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GARDENING AS A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE BY HEATHER GRANTHAM



AS A CHILD, BEING OUTSIDE WAS PARAMOUNT

to my happiness. I needed to feel the grass on the soles of my feet, to smell the air just before the rain, and to taste the first honeysuckle blossoms. I loved digging in the dirt, whether for gardening or "archeological" work. I chased squirrels, cats, dogs and ducks, imitating their unique animal sounds. Outside playing/work introduced me to the grandeur and hugeness of the world around me. Theologically speaking, I encountered God the Creator, recognizing the spark of the divine in everything on earth.

As a church worker, I am called to facilitate opportunities for our young ones to find their particular on-ramp to this Creator God. Here at Hamline Church United Methodist, we have the perfect space to provide this introduction: Sprout Garden and our church grounds.

Throughout the Spring and Summer, Hamline Church Kids and Families are invited to get to know this wonderful creation by working in the garden, learning about food justice/accessibility, witnessing and partaking in the lifecycle of all living creatures, spending time in the sun at a baseball game, and much more.

BASEBALL

Monday, June 8th Join Methodists from around the state to watch a Twins game!

Friday, August 7th, 7pm – Saints game against Lincoln Saltdogs (with fireworks)

VACATION BIBLE CAMP: CREATION CARE, FOOD JUSTICE, AND GOD'S INVITATION TO BE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS

5:30 to 7:30 pm Dinner Included Volunteers Needed Tuesday, June 16th Wednesday, July 22nd Thursday, August 20th

6pm Special Program with J. Drake Hamilton of Fresh Energy discussing public policy development related to global warming with an emphasis on renewable energy alternatives – specifically solar power.

SPRING SUNDAY SCHOOL: GARDENING AS SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Sunday, May 3rd, 2015 10am - Worship Nursery - Rm. 5 downstairs 2nd-6th Grades - after children's sermon, Hamline Kids' Choir in Parlor then join parents in Worship

Sunday, May 10th, 2015 (no Sunday School) 10am - Worship with special music by Hamline Church Kids' Choir

Sunday, May 17th 10am - Worship, then Sunday School PreK - 6th Graders: Gardening as Spiritual Practice

Sunday, May 24th 10am - Worship, then Sunday School PreK - 6th Graders: Gardening as Spiritual Practice

Sunday, May 31st 10am - Worship, then Sunday School PreK - 6th Graders: Gardening as Spiritual Practice

Sunday, June 7th (No Sunday School) 10am - Worship - Appreciation Sunday!

CAMP MSP:

MISSION, SERVICE, PURPOSE Tuesday, August 11th through Thursday, August 13th

This is a day camp for kids entering 5th through 7th Grades. We will go as a group down to Lake Harriet UMC with other 5th-7th Grade Methodists within the Minnesota Conference of UMC. We will have fun serving neighbors, meeting new friends, and changing the world by working on various service projects throughout the Twin Cities.

...YOUTH AT HAMLINE CHURCH

JESUS' PARABLES OF SOIL AND BY MAGGIE NANCARROW



NIGHT AND DAY, WHETHER HE SLEEPS OR GETS UP. THE SEED SPROUTS AND GROWS. THOUGH HE DOES NOT KNOW **HOW. ALL BY ITSELF THE SOIL PRODUCES** GRAIN—FIRST THE STALK. THEN THE HEAD, THEN THE FULL KERNEL IN THE HEAD. AS SOON AS THE GRAIN IS RIPE HE PUTS THE SICKLE TO IT. BECAUSE THE HARVEST HAS COME." MARK 4:26-29

SOME OF THE PARABLES OF JESUS ABOUT GARDENING AND FARMING

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

See Mark 4:1-20, Matthew 13:1-23, and Luke 8:1-15 And the Gospel of Thomas 9

THE PARABLE OF THE MUSTARD SEED

Matthew 13:31-32, Mark 4:30-32, and Luke 13:18-19

THE PARABLE OF WEEDS AND PLANTS Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

THE PARABLE OF THE GROWING SEED Mark 4:26-29 (quoted above)

THE PARABLE OF THE FIG TREE Matthew 24:32-35

THE OTHER PARABLE OF THE FIG TREE Luke 13:6-9

Two thousand years ago, in ancient Judea people did a lot of gardening and farming. Women would

The Confirmation class is in the final stretch of the 2014-

2015 class, and our final unit is on Jesus: his teachings, his call, and his resurrection. One thing that I'm

noticing--Jesus is constantly teaching about gardening.

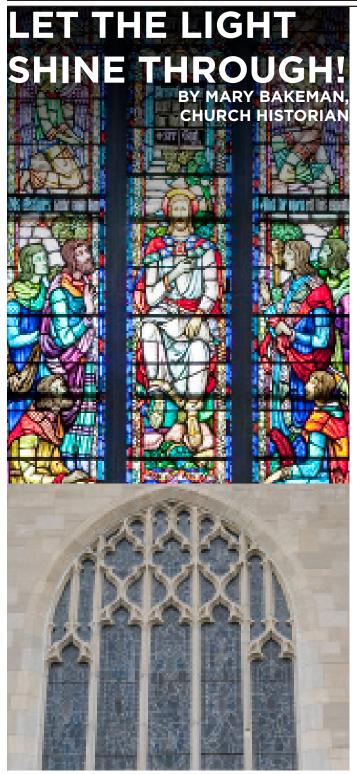
grow small gardens in their homes, and men did a lot of harvesting and planting of large fields. These metaphors were common and well understood—it was the language of everyone's common knowledge.

BUT THAT'S NOT THE ONLY REASON THAT JESUS TALKS ABOUT GARDENING AND FARMING SO CONSISTENTLY.

Seeds are little rocks that look dead, full of potential and yet...so unassuming. They are strangely powerful little things, and they burst to life within rich soil, poor soil, rocky soil, and thorny soil. They can grow into moments of great beauty and die suddenly, or they can grow into enormous mustard trees—thousands of times their original size. They can become trees that bear fruit or the millions of tiny new seeds that we grind and turn into food.

Jesus talks a lot about seeds, gardening, and farming because these things are expressions of the amazing powers of God. The scientific laws that govern the biology of these little things are amazing. The creativity of the humans who have cultivated and created agriculture over history is amazing. The care and wonder that a child feels for their own seedling is amazing.

SO THIS YEAR, AS HAMLINE CHURCH GARDENS TOGETHER—LET'S REMEMBER THE NEAR DOZEN PARABLES THAT JESUS GIVES US ABOUT GREEN AND GROWING THINGS. LET'S DISCOVER, BY PLAYING WITH THESE STORIES IN OUR OWN LIVES, HOW WE WORK WITH GOD TO GROW AMAZING THINGS TOGETHER.



EARLY CHURCHES WERE DARK PLACES before builders figured out how to make them strong enough to permit windows. By using stained glass in those windows, Bible stories could be passed on even to illiterate congregations.

Our large windows on the east and north side will undergo restoration this spring: replacing the Plexiglass protection with vented plate glass after cleaning, repairing any problems that are found, and tuck pointing around them to stop leaks. This project, mostly financed by funds from the Paulson estate and an anonymous donation, will complete the clerestory window work begun in 2009 with the chancel window.

Our stained glass is hand-painted, fired before assembly into panels, and then the panels are placed in the stone framework known as 'tracery.' The stone marks the tracery, and you can see the black metal horizontal bars which mark the edges of each panel. The glass within the panels is held together by connected pieces of 'came,' metal strips around each of the hand-painted pieces of glass.

The current Plexiglass protection has darkened, and you will immediately notice increased light and color in the sanctuary when it is removed. In addition, horizontal edges now appear when viewing the windows. These central images from the rear balcony window have those edges through Jesus' face, as well as the face of the disciple at His feet. These lines will disappear with the restoration.

The new protective plate glass will be vented to allow for heat transfer in warm weather: heat build-up can damage the windows.

THE WINDOWS AND ALL DESIGNED FOR CHURCH: PANEL WINDOWS TELL JESUS'S LIFE STORY, AND THE **WINDOWS CELEBRATE** THE TE **DEUM LAUDAMUS** (WE PRAISE THEE, O GOD). THANKS FROM THE 13TH CENTURY DONORS. MORE WILL BE SHINING THROUGH LIGHT

...BREAD OVEN



BREAD OVEN BLOG

HTTP://WWW.HAMLINECHURCH.ORG/BREAD-OVEN-BLOG.HTML

OR FOLLOW WITH YOUR BLOGGER ACCOUNT AT HTTP://HCUMBREADOVEN.BLOGSPOT.COM/

APRIL 27, 2015....
SLOWING DOWN, MEETING NEIGHBORS, AND BAKING REALLY GOOD BREAD

For a long time, there was just one oven for an entire village. It was inefficient for every person to have their own oven, and so the community shared a large oven in the center of town. In the process of baking, people would meet friends, discuss politics, share stories, and gossip. In addition to producing good food, the community ovens produced good neighbors.

That old idea is now coming to the Hamline-Midway neighborhood in Saint Paul. This spring we will begin building the Community Brick Oven at Hamline Church, and hopefully we'll be eating some wood-fired pizzas and baking many loaves of awesome bread by this summer.

News, information, and random thoughts will be posted on this blog. So stay tuned and visit often. Construction of the brick oven will start in April. It will be a community effort. Anybody who would like to volunteer to help is welcome to sign-up for a volunteer slot (more information about signing up will be posted soon). Once completed, we'll focus on learning how to fire the oven and use its full heat cycle. Then, the fun will really begin.

Our dedicated construction team has been hard at work creating our amazing new community bread oven. Follow the pictures and happenings online at Hamline Church's website, or follow us with your blogger account!

WANT TO HELP US PURCHASE ALL THE GOODIES WE NEED FOR THIS AMAZING COMMUNITY PROJECT?

COME TO THE

IT'S A BUN IN THE OVEN!
"BABY" SHOWER
SUNDAY, MAY 10
ON THE CHURCH LAWN

WE HAVE A GIFT REGISTRY ONLINE AT: HTTPS://THANKFULREGISTRY.COM/OVEN

FINISH READING THIS POST, AND FOLLOW ALONG WITH MARK IRELAND AND THE BREAD OVEN TEAM AT

HTTP://WWW.HAMLINECHURCH.ORG/BREAD-OVEN-BLOG.HTML

CHURCH COUNCIL...

SUMMARY OF THE MARCH 17 CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

- 1. Co-Chair Anne Thompson convened the Church Council meeting with an opening prayer. It was noted that Pastor Mariah Tollgaard had started her maternity leave, and that no Staff members were able to attend.
- 2. Reports were received from Trustees, SPRC, Hamline Women/UMW, Communications (via Pastor Mariah), the Church Historian, and Finance. The minutes of the January 20 Church Council meeting were approved.
- 3. Jan Bajuniemi, for SPRC, reported on the Staffing plan during Pastor Mariah's leave. With the departure of Jay Matchett, Heather Grantham has added the Building Operations oversight and Maggie Nancarrow has added Communications responsibilities. Office management duties will be shared by the two. Pastor Mariah had sent a message that Rev. Mary Keen is primarily assuming a Pulpit Supply role and that Mariah would be back for Confirmation Sunday, May 17.
- 4. The e-mail Update from Pastor Mariah noted the Bread Oven grant, the SPRC report, Trustee items, and the Communications Guidelines Summary—gives recommendations for the Worship Bulletin, Weekly E-mail Update, and the Bi-monthly Newsletter, along with the Website, Social Media, and Brochures/Posters.
- 5. Barb Edgar reported that six representatives of HCUM were present at a March 14 Reconciling Ministries gathering at Prospect Park UMC. The MN Annual Conference is releasing a booklet on issues of homosexuality and marriage.
- 6. Roger Greiling (Trustees) gave a status report on negotiations for a new lease with the Bilingual Child Care and Education Center. He also relayed that Jeff Dreisbach is soliciting bids on several repairs/painting jobs and improvements within the building.
- 7. Erik Molter, for the Dining Hall committee, informed us that an Izzy's ice cream representative has suggested that the new ice cream flavor name be in keeping with "coffee hour or cappuccino. Menu prices will go up slightly, but the cost of dinner will still be less than \$10.
- 8. Bob Sellers (Worship) reported that Pastor Mariah had things planned out through Easter, and well into the Spring. Rev. Mary Keen will be preaching most Sundays. Kati Green is to be commended for coordinating the extra Communion Sundays during Lent, along with those Youth musicians (and dancer) who have been sharing their talents. The role of Confirmands in several services was also noted.



...CHURCH COUNCIL

SUMMARY OF THE MARCH 17 CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING



- 9. Speaking for the Hamline Women/UMW, Virginia Anderson noted the recent Emma Norton paper and personal care products drive, the current College Scholarship opportunity, and the need for McVay snacks.
- 10. For Social Justice/Missions, Barb Edgar communicated that the March Food drive is going well and that the Easter offering will go toward Great Hour of Sharing. The group is trying to keep up with the need for snacks for the McVay tutoring sessions.
- 11. Virginia also reported for Outreach/Membership. **Signs are planned to help make the Church more welcoming.** Although the formal name is Fireside Room, it will also be referred to as our Fellowship Hall. She had been at a recent Conference-organized Welcoming workshop. A new approach to welcome visitors, called the 5-10-Link, will be looked at. **The membership orientation cards which were recently distributed are helpful in updating the Directory.** A new printed Directory is a possibility.
- 12. Mary Bakeman gave a report on recent activities from History/Archives. The Church has been invited to prepare a display in HU's Klas Center about the Church and interactions with HU. Suggestions from Committees are desired for the display.
- 13. Joyce Evans, from Member Care, spoke about a website for persons to sign up for meal assistance for those in such need. Joyce said that there are 12-13 members who can't get out much. Volunteers are needed to visit the homebound, along with someone to coordinate such visit. Prayer shawls are available. Pat Peterson sends cards out to individuals, when the need is known.
- 14. A February budget report was included in the packets. Since no one from Finance was present, Jim Schlaeppi shared some of his observations: the 2014 Budget drive was very successful; bills are being paid in a timely manner via Gillian Martin (bookkeeper) and Dave Anderson (Treasurer); we reached the 3R goal of \$40,000. Virginia noted that the recent Silent Auction Fundraiser went very well. Barb Edgar shared that the 2014 Christmas offering had been distributed. The Loaves and Fishes project has been funded for all of 2015.
- 15. Anne Thompson said that the Nominating committee will have a number of new names for committee positions to propose at a future meeting, and that she and Amy Schultz will complete their roles as Church Council Co-Chairs at the May meeting.
- 16. The meeting ended with a closing prayer.

HAPPENINGS...

2015 SILENT AUCTION A GREAT SUCCESS!

BY VIRGINIA ANDERSON

Special thanks to the families, area businesses, and other volunteers who made our auction possible. The continued support of our own church family is amazing!

- 142 items were donated.
- Over 30 people from our church made donations.
- Over 100 people made at least one bid.
- Only Four items earned \$100 or more.
- 128 of the items sold for \$30 or less, 60 of those were \$10 or less.
- Over \$4130.00 was raised for our church.

Please show our gratitude by patronizing our local businesses that made donations.



LIST OF DONORS

AutoZone - Midway Breadsmith Cadenza Music Cafe Latte Chianti Grill - Roseville Common Good Books Cub Foods - Midway Cub Foods - Roseville Davanni's - Roseville Davanni's - Highland Dunn Bros Coffee - Grand Ave Elements Massage - Roseville Famous Dave's - Highland Flaherty's Arden Bowl **GINKGO** Coffeehouse Granite City - Roseville Great Harvest Bread - St. Paul

Hamline Cleaners Hamline Hardware Hamline Midway Elders House of Wong - Roseville Hub Hobby Center - Little Canada Hyland Ski & Snowboard, Three Rivers Park District izzv's Ice Cream KFC - Roseville Leeann Chin's Lloyd's Pharmacy Mann Theatres Minnesota State Fair Minnesota Vikings Muffuletta Restaurant O'Reilly Auto Parts - Midway Ol' Mexico

Old Country Buffet - Roseville
Olive Garden - Roseville
Outback Steakhouse - Roseville
Padelford Riverboat Cruises
Pippins Restaurant
Pizza Luce
Punch Pizza - Grand Ave
Rainbow Foods - Midway
Red Balloon Bookshop
Rocco Altobelli
Shoreview Community Center
St. Paul Hotel
Starbucks - Highland
Trader Joe's - Highland
Vertical Endeavors - St. Paul

Aileene Vanderbilt
Alma Dancer
Annette Merry
Bill & Karen Van Schyndel
Bob Sellers
Candyce Osterkamp
Carol Duling
Deb Richards
Hamline Church Women/
UMW

Helen Vulu
Jan Bajuniemi
Jan Kimes
Jane McClure
Joelle Dahlke
John & Jeanne LeFevre
Judy Hartman
Julie Dahlke
Kathy Sundberg
Kati Green

Kent Krueger
Linda Severson
Luann Quayle
Mary Bloom
Mary Lou & Wayne Wolsey
Monell Jakel
Pastor Mariah &
Ryan Tollgaard
Penny Sandahl
Rolfe Leary

Stephanie Jones Theresa Perry Todd Jones & Terri Shefelbine Virginia Anderson

Thanks to those people who helped on the three Sundays of the auction by either setting up items or bid sheets on the tables, highlighting the top bidders, cleaning up each week, or cashiering, especially Jane McClure, Helen Vulu, Julie Dahlke, Aileene Vanderbilt, Carol Duling, Teresa Renneke, Ryan Anderson, Monell Jakel, and anyone else who stepped in to lend a hand.

CONSTRUCTION SEASON IS UNDERWAY.

Several major road construction projects are taking place around Hamline Church this summer. Getting to church might be a challenge as roads are worked on. Here's an update on area projects and how they will affect getting to and from church. Plan for detours.

Snelling Avenue from the Rosedale Center to Ford Parkway is the focus of three projects. Stations will be under construction for A Line rapid bus construction. Snelling from Pierce Butler Route to Selby Avenue will undergo a mill and overlay project. The Snelling Avenue Bridge over interstate 94 will be redecked. The bridge will be closed for several weeks.

The majority of work is to be done before the Minnesota State Fair. Minnehaha Avenue, which is one of the Snelling detours, will be busier than usual this summer.

A number of city streets and county roads will also be under construction this summer. This includes streets, roads and bridges in St. Paul, Minneapolis, suburban Ramsey, Hennepin, Washington and Anoka counties. I-94 will also have some weekend closures due to utility work.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) always posts project updates at http://www.dot.state.mn.us/

Cities and counties also post updates. It's worth taking a few minutes to visit websites and subscribe to email or Twitter updates. In St. Paul, go to http://www.stpaul.gov/index.aspx?nid=73

For Ramsey County, go to http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/
pw/index.htm

For other cities and counties, check public works department websites.

ANY GARDENING NEEDS? VISIT ANY CUB FOODS GARDEN CENTER DURING MAY! BY VIRGINIA ANDERSON

- * Pick up a "special invitation" certificate in the Fireside Room during Fellowship and then turn it in to the cashier at Cub Foods.
- * Our church will receive 15% of the pre-tax purchases for the month.
- * Give out invitations to your family and friends.
- * An invitation is needed for each purchase so feel free to make copies or pick up extras.

Green Valley Greenhouse of Ramsey, MN is sponsoring this fundraiser.



SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE IN MAY

BY VIRGINIA ANDERSON

Plan ahead for your favorite people and give them a gift card. Worried about ID theft? Use gift cards like Target, Super America or Cub. Dairy Queen has been added for those hot days. Next order will be submitted May 3, and received May 10, or check out what is available downstairs following worship.

GREAT LAKES SCRIP is a national company celebrating 20 years of supporting organizations. If you have any questions on how your everyday purchases can earn money for Hamline Church, please contact me or check out the information in the Fireside Room.

- 1. Pick up an order form in the Fireside Room.
- 2. Return to me in person or by mail by 5/3. Orders generally go in on the first Sunday of each month.
- 3. OR register at www.shopwithscrip.com and order online. Get our church's code from me by phone at 651-633-1820.
- 4. Sunday, 5/10, pick up your order.

Check out what cards are for sale each Sunday. Examples are: Rainbow, Cub, Target, Holiday, Olive Garden, Subway plus several more.

www.shopwithscrip.com

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS PARTICIPATED, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO ORDER REGULARLY!

HAMLINE CHURCH WOMEN WRAPPING UP A BUSY YEAR BY HELEN VULU AND JANE MCCLURE

Hamline Church Women/United Methodist Women have enjoyed a busy year. We hope all of our Hamline Church friends take part in upcoming activities before starting the summer. Spring cookie walk is after church Sunday, May 3! We need donated cookies and bars brought before church for setup. Cookies, cookie cutters, craft items and other things will be for sale. Nothing over \$5! Cookies and bars are \$4 donation for a baker's dozen. Proceeds go to women's projects. Mother's Day is coming so think cookies and little treats for Mom.

We invite all Hamline Church women to a salad and dessert supper 6-8 p.m. Monday, May 11 at the church. Bring a salad or a dessert and enjoy conversation with friends old and new. Email us at hamlinewomen@gmail.com to let us know you are coming. We'll be making May baskets for our homebound friends.

The women give special thanks to all who donated to Emma Norton Services. We filled the back of Jane McClure's Ranger with paper and personal care products. Special thanks to those who donated cash, including Social Justice and Missions Committee. Thanks to those who helped load the truck. The women were very happy to see us.

Also, thanks to church members who have represented us at the recent Emma Norton dinner and the winter and spring District UMW meetings. We have put in a bid to host a district meeting in the future, which would be a great honor for our church.

Watch the bulletin for scholarship and campership awards soon.

Helen Vulu Jane McClure

HONOR SPRING GRADUATES

Our church will be recognizing people graduating this spring from high school, college, or other educational programs. Please email Maggie at mnancarrow@hamlinechurch. org by May 19 with their name, school, and graduation date. Next steps are welcomed but not required. Graduates will be mentioned on the prayer list and in the weekly on the Sunday closest to their graduation.

CONFERENCE LOVE OFFERING ON MAY 10





Your gift to the

2015 Love Offering for Missions supports:

- ·Grace Children's Center, Vietnam
 - Church-School Partnership Grants
 - Volunteers in Mission Scholarships

BY THE SOCIAL
JUSTICE AND
MISSIONS
COMMITTEE

Every year, Minnesota United Methodist churches take a special offering in advance of the Minnesota Annual Conference to support specific missions. In 2014, this "Love Offering" totaled \$121,000 statewide and was distributed to Feed My Starving Children; Project Ag-Grad (a agricultural training program in developing countries); and Volunteer in Mission scholarships. In 2015, the offering will again be divided between 3 projects. Grace Children's Center in Ho Chi Min City, which provides care and education to Vietnamese children from broken homes, will receive 60%. 30% will be used to offer grants to church-school partnerships in Minnesota. The remaining 10% will again support the Volunteers in Mission program helping to underwrite the costs for first time volunteers.

THIS SPECIAL OFFERING WILL BE COLLECTED ON SUNDAY, MAY 10TH AT HAMLINE CHURCH.

PHOTO BY LAURA COTTINGTON



UNITED METHODIST



STAFF

SIAFF	
Pastor (On Leave)	Rev. Mariah Furness Tollgaard
Interim Pastor	Rev. Mary Keen
Director of Youth and Family Ministry	
and Interim Director of Communications	Maggie Nancarrow
Director of Children's and Family Ministry	
and Interim Director of Operations	
Director of Music	Matthew Mehaffey
Music & Outreach Coordinator	Ross Hackenmiller
Organist	Kim Kasling