

The Eagle



*Loving, living, and serving
faithfully – uniting God and
our neighbors.*

August 2017

Faith in Chilton

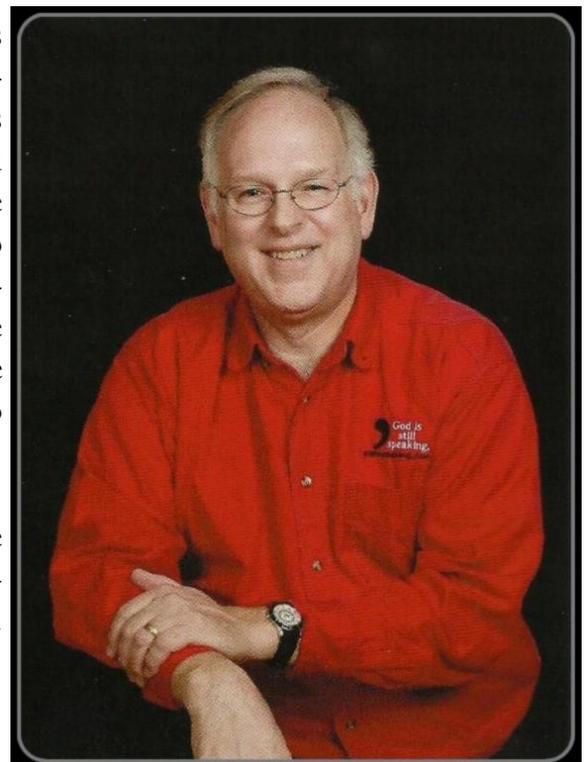
by Rev. Michael Safford-Kennedy

One of the hardest parts of working with people is that eventually people leave the organization. The organization responds with a hiccup as efficiency drops for a while, effectiveness drops for a while as everyone adapts to different tasks, and everyone wonders where things are kept and how do we order additional items. The organization eventually returns to stability and is ready to meet new demands. The church is an organization that responds to change but it is also a collection of people and people respond to change differently than an organization. It is with these thoughts that we say goodbye to our church secretary, Heather Sylaj.

Heather arrived at Ebenezer in April 2013 during office turnover, interim ministers, and a church filled with anxieties. She brought stability to the office and moved the office forward with technological improvements, a high degree of professionalism, and a warm greeting for everyone who came into the office or called. She has constantly strove to improve the office and her own self. She has directed several people who were spiritually homeless to Ebenezer knowing they would be received here with a warm embrace in the middle of personal storms.

Heather is a person whose spiritual journey has seen her travel from Wisconsin Synod Lutheran, to Catholicism, to Islam. During her journey, she has brought with her the finest of each faith tradition and the courage and wisdom to discern that no two people will flourish in the same setting. Heather came to Ebenezer with undergraduate studies in World Religions. Her God given gifts, combined with her college education provided the right person at the right time for Ebenezer. We give thanks that God sent Heather to Ebenezer exactly when the church needed her.

God has now given her a different calling. We wish her the best. She will be a blessing to her new employer and her fellow employees. Farewell to Heather. We will miss you. God bless you and Sadik.



Ice Cream Social Supper Appreciation

Wednesday, July 12 was a HOT and HUMID day but what a wonderful afternoon and evening of great food, laughter, and fellowship was enjoyed as another Ice Cream Social Supper was successfully completed.

A BIG thank you to everyone that helped to make it a success--poster distributors, advertising help, food preparers, grillers, food servers, wait staff, carryout workers, kitchen/clean-up workers, pie bakers, ice cream scoopers, pie cutters, table decorators, cashiers, Fellowship Hall and carryouts setup and take down, and lawn sign participants, and Cmejla's for the use of the garage for carryouts (and if we missed any, we apologize). It takes teamwork to faithfully pull off such a mission project and everyone who helped is held in our prayers and we are thankful for the blessings they bring to the church and to the community of Chilton.

Also a thank you to congregation members that attended and supported the Ice Cream Social Supper and those who made monetary and/or food contributions as well. A final total will be published in the September "Eagle" once all income and expenses are tallied. Funds raised help to support OCWM and upkeep of the parsonage and church kitchen.

Joan Woelfel & Ruth Aebischer
Ice Cream Social Supper Co-Chairs



The Fellowship Hall all ready for the annual Ice Cream Social Supper.

NOTES FROM THE MUSIC CORNER . . .

WOW! What a wonderful response we got from the ‘favorite hymn’ request! There was a variety of old and new, along with several favorites that are not in our New Century Hymnal. The pre-service sing along will probably continue through August so we have the opportunity to sing all the favorites. Several, such as the benediction songs, are being incorporated into the worship service. Thanks to everyone that contributed their favorite hymns!!

It is so good to have the organ up and running. There were many ‘glitches’ along the way but we hope it is now ready for centuries ahead. It will continue to have regular tuning before each holiday.

On August 20, the Musical Hammers from Muscatine, Iowa will participate in the worship service. This is a trio that includes Jane Seligram playing a harp and hammered dulcimer; her husband, Gary, who performs vocals and plays the upright bass and brother, Steve Ellsworth, who plays the guitar. They play a variety of gospel, traditional, ragtime and bluegrass but their favorites are old hymns. They will be performing at Gospel Fest the day before. Gospel Fest fliers are available on the table in the narthex for a listing of all of the groups. More information about the Musical Hammers is available at www.musicalhammersfamilytrio.com. You won’t want to miss this exciting rendition of music at Gospel Fest and at worship on August 20.

Claudia Brown, Jill Sippel, Stephanie Adamietz and Elaine Hessil provided bell music during the memorial service at the relay for life on July 14. Despite the competition with mosquitoes, it is always a very solemn, moving event.

Reminder– we always welcome vocal or instrumental solos or ensembles as special music during the summer. Please inform Pastor or Elaine if you have a contribution.

Reminder– bell ringers, old and new, will be welcomed on Wednesday, September 6. Rehearsal days may need to be ‘adjusted’ and the time will be determined. Watch for updates.



A **HUGE** thank you goes to Ruth Aebischer and Joan Woelfel for planning and managing the Ice Cream Social Supper. They, along with their families, work very hard to improve and make it the very best they can. Thanks to everyone that contributed and worked at the event. It is a team effort and well worth it for all that attended – DELICIOUS!



No one has entered the flower pot contest! Why would you pass up the chance to win a prize? All you have to do is name the businesses these pots are located in front of in Chilton. Hint: all are located somewhere along Main Street. You have until August 20 to submit answers by email or drop them off. As of now, anyone who even tries is a winner!

Goodbye and Thank You

Every month for the past four years and three months I have put this newsletter together, yet I have never written an article for it. And even though I am writing this one, I never will again. I am leaving as the Church Secretary of Ebenezer. I have been offered a position with Spectrum and will begin there on August 18.

It is with a heavy heart that I leave Ebenezer. I have enjoyed my time here, even though it hasn't been without significant challenges. Thank you to the people who welcomed me and supported me and worked with me to make Ebenezer grow. When I took this job, I was told it might not last more than the end of that year because the church was expected to close. But you all have accomplished a mighty feat and proven that prediction false!

Thank you especially to all my volunteers: Terry Schenkus, Linda Edgington, Ruth Aebischer, Elaine Hessil, Mary Thompson and Joan Woelfel (and JorJa!). Thank you to everyone who became a 'friend' and not just someone I worked for. I hope to still see you all around. And thank you to Pastor Mike for being a wonderful boss.

I am confident that Pastor Mike and the Council will replace me and you will not even realize I am gone. But I will miss all of you. Even though we do not share the same theology, we follow the same God; the God of Abraham and Sarah and David and Mary and Jesus. I hoped I have shown you we have more in common than not and even despite our differences, that respect and kindness are always the ways God wishes us to act towards one another. And even more so, I hope I have been a good employee and, in a small way, have helped with the Church's success.

I have always prayed for the continued success of Ebenezer, as well as the well-being and spiritual growth of its members. I will certainly continue to do so. I ask that you please do the same for me.

May God bless all of you and as we say in my faith, *Aslaam alikum* which means, *May God's peace be with you.*

~ Heather Sylaj

Did you know that Ebenezer has a website? Go to www.ebenezerchilton.org to keep up on coming events, the monthly calendar and newsletters, pictures and just to learn a little bit more about Ebenezer. If you have anything you would like included in the site, contact Shirley Lisowe and she will make sure it gets added.

Be sure to help yourself to a copy of the July-August devotional guide, "The Upper Room" in the Narthex. Regular and large print are available.

A flower chart for 2017 is posted in the church entry, near the Upper Room rack. Please feel free to sign up to provide flowers for either the altar or the communion rail to commemorate a special event or as a memorial.

DIFFICULTY HEARING???

Don't forget the availability of the Hearing Loop for anyone with hearing aids or the head phones available at the entrance to the sanctuary.

Council Minutes: July 16, 2017

Meeting called to order at 10:45 a.m. Members present: Jamie Plate, Dale Hintz, Kelly Kress, Fred Kubichka, Kari Meyers, Kelly Brown, and Pastor Mike. Colleen Marx was absent. Kari Meyers made a motion to approve the agenda. Jamie Plate seconded. Motion carried. June's meeting minutes were previously approved via email.

Finances Report:

Our May revenue was \$8,050.

Our May expenditures were \$7,081.

Our total equity, previously listed as general fund, balance as of May 31st, 2017 was \$82,393.

Our balance as of May 31st was \$284,957. Our May revenue was \$8, 050.

Our June revenue was \$8,629.

Our June expenditures were \$11,704.

Our total equity as of June 30th, 2017 was 79,318.

Our balance as of June 30th, 2017 was \$282,977.

Kari Meyers made a motion to accept June's treasure's report with corrections. Kelly Brown seconded. Motion carried. Fred Kubichka made a motion to accept financial reports. Kelly Brown seconded. Motion carried.

Minister's Report:

Everything is "pretty much the same".

Committee Reports:

- **Christian Ed/Music-** No new news.
- **Evangelism-** No new news.
- **Mission-** No new news.
- **Property-** ABT basements were out to evaluate the drainage/water in the boiler room and stated the problem was a plumbing issue. Kelly Kress is bringing in a plumber to assess and give an opinion and quote if appropriate. The new lease for the parsonage will be signed by September 1st, 2017.
- **Stewardship-** No new news.
- **Membership-** No new news.

Old news:

No new updates on the Braille system.

An agreement has been reached for the purchase of the house next door. Kelly Kress has contacted the lawyer to draw up an offer to purchase and begin necessary paperwork for closing.

The Ladies Guild Ice Cream Social Supper was held July 12th, 2017 and all of the food and desserts were delicious! Final numbers were not yet available at the time of the council meeting.

Elaine is having pre-service sing along, of everyone's favorite hymns all of July.

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New Business:

None at this time.

**The next council meeting will be held on Sunday, August 13th, 2017.

Kari Meyers made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kelly Brown seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

Council Secretary,

Jamie Plate

Additional Thought From Pastor

Ah, the warm days of summer. There is nothing like sitting under a tree in the early evening with something cold to drink and a delightful book. As the sun sets, we return to the house and take in a few innings of the Brewers as they tease us with another summer hovering near 1st place in the pennant race. Finally, some quiet time as we prepare for an evening of sleep. Perhaps tomorrow we'll mow the lawn, grocery shop, take the kids to get their back-to-school supplies, get the car fixed, or talk to the neighbor about their tree that looks as if it will fall on your garage during the next storm. Our lives are torn between being a Mary or a Martha.

The gospel story of Mary and Martha speaks of this tension between doing and being. Mary sits and listens, thinking and contemplating the words and teachings of Jesus. Martha is busy getting things ready for later in the day. Do we accomplish things on our to-do list or do we take time to strengthen our soul? The answer is complex. Sometimes we need to be a Martha and sometimes we need to be a Mary. Our society places a high value on being a Martha. Mary is looked upon as being lazy, wasting precious time. Yet, to be a complete person we need to be both. This means that while you are being a Martha you need to be completely Martha. When you can be Mary, be Mary. Don't be one with your body and the other with your mind.

During August, do your work and then leave it behind. Take time to simply "be." Enjoy the work you must do. Enjoy the sunshine and the breeze. Summer is about to disappear. The hours of daylight are already beginning to shorten. The chill of the "brrr" months is not too far away.

Happy Birthday

Tammy Greuel	1
Matthew Michels	1
Gavin Tyson	1
Matt Winkler	1
Tammy Brocker	2
Ellie Papendieck	2
Dave Kloehn	3
Mary Thompson	6
Don Propson	8
Joan Woelfel	8
Aiden Gleason	9
Spencer Wagner	16
Steve Stenz	21
Addison Head	22
Earl Ploeckelmann	22
Julie Ditter	24
Noah Brown	25
Carl Reichwald	26
Joe Mastrocola	28
Bernice Ninedorf	29
Jordan Propson	30
Joseph Van Oss	30

May God bless your years and may you continue to bless Ebenezer!

August 2017

Ebenezer United Church of Christ
Rev. Michael Safford-Kennedy

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
ALWAYS CHECK THE CURRENT SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENT CALENDAR FOR THE MOST UPDATED VERSION.		1 VBS 3-6 PM @ Bethel UMC	2 VBS 3-6 PM @ Bethel UMC	3 VBS 3-6 PM @ Bethel UMC	4	5
6 Worship 9:30 AM Spanish Ministry 2 PM	7	8	9	10 Men's Breakfast @ 7 Angels 8:30 AM	11	12
13 Worship 9:30 AM Council Meeting after service Spanish Ministry 2 PM	14	15 EAGLE ARTICLES DUE	16	17 OFFICE CLOSED Women's Guild @ 7 Angels 1 PM	18	19
20 <i>Musical Hammers</i> part of Worship 9:30 AM Spanish Ministry 2 PM <i>Contest Entries Due</i>	21 Century Ridge Worship 10 am	22	23	24	25	26
27 Worship 9:30 AM Spanish Ministry 2 PM	28	29	30	31		

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Office Hours:
Mon - Thurs 11AM-4 PM

Date	Ushers
2	Church Council
13	Don & Connie Waldvogel Steve & Chris Stenz
20	Brian Adamietz Family
27	Ken & Shirley Lisowe Kelly Brown Family