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# Newsletter • June 2009

## Synergy

Stephen and David were home from college for Christmas two years ago, video-gaming with Michael. From the kitchen, I heard raucous, colorful shouts. Quelling my maternal instinct to scrub the gutterese, I listened, transfixed. Life is unpredictable—this could be our last Christmas united like this—the final chorus of my boys' choir.

In that moment, their births replayed in my mind. I vividly recalled the first time I held each one. Stephen's eyes were wide open, and we just stared at each other. David's umbilical cord was around his neck, so our first eye contact had to wait an hour or so. Michael teetered for weeks on life support. When at last his eyes opened for the first time, I swear he smiled. In each face, I saw the future flowing like a river to the sea. This tiny new face held infinite possibility. This child was born with the power to change the world.

As my boys' choir screeched and toggled controllers all these years later, I closed my eyes and simply listened. Dinner could wait—words materialized. I grabbed a napkin and wrote. A simple tune came to me, and poetry became lyrics.

I emailed the poem to Judy and Duane--a ritual I began as a worship associate years ago. This, I explained, came with a rudimentary tune. They loved the lyrics, which include a daughter; women make up half the world, after all. And they wondered if the choir might perform the song. But my uninspiring melody discouraged would-be melodic collaborators. A year passed.

Then UUCV hired as music director a remarkably gifted musician and composer, David Glasgow. I sent him my lyrics, with alternate lines for his consideration. He liked the words, but the melodic muse evaded him. Another year passed.

During Michael's last hospitalization, things looked grim. I called David rather tearfully to beg off choir rehearsal—I just couldn't leave Hershey. That night, the choir pondered our grave situation. Driving home, David realized he couldn't sleep until he'd written the melody. He recalls that his fingers hit the keyboard, and the rest simply flowed. By 1 a.m., "God Abides" was rehearsal-ready. The next day, David arrived at Hershey with sheet music and a CD. It took me a moment to

realize it was my song. Our song—already scheduled for Mother's Day, with Janet Folsom as soloist and Jason Whetstone on Pennywhistle:

*"God Abides in Your Eyes"  
for Stephen, David, and Michael*

*I remember the night  
when I first fell in love with your eyes,  
opening for the first time.  
We are mother and son.  
A new life has begun this great journey  
from darkness to light.  
You're the image divine.  
I am yours; you are mine.  
You're the story my heart beats to write.*

*God abides in your eyes.  
All humanity rises to hold you  
in love and hope so bright.  
Life begins with a prayer  
that this new babe will care for the world;  
transform lives everywhere.*

*I remember the morn  
when my daughter was born;  
in her eyes, generations of love.  
Thank the stars, it's a girl!  
She's the hope of a world without war,  
without hunger or fear.  
Like a butterfly's wings,  
you can change everything.  
You're the story my heart beats to sing.*

*In this tiny new face  
dwells the pathway to grace,  
with the power to set the world right.*

*Life begins with a dream  
that this babe might be seen  
as the hope of a vision divine.*

lyrics by Geneva Politzer; music by David M. Glasgow  
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## MINISTER'S COLUMN

### From the Well

It's been a busy week here at Lake Wobegone, and probably a busy week at your house, too. Mid-May (press time) is a time of graduations, weddings, recitals, and year-end celebrations of all kinds. We've had many guests at our house recently, which has turned my thoughts toward the practice of hospitality.

In the space of four days, we had two sets of guests making our house their temporary home. The first set was my former husband and his wife, visiting with us for a few days on their way from California to New York to put in some grandparent time. We get along well; after all, the three of us have known each other for decades, we cooperated in raising the same children, and we have similar ideas about a lot of things. Now that we four (including Duane) are grandparents of the same child, we have even more reason to cultivate our friendship, affection and trust of one another.

The second set of guests stayed with us for Dickinson College Commencement weekend, and made our home the gathering spot for their extended family and friends who came to Carlisle to celebrate their daughter's graduation. I hadn't met any of them before, but it was easy to offer a cup of tea or coffee, point toward the bathroom, and help them find their way around town.

Practicing hospitality can be deeply rewarding. When guests are in our home, we spend as much time as possible (and practical) talking with them, sharing stories, comparing ideas, walking in the garden or around the neighborhood. Even when our guests arrive as strangers, they depart as at least potential friends because we have broken bread together and given one another the precious gift of time. And always, always — there are opportunities to learn.

Two other recent experiences of hospitality — this time when I was a guest — have broken down some barriers and reminded me that the universe is basically a friendly place.

The African Methodist Episcopal (AME) church just up the street proudly unveiled an historic marker indicating its significance to local history. The unveiling involved speeches, costumed re-enactors, prayers, and of course refreshments afterwards. Duane and I were the only clergy present other than the AME minister, their first woman minister and a recent seminary graduate. Now that we have met as neighbors and clergy colleagues, I feel a connection to this church that I haven't felt in the twelve years I've been seeing it out my office window. The minister and I occasionally chat on the sidewalk, and I look forward to getting to know her better.

When I offered the sermon at Congregation Ohev

Sholom on May 15, I was treated as a respected and honored guest. But I wasn't the only one. Twelve people from UUCV also attended the service that evening, and all of us were welcomed with warmth and enthusiasm. Some had never attended a Jewish service before, but that didn't matter; what mattered was that we were celebrating Shabbat together, the end of the work week and a time to pause in quiet and contemplation before launching out into the weekend.

Hospitality can mean a great deal more than changing the sheets on the guest room bed. Cultivating the practice of hospitality can extend to welcoming unexpected thoughts or memories, opening our minds to new possibilities, learning to trust the unknown.

The Sufi poet Rumi said it best in his poem "The Guest House:"

*This being human is a guest house.  
Every morning is a new arrival.  
A joy, a depression, a meanness,  
some momentary awareness comes  
as an unexpected visitor.  
Welcome and entertain them all!*

What new arrivals would you be willing to open your heart's home to this week?

See you in church!

Love, Judy

### UUCV Community Picnic:

Join us for the annual UUCV summer picnic on Sunday, June 7th at North Middleton Park, Carlisle. The picnic will start at about 12:30 pm and continue until later in the afternoon. The shady trees and Conodoguinet Creek are the perfect backdrop for relaxing and having fun with family and friends. Bring a beverage, something to barbeque on the grill, and a side dish or dessert to share with others. Plates, eating utensils, cups, water, and charcoal will be provided. There are swings, a stream for fishing and a volleyball/basketball court nearby. Feel free to bring along any lawn or board games you may be interested in playing as well. Please note that one of the park rules is: No Pets Allowed. Maps with directions to the park will be available in the social hall. If you have any questions, please contact [marylynn\\_lynch@yahoo.com](mailto:marylynn_lynch@yahoo.com) or call 697-7019.

### Next Newsletter Deadline

*Sunday, June 21*

Please send your submissions to [newsletter@uucv.net](mailto:newsletter@uucv.net)  
and feel free to include photos or graphics.

Remember, fewer words = more interesting eye appeal!

## From the President of the Board:

On Sunday, May 17th, at our annual meeting after the service the budget was adopted and three new members to the Board were elected: Jill Kachmar, Anne Gero and Rachel Teates. A printed Annual Report is available that is filled with informative staff and committee reports. Duane and Judy highlighted some of the years' successes including growth in the RE and music programs.

As my term on the Board ends in June I'd like to express my appreciation and gratitude to the ministers, staff, and Board for all they have done to make this year run so smoothly. The more I've come to understand the workings of our church, the more I am in awe of the members who get things done from week to week, often behind the scenes. As much as I've found it rewarding to serve on our Board, I will find enjoyment in continuing to mow the lawn, make the coffee, welcome the homeless, and serve occasional strawberry shortcake. There are times in our lives when the demands of family and career take all our time and energy. We sometimes find it hard to keep our heads above the water, let alone to swim, and yet by doing what we can for others we help to care for the world and transform lives—especially our own.

Throughout the year I saw evidence of this transformative change. We all witnessed members come to tears explaining their experience in Honduras. But others have felt it too and closer to home: holding hands in a service, hearing a particular sermon, reading, or hymn or in small group moments.

Thanks to all of you for your love and support towards one another as our beloved UU community grows from its childhood into its pre-teen years. May we continue to mature gracefully and gratefully.

— Jon Tarrant

## Righting Time

Were you there for Music Fest?

On Saturday, May 16, the Music Committee tried a new twist on the familiar "talent show" theme: a select group of UUCV musicians shared a set of polished musical numbers, after which local singer-songwriter Kevin Neidig presented an hour-long concert of jaw-dropping, soul-touching solo guitar & vocals.

Since I was running the sound board for the event, I had the rare (for me) pleasure of sitting at the back of the Sanctuary for the whole event and enjoying not only the wonderful music, but also the audience's reactions—several times during the evening, Pastor Judy turned around to catch my attention in wide-eyed amazement at the quality of music we have among us! All I could

do was smile and nod in blissful agreement. In fact, as Kevin approached the end of his set, singing about the beauty of a rain-covered street, a gentle rumble of thunder echoed through Boiling Springs and I thought: "This has been just a perfect evening."

Evenings like that one don't just happen, of course. The performers had all put in hours of rehearsal for this event—not to mention the years of practice that go into guitar work like Kevin's! It's impossible to get an accurate measure of how many "other" hours went into making those couple of hours "just right."



Kevin Neidig © 2009 Kevin Neidig

But what's for sure is that Music Fest would not have happened at all if those musicians hadn't made a commitment to it. These folks all have other things going on in their lives—families, jobs, lawns that (especially after all that rain last month!) need to be mowed—but instead of waiting until "the time was right," these folks decided to "right the time," and commit to presenting a wonderful evening for their UUCV family. And the thing about making music is that, as magical as the evening was for those of us in the audience, it was even more magical for the performers themselves.

If you enjoy singing—even just in the shower—and want to get a taste of that magic, why not take the summer to think about joining the choir when we start back up in the fall? No previous experience is necessary; you don't have to read music or know notes or have a "great voice." You just need to decide that the time is right.

— David Glasgow  
(Music Director)

## Canvass Report: Gratitude to All

Our canvass efforts for UUCV reached our modified goal of \$158,646. As the Canvass Coordinator, I am deeply grateful to so many who helped in so many different ways. Beginning with the kick-off celebration of our community chaired by Mary Lynn Lynch and dinner prepared by Sandy Freeman and Nancy Tarrant through the Confab chaired by the Bechtels, and the training of canvassers by Tom and Carol DeWall, we were well prepared and highly motivated to seek pledges to support our operating costs.

The canvass team of 25 canvassers and 4 Team leaders (please forgive me for not listing all the names) were wonderful ambassadors for our cause. Some had to be very persistent in trying to connect and coordinate with our busy members. A huge THANKS to the team leaders, the canvassers, and especially to all our members and friends who contributed to the campaign. It is a challenging time with the economic issues. In spite of those concerns, you have been generous with your support of our UUCV community. While some found it necessary to reduce the amounts of their pledges, many more were able to keep them the same as last year and many increased their amount. In addition, it is noteworthy that there are 19 new pledging households.

We had hoped to reach the initial goal of \$162,000. I haven't given up on that because some still have outstanding pledges and they have promised to send them in soon. We are at a plateau, but have not shut the door. We will still welcome additional pledges for 2009-2010. For now, let's celebrate that the glass is almost full.

—Anne Gero (Canvass Coordinator)

## Change for the World

Change for the World is indeed thriving at UUCV! In March we collected \$223 for the local chapter of the American Heart Association. In April we collected \$152 for the Employment Skills Center of Carlisle. You go UUCV'ers! Those nickels and dimes really do add up to a significant donation for the local causes of our community. For June, the Social Actions folks have selected the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) to receive our donation. This organization is made up of volunteers who are trained to be advocates for dependent, abused and/or neglected children of the county. Qualified CASA volunteers are appointed by the judge to insure quality services, timely decisions and a safe, permanent, nurturing home for such children. Thanks for all that change. Someone out there is putting it to good use.

— Carol McAnulty

## Finance and Fundraising

F&F will be holding a special meeting in June just for you! On Tuesday, June 9 at 7p.m. in the downstairs Boardroom, we will be looking for YOUR great ideas on how we can raise additional funds this year. Our annual budget was passed knowing we could possibly have a shortfall of approximately \$4500, in the hope that we can come up with some additional fundraising ideas to replace the yard sale income we missed this year. We'll also plan ahead for next year's Memorial weekend yard sale by locating a chair or co-chairs to lead this event. This could be a Small Group project, or another team. Contact Bev Motich [bmotich@yahoo.com](mailto:bmotich@yahoo.com) or 432-9505 (evenings) with your suggestions or for more information.



Emily Miles and Nick Bloom

## All in the UUCV Family

Congratulations to Brian and Melissa Stolley, who celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary on June 3. May there be an equally wonderful twenty-five more! Liz Hoffman and Ed Glasgow are celebrating the birth of Liz's second granddaughter, Charlotte Grace, born May 11. We join Mary Lynn and Drew Lynch in relief that Drew's mother is recovering from a head-on collision with a coal truck. Alan and Kit Franklin are grieving the death of their godson, Douglas Allen. Huge congratulations to the class of '09: our own Nick Bloom, Emily Miles and Liza Baker, all graduating from high school this month and off to college in the Fall. On April 28, the Exchange Club of Carlisle honored Emily and Nick as their Youths of the Year. The Carlisle Exchange Club awards only one student of the year award for each of three area high schools: Carlisle, Boiling Springs, and Big Spring. That means that two out of three went to members of UUCV!



### **UU Ordination upcoming in Harrisburg**

Yvonne Schumacher Strejcek, who has served the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg as Acting Associate Minister this year, will be ordained on Saturday, June 20th at 3:00 p.m. at the Market Street sanctuary that UCH is acquiring. It is located at 1508 Market Street, between 15th and 16th Streets on Allison Hill across the street from Martin Luther King Baptist Church. All are invited.

Yvonne is a graduate of Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, CA, as are Judy and Duane. Yvonne will complete her service to UCH this summer and is seeking a settled UU ministry. She is known to UUCV through her Sunday preaching here in 2008. Childcare will be provided, and a reception will follow her ordination. Reservations are not necessary though RSVP to the church office will be appreciated. Join her on her special day and take advantage of the opportunity to tour UCH's new site that will continue its current community ministry and expand to new horizons. Contact UCH at 717.564.4761 or [office@harrisburguu.org](mailto:office@harrisburguu.org)

### **Caring and Compassion Circle**

Members of the Compassion and Caring Circle learned at the May 14 meeting that CCC member Pat Dietz (243-2022) will be serving as the group's link with home-bound UUCV members and friends. She will be contacting them to learn whether they would prefer phone calls or visits, and will place a list on the sign-up table in the Social Hall for those who would like to be part of the project.

CCC, which serves members and friends caring for an ill family member, or who are suffering a loss or change in their own lives, meets every second and fourth Thursday from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the home of facilitator Anne Gero (249-4262 or [annegero@mac.com](mailto:annegero@mac.com))

### **Nurse's Notes**

Summer is soon approaching and we all look forward to eating produce from local farmers or from our own gardens. As I am getting a little older, my always wonderful eyesight has been less than stellar of late. I notice my arm is just not as long as it should be to read the print on some labels (I think they are making the print smaller just to tease me). The traditional thinking was that a diet rich in carrots would slow the need for glasses, but alas, it has caught up with me. A recent article in the Nutrition Action Health Letter cut to the chase as far as how we can keep our eyes young. They stated the best bet to lower your risk of macular degeneration and cataracts was to 1) Eat 5-9 servings a day of fruits and vegetables, especially leafy greens. 2) Eat fish (especially fatty fish like salmon) at least twice a week. 3) Lose (or don't gain) excess weight. 4) Limit carbs that raise blood sugar quickly (sugars, potatoes, white bread, etc.). 5) Take an ordinary multivitamin and mineral. Now these are just guidelines and sound like positive steps to good health in more than just the eye sight category.

It was nice to see all the folks who stopped by to have their blood pressure checked in April. I plan to make this a quarterly event. I may offer a CPR class if there is enough interest in the idea. Let me know if you have specific needs that I can address. Also, if there are other nurses in the congregation who would like to be a part of the church nurse program, feel free to let me know. You can contact me at

[paulandcarol913@embarqmail.com](mailto:paulandcarol913@embarqmail.com) or 249-4433.

— Carol McAnulty

### **November Auction**

Can you believe it's time to start planning the next auction? If you would like to participate in the planning and organization of the 2009 auction, come to a planning meeting before the service on June 21st at 9:45 AM in the board room. We are open to any new and fun ideas for this year's festivities. For those who would like to get in on the ground floor of the planning and can't make it to this meeting, please contact Paul and Carol McAnulty at [paulandcarol913@embarqmail.com](mailto:paulandcarol913@embarqmail.com) or call us at 249-4433.

## Serious Stuff for June

On Sunday, June 28, Serious Stuff Book Groups will discuss Richard Wright's 1945 autobiography "Black Boy." The book, sometimes considered a novel because of Wright's use of novelistic techniques, describes the author's hardscrabble boyhood and youth in rural Mississippi and in Memphis, Tennessee. Although at the time it was published it was criticized as an attack on racist southern white society, the book later came to be understood as Wright's coming-of-age work. June Hoch will lead the discussion, set for 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the church library. Questions? Contact Marilyn Durr at 249-4019 or [mdurr137@comcast.net](mailto:mdurr137@comcast.net).

## The Writers' Group

We will meet on Saturday, June 27 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the home of Mary McCarthy, 139 W. Pomfret St. Carlisle. Call or email Mary if you plan to attend in case of changes to the schedule. Tel. 258-5668/ [mmcarth@comcast.net](mailto:mmcarth@comcast.net). Come join us for a fun and creative afternoon. It's a time for sharing the prose or poetry you've written or you can read something written by a favorite author. As always, new members most welcome!

## Peace Camp

Save the date July 15 - 18, 2009! Peace Camp at the Freeman cabin near Fuller Lake is a family-friendly activity... four days of fun and sun and cooking around a campfire! Chaperone "regulars" include the Freemans, Janet and Dave Mooney, Janet and Chuck Folsom, Mary Lynn Lynch and Geneva Politzer. Facilities are pleasant but somewhat primitive (no running water or electricity, but there are indoor beds.) Children over the age of 7 are welcome to attend without parents but parents are also invited to stay. Younger siblings may stay with parents who are camping overnight or for daytime visits to the lake and/or camp. There is a per person cost for overnight campers as all activity costs, meals, drinks and snacks are provided.

## Native American Religions:

Dan Cozort invites members and friends of UUCV to sit in on his summer school course June 15-July 17, which meets every weekday 9:30-11:20 a.m. The subject is Native American religions, with emphasis on Delaware, Cherokee, Navajo, and Lakota traditions. Contact Dan @ [cozort@dickinson.edu](mailto:cozort@dickinson.edu) for further information.

## Spiritual Healing:

Have you, or your family or friends, experienced relief of pain or healing through non-medical means such as prayer, hands, acupuncture, hypnosis, religious ceremony, or some other kind of non-medical means? Dan

Cozort is preparing a service for July on this topic and would like to hear your story: [cozort@dickinson.edu](mailto:cozort@dickinson.edu) or 254-8972.



## Participation in Small Group Ministry

Members of the Green Ridge Village small group stated about SGM: "For me, SGM provides the opportunity to explore spiritual and ethical values with people I trust. It also provides a time to bond with other UUs." "Fellowship, learning about ourselves by learning about others, thinking." "It gives you a chance to examine your own feelings and understand yourself and others better. It gives you a feeling of belonging."

If you want to read more about UUCV's Small Group Ministry program, see the Annual Report; you will find a description of this year's work there. We are welcoming new members to this spiritual growth program. Presently, there are seven groups meeting once a month in various locations. Seventy four people are actively involved in this program. One does not need to be a UUCV member to participate in one of these groups. Now, 39% of the congregational membership are part of a group. Our goal is to reach a participation rate of 65-70%.

A leadership team of Duane Fickeisen, Margery Andrews, Anne Gero, and Gisela Roethke stays in touch with the larger SGM program of the UUA and holds bi-monthly training sessions for the small group facilitators. In this way, we foster the growth and deeper understanding of one of our most cherished programs. If you want to become a part of it, please, ask Duane for an assignment to a small group.

Our goals are stated in the following way: "The mission of the SGM program is to develop and expand SGM as a means for individual spiritual growth, personal connection and congregational energy for commitment and action in the UUCV community and its mission in the world."

— Gisela Roethke (Small Group Coordinator)

## Sunday Worship Services • June 2009

**June 7 – “The Natural Bent — R.E. Sunday.”** The Rev. Judy Welles; Margaret Light, Religious Education Coordinator, and the Children’s R.E. Classes.

Plato wrote “Let early education be a sort of amusement; you will then be better able to find out the natural bent.” This year our children have had fun in their R.E. classes with a variety of activities. R.E. Sunday will give us a taste of what they have learned, and will give many of our children an opportunity to participate musically in the service.

The Annual All-Congregation picnic at North Middleton Park will follow the service. See separate article in this issue for details.

**June 14 – “Transformation One (Tiny) Step at a Time.”** The Rev. Duane Fickeisen; Elizabeth Motich, Worship Associate; Music by David M. Glasgow.

The Japanese management concept that made Toyota a success is kaizen, an approach to continuous improvement. Imported and adapted to personal change efforts, kaizen helps "trick" the mind out of the normal resistance to change that puts road-blocks in the way of resolutions and best intentions by starting with such tiny steps that the resisting part of your brain doesn't recognize the change and thus doesn't go into its "keep-things-as-they-are-at-all-costs" mode of battle. Maybe this is the opening to the change you've been wanting to make.

**June 21 — “Walking Together for a While — Coming of Age.”** Rev. Judy Welles; Jill Kachmar, Worship Associate; and the UUCV Coming of Age class and mentors. Music by David M. Glasgow.

Five of our teens have completed the requirements for the year-long Coming of Age program, and four of them will have just returned from our Boston Heritage trip a few days before this service. From the teens and their mentors you will hear what this experience was like for them — what they learned, what surprised them, what will remain.

**June 28 — “Eternity Now – Don’t Blink!”** Mark Renault, Worship Associate; Julie Ham, Worship Associate; Music Accompanist TBA.

What does it mean to “live in the now”? How can we practice this? Is living this way necessarily a good thing? During worship we will explore a personal sense of time and consider ways that we can be more conscious of the things that matter most in life.

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## Other Events in June

(Be sure to check the on-line calendar at <http://www.uucv.net/calendar.html> for other information and details.)

**Tuesday, June 9, 7:00p.m.** — Finance and Fundraising will be holding a meeting in the downstairs Boardroom to discuss raising additional funds for this year.

**Saturday, June 20, 3:00p.m.** — UU Ordination of Yvonne Schumacher Strecjek at Market Street sanctuary of UCH. For further details see article inside newsletter on p.5.

**Sunday, June 21, 9:45a.m.** — Planning meeting for November Auction in the Boardroom. See further details on p.5 of this newsletter.

**Saturday, June 27, 1-3p.m.** — The Writers’ Group will meet at the home of Mary McCarthy, 139 W. Pomfret St. Carlisle. . Further details on p.6 of this newsletter.

**Sunday, June 28, 6:30-8p.m.** — Serious Stuff Book Groups will discuss Richard Wright's 1945 autobiography "Black Boy." Meeting takes place in the church library.

## UUCV Contacts and Resources

### Meetinghouse and Office

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*Music Director:* David Glasgow

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### Board of Trustees

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Treasurer: vacant

Jill Kachmar, Clerk: jill.kachmar@gmail.com

Rick Heckman: heckmanr@comcast.net

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Priscilla Laws: lawsp@dickinson.edu

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Dave Mooney: jdavemoo@comcast.net

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### Committee Chairs and Other Leaders

**Building & Grounds:** Letty Kress  
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joycelukima@hotmail.com

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Joan Bechtel, bechteljo@verizon.net

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**Communications Council:** Vacant

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**Flowers:** Mary Lynn Lynch  
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**Religious Education:** vacant

**Small Group Ministry:**

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Gisela Roethke, roethke@dickinson.edu

**Social Action Council:** Kit and Alan Franklin, co-chairs  
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