

Welcome, Pastor Kren!

At the Special Congregational Meeting held July 27th, William Kren was unanimously voted to serve as our new minister.

As many of you know, this decision was long in the making, and involved the concerted efforts of many people. The Ministerial Search Committee, led by John Peters, put in many hours creating our church profile, reading the profiles of potential ministers, meetings to discuss the profiles, telephone interviews, watching video-recorded sermons, and other administrative tasks. Thanks to John and the Ministerial Search Committee: Nancy Wolter, Tom Brown, Polly Fitzpatrick, Pat Stacho, and Valerie Haas.

The Board of Trustees discussed and approved the contract prepared by the Search Committee, the Diaconate Board, also led by John Peters, made sure that our pulpit had a minister in it

every Sunday. Turned out that most of this year it has been Reverend Kren, so many of us have had a chance to get to know him. If you haven't yet, now's the time! (See a special message from Pastor Bill in this Messenger.)

Reverend Kren officially begins his ministerial duties for Dearborn Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, on August 1st. His office hours will be posted on the web site next week (www.dccdearborn.org).

This is an exciting time for our church. Come to Sunday Services and hear a sermon by Pastor Bill. Then stay for Coffee Hour and speak with him. Stop by and visit during those soon to be announced office hours.

Thanks again to all those whose hard work contributed to the goal of a new minister for our church.

And thanks be to God for His guiding hand in all our work. Amen.

Messages from the Diaconate

THE DIACONATE EXTENDS
CONGRATULATIONS AND A HEARTFELT
WELCOME TO OUR

NEW PASTOR, REV. WILLIAM KREN!

Also, for those on Facebook, there's a weekly blog by Rev. Kren titled "Life at Dearborn Congregational: A journal of experiences in the pastorate from beginning to end." A link to it can be found on the Dearborn Congregational Church, UCC Facebook page. Or here: <http://wkren.tumblr.com>

A Summary of the Tour of Detroit Churches

Our 3rd annual Tour of Historic Detroit Churches took place Saturday, August 19 with 18 church members and friends along for the ride, including Rev. Kren. Everyone enjoyed the beautiful architecture at our first stop, Old St. Mary's Catholic Church in Greektown, and the many paintings and sculpted figures inside. Built in 1885, the church's Roman-cruciform plan is typified by the richly frescoed ceiling at the crossing of the nave and transepts. The high altar above the sanctuary is a marvelous example of exquisite wood-carving. The organ in the West gallery is one of the finest in the country, and highly polished granite columns separate the side aisles from the nave and support the main roof. The Stations of the Cross along the nave are intricately carved and beautifully rendered. A unique feature of Old St. Mary's is the reason the church formerly was called "Church of the Grottos". There are three amazing carved grottos (or gardens) in separate rooms on either side of the entrance doors as one walks in. The first, the grotto of Gethsemane, depicts Christ's agony. The second, the Baptismal Grotto, complete with running water, depicts Christ's baptism in the Jordan by John; and the third is Lourdes Grotto, a replica of the French shrine.

The second stop on our tour took us to St. John -St. Luke Evangelical UCC near Eastern Market on Russell near Gratiot Ave. We started our visit with a wonderful German-style meal of bratwurst, German potato salad, and purple cabbage, with cupcakes for dessert. The church secretary then gave us a presentation on the church's history. St. John is notable for being the earliest German congregation in Detroit, established in 1833. Its first minister, Rev. F. Schmid, was an elderly man who lived in Ann Arbor but would make the trip to Detroit on foot every Sunday to preach! The present building is actually the third to house the congregation, with services originally held in a carpenter's shop before the first 'frame' church was built in 1836. Later, an increase in members made a larger church necessary and a brick church was dedicated in 1850. In 1874, a larger church was again needed, and the present building, which seats nearly 1500, was dedicated. A local architect, Julius Hess, designed the Gothic Revival structure in a style similar to German Protestant churches. The once-dark woodwork of the interior was painted white in 1914. Pews and wide boards of the flooring are original.

Regular incandescent light bulbs ring the sanctuary just below balcony level. The organ was installed soon after the Church was completed, about 1875. The altar is a typical German Protestant arrangement with the altar, pulpit, and organ stacked one on top of another. Beautiful stained glass windows, installed in 1947, replaced the original leaded glass windows. The church also played a role in the Underground Railroad in the 1800's, hence on display here is a leather-covered casket that was used to hide runaway slaves.

All in all, the tour of both church sites was very interesting and educational, and a good time was had by all who participated!



Treasurer's Report for June 2014

Income- \$7,660.04
Expenses- \$5,362.17

Capital Improvement Fund - \$11,009.55
Investments with UBS valued at \$229,517.16

Matthew Haling, Treasurer



The Book Club
is currently reading *The Murderer's Daughter*, by Randy Susan Meyers. Books are available for checkout in the blue bag in the office. The Book Club will next meet on August 25, at 7pm

School Supplies

The new school year will soon begin, so now is the time to find good deals on school supplies at local stores and donate them to our mini-missions. Several stores, like Target, Walgreens, and Meijer offer bargains on many items. Supplies can be placed in a box outside the office and will be delivered to schools at the beginning of September. Donate today and help us help kids who can truly benefit from our charity!

MEMBER NEWS

Cole Haas is appearing as Avery in *Charlotte's Web*, currently being presented at The Players Guild of Dearborn. Valerie Haas is directing the show. Also featured in the cast are Emily and Lillian Robinson, granddaughters of David and Sue MacKenzie.

Performances are July 31st, August 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. All performances begin at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$7.00 and can be purchased at the door (come early, as we may sell out) or online at the Guild's website: www.playersguildofdearborn.org



Also onstage this month is Kirk Haas, playing Polonius in Royal Oak with Waterworks' Theatre's Shakespeare in the Park. The show runs until August 10th. More information can be found at their website:

www.shakespeareroyaloak.com

Rummage Sale

The Annual Women's Fellowship Rummage Sale will take place October 3rd from 9am to 5pm and October 4th from 9 am to noon. Please consider signing up to help out in one of the rooms. See Pat Stacho or Teresa Curless for more information. We are also accepting rummage during regular office hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday mornings from 9am to 1pm.

OUR CHURCH AT WORK

In August

Helpers for Sunday Services

Greeters:

- August 3 – Available
- August 10 – Available
- August 17 – Available
- August 24 – Available
- August 31 – Available

Ushers:

- August 3 – Tom Brown
& Polly Fitzpatrick
- August 10 – Available
- August 17 – Tom & Cheryl Brown
- August 24 – Available
- August 31 – Tom & Cheryl Brown

Liturgists:

- August 3 – Michelle Martin
- August 10 – Marge Manspeaker
- August 17 – Available
- August 24 – Marge Manspeaker
- August 31 – Available

PRAYER LIST



| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Bernice Hartling | Medical Concerns |
| Shirley Fedraw | Medical Concerns |
| Bunny Hoganson | Medical Concerns |
| Geri Sampson | Medical Concerns |
| Suzanne Van Ranst | Medical Concerns |
| Ellis Mangrum | Medical Concerns |
| Dotty Klein | Medical Concerns |
| Dave Stacho | Medical Concerns |
| Edith Schwartz | Medical Concerns |
| David MacKenzie | Medical Concerns |



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 6 Susan MacKenzie
 - 15 Cathie Salach
 - 17 Matthew Haling
 - 26 Sue Wilson
-

Dedication of Flowers - August

- August 3 – Polly Fitzpatrick
- August 10 – Sue MacKenzie
- August 17 – Tom & Cheryl Brown
- August 24 – Sue MacKenzie
- August 31 – Available

Fellowship Hour – August

- August 3 – Pat Stacho & Linda Haling
- August 10 – Available
- August 17 – Available
- August 24 – Available
- August 31 – Available

DATES TO REMEMBER...

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------------|-----|
| August 13 | Trustees Meeting | 7pm |
| August 14 | Diaconate Meeting | 7pm |
| August 25 | Book Club Meeting | 7pm |

I'm Just Sayin'...

...with Pat Stacho

There are certain things that should not be discussed with your loved ones. Let me explain.

If you mention a certain someone from your past, be prepared to hear that name from time to time. I casually mentioned Jimmy Revoir....we were watching American Graffiti and he came to mind. I used to dance the night away with Jimmy, years ago! We even were on "rockin' robin dance party...on TV! He was a really good dancer (and a pretty good kisser). So you can see why that movie would spark a memory or two. Bad move! Now, every now and then, when I ask my sweet hubby to do something, repeatedly, I get "Why don't you ask Jimmy? See if he can do it!" Nice thought, but Jimmy died four years ago. He wouldn't move any faster.

NEVER, repeat, never tell your children secrets of your carefree youth. No matter how innocent the circumstance, it'll come back to haunt you. In a moment of weakness, my brother and I were reminiscing about some parties we attended our senior year. (We were both seniors the same year, my brother was held back, unlike his brilliant sister.) At any rate, there were some parties...cornfields, bonfires and a few things he should NOT have mentioned. My kids were in high school. However, we were so much more

mature at that age. Or maybe not, or those parties wouldn't seem so stupid now. I now have to answer my grown grandchildren's questions about those parties! Years later, they still rub it in my nose. Why don't they remember all the Cub Scout meetings I held at my house. Those were like parties!!

I think it's time to share some of my memories of their fathers' youths. Payback, my dear sons. Even siblings can be touchy. I once mentioned that Mom had loaned me the down payment on my first car. I was so proud of that car. Single, first job of importance, and I had a 1960 Pontiac LeMans. My brother had a jealous hissy fit, 30 years later!! "She turned me down when I asked for a loan. Said if I couldn't afford it, to wait until I could!" What a whiner. Surely he knew I was the favorite.

So...just a word of advice. Think before sharing things with loved ones. It might be safer to talk to strangers in the line at the grocery store. They won't care about your past, and certainly can't hassle you about it. However, be aware. You may have to listen to their stories, which might be fun!

I'm just sayin'...

One More Church in Me

After six years serving as Conference Superintendent in The Evangelical Church, and overseeing a four-state region of churches, I retired. It was time to move on and do something else with my life. No more traveling. I'd stay close to home and enjoy life with my wife. However, I do remember telling her, "But I think there's one more church in me." (My way of saying that I think I should be pastoring a church.)

Sometimes life's journey takes you down a path you weren't expecting. You wonder why you are heading in one direction - almost certain it's the wrong way. But you trust God and continue on, with a prayer that His will is being accomplished.

My retirement from ministry led me to a position with the Romulus Chamber of Commerce. I was hired as their Executive Director on January 1, 2013. It wasn't church ministry, but I found myself applying those same church work skills and talents on the job. It's been a fun ride. I've made a lot of new friends and I think I've contributed to the well-being of the community. But there was always that nagging feeling ... "I think there's one more church in me."

Along the way, my wife and I were reunited with St. Paul United Church of Christ. This was the church where we were married, where our children were baptized and where I preached my very first sermon. It's where my life in ministry started and I figured that this would be a nice place for both of us to settle down and enjoy Christian fellowship. This would be our "church home" ...or so I thought.

Looking back, I now see God's hand at work in guiding us. He had to get us to St. Paul UCC, where I would occasionally preach, so that Rev. Kirsch and I would meet and he could then recommend me for pulpit fill in Dearborn.

I remember my first service at Dearborn Congregation Church. January 5, 2014. It was cold and there was entirely too much snow on the road! I recall making the drive from Garden City and thinking, "Won't be many out to hear Bill Kren preach." But many of you did make it out and I was invited back for the next Sunday.

Tom Brown claims he was the first person to ask me if I would be interested in pastoring the church. I think I smiled and said, "Thank you for the kind words, but you need someone else." Even though that was my reply, a seed was being planted. It wasn't long and I began to realize that maybe this is where God wants me? When asked if I would "Throw my hat into the ring" it was easy to say "yes." And after my interview with the Search Committee, I knew I found that "one more church."

And so, Sunday, August 3, 2014 marks the official beginning of my service as your pastor. I confess – I don't know what the future holds for us, but I do know who holds the future of Dearborn Congregational Church and Pastor Bill Kren. Our God has something good and exciting for us. Together, I believe we will accomplish great things for The Kingdom!

- *Pastor Bill Kren*