

# THE CROSS & THE FLAME

**August** Liberty Pole and Viroqua United Methodist Churches **2008**  
P.O. Box 127, Viroqua, WI 54665

**Communion**  
**Sunday, August 3**

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**Joint outdoor worship**  
**service & picnic**  
**Sunday, August 17**  
**10:30AM**  
**Eckhart Park**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Golden Cross Sun.**  
**Sunday, August 24**  
**support our UMC**  
**Health & Welfare**  
**Ministries**

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## **FROM THE PASTOR**

How is your summer going? It's nearly August as I sit down to write this article, which means that the summer season is on its downswing. I don't know about you but I love summer, the chances to be outside without several layers of clothing for protection from the elements, opportunities to see wildlife, deer, bear, fox and other beings within God's creation. Yet in the busyness of our days we very seldom take the time to just sit and look around to see what God has blessed us with in the world around us.

One of the things that I enjoyed growing up was going out into the woods, be it in the bluffs around La Crosse or the hills near my Grandpa Larson's farm or in some of the state and national parks we are blessed with in Wisconsin. There was the joy of exploring places that I had never seen before and seeing the wonder of God's creation. Laverne and I took a few opportunities while we were in Tennessee to drive around the Great Smoky Mountains, on a drive established by the Park Service to enjoy the wonders of creation. Near a place called Clingman's Dome we walked (very slowly) up a half-mile paved path to a lookout point and looked over the mountains from the tower that they had erected in the mid 1960's. It was beautiful. We could see not only the mountains but the lakes that were nestled in many valleys below that promontory. There had been a serious rain storm just before we got there but then the sun came out, and as the sun beat down on the mountainsides and the rock outcroppings, steam began to come up out of the trees, giving the area a smoky effect that helped give rise to that mountain range's name.

In one valley of the national park called Cade's Cove, we drove slowly through the road that circled the valley and stopped at most of the sites where people had once had their homes and churches. It was a valley that, while it was nestled in southern Tennessee near the North and South Carolina borders, had chosen to support the Union during the Civil War. They had looked at the reasons the Southern States had chosen to secede from the Union and decided it was not Biblically defensible and therefore they refused to support their neighbors and families who had joined the rebellion. One of the tombstones in the cemetery had as a note for the cause of death, "Killed by rebels."

As I looked at that notation, which we saw after the story of the man's death was given by the Park's volunteer historian, I wondered how seriously we take God's commands? We are doing a much better job keeping creation clean, but would we be willing to stand against family and friends knowing that it could cost us our lives? Thankfully we have not had to make that choice in this part of the world, yet we have brothers and sisters in Christ who make that choice every day. One pastor in Algeria has been arrested and imprisoned three times because he is willing to tell other people about Jesus Christ. He is currently on trial again and facing another sentence of either prison or worse because he was raised a Muslim and now proclaims Jesus as Lord and Savior.

This summer as you enjoy God's creation, don't forget about our brothers and sisters in Christ in places like Saudi Arabia, North Korea, Algeria and, during the Olympics, China, who chose to follow Jesus Christ, the Lord of creation and the Lord of life, rather than do what is easy. Our call to care for creation and our call to care for and about our brothers and sisters comes from the same God who created both and chose to become as one of us so that we could have the hope of eternity.

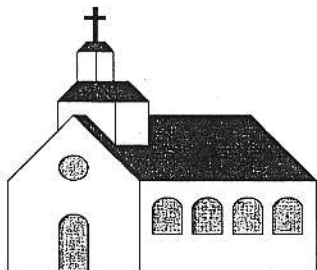
*Pastor Ethan*

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## **Piano For Sale!**

**The piano in the Viroqua Church's Fellowship Hall is for sale. If you are interested in buying this piano, please contact the Trustees before their next meeting, which will be Tuesday, August 12, at 7:30PM. Orvis Primmer is the chair of Trustees. You may leave a message for the Trustees with the church office by calling 637-3551.**



## *Liberty Pole Church News*

**Next Administrative Board  
meeting will be Tuesday,  
August 5, at 7:30 PM.**

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### **Church Lawn Mowing Schedule**

Aug. 2	Jerry DeLap & Aaron Zitzner
Aug. 9	David Slack & Kevin Robson
Aug. 16	Jerrid & Dennis Zitzner
Aug. 23	Eric Deaver & Brian Gardner
Aug. 30	Roger & Kent Thompson

## **Liberty Pole United Methodist Women**

**regular meeting on Wed.,  
August 13, at 6:30 PM**

**program: Naomi Circle  
election of officers**

*Summer Cleaning Schedule*  
**August: Naomi Circle**

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**Saturday, August 2, 10 to 2**

**Liberty Pole women grill out at  
Nelson Agri-Center**

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*Mark your calendars!*

**The annual chicken and noodles  
dinner will be Wednesday, October 1.**



Meeting called to order by Gerald Schroeder at 7:10 P.M.

Present: Joanne Hornby, Veryl Gerdl, Gerald Schroeder, Janet Welch, Hester Nelson, Kristen Parrott, Cavan Fang, Mary Cheever, Robert Starr

Minutes of the 5-20-08 meeting were approved by consensus.

Care and Nurture Committee: The Sunday Evening Meal was served at the Fortney Hotel and apparently it went well. Residents were notified of the arrival of the meal by David. David passed out two gift cards for Culver's to two men in our congregation for Father's Day last Sunday, the oldest and the one who traveled the farthest.

Finance Committee: Veryl gave the report. This report is available in the church office and will be in the next News Letter.

Worship Committee: This report was given by Cavan Fang. The Committee met on Thursday 22 May. We have begun our experiment of asking everyone to use the prelude time for silent prayer and meditation. For the most part people are remaining silent as requested during the prelude, and so far nobody has expressed an opinion for or against this summer's policy.

Everyone is welcome to attend the Casual Thursday worship services, and we especially invite those who cannot attend church on Sundays due to summer travel or other activities.

Ethan is on vacation for the rest of June. Alice Richards and Tom Tarver are preaching, and George Schick and Karen Bankes will handle pastoral care. Jared Rider will conduct the Casual Thursday worship services.

The Summer Picnic is still scheduled for 8/17 at Eckhart Park. We are inviting the JAR trio to provide music. At the picnic the youth group will present a report on the mission trip to Superior.

We are starting a scrapbook to collect and organize pictures of worship activities, for future reference. Anyone with worship-related photos they want to get rid of should please bring them to any worship committee member.

A special music sign-up sheet has been posted in the narthex. Please consider sharing your musical talents to help make a joyful noise for our worship. The choir will return on 7 September.

We prefer that nobody should have to staff the Sunday nursery more than once per month. We encourage people to sign up to baby-sit in the nursery, and to sign up along with a friend if you don't want to handle the kids on your own. If the weather is good, the Sunday nursery can be held outside in the Sunbeam play area.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday August 5 at 5:30 p.m.

History Committee: No report.

Trustee Committee: It was reported that the plumbers have attempted to repair the downstairs toilet.

Education Committee: No report

Mission Committee: This report was given by Kristen. At the In-Gathering, our church sent 123 baby hats, 2 school kits, 3 flood buckets, and \$78.50 for shipping. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this project.

The Liberty Pole Church has agreed to serve at the Fortney Hotel every other month, so they will take the July meal. Our church is responsible for the August 17 meal: so far, the Missions Comm. and the Care and Nurture Comm. have each served one meal. Any committee, or group, or family that would like to serve on August 17, please contact Kristen.

Another Volunteers In Mission (VIM) team is scheduled to come to our church on Thurs., June 26, leaving Sun., June 29. They will sleep in the Fellowship Hall and use the kitchen to prepare their own meals. This team is from Neenah, WI, and they will be doing flood repair work in our area.

Our missionary, Paul Webster, will be visiting us on Sun., July 6, during the morning worship service, and on Monday, July 7, at 6P.M., for a potluck followed by a program. All of the UMC's in our circuit are invited to the Monday evening gathering. We are Circuit 50.

SPRC Committee: no meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by  
Robert A. Starr, Scribe



## A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE FOR YOUR CHURCH

**#244 Giving means living genuinely and putting our faith into action.**

"I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others" 2 *Corinthians 8:8b NRSV*

### Discovering Life in Loss

Wisconsin has been a living laboratory of learning in recent weeks as flood waters inundated much of the state. We have seen individuals lose everything, as homes slide into a lake and float away. We have worshipped in churches with flooded basements. In a nation which prides itself on material possessions and often defines success on the quantity of "things" attained, losing everything is certainly traumatic. And yet it is refreshing to witness the way in which individuals and communities rise to the task and go on with life.

In fact, events like this can help us clarify what truly matters. In Matthew 4:4 we find Jesus in the wilderness responding to the tempter with these words... *"It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"*

Losing everything can actually be a defining moment in which we find everything we truly need to live! Stepping out of our material world frees us to consider a new level of generosity with all that we have received. And for those of us who did not lose everything, watching this event unfold should encourage us to also ask... *"Could I consider a more generous lifestyle as well?"*

Life is good! Share it whenever you can. It is more joyous to give than receive.

-Rev. William F. Helwig

Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation  
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Sun Prairie, WI 53590-0620  
1-888-903-9863 or [wumf@wumf.org](mailto:wumf@wumf.org)



Financial Summary - May 2008

	Vir.	L.P.
Monthly receipts	8,762.39	4,088.27
Monthly disbursements	11,545.06	4,325.38
Year-to-date receipts	61,663.18	25,591.22
Year-to-date disbursements	65,295.66	21,624.18
Balance on hand: 5-31-08	5,187.47	3,115.39
Conference apportionments (for 2008) paid to date	3,065.00	3,256.00
Conference apportionments owed for the year	15,144.00	8,868.00
Missions/special gifts for the year	2,147.13	895.00

Financial Summary - June 2008



Monthly receipts	17,618.33	3,692.25
Monthly disbursements	17,298.86	4,407.73
Year-to-date receipts	79,281.51	29,283.47
Year-to-date disbursements	82,594.52	26,031.91
Balance on hand: 6-30-08	5,506.94	2,399.91
Conference apportionments (for 2008) paid to date	3,115.00	4,060.00
Conference apportionments owed for the year	15,144.00	8,868.00
Missions/special gifts for the year	2,300.63	1,026.00



# August 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 <b>10AM-2PM</b> LP women grill at Nelson Agricenter
3 communion	4	5 <b>5:30PM</b> joint Worship Com. <b>7:30PM</b> LP Ad. Board meeting	6	7 <b>4:30PM</b> prayer service at Vir.  <b>7PM</b> casual worship	8	9
10	11	12 <b>6:30PM</b> Vir. Care & Nurture Com. <b>7:30PM</b> Viroqua Trustees Com.	13 <b>6:30PM</b> Liberty Pole UMW	14 <b>4:30PM</b> prayer service at Vir.  <b>7PM</b> casual worship	15	16
17 <b>10:30AM</b> joint service & picnic at Eckhart Park  <b>5PM</b> serve meal at Fortney Hotel	18 newsletter deadline  <b>7PM</b> Viroqua Missions Com.	19  <b>7PM</b> Viroqua Ad. Council meeting	20	21 <b>4:30PM</b> prayer service at Vir.  <b>7PM</b> casual worship	22	23
24  Golden Cross Sunday	25	26	27  <b>9:30AM</b> Vir. UMW Exec. Com.	28 <b>4:30PM</b> prayer service at Vir.  <b>7PM</b> casual worship	29	30
31						



**Ushers - Liberty Pole**

August 3 - Deb & Eric Deaver  
August 10 - Deb & Eric Deaver  
August 17 - Alex & Chase Hornby  
August 24 - Alex & Chase Hornby  
August 31 - youth

**Acolytes - Liberty Pole**

volunteers

**Liturgist - Liberty Pole**

Brian Funk

\*\*\*\*\*

**Ushers - Viroqua**

August 3 - Dennis Hutchison & Pat Matz  
August 10 - John Eumurian & Jerry Schroeder  
August 17 - Joanne Hornby & Jackie Kimrey  
August 24 - Janet & Blaine Welch  
August 31 - Ardith & Ellsworth Olson

**Acolytes - Viroqua**

volunteers

**Liturgist - Viroqua**

Veryl Gerdl

**Greeters - Viroqua**

August 3 - Annabel McGarry  
August 10 - John Eumurian & Jerry Schroeder  
August 17 - Joanne Hornby & Jackie Kimrey  
August 24 - Janet & Blaine Welch  
August 31 - Ardith & Ellsworth Olson

**MINUTES OF THE WILLS, MEMORIALS, & GIFTS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**JULY 15, 2008:**

**Present:** Veryel Gerdl, Jean West, Janet Schipper, and Pastor Ethan.

**Absent:** Charles Johnson, Dr. Robert Starr, Fred Nelson, Joanne Hornby and Hazel Hendrickson

The meeting was called to order at 9:13 A.M. by Chairman Veryel Gerdl.

**Minutes of Meeting:** The Minutes of the April 10, 08 meeting were read and a motion made by Jean West and seconded by Janet Schipper to accept the minutes as read. Motion approved.

**Memorial & Youth Funds Reports:** The Memorial, Designated, and Youth Funds report for the month of June 08 was reviewed. The June 30, 08 balance was \$19,824.82 including \$4,321.94 in Undesignated Memorials, \$12,675.59 in Designated Funds, and \$2,827.29 in Youth Funds. Motion made by Janet Schipper and seconded by Jean West to accept the Memorial, Designated, and Youth Funds Report. Motion carried.

**Viroqua UMC Endowment Fund:** The market value on Jan. 1, 2008 was \$53,880.54. The market value on June 30, 08 was \$52,246.41. This is an income gain of \$585.56 and a loss in market value of \$2,219.69. This results in a 3.0 % year to date loss for this fund and the Trustees Fund due to the 2008 drop in the stock market and interest rates.

**Viroqua UMC Trustees Fund:** The market value on Jan. 1, 2008 was \$98,404.97. The market value on June 30, 2008 was \$106,494.97. This includes an income gain of \$1,118.90 and loss in market value of \$4,414.21. The increase in total market value is mainly due to deposits of \$11,385.31 made to this fund in repayment of the funds borrowed for capital repairs to the church property.

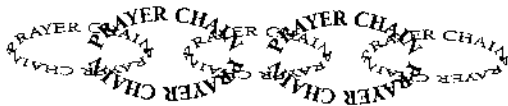
**Old Business:** The church debt to the Mabel Hanson Endowment remains at \$133,032.32. A deposit is expected to be made in July to help reduce this debt.

**New Business:** It was agreed by the members present to recommend to the Administrative Council that the earnings from the Endowment Fund and Trustees Fund, which we normally receive at the end of September, be redeposited in the Trustees Fund in order to reduce the Mabel Hanson debt.

There being no further business, a motion made by Janet Schipper and seconded by Jean West was unanimously approved to adjourn at 9:37 A.M.

*Veryel Gerdl*  
Veryel Gerdl-Chairman

# Viroqua Church Prayer Chain



**Members of the prayer chain pray for people in need. Each link in the chain calls the next person to pass along the prayer request, until the end of the chain is reached.**

**We are currently adding members to the prayer chain. If you would like to be a prayer chain caller, please contact Janet Welch at 637-7531.**

**If you have a prayer request for the prayer chain, also call Janet Welch.**

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## Viroqua United Methodist Women News

All women put these two dates on your calendar:

Sept. 3: 7PM General Meeting

Pastor Laverne, speaker

World Thank Offering

(scheduled for evening so working women can attend)

Sept. 27: 9AM to 3PM

District Annual Celebration at Viroqua

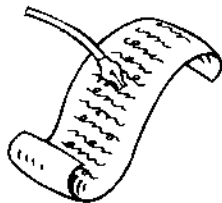
(scheduled for Saturday so working women can attend)

Where has the summer gone? We will soon be back to regular meetings.

Aug. 27: 9:30AM Executive Meeting

Sept. 24: Vernon Manor devotions

Janet Welch, UMW co-president



## Letter from Norway

Our former pastor, the Rev. Ki Sung Kim, recently sent an e-mail to a Viroqua Church member, who shares his message with us:

For the past year, I have been serving the Trondheim Methodist Church for two weeks a month. It takes about 10 hours to drive from our home in Drammen to Trondheim! Now, my new appointment is to pioneer an International Methodist Church in Oslo. It will be an English-speaking congregation, geared towards the 15% of the Oslo population that is foreign-born. The Methodist bishop here has thought prayerfully of this project for several years. It will start on August 1. It is quite a challenge for me!

Say hello to the Viroqua and Liberty Pole UMC congregations! Anne-Marie greets you! God bless you all!

Love, Ki Sung



## A Glimpse of the Past

Paul Harris, the grandson of Rev. Emanuel Harris, who was pastor at Viroqua from 1918 to 1927, stopped by to see the church in mid-June. Paul's father (Rev. Harris' son) used to tell his family interesting stories of his time at our church when he was a boy. At the age of 11, he made a radio and then strung a wire from the parsonage (then located right next to the church) to the belltower to get reception. Rev. Harris was very surprised to see a wire going halfway up the belltower! There were only three radio stations in the country in those days, and the little home-made radio picked up a signal from the Pittsburgh station. The son also remembered going with his father to visit the sick during the influenza epidemic of 1918, and sitting outside, or in a parlor, to avoid the germs, while his father went into the sick-room.



## Orientation Magazine

*Orientation* is the perfect college primer: an award-winning magazine for graduating high school seniors and first-year college and university students and their parents. Features include practical tips for surviving on campus the first year, articles to help cope creatively with change, prayers for difficult times, the Bible as a resource for daily life, ways to help parents understand college life, discussion questions for individual reflection or group discussion. On the Internet, you can find more information at [www.gbhem.org/orientation](http://www.gbhem.org/orientation).

*Orientation* is a joint effort by the Campus Ministry Section and the Office of Interpretation of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church.



### A MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP'S ASSISTANT, STEPHEN POLSTER

When you call the United Methodist offices in Sun Prairie, Milwaukee, Eau Claire and Appleton most likely the first voice you will hear is one of the Administrative Assistants. It is also likely the person who answers the phone will either answer your question, take the information you want to share, or direct you to the right person in a pleasant and helpful way.

Those who are part of our Wisconsin United Methodist connection know first hand how blessed we are to have an excellent support staff providing the infrastructure required for us to fulfill our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, and helping to live our vision to live, give, love ... beyond all expectation.

The day to day operations of our connection and the people who make it work are supported by the connectional giving called apportionments. Approximately nine people working full time provide all the administrative support for the state wide United Methodist organization (Conference). These nine individuals support the district offices, ministry and outreach (including camp and retreat ministry), and the finance and administration functions. In addition, the administrative assistant position in Bishop Lee's office is funded by gifts shared with the world-wide United Methodist connection, the General Conference.

Next time you place a call, write a letter, or send an email, pause for a moment and join in giving thanks for the excellent service provided to those who make contact with Wisconsin United Methodist offices through great administrative assistants serving among us because of the generous gifts of your shared offerings.

# Sunbeam Daycare August 2008 Newsletter

## August Themes

Wild West  
Camping  
Back to School

## Welcomes

Korbin & family  
Megan & family



## Special Days

5<sup>th</sup> – Wear Western Wear  
7<sup>th</sup> – Wear Cowboy Hat  
13<sup>th</sup> – SACK LUNCH DAY – Wear Bandana  
14<sup>th</sup> – Wear Cowboy Boots  
27<sup>th</sup> – SACK LUNCH DAY  
Wednesdays – Park Days  
Thursdays – water fun days

## NOTES

- Our new calendar year starts on September 1. An enrollment fee will be due then and rates will go up slightly for next year. You will receive an updated policy and fee schedule by Aug 15.
- All bills must be paid in full before the start of the new year on September 1.
- Park Days – wear tennis shoes
- Water Fun Days – bring swimwear & towels
- Please make sure to bring extra clothes and socks for your children.
- If your child will be absent on a scheduled day, call the Daycare at least 1 hour before the scheduled time of arrival. Morning teachers will check the phone for messages before leaving home in the morning, so be sure to call early if your arrival time is first thing in the morning.

## SUNBEAM DAYCARE WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING DONATIONS

Canned Vegetables  
Canned Fruit  
Juice

Toys  
Games  
Construction Paper

Trash Bags (13 gal)  
Paper Towels  
Paper Plates

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE DONATED ITEMS RECENTLY!!



What happens on August 17, 2008?

Davy Crockett's 222nd birthday

National Vanilla Custard Day

Partial Lunar Eclipse in Asia and Eastern Europe

Indonesian Independence Day

**Viroqua/Liberty Pole Picnic and outdoor worship at Eckhart Park**

That's right, our annual picnic is coming up on August 17. The worship service starts at 10:30 a.m., followed by a potluck picnic. In case of rain, the picnic will move to the Viroqua Church basement.

Bring a lawn chair, bring a dish to share, bring a hearty appetite--but whatever you do, bring yourself!



The United Methodist Churches  
Viroqua - Liberty Pole  
P.O. Box 127  
Viroqua, WI 54665

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## The Cross & The Flame

LIBERTY POLE - VIROQUA UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES  
August 2008



	<u>Liberty Pole</u>	<u>Viroqua</u>
<i>Casual Thursday Worship:</i>		7:00 PM
<i>Sunday Worship:</i>	9:00 AM	10:30 AM
<i>Sunday School:</i>		9:15 AM (adults)

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Ethan Larson, pastor  
pastor's cell phone: (608)606-4637  
pastor@viroquaumc.org  
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website: www.viroquaumc.org

Jim Porter, custodian (Vir.)  
Signe Thompson, custodian (I.P)

Kristen Parrott, secretary