



April 2016

# “Yucca Breeze”

T H E U N I T E D C H U R C H E S O F H O T S P R I N G S

## P A S T O R ’ S C O R N E R :

### **ON BEING A HEALTHY SMALL CHURCH**

In order to sharpen us as leaders, I have been encouraging our leadership on the Board of Trustees to become a community of practice, learning about best practices of congregations, and then seeking to implement some of those practices at United Churches. Last year we read a book about Leadership and Spiritual Discernment. As we read this book, which was quite challenging for many. Our focus was on discerning the Spirit leading instead of just adopting business or government models of community leadership.

This year, we are looking at a book called “The Healthy Small Church”. It has been both encouraging and challenging, and we are only a few chapters in. It was eye-opening for some on our Board of Trustees in a few ways. First, I think that larger churches have been marketed so well that we don’t quickly think of small and healthy in the same sentence when it comes to churches. We think small churches deserve the label that underweight children get placed on them—failure to thrive. However, it is possible to be a small church and a healthy church. I don’t think we have arrived as a church in this regard, but I do think we are on a journey toward being a healthier church.

Consider the following facts from the July/August 2014 edition of Outreach magazine:

#### **THE TYPICAL CHURCH IN THE U.S. IS A SMALL CHURCH**

- ♦ 63 million or about 20.4 percent of the population attend church each Sunday
- ♦ 60% of Protestant churches have 100 or fewer people in church on a given week-end
- ♦ The average church attracts fewer than 90 people a Sunday
- ♦ The median congregation in the US has 75 regular attenders and a budget of \$90,000 a year

#### **SMALL CHURCHES ARE UNIQUELY SITUATED TO REACH OUT**

- ♦ Adults under 35 are more likely to attend small churches than larger churches
- ♦ Small churches grow at a faster rate than large ones and reach a higher percentage of new attendees
- ♦ Churches of 200 or less are four times as likely to plant a daughter church

Now, not all churches that are small, medium-sized, or large are healthy. Therefore, it  
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helps us to consider some of what **The Healthy Small Church** has to say, and to endure some sort of check up to help us grow stronger. So we will be considering some questions in the coming months. These questions include but are not limited to questions like:

- ♦ How are we welcoming others, and how can we improve this practice?
- ♦ What things are we doing to keep ourselves "externally focused" and focused on fulfilling our mission and vision?
- ♦ How do we partner with one another and share investment and responsibility in the church's core ministries?
- ♦ How are we developing and managing financial resources?
- ♦ How can we be more effective at training disciples and developing leaders?

Please pray for our church as we continue to learn and grow, and seek to become even more healthy for Christ and his kingdom! —**Pastor Clint**

## "ANNOUNCEMENTS"

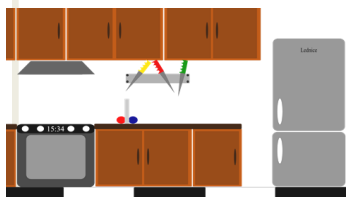
**Our Choir Cantata "Come, Touch the Robe"** has been rescheduled and will be presented on Sunday, April 3rd, during the 10 am Morning Worship Service. Hope you can join us!



### Fire Safety

**FREE Smoke Alarm Installs & Inspections!** Provided by the American Red Cross, AmeriCorps, Hot Springs Volunteer Fire Department, and County Emergency Management, as part of the Home Fire Preparedness Campaign. Installation appointments can be made by calling 605-342-4010, ext. 2176 **Call before April 5th.**

**Part-Time Volunteer Opportunity**—We are looking for a couple of awesome volunteers to help run the sound system when Pat is not available, both for the Morning Worship Service and the Evening Praise Service. It is not hard, and training is available. (Most of the buttons and dials do not need to be used. You typically only use 5 or 6 of them!) Please consider helping out in this fun-filled role! See Pat for more information. THANKS!



**Coming Up: "The Great Kitchen Cleanup"**—Wednesday, April 13th, 9 am—Noon. Anyone who would like to join us for a morning of fun, fellowship, *and some cleaning*, please reserve this date. (Rumor has it there will be homemade cinnamon rolls for participants!)

**A Note from Melody Trent** —Dearest United Churches Ladies Group: We would like to invite you to "Focus UMW Day 2016" at Fairburn United Methodist Church. We are excited to see all of you and hope you can attend. Date is Saturday, April 16th, 9 am, cost is \$6. Please RSVP by April 8th to either Betty Ott at 1-605-255-4329 or Melody Trent at 1-308-430-8358. God's Blessings to you!

## "THANK YOU NOTE"



The healing process has been amazingly smooth since my rotator cuff surgery in January, and I continue to gain in strength. I am so thankful for my church family and appreciate your many thoughts, cards, and prayers. Thank you—you are a blessing!  
—Garry Strauser

## **APRIL Birthdays:**

6 Steve Keller  
7 Shelby McDill  
8 Sheila DeVries  
12 Darlene Jackson  
Angela Puffer  
21 Darlene Hayden  
23 Velma McCollam  
24 Chad Olstad  
30 Kathy Schweigert



## **APRIL Anniversaries:**

(None)



*If your name is not included on the Birthdays and Anniversaries list and you would like it to be added, please contact the church office by email: [uc@gwtc.net](mailto:uc@gwtc.net) or call 745-5640.*

## **“Thank You, Gary and Kathy”**



The “Thank-You” Reception for the Schweigerts was enjoyed by all, and Gary and Kathy were very moved by the outpouring of appreciation and blessings for their future endeavors. They have promised to keep in touch and let us know how their “Heaven’s Gait” project is progressing in Illinois. “Happy Trails!”



## **“SEEN AROUND TOWN”**

"Hollywood Glamour" was a red-carpet evening of fun at Woolly's, sponsored by the Medical Staff of Fall River Health Services on March 11. (Don and Sheila were in attendance because Don serves as a distinguished member of the Board of Directors of FRHS.) Prior to the event, when discussing suggested fashion for the evening, Don mentioned that he and Sheila had visited Hollywood a couple of years before, when they attended the Rose Bowl Parade, and that he knew how they *really* dressed in Hollywood! Apparently so!! Of course Sheila made sure the paparazzi were there to capture the moment.



## **CONGRATULATIONS Are in order!**

On March 12, 2016 **Gerald Collogan** was recognized as the “Joyce Farrell Volunteer of the Year” at the 76th Annual Hot Springs Dinner & Awards Banquet. The event was held at the Mueller Civic Center and attended by hundreds of honorees, business owners, past and present civic leaders, local “celebrities” and guests. As the list of Gerald’s many, many volunteer activities through the years was read by Chamber of Commerce Director Scott Haden, those who know “Jerry” quickly realized this was an abridged version, as to cover everything he has done and continues to do on a volunteer basis to improve our town and the lives of so many people would have taken *all night!*



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