

# GOSPEL NEWS

*The Newsletter for the St. Charles and Dover*

*United Methodist Churches*

*February 2017*



Pastor: Rev. Heather E. Klason

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Website: <http://www.scdmethodist.com>

Worship Times: 8:30 am St. Charles & 10 am Dover Community Church



**Minnesota**  
**Annual Conference**  
of the United Methodist Church

## **St. Charles and Dover claim new identity, re-focus after HCI.**

By: Christa Meland

Several years ago, while struggling with a lack of "bodies and bucks," St. Charles and Dover United Methodist Churches began the Healthy Church Initiative (HCI) - a revitalization process involving learning, consultation, and coaching that's designed to help congregations grow (Thanks to your generosity through the Reach \* Renew \* Rejoice conference-wide campaign (<http://www.minnesotaumc.org/reach-renew-rejoice>)). 140 churches will enter a revitalization process between 2014 and 2020.

"If you look at where they were on the church life cycle, they were over the hump" said Rev. Heather Klason, who leads the two-point charge. "There was a sense of: What do we have to lose?"

HCI helped both churches to discover their niche and look to a hopeful future.

For Dover, that meant becoming a church for its small bedroom community and engaging in new types of outreach. So the congregation began offering an Easter egg hunt for kids, a haunted house during Dover's "Pumpkin Fest," and a meal at a park during the town's Fourth of July celebration.

Participating in community events has greatly increased the church's visibility. "When we started the HCI process, a lot of people didn't even know there was a church in Dover," said Klason. That's not the case anymore. And the church actually renamed itself "Dover Community Church-A Mission of the United Methodist Church" to align with its new focus.

The inside of the church has also shifted in accordance with Dover's new identity: Most of the pews have been taken out and replaced with tables and chairs to enhance the worship experience for families.

Meanwhile, HCI helped St. Charles to dream a new dream following a difficult decision members made to abandon plans for a new church building. The church celebrated funds raised through a capital campaign for the new building and instead used them to make the existing building handicapped accessible.

Additionally, HCI prompted St. Charles to embrace the work of “feeding hungry souls” and to increase its connection with its local elementary school. The church had already been contributing to a backpack program that provides nutritious and easy-to-prepare food for hungry children to take home on weekends. But it has since expanded its outreach.

Last summer, in partnership with other area churches, St. Charles served lunch at its building to elementary-age children going through summer school. The church also participates in a twice-annual food distribution for families who come to City Hall. Last year, the church received an Investing in Congregations grant from the Minnesota Conference that allowed it to adopt a classroom; members provided resources for the teacher to purchase extra supplies, they volunteered in the classroom and they provided every child with two new books each semester.



HCI also prompted changes within the church. For example, a new Confirmation process was introduced to provide a more meaningful experience for children and to better meet the schedules of busy families. One week, students come to class. The next week, they do a mission project. And the third week, they do an activity with their families. This cycle repeats throughout the school year.

Klason said one of the HCI recommendations that the churches are now focusing on is forming joint councils. They will also work to condense the number of committees so that volunteers spend less time in meetings and more time in service.

The churches are looking at how to translate what they're doing into numerical growth too; that hasn't happened yet.

Still, the churches are significantly more focused and more vibrant than they were even just a few years ago-and the HCI process was the catalyst for that change.

“HCI encourages a climate of possibility,” said Klason. “It is a process to name and claim who you are. Part of challenge we're facing today is church and the culture are changing. HCI helps you be really creative to reach people for Jesus Christ.

*Christa Meland (mailto:christa.meland@minnesotaumc.org) is director of communications for the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.*

## Worship Focus/Worship Preparation

### Seasons of the Spirit -February, 2017

#### February 5 – Letting the Light Through (Fifth Sunday of the Epiphany)

**Focus Text:** Matthew 5:13–20

In today's focus scripture Jesus says that the disciples are salt and light in the world. These symbols of life (salt – preserving and even seasoning life; light – nurturing and sustaining life) are meant to call us to remember the importance of God's covenant with God's people. God wants us to remember God's law as it will preserve our community (like salt), and God wants us to show the message of God's love to the world (like light). The use of two familiar substances that we encounter daily reminds us of our role as Jesus' disciples in today's world.

**Additional Texts for Study and Reflection:** Isaiah 58:1-9a; Psalm 112:1-9; 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

**This week,** think of someone who you would characterize as being salt and light to the world. What one thing might you do this week to emulate her or him?

#### February 12 – Heart-felt (Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany)

**Focus Text:** Matthew 5:21–37

God wants us to be reconciled to one another and to have integrity in our relationships. In today's focus scripture, Jesus shows us how we can live closer to God's ways and truly love one another. He gives us the examples of coming to terms with our anger with another, being principled in our relationships, and being true to our oaths and promises to one another. These matters of the heart – and matters of the spirit – turn us inward to seek the meaning of not only who, but *whose* we are.

**Additional Text for study and reflection:** Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

**This week,** reach out to a friend or family member with whom you've had a disagreement or with whom you're angry right now. Reconcile and let love guide your conversations.

#### February 19 – Going Beyond (Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany)

**Focus Text:** Matthew 5:38–48

Jesus shares his ideas about perfect love in this focus scripture – love at all times, in all circumstances. Love when we don't feel like it, love when we face an enemy, love when we are being persecuted and oppressed, love when we're tired of being asked. Jesus knows this kind of love because he lived this kind of love. And we are called to do the same. Jesus doesn't say this will be easy and it definitely wasn't easy for him, but with God's help and assurance, we can live lives of more perfect love.

**Additional Texts for Study and Reflection:** Leviticus 19:1-2,9-18; Psalm 119:33-40; 1 Corinthians 3:10-11,16-23

**This week,** practice perfect love by saying, "Yes" anytime you're asked to give (e.g., give food or money to any homeless person who asks for it, work the extra hour or take on the extra project at work when asked, give permission for your spouse or children to do something they want to do, give money to someone who needs to borrow it).

#### February 26 – Glorious Mystery (Transfiguration Sunday)

**Focus Text:** Matthew 17:1–9

The Transfiguration is an awesome moment in scripture. Jesus is transformed in a bright cloud; Moses and Elijah appear alongside him. Jesus is revealed again as God's son as God speaks to Peter, James, and John saying, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased." With the disciples, we are witnesses to Jesus' light. We are overcome with the mystery of God's son dwelling among us. In the Season after the Epiphany we've journeyed with Jesus as he's taught us about God's love and lived the light of that love among us. As this season draws to a close, we're challenged to carry that light forward and be a witness to God's love in the world.

**Additional Texts for study and reflection:** Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2; 2 Peter 1:16-21

**This week,** look for the transformations happening around you. What is changing in nature? What is changing in your relationships with friends or family? How are you changing and how have you been changed during the Season after the Epiphany?



March 1 – Ash Wednesday – Dover Community Church – 7:00 PM  
"The Laws of Reflection and Respect" – Exodus 20:1-7

March 8 – St Charles UMC – 7:00 PM  
"The Law of Remembrance" – Exodus 20:8-11

March 15 – Berea Moravian Church – 7:00 PM  
"The Laws of Caring, Commitment and Life" – Exodus 20: 12-14

March 22 – Dover Community Church – 7:00 PM  
"The Laws of Sharing, Self-Control and Assurance" – Exodus 20: 15,17

March 29 – St Charles UMC – 7:00 PM  
"The Law of Speech" – Exodus 20: 16, 18-21

April 5 – Berea Moravian Church – 7:00 PM  
"The Laws of Love" – Matthew 22:36-39

## Lenten Worship Services

St. Charles, Dover, and Berea Moravian join together each Wednesday for a meal and Lenten worship service.

# Confirmation

February 1

Mission Project

Week of February 6

Home & Family Assignment

February 15

Class: The Gospels

February 22

Mission Project

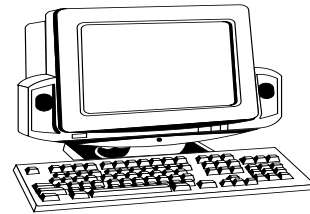


## Office updating

We now have \$700 in the new copier fund.

We are grateful!!

If you would still like to help with this project, please write a check to the church and indicate that your donation is for office machines.



Check out the website:

[www.scdmethodist.com](http://www.scdmethodist.com)

The website is loaded with pictures and information to help you stay involved and informed with your church family.

# St. Charles United Methodist Church

## Administrative Council Meeting

January 11, 2017

**Members Present:** Sue Stefanich, Dianna Pulley, Allan Fagan, and Pastor Heather.

Pastor Heather began the meeting with devotions and prayer.

The minutes of the December 14, 2016 Ad. Council meeting were approved.

### Finance:

- Sue distributed Profit/Loss reports for 2016. (This will be available on the bulletin board for all to review.)
- Of our \$13,041.96 apportionment assessment, \$8,000 has been paid.

Annual income	\$83,639.69
Annual expenses	<u>79,670.19</u>
Balance	\$3,969.50
Unpaid apportionments	\$5,041.96

### Worship:

- Thank you to the worship committee for our beautifully Christmas decorated church.
- Installation of church officers will be February 12, 2017.
- March 19 will be mission recognition Sunday with a brunch to benefit a mission to be chosen.

### Missions:

- Thank yous to folks who helped with these projects: Adopt a Family, Christmas Toy Drive, Meals on Wheels, Head Start learning bags and Food for Families.
- Thank you to Carol Mueske and Barb Traxler for visiting many homebound members and bringing them Christmas gifts.
- Thank you to Carol Mueske for driving to Channel One weekly to bring food for the Hometown Resource Center.
- \$100 was earned through Milk 'Moo-la' and donated to Headstart.
- The next day for Box tops for Education is Feb. 14, 1:00-3:00.

### Memorial:

- \$2,275 has been donated for new chairs for the fellowship hall.
- \$700 has been given for updating the office machines.
- There is presently \$32,245.37 in the memorial fund.

### Trustees:

- Thank you Troy Henry for being the new chairperson.
- Trustees will meet Jan. 8.
- Volunteers are still needed for snow removal and church cleaning.

### Sunday School:

- Pastor Heather will have a meeting with the parents of the children to see what they want for Sunday School and how they can support it on January 15.

### Confirmation:

- The confirmands have chosen to do service projects for: The Hometown Resource Center, Emergency personnel and those in the armed forces.

### UMW:

- Thank you to those who hosted a wonderful Christmas Party for the ladies of both churches.
- Learning Bags were given to the Headstart children for Christmas.
- Carol Mueske and Barb Traxler visited and gave calendars, poinsettias, and candy to those who are homebound.
- Health kits may be a project for the spring.



The next SCUMC administrative council meeting on Feb. 8., 2017 will begin with a short charge conference to confirm SCUMC leadership; a full council meeting will follow..

The next joint meeting will be February 22, 2017 at 7:00 pm at Dover.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dianna Pulley

# St. Charles/Dover United Methodist Women Meeting

January 5, 2017

**Members Present:** Dianna Pulley, Joan Hoff, Gail Keller, Carol Mueske

9:15 Meeting called to order by Dianna.

November minutes read and approved.

Gail presented devotions.

**Treasurers Report:**

- Joan reported: Total in account is \$2277.76.
- \$100 check written to Pastor Heather for Christmas gift.
- Paid district conference pledge of \$1400.
- Review bills still needing to be paid.
- Joan has received the 2 pins for the May breakfast.

**Old business:**

- Christmas party has been rescheduled for 1/6/17.
- Sue, Dianna and Carol did Christmas for 14 Head Start students. Discuss need more information about Head Start and their needs.

**New Business:**

- Gail Keller will be in charge of organizing for serving for funerals.
- Resource Center needs diapers. Discuss having a brunch to earn money for diapers. Need someone to organize "Brunch for diapers."
- Health Kits are due in May. 50 kits is the goal. Gail would like to do one whole bag herself.

**Reminders:**

- Food for families distribution is this Thursday, 1/12/2017 at 3:30-6 pm. Sign up sheet will be passed around again Sunday. Another driver is needed to help John Steffel bring the food from Channel One. Carol volunteered and will contact John.
- February 14 at 1 pm is date for cutting box top labels

Dianna presented UMW lesson/devotion: "Restaurant Opportunity Center." UMW assists funding for this.

Next meeting February 2, 2017. Gail will bring treats. Dianna will have Devotions.

Meeting ended 10:15.



## 2017 Dover Community Church Officers

Position	Name	Joint Staff/Pastor Relations Committee	
<b>Administrative Council Chair</b>	Jennifer Mitchell		<b>Co-Chair D</b> Casey Ihrke
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Betty Pedersen		<b>Co-Chair D</b> Amber Myers
<b>Lay Leader</b>			<b>D</b> Mickey Badker
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Betty Pedersen		<b>S</b> Cheryl Hinckley
<b>Lay Delegate</b>	<b>(Still Needed)</b>		<b>S</b> Helen Tollefson
<b>Finance Committee Chair</b>	Shelley Wegman		<b>S</b> Jubal Snitker
<b>Trustee Co-Chair</b>	Steve Harvey		<b>Lay Delegate S</b> Peggy Carlson
<b>Trustee Co-Chair</b>	Brian Kieffer		<b>Lay Leader (St. Charles) S</b> Jon Arnold
<b>Membership Committee</b>	Marge Fix		<b>Lay Leader (Dover) D</b>
<b>Sunday School Superintendent</b>	Jennifer Mitchell		
	Jill Harvey	<b>Committee on Mission Engagements</b>	<b>Council</b>
	Jill Magnuson		
	Melinda Kieffer	<b>Communion Steward</b>	<b>Nancy Kieffer</b>
	Amber Myers		
<b>Trustees</b>		<b>Worship</b>	
	<b>Co-Chair</b> Steve Harvey		<b>D</b> Betty Pedersen
	<b>Co-Chair</b> Brian Kieffer		<b>D</b> Geri Ihrke

## 2017 St. Charles United Methodist Church Officers

Position	Name		
<b>Administrative Council</b>		<b>Committee on Finance</b>	
<b>Chair</b>	Allan Fagan	<b>Chair</b>	Lee Carlson
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Dianna Pulley	<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Sue Stefanich
<b>Lay Leader</b>	Jon Arnold	<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	Teri Arnold
<b>Church Treasurer</b>	Shelley Wegman	<b>Trustees</b>	Troy Henry
<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	Teri Arnold	<b>Lay Leader</b>	Jon Arnold
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Sue Stefanich	<b>Treasurer</b>	Shelly Wegman
<b>Lay Delegate</b>	Peggy Carlson	<b>Lay Delegate at Large</b>	Janell Pearson
<b>Finance Committee Chair</b>	Lee Carlson		
 		<b>Communion Stewards</b>	Carol Mueske Jill Hutsell Helen Tollefson
<b>Trustee Chair</b>	Troy Henry		
<b>SPPR Co-Chair</b>	Casey Ihrke	<b>Worship Committee</b>	Marion Decker Rory Ellsworth Jon & Teri Arnold Marcie Dabelstein
<b>SPPR Co-Chair</b>	Amber Myers		
<b>UMW President</b>	Dianna Pulley	<b>Hamline University Rep</b>	
 		<b>Historian</b>	
<b>Staff/Pastor Relations Committee</b>		<b>Prayer Chain</b>	Carol Mueske Dianna Pulley
<b>Co-Chair D</b>	Casey Ihrke	<b>Missions</b>	<b>Jon Arnold</b>
<b>Co-Chair D</b>	Amber Myers	<b>Education Committee</b>	Marcie Dabelstein Jill Butson Dianna Pulley Karin Ferden Kendra Henry
D	Mickey Badker	<b>Lay Visitation Committee</b>	Dianna Pulley Al Fagan Deb Fagan Carol Mueske Jon Arnold Teri Arnold
S	Cheryl Hinckley		
S	Jubal Snitker	<b>SC UMW</b>	President Dianna Pulley Secretary Carol Mueske Treasurer Joan Hoff
S	Helen Tollefson		
<b>Lay Delegate S</b>	Peggy Carlson		
<b>Lay Leader S</b>	Jon Arnold		
<b>Lay Leader D</b>			
<b>Trustees</b>			
<b>Chair</b>	Troy Henry Marion Decker Steve Pearson Jon Arnold Mark Roubinek Allan Fagan Rick Dabelstein		
<b>Emeritus</b>	Dick Kvam		
<b>Committee on Lay Leadership (aka Nominations Committee)</b>	Teri Arnold Barb Traxler Jill Butson		
<b>Membership Committee</b>	Al Fagan Barb Traxler Linda Ferguson		





## February Birthdays and Anniversaries

1	Jubal & Stacey Snitker	St. Charles
2	Reid Pulley	St. Charles
	Cheryl Hinckley	St. Charles
4	Tyler Sexton	St. Charles
6	Jay Button	Dover
	Lynnlee Boelter	Dover
7	Helen Tollefson	St. Charles
	Robert Ihrke Jr.	Dover
8	Ryan Pulley	St. Charles
	Gordon Ferguson	St. Charles
9	Earl Voss	St. Charles
	Dennis Sabatke	St. Charles
	Orven Dahl	Dover
	Paul & Marion Evenson	St. Charles
10	Leon Sackreiter	St. Charles
	Ava Butson	St. Charles
	Nick Butson	St. Charles
	David & Lois Bishop	St. Charles
11	Liane Hammel	Dover
13	Marion Evenson	St. Charles
14	Roger & Barb Traxler	St. Charles
15	Denise Strain	St. Charles
17	Joe Boelter	Dover
19	Steve Pearson	St. Charles
	Melissa Zamzow	St. Charles
20	Tyler Ferson	Dover
	Malissa McKee	St. Charles
21	Mickey Badker	Dover
	April Kvam	St. Charles
	Jeremy Marshall	St. Charles
24	Paul Marshall	St. Charles
25	Charles & Norma Stephans	St. Charles
26	Justin Johnson	St. Charles
	Alyssa Schafer	St. Charles
27	Rick Dabelstein	St. Charles
	Allan Fagan	St. Charles
28	Patti Zingler	St. Charles
	Brent Fagan	St. Charles
	Kay Phelps	St. Charles

## Please Remember these People in Your Prayers



Vicki Marquart  
Evan Wegman  
Evelyn Biers  
Maynard Millard  
Leah Arnold

*If you know of anyone in the hospital or in need of prayers, visits, or would like communion brought to them, please contact Pastor Heather.*



**Please save box tops for Education and Milk Moola for the St. Charles Early Childhood Education and Head Start Programs.**

**Place them in the basket in the narthex.**

We have volunteered to help the St. Charles Early Childhood Initiative (ECI) collect and process the Box Tops for Education they have collected at the St. Charles Elementary School.

Please come on  
**Tuesday February 14, 2017**  
**1:00 pm – 3:00 pm**  
to help to process to have them postmarked by March 1, 2017.

If you can join us please bring a pair of scissors.

Coffee and treats are provided.








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# February 2017

			1 6:00 pm Confirmation 		
			2 9:00 am UMW No Assisted Living 		
			3		
			4		
5 8:30 am SC Worship 10 am Dover Worship 	6	7	8 7:00 pm Ad. Board and Charge Conference SC 	9 10:00 am Assisted Living Worship	11
12 8:30 am SC Worship 10 am Dover Worship 10:15 am Dover SS	13	14 1:00 pm Box tops For Education Workday 	15 6:00 pm Confirmation	16 10:00 am Assisted Living Worship 	18
19 8:30 am SC Worship 10 am Dover Worship 10:15 am Dover SS	20 Articles for February Newsletter due in office 	21	22 9:00 am SC Ministerial at Cabin Coffee 6:00 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Joint Ad. Board	23 10:00 am Assisted Living Worship	25
26 8:30 am SC Worship 10 am Dover Worship 10:15 am Dover SS	27	28			



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