

# *The Growing Edge*

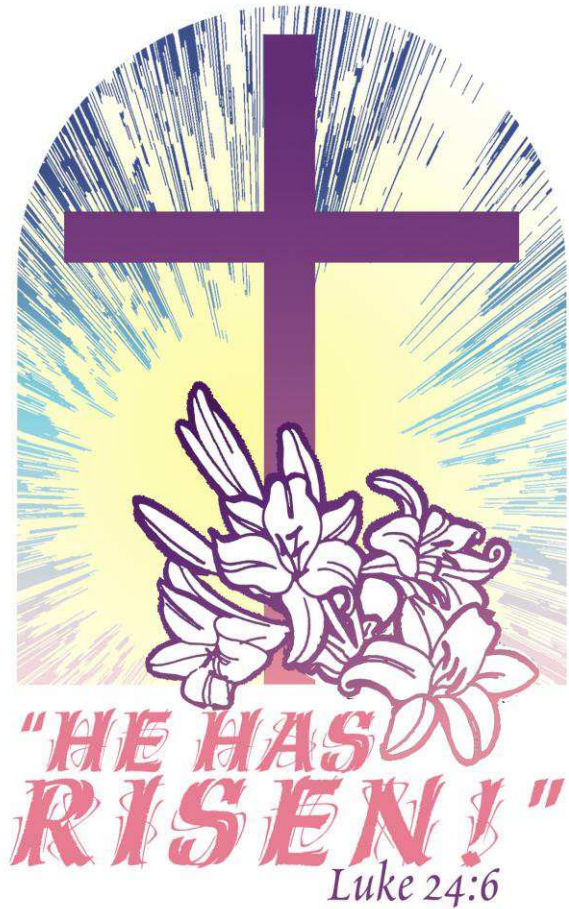
*(A monthly publication of Fridley United Methodist Church.)*

## *April 2012*



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Growing Edge Deadline is due the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month by 9:00 a.m.

The office will be closed on Monday, April 9, 2012 for Easter holiday.



***Prayer Chain Information***  
***Call to share your joys and concerns***  
***National United Methodist Prayer Chain:***  
***1-800-251-2468***



I'd like you to picture for a moment the scene of Jesus' crucifixion as described in the Gospel (Good News) of Luke. Jesus is being crucified between two criminals. The soldiers and the leaders were jeering and yelling at him and treating him with contempt as if crucifying him was not demeaning enough. One of the criminals joined in and said: "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" The second criminal took the first to task. He admitted that the two of them were getting what they deserved because of their own actions. He said that Jesus had done nothing wrong.

Then he said "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus told him that he would be with Jesus in Paradise, that very day!

My question is "what happened to the other criminal? What happened to the man who heaped verbal abuse upon Jesus in the moments of their own suffering and dying? Does it matter what happened to him? What happened to Judas for that matter?"

I believe that the love of God for each of us, so magnificently witnessed to us by Jesus does not stop because our human bodies do. I believe that the love of God in Jesus, who can speak "Today you will be with me in paradise" to a criminal on the cross next to his, was just as loving to the one on the other side.

If the love of God is eternal then even our death is not the end of God's invitation to accept God's love and come in and live with God. No sin, no decision on our part, even a decision that there is no God and nothing after this earth, will stop God from surprising us all with the opportunity to turn into the light of Christ and the love of God. Even then, one could still decide that one is unworthy to accept God's love or grace. That will not stop God from offering the opportunity to take the gracious hand of Christ, experience forgiveness, and enter into new life with Christ.

So there may be some surprises for us all someday by who inhabits heaven. Or maybe not. The criminal and Judas will be so changed we won't recognize them for who they were. We will know them for who they have become through the healing grace of Jesus.

Life is too short to wait until death to know the love and grace of God. Now is the time to claim our place as God's beloved children by sharing that love and care with others. No one should have to wait to experience the care and love of God. Perhaps that is why when Mary Magdalene holds onto the Resurrected Jesus in the garden that he tells her to let go. He has so many more people to see, to touch, to heal, to encourage, to share the good news with that he can't just stay there with her. May we be that driven by the Spirit of God in this life, that we begin to live now the love and grace, peace and joy, that God desires for all creation. Let's not miss one moment of the loving, nor one moment of the sharing "Christ is Risen! New life is ours! And Yours!"

*Pastor Deb*



# Holy Week Calendar



PROCESSION OF THE PALMS

**Palm Sunday, April 1;** Worship 9:30 a.m., Children's Choir sings, Lenten studies conclude at 10:50 and 4:30.



**Maundy Thursday, April 5;** 7:00 p.m.  
Holy Communion, Chancel Choir  
Focus is "Broken Bread," communion will be served



**Good Friday, April 6;** 7:00 p.m. Drama "The Anointing"  
A drama that includes a Tenebrae service (service of darkness) within it.



**Easter Sunday, April 8;**

7:30 – 9:00 a.m. Easter Morning Breakfast  
(Free will donation)

8:45 a.m. Easter Egg hunt for all ages.

9:30 a.m. Easter Sunday Worship

10:30 a.m. Fellowship

*The nursery (age 3 and under) will be open from 9:15—10:45*



# CARING MINISTRIES



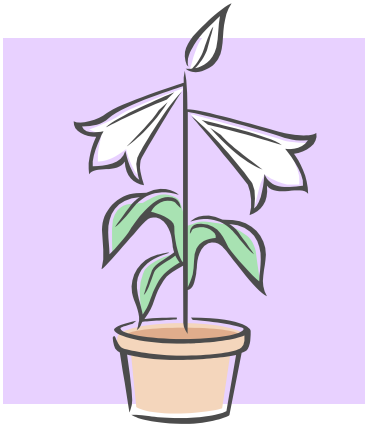
## Dates for Stephen Ministers:

April 24: 7 PM: Our Stephen Ministers will meet with the daughter of a victim of Alzheimer's Disease, and hear family impacts and concerns. A short support meeting will follow.

*Please keep our Stephen ministers in your prayers as they faithfully serve.*

## EDUCATION

There are no Sunday learning options for any age on Easter Sunday, April 8. The nursery will be open for children ages 3 and under from 9:15 – 10:45.



Join us every other Sunday morning for learning:

We offer classes for all ages from **10:50 – 11:45**, with at least four choices each week for adults and classes for all ages! The nursery is open every Sunday from 9:15 – 11:45 for children under age 3. AND, we offer a second class for our preschool and kindergarten children after the story for all ages in worship. This class ends at the beginning of fellowship time. Our nursery is open each week through May 20 from 9:15 – 11:45.

Our Sunday morning class schedule is as follows:

**In FUSION!, all ages meeting together to experience the scriptures read and preached in worship, followed by discussion and related activities.** *This is a Sunday morning learning experience for people of all ages, including children, youth and adults, meeting from 10:50 – 11:45 in the Fellowship Hall. Youth and young adults are especially invited. May the energy of God's creative love flow in and through us.*



### **ADDITIONAL ADULT CLASSES at 10:50 on SUNDAYS**

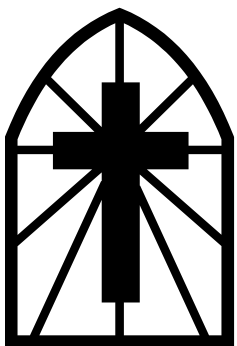
**Seekers:** focus on the scriptures that are read and preached in worship each week, meet in the Northwest corner of the Fellowship Hall, led by Bill Ekstrum and Shelley Colvin.

**Linking Faith and Life:** continue their focus this spring on "Living the Questions", making meaning of their faith in the light of their faith. They meet each week in the lounge with JoEllen Ambrose and Kate Smith-Sheeder.

### Short Term classes:

#### **THROUGH April 1, Lent Study: Reaching Toward Easter.**

This book offers a daily devotional pilgrimage through Lent, using the Gospel of John as a guide. There are scripture passages for each day, prayers for personal devotions. On Sunday mornings, we gather to discuss the readings each week for 6 weeks, led by Les Johnson and Bill Ambrose. The final chapters on Holy Week and Easter will be self study without discussion.



**40 Days with Howard Thurman**, led by Pastor Diane on Sundays from 4:30 – 5:30. The final class is April 1. This book invites us to explore our own spirituality under the guidance of one of the 20<sup>th</sup> century's great African-American spiritual thinkers and leaders, Howard Thurman.

**Wednesday Study Group** (aka WSG) meets each Wednesday morning at 9:30 in the Computer Room with Pastor Deb. During Lent, they are reading *Final Words from the Cross*. In this inspiring book, Adam Hamilton explores the final words of Jesus as seen and heard through the eyes and ears of those who stood near the cross. Each chapter explores the meaning of Jesus' dying words for our lives today.

### Short Term Sunday Study After Easter:

**\*April 15:** Our study will be a continuation of the FORGIVENESS class with Pastor Deb. Even if you weren't in the class before Easter, you will still be welcome. The book is entitled "Forgiveness, the Passionate Journey", by Flora Slosson Wuellner.

#### **\*April 22 – May 6: Spirit Gifts and New Member class:**

This is a 3 session class for people who are considering membership at Fridley UMC. Two weeks are about how God has given all of us a variety of gifts, and you will learn what your spiritual gifts are, and how they might be shared. The last Sunday is all about Fridley UMC, and what it means to be a Fridley United Methodist. *If you are already a member of Fridley UMC, but haven't taken the Spirit Gifts part, join us!*

#### **\*May 13: General Conference Review, by Rev. Victoria Rebeck.**



Victoria is our Minnesota Conference Communicator – she was present at General Conference as a reporter this time, although she has also served as an elected delegate. She will present highlights and surprises of the General Conference, our quadrennial meeting of the whole United Methodist Church.

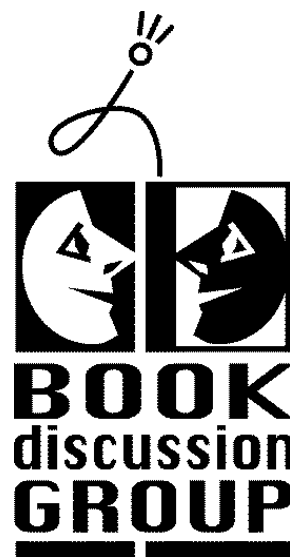
This is the meeting that sets United Methodist policy and rules for the next four years.

**May 20:** No Short Term Class, Last Day of Sunday school for Academic Year, Teacher Recognition and Celebration

### **BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP:**

**Our next book retreat** is September 29, 2012, from 9:00 – 12:30, and we will discuss The Weird Sisters, by Eleanor Brown.

We meet two or three times a year, choosing each book as we go. Join us! It's open to all adults!



### **Have you looked at our library lately?**



Take a look at our subject listing of the library books, find **What's New**, and there is a large number of wonderful new books, including our last retreat book, The Cellist of Sarajevo. In addition, we have a great selection of children's books.

To check out a book, simply write your name on the card and leave the card in the file box. Return resources to the box marked "Book Return".  
**USE OUR LIBRARY!**

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### **MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

A Men's Bible Study Group meets every Friday morning at 6:30 a.m. at Keys Cafe on the east side of University Avenue NE near 83rd Street in Spring Lake Park. We eat a Keys breakfast (\$3 - \$10 including tip.) We take turns volunteering to lead that week's lesson, guiding us through a reading of scripture and story and a discussion of the meaning of that lesson for our lives. We also share prayer concerns. The Bible study text that we use for each attendee is "The New International Lesson Annual", for which we each make a voluntary annual contribution of about \$20. We keep a free extra copy or two in the church library for anyone who would like to try out this opportunity. All men are welcome. For more information contact Roger Olson.

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### **LEAFS-Life Enrichment Adult Forums**

New Spring brochures are in the lounge on the brochure racks.



## YOUTH GROUP



During Lent we learned about different crosses and we each made a copy of one. We also baked pretzels, hot cross buns and unleavened bread. Through bread we learned about Lent, communion and Easter.

We will be hiding Easter eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt and planning for the God-Given talent show. See our sign up page in this Growing Edge and in the lounge at church.

## MISSIONS

### FOCUS ON



### LENTEN OFFERING

The Lenten Offering for March and April will be apportioned to three recipients. They are:

- Mission Trip Scholarships
- Minnesota Food Share
- Unity Meals on Wheels.

We on the Mission Committee will be grateful to accept your gifts through April 30<sup>th</sup>.

**AT THE DONATION STATION** (the bins in the hall near the front doors) Please take a look at your recycling company's latest list of items they will pick up. Several companies, including Allied Waste, have added new items this year. Our donation station will stop collecting items which might easily be recycled at home – unless there is a social benefit, such as the magazines for the jail. We currently collect:



- Books and Magazines for inmates of Anoka County Jail. – please remove your address. No catalogues, tattered magazines or any magazines over two years old please.
- Supplies for health and school kits. See the list on the bin for exact items needed.
- Batteries (button sized to D cell, no car or computer batteries)
- Used Ink Cartridges
- Used Cell Phones
- Campbell's Soup Labels
- Used Eyeglasses for the Lions' Club
- Pop Tops from cans for Ronald McDonald House
- Plastic caps - rigid plastic screw on caps
- Personal sized toiletries for Family Table guests.



***Family Promise of Anoka County:***

Family Promise is the only shelter for families in Anoka County. They are housed in churches at night and at a day center in Coon Rapids during the day. They need help hosting at Community UMC in Columbia Heights, the week of April 15 -22. Help needed includes bringing food for evening meals, spending time with families and an overnight person as well as other tasks. Please contact Mary Tholkes at Community UMC if you have interest or want more information, [mary.tholkes@yahoo.com](mailto:mary.tholkes@yahoo.com). Several people from our church have helped in the past, including Pastors Deb and Diane, Gail Kishish, Jody Lee and more. Ask them about it!

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**YOUNG ADULTS! (18 – 30).** We had a wonderful **Habitat for Humanity Build Day**, on Saturday, March 10. 13 of us painted, sanded, laid floors, stripped woodwork, painted doors, and more. See/email/facebook Carley Mondloh if you are interested in joining us for another work day.



## CHURCH ALBUM .



Our sympathy and prayers go out to the family of Glen Livingston who passed away in March.

## 55+ .



**Adults with Aging Parents:**

We meet again as a support group in the computer room April 17. Anyone who is dealing with issues around caring (either locally or long distance) for aging parents is welcome to join us. (This support group is for any age adult who is dealing with the issues of aging parents)

**SINGLES BREAKFAST!**

55+ folks, join us for breakfast at Perkins at 7520 University Ave in Fridley, on Monday April 2 at 9:30 AM. This is just a social time – come, relax and enjoy the company of FUMC friends. Everybody orders what they want, and pays their own bill!

## 55+ LUNCH AND PROGRAM!

Join us again April 16, at 12:30 PM, when we'll enjoy a delicious lunch prepared by Nancy Nehring and her hard working crew. Please note that this is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday this month, due to the Easter Monday holiday. There is no program this month – a chance to chat with each other! We'd like your reservation by Wednesday, April 11 to Brenda at 571-1526 or email her at [Brenda.Labarre@fridleyumc.org](mailto:Brenda.Labarre@fridleyumc.org). Or sign up on the clipboard posted on the wall outside of her office. Bring your friends! There's always room for more, and it's a good time to share what's great about FUMC! A free will offering is taken to cover the meal cost.



55+

LUNCH

## EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



**EASTER MORNING, APRIL 8:** Join us for a festive breakfast from 7:30 – 9:00, prepared by a group of men led by Pastors Paul Bosshardt and Dennis Ruhnke. We will have an Easter Egg Hunt at 8:45, where we will hide many eggs, and teams of

children and adults will find them and trade them for prizes. Can you help with this? **We need people to hide eggs and to hand out prizes. Please see Pastor Diane to volunteer.**

Children's Choir! Our Children's Choir, for all ages of children, continues their Sunday morning practice with Judy Ryan and Elizabeth Zick from 10:40 – 11:00 in the choir room. They sing in worship about once a month, and we'll see them again on April 1, Palm Sunday. On the days they sing in worship, they will not rehearse afterwards. Contact Pastor Diane or Judy Ryan with your questions!



### Blood Drive April 12, 1:30-6:30

Online access to schedule a donation is available at [REDCROSSBLOOD.ORG](http://REDCROSSBLOOD.ORG). When I got my new coordinator sign-on on Monday evening we already had 5 donors signed up! If you prefer you may call me at 763-574-7221 and I can schedule your donation or call 1-800-RED-CROSS and they can schedule your donation or answer any questions you may have. You may also sign up outside the sanctuary to volunteer in support of this mission. Thanks! *Cheryl Dove Skluzacek*





"Bells Will Be Ringing"  
The Spring Salad Luncheon is coming up!

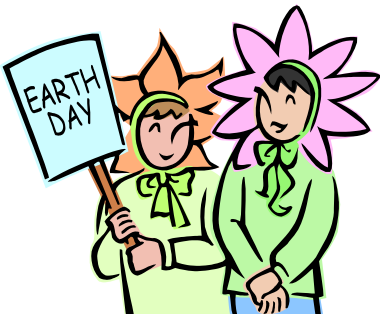
Come one, come all and bring your family and friends! When? Saturday, April 14, 2012, starting at 11:00 am.

We will be entertained by the Twin Cities Bronze, which includes our own Patti Munter. This is a group that you will not want to miss. Every year at Christmas they play with Doc Severinsen here in Minneapolis and from all reports, they are fabulous. Then of course come the wonderful salads and bars.



Tickets are \$10 and will be sold on Sunday mornings, starting Sunday, April 1. Tickets may be purchased in the Church Office during the week, by check only. Come, enjoy wonderful entertainment, good food and good friends.

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**Families with Young Children:** Join us on Sunday, April 22 (Earth Day) at noon in the Fellowship Hall for a healthy lunch followed by fun Earth Day activities for the whole family. We will paint birdhouses, plant flowers and more. Make a difference for the earth! Caring for creation is one way we live our faith. Join us! (See or email Pastor Diane with your questions, or if you want to help with this event).

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**SAVE THESE DATES,** and be a part of Fridley UMC serving others:

**June 16: Being the Word,** 9:00 – 2:30 a full day of fun and service in and for the community for people of all ages

**August 25:** 9 – 4, Being the Word, a full day of fun and service at our church for people of all ages



CALLING ALL KAZOOS! There has been a request to resurrect our Kazoo Band to perform at the “God Given Talent Show” on Friday, May 18, 2012. Watch the yellow pages for when we will meet to practice their favorite selections that we will perform in the talent show. This performance will warm us up for the ‘49er Day Parade that will be on Thursday, June 21<sup>st</sup>. Put both dates on your calendar and watch for more information. If you missed participating in the band last year, no problem-everyone is welcome. No auditions necessary – you only need to know how to hum!!!!

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Is your house in need of a new coat of paint? **Metro Paint-A-Thon** is a program that helps low-income seniors and people with permanent physical disabilities continue to live independently in their own homes. A volunteer team is matched to scrape, prime and paint the exterior of each eligible home/garage, thereby keeping it well-maintained, beautiful and an asset to the neighborhood. ***All of this is done at no cost to the homeowner. See Pastor Diane for an application form for this program. Forms must be submitted by May 4<sup>th</sup>.***

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(Answer Phones)

Can you help fill in when Brenda is on vacation?

*(The whole shift or part of the shift would help out a lot!)*

The hours needed for volunteers are:

Monday, April 16; 9-2:30 pm.

Wednesday and Thursday, April 25 & 26; 9-3:30 pm.

Week of May 7 – 11. Monday, Tuesday & Friday 9-2:30 pm.; Wednesday & Thursday 9-3:30 pm.

Thursday, May 24; 9-2:30 pm.

Friday, May 25; 9-3:30 pm.

Please email Brenda at **[Brenda.LaBarre@fridleyumc.org](mailto:Brenda.LaBarre@fridleyumc.org)** or call her at 763-571-1526.

Thank you!



# UMW NEWS

## FRIDLEY UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

4/10 Ruth Circle will be meeting on Tues. April 10th at the home of Jean Mills at 7:15 pm. Co-hostess will be Kate McNair and Devotions by Shelley Colvin. Char Swanson will offer the program entitled: Rights, Privileges, and Entitlements! A lively discussion on Social Justice!

4/13 Naomi Friendship Circle at 9:30 AM at the Church. Following the devotions and program, the project will be making sandwiches for the Dignity Center!

4/14 Salad Luncheon (See the separate article for more details about this long-awaited event.)

4/21 Twin Cities District Spring Gathering  
St Paul's UMC – Mendota Heights

May No UMW Board Meeting

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April is Prevent Child Abuse month.

We have resources to help you figure out how you can do that, in the racks in the lounge. (Or see Pastor Diane with questions).

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2 Ardyce Edwards  
3 Patricia Synan  
4 Wendell Olson  
5 Bonnie Erickson  
5 Harvey Stewart  
6 Frank Ferguson  
7 Ryan Johnson  
7 Judd McPherson

8 Margaret Pitts  
9 Joanne Peterson  
9 Gaylene Switzer  
10 Kristen Ruesges  
11 Raisa Boris  
11 Russell Hendrick  
12 Raymond McAfee



13 Jodi Johnson  
13 Logan Johnson-Oldenburg  
13 Stephanie Sharpe  
14 Maxine Dammen  
15 Susan Madison  
15 Dusty Patchin  
16 Bradley Richter  
16 James Sullwold  
16 Jeanette Williams  
16 James Young  
20 Thomas McAfee  
20 Lindsay Przybylski  
20 Avalon Zick

21 Judith Schuldt  
23 Boyd Johnson  
24 Cynthia Elias  
24 Olivia Holstine  
24 Livia Krogsveen  
24 Vera Painter  
24 Shaye Wesolek  
27 Gretchen Otterblad  
28 Marcus Paulsen  
29 Leone Olson  
30 Tracey Beert  
30 Bradey Pahl



Kathy Skogen, Val Wertz, Judy Lange, Margaret Ekstrum and Janice Anderson and many others who helped set up, cook, clean up dishes for Ash Wednesday and Wednesday night Lenten Service. Many hands make the work go fast.

*Cindy Doerr*

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### **Thank You For Your Shoe Donation**

The Tabitha Circle would like to thank everyone who donated shoes for our shoe drive. As of this writing, we have over 200 pair, but shoes are still coming in, so watch next month's Growing Edge for our final number collected. In February, there was an article in the newspaper about Claire Baker, a freshman at Totino Grace High School, who has collected 13,000 pair of shoes for the same cause as us, Soles 4 Souls. She is trying to collect 20,000 more pair of shoes by the end of April, in hopes of winning a trip to Haiti, with S 4 S. We decided to give her the shoes we collected, so we hauled our shoes to her church on Sunday, March 18. Even though Claire may win the trip to Haiti which is where a lot of the shoes end up, many of the shoes will stay here in the U.S. where S 4 S is now sending shoes to the tornado stricken areas. For those of you who gave money toward shipping expenses, (we only got a few dollars) we decided to go to Savers,

where Janet bought shoes for children with the money. If anyone wants to read about Claire and keep up with her shoe collection, go to [www.clairefrancesshoecollector.blogspot.com](http://www.clairefrancesshoecollector.blogspot.com).

Thanks again!

*Janet Fossum & Bernie Mingori, shoe co-chairs*

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### **THANK-YOU VOLUNTEER DRIVERS**

The following people delivered Meals On Wheels the week of March 5 - 9.

Two day drivers: Dianne McKusick; Gary & Wanda Boyer; Don & Gerry Greenwaldt, and Roger Olson with Leone's help one of the days.

One day drivers: Jody Lee; Earl & Donna Steffen; Cheryl Skluzacek & Robert Dove; Carrol Rahn; Jerry & Cindy Robb; Wayne Specker; Gary Trull; Mary Young & Kathy Sinner; and Janet Fossum.

I was fortunate to have 17 spots filled that week with weekly or bi-weekly drivers, and still I struggled to fill the week. More drivers are needed. If you are retired, or work part time and have an hour of time to give over the noon hour, one to five days every 12 weeks, please consider giving this a try. The next week F.U.M.C. drives will be April 16 - 20. For more information, if you know someone who could benefit from meals, or to volunteer, please call me.

*Janet Fossum; F.U.M.C. Meals On Wheels Coordinator, 763-780-5694*

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### **Thank you!**

To all the people that assisted me with my various "health events." They are suppose to happen at church where there are wonderful, caring, and nurturing people to make it easier. I am blessed.

Thank you and God bless you.

*Char Swanson*

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### **Thank you:**

To all of the women from Ruth Circle, Naomi Friendship Circle, Frances Johnson and anyone else that helped make 44 scarves for HAUMC' Dignity program. (if you questions about what this is, ask Dennis Ruhnke). Also Naomi Friendship Circle and Frances Johnson made 30 scarves for either the Family Table or the mitten Christmas tree. These people are good with this task.

God bless you for your service.

*Char Swanson*

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Thank you from SACA

Thanks for your generous donation of 113lb. of food. We couldn't have done it without you.

*Marilyn Peters*

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**TALENT SHOW  
FRIDAY, MAY 18, 7:00 PM.**

**GOD-GIVEN TALENT(?) AND VARIETY SHOW  
PERFORMING ARTISTS SIGN-UP**

Name	Talent	Number in Group

*(Drop off in church office or offering plate)*

