



Focus

February 2015

www.daleheightspc.org

A Message from Pastor Roger

Dale Heights Staff

Pastor:
Reverend Roger Roberts

**Office Manager &
Director of Music:**
Maggie Rogers

Financial Secretary:
Dick Corey

Custodian:
Rick Geiger

Dale Heights Session

Moderator
Reverend Roger Roberts

Clerk
Sandy Weigt

Roy Lembcke
Gale Oakes
Caroline Pope
Rick Shannon
Wendy Weber

People of Love

Valentine’s Day is a popular celebration, with billions of dollars spent in the US alone for cards, chocolate candy, and frequently expensive gifts exchanged between good friends, spouses, and other lovers. It’s a celebration of love.

Of all people, we who are followers of Christ are to be people of love. The love that’s on display in Scripture is the love of God for his creation and especially for humankind, created in his image and created to receive and return his love. The Greeks used four distinct words for love, including family-type love, brotherly love, erotic love, and the word that is almost exclusively used in the New Testament—agape love. Agape is the love that God has portrayed for us through his seeking after us and restoring us to himself in an intimate relationship of trust and self-giving. Agape love is sacrificial involvement in meeting the needs of another, regardless of that person’s deserving or willingness to respond in kind. It’s a lot like God’s grace, which we all desperately need but could never deserve, and is succinctly and profoundly summarized in a Bible verse many of us memorized in childhood: John 3:16.

Whatever routine you might have for regular Bible reading or meditation, I recommend that all of us at Dale Heights focus on reading, re-reading, and reflecting upon the great Love Chapter of the Bible, 1 Corinthians 13. This great, poetic passage is often read at weddings, but it’s not to be reserved just for nuptial ceremonies. It’s a great challenge to us to realize that without this God-like love, our church life, worship, community service, and even our Christian profession of faith amount to zero (see verses 1-3 in this chapter. The remaining verses describe love as the basis of every other Christ-like virtue, and is the one virtue that will remain for eternity.).

I invite you to join with me, during this Valentine’s month of February, to focus on and celebrate love. I’m grateful for the love of God that has called and rescued me and that daily sustains me, even when I’m oblivious to and ungrateful for his love.

Continued...

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I'm grateful for the love of my wife through 47 and a half years of marriage, prevailing in these days of sickness as it did in healthier days. I'm grateful for the love of children, grandchildren, and dear friends, some made long ago and the many new friends I have been privileged to make at Dale Heights.

Let's look for opportunities to share and show God's love, not just to those who love us in return, but to those who may be unable or unwilling to return our love. And agape love doesn't necessarily call for heroic actions or expensive gifts, but can be expressed in almost hidden ways. As the late saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta said, "I don't do great things. I do small things with great love."

Let's seek to be God's people of love.

Yours in his love and service,

—*Pastor Roger*

February 1 4th Sunday after Epiphany; Souper Bowl of Caring

Liturgist: Gerry Klump

Ushers: Roy Lembcke, Gale Oakes, Wendy Weber

February 8 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Liturgist: Sandy Weigt

Ushers: Aundrea Price, Bonnie Savonne, Otty Schaefer

February 15 Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday

Liturgist: Edi Chan

Ushers: Janice Krall, Rick Shannon, Vreni Straubhaar

February 22 1st Sunday of Lent; Outreach Potluck on The Odyssey Project

Liturgist: Roy Lembcke

Ushers: Mike Holland, Elizabeth Ndafooka, Nathan Tripp

February New Beginnings

The February New Beginnings Lunch will be Tuesday, February 17 at 11:30 at Prairie Café and Bakery, 6720 Frank Lloyd Wright Ave, Middleton. Please call or e-mail Mary Towne at 692-3885 or marytowne45@gmail.com for reservations. **Please note new phone number and email.** Thank you.

Movin' Movin' Movin' We're a church that's movin' Dale Heights!

We are going forward with our Transformation Journey. The emphasis for the near future is international ministries. Christ Presbyterian Church has Friday night English Conversations with international students between 6:00 and 8:00pm. As a beginning, Sandy Weigt plans to attend one of these each month and will give up to three people rides there with her. The first one she plans to attend is Friday, February 13. Please call (238-9402) or email her (sweigt47@gmail.com) if you would like to go with her.

This congregation has long had international connections. Our members are international. What have you done to cultivate these interactions, either in the past or currently? Please let Sandy know and we might be able to build on these experiences.



February Birthdays

February 2 Marco Jakovich (2008)
February 3 Marlowe Elizabeth Eldridge
February 4 Madalitso Wright

February Anniversaries

February 21 Joan and John Hicks

Winter Weather Cancellation Policy

Although we prefer not to have to cancel worship, sometimes winter weather makes it necessary. If the decision is made to cancel worship, Maggie will send an email and change the answering machine by 8:30 a.m. on Sunday morning to indicate the cancellation. If you are at all unsure about whether or not to come to church, please check your email or call the church.

Above all, play it safe.

Ash Wednesday

There will be no Ash Wednesday (February 18) service at Dale Heights this year.

Church Women United

On January 10, Kate Dooley, Sandy Weigt, and Ellie Metzloff attended the Church Women United Human Rights Celebration. Cora White was honored with the Human Rights Award for her exceptional national and international training of foster parents. She herself raised 200 foster children!



The February 6 Forum will be held at First Baptist Church, 518 North Franklin St, beginning at 9am. Our speaker will be Seljuk Altuntas, Executive Director of Niagara Foundation of Madison, an ecumenical group seeking understanding among believers in God. This group's goal is dialogue and cooperation between Christians and Muslims. His topic is "Christian-Muslim Dialogue from an Islamic Perspective." Following our international theme, we can learn much from this inspiring young man.

All are invited. Let us know if you'd like to attend.

—Ellie Metzloff & Kate Dooley, Co-Key Women

Property & Finance Highlights

January 13, 2015

- Furnace: Air intake PVC piping change will take place when the weather warms up.
- Lounge: sending a recommendation to session that asbestos flooring be removed (Dirty Ducts estimate of \$2,860) and Mannington "Naturals" vinyl flooring (Madison Carpets bid of \$3,933.85 for floor preparation and supplies, base, and 20 year limited warranty flooring) be installed.
- Peace Pole: Thanks to several memorial funds and other contributors such as the Men's Group, all Peace Pole Garden work-to-date is close to being paid up (current shortage only \$94).
- 2015 Budget: Pastor Professional Expense line (which includes mileage allowance) should be changed to approximately \$600 which better reflects actual expenses.
- Faucets: Project complete. Two new faucets have been installed in the office wing men's room, and one new faucet in the lounge. In the basement kitchen a cold-water faucet was repaired with a new cartridge.
- Financials: financial reports as of 12/31/2014 were reviewed.
- Statements and Reports: Giving statements will go out by the end of January. The annual financial report will be prepared in advance of the January 25 annual congregational meeting.
- Line items: Finance Committee is requesting clarification on exact amounts of Pastor payroll expenses such as pension.
- New: in the coming months, the Finance committee will be working with the Personnel committee and others regarding health care costs and staff/employees.
- Next meeting: Tuesday, February 10, 2015, 7pm.



February *Outreach* News

Upcoming Potlucks

Our next potluck is on **Sunday, February 22**, with Emily Auerbach from The Odyssey Project. This organization is a new recipient of Outreach budget funds. Emily will be accompanied by two of the students in the project and the topic will be “The Power to Change Lives: The UW Odyssey Project.” The following about the Project may be of interest to you: “For the past 12 years, the UW Odyssey Project has helped empower adults in our community to overcome adversity and achieve dreams through higher education. Odyssey students have moved from homelessness to Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees, from incarceration to meaningful work in the community.” Come meet the director, Emily Auerbach, and inspiring graduates of this transformational program as they explore how a powerful humanities course is helping to break the cycle of poverty for entire families. You will be impressed with this opportunity for the project participants.

Plans are to offer **two more potlucks** in the next couple of months. The topics are environmental issues presented by a Christian organization, and a representative from the Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice. Watch for further information.

The Peace Pole Garden

Read on...and don’t miss the potential connection between you and peace in the New Year! There are still forms and envelopes available in the concourse to explain how you may consider donating to the Peace Garden Fund. An outright donation either in cash or by check made out to Dale Heights (with Peace Pole Fund in the memo line) may be made. You could also pledge a gift to the fund to honor or in memory of a person or an event, and payment may be made in the future. How about giving a New Year’s gift to the Garden and yourself in YOUR name and commit to add some aspect of peace to your life? Plans are to offer donors the opportunity to briefly explain the purpose for the gift and including them in a binder which already exists. Please see Gale Oakes for further information.

Looking Ahead...

Pastor Roger has shared this information he received from a fellow Presbyterian pastor about an activity this summer. The Madison Mallards are holding a “Church Night” on June 28. The cost is \$18, which includes a pre-game tailgate meal (brats, burgers, chicken breasts, a side of chips and slaw, and a non-alcoholic beverage. If you are interested in attending this event as a group, please let Pastor Roger or an Outreach member know.

Continued...

Outreach & Mission



January Outreach News, continued

Other items of interest...

- The committee has disbursed \$3500 to various organizations. Organizations already mentioned include Operation Fresh Start, The Odyssey Project, Porchlight, Children's Dyslexia Center, Church Women United, and MOM. Three additional organizations receiving funds are Domestic Abuse Intervention Services, Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice, and the National Alliance on Mental Illness.
- Thanks again to all who helped the Outreach Committee in so many ways this past year!

Please stay tuned to hear about our future Outreach activities! We have several potluck speakers in mind, but we would love to hear your ideas!

—Pastor Roger Roberts (ex officio), Honorably Retired Ray Bayley, Kate Dooley, Barb Fleishman, Ruby Meyer, Gale Oakes, Aundrea Price, and Wendy Weber



Worship & Music Committee Highlights January 4, 2015

- Lenten planning: Decided that DHPC will not have services on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, or Good Friday due to low attendance in the past few years. Information about services at other churches will be provided to encourage those who wish to attend a service of their choice.
- "Fill the Robes" Sunday is set for January 25.
- Communion: Per Session's recommendation, communion will be served exclusively in the pews due to the number of people with limited ambulation.
- Liturgists: scheduled through January.
- Ushers/communion servers: new chair to be named.
- New Advent wreath candles and drip protector (for individual small candles used on Christmas Eve) will need to be purchased before the 2015 Advent season. Price and purchase to be done in the future.
- Next meeting date: Sunday, May 3, 2015, 11:15am.

Check out our website:

www.daleheightspc.org

Sunday Schedule

9:00-10:00am

Christian Education for all ages

10:00am

Worship

11:00am

Fellowship

Dale Heights

Mission Statement:

Our open-minded congregation affirms and celebrates God's gifts of love and grace. We seek to share God's love by inviting others to join us in following Jesus and by serving those in need in our community and world.

Dale Heights Presbyterian Church

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