

The Log

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- FEBRUARY 2012 -



The spiritual journey is individual, highly personal. It can't be organized or regulated. It isn't true that everyone should follow one path. Listen to your own truth. – James Allen

I believe as a pastor there is no more important task than to help and encourage the growth in spiritual formation. Spiritual formation is the growth and development of the whole person by intentional focus on one's spiritual interior life, living it out in our everyday life and finding spiritual practices that work for each individual.

Growing spiritually also means we realize that our lives have purpose, and we are all connected to all other people and the whole of creation. When we are connected spiritually it helps us fulfill our greatest potential, gives life more meaning and sustains us during challenging times.

Through Lent, during our Wednesday evening gatherings, we will share a light meal; and for our program I will offer some information and exercises for spiritual discipline around prayer, meditation, scripture and healing. We will soon put forth a flyer listing all opportunities for worship, growth and enrichment for this season. May grace and peace go with you!

We are not human beings on a spiritual journey. We are spiritual beings on a human journey. – Ram Das

In Christ's Love,
Steve



Lent at Mayflower 2012

Lenten programs and worship are coming soon. Mark the dates and watch for more information about our upcoming events.

Ash Wednesday Worship – February 22, 7:00 pm

Lenten Soup Supper Programs – Wednesday evenings, 6:00-7:30 pm, February 29-March 28

MEN OF MAYFLOWER meets Saturday, February 18 at Aspen Meadows to cook and serve breakfast.

SWEETHEART DINNER – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12!

We want you! If you are interested in providing entertainment for the Sweetheart dinner, please contact **Susan Jurovich** at 655-4437. There will also be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.



THE UPCOMING ADULT BIBLE STUDY PROGRAM entitled *Shalom: A Study of the Biblical Concept of Peace* will be offered from 8:45 to 9:45 (approx.) on Sundays in February, March and April.

The biblical concept chosen for this study is used so widely and in such significant ways in the scriptures that the sessions which follow represent far more than a word-study. The Hebrew word *Shalom* and its New Testament counterpart, *Eirene*, can almost be used as a central theme around which to organize a biblical theology. Nothing quite so ambitious is being attempted in this course, but you will find that the texts to which this concept leads will challenge you to think deeply about essential theological and ethical questions.

This study is designed as a guide to reading the biblical material with fresh insight and new understanding. Each session contains eight to ten pages of text and all biblical passages are identified clearly. The resource contains all the necessary information to enable you to tailor your exploration to your own individual or group study needs.

The material is organized topically and does not move in any chronological order through the Bible. Everyone who comes to the lessons adds to the course. Hope to see you there.

Shalom :) Mike Downing



OUR AWESOME ROTATING KIDS – Lessons for February 5th through March 4th will be “Jesus’ Baptism. There will be no Sunday School February 19th.

CELTIC MAGIC - Saturday, March 31st, 6-9pm

Join us for an evening of Irish food and music at Mayflower with Jeff Troxel and Trevor Krieger. Tickets are \$30 for the dinner and concert and \$20 for the concert only. You won't want to miss this! Proceeds are for Camp Mimanagish -

Invite your friends - reserve a table (8)

Questions? Contact LuAnne (698-0121) or Kim (855-4317)

If you'd like to help that evening, we'd love to hear from you!





FOOD BANK SUNDAY is the first Sunday of each month. Remember to bring your donations of non-perishable items next week and spread a little love.

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. - Matthew 25:35

GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING FOR YOUTH AT MAYFLOWER!

The Youth had kind of a quiet January after such a busy December, but we are gearing up for a busy few months ahead of us!! Both Younger and Older Youth groups are getting back into the swing of things with their normal Wednesday night meetings. A couple of the Older Youth helped out at **Dee Dee's** Hawaiian Fundraiser Dinner on the 21st and many of the Older Youth went to lunch and a movie on January 29th. We had a parent meeting for those families interested in Younger Youth Our Whole Lives classes on January 31. We will be starting K-1 and 4-6 grade classes in February. If you were not able to attend the meeting on the 31st and are interested in enrolling your children please contact **Kimmie** ASAP!

Upcoming Events

The Older Youth will be painting and decorating their Youth Room at Mayflower on Saturday, February 4. **The Youth will be holding their soup bowls in narthex after church on Feb. 5 for 'Super Bowl' to collect money for the local food pantries.** The Older Youth will also be helping with the Sweetheart Dinner at Mayflower on February 12. This will be a fundraiser for the youth for National Youth Event. There will **NOT** be youth group on Wednesday, February 22 but everyone is encouraged to attend the Ash Wednesday Service at either one of the churches. The Older Youth will be rounding out the month with the Conference Winter Youth Retreat which will be held at Billings First Church. Please be watching the mail for upcoming information on the National Youth Event being held this summer and the upcoming Mission Trip over Easter Break. We are still looking for people to provide Wednesday night dinners for the months of April and May. If you are able please contact **Kimmie**!



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED will be celebrating Black History Month with a presentation on Feb. 3, 1:00 pm, at All Nations Christian Fellowship, 2520 5th Ave. South.

- AN UPDATE FROM INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK -

We are happy to report that our mom with three children moved into her own home at the very end of December just in time to begin their new life in the new year in their new home! IHN paid the family's security deposit so there would not be any delays or obstacles to them getting into their home. Although all four of the single moms presently in the Network are working, the Billings rental market is tight and expensive, and finding a home that is safe and affordable remains an ongoing challenge for IHN families. Having a fund for deposits and rent subsidies which we can use to help them once they do find an apartment has, however, made a significant difference in our families' ability to get into and stay in housing.

IHN still has a few tickets left for Beach Blizzard on February 4th, and thanks to our dedicated Beach Blizzard committee, and Cloud Peak Energy and our other generous sponsors; we have an evening of fabulous food, fantastic auction items, and fun in store for you! Come to our beach party and escape the cold and snow. While the evening will be fun for you, winter can be deadly for homeless families, and the funds we raise at Beach Blizzard will literally save lives. Tickets are \$65, and tables for eight are \$500. Call 294-7432 for tickets or more information.

IHN's Annual (Board) Meeting will be Wednesday, February 15, at 4 pm at Little Horn State Bank, 2209 Central, and all are welcome to attend. Adela Awner – IHN Executive Director

RMC FUNDRAISER FOR THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

As many of you may already know, I am currently in treatment for colon cancer. The RMC community also has a student who is battling cancer. In response we have created a GIANT head-shaving event on February 11 in conjunction with the men's basketball game. We are hoping to raise awareness, raise solidarity with cancer patients/survivors, and raise a few dollars for our Rocky Walkers Relay for Life team (proceeds going to the American Cancer Society). Here is what you can do:



1. volunteer to donate your hair (minimum of 8-10") and commit to raising a minimum of \$25
2. volunteer to have your head shaved and commit to a fundraising goal (minimum of \$25 please)
3. donate to see your favorite students, faculty, or staff get their heads shaved (no nominating others, please!)
4. make hats for the newly bald (I can get you the materials)
5. volunteer on the day of the event, passing out T-shirts,

hats, organizing hair cutters, etc.

6. (most importantly) come out on February 11 to support both the fundraiser and the basketball teams!

If you are interested in doing one of the above, please email me and let me know what you would like to do so I can sign you up. You will get other emails in the future with pertinent information and details for time, place, etc.

To make a tax-deductible donation, you can make checks to "American Cancer Society" and bring them to the cookie table, leave them in my mailbox or pass them to the person you are sponsoring. We can take cash, but prefer checks, which will ensure you receive a receipt from ACS for your taxes.

We are most interested in inviting members of the Billings community to be present for the game and show support for our students, staff, & faculty who are so kindly volunteering for a haircut!
– Rev. Kristi Foster, RMC Chaplain

Stewardship Message

Stewards of Our Relationship with One Another

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself. – Luke 10:27

We belong to God; we belong to one another. In his book, *Reaching Out*, Henri Nouwen tells of a reunion with a former student, an experience that revealed to him the meaning of community: "It is the Christ in you, who recognizes the Christ in me... From now on, wherever you go, or wherever I go, all the ground between us will be holy ground."

During February, let us walk on holy ground, practicing the radical hospitality Jesus modeled. Starting with our most personal and intimate relationships and moving through expanding circles – of friends, relations, church family, co-workers, and others with whom we come in contact – we tend to the quality of our interaction in these relationships using spiritual practices of forgiveness, reconciliation, justice, openness, honesty, hospitality, shaping communities. We widen our circle, reaching out to unknown neighbors through local and ecumenical service organizations and UCC programs and networks. We participate in the One Great Hour of Sharing special mission offering, typically promoted in churches during February and received the first Sunday in March. As centers of hope and transformation, local churches guide people onto holy ground.

A message from Stewards in the Household of God: a Resource for Holistic Year-round Stewardship available from United Church of Christ Resources.

February 2012

God is still speaking,

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

