

# The Good News Letter



February  
2012

Serving this  
month:

**Usher:**  
Mike Hatch

**Liturgist:**  
Connie Hatch

**Newsletter  
Deadline:**  
February 19th

In Mark 1:14-20, Jesus calls Simon (Peter), Andrew, James and John to be his disciples. Jesus calls them to follow him and immediately they leave their nets behind.

I have always been amazed that the first disciples could make such a decision so quickly. I ask many questions: What did Simon's wife think? What did their families think? What about the other fishermen? I picture Zebedee, father of James and John, going home that night cursing his sons for leaving him behind with the boats and nets. Where is the good news in this story?

I have recently learned that in Jesus' day, rabbis did not seek out students. It was the other way around, students sought out their teacher/rabbi. Rabbis did not seek followers; it was beneath them. The rabbi would interview potential students to determine whether the seeker could become a follower. It was a great honor to be selected by a rabbi. Only the best of the best were accepted to become followers (disciples), the rest were sent back to work their trade.

Jesus set himself apart from the other rabbis of the day. He went among ordinary people (fishermen in this story) and chose them (without asking a single question) to be his disciples. Even if other rabbis did not judge them "good enough" to be disciples, Jesus saw something in these fishermen. Jesus called them to follow him...and they did.

From the  
Pastor

Knowing this, I reconsider my understanding of this story. Those around these first disciples were amazed – Rabbi Jesus found them “good enough.” He chose them. I imagine Zebedee dashing home to his wife and proudly announcing that Rabbi Jesus had selected the boys. Hooray! I think there must have been great celebration in their home that night.

Now instead of asking what others around those first disciples must have thought, I find myself asking: What did Jesus see in them to call them as disciples?

Then I ask: What does Jesus see in me to call me as a disciple?  
What about you?

Grace & Peace,  
*Pastor Dan*





## Outreach

*By Maryalice McHugh*

The Loose Change for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter has been counted and we raised \$398.44. Those funds will be added to our \$350 budgeted amount and, less \$150 put aside for a family that Pastor Dan is working with, will be sent to The Welcome Table, in Minot, North Dakota. It is our hope that we can get a group from Hayward to go to Minot in 2012 to work with Faith UMC in setting up this community Food Shelf, Clothing Outlet and Soup Kitchen which the community of Minot in order to provide one stop shopping for health food and shelter. As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, this Church is not only helping those who lost so much in the Minot floods, but also lost their own Church to the flooding and are working on rebuilding. Please read the Thank You letter we have received from them outlining their work on the next page.

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Our 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter outreach will continue to help a family Pastor Dan is working with. We will put aside \$150 for three (3) \$50 gift cards from Wal-Mart. Pastor Dan will give them one card each month and if they need additional personal assistance we hope to be able to help them. We will also increase our giving to Kiva by \$150. We have recently given out our 106<sup>th</sup> loan.

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The balance of giving plus our Loose Change will go the Northwest Connection Family Resources here in Hayward. Their mission is "To support and strengthen families and care givers by building a long lasting foundation through education, information, referrals and shared opportunities" and their vision is "Strong and healthy children, families and communities provide benefits that touch the future." Some of what they provide are free parenting classes, playgroups, workshops, support groups and toys to both dual and single parent homes.



December 20, 2011

Maryalice McHugh, Outreach Chair  
Hayward United Methodist Church  
10285 N Olker Road, PO Box 587  
Hayward, WI 54843

Dear Maryalice and Tom

Greetings to you from Faith UMC Minot, and The Welcome Table. Thanks and praise for your wonderful gift! We truly appreciate your heartfelt generosity toward Minot and the mission of our church! Even without our church building we have remained united as a church body and will rise from this flood stronger in faith and dedication to our community. In your letter you had asked for some details about The Welcome Table and why, I believe, Pastor Deb selected me to reply to your letter.

I have been involved with this effort since its beginning earlier this year. Churches in Minot were challenged by the board of the Minot Community Foundation to bring together the soup kitchens and food pantries under one roof (if possible) in hopes of providing a "one stop shop" for them to meet the needs of the community. The Welcome Table is to do just that! Our vision has grown from its original inception into a place where people of all walks of life can meet, fellowship, have a meal, pick up needed goods, meet with a case manager, and even visit a free clinic! We also hope to be able to provide beds to families temporarily left homeless. Please understand we are still in the planning stages and we have, as yet, not realized a location or served any unmet needs but, our goal is to begin serving meals and distributing goods in September 2012. We believe with outstanding support like yours we will be able to provide a place where all denominations, social groups, and business volunteers can prepare a meal and share fellowship with those that so desperately need it.

Thank you immensely for your letter and gift to The Welcome Table, to date you are the largest single donor! Our hope is that our vision will grow, grounded in God, and guided by the Holy Spirit.

In Faith



Randy Bell

Missions Committee Member  
The Welcome Table Representative

## Looking for a gift promoting the local economy?

Coop's Pizza Gift Cards are now available at the ReStore!

Stop by the Habitat for Humanity ReStore during winter business hours (Tuesday - Friday Noon to 4pm and Saturdays 9am - 1pm) to pick up your gift cards to Coop's or call Jill Fahs at 715-634-1340.

**Available in \$10.00 and \$20.00 denominations.  
There is no expiration date on these gift cards!**

*A portion of the proceeds go to the Habitat for Humanity of Sawyer County ReStore to help build homes for families in need in Sawyer County*

### Summary of Operating Revenue & Expenses As of December 31, 2011

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$137,405	\$130,881
Expenses	-126,460	-130,881
Net	<u>\$10,945</u>	<u>\$0</u>

- All bills are current.
- Because of generous contributions and reduced expenses, we finished the year with a modest surplus. This enabled us to make a payment against the principal of our capital improvement loan and provides a small buffer for contingencies in the coming year.
- If you have questions, call Ruth @ 715-634-2510.

### Are you interested in membership at Hayward UMC?

If so, please contact Pastor Dan for more information.

The Christmas poinsettias netted \$164.12 which was contributed to the Elizabeth House of Hope.





## Children's Sunday School

**Children's Sunday school will be held on February 12. We will study the story of Jesus rebuking the disciples for sending the children away. Crafts will include Valentine projects. ~~Please send a picture of your child with them to the class.~~ See you on the 12<sup>th</sup>!**

### Summer Vacation Bible School Plans

We are planning to participate with First Lutheran Church in a summer vacation Bible school.

The school is scheduled for the last week of June, the 25<sup>th</sup> through the 29<sup>th</sup> previously the program has been in July. Counselors will be coming from Luther Park to teach the kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade with sessions from 9am until 2pm. The counselors plan great games, crafts, and music projects. A preschool class will also be provided between 9am and 11:30am. If you are interested in enrolling your children or grandchildren please contact me, Sandy Blumenberg so we can schedule our volunteer effort where our stu-

## "BIRTHDAY IN A BAG" PROJECT

Last year, about this time, HUMC provided to the Food Shelf birthday bags for their 3-9 year old clients. Marilyn Konkler, who volunteers at the food shelf, said they are down to just a couple of bags. If you are so inclined, please put together a birthday kit and we will see that they get over to the food shelf for distribution.

Here is a list of suggested contents.

- |                                      |                |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| 9"x12" gift bag (can be gently used) | Crayons        |
| Cake mix                             | Pencils        |
| Can of frosting                      | Wrapped candy  |
| 9 candles                            | Paperback book |
| A few balloons                       | Stuffed animal |
| Birthday card                        | Small car      |
| Coloring book                        | Pair of socks  |
| Tablet                               | Hair ribbons   |

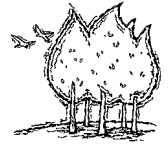


Won't you kindly consider helping with this project – to bring joy to a child on his/her birthday? Use your imagination. The dollar stores are a good resource.

*Peace and Love,  
Gretchen Semler, Lay Leader*

TALES FROM THE BLACK FOREST *by Don Black*

*Who Knows?*



Sunday morning. The sun is asleep behind the eastern hill. Low, thin clouds cover the sky. Dawn is breaking, slowly. The temperature is 15 degrees. I dress quickly and quietly so as not to wake Doris, who is sound asleep. Outside, the snow squeaks under my shoes as I walk to the garage where the skis are stored. I figure I can get an hour of skiing in before I have to get ready for church.

Down alongside the driveway I glide, across the road into the woods, down the hill and out into the meadow. The skis come to a stop and I look around, taking stock of the surroundings. The silence is deafening. During the night the wind has all but covered the tracks I had laid yesterday. So, I have to lay them again this morning. While I am standing there a lone raven, on an early morning flight, wings across the meadow. Seeing me, she rips open the silence with raspy caws, warning his sleeping buddies there is danger afoot. I think immediately of Edgar Allen Poe, "Quoth the raven, never more, never more."

After the trails are broken, I spend the rest of the silent hour sliding down hills and skiing the flats, all the time surrounded by the pristine white snow clinging to the balsam and spruce trees. When I turn eastward I chuckle. The sun has slipped from its hiding place, to the top of the hill, and is peering at me from behind the tree trunks, a peeping-tom.

Regrettably, the hour is too soon gone. I retrace my way out of the meadow, across the road, up the driveway, and store the skis once again in the garage.

Later, at church, the pastor is preaching on Jonah, the prophet. His sermon title is "Who Knows?" God calls Jonah to go to the hated enemies, the Ninevites, to call them to repentance. Jonah just can't bring himself to do that, so he heads in the opposite direction. As the story goes - and it is a story, not history - Jonah is swallowed by a big fish. (Fishermen, beware of fishing on Sunday morning, when God is calling you to church.) Anyway, he gets vomited out of the belly of the fish on to the land. God is not through with him yet. God continues to call. This time Jonah goes, and the terrible Ninevites listen to this outsider. The Ninevites repent. That makes Jonah really mad. He wanted them to refuse so God could wipe them out. But, because they repent, in earnest, God forgives them and their nation is spared. The point the pastor was making, as I heard it was, God calls us, and when we answer the call, *who knows* what can happen?

As I listened and mused about old Jonah, I wondered something else. I imagine the Ninevites, master of all they surveyed, were riding along, fat, dumb, and happy, as they say, thinking they were doing pretty well; exceptional, arrogant, rich, peace at home, economy doing fairly well, at least for the elites. So what if they had to kill a couple hundred thousand people along the way...that happens...collateral damage it's called, sounds better, not so brutal.

Who is the Nineveh of today? And, what will happen if it repents? And, what will happen if it doesn't? Think there is another Jonah story aborning? Who knows? God knows.

I'll see you in Church Sunday.

*Pastor Black (retired)*

**Please take 12 minutes to help save someone's life.**

It is a New Year and one of my resolutions is to urge others to reacquaint themselves with the Automatic External Defibrillator (AED).

If you have been trained in the use of the AED (or not), please take the time to locate its' placement in the kitchen area. I urge you to help me perform one of the monthly safety checks on that device. Simply push the on button to verify battery power and document the expiration dates of the defibrillator pads.

I have completed the check for January and documented it on the log which is posted on the side of the AED cabinet. If you have questions or in case you would like a refresher, contact me.

Thanks,  
*Tom Blumenberg*

THANK YOU for the most generous  
Christmas gift.  
We are thankful to be at Hayward UMC;  
we are thankful for each of you.

*Gratefully, Pastor Dan & Jill.*



**Thursday, February 16, at 5:15PM**

Come and join us for a soup and movie night! The movie being shown is "UP"; an animated comedy adventure from 2009. It won an Oscar, directed by Pete Docter who is a writer, director and actor from Bloomington, MN.

*Sponsored by the Witness and Growth Committee.*

**WOMEN'S GROUP**

Meets on the second Monday of each month at church from 10-11:30 am.  
All women of the church are welcome to attend for a time of socializing, ending with intercessory prayer.  
Knitting or other handwork can be brought, but is not necessary. Be there if you can!

For more information, call Kay at 715-634-4799.

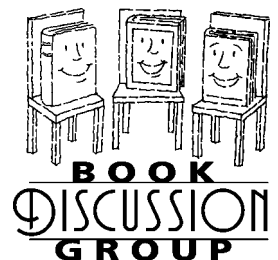


**Book Club**

Book Club meets 11:15am on Jan. 27th at Flat Creek Eatery to discuss *Last Report of the Miracles at Little No Horse* by Louise Erdrich. Everyone is welcome.

A complete list of titles may be seen on the church website at: <http://www.haywardumc.org/books>.

The Hayward Library has 10-12 copies available each month. Just ask for the Methodist Book Club book.



# The Good News Letter

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Mailing  
Address  
Goes Here

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



**God is love.**  
Whoever lives in love lives in God,  
and **God** in him.

1 John 4:16