



Good News

North Prospect Union UCC

Volume 26, Issue: Summer 2009

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From the Senior Minister

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Dear Friends,

Among summer's pleasures reading good books must rank near the top. Whether by the shore, in a forest hermitage or here in the city, a good read is delicious fare. What wondrous things a talented writer can conjure in the mind's eye. Good fiction and non-fiction alike surprise the imagination, uncovering heretofore hidden facets of the diamond that is our existence. Good writers and good books move us imperceptibly from surfaces on which we are sure-footed to adjacent faces that seem at first familiar but on which our feet soon slip out from under us. That is, good writers and good books send us careening on an adventure. At the end of the ride we are a little different. What could be more wondrous than that?

Not much, I think. So, as we head into the summer I have a few ideas of things we might read together.

All of the books are on our Amazon web store, which you can reach from the church website or blog or with this address:

<http://astore.amazon.com/northprospecu nit>.

First is a book that has been very popular this year and which I know some of you have read, *The Shack*. From the promotional material, "'The Shack' wrestles with the timeless question, 'Where is God in a world so filled with unspeakable pain?'" The answers ... will astound you and perhaps transform you You'll want everyone you know to read this book!" There is also a companion book I'd recommend which helps uncover the underlying theology: *Finding God in The Shack*. We'll have an after-church discussion of these two books on one of the early Sundays in September.

Another book that comes highly recommended: *No Enemy to Conquer*:

(Continued on page 3)

Barbecue ~ June 14

The annual barbecue will be held after worship on Children's Sunday, June 14th. Meats and alternative grilled items will be provided, as will beverages. Please bring a salad or dessert if you are able.



Upcoming Dates

| June 09 | | | | | | |
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June

3 Wednesday

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Knitwits
(Knit and Crochet for the Homeless)

7 Sunday

9:30 Choir Rehearsal
11:00 Worship - Rev. Rose
Carvelli Coffee Group

| July 09 | | | | | | |
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10 Wednesday

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Knitwits
(Knit and Crochet for the Homeless)

14 Sunday

9:30 Choir Rehearsal
Sandwiches for Outdoor Church
11:00 Worship - Rev. Rose
Beyerman/Harmon/Ackerman/
Bodwell and McKeown Coffee
Group
Sunday School Picnic
Flag Day

| August 09 | | | | | | |
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17 Wednesday

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Knitwits
(Knit and Crochet for the Homeless)

18 Thursday

7:00 PM Trustees
7:30 PM Executive Council

| September 09 | | | | | | |
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20 Saturday

Pizza and Movie Night. Pizza at 6:00; Movie at 6:30

21 Sunday

11:00 Worship - Rev. Rose
Ramsay/Parsons Coffee Group
Father's Day

| October 09 | | | | | | |
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24 Wednesday

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Knitwits
(Knit and Crochet for the Homeless)

27 Saturday

1:30 PM Blessing of the animals

28 Sunday

Diaconate 9:30
11:00 Worship - Rev. O'Brien
Addison Coffee Group

| November 09 | | | | | | |
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July

1 Wednesday

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Knitwits
(Knit and Crochet for the Homeless)

4 Saturday

Independence Day

5 Sunday

Worship Moves to 10:00am
10:00 Worship - Rev. O'Brien
Carvelli Coffee Group

8 Wednesday

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Knitwits
(Knit and Crochet for the Homeless)

12 Sunday

Sandwiches for Outdoor Church
10:00 Worship - Rev. Rose
Beyerman/Harmon/Ackerman/
Bodwell and McKeown Coffee
Group

15 Wednesday

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Knitwits
(Knit and Crochet for the Homeless)

16 Thursday

7:45 PM Finance Committee Quarterly Meeting

19 Sunday

10:00 Worship - Rev. Rose
Ramsay/Parsons Coffee Group

22 Wednesday

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Knitwits
(Knit and Crochet for the Homeless)

26 Sunday

10:00 Worship - Rev. Rose
Addison Coffee Group

29 Wednesday

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Knitwits
(Knit and Crochet for the Homeless)

August

2 Sunday

10:00 Worship - Rev. O'Brien
Carvelli Coffee Group

| December 09 | | | | | | |
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| January 10 | | | | | | |
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Upcoming Dates

| June 09 | | | | | | |
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August

5 Wednesday

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Knitwits
(Knit and Crochet for the Homeless)

9 Sunday

Sandwiches for Outdoor Church
10:00 Worship - Rev. O'Brien
Beyerman/Harmon/Ackerman/
Bodwell and McKeown Coffee Group

12 Wednesday

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Knitwits
(Knit and Crochet for the Homeless)

16 Sunday

10:00 Worship - Rev. O'Brien
Ramsay/Parsons Coffee Group

17 Monday

Newsletter Deadline

19 Wednesday

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Knitwits
(Knit and Crochet for the Homeless)

23 Sunday

10:00 Worship - Rev. O'Brien
Addison Coffee Group

26 Wednesday

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Knitwits
(Knit and Crochet for the Homeless)

30 Sunday

10:00 Worship - Rev. O'Brien

September

2 Wednesday

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Knitwits
(Knit and Crochet for the Homeless)

6 Sunday

10:00 Worship - Rev. Rose
Carvelli Coffee Group

7 Monday

Labor Day

8 Tuesday

ElderSpirit: coffee at 10:30, presentation at 11:00

September

9 Wednesday

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Knitwits
(Knit and Crochet for the Homeless)

13 Sunday

Worship returns to 11:00am
9:30 Choir Rehearsal
Sandwiches for Outdoor Church
11:00 Worship - Rev. Rose
Beyerman/Harmon/Ackerman/
Bodwell and McKeown Coffee Group

16 Wednesday

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Knitwits
(Knit and Crochet for the Homeless)

17 Thursday

7:00 PM Trustees
7:30 PM Executive Council

19 Saturday

Pizza and Movie Night. Pizza at 6:00; Movie at 6:30

20 Sunday

Flower Sunday
Start Sunday School
9:30 Choir Rehearsal
11:00 Worship - Rev. Rose
Ramsay/Parsons Coffee Group

21 Monday

Newsletter Deadline

22 Tuesday

ElderSpirit: coffee at 10:30, presentation at 11:00

23 Wednesday

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Knitwits
(Knit and Crochet for the Homeless)

27 Sunday

9:30 Choir Rehearsal
Diaconate 9:30
Addison Coffee Group

30 Wednesday

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Knitwits
(Knit and Crochet for the Homeless)

| December 09 | | | | | | |
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| March 10 | | | | | | |
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| October 09 | | | | | | |
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| April 10 | | | | | | |
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| November 09 | | | | | | |
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| May 10 | | | | | | |
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(Continued from page 1)

Forgiveness in an Unforgiving World. The promotional material says,

Offering dramatic evidence of the transformative power of forgiveness, *No Enemy to Conquer* shares the stories of people of diverse faiths and cultures who, despite all odds, found the courage to reconcile with their enemies. Gathering the voices of Desmond Tutu, Benazir Bhutto, Rajmohan Gandhi, Jonathan Sacks, the Dalai Lama, and others, Henderson's masterful anthology is an inspiring step toward a geopolitics of mercy.



These stories reverberate with the fundamental truth that one of the things we find hardest to do, forgiveness, actually sets us on a path to happiness beyond our expectations. It is an inspiring collection of true stories that can transform our lives.

As most of you know, I find Dietrich Bonhoeffer one of the most inspiring writers and individuals of the last 100 years. Along with his courage, Bonhoeffer had stimulating ideas about the Christian life and Christian communities. His wisdom on these subjects was well beyond his years. I would recommend two of his books for your summer reading: *Discipleship* and *Life Together*.

There is a whole new generation of translations of the classics of Tolstoy and Dostoevsky. If you are like me, it's been awhile since you've read *War and Peace*, *Anna Karenina*, *The Brothers Karamazov* or *Crime and Punishment*. The highly regarded translation team of Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky have given us excellent versions of all of these within the last decade.

Finally, for those of you who enjoyed Marilynne Robinson's novel *Gilead*, she has written a sequel called, *Home*. It has received the same acclaim and is well worth your time.

We'll have a sign up sheet at church, or you can just let me know which titles you are interested in reading this summer and having a discussion on in the fall. In a few weeks we'll set the list and the fall discussion schedule.

Happy Reading!

Dudley

Help the Church Spend Your Money!

The current bylaws give the diaconate the responsibility of disbursing the monies pledged for the church's mission, and you are invited to submit your suggestions as to who gets a piece of the pie. In recent years, some of the beneficiaries have been the Seafarer's Friend, Save the Children, a local half-way house, a shelter for teen moms and their children, and the Carpenter's Boathouse in Maine. Our on-going commitment to the Outdoor Church, made by a vote of the congregation, must be honored, of course, but beyond that the decision rests with the deacons.

If you have a favorite non-profit with goals compatible with North Prospect Union's, send an email to the office with a paragraph about why you think it deserves our support, or write the information on a file card or sheet of paper to mail in or drop in the collection plate.



KnitWits to Meet Summer Months



The KnitWits enjoying our beautiful yard, chatting away while they knit or crochet, bring a smile to the passer-by. They will continue to meet outdoors when it's gorgeous, inside when it's rainy or too hot, Wednesday mornings, 10-11:30, through the summer. And you are urged to join them. Current projects include pretty, warm scarves for homeless women and girls next winter. You'll get all the help you'll need at these meetings, or you could participate by making things at home and donating them with the KnitWits' contributions. A pattern is available for easy fleece hats which can be adapted for any age or gender, if you aren't a yarn crafter. Corey O'Brien has many more ideas, for whatever way you would like to participate.

Newsletter Online

You remember the old riddle, what's black-and-white and re(a)d all over? Well, if you're tired of reading the newsletter in black and white, it's time to check it out on line and enjoy all the colorful graphics. You can also increase or decrease the size of the page, depending whether you need a larger print. The time and expenses involved in mailing out a printed version nine or ten times a year have caused us to rethink how church news is delivered.

The goal is the same - to make sure everyone who wants the newsletter or needs to be informed receives it. There will be reminders in all the fall newsletters, and by January only those people who have requested a paper copy will get one in the mail. After the first of the year, there will be an email link sent out when the newsletter is available, and as always paper copies will be available for pick-up at the church.



Movie & Pizza Night

Ferris Bueller's Day Off, described by Netflix as "quirky and goofy" is the selection for June's Movie & Pizza Night. Perfect for teens, hilarious for all ages. Rated PG-13.



The ministers will each be away part of the summer, and their respective vacations are not yet firmed up. For pastoral care and other emergencies you may call either at home, but if Dudley (617-354-2385) or Corey (617-926-8132) doesn't get back to you promptly, call the office (781-396-8435) and/or the other minister, or Barbara at home (781-391-6496). Church email and phone messages will be checked frequently.

NPU to Confirm Three

On Sunday, June 14, a joyful day indeed, North Prospect Union's current class of teens will enter into a covenantal relationship with the body of Christ, confirming the choices and goals made on their behalf at their baptisms. Confirmands are Liam Bodwell, Jennie Galante, and Ryan Voto.



Blessing of the Animals ~ Saturday, June 27



On Saturday, June 27, North Prospect Union will host our first ever Blessing of the Animals. This is an ancient ritual, long in existence before Francis of Assisi celebrated appreciation of all of the creator's lower animals; a manuscript exists showing the third century desert ascetic Anthony blessing an animal. It seems natural to ask God's protection for the creatures who provide us with so much.

The short service will include readings from scripture, prayers and a section in which people may bring their pets to the pastor for an individual blessing. We will have a certificate of blessing for each person to take with them as a memento of this service. The service will be held outside and we ask that all animals be in carriers or leashed. All are welcome from hermit crabs to dogs and cats and any other animals that may be in need of a blessing. If your pet is not portable, or does not socialize well, a picture will suffice.

Summer Hours ~ July 5 through Labor Day

Worship will begin at 10:00

(Sandwich-making on the 2nd Sunday will remain at 8:30)



Joys & Concerns

Our condolences go to Millie Fontana whose sister, her last remaining sibling, passed away in May. Melissa McGoldrick lost a member of her extended family, following a long illness. Kathleen Beyerman is recovering from knee replacement. Agnes MacDonald is working hard in rehab, following an April hospitalization. Janet Christo had major surgery and is doing very well. She is still at Mass General at the time of publication. Betty Rockwood is recovering at home from a fall. Speedy recovery to you all! And finally, many of us have friends and family members seriously affected by the dismal economic conditions. They, too, need our prayers.

North Prospect Union UCC

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The Good News ~ Summer 2009

