

The Courier



for the Orion United Methodist Church

March 2017

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Karl Bodenbender, Organist
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A Dream Come True

In the fall of 2006—shortly after I arrived in Orion—several of us met for a “dream session” to consider what our church might do to better meet the needs of our congregation and to reach out to our community. One of the things we identified was the need for more space, ideally a gymnasium. But where could we build it? In the prayer garden? Do we extend the education wing to the west? To the east? Those options would’ve cost well over a million dollars. Would that be too much for our congregation to shoulder? Would the Grundstrom property ever become available?

Of course, it did. And on Sunday, March 5 District Superintendent Sylvester Weatherall will preach our dedicatory services for our Methodist Activity Center at both 8 and 10:30 am. I hope you will join us for this historic occasion.

The MAC has become a dream come true thanks to the many, many people who shared in the dream. Thank you to our board of trustees: Sue DeDecker, Janet Marshall, Carrie McCunn, Don Berns, Ty Bingham, Gerald DeBaillie, Cliff Harrell, John Schenk and Betty Jo Versluis who brought the dream to life without rancor.

Many thanks to Carrie McCunn, who, with her two master’s degrees in architecture, was instrumental in working with our contractors and certainly in the final design of our MAC.

Thank you to our contractors and suppliers: John Hirsch Painting, Myers Plumbing & Heating, CSI Insulation, West Concrete, East Moline Glass, T&M Electric, Carpet Time, Pro-Build, Temple Sporting Goods and West Music.

Jerry DeBaillie was the first person to approach me with the hope that we purchase and renovate “that old shed.” Since then, he’s put in countless hours in the MAC assisting with electricity, insulation, sweeping and so much more.

Thank you to our electrician, Tom Griffin, for the many hours you gave to this project. Thank you to your volunteer assistants: John Schenk, Jerry DeBaillie, Dan Combites and Don Berns. Don, John and Jerry also put in the stairs and deck on the east side of the MAC. And John and Jerry spent hours on their knees stuffing insulation at the base of the steel walls, installing door handles and doing far more than I can recall.

I’m not an electrician, but I can paint and it was my joy to paint much of the non-carpeted walls in the building. But I didn’t work alone. Thanks to Autumn Manning, Betty Jo Versluis, Jill Kosek and Margaret Johnson who shared in the painting.

Thank you to the ladies of the church who insisted that we needed a kitchen in the MAC. You were right and the result is remarkable.

Thank you to our kitchen committee—Autumn Manning, Betty Jo Versluis, Diane McCunn, Toni Carlson and Jill Kosek—for your hard work which extended well beyond the kitchen. Thank you for dreaming up moveable counters. Thank you to Don Berns for constructing them and to Diane McCunn for staining and finishing them.

Thank you to Jon Ditzman for installing our sound system and to Don Berns for suspending our ceilings.

Thank you to our teens who cleaned out the expansion joints and to Doug Killion who enabled us to scrub the floor.

Terry Waldbusser rotated off the board of trustees a couple of years ago, but not before leaving his mark on the MAC. He’s the one who suggested putting a half-wall on both sides of the stage to enhance visibility. Thanks for that great idea, Terry!

Now I want to apologize to every person I’ve just thanked. That’s because there’s not one of them who was seeking recognition. Not one of them sought so much as a thank you; they all labored because they shared in the dream. And because so many worked without seeking recognition, I’ve probably forgotten someone. If so, I again apologize.

Finally, thank you to our permanent endowment committee, our finance committee and our administrative council who were committed to renovating the MAC without incurring debt. Yet they never let that commitment become a roadblock to progress. Whenever we needed money to pay a contractor or purchase supplies, it was always somehow miraculously there. And that’s because I’ve reserved my most heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the members and friends of this congregation. You shared in this dream. And you invested in this dream, giving an average of \$839 each and every week over the 153 weeks of renovation—and without cutting back on your support of either the general fund of the church or our commitment to missions.

I am and always will be humbled to have served as your pastor, especially during this wonderful and amazing chapter in the life of Orion United Methodist Church.

I’ll see you in church...and in the MAC!

Pastor Dave

Prepare Your Hearts for Sunday

...and Wednesday. That's because we begin the month with Ash Wednesday and a 7 pm service on March 1. Scriptures include Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; and Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21.

Sunday, March 5 is the First Sunday in Lent and we'll be meeting in the MAC for the dedication of the Activity Center. District Superintendent Sylvester Weatherall will be our dedicatory preacher. Scriptures include 1 Kings 8:22-30; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19 and Matthew 4:1-11. Communion will be served.

Throughout the remainder of Lent I will be preaching on the Passion of the Christ, focusing on his last week among us. Scriptures for Sunday, March 12 include Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 and John 3:1-17. We will also be celebrating Girl Scout Sunday.

On Sunday, March 19 we'll take a look at Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11 and John 4:5-42.

We'll wrap the month up on Sunday, March 26 with 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14 and John 9:1-41.

Yours for the Mission,
Pastor Dave

From the Missions Team

Thank you to all who donated chili and soup for our annual fundraiser for Missions. Thank you to those who participated by eating and by making a donation. We were blessed with so many willing workers in the kitchen for clean-up. Of course, the real winners are those who benefit from our mission projects. Thank you!

Mission of the Month

As we begin our Lenten journey, we remember that Judas betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. Our March Mission of the Month, "Thirty Pieces of Silver," is an opportunity for us to show our love for Christ by giving to God thirty pieces of silver. Each year our Mission Team selects a different project to fund with our Thirty Pieces of Silver offering.

This year our March Mission of the Month offering will be directed to a new initiative by our Conference called, "Our Conference, Our Kids." The goal is to establish and fund a \$2.5 million endowment which will support five different agencies connected to the United Methodist Church in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. Those agencies are Chaddock in Quincy, Cunningham Children's Home in Urbana, the Baby Fold in Pontiac, Lessie Bates Neighborhood House in East St. Louis and the United Methodist Children's Home in Lawrenceville.

The endowment itself will generate income every year to support the children touched by these ministries. Your gift to "Our Conference, Our Kids" above and beyond your regular tithes and offerings will have a lasting impact on children for countless generations to come.

Thank you in advance for your giving.

*You are Cordially Invited to the Dedication
of our Methodist Activity Center
Sunday, March 5 - 8 § 10:30 a.m.*

Please join us in the MAC for our morning worship services as we rejoice in the completion of our new activity center. Our sanctuary choir and adult bell choir will provide special music during the late service.

The celebration will continue in Fellowship Hall at noon as the youth host a Potato Bar.

Plan to attend and be a part of this special day in the history of our church and our ministry to our members and our community.

CONNECT: A partner program between the Orion United Methodist Church and the Western District Library

Students, ages 8-18, are invited to come to the MAC for fellowship on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school from 3:10 until 4:30 starting Thursday, March 2nd. Refreshments will be served; a devotional and activities (9 Square in the Air, basketball, board games, etc.) will follow. At 4:30, CONNECT staff will escort students to the Western District Library where they can partake in library activities or use the library facilities at their leisure. Student registration forms are on the table in the lower narthex.

At least one volunteer is needed each session to assist with the program. Volunteer duties include assisting with refreshment preparation and working with the CONNECT director to supervise the students attending the CONNECT program. There is a sign-up sheet in the lower narthex for interested volunteers.

Contact Autumn Manning (CONNECT director) at 738.6515 with any questions or to volunteer.

In Appreciation

A big thank you to all the ladies who outdo yourselves every year with your table designs for our Ladies Lunch. The tables had so many positive comments not to mention oohs and aahs. I am truly blessed with a wonderful church family full of such talented women.

Lea did an amazing job speaking and made us all feel good about eating chocolate. Having Karl on the piano added such a fun and lively atmosphere. He, too, is such a blessing to us as he shares his talent.

Mandy Browning is so awesome as the best paparazzi to make sure everyone is photographed. A big thank you for capturing photos of a lifetime. Thank you so much to the men for waiting on us and serving our meal.

My husband always goes above and beyond to help, and I appreciate it so much. Jean Combites was such a great help decorating and making sure I stayed on the ladder and not the floor. Thanks, as well, to the those who helped clean up after the event.

Thank you to all who came and were a part of this fun afternoon. May God Bless all of you richly.

*Love,
Candice*

Pastor Dave's Sunday School Schedule

March 5 – Seekers
March 12 – Confirmation, High School
March 19 – 5th/6th grade March 26 – 2, 3 & 4 year olds

POTATO BAR

March 5 following the 10:30 service, the youth are hosting a potato bar lunch in Fellowship Hall. A free-will offering will be taken. Please plan to attend!

TRIVIA NIGHT – APRIL 8

Doors open at 5 pm with Walking Tacos available for purchase. Games begin at 6 pm. Tables of eight are \$80; prizes will be awarded. Proceeds will go to our youth missionaries and their summer mission trips.

Easter Lily Collection

The Worship Committee will collect for Easter Lilies to decorate our church for Easter. If you'd like to honor or remember a loved one, please sign up before or after church with a committee member on March 19 and March 26.

OUMC Scholarship

Applications are now available to high school seniors and college undergraduates for a scholarship through the Orion United Methodist Church. If you have applied in the past, but did not receive a scholarship, you may re-apply. Applications are available on-line at www.orionumc.org.

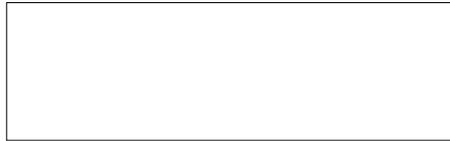
Deadline to apply is the second Thursday in April. Applications must be delivered to the office by 3:00 pm or postmarked by April 13.

PERFECT SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE FOR JANUARY

Sophia Seys	Ethan Faulkner	Ann Marie Haars	Owen Bollinger	Erin Herring
Ian Bollinger	Dylan Manning	Thea Seys	Peggy Crayne	Lonnie Catour
Joseph Faulkner	Diane McCunn	Devin Nelson	Leah Manning	Hope Seys
Amaya Versluis	Tara Miller	Faith Catour	Joy Seys	Scott Faulkner
Margaret Johnson	Lanie Nelson	Betty Jo Versluis	Don & Marilyn Berns	Rob & Autumn Manning
Shelley Atkinson	Jack & Nancy Poust	Rachel Girotti	Pastor Dave Schultz	Barb Cooper

Orion United Methodist Church
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**Orion Ministerial Association Presents
Community Lenten Services & Lunch**

Theme: The Beatitudes

***All services begin at noon and are followed by a
light meal at 12:30 p.m. A \$2 donation is
suggested for lunch.***

*(If Orion Schools are cancelled due to bad weather, the
Lenten worship service will also be cancelled.)*

**Friday, March 3 at Orion United Methodist Church,
sanctuary**

World Day of Prayer with the program by the women
of Orion United Methodist Church

Friday, March 10 at St. Paul Lutheran Church

Guest preacher will be Rev. Dave and Rev. Sharon
Wilbur

**Friday, March 17 at Mary, Our Lady of Peace Catholic
Church**

Guest preacher will be Rev. Mike Lawyer

**Friday, March 24 at Orion United Methodist Church,
MAC**

Guest preacher will be Father Jim DeBisschop

Friday, March 31 at Beulah Presbyterian Church

Guest preacher will be Rev. Dave Schultz

Friday, April 7 at Faith Family Church

Guest preacher will be Rev. Beth Hamilton

Blessings on Your Birthday!

03/03	Kayci Woodley	03/18	Matt Browning
03/04	Kylee Johnson		Kelly Gladkin
	Ann Lindgren		Mary Putney
	Kia Winsor	03/19	Jennifer Green
03/05	Abby Watson	03/20	Bret Lefever
	Ethan Faulkner	03/21	Judy Larson
03/06	Anna Green	03/22	Chriss Smith
	John Pierce	03/23	Merrick Magee
			Alan Wright
03/10	Bruce Gainey	03/24	Jeff Johnson
	Roy Riedesel	03/26	Eric Doxstader
03/11	Judy Ziemer		Mary Eccher
	Matt Bollinger		Margie Whitsell
03/13	Rona Roessler	03/27	Courtney Magee
	Rachel Bollinger		Barb Norton
03/14	Emma Bingham		Brian Miller
	Audrey Cook	03/28	Trevor Ditzman
	Mandi Sawlaw	03/29	Nicholas Browning
	Emalee Moody	03/31	Svea Carlson
03/16	Debbie Mason		
03/17	Zack Anderson		
	Rich Straub		

*Please let the church office know
if your name should be added*