

The Tower

Gathering As Friends... Growing in Faith... Sharing God's Love

Morning Star by Joseph M. Martin



Advent is our season of preparation for the birth of the baby Jesus. The star becomes the center of attention as it guides Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, the shepherds to the manger, and the Wise Men to the new King. Morning Star is a cantata of traditional carols blended with new anthems by Joseph Martin. The Chancel choir will be joined by several instrumentalists and piano. Morning Star was gifted to the church by Helen Sceales and it is in her honor that we present it on Sunday, December 8, at 9:45am.

Children's Christmas Musical



We are once again in for a treat, as the children and young people of our congregation will be sharing their musical and dramatic talents with us on December 15 at the 9:45am service. This year's musical is "The Case of the Reluctant Innkeeper." Here comes the judge! Bethlehem court is in session with the Honorable Judge Jody Justice presiding. It's The People vs. a certain "reluctant" innkeeper... reluctant to give a certain young couple a room for the night, that is. Samantha Shepherd is the prosecuting attorney who's out to get to the bottom of this case by calling key animal witnesses to the stand. It's eventually revealed that the greatest miracle of all happened the night before, and God can always turn things around for good. You won't want to miss this fun musical—plan to be with us on the 15th!

Annual Church Conference

Every member and friend is encouraged to attend the annual congregational meeting on December 9 at 7pm. The agenda includes the presentation of the 2014 budget and the election of officers. Pastor Ed Foster who is affiliated with our congregation, will preside.

Christmas Eve Services

◆ 4:00 pm - Christmas Eve Family Service

"Child friendly" sharing of carols, story, special music, (no sermon), concluding with candle lighting. An interactive story, "The Donkey Who Carried A King," will be shared along with other stories and poems, all which come from the perspective of the donkey, who played an important role in the birth of Jesus. If there are children who might want to participate, either sharing music (vocal or instrumental) or giving a simple reading, please give their name to Natalie by December 16th. Musical ensembles are being formed and will be providing additional music for the service.



In connection with the donkey theme in the early service, a portion of the offering given at the Christmas Eve services will go towards joining with ONE and Heifer International to provide those living in poverty with a goat. Just as the donkey played an integral role in carrying Mary to Bethlehem, goats play an integral role in the lives of those who live in poverty. Goats provide up to one ton of milk a year, which helps to make cheese, butter and milk to sell at the market and homemade fertilizer to help make crops grow.

◆ 7:30 pm - Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

The Chancel Choir will provide music for this service.

Church Office Closings

Church offices will be closed on both Thursday and Friday, November 28 and 29; December 25 and January 1.

**Wauwatosa Avenue
United Methodist Church**

1529 Wauwatosa Avenue
Wauwatosa, WI 53213
Phone (414) 453-0700 • Fax (414) 453-0702
www.waumc.org • waumc@sbcglobal.net

Sunday Schedule

8:15 a.m. Traditional Worship - Chapel
9:45 a.m. Blended Worship - Sanctuary
9:15 & 10:45 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
10:00 a.m. Sunday School - Children & Youth
11:00 am Adult Sunday School Hour

Church Staff and Office Hours

Sue Burwell

Pastor

Tuesday - Friday • 9:30-3:00

Charles Bauer-King

Pastor of Visitation

Monday & Thursday • 9:15-2:00

Natalie Stumpner

Director of Christian Education

Monday - Thursday • 9:00-4:00

Jodie Hunt

Church Administrator

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday • 9:30-4:30

Jackie Onan

Financial Secretary

Monday • 9:00-2:00; Thursday • 9:00-12:00

Dr. Sheila Feay-Shaw

Chancel Choir Director

Tim Karth

Agape Praise Team Director

Martha Aslakson

Organist (9:45 service) & Tower Bells Director

Janet Smith

Pianist (8:15 service)

Heather Pulkowski

Agape Accompanist

Susan Watson

Troubadour Choir & Youth Ensemble Director

Amanda Prosser

Cherub Choir Director

Laurie Froemke

Nursery Coordinator

Don Truman

Custodian

Marie Rider

Printer

**2013
Tower Deadlines**



January 7 - February (Lent/Easter)

April 8 - May (Spring)

Please place your articles in the Tower folder in the church office across from Jodie Hunt's office or email to waumc@sbcglobal.net by the above dates.

We'll pray for you!

Our church prayer chain welcomes any prayer requests you would like to forward to us.

You may drop your written prayer concern in the collection plate on Sunday morning, or call or email it to: Penny McCanles at 414-453-5337, pmccanles@wi.rr.com; or Jodie Hunt at 414-453-0700, waumc@sbcglobal.net.



The requests are emailed each Monday to those who have agreed to pray for those who need our help. If you would like to join the prayer chain, please contact Penny McCanles at the above email address.

Feel Free to Contact Your Pastors

There are times when people are hospitalized, or have personal concerns or a crisis, and the pastoral staff would like to be supportive. If you or someone you know, goes to the hospital, or needs our care, please feel free to call the church and let us know. Pastor Sue makes hospital visits Tuesday through Sunday, and Pastor Charles makes hospital visits Mondays & some Thursdays. Also, contact the church office and let us know of the names of any home-bound persons who might like a visit. And, if your address changes, we also would appreciate receiving that information. After office hours, you can reach Pastor Sue at 414-257-1228 and Pastor Charles at 262-681-0570.

I'm not a neat desk person. If you've ever stopped by my office, you already know that. In addition to the desk, there's a table nearby which often has the remnants of papers and files from a week's worth of meetings. For me, work can be messy and a lot of projects are ongoing, with few of them completed quickly—consequently I have stacks. But every now and then I find a reprieve, with a few days that are less full, and I clean like crazy, paring down the piles. This happened recently and I found myself admitting that if I didn't get this cleaning and reorganizing done now, it surely wouldn't happen until after Christmas. The reality is that Christmas will arrive whether my desk gets organized or not. I truly enjoy a clean desk, but I can't seem to sustain it, and the work goes on regardless.

Sometimes we may set ourselves up with particular goals which may be difficult to attain or sustain, and our failure to reach them may keep us from something else that could really give us life. I've heard people say: They aren't going to do much traveling until after they retire. Or, they can't invite friends over to their house until it's clean. Or, they plan to have all their Christmas cards sent by December 17th. Or, they won't take a break unless they get one last project accomplished.

We live in a world that's messy and complicated and hard to control. Many times our personal plans for how things "should" go simply don't pan out, and we may have to reset those goals and plans. We do our best, but life happens in the process.

Jesus was born into a world that was messy, a world of confusion, and a world that hadn't done anything special to be ready for him. We might say, "there was bedlam in Bethlehem that night. Just think of it—a crowded inn, a stable, a census, political intrigue, soldiers marching in the street, a busy city, people pushing and shoving, people scrambling for shelter. In that bedlam in Bethlehem so many centuries ago, Christmas happened. Christmas broke through! In that busy, hectic uproar, it happened; and those with the eyes, ears, and hearts of faith saw it, heard it, and felt it." (*Finding Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam*)

That Bethlehem world is our world. We prepare to celebrate his birth as best we can, but still our lives are not pulled together as much as we wish, and the world in many respects gives little evidence we're in any better shape than we were last year at this time. Yet into the midst of all this confusion, we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth, whether we think we're ready or not. One of Madeline L'Engle's poems is a favorite of mine, and a reminder that this sometimes strange world is exactly where this child needs to be:

This is no time for a child to be born
With the earth betrayed by war and hate
And a nova lighting the sky to warn
That time runs out and the sun burns late.

That was not time for a child to be born,
In a land in the crushing grip of Rome;
Honor and truth were trampled by scorn—
—Yet here did the Savior make his home.

When is the time for love to be born?
The inn is full on the planet earth,
And by greed and pride the sky is torn—
—Yet love still takes the risk of birth.



AND About Other Babies We Know We rejoice in the baptisms of....

Ivy Jean Tyrriver, daughter of Tasha Miller and Scott Tyrriver on September 22

Nora Joyce Qualler, daughter of Joanne and Justin Qualler on October 13

Upcoming Sermon Scriptures & Themes

Nov. 24: Luke 18:1-8
With Great Tenacity

Dec. 1: Isaiah 2:1-5
The Vision of Peace

Dec. 8: 8:15am – Isaiah 35:1-10
Half-Wall World
9:45am – Chancel Choir Cantata
Morning Star

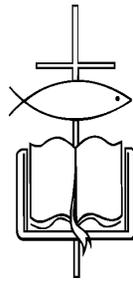
Dec. 15: 8:15am – Matthew 11:2-11
An Advent Quiz
9:45am – Children’s Musical
The Case of the Reluctant Innkeeper

Dec. 22: Matthew 1:18-25
Taking the High Road

Dec. 24: Luke 2:1-20
4pm – *The Donkey Who Carried a King*
7:30pm – Isaiah 9:2, 6-7
Future Hope

Dec. 29: Isaiah 63:7-9
A Diary Entry

If you are out of town or miss church some Sunday and would like to read the sermons, you will find them on our church website: www.waumc.org.



Welcome New Members!



Martin Handley (Kathy) – joining 11/24
Martin is transferring from
Menomonee Falls Community UMC
Sponsoring friend: Anne Neafie

Jennifer & Kevin Huck
Jennifer was formerly a member of Holy Angels
Roman Catholic Church, West Bend, WI
Kevin was formerly a member of Calvary Lutheran,
Mequon, WI
Sponsoring friends: Rebecca & Dave Beach

Gloria & Gary Justham
They are transferring from West Allis First UMC
Sponsoring friends: Lois & Rick Nugent

Vanessa & Tyson Mueller & Breslin
Vanessa was formerly a member of Albion UMC,
Albion, IA
Tyson was formerly a member of Blessed Sacrament
Roman Catholic Church, Milwaukee, WI
Sponsoring friends: Carolyn & Peter Stuessy

Beth Zierke & Adam Puhl
Beth was formerly a member of St. Paul’s UMC,
Stevens Point, WI
Adam was formerly a member of St. Josaphat’s
Roman Catholic Church, Oshkosh, WI
Sponsoring friends: Tess & Dave Vollmers

Betty & Dan Spoerl
They are transferring from First Presbyterian
Church, Clifton, TN
Sponsoring friends: Lois & Bob Winans

Pamela Talmadge
Pamela is transferring from Waukesha First UMC
Sponsoring friend: Susan Howard

June & Dick Vis
They are transferring from West Allis First UMC
Sponsoring friends: Wendy & Marion Sodnik

Anna & Tyler Willingham & Blake
Anna is transferring from Milwaukee Albright UMC
Tyler is joining by Profession of Faith
Sponsoring friends: Jill & Ben Lorber

Our Church Family

Recently hospitalized...

Art Harvey

Recent surgery...

Dick Vis



In special care...

Dottie Josef, Bea Root, Bill Slaybaugh

Our sympathy to the family & friends of...

former member, Stuart Gale, who passed away
November 30

Rev. M. Stanford Strosahl who died on Oct. 25. Rev. Strosahl was an Assoc. Pastor here 1950-54. A memorial service will be held on Sun., Dec. 22, at 3pm at Sun Prairie UMC, 702 North Street, Sun Prairie, WI. Condolences may be sent in care of Polly Strosahl, 2149 Lakeside Place, Green Bay, WI 54302.

Food Stamps Were Cut - Our Ingathering Can Help

Food stamp benefits were reduced nationwide on November 1. In Wisconsin, 15% of the population has been affected, including 379,000 children and 164,000 seniors. Food pantries are gearing up for a surge in demand. You can help by bringing non-perishable foods to our Ingathering grocery cart at the bottom of the central set of stairs, and we will take the food to the Wauwatosa Food Pantry at St. Bernard's. Protein items such as canned dinners, tuna, peanut butter, spam, etc. are in particular need. Gifts in the offering plate marked for *Ingathering* will go to The Hunger Task Force or local pantries and meal programs. Thank you!



Sandwich Service Project Need Christmas Cookies



Our next dates to make 200 bag lunches for The Gathering are Saturdays, December 21 and January 18. We will meet from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. on those Saturdays at our church to make peanut butter sandwiches, bag cookies and carrots or fruit, and pack the lunches. Some of us will take the lunches to St. James Church at 8th and Wisconsin.

Please call Mary Spearo at 414-475-0848 so she can plan on your help and/or coordinate your contributions. See also the sign-up sheet on the kitchen counter next to the coffee hour treats. We especially need fruit, cookies and workers. **Christmas cookies would be great for December.** Co-sponsored by Church & Society.

The Mitten Tree is in the Parlor

Come to the Parlor, pick out a mitten, and shop for a needy boy or girl. Buy a \$20 gift, wrap it using the mitten as a tag, and bring your gift back by Sunday, December 15. If you don't want to shop, send or bring a check for \$20 to WAUMC, marking it for Mitten Tree, and we will shop for you. We have children from United Methodist Children's Services, Milwaukee Christian Center, Northcott and other agencies.



St. Benedict's Meal Program

December 1:

Pick up plastic buckets to make JELLO fruit salad for the St. Benedict's Meal Program. We provide the recipe. Or sign up to bring a gallon of 1% milk.

December 8:

Return salad buckets or milk gallons to the main kitchen.

December 10:

JELLO fruit salad and milk served to 400-500 hungry people at St. Benedict's, along with food provided by other groups.

January 5:

The next JELLO bucket Sunday.

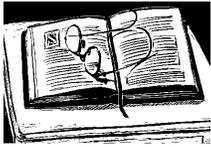
Winter Clothing Drive for City Children

Milwaukee Christian Center and our other Mitten Tree agencies have asked us again this year to provide warm clothing for their children. Church & Society will collect children's coats, jackets, sweatshirts, sweaters and other warm clothing that are clean and in good condition, sizes infant to age 12, during our Mitten Tree project. Children's mittens, hats and scarves are also needed. Also new unopened packages of underwear or socks. Please bring your donations to the Parlor on Sundays. We will deliver them after December 15.

Aid to the Philippines

An immediate grant of \$97,000 has been released to provide emergency food, water, and water purification tables to about 7,500 people in the Tacloban City in Leyte, Province, one of the areas hardest hit by the typhoon. Our UMCOR response is also focused on the long-term needs of recovery and rebuilding. It is currently estimated that more than 600,000 people may be displaced because of the storm. If you would like to give, please make your donation payable to WAUMC and designate it for "Philippines Typhoon Recovery." Because of our great United Methodist connection and the generosity of Wisconsin United Methodists, 100 percent of the gift marked for this disaster response will be used to help those in need.

Advent Studies



Jack Kaufman and Pastor Charles will be leading a four-week Advent study on Sunday mornings at 9:00am (Dec. 1, 8, 15, & 22). The book they will use is *God's Gift of Love* by Donna

Schaper. Advent is a busy and sometimes stressful time of year, but the author reminds us that Advent also gives us an opportunity to slow down, recognize that God's love has found us, and live in peace. By changing our attitude and our understanding of time, we can prepare for and look forward to the coming of Jesus Christ. We can be ready to conceive God's love in us and reconceive our lives and our behavior toward others. Schaper's writing helps us understand that love is not a sentiment but a way of life that emerges from the knowledge that in Jesus Christ we experience God's love. *God's Gift of Love* offers the opportunity and challenge to appreciate and live in the amazing gift of God's love by studying the Revised Common Lectionary Sunday readings designated for Advent. Please sign up for this study in the church office and indicate if you would like a book. The cost is \$6.00.

Pastor Sue and Natalie Stumpner will be leading a study on three Thursdays, Dec. 5, 12, & 19. The book they have chosen is *Finding Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam*. Christmas or confusion, Bethlehem or bedlam... which will you choose this year? The truth is, we don't have to choose because Christmas always happens right in the midst of our confusion. Christ breaks into our chaos and confusion and brings Christmas—Bethlehem always happens in the midst of bedlam. Each chapter of the book includes questions for reflection and discussion, a brief prayer, a focus for the week, and six daily Bible readings for personal devotional time during the week. Because of the daily readings and questions for reflection/journaling, participants would need to pick up their books at least a week early, to be ready to discuss chapter 1 on December 5th. The class will meet once on Thursdays, either afternoons at 2pm at Harwood (8220 Harwood Avenue) or 7pm here at the church, depending on participant interest for either of those times. (You don't need to be a resident of Harwood to attend the afternoon class.) Please sign up for this study in the

church office and indicate which Thursday time you prefer and if you would like a book. The cost is \$8.00.

Walking Through the Days of 2014

Many persons in our congregation have enjoyed the daily devotions provided in *The Upper Room Disciplines 2014*. This book includes devotions for active people—a little reading each day for the whole year, upon which a person can reflect. The readings are based on the lectionary passages (the scriptures used as the basis for most of our Sunday sermons), which will give people an opportunity to share together about those particular readings. Fifty-three writers from around the world guide readers to dive deep into scripture. Each daily devotion focuses on a scripture passage and includes a prayer or thought for the day. If you would like to order your copy of *The Upper Room Disciplines 2014*, the price is \$10 for the regular print copy and \$11 for a large print copy. Please sign up in the church office by December 15, if you would like a copy.

New Bible Study in January

Jack Kaufman and Milly Strawn will be offering an 8-week "Invitation to the Old Testament," one of the Disciple Short-Term Bible Studies beginning on Monday, January 6, 7-8:30pm. In this study, you will explore the Old Testament's story of God and God's calling of the people of Israel through the many "voices" of the biblical text. Hear the magnificence of a Creation hymn, discover the law and wisdom teachings, listen to the warning of the prophets and explore the poetry of the Song of Solomon. Weekly video segments will include insights from biblical scholars and visual tours of archaeological sites, ancient artifacts, and other physical remains, related to and illuminating scripture and events. Participants gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Hebrew Bible as an integral part of the Christian Bible and a renewed discovery of our identity in God and God's vision for all things. Please sign up in the church office if you are interested in being a part of this study. The cost of the book is \$12.



Book Discussion - January 26



Pastor Sue's next book for discussion will be *An Invisible Thread: The True Story of an 11-Year-Old Panhandler, a Busy Sales Executive, and an Unlikely Meeting with Destiny*. This is Laura Schroff's true story of being a busy ad exec, walking down a street and barely registering a small boy asking her "Excuse me, lady, do you have any spare change?" He was a homeless, eleven-year-old panhandler on the street asking for spare change and she kept walking. But then something stopped her in her tracks, and she went back. And she continued to go back, again and again. They met up nearly every week for years and built an unexpected, life-changing friendship that has today spanned almost three decades. Whatever made her notice him on that street corner so many years ago is clearly something that cannot be extinguished, no matter how relentless the forces aligned against it. Some may call it spirit. Some may call it heart. It drew her to him, as if we were bound by some invisible, unbreakable thread. And whatever it is, it binds us still.

This is an amazing story of love and hope and how it can change lives, not just for two people, but potentially for an entire generation. This is a rags to riches story of the soul and the heart. If you would like to discuss this book, plan to meet in the east end of Fellowship Hall on Sunday, January 26, at 11am. The book is available in paperback, and there are many copies in the county library system.

Advent Devotional Books

Advent, A Calendar of Devotions is a booklet of daily devotions for the season of Advent (the four weeks before Christmas). Each devotion relates to a journey of some type. Some are directly related to the journey toward the manger and some are simple pilgrimages. These pilgrims have stories to tell us. Perhaps they struggled; perhaps they made wrong decisions; perhaps they tried their best and still failed. These are stories of our humanness and how God can speak through all of it—the good, the bad, the frustrating. Each daily devotion also includes a recommended Scripture reading, a Bible verse, and an uplifting prayer. These devotions, are written by Deborah Westbrook, a graduate of Wesley Theological Seminary and a licensed local pastor serving in south central Pennsylvania. Donations of \$1.00 are appreciated for the cost of these books.

High School Youth Group News

We have selected our mission trip for the summer of 2014. We will be working with Appalachia Service Project again this year. We are scheduled to work with ASP over the week of July 20-25, 2014. This means it's time to start fundraising!



Parent's Afternoon Out

Do you need a break? Do you need time for lunch? Do you need time for Christmas Shopping? Let us help you out! The Middle School and Senior High Youth group are offering to watch your kids, (ages 18 months-9 years old) on December 8 from 11am to 4pm. We will be serving them a lunch of mac n' cheese, hot dogs, and fruit and providing them with an afternoon of crafts, games and loads of fun! Children are free to come and leave at any time from 11-4 with a signature of a parent. A free-will donation will be accepted. Please RSVP to Natalie Stumpner at nataliestumpner@sbcglobal.net by December 5th so that we can plan lunch accordingly.

The CIA and Senior High youth are welcome to stay at church until 5:30 youth choir. We will have pizza and a movie night after the kids go home (4:00-5:30pm). There will be no CIA or Senior High youth group Sunday night.

Baked Potato Bar

It's time to start fundraising for the Appalachian Service Project again! Join us for a baked potato bar on December 15 in Fellowship Hall. We will begin serving at 11am and continue until the potatoes are gone. For a suggested donation of \$5 for adults and \$2 for kids, you can have a baked potato, a variety of toppings (broccoli, chili, sour cream, cheese, chicken taco), and a drink. All proceeds will go to funding the 2014 trip!

Habitat's "See the Change"

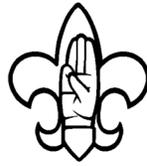
Thank you to all who helped the Sunday school collect Pennies. As a church we collected a total of \$205.54 that was sent to Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity. Thank you all for your contributions!!



News From Troop 21

Holiday Wreath Sale - Thank You!

Boy Scout Troop 21 has only one fundraiser each year. We would like to thank church members who purchased a wreath from a Scout. Troop 21 wreaths will be delivered starting Friday, November 22. Thank you for supporting Scouting and Troop 21.



Eagle Scout Service/Leadership Projects Planned

One of the final requirements for earning the Eagle Scout award is to plan and lead a service project for your community, and show your leadership by writing a complete plan of the event and then directing the volunteers in completing the project. Troop 21 Eagle Projects completed in the past year include:

constructing a brick paver walkway at the Wauwatosa Historical Society; rebuilding and replanting a secure courtyard for patients at the Milwaukee County Mental Health Complex; at WAUM Church stripping, staining and refinishing our eight Wauwatosa Ave outside doors; holding a huge rummage sale and donating the \$2,600 raised to the Wauwatosa Schools Early Childhood Education program; and constructing a wall with pocket doors for the veterans group, Dry Hooch, to divide their large space into two rooms. Eagle Projects to be completed in the next 6 months include: producing a resident Christmas party and then directing a 6 guitar player combo with Holiday Caroling in the halls of the Lutheran Home, constructing a new Honey Bee Shelter/Display House for the Children's Zoo at the Milwaukee County Zoo, constructing benches for seating at the new Three Bridges Park, rebuilding the musical instrument storage shelves in the band room of Wauwatosa East High School; and our own store room cleaning, reorganizing and building additional shelves for the WAUM Church. Sponsored by WAUMC for 91 years, Troop 21 gives back to our community with many service projects and develops Scouts that understand the value of community service.

Souper Sunday

Mark your calendar for January 19 for our next Souper Sunday.



WAUMC Community Coffee House

On select Saturday evenings, local artists share distinctive music that tells stories, builds faith, and creates community. All donations directly benefit WAUMC missions and are open to the public, so bring a friend. We are currently in the final stages of securing and scheduling artists and acts for this season. Proposed appearances currently include Red Letter Edition, The Radio Rosies, Hawthorne Hills Bluegrass Band, BtW, 'Fesser Hurst and his Windy Hill Wizards, and much more. Future dates include January 25 and March 22. We are currently planning a special ticket only event, currently in negotiations, for May or June! Contact Tim Karth or Bill Armstrong for more information.

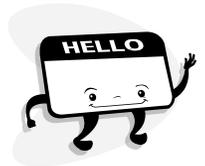
Special Music Sundays in 2014



If you're a music lover, you may want to mark your calendars now, to be present on these Sundays: March 2, Jazz Sunday, and May 18, Music Ministries Sunday.

Please Watch For...

- A different location for our nametag holder. We will be trying a new location—the area at the bottom of the central stairs, in hopes more people might have access to their nametags and wear them. This is a trial location—we'll see how it works.
- Lights left on in empty rooms. If you are the last person out of a room, please turn off the lights and help us save some electricity.



Coffee Hour

Donations of baked goods are needed for December 1. We are looking for donations of Christmas cookies on December 15. We have hosts those two dates. We still need a host and donations on December 22.

Looking ahead we need hosts and donations for January thru May 2014. Signup sheet is in the kitchen.

Check Out These New Additions to Your Church Library



John Wesley by noted biographer Stanley Edward Ayling is an objective, fair and surprisingly irreverent overview of the life and career of Methodism's founder, accessible and entertaining for the general reader.

Living Passages for the Whole Family by Shea Darian, our congregation's former Minister Through the Arts, is the winner of *The Next Generation Book Award* and *Nautilus Book Award*

Here Is Where chronicles Andrew Carroll's eye-opening—and at times hilarious—journey across America to find and explore unmarked historic sites where extraordinary moments occurred and remarkable individuals once lived. Sparking the idea for this book was Carroll's visit to the spot where Abraham Lincoln's son was saved by the brother of Lincoln's assassin. Carroll wondered, *How many other unmarked places are there where intriguing events have unfolded and that we walk past every day, not realizing their significance?* To answer that question, Carroll ultimately trekked to every region of the country—by car, train, plane, helicopter, bus, bike, and kayak and on foot.

The Triumph of the Meek: Why Early Christianity Succeeded by Michael Walsh presents a thorough, objective, and lively account of the rise of Christianity in the Near East, North Africa, Rome, and the Western world during its first three centuries. Walsh uses the latest discoveries in archaeology, anthropology, history, and biblical scholarship.

Earth's Echo: Sacred Encounters With Nature by Robert M. Hamma is a book for people who love nature and find spiritual meaning in it. Using brief excerpts from the work of nature writers as touchstones for meditation, the book leads the reader to reflect on the sacred reality of nature as found in different settings

The Call: Living Sacramentally, Walking Justly by George McClain and Tilda Norberg with Nancy Kruh (Editor). This UMW Reading Program book offers tools to deepen spiritual identity, engagement in community and involvement in mission, looking at the

sacramental understandings of baptism and communion and lifting up models of response to God's call. Stories of call and response are shared from a wide array of persons from different walks of life.

50 Ways to Help Save the Earth: How You and Your Church Can Make a Difference by Rebecca Barnes-Davies makes a clear connection, in a practical and unintimidating way, between stewardship of the earth and living one's faith.

The Hive Detectives: Chronicle of a Honey Bee Catastrophe (Scientists in the Field Series) by Loree Griffin Burns and Ellen Harasimowicz tells how the world would be a different place without honey bees. There would be no honey, no beeswax for candles, and, worst of all, barely a fruit, nut, or vegetable to eat. So imagine the beekeeper horror when he discovered twenty million of his charges had vanished. The book profiles bee wranglers and bee scientists who have been working to understand colony collapse disorder, or CCD. In this dramatic and enlightening story, readers explore the lives of the fuzzy, buzzy insects and learn what might happen to us if they were gone.

IRA Charitable Rollover

The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 extends the IRA Charitable Rollover through December 31, 2013. This law allows individuals who are 70-1/2 and older to make special charitable contributions! If you are 70-1/2 or older and have a Traditional or Roth IRA, you may wish to consider an IRA Rollover gift to this church or any other United Methodist ministry of your choosing from your IRA before December 31, 2013. You may make a direct charitable gift to fund your church's operating budget, a special project or you may use your IRA gift to establish a permanent endowment fund to benefit your church in perpetuity. This will reduce the amount of your 2013 Required Minimum Distribution that is taxable to you (up to \$100,000).

If you are interested, contact Jodie Hunt for a letter of authorization to send to your IRA custodian.

The Tower

*The Newsletter of
Wauwatosa Avenue United Methodist Church*

1529 Wauwatosa Avenue
Wauwatosa, WI 53213

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www.waumc.org

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Gathering as Friends, Growing in Faith, Sharing God's Love

**TIME-DATED MATERIAL
Please have in-home
November 23, 2013**

Christmas Poinsettias

Once again Poinsettias are being sold for display in the Sanctuary and Chapel, and for you to take home after the service. The Christmas bulletin will contain the dedication as indicated below. The plants are \$10.00 each. Orders will be taken until December 9. Make checks out to WAUMC.



I would like to order _____ Red Poinsettias(s) at \$10.00 each.

I would like to order _____ White Poinsettias(s) at \$10.00 each.

Please dedicate my gift as follows:

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

_____ I will pick up my plant(s) following the 7:30pm Christmas Eve worship service.

_____ I will leave my plant(s) for the church to distribute or use for another service.

Name(s) _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____