

# Prairie Light

Volume 39

September 2010

Number 9

Dear Friends in Christ,

Summer is just about over and Rally Day will be on Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup> with worship at 9 AM followed by sign-up for Sunday school and our traditional balloon launch. Senior choir will meet for the first time at 8:15 AM in the choir room for practice and singing for worship on September 12<sup>th</sup>.

Our last Thursday evening service will be on Thursday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 PM in the chapel for those who will not be around on Labor Day Sunday (September 5<sup>th</sup>).

Please note that on Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, we will be back to our normal two service schedule with an 8:30 AM first service. After some discussion with a few second-service people, second service will be moved up by 15 minutes to 10:30 AM. This will dovetail with Sunday school which ends at 10:25 AM (and normally starts at 9:20 AM).

Also, please remember the Rummage Sale which will take place the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of September.

I have always lived with the conviction that what makes a church an active and healthy one is the heart of every member who is the part of that church. As Jesus puts it, where one's treasure is, there will be one's heart. Under normal circumstances, if one's treasure is with the body of Christ, there is where you will find that one. I would like to challenge each of you out there to be this poem which I used in a recent sermon.

Who is the one for all seasons? A person of faith, of Christ, of God,  
Who thinks and speaks and behaves in ways beyond a normal gaze.  
You find an all too human frame inspired in service in church in prayer.  
Whose words are words you remember from there  
Though plagiarized from a book we have all read whose author is divine.

Please do not worry. You will not lose this person who is always there for conversation, consoling, and even conflict which cannot be helped from time to time. This one is there, always there to help, to heal, to lead, to follow, to meditate, to agitate;

And do not be afraid of such a one who gathers wisdom and word, spirit and flesh, respect and love, principle and promise, past and future, sadness and joy.

Oh, to be so blessed as to have this one in our midst, who lives life fully, deeply, mindfully, earthly, spiritually and shares the gifts of patience and gentleness, kindness and peace, who seems to be complete

"Yet not so," in protest, the voice comes back to us.

For in humility and pointed truth, the reliance is on those who sit upon the throne where we all await our consummation from that Being who bore us and bought us and brightens us so that we may be children of light. "Then it will be so," corrects the oak of a saint.

And as time requires, a temptation and a test, a difficulty, a disaster, a setback and a death multiplied many times over disfiguring such a little one yet mature beyond all years, we wonder how such a witness goes on, indeed how this church can continue, racked in pain, perplexed and pondering, waiting as beggars do for the crumbs to fall from the Lord's Table, as in small scant forms they often times do.

Yet the God who hides and bids us seek who lives for us and yet beyond us works this way for all the people in all the nations in all the times in all the churches, warns and proclaims, teaches and sustains all who call upon the name of Christ to mature into the image that has long since been lost.

Who is this one for all seasons, so hard to see hiding in our midst? Is it someone new or someone old, a man, a woman or a child? Who is this precious saint, this one on whom the church is built, the rock of church foundations? Can you not see? Are you so blind? Answer the riddle, the question before you! Who is the mature in Christ, but we ourselves.

If the mature be not us, then who else could they be? Lest the stones cry out and take our places.

Stand in the time line and claim your title: Woman for all seasons, man for all seasons: a person of faith, of Christ, of God.

It is your time! I will see you in church with all the others who are here for all seasons.

Peace, *Pastor Tom*

<i>Readings</i>			
<i>September 5</i>	<i>September 12</i>	<i>September 19</i>	
<i>September 26</i>			
Deut. 30:15-20 6:1a, 4-7 Psalm 1	Exodus 32:7-14  Psalm 51:1-10	Amos 8:4-7  Psalm 113	Amos  Psalm 146

## **JEFFERSON PRAIRIE RUMMAGE SALE**

to benefit Skaalen Home  
will be held  
**September 17-18**

**in the church basement.  
Save your items for the sale.  
Contact: Sonjia Olstad (815) 765-3111  
or Karen Shorts (608) 676-4826**

**Items for the Rummage Sale** can be put on the stage anytime before September 15. Please

stack at the back of the stage as much as possible. They will need help on September 15 and 16 for set-up and then September 17 and 18 for the sale. Contact Karen Shorts or Sonjia Olstad if you can help. Questions? Call Sonjia at (815) 218-8158

**Thank you...thank you...**

To all who made pies for the Skaalen Ice Cream Social. Your help was very much appreciated.

**A special "thank you"** for everyone who donated or contributed in any way to the "Relay for Life" Our Jefferson Prairie team earned over \$3,400 and was at the top of the total earnings of well over \$28,000 for the entire Clinton Relay. Thank you!

*Deb and Ron Torkilson  
Karen and John Shorts,  
Relay Committee*

## **The beginnings of Sunday school**

Englishman Robert Raikes, born in 1735, was a Christian layman who was pained to see unschooled children working six days a week in factories or mines. On Sundays, children roamed the streets, often getting into trouble. Most didn't know how to read or write and knew nothing about Christ or the church.

As Raikes labored to reform England's prison system, he noticed that many children were imprisoned, stirring him to action on their behalf. He arranged for halls and homes to be used for educational purposes on Sundays, the one day children didn't have to work. He found volunteers to teach reading, writing and math, as well as the Bible and Christian beliefs.

The first Sunday school class was held in July 1780. Amazingly, by 1788 some 250,000 children were attending such schools. This occurred despite some people's opposition to the education of lower-class children.

Countless boys and girls have attended Sunday school classes since then, thanks to Raikes, who brought Christ's light and love to children around the world.

## **Labor Day thoughts**

On this Labor Day weekend, it's hard not to think about how unemployment has affected many people in our communities and churches. Congregations with unemployed members have a calling to help however they can.

Some churches provide job fairs; some have regular meetings to help unemployed people cope. Some churches provide food and other necessities. Those who can should hire an unemployed brother or sister in Christ at a fair wage. The entire congregation should pray regularly for unemployed people.

Christians who've lost their jobs should know they still have work to do. The church always needs volunteers, and unemployed people can serve the Lord and help the church's mission.

Charles Wesley made every Christian's "work" clear in his hymn "A Charge to Keep I Have":

A charge to keep I have, a God to glorify,  
A never-dying soul to save and fit it for the sky,  
To serve the present age, my calling to fulfill;  
O may it all my powers engage to do my  
Master's will!

## **Thank you...**

The family of Beatrice Anderson would like to express their gratitude for all of the cards, visits, flowers, and help given to Bea while she was a resident of Meadow Park. We would like to thank the many neighbors and friends who came to her aid while she was still at home. She was grateful for your support, and we are as well.

*Floyd Newhouse  
Bruce and Gwen Jones  
Jack, Janet, and Kris Engelsen  
Ruth Anderson and family*

## **BIRTHDAY PARTY**

for

## **MARION HIGGINS**

***Tuesday, August 31***

***2:00 PM***

Open House

at Alden Meadow Park HCC

Everyone is invited

## **A REMINDER**

Please note that the tables and chairs that are available for private use by members are only those in the garage. If you are interested in using the chairs and tables, it is suggested that you call the church office to reserve them, as well as to find out if someone has not already reserved them.

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

***to the John Hahn Family***

***on their***

***Wedding Anniversaries***

***John and Karen's 50<sup>th</sup> September 3<sup>rd</sup>***

***Tim and Sarah's 20<sup>th</sup>***

***August 25<sup>th</sup>***

**Mike and Michelle's 10<sup>th</sup>  
September 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Celebrate with them  
in Fellowship Hall  
after the Sunday worship service  
on August 29th**

**Thank you...**he A. Vernon Johnson family  
wants to thank all of you for your prayers, gifts of  
food, memorials, flowers, and cards during this  
difficult time. We are most appreciative.

Sincerely,  
Sue and family

• “The greatness of God rouses fear within us, but his goodness  
encourages us not to be afraid of him. To fear and not be afraid  
— that is the paradox of faith.”

—A. W. Tozer

### **Something beautiful**

“Spread love everywhere you go; to show love  
for God and our neighbor we need not do great  
things. It is how much love we put in doing that makes  
our offering something beautiful to God.”

—Mother Teresa