

# The Spectrum



Saint Paul Reformation Lutheran Church



## Monthly News

January 2012

### INVITATION TO AN EPIPHANY TEA AND SERVICE

#### **Epiphany Tea - Friday, Jan. 6 at 4pm in Tidemann Hall.**

The staff of SPR warmly invite you to a tea we are hosting. Co-Pastors Anita and Keith, Music Director Cynthia Moore, Office Administrator Jennifer Walding, and Lutheran Volunteer Corps staff member Jamie Hofmeister invite you to drop by for tea, cookies, cheese and crackers, and of course, conversation. This is an informal open house, if you will, a chance to gather and chat and laugh and compare Christmas presents.

#### **Epiphany Lessons & Carols service - Friday, Jan. 6 at 5.30pm in the sanctuary.**

Following the Epiphany tea, the staff is offering a quiet service of Scripture sentences and carols of the season. Our intention is a lovely extension of the Christmas season and acknowledgement of Epiphany, not to overwhelm you with continuing holiday obligations. Blessings to you from Pastor Anita, Pastor Keith, Jennifer, Jamie, Cynthia

### SUMMIT – UNIVERSITY MLK COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

You are invited to the 2012 Martin Luther King Jr. breakfast – Monday January 16 7:00 - 9:30 am. Every year on Martin Luther King Day, hundreds of people around the metro area gather at MLK breakfast sites to share in a celebration of the life and legacy of Dr. King. SPR member Paul Chindvall is on the Summit-University committee for this event and would be happy to discuss it with you or see that you get a ticket. The tickets for the breakfast have a suggested donation price of \$5.00. Please note you can also register online.



The keynote speaker is Naomi Tutu, human rights advocate and daughter of South African Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu. Ms. Tutu will be speaking at the Minneapolis Convention Center that morning and the speech will be broadcast live and seen on a big screen at the Summit-University location.

The Breakfast will be held at Mount Olivet Baptist Church, 451 Central Ave, St. Paul, MN. Reservations are required and will be taken until January 11, 2011. Reservations can be made online at [www.spac.org](http://www.spac.org) or 651-789-3852. Make sure you register for the "Summit-University" location. Or contact Paul Chindvall at [chindvall@comcast.net](mailto:chindvall@comcast.net).

### SUNDAY SERVICES TO COMMEMORATE THE REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

January 15, St Paul Reformation will be honoring and celebrating the life of Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr at both 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. services. Hear God's Word regarding the life of this great preacher/ civil rights leader.

### RECONCILING IN CHRIST SUNDAY SERVICE

See page 8.



# Co-Pastor Commentary

ANITA HILL, CO-PASTOR

*“Gratitude has the power to transform your outlook and open your eyes to life’s fullness. It can transform a trinket into a treasure, a meal into a feast, a deficit into a gain.”*

*--Louise Rousseau  
“Living With An Open Hand”  
<http://powertochange.com/>*

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As we enter 2012, we begin with gratitude for another year of life together; gratitude for the year just completed – the difficulties along with the good times – gratitude for the people around us in our families and in our faith community; gratitude as we recognize that everything, including our very lives on this planet, belongs to God. I am grateful for You – the wonderful people of St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church. In 2011 we faced unparalleled transitions in staff and lead volunteers in our church community. Some of you faced the loss of employment, the loss of house and home due to foreclosure, the loss of beloved people in your lives, and some of you faced the daily realities of living with chronic or terminal illness. Together we faced the year’s end knowing the church we love and care for was in the midst of financial woes we’ve not seen in 20 years. Times are hard, but God is good. How do we lift our gratitude for all we’ve experienced? Generosity provides an answer. These quotes come from a website on Spirituality and Practice that is worth a visit: <http://www.spiritualityandpractice.com>

- **Anglican Archbishop and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Desmond Tutu** writes in **God Has a Dream**: “Like humility, generosity comes from seeing that everything we have and everything we accomplish comes from God’s grace and God’s love for us. In the African understanding of ubuntu, our humility and generosity also come from realizing that we could not be alive, nor could we accomplish anything, without the support, love, and generosity of all the people who have helped us to become the people we are today. Certainly it is from experiencing this generosity of God and the generosity of those in our life that we learn gratitude and to be generous to others.”
- In **Contact with God**, Anthony de Mello states: “Those who expect God to be generous with them must be generous with their fellows.” ‘Give,’ says Jesus, ‘and gifts will be given you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured out into your lap; for whatever measure you deal out to others will be dealt out to you in return. (Luke 6:38)”
- Editor Rebecca Laird in **The Heart of Henri Nouwen** quotes from this Catholic contemplative’s book **Sabbatical Journey**: “I think that generosity has many levels. We have to think generously, speak generously, and act generously. Thinking well of others and speaking well of others is the basis for generous giving. It means that we relate to others as part of our ‘gen’ or ‘kin’ and treat them as family. Generosity cannot come from guilt or pity. It has to come from hearts that are fearless and free and are willing to share abundantly all that is given to us.” Our hearts can be fearless and free when we live in the grace God so

freely provides to us again and again. Grace in forgiveness of our sins through Christ Jesus. Grace in knowing we are beloved of God. Grace in the love that flows to us from God. Grace in the form of possibilities for our lives. Grace as free will to consider, contemplate, discern, and act as children of God are led to act with gratitude and generosity. As for our year together, we do well to remember a verse from an Advent Sunday about the pregnancies of Mary and Elizabeth: 37For nothing will be impossible with God.” (Luke 1:37) Thank you, dear ones, for blessings shared and visions discerned, and for forgiveness freely offered and received.

*-- Anita Hill  
Co-Pastor*

## SPR CARING LINK: HELPING ONE ANOTHER VIA ONLINE EXCHANGES

Do you know of someone in need of a particular item (chair, bed, dishes, etc.) or service (caretaker, pet watcher, ride to appointment, etc.)? Do you have an item (red chair, twin bed, everyday dishes, etc.) or service (volunteer hours, love of pets, car with empty seats, etc.) you could offer someone else? SPR’s private group on Facebook called the “SPR Caring Link” is the place where you can post notices of needs for you or a member of our broader SPR community. It is also the place where you can offer goods & services to meet particular needs already posted or to offer to the wider SPR community.

It’s easy to join the SPR Caring Link. Simply send an email to **SPRCaringLink@groups.facebook.com** and a group administrator will add you to our private group!



# Co-Pastor Commentary

KEITH OLSTAD, CO-PASTOR

*“...magi from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’”*

*-- Matthew 2:1b,2 NRSV*

wanted to honor the impetus for the light, the little person through whom they would renew hope, expand vision, release sacred power. Having travelled quite a distance, they sought to elucidate directions offered by a star, so that they—from afar, on behalf of a struggling and conflicted world—could know this simple, vulnerable holiness, and be enlivened.

In the sages’ searching, they stumbled on harsh and devious human machinations. Because of their exuberance in Herod’s court, the anxious, malicious governor eventually dictated death for untold numbers of innocent infants. The light leading to holiness, it seems, invariably involves encounters with some who will not tolerate the light’s refreshing potentialities.

But the magi pursued their search. In their searching is invitation to us. Only perhaps the invitation is less about travelling far away and more about travelling together. Perhaps—from this vantage past the resurrection—our search is less about what we can find somewhere else. Perhaps it is more about

*The light leading to holiness, it seems, invariably involves encounters with some who will not tolerate the light’s refreshing potentialities.*

recognizing what God has already accomplished in and for each of us. And just perhaps, the invitation for us is that we claim and share the light, that we become the

Nothing is so palpably claustrophobic as the utter darkness of a cloudy moonless night in winter wilderness. Seeing is worthless: there is nothing to be seen. Your skin crawls with an eerie anxiety. You listen in the darkness for movement. The darkness itself seems so thick and close you could push it aside with your hand, except that the immense darkness would simply swallow the motion. A person feels very small and cold in the empty darkness.

Clouds then part only enough to allow a star’s light to penetrate. In that small, persistent beam, senses suddenly recover depth and distance, and emotions from within are reawakened. Hope rises to meet the light, and with it come anticipation, intention (even resolve), and a longing for relationship. The star is far away, so you cast about to find someone or something close by to claim in relationship: a cup of cocoa, a log to sit on, a friend for conversation. That simple, low, flickering light from a distant star calls forth latent impulse to live, to move, to connect.

Epiphany’s star broke through the night sky to bring sages from distant places, wise ones looking for newly birthed holiness. They

light of Christ for the world, for reconciliation in the world.

“This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine. This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.”

*-- Keith Olstad  
Co-Pastor*

## Bible Matters - January Lectionary

Because the Bible does matter, you are invited to engage the Book of Faith with the Bible Matters Group. Use these lectionary readings for each week at home and join an engaging group weekly on **Wednesdays at 10 a.m.** at church with Co-Pastors Anita and Keith.

### January 1 First Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 61:10-62:3  
Psalm 148  
Galatians 4:4-7  
Luke 2:22-40

### January 8 Baptism of Christ

Genesis 1:1-5  
Psalm 29  
Acts 19:1-7  
Mark 1:4-11

### January 15 Martin Luther King Jr Sunday

1 Samuel 3:1-20  
Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18  
1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
John 1:43-51

### January 22 Third Sunday after Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
Psalm 62:5-12  
1 Corinthians 7:29-31  
Mark 1 :14-20

### January 29 Reconciling in Christ Sunday

Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
Psalm 111  
1 Corinthians 8:1-13  
Mark 1:21-28

# Groups and Education News

## MEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP: "MEN: GRACE FOR RESOLUTIONS"

Men of St. Paul-Ref, join us for an evening of conversation, laughter and prayer on Thursday, January 5, in Tidemann Hall. Gathering at 7:00 p.m., we'll talk together about our success in making New Year's resolutions (or any other kind) and the grace we need for our batting average on keeping them. Bring sons, fathers, friends and foes, and we'll enjoy an evening together. Contact Pr. Keith or Ron Sundberg (612/867-9759) for more information.

## YAG – Young Adult Group

YAG showed up in style to this month's young adult event, sporting homemade masks to the Science Museum's Masquerade. Activities included identity adventures, staring into peoples eyes (creepy?), discussions on race and how conceptions of race have changed across generations. Oh, and ask Co-Pastor Keith to see his DNA. Who knows what we will come up with to do next? So stay tuned to the Weekly SPR Emails, SPR Facebook Group, or get your name on the YAG email list by contacting John Rent at johnrent@hotmail.com / 612-655-8758.

## TRAINING FOR COUNCIL AND LEADERS

Sunday, January 8, 2012, from noon- 2 p.m., a special training for congregational leadership development will be held for members of St. Paul-Reformation's Congregation Council, Marriage Matters Task Force, and SPR Isaiah Core Team for Social Justice. A light lunch will be served and a training for one-to-one visits will be held. FFI – Contact Jamie Hofmeister or Pastor Anita.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL RECESS

Regular Sunday School classes will resume on January 15. We hope you have a blessed Christmas season and a Happy New Year!

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## WELCOMING COMMITTEE UPDATE

After many devoted years of service to the Welcoming Committee, Darlene Bertke is planning to transition off the committee; she will remain the co-chair with Linda Maday for this new year of 2012. We are hoping to find a few new faces to join our team even though Darlene's shoes will be difficult to fill.

When I was approached a few years ago to join the committee I had the same hesitations probably many of you reading this might also have.....more nights away from home doing committee work, frequent meetings, etc. As promised, I found my fears unwarranted since the work this committee does can usually be done from the comfort of your own living room, coffee cup in hand.

We do meet but almost always on a Sunday and usually between services or after late service, depending on the consensus of the group. Meetings are informal and rarely last longer than 30 to 45 minutes leaving plenty of time to get home to watch our Vikings and have Sunday dinner with the family.

What we do try to accomplish is to find sponsors to "meet and greet" our newest members and "check in" on those members who might have some special need we haven't yet realized. We send cards to visitors advising them of how SPR functions, participate in the annual "Rally Sunday" with some eye catching special event and from time to time see that the picture directory is updated and current. If you like to "shop until you drop" you might assume the duties of purchasing and restocking items for the childrens' Activity Bags on our dime--no personal purchases necessary.

If being a committee member is just too much at this time, will you at least consider becoming a sponsor? Don't be shy, will you say "Yes" ? ? ?

Respectfully (and hopefully),  
Darlene Bertke and Linda Maday-Co Chairs

# Congregation News

## HOLDEN VILLAGE SUMMER 2012

There is a possibility that we will be organizing a trip to Holden Village this summer. If you are interested in visiting this beautiful Lutheran retreat center (<http://www.holdenvillage.org/>), and would like more information contact Jim McGowan, 651-641-1217 or email: [lotsajim@comcast.net](mailto:lotsajim@comcast.net)

## ADULT FORUM

Sunday, January 8 "How much like the early church are we?"

Join us for a four session study of the New Testament book of The Acts of the Apostles, led by Co-pastor Keith Olstad. This first session explores general impressions of the early church and its challenges in relation to our contemporary challenges.

Sunday, January 15 "When is enough enough?"

The Jerusalem Christian Jewish community tried to control the growth of the movement of people claiming Jesus as their Christ, and its leaders stumbled. What can we learn about our efforts to control the movement of God's Spirit in our own day?

January 22nd "Isaiah Core Team"

Join St. Paul-Ref's Isaiah Core Team at Adult Forum and hear what SPR and 100 other congregations in the metro area are doing about racial and economic justice. Come for updates, come with questions, come with ideas but please come. We are talking about our city, our community, and our families' futures.

January 29 Refugee Resettlement in Minnesota

In Minnesota, the Lutheran Social Service agency is one of the most well-known and highly regarded organizations in the region, with multiple programs reaching out to residents who live with a wide variety of needs. The speaker, Marta Volbrecht, will describe how LSS engages refugees in Minnesota, what resettlement of refugees entails, who these present day refugees among us are, and how interested members of our congregation can participate with LSS.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CONFIRMATION MAKE BLANKETS FOR SENIORS

"Remembering those whom others have forgotten" ... In what has become a welcome annual event, the Sunday School children, Confirmation Crew and their families and friends made 30 fleece blankets in November to give to people in need. Cynthia Peyton again bought a terrific assortment of fleece in all kinds of bright colors and patterns - she prepped them by cutting the fringe, so all we had to do was show up and tie them together!



This year we donated the blankets to an organization called "Gifts for Seniors". Social service agencies that work with older people identify isolated seniors and hand delivers a gift to them at Christmastime. Referrals come from home visiting social workers and nurses, Meals on Wheels volunteers, etc. We talked with the Sunday School kids about the fact that there are all kinds of people who struggle during the holidays, sometimes because they feel lonely or forgotten, and the simple gift of a cozy blanket could help an older person feel remembered and special.

# Community News

Congratulations to **Lisbeth Kellogg and Jenny Atchison** on their Service of Blessing held December 8, 2011. Kudos to **Anna Matenaer**, Team Captain 2012, Most Improved Swimmer Award, and All-Conference at the Sparks swim banquet!  
SPR member and author **Brian Olson**'s first book, *Murder by Lead*, has been released by Amazon for Kindle readers.

## Lee Snook remembers...

A dear friend and mentor to many, Professor Lee Snook has published a limited number of copies of a book he recently completed. Reflected on his life with insight, wit and fondness, Lee remembers people, places, times and events with lyrical phrasing. The book is an easy and rewarding read. Lee has donated a copy of "Stories of A Man I Know" to St. Paul-Reformation. You will find it in the church library next to the narthex. If you check it out, please bring it back soon so that others can enjoy this wise man's life journey.

## Thank you from the Tidemann's

A hearty thanks from **Paul & Janet Tidemann** for the visit of the Christmas Carolers at our house. It was wonderful and gave us a good spirit lift! Thanks to Anita for making contact with us.

## Care and Condolences to:

**Marilyn Harder** on the death of her cousin, Irene Hill, in Story City, Iowa.  
**Hossana Yohanna** on the deaths of his sister Lesini Phinias, and uncle, Jidauna Lankoto, in Nigeria.  
**Brenda Froisland and Mary Chilvers** on the death of Brenda's mother, Belva, of Clare, Iowa.

## Dear Friends of St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church:

Thank You for all of your donations to the Pastors' Discretionary Fund and other gifts that support the Family Community Resource Center throughout this year, that allow us to provide for families in need in the community. We want to thank You, the Pastors and Members of St. Paul-Reformation for assisting over 250 families in 2011. There is no way that we could have touched the lives of God's people without your love, generosity, and encouragement when times seemed bleak.

If you have any questions and would like to speak with us, please contact the Family Community Resource Center office at 651-280-2996, or please feel free to contact us by cell phone: Donna Miller 651-231-3377 and Steve Winfield 651-775-3338.

May God continue to Bless you all,  
**Steve Winfield** and DonnEsther (Donna) Miller  
Family Community Resource Center

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## FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES - SPR YOUTH & FAMILY EVENT AND FUNDRAISER!

Friday Night at the Movies (for Children and Youth), January 20, 6:30 - 10 p.m.

**Where:** Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 285 Dale St North, St. Paul  
(2 blocks south of I-94 between Carroll and Iglehart streets).

**What:** Movies for children and older youth (two different movies on separate screens)  
popcorn, beverage, and other snacks available

**Who:** For youth and children from Redeemer, Christ Lutheran on Capitol Hill, St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Churches, their families and friends

**Cost:** \$5 per child or youth (Grades 3-12) - doors open at 6:30 p.m.!

Cost for childcare: Parents may drop off & register children - \$5 per hour at 6:30 p.m.  
(Pre-K and Kindergarten to Grade 2) \$5 per hour/child

**Why:** It will be fun and help to build community. This is a Fundraiser and Youth Social Event for our youth attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans, July, 2012 - to help us pay for our bus transportation! (Youth from our three congregations are riding together to the Youth Gathering). Youth "working" this event should come at 6:00 p.m. for set up and assignments.

There will be adult leaders present to supervise this event! Questions?

Contact Pastor Anita Hill ([pastoranita@stpaulref.org](mailto:pastoranita@stpaulref.org)) or 651-224-3371

# Dates of Note

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN JANUARY TO:

01/02 Jean McRae  
01/04 Don Colbert, Anna Matanaer  
01/06 Richard Andersen  
01/07 Peg Brenden  
01/08 Gary Sande  
01/09 Dan Bruch, Scott Robinson, Nancy Seleen  
01/10 Joe Oknich, Vicki Ostendorf, Donald Schwarz  
01/11 Sandy Iverson  
01/12 Stephen Eiken, Kelly Maurer, Susan Morris  
01/13 Jon Stevens  
01/14 Kieran Kennedy, Leah Lawrence, Amy Skare Klecker  
01/15 James Erickson, Debra Henrich  
01/16 Joseph Bloomquist, Lucy Hebble  
01/17 Sue Dorumsgaard Ayers  
01/19 Al Oertwig  
01/20 Levi Halbur-Luze, Paul Haugland, Krisi Matanaer  
01/22 Elisabet Holmvgig-Johnson, Katie Swanson  
01/23 Berit Flagstad  
01/24 Richard Gehrman, Laurie Hamre, Waverly Lawrence  
01/25 Judite Flugler, Nathan Johnson  
01/26 Maren Koncilja, Devin Stauning  
01/27 Riley Lewis, Kester Lueck  
01/29 Jan Casey  
01/30 Vinh Homvig-Johnson, Kris Stevens

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY IN JANUARY TO:

01/01 Heather Mockler-Schardt and Craig Schardt  
01/14 Danette Allrich-Osano and Innocent Osano  
01/15 Pam and Stephen Rohde  
01/17 Janelle Holmvgig and M. Gust Johnson  
01/25 Nicole and Dan Olson



Christmas Day Choir

## SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS FOR JANUARY:

January 1 – First Sunday in Christmas – 10:30 a.m. service only

Assisting Minister: Anthony Hedlund  
Lector: Mark Sandberg  
Ushers/Greeters: Gary Sande  
Communion Set/Clean Up: Diane Aase  
Council Communion Assistants: Deb Johnson  
Nursery Attendant: Debbie Thomas  
Coffee and Treats: Gary and Deanna Sande  
Counters: John Whalen – Pat Graham

January 8 – Baptism of Christ Sunday

Assisting Minister: Bonnie Olson  
Ushers/Greeters:  
8:00 Pat Graham and Doris Ikier 10:30 Matanaer Family  
Lector: 8:00 Doris Ikier 10:30 Teresa Ortiz  
Communion Set/Clean-Up:  
8:00 Pat Graham and Doris Ikier 10:30 Joan Duke  
Council Communion Assistants:  
8:00 Judy Grauer 10:30 Deb Johnson  
Nursery Attendant: Debbie Thomas  
Coffee/Treats:  
8:00 Pat Graham and Doris Ikier 10:30 Volunteer Needed  
Counters: Ron Sundberg - Teresa Tate, Lynn Erstad

January 15 – Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday

Assisting Minister: 8:00 and 10:30 Volunteer Needed  
Lector: 8:00 Lois Gehrman 10:30 Susie Adams  
Ushers: 8:00 Lois Gehrman and Kay Pekel 10:30 Volunteer Needed  
Council Communion Assistant: 8:00 Judy Grauer 10:30 Deb Johnson  
Communion Set/Clean-Up: 8:00 Lois Gehrman 10:30 Sarah Matala  
Nursery Attendant: Debbie Thomas  
Coffee and Treats: 8:00 Lois Gehrman 10:30 Volunteer Needed  
Counters: D Livdahl/B Benson- Kristin Benson

January 22 - Third Sunday after Epiphany

Assisting Minister: 8:00 and 10:30 Volunteer Needed  
Lector: 8:00 Libby Olstad 10:30 Volunteer Needed  
Ushers: 8:00 Libby Olstad and Kay Pekel 10:30 Volunteer Needed  
Council Communion Assistant: 8:00 Judy Grauer 10:30 Deb Johnson  
Communion Set/Clean-Up:  
8:00 Libby Olstad 10:30 John Rent/ Liz Haen  
Nursery Attendant: Debbie Thomas  
Coffee and Treats:  
8:00 Libby Olstad and Kay Pekel 10:30 Volunteer Needed  
Counters: Julie Richards – Pam and Cynthia Peyton

January 29 – Reconciling in Christ Sunday

Assisting Minister: 8:00 and 10:30 Volunteer Needed  
Lector: 8:00 Fred Shetka 10:30 Gabriel Johnson-Ortiz  
Ushers: 8:00 Fred and Suni Shetka 10:30 Volunteer Needed  
Council Communion Assistant: 8:00 Judy Grauer 10:30 Deb Johnson  
Communion Set/Clean-Up:  
8:00 Fred and Suni Shetka 10:30 Mary Vorhes  
Nursery Attendant: Debbie Thomas  
Coffee and Treats:  
8:00 Fred and Suni Shetka  
10:30 Tamika Ramirez

# Wingspan Updates

## Marriage Matters Task Force

Following a motion from the Marriage Matters Task Force, SPR's church council voted unanimously to join as a member of MN United for All Families, the coalition working to defeat the anti-marriage amendment in 2012. This is a wonderful public statement of our commitment against this amendment. Visit [mnunited.org](http://mnunited.org) to find out more, make an official pledge to Vote NO on the amendment, see other coalition members, or download a "Holiday Conversation Tool Kit" to help you talk with friends and family over the Holiday about why defeating this amendment is important to you.

For more information about the task force contact co-chairs Art Walzer ([awalzer@umn.edu](mailto:awalzer@umn.edu)) or Jana Kooren ([jana\\_kooren@yahoo.com](mailto:jana_kooren@yahoo.com)).

## From the Uganda Team:

The Uganda Team will resume its work in January. Watch the February Spectrum for our next steps.

Wingspan continues to shepherd SPR's longtime and storied ministry to the LGBT community. Following a very busy fall highlighted by Bishop Christopher Senyonjo's visit and the start-up of our Marriage Matters Task Force, the steering committee met on October 27 for a visioning session to plan for 2012. On November 5 we met again to confirm plans and consider finances. Paul Chindvall was elected interim chair. Great thanks to out-going chair David Weiss, who remains a vital member of the committee. November 30 we finalized our 2012 budget to be presented to the church council. Our greatest need is personnel—we have ambitious plans to meet great needs and covet the participation of any and all interested persons.

## Valued Families

A fine crowd gathered in Tidemann Hall on December 11 to hear a strong reading of Randy Beard's new play, Valued Families, delivered by Peg Brenden, Paul Chindvall, Evan Hilsabeck and Deb Wilson. The play, which tells the story of a dozen actual gay couples, is designed to be an important element in the fight to defeat the marriage amendment. The feedback following the reading was significant in helping to shape the message and to keep it more on point and to help it better appeal to its target audience: the moveable middle in greater Minnesota. Congregation members are invited to attend the actual premiere of the play at the Reconciling in Christ event on January 28.

## RIC

Reconciling in Christ Sunday at SPR is January 29. We have much to celebrate as full inclusion becomes ever more main-stream—and much for which to pray when God's welcome is not yet felt by everyone. Services are being planned by a group of Wingspan volunteers headed by Paul Chindvall with Pastors Anita Hill and Keith Olstad and Minister of Music Cynthia Moore. At this writing much is yet to be finalized but keep your eye out for details forthcoming.

Wingspan encourages SPR folks to attend the seventh annual RIC festival worship service celebrating the Metro area ministry of Reconciling in Christ congregations at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, 1509 27th Ave. NE., Minneapolis on Saturday, January 28 at 4:30 p.m. The Rev. Justin Lind-Ayres of Bethany Lutheran Church will preach on "Putting the 'Car' Back in Incarnation." This worship is sponsored by Lutheran Concerned/Twin Cities. A freewill offering to benefit the RIC Program will be received. Light supper (no cost) & fellowship will follow worship. And over supper, we'll debut a Readers Theater play by William Randall Beard, "Valued Families." Please gather with members of more than 30 RIC congregations and organizations from across the metro area to celebrate the welcome we extend to the whole people of God!



## FINANCIAL REPORT As of December 29, 2011

Income	Actual	Budgeted
Current and Benevolence	286,869	327,100
Building Maintenance	\$21,571	\$40,000
Other	\$61,179	\$79,292
Totals	\$369,619	\$446,392
Expenses		
Totals	\$393,024	\$446,392

Worship Attendance  
Average Sunday  
Attendance in 2011 =158

These include only expenses paid to date  
Outstanding bills as of 12-29-11 = \$53,361



Christmas 2011  
Photo by David Matenaer

Why is it that U.S. born African Americans have a mortality rate 3 times as high as whites in our region? One reason is that comprehensive, preventative care is not available to them or to many other lower-income Minnesotans. Four members of SPR attended an Isaiah-sponsored action, “Make Health Happen” on 8 December at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. The featured speaker was Jennifer DeCubellis, who is director of a new “Accountable Care Organization” pilot project, which is being conducted at Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC). This demonstration project will coordinate medical care and social services and stress preventative care. We heard about a patient with diabetes who was continually showing up in the HCMC Emergency room because the patient did not take the prescribed insulin injections. This was not good for the patient and expensive to the system. It turned out the patient was not complying because the family did not have a refrigerator, a fact that patient was too embarrassed to report. An accountable care organization like the one DeCubellis is leading is intended to coordinate all types of services that patients need in order to prevent costly and often painful admissions to the hospital. A number of public officials were in attendance and also spoke to the need for integrated, preventative health services for all.

Isaiah held another regional briefing Thursday, December 15. The Metropolitan Council was invited to join Isaiah in addressing equity and health care in the Western Suburbs. The meeting was held at Hope Lutheran Church, New Hope.

This briefing in New Hope was intended as a spring board to the large public gathering, Shaping the Future with Hope, that Isaiah will hold on 12 February at Progressive Baptist Church has been invited, as has much of his staff. The principle emphasis will be on the role the Metropolitan Council could play in addressing the region’s disparities as we work to create a racially and economically more just Minnesota. We hope to bring a large delegation from SPR to this event.

The Isaiah core team eagerly awaits the return of our leader, Roger Mackey, who is recovering from surgery. We wish him a speedy recovery.  
Art Walzer, awalzer@umn.edu

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## IT’S COMING! “SHAPING THE FUTURE WITH HOPE!”

On February 12th Isaiah congregations, Governor Dayton, and Dayton’s administration will come together to deepen relationships, set out goals for 2012-2013, and continue the ongoing work to break down barriers to racial and economic justice in our state. We all need to take a role in “Shaping the Future with Hope.” Dayton needs to know that his administrations will have the support, leadership, and vision of the faith community as we engage the difficult work of justice together.

Here are three easy things to do right now:

- 1) Mark your calendars for February 12, 3-5pm @ site to be determined
- 2) Sign a letter encouraging Governor Dayton to attend (available in the narthex- please note there is a separate letter for clergy and lay persons).
- 3) Talk to Art Walzer or Jamie Hofmeister to hear more.  
awalzer@umn.edu or jamielvc@stpaulref.org

\*Progressive Baptist Church: 1505 Burns Ave, Saint Paul, MN 55106

# Stewardship

Your personal life may be dominated by cell phones, credit cards, and keys. These things might make you instantly available, scheduled for every opportunity, able to buy without price, and protective of your stuff. And perhaps worst of all, you might fail to notice the point in time where your possessions begin to possess you.

How do you talk with others about stewardship in a culture of hyper-consumerism?

How might you think about the possibilities of tithing to God’s mission in the world when your credit cards are maxed out, your debt is burying you and your life is measured from paycheck to paycheck? How do you create a simpler life where you can focus upon your relationship with Jesus, grow in your discipleship practices, and learn to be a better steward of all that God has blessed you with?

What does Jesus say? Can you hear Jesus speak about God’s abundant blessings for you?

The most important question may still be this: Who will you trust? When you recognize God’s abundant love, grace, and blessings you realize that God has provided you with everything you need. Jesus calls you to put your trust in him, to grow in faith through living as his disciples. That helps you to put your possessions back into proper perspective—to possess them and not be possessed by them. Jesus invites you to put your trust in God’s abundance, not in your possessions. When you see the motto on your money—“In God We Trust”—it can be a reminder that your trust is in God! That solid truth may help you to gain some perspective in today’s culture. Perhaps then your conversation regarding stewardship can take on a more vibrant flavor.



## YOUNG ADULT GROUP

What is YAG? Is it a cool new Norwegian clothing brand? Or a laser light show from a local band? Close, but no—it’s the totally creative name for our Young Adult Group! Generally defined as made of the drifting youthful folks in their 20s-30s, YAG has been getting together for a variety of activities for almost a year now. From brunch to Saint’s Games to pumpkin carving, we’re always finding fun ways to have fellowship together. Our latest adventure was reminiscent of elementary school craft time: mask making! I’m still finding feathers in strange places. We burnt our fingers with hot glue all in preparation of our next event, a Masquerade Ball at the Science Museum in St. Paul on Wednesday December 7 at 7:00 p.m., as part of their 21-and-older “Social Science” nights. Stay tuned for a report on how we all looked in our ballgowns and hand-made masks! Feeling young? Join us! Call or email John Rent at [johnrent@hotmail.com](mailto:johnrent@hotmail.com) / 612-655-8758.



# More

## CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS 2011-2012

Diane Aase  
Beth Benson  
Mark Doerr  
Judy Grauer  
Anna Korinko  
Laurie Hamre  
Deb Johnson

Marilyn McGowan  
Steve Robertson  
Deb Wilson  
John Johnson  
Co-Pastor Keith Olstad  
Co-Pastor Anita Hill

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## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2011-2012

Co-President – Diane Aase  
Co-President – Laurie Hamre  
Co-Pastor - Anita Hill  
Co-Pastor - Keith Olstad  
Secretary - Marilyn McGowan  
Treasurer – Beth Benson

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View the full church calendar at:  
<http://stpaulref.org/calendar>

NEW YEAR'S DAY 2012  
Photo by Doug George

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The Spectrum is a monthly publication of St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church. The deadline for the February issue is January 15th. Send stories and information to the church office, either by mail or by placing it in the church postbox. You can also call the church or e-mail to [office@stpaulref.org](mailto:office@stpaulref.org)