

HAMLIN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

MAY - JUNE 2017



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Dear friends and fellow members of Hamline Church,

Nearly one year ago, Hamline Church answered the call to become a “Sanctuary for the City” as part of the Healthy Church Initiative. The work of this past year has truly been visible in worship, small group meetings, and events where we gather. This past Easter Sunday was the most beautiful and uplifting service I can recall as a member of this church. From the inspiring music, to the presence of so many wonderful children and adults, to the unbelievable energy and camaraderie before, during and after the service--Hamline Church is a living, vibrant witness to our Risen Lord.

The HCI process has allowed us to imagine the possibilities for our physical and spiritual footprint in the Hamline-Midway neighborhood. It has also helped us plan for necessary steps to improve and strengthen our physical space for the long term. With your help, we’ve identified a number of opportunities to best leverage the resources of this congregation to better serve the needs of the community, and to position our ministry for long term vitality. In order to continue this trajectory of growth and promise, it has become clear that we will need financial gifts beyond our operating budget.

As a result of months of study and analysis by both Hamline Church members and outside consultants, priority projects were identified and the financial scope determined. Last month, the Church Council gave unanimous support for launching a Capital Campaign this Fall.

On Sunday, May 7, following the church service, our congregation will gather in the Parlor for an All Church Conference to decide whether to move forward with a Capital Campaign that would begin this Fall. On behalf of Church Council, I ask that you prayerfully consider this opportunity and vote in support of the Capital Campaign.

Last week, you received a letter with further information about our dreams for this campaign. This information is also available in the church office. I sincerely hope that you will be able to attend the All Church Conference on Sunday, May 7. I am excited to begin this next step of our congregational life, and I hope you will join me.

Regards,

Ray Faust, Chair and the Hamline Church Council

Todd Jones, Linda Krueger, Jim Schlaeppli, Mindy Greiling, Bill Kimes, Victoria Brenner, John LeFevre, Sharon Fields, Jason Freund, David Purcell, Jeff Bouslog, and Barbara Leary



We're making some improvements around the church.

The past few Sundays, you probably noticed that the Commons & upstairs bathrooms look a little different. The HCI Building Committee is very excited about updates on our public spaces this spring. These updates will make some of our most used community spaces more welcoming to newcomers, and will demonstrate that we are a vibrant, active community.

April 24 through June 17

Our general contractor will be prepping the commons wall for painting, and doing a complete remake of the upstairs bathrooms, to include new vanities and faucets, counter-tops, ceiling grids, and repainted stalls. The upstairs classrooms and art room are getting new counter-tops, sinks, and cabinet doors.

Painting

Depending on how quickly this work goes, we will organize a painting day either before or after VBS. Volunteers are invited to paint the commons, foyer, hallway, art room, door trims and stair rails. Stay tuned for more info.

Late June and July

The hallway beside the West Transept (where the coat rack is) will have flooring removed and replaced with new carpet.

How will this affect me?

It might be messy around here during May. However, all bathrooms will be fully usable on Sundays, and there shouldn't be any major obstructions to usual Sunday Morning activity.

Who can I contact about this?

Contact Mary Kay Olson in the church office at mkolson@hamlinechurch.org

EVENTS COMING UP

Sunday, May 7
Church Conference

Sunday, May 21
Confirmation
& Directory Photo
Make Up Day

Sunday, June 4
Special Bread Oven
Celebration
Rev. Bryce Johnson
Preaching

Monday, June 19 -
Friday, June 23
Vacation Bible School

Friday, June 23 -
Sunday, June 25
Dining Hall at
the Hot Rod Show

WHY THIS CHURCH?

a reflection on "Sanctuary" by Allyson Opps, Communications Intern

As I graduate this May, I thought I would leave you with a few words from my four years here.

I didn't grow up in a very religious household. Sure, I was baptized, and I think I went to service on Christmas once or twice. But all in all, my family never really practiced any sort of religion. Most of my friends were Jewish, so that was really the first religion I encountered outside of a book. My dad, being the teacher he is, made sure I read all the major holy texts. From the Bible to the Quran, I've read different versions of the same miracles a number of times. The same message came from all of them: a message of love, peace and kindness. So, on paper, I never understood why my dad had such an aversion to, what he called, the "Jesus freaks".

As I started to grow up, watch the news, and meet more people, I started to see the disconnect between what was written and the actions of those who read. To clarify, the "Jesus freaks" aren't the people who go to church every Sunday, read their bible and go on mission trips. No. The "Jesus freaks" are the ones that come on TV to tell everyone how terrible Muslims are, how the person you love dictates exactly how much God loves you, how anyone outside a certain lifestyle must be considered wrong. The people who believe there is one way to connect to a higher power, one way to worship, one way to be loved.

So I was initially wary of working in a church. See, I've never had a problem with the belief part of it all, I just could never stand for the hypocrisy. But it was a paying job, and I was a broke college student, so the decision was made for me. It took me two years before I came to a Sunday service. It was communion Sunday, and I was scared to do the wrong thing, terrified that people would know I had never done this before. I didn't know which book to read from, and I was nervous to say the bolded words. I am sure I looked like a mess. But the woman standing next to me shared her book with a warm smile. The people I knew from working behind the desk the past years welcomed me.

Then Pastor Mariah started her sermon. She started with lines from the Bible, and I started to pull away. I had no connection to those words, besides an academic one.



"I feel a sense of peace. And a sense of solitude but not as an individual, but as an individual within a group.... I appreciate the church, and the music. But I appreciate the people most of all. Though I may disagree with some of them, it doesn't matter. Because we are all shooting for the same end. "
John Berglund

WHY THIS CHURCH?

a reflection on "Sanctuary" by Allyson Opps, Communications Intern

But then the sermon started to shift. She started to talk about a Muslim practice she found beautiful. Then introduced a few words of Arabic, and not long after brought tears to my eyes. The next Sunday was similar.

For the first few years of work, I stayed in my safe space behind the desk. Then in this last semester, I transitioned into an internship. I sat in on worship every Sunday, crafting the perfect Facebook post to sum up the day's lesson. Then I took on a storytelling project. I aimed to find why the pews were full, what kept people returning every week. I wanted to know what made Hamline Church so special. So when I started interviewing people for my project, I was hoping they would share a story similar to mine. The stories did not disappoint, and my connection to a place that seemed so foreign a few years ago strengthened.

One story was about not truly liking the church in the beginning, but finding it impossible to leave the people and connections made. Another story painted the picture of a wandering worshiper, trying to find a new sanctuary to call home. And another, after being pushed away by the people of her previous church, she found welcoming, open arms at Hamline. Much like each of the faith books I have read, each story had a common theme: loving, welcoming and kind people.

Now this sounds like a story about a faithless girl who finally found God in the beautiful words of a pastor. But that's not what this is. I can't say if I have found God, or if I will even continue going to church in the years that come. But I can say that I have found a sense of happiness in sharing a sanctuary, and an office, with people practice what they preach. To step into a world you had never entered before and be met with patience, kindness and willingness to share is a blessing in it itself.

Thank you for the past four years,
Ally Opps



**"It's really important to me to be part of a community that's not only taking care of ourselves, but we are taking care of others. I feel like the SPROUT garden is a really good way to do that, we are taking care of ourselves, nurturing each other, learning together and serving others."
Amy Schultz**

Ally Opps began working here before I did in 2014. As a student assistant, she grew with her position from a security monitor in the evenings to a vital part of our communications team. She has spent countless hours on producing these newsletters, producing the weekly email, and removing verse numbers from scripture passages. This semester, she has joined us as a Communications Intern. Part of her internship was to do a project where she asked a question of the congregation, and helped people learn how to tell their stories. The article, images, and quotes above are a part of that project. You'll see these photos and quotes in the downstairs stairwell this summer. Ally is graduating in May, and returning to Wisconsin to work. We will miss her terribly. Please join me in wishing Ally well and thanking her for her work here. - Maggie Nancarrow

2017 AWARDS

SUSTAINABLE ST. PAUL

Mayor Chris Coleman and Saint Paul City Council April 19 announced the winners of the 2017 Sustainable St. Paul Awards, including the Hamline Church SPROUT Garden. The winners were chosen based upon their exceptional environmental leadership and dedication to sustainability in 13 different categories.

“Sustainable practices, projects and innovations benefit our planet, our community and our economy,” said Coleman. “These awards are a way for us to highlight some of the innovators right here in Saint Paul, and encourage individuals and businesses to continue our city’s reputation of being a leader in sustainability.”

The Sustainable St. Paul Awards is in its 11th year, and was created under Mayor Coleman as a way to honor individuals and organizations across Saint Paul who demonstrate a commitment to the environment. By sponsoring these awards, the mayor encourages all residents, businesses, community groups and non-profits to follow suit, and implement similar projects of their own in the future.

Coleman and Council President Russ Stark, who represents the Fourth Ward where Hamline Church is located, presented the award to a group from the church. The

gardeners, led by Amy Schultz, were honored with the award for Local Food Production. The garden provides food for Hamline Midway Elders and the Keystone Mobile Food Truck. Church volunteers, including many children, and Hamline University interns help with the garden.

The group was feted at a reception after the award ceremony. This was Hamline Church’s second Sustainable St. Paul award. The first was for co-hosting one of the first Tech Dump electronics recycling events in St. Paul.



CHILDREN & YOUTH UPDATE

Coming up with the Children's Ministry

After a glorious Easter, and the first Sunday in our award-winning SPROUT Garden, it seems safe to say that spring has sprung! How lovely it feels to enjoy the sun and experience both the New Life in Christ promised us through Easter, and the new life of nature surrounding us. For me, spring is a more inspiring time to make 'resolutions' than the New Year - the physical changes around us make me more committed to making change in my own life. This spring, I'm especially excited about some of the changes we are going to make together for good in the lives of the children at Hamline Church and in our church neighborhood.

Peace,
Amy

Vacation Bible School

This year, we received a Growth Grant to offer VBS to children outside of Hamline Church! But I want to make sure that our Hamline Church Kids get first dibs on available spots. Please register your child by May 15 at:
<http://2017.cokesburyvbs.com/hamlinechurch>

Church / School Brick-Oven Partnership

This spring, we are excited to be partnering with Hamline Elementary School for a Bread and Pizza Bake on Friday, May 12 and Monday, May 15. Kids will be at church from 1:30 - 2:30 pm both days. They will make bread-dough and pizza on Friday. On Monday, they will return to shape and bake the loaves of bread.

Camp MSP

Camp Mission, Service, Purpose (MSP) is coming up on August 8, 9 & 10 for kids completing grades 4, 5 & 6. This year, we will be joining other Methodist kids for fun, service and reflection at Lake Harriet UMC in Minneapolis. To register, go to: <http://www.campminnesota.org/campsessions> (You will need to scroll down to the orange section entitled 'Off-Site Programs and Events' to find Camp MSP South.) We will also need at least one adult volunteer each day to help carpool and accompany our group. Please let me know if you can join us! asireland@hamlinechurch.org

Thursday, July 13, Pizza Night

We'll be hosting brick oven pizza night in conjunction with the Ain Dah Yung Center, an organization that houses and feeds homeless Native youth. (We might be treated to Native dancing and drumming, too!)

Tuesday, August 1, National Night Out, Pizza & Movie

Join us as we invite our church neighbors for pizza and a movie on the front lawn.

Fri. January 12, 2018 - Mon. January 15, Family Winter Retreat

We've been trying to get a three-day weekend for the winter retreat for a few years, and our wish has finally been granted. This year we'll have two full days and three nights at Northern Pines. Get this fun weekend on your calendar now!

Hamline Youth Visit the Northwest Islamic Center

On Sunday, April 23 Hamline Youth went on an interfaith outing to the Northwest Islamic Center in Plymouth. The youth of the mosque presented on Islam, and our youth observed prayer there. Here are some of their reflections:

"In addition to being informative, it was a lot of fun. We first heard a presentation given by a youth group who were training to be representatives of the Islamic Resource Center, or IRC, as they called it, and later had the opportunity to see their garden (which is almost exactly like our Sprout Garden!) and talk with the students afterwards. Lastly, we attended a noon prayer - not a full Friday service, like our Sunday service is, but rather simply one of five daily prayers. A big thank-you to Maggie for organizing this trip - I found it interesting to see similar beliefs from a different perspective."
- Amanda Bluem

"At the Mosque we learned many things about Islam. We learned about the 5 pillars of Islam which are, Declaration of faith, Obligatory prayer, Compulsory giving, fasting in the month of Ramadan and Pilgrimage.

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Next Big Youth Events

May 7 at 6:30 pm
Artsy Fartsy Party & Movie Night

May 20 at 6 pm
End of the Year Final Party



MUSIC UPDATE

Northwest Islamic Center Continued...

We also learned about the holidays of Eid Al-Fitr and Eid Al-Adha. During those holidays Muslims take zakat, which is where they give 2.5% of their wealth to charity. We also got to sit in on their noon prayer. It lasted for about 10 minutes. In this prayer they recited verses of the Koran to themselves unlike the other prayer times where they say them out loud. They changed positions after the prayer leader said, Allahu Akbar, which means, Allah is greater. Also, the youth are doing service projects and one youth is creating a veggie garden to grow healthy nutritional food for the Mosque and for community around it." - Isaac Schultz

The Northwest Islamic Center has invited us to participate in their first ever **Interfaith 5k on Saturday, May 13**. Please contact Maggie for more information. We would love to support the mosque's efforts as a thank you for their warm and generous welcome.

We have been blessed by some fabulous music at Hamline Church over the past few months! Some highlights for me include: The Minnesota Boychoir performance as a part of our Music and Arts Series, the SJU/CSB Brass ensemble for Easter, the Hamline Orchestra the week after, and the recent Sacred Pop Concert. I, for one, am very grateful for the support of high quality music from the members of Hamline Church. We are also thrilled to have the Bell Choir practicing and playing as a part of worship. I also want to take a moment to thank Dr. Kasling and all of the young artists that participated in our Young Artist Lenten series. Bravi Tutti!

We're not done yet! We have much to look forward to in the coming months. The choir has some beautiful music selected for the coming weeks, the Bell Choir will make one more appearance before our summer break, and we are also welcoming the Sonomento Choir on Friday, June 2, in a choral orchestra performance of Rossini's Petite Messe Solennelle.

Thank each and every one of you for your continued support of music at Hamline Church, and it is not too early to start thinking about joining our team for next year!

Richard Carrick
Music Director
rcarrick@hamlinechurch.org

CELEBRATING OUR MUSICAL HERITAGE



If you missed Heritage Sunday on April 30, we made a joyful noise as we celebrated our musical heritage here at Hamline Church. The new display and accompanying brochure remains in the Commons, and the music of the 4th century Te Deum Laudamus continues to surround the nave. Still, that's only a small part of our denomination's music heritage.

From the beginning of the small groups convened by brothers John and Charles Wesley, hymn singing and poetry played a major role. Charles served as the main poet and John as editor and compiler of their early books of hymns, including Hymns and Sacred Poems, published in 1739. John is also responsible for the "Directions for Singing," which are reprinted at the front of our UMC hymnal, page vii.

As Methodism grew in the new world of America, communal participation in singing hymns continued, teaching the theology of the denomination. Small, pocket-size

hymnals with only words tunes were carried by the circuit riders and itinerant preachers. Hymnals included the tune name and the meter for the music, still evident at the top of the music in the 1905 Hymnal illustrated here.

Piano accompaniment was added to hymnals as congregations grew and spaces devoted to worship were established. During that same period in England, another Wesley, Samuel Sebastian Wesley (b. 1810, d. 1876), John's nephew and Samuel's son, continued the tradition and added another piece: he became a respected organist as well as composer.

As a church musician he was a leader in reforms in church music. After serving as organist at several London churches and cathedrals, he was one of the first to insist on a full pedal board for his instrument. He became professor of organ at the Royal Academy of Music in London and was famous as a performer and composer. He is credited with 131 hymn tunes, notable for their innovation and unconventional writing, including The Church's One Foundation (#545), O Thou Who Camest from Above (#501, a setting for one of his father's poems), and Lead Me, Lord (#473, often used as a call to prayer). He also contributed many works for the organ, psalm settings and full church services as well as anthems for choral groups.

At Hamline Church, and indeed at our predecessor congregations as well, music of all types has been integral to our worship, fun and community life.

Institutions of Christianity

The Church

207 AURELIA 25. 66. D. SAMUEL S. WESLEY

1. The church's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ her Lord;
She is his new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the word;

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "The Church's One Foundation" by Samuel S. Wesley. It is numbered 207 and has the tune name "AURELIA" with a meter of "25. 66. D.". The score is written for voice and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "1. The church's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ her Lord; She is his new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the word;".

UMW UPDATE

Winner of the UMW Award in 2017

The Hamline Church Women/ United Methodist Women have had a busy few months since our annual UMW Sunday.

Several Hamline Church women attended the Twin Cities UMW Spring Gathering April 22 at Northeast UMC. The theme was "Earth and Creation: Balancing Humanity and Nature." The spring potluck will be May 15 at Monell Jakel's. Details will be sent out or watch the bulletin. This takes the place of the May monthly lunch at Pippin's. We will be having lunch on the second Mondays of June and July, so that more of our "snowbirds" can join us and catch up with friends. We've wrapped up a good year of Toddler Tuesdays and Make, Bake and Play Days. Watch for a children's swap and sale we'll host May 13 at the church. Watch for another Davanni's fundraiser to help our youth this summer. The Mom Needs Cookies cookie walk is Sunday, May 7. We're still in need of help with fleece tie blankets for our high school graduates. Let us know if you'd like to tie one of these gifts. We provide the fleece! We also have yarn bagged in kits for anyone wanting to knit or crochet a prayer shawl. There's also yarn to make items for mitten tree, fabric to make a lap robe or baby quilt, and other items for anyone who considers making items as part of their ministry.

This year's honoree was Erik Hendrickson. We typically honor a woman, but this year was a special exception.

Erik Hendrickson is being honored for his service to Hamline Church Women/UMW and for his service to the church as a whole. Erik has helped UMW with the UMW Sunday Soup and Bread Luncheon for many years. He has also helped with other events including the spring 2016 Twin Cities District UMW meeting, which Hamline Church hosted. Erik's abilities as a chef helped Hamline win high marks for hosting that event. Many women said it was the best lunch they have ever had at a district event.

Erik grew up in St. Paul, on the city's East Side. He was raised in the Lutheran church and is from a family of nine children. He grew up with five sisters and three brothers. Erik always liked to cook.

He began his culinary career at age 14, as a bus boy at a Selby Avenue restaurant called "the Boarding House."

Erik attended Harding High School and graduated from Central High School. He went to St. Paul College to further his education as a chef. He has worked at restaurants throughout the Twin Cities and currently works at the North Oaks Country Club.

Erik married Jill in 1994 and Dorothy is their daughter. He is a dedicated dance dad. The Hendricksons joined Hamline Church in 1998. Not long after that women including Sally Nelson and Betty Ward realized that we had a very talented chef in the congregation.

Erik has been the chef for every single one of the Hamline Church Holiday Teas. He made the food for three youth mission trips and was a chaperone for one. He and Jill also hosted the "food and fellowship" group, where church members visited different ethnic restaurants. The Hendricksons have also done many fundraising dinners, including dinners that were part of the barn dances and the "Imagine No Malaria" campaign.

He has prepared meals for funerals including those of Betty Ward and Hal Routh. Erik is the chef for the Hamline Midway Elders luncheons, the group's special events and for the healthy communities' series.

He has cooked for other for other groups, including the Fridley United Methodist Church, where he made the harvest dinners for five years. Even though Erik is 100 percent Norwegian, he learned to make pierogis for Jill's Polish family when other family members were no longer able to make them. The Hendricksons live in Hamline-Midway neighborhood. He shovels snow for neighbors and recycles scrap metal.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Sunday of Bread and Breath

On June 4th we will celebrate our bread oven ministry during worship. We may gather around the oven for part of the service. Since you may already be dressing casually for this day, the green team wants to challenge and encourage all who are able to leave the car at home. Try an alternate form of transportation...walk, bike, bus or car pool. Take advantage of our bike racks at the southeast and the northwest corners of the building. Ride the new A-line bus with a convenient stop at Snelling and Minnehaha. Talk to a friend or neighbor and make plans to share a ride. If you don't know who lives near you, call the office and we'll pair you with a riding buddy. If you still need to drive, park a block or two away and walk the last bit. Take a moment as you arrive to breathe air that is just a little cleaner because there are less cars arriving in the lot. Imagine arriving at Hamline Church in the future where asphalt driveways have given way to pedestrian pathways with more trees and some benches to welcome you to our doors and invite you to relax outside, or do a walking meditation on a newly laid labyrinth path on the north lawn. Let's all breathe more deeply and just a little easier!

HCI Updates

Here are some of the things happening on the HCI Teams:

- The HCI building team has a list! Things are already underway to refresh the commons, main floor bathrooms, and some classroom areas. Watch for changes in colors, textures, fixtures, and carpeting. These current projects are visual and functional updates demonstrating good stewardship in the care of our building.
- A new Safe Sanctuaries Policy for children, youth, and vulnerable adults
- A mailing communicating about our church for Easter Sunday
- Lenten Small groups that attracted 75 participants, and were a huge success!
- A Spiritual Leadership Retreat in February
- Working with Horizons Stewardship to do a feasibility study with us on a capital campaign, and the subsequent vote on May 7.
- Having “check-in” and “check-out” conversations with participants at all church meetings has been widely adopted! The Lenten small groups incorporated check-ins and check-outs into the weekly discussion guide, and group leaders said they used the process and it went well. Other church leaders report that the practice is enhancing relationships among meeting participants and setting a positive tone for the work they have come together to do.

And much, much more! Learn about all the teams, their roles, and their members at hamlinechurch.org/hci

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HAMLIN CHURCH

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