

Third Word News & Notes

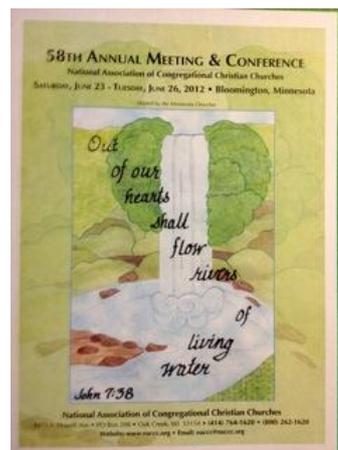


JULY 2012

Pastor's Message

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION MEETING

This year the Annual Meeting of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches was held in Bloomington, Minnesota from June 23 - 26. Delegates from 142 Churches from around the country gathered for worship on Sunday and to discuss and vote on implementing a new strategic plan for the National Association. The theme of the meeting was, *Out of our hearts shall flow rivers of living water*, John 7:38. The delegates were called on to approve a plan to restructure the NA to enable it to better meet the needs of local churches. It also calls on every church to select one of its members to serve as a year round delegate to the NA to improve the lines of communication between local churches and the National Office. The strategic plan was approved by a unanimous vote.



The Annual Meeting also offered a dozen workshops and seminars on a whole host of subjects such as Youth Ministries, Church Music, Mission Opportunities and presentations by several missionaries about their work around the world. There were also three excellent Bible Lectures by a professor from Luther Seminary. This year's meeting was a great success thanks to the great planning and warm hospitality of the Minnesota Churches of the NACCC.

*Blessings,
Pastor Norm*

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL, A SUCCESS!

June 14 was a great day for everyone who enjoyed the wonderful treat of homemade biscuits, buttered and served with fresh strawberries and homemade whipped cream. The take out window was a bit slower this year but the shortcake was every bit as wonderful. The Ladies Aid Society was able to make a profit of about \$6000 on the event. Many of the congregation turned out to help and it was greatly appreciated. Thanks to Leslie Hassmann once again for coordinating the event.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS was held on June 30th this year as a one day event. We started and ended the day with music led by Leslie and Dean Coutsouridis. It was fun and uplifting, a great way to start the day. The students were divided into three groups and participated in games, bible adventures and a project mission. The mission projects were making mixes in a bag to donate to Amazing Grace Food Pantry. The students made a 3 bean soup mix in the morning and a cookie mix in the afternoon. There were 17 bags of soup mix and 19 bags of cookie mix. The students were then treated to two Lighthouse Landing adventures led by a group of teens. Thanks to Amy Aronson, Ellie Hojda, Shawn Tycz, Corrine Sternberg, Doreen Rodo, Leslie and Dean Coutsouridis, Alex Fletcher, Sydney White, Collin Kennedy, Erika Hojda, Christina Harrison, Cory Hassmann and Alex Kennedy for all of their help before, during and after the program.



OUR NEW SEXTON

The Trustees have hired Tim LaValley as our new sexton. Tim has been a member of the church for several years and has been the sexton on a trial basis for the past three months. Tim has now been hired as the permanent sexton. Tim lives in Middletown with his wife, Kim, and has three children, Emily, Christopher and Olivia. We are so pleased to have him on our staff.

PARSONAGE HAS NEW DECK

Mark Fiderio and Don Keathley designed a new deck for the parsonage to replace the worn out back porch. Mark and several volunteers have worked in their spare time over the past few months to bring this project to completion. They did a great job and the new deck is beautiful. Barbara and Pastor Norm are delighted with it. They express their gratitude to all those who gave of their time and talent to this project.



Upcoming Events

7/22	Garden Side Service
7/22	Picnic at Tom & Ruth Law Home
8/9	PFS Ice Cream Social
9/9	Rally Sunday and Church Community BBQ