



Bethany Stewardship News

March 2014

Environmental Stewardship and Earth Day!

This April marks the 44th anniversary of our celebration of Earth Day. I remember the first Earth Day. People were very upset at all the pollution-- of the land, waters, air, and forests--all affecting them personally. They wanted to make people aware of the problems, and aware of the solutions. It was hoped people would work together to stop pollution, clean up the affected areas, and be better stewards of our home, the Earth. We thought this wouldn't take much time to fix once people were aware of the issues. We've seen that isn't the case.

Every one of us is part of the problem, and part of the solution. Decisions we make every day in everything we do affect the environment now and well into the future. Listening to all the talk about Climate Change and Pollution, we might feel so overwhelmed that we think there's nothing we can do, but we can. Each of us can make a small difference every day! When we all do a few small things, it adds up to great big things that help all of us.

Here are some simple things we all can do to be good stewards:

- Use only the water you need. Use environmentally friendly cleaning products. Don't burn your waste.
- Purchase local produce, or grow your own, if possible. Plant native trees or shrubs. Plant native species in your garden. Plant flowers that attract bees, butterflies, and birds.
- Turn off lights when not in use. Buy energy-saving appliances.
- Reduce how much stuff you buy. Reuse whatever you can. Recycle everything possible. Repair items rather than buy new. Buy items contained in less packaging.
- Read and learn about environmental issues that affect you and the local area. Do what you can to tell others about issues that concern you or the local area.

Our Ministries

Hope Chest
Food Pantry
Quilters
Good Samaritan Fund
UI Lutheran Campus Ministry
UI Hospital Chaplaincy
Riverside Bible Camp
Shelter House
Angel Tree
Mbakweni, Tanzania
WBARC
Wartburg Seminary

Ongoing Needs

Hope Chest
Now accepting: **Spring and Summer Clothes**, especially children's; monetary donations to purchase clothes.

Food Pantry
Please pick up the latest list as you come in the door from the parking lot

Quilters
Donations of thread, material; monetary donations to purchase supplies

Fellowship
Please help with this important Hospitality Ministry by signing up on the Bulletin Board by the Kitchen

*God's Work,
Our Hands!*

Thank You!

To all that continue to donate much needed clothing, and food for those in need.

To everyone that continues to donate quarters to the Malaria Campaign.

To all of our members that continue to faithfully fulfill their pledge commitments.

To all who help prepare and serve the Fourth Sunday Free Meals.

To all who helped provide Lent suppers.

To all of you who share God's love in your daily lives by ministering to friends, neighbors, coworkers, and strangers.

To all the members of our congregation that take the time to volunteer to help with all the activities needed to keep our church functioning, and keep our ministries going.

To God, who makes all things possible!

Did You Know...

In the past three months:

- we've delivered 43 bags of food to the Food Pantry.
- the Hope Chest has helped 11 people.
- the Fourth Sunday Free Meal has served 92 people from our community.
- a donation to the School Backpack Program was made from the Good Samaritan Fund.

So far this year, WBARC has assisted 11 individuals and/or families with things such as: food vouchers to Jack and Jill, hotel, rental assistance, towing, gas, and non-food household items. Additionally, WBARC made a donation to the School Backpack Program. This is all possible thanks to the generous gifts from the people of the West Branch congregations: Bethany, WB Friends Church, WB Friends Meeting, St. Bernadette's, WBUMC, and Springdale UMC.

Sunday morning fellowship after church is an important part of our ministries of Fellowship, Hospitality, and Stewardship. All you have to do is look around on Sunday to see how much people enjoy talking with each other, and meeting new people after worship. Relationships and connections are important to all of us. Especially for our church members, since we might not see each other the rest of the week. Providing drinks and snacks for Fellowship doesn't have to be anything elaborate. Something to drink and a cookie to eat is just fine. If one or two people provided the "snack" each week, at most you would only have to do it twice a year. Remember, what's provided to eat at Fellowship isn't as important as the fellowship itself.

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Matt. 6:33

Ministry Highlight

Fourth Sunday Free Meal

At the beginning of the year, Bethany started a new ministry to the community. We're providing a free meal on the fourth Sunday of every month to anyone that wants to come. People are invited to come between 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm to have a cup of coffee, visit, and meet new people. The meal is served from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm. Come and share food and fellowship with your friends and neighbors. We hope to see you there!

Stewardship Committee

Chair:

Kent Kaufman

Members:

Nancy Bruns
Jon Twing
Laura Twing
Neil Korsmo
Chris Korsmo
George McCrory
David Poppen