men's jeans
- New underwear for girls sizes 4, 14, & 16
- New underwear for boys sizes 4, 10, 18, & 20
- New underwear for men sizes 28-30 & 32-34
- New socks for children (girls & boys) small, medium & large (we are completely out).

Volunteer Opportunities:

Clothing Shop Stockers: Stock donated clothing

Clothing Shop Checker: Check clients in/out Fri 12-4pm

Receptionist: Phones & admin support (4 hr shifts)

Social Ministry Caller: Make initial contact with clients by calling them & giving them basic information. This volunteer is needed the first week of every month.

These are all simple yet vital community ministry opportunities. Your help is greatly appreciated. Any persons interested in helping should contact Griselle Cruz, Community Outreach Coordinator by phone at 262-549-8726 or email at gacruz@hopecenterwi.org.