

# The Union Avenue News

www.federatedff.org

church@federatedff.org

May 2015

## The Timothy Fellowship



Jordan Schiefert, our first Timothy Fellow  
(See inside for full article)

## Dates to Remember

May 10

Cake Auction @ 10AM  
Fundraiser for youth going to CO

May 17

One Worship Service @ 10AM  
Ice Cream Social @ 11AM

May 22

Summer Worship  
schedule begins  
Worship @ 10AM  
Fellowship @ 11AM

June 7th

Summer Worship  
in Roosevelt Park  
10AM @ the Roosevelt Park  
picnic shelter  
11AM—Hot dog picnic in the park  
(fundraiser for youth going to CO)

June 12th—20th

Youth Mission Trip to  
Nederland, CO  
(Pastor Doug & Elizabeth out of the  
office these dates)

July 6th—10th

Camp-in-a-Van/VBS  
@ Federated

August 30th

Summer Worship  
in Roosevelt Park  
10AM @ the Roosevelt Park  
picnic shelter

## Congratulations!!!

to the six graduating  
seniors this year



We celebrated with them and their families during a brunch in their honor on Sunday, April 26th.

### 2015 Graduating Seniors:

William Haas,  
Tyler Harthun  
Alex Hexum  
Andrew MacFarlane  
Jordan Schiefert  
Logan Stout

Federated Church  
224 N. Union Ave.  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

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Information  
Please deliver by  
April 30th

#### Worship Schedule

9:00am Contemporary Worship  
9:45am Education Hour  
10:00am Coffee Hour  
11:00am Traditional Worship

#### Summer Worship Schedule

10:00am Worship  
11:00am Coffee Hour

#### First Sundays of the Month

*Communion* served at each service.

*Blood Pressure clinics* held during the Fellowship hour by the Parish nurse.

*Know your Neighbor Sunday* Name tags distributed before each service.

*First Sundays with Pastor Doug.* From October to May, Join Pastor Doug the first Sunday of each month for an in depth look at some exciting and eclectic topics.

#### Ministry Nite

Committees meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm.

**Reminder: Committees do not meet in July**

#### Other Meetings

*Men's Bible Study* meets every Monday at noon in the parlor.

*Women's Bible Study* meets every Thursday at 10:30am in the parlor.

*Deacons & Elders* meet the third Thursday of the month at 6:30pm.

*Stephen Ministry* meets the first Tuesday of the month at 5:30pm.

Call the Church office if you  
have any questions!  
**218-739-3227**



Growing together in God's love...  
From generation to generation.

Come as you are...  
Visitors expected

The Federated Church is  
a joint ministry of  
The Presbyterian Church (USA) and  
The United Church of Christ



Sometimes I feel weary. I feel weary when I hear about the “nones” – those who claim no religious belief. I feel weary hearing about millennials leaving the church and thinking about all the energy exerted to keep them coming. This week I read about the “dones” – those who used to be involved in the church but who simply are done with the whole organizational mess.

Don't get me wrong, we ought to be worried about the “nones” and the “dones” and the millennials and our neighbors and friends, regardless of age or stage, who simply don't have room for Jesus. But sometimes in our focus on problem-solving we lose sight of the Holy Spirit. When that happens, we are not able to join in the work the Spirit is doing. And working, the Spirit is!

We saw and heard and felt the Spirit moving within us on Palm Sunday as we worshipped together and sang our praises to God. We rejoiced with the Spirit on Easter morning, welcoming the Risen Christ anew. We witnessed the Spirit working through us as we ministered to our neighbors at the Food Drop. We tasted of the Spirit in our fellowship at the Salad Luncheon. And we are seeing the Spirit at work in a new initiative – The Timothy Fellowship – that encourages young adults to discern their call to the ministry.

We are reminded of the Spirit at work among us as we celebrate Christ's Ascension and the initial coming of the Spirit on Pentecost. We remember how the Spirit empowered the disciples to spread the Word of Christ's Gospel far beyond their homeland, and begin to form the early church.

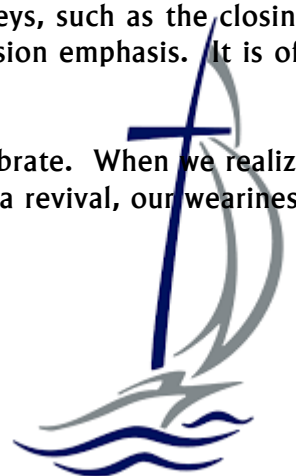
The Holy Spirit is also at work calling us to be the church, the gathered body of Christ meant to be a testimony to the world. One way we give expression to who we are in Christ is by following God's command to care for the world. We are also reminded that the church of Christ does not know borders and that the Spirit is doing mighty things in places like Pakistan, Iran, and the Middle East despite the persecution that Christians suffer there.

And while we often think about the Holy Spirit being most evident in the growth of the church, we are reminded that sometimes the Holy Spirit leads us on very different and difficult journeys, such as the closing of a church, the ending of a ministry, or the sudden change in a congregation's mission emphasis. It is often through death that new life springs forth.

The Holy Spirit is at work. There is much that our congregation can and should celebrate. When we realize that our task is to join what the Holy Spirit is already doing rather than engineering a revival, our weariness lifts and we are truly able to say or sing:

Pray we then, O Lord the Spirit on our lives descend in might;  
Let your flame break out within us, fire our hearts and clear our sight  
Till, white-hot in your possession, we, too, set the world alight.  
("Praise the Spirit of Creation")

May the Ever-Active, Empowering and Inspiring Spirit of God fill you and move you this season.  
Pastor Doug



### **Pentecost Offering**

The Pentecost Offering will be received on Sunday, May 24 during the 10AM worship service. A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering is retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community.



# Jr/Sr High

*Karen Anderson, Interim Director of Christian Education*



During the past month, the senior high youth group has been busy! We spent two Wednesdays watching the movie "God is Not Dead", and we are now discussing some of the themes present in the story. On March 18<sup>th</sup>, we cooked and served the Lenten meal to the congregation. Thanks to your generosity, we received approximately \$650 toward our mission trip to Colorado!! Our lock-in was great fun, with a visit to Union Pizza, Mission Impossible, and an impromptu "concert" at 3:00am! Everyone left tired, but with good fellowship memories! We are looking forward to an up-coming month of learning and playing together, with the hopes of assembling the church's chemo kits!

At the request of parents, the Christian Education office is purchasing books of particular relevance to teens. Some titles include: Before You Meet Prince Charming, The Purity Code, Hero, What are You Waiting For, Guardians of Purity, I Kissed Dating Goodbye, and a series for girls called Beautifully Made. Feel free to borrow these books from Karen's office—just return them so that someone else might be blessed as well! This collection is intended for both teens and parents, and will be expanded as funds allow over the next several months. If you have titles that you have found helpful that would benefit our church family, please let Karen know!



## Jr/Sr High Upcoming Events:

### **Friday, May 1st**

Deadline for camp scholarship forms

### **Wednesday, May 6th**

3:30PM Jr High Youth Group

7:30PM Sr High Youth Group

### **Sunday, May 10th**

10AM Cake Auction during coffee hour

### **Wednesday, May 13th**

3:30PM Jr High Youth Group

7:30PM Sr High Youth Group

### **Wednesday, May 20th**

7:30PM Sr High Youth Group

### **Sunday, June 7th**

Worship in the Park @ Roosevelt

Hotdog picnic following—fundraiser for CO trip

### **June 12th-20th**

Mission Trip to Nederland, CO

### **July 6th—10th**

Camp In a Van (VBS)

## Summer Mission Opportunity

Plans are being finalized for the June 12-20<sup>th</sup> Colorado mission trip! We are excited to have a crew of people ready to work in Nederland, CO. Information packets will be sent to participants and parents with details about what to bring, where we will be staying, what we hope to do there, and information on the road trip there and back. It looks like it will be a great week!



While our team travels to Colorado, a mission team from Westminster Presbyterian Church in the Twin Cities plans to stay here at Federated on the nights of June 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. They are hoping to do local mission work on the 16<sup>th</sup> at the Food Shelf and The Salvation Army. Our church community will have the opportunity to meet and encourage this team on one of their nights here—we will have more details in the next newsletter.



# KIDS



## Sunday School

We are moving into the final few weeks of Sunday school, with our ending day being May 17! Plan to attend the Ice Cream Social that day, and take the opportunity to thank all the people who teach our children through on Sunday mornings!

## Nursery

Thank you to all the people who have graciously volunteered to keep the nursery going this spring! Please get the word out that we are offering this ministry again at our church! We are prayerfully working toward a more permanent solution and we are SO grateful for the willingness of our church family to help out!

## Kids Club

With the Lenten session of Kids Club completed, we are beginning our last five-week session for the school year. Our learning and crafts will focus on the **Miracles of Jesus**. Our team of leaders and enthusiastic participants make this time on Wednesdays filled with music, activity, and energy! This session will run from April 15 until May 13. On May 17, we hope to have the children share new songs with the congregation during worship!

## Camp-In-A-Van—VBS

It's hard to believe that summer is just around the corner, and with that, Vacation Bible School! This year's session is set for July 6-10. We will be utilizing the Camp-in-a-van staff from Clearwater Forest again this year, and so we are looking forward to an exciting week! If you are interested in having your child or grandchild participate, please contact the church office. We will be looking for volunteers in the kitchen as well as a few households or families who would be willing to host counselors.

Summer Camp Registration is open! Check [clearwaterforest.org](http://clearwaterforest.org) for Summer camp dates and to register online. The Federated Church offers scholarships to cover part of any Christian summer camp. Camp scholarship forms can be found outside the church office. Please return the completed form to the office by May 1. The Christian Ed Committee will award scholarships at their meeting on May 12, and will contact recipients shortly thereafter.



## Kids Upcoming Events:

1st		Deadline for camp scholarship forms
6th	3:30PM	Kids Club
13th	3:30PM	Kids Club (last day!)
17th	11AM	Ice Cream Social/Last Day of Sunday School
July 6th—10th		Camp In a Van (VBS)

## Prayer Partners

Studies show that one of the keys to quality youth development is for young people to receive support from at least three non-parent adults in their lives. Would you like to invest in the life of one of our youth by being a Prayer Partner? Youth K-12 will be creating a short bio to hang up in the Narthex along with a photo. If you are interested in being a Prayer Partner with any of the youth, please fill out the short bio form and submit it, along with a photo, to the church office. It will be hung up in the Narthex next to the youth you are partnered with.



Kids Club and Sunday School Kids sang during the worship service on Palm Sunday

# Worship at The Federated Church

May 3, 2015 9AM & 11AM	"The Ethiopian Innovation" Isaiah 56: 1-8; Acts 8:26-40 Celebration of The Lord's Supper	Pastor Doug Dent
May 10, 2015 Mother's Day 9AM & 11AM	"The Helium God" John 15:9-17	Pastor Doug Dent
May 17, 2015 10AM	"The Holy Autocorrect" Ephesians 1:15-23	Pastor Doug Dent
May 24, 2015 Pentecost Sunday 10AM	"Spirit Code" Romans 8:22-27	Pastor Doug Dent
May 31, 2015 Trinity Sunday 10AM	"The Palindromic God" Isaiah 6:1-8	Pastor Doug Dent

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**Special Sundays!** We have just one remaining special Sunday for the 2014/15 year. We will worship together at 10AM and celebrate a special event in the life of our faith family. Please mark your calendars – you won't want to miss this!

**May 17<sup>th</sup>**

Ice Cream Social sundaes following worship

## Save the date!

June 18-21, 2015

Plan now to attend the 2015  
Churchwide Gathering of Presby-  
terian Women

Minneapolis, MN

[www.presbyterianwomen.org/  
gathering](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering)



## UCC Annual Meeting

The UCC Annual Meeting will be held at the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, MN, June 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in attending, contact the church office for more information.

## Doctoral Studies

In July, Pastor Doug will begin doctoral studies in the area of Congregational Leadership and Mission at Luther Seminary (St. Paul, MN). This four-year program of one-week courses (January and July) is designed to develop a pastor's skills in a congregational setting: what he learns should be applicable to the ministry at The Federated Church. At the end of the coursework, Pastor Doug will prepare a dissertation for review by the Seminary staff. Pastor Doug is excited and nervous about such a big undertaking, but is grateful for the support of the Deacons & Elders and the entire Federated Family. Prayers are welcome!



*Newsletter*



### Newsletter Deadline

Articles and announcements for the monthly newsletter are due on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Please send them in electronic form (email) whenever possible. The church staff reserves the right to edit articles for content and space.

**May Service Group  
Group #4**  
Dean and Dana Barringer  
Wes and Lori Beske  
Wes and Phyllis Binner  
Mark and Carol Bischof  
Jona Brown  
John and Kim Erickson  
Bob and Barb Flom  
Stella Fox  
Dennis and Shari Frye  
Kathy Gilbert  
Fred Harthen  
Myron and Joanne Lenning  
Vern and Deb Tabbutt  
Lois Tassler  
Steve and Carri Thompson  
Del and Kathy Zimmerman

**June Service Group  
Group #5**  
Jim and Phyllis Behrends  
Joel and Dawn Dulski  
Elizabeth Hatling  
Kathy Hatling  
Jeremy and Jen Jensen  
Cleo Langseth  
Steve Lockhart and Donna Ohe  
Tiny Macheel  
Jacinta Macheel  
Mary Milton  
Ann Porter  
Mary Jones Olson  
Duane and Carol Rose  
Debbie Rose  
Melissa Saurer  
Donna Solin  
Joan Tester  
Greg and Kathy Truax

## Greeters and Coffee Hosts

**May 2015**

### Sunday, May 3rd

9AM— Mark & Carol Bischof

11AM— Wes & Lori Beske

### Sunday, May 10th

9AM— John & Kim Erickson

11AM— Vern & Deb Tabbutt

### Sunday, May 17th - Ice Cream Social

10AM—Stella Fox and Kathy Gilbert

### Sunday, May 24th

10AM—Del & Kathy Zimmerman

### Sunday, May 31st

10AM— Steve & Carri Thompson



**\*\*Reminder, you are also the coffee hosts for that Sunday. If you are unable to do it the Sunday you are assigned, it is YOUR responsibility to find a replacement.**

Check your email for information on greeter and coffee host duties. Please add church@federatedff.org to your safe senders list. If you don't use email, please check the bulletin board in the narthex for the information.

### Condolences to...

- ✦ Friends and family of G. William Marts.
- ✦ Lila Hiedeman on the death of her brother, Gary Mart.
- ✦ Friends and family of Elaine Bowyers.
- ✦ Gene Mjelde and family on the death of Sonny.
- ✦ Carolyn Anderson on the death of her mother.

### Congratulations to...

- ☺ John & Patty Lindholm on the birth of their granddaughter, Nora Linnea

## May Birthdays

Melissa Loomer 05/02  
David Stoddard 05/02  
Henrik Gustafson 05/02  
Jan Nelson 05/03  
Codie Tabbutt 05/03  
Alyssa White 05/03  
Ingrid Morgan 05/04  
Mariah Davenport 05/06  
Paige Westra 05/07  
Susan Johnson 05/08  
Arianna Lee 05/08  
Vivian Olson 05/08  
Mary Milton 05/09  
Shelby Eckhoff 05/10  
Rebecca Kalar 05/11

Gerald Worner 05/12  
Joyce Youngren 05/14  
Vern Tabbutt 05/14  
Crystal Cavalier 05/15  
Maren Hatling 05/15  
Luke Barry 05/15  
Tucker Ugstad 05/15  
Winnie Clambey 05/17  
Steve Thompson 05/17  
Janet Knapp 05/18  
Ashley Rodning 05/18  
Dennis Echelberger 05/20  
Samatha Beck 05/20  
Bev Lambert 05/22  
Carol Anderson 05/22



Mary Lundeen 05/23  
Kim Anderson 05/23  
Abby Harthun 05/23  
Allie Murphy 05/23  
Christian Saurer 05/23  
L. Art Syverson 05/24  
Elizabeth Nelson 05/25  
Terry Harthun 05/26  
Lisa Johnson 05/26  
Ben Sundberg 05/26  
Desta Hunt 05/27  
Barbara Becker 05/28  
Mackenzie Schara 05/28  
Blanche Arneson 05/29  
Mae Harthun 05/30  
Matthew Solin 05/30  
Mae Reich 05/31

*We apologize if we missed your birthday! Please email your birthday information to church@federatedff.org!*

## Ministry Nite!

May 12th is Ministry Nite. Committees meet at 6:30PM in the fellowship hall. Please email your minutes to [church@federatedff.org](mailto:church@federatedff.org). If you are unable to attend, contact your chairperson. If your committee does not make a quorum, please schedule a time for your committee to meet before the next Ministry Nite. Reminder: Committees do not meet in July.





### First Sundays - Pastor Doug Dent

First Sunday Bible Studies are designed to be one-time, one-topic programs. We gather after worship for a light lunch and discussion. Each spring, members of the bible study choose the topics; then Pastor Doug spends time researching and preparing.

May 3<sup>rd</sup>

James, the Brother of Jesus

### Men of the church!

Join us Mondays at noon for prayer and bible study in the church parlor. Men are currently studying the book of Judges. All are welcome.



### Sunday Morning Bible Study - Pastor Doug Dent



Sunday Morning Bible Study, led by Pastor Doug, meets in the Parlor on Sunday mornings at 10AM. All are welcome!

### Women of the church!

Join us Thursday mornings at 10:30AM for prayer and bible study in the church parlor. Women are currently studying the *I Am* sayings of Jesus. All are welcome.



### Lake Region Run

Saturday Morning, June 6th

Half Marathon, Half Relay, 5k & 1-mi



Lake Region Health Care is looking for volunteers for the Lake Region Run on Saturday, June 6th. Volunteer times are: Friday evening (packet pick-up) & Saturday during the day (traffic control and packet pick-up). Traffic control is standing on corners and making sure runners are heading in the right direction and stopping vehicles if there are runners in the intersections.

Bright orange shirt included!

Call or email Mary at 736-8610

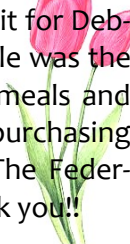
or [mlbudke@lrhc.org](mailto:mlbudke@lrhc.org).

<http://www.lakeregionrun.com/>

### HOP INTO SPRING

The Federated Church Salad Luncheon  
& Baked Goods Sale

Thank you!!! to all that helped in the success of our **salad luncheon**—the great committee that helped organize the event; all the volunteers that worked, brought salads, or brought baked goods; all who donated money; and all who attended the luncheon! A huge thank you to all those who helped “Do it for Debbie” and brought baked goods—the bake sale was the best one in 8 years! We served about 200 meals and made close to \$2000, which will go towards purchasing materials for the Chemo Care Kits and to The Federated Church’s local mission fund. Again, thank you!!



Please pick up your bowls or containers on the back cupboard in the kitchen or on the cart in the narthex.

We are in the early stages of planning our next mission trip to the House of Hope in Zacapa, Guatemala in February 13-20, 2016. If you would like to join us, spend time with some great kids, share God’s word, and work for God’s kingdom in Guatemala, talk to Mike or Michelle Loomer or to Pastor Doug. Trip cost is approximately \$1,500.



HOUSES OF HOPE  
INTERNATIONAL

### Stewardship Report

#### General Fund Report—as of March 31, 2015

Revenue—\$36,704.51  
Expenditures—\$38,973.71  
**Year to Date Pledge  
Offering**  
Budgeted —\$84,262  
Actual received—  
\$79,883.58



**Thank you for your continued generosity with the Local Mission Fund!** Funds go out as quickly as they come in! There is much need in our community. Donations can be put in the offering plate with *Local Mission Fund* in the memo line or dropped off in the church office.

#### Local Mission Fund Report

March	As of April 23rd
19 families or individuals helped with \$1,172.00 towards food, rent or utilities	18 families or individuals helped with \$1,050 towards food, rent or utilities



## Parish Nursing Notes

Connie Seltz, Parish Nurse Coordinator

The ability to drive safely is a treasured skill that provides much self-sufficiency and independence. When that skill is questioned, it may be helpful to know that “highly trained Driver Rehab Specialists” are available in our community. That said, I was invited to a presentation by Lisa Cole, OTR, to introduce Stephen Ministers and me to the “Comprehensive Driver Rehabilitation Services” offered by Lake Region Healthcare. The objective of the program is to determine if persons with a variety of medical conditions are safe to drive. The program includes a clinical phase and a behind the wheel phase. Candidates for this program would have a physician’s referral, a valid learner’s permit or driver’s license and have not experienced loss of consciousness or seizure within the past 6 months. This driving assessment program is a benefit for persons with disabilities related to: spinal cord injury, dementia or Alzheimer’s disease, stroke, cognitive impairment, psychological impairment, age-related impairments, Parkinson’s, or amputation. The outcomes of the evaluation may include recommendations to continue/resume driving, refrain from driving at this time, participate in driver training, drive with adaptive equipment, or continue/resume driving with restrictions.

For more information or to schedule an appointment you may call the Occupational Therapy Department at 218-736-8388. The above information is from literature provided by Lake Region Healthcare. The entire brochure is posted on the Parish Nursing Bulletin Board.



## Jim Solin Appeal

The prophet Isaiah reminds God’s people to “bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow’s cause.” We have an opportunity to do just that.

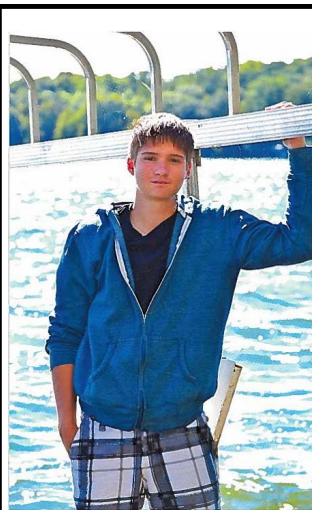
All of us were deeply saddened by the unexpected death of Jim Solin last fall. He was an important part of our faith family, and we miss him. At the time of Jim’s funeral, our congregation rallied, showing great generosity in your care and support for Donna and Matt.

Now I write to ask for your help once again. There are still \$3,400 in outstanding funeral home fees connected to Jim’s funeral, and there may be more when he is finally laid to rest in May. Donna is working diligently to chip away at this bill, but it will take a long time to clear it completely.

The Board of Managers approved an appeal to the congregation to help pay off these fees. Anyone wishing to help may make a contribution to The Federated Church with “Solin Appeal” on the memo line. In a few weeks we hope to make a sizeable payment to the funeral home.

I am grateful for the way you consistently and compassionately respond to the needs of your neighbors. On behalf Jim Solin’s family, thank you!

Pastor Doug Dent



### Everyone is invited to Logan Stout’s grad party

Saturday, May 30, 2015  
1-4PM at their home  
831 E. Mt Faith Ave  
(driveway between  
815 & 825)



### Everyone is invited to Tyler Harthun’s grad party

Saturday, May 30, 2015  
5-8 pm at their home  
23486 Cottonwood Lane  
Fergus Falls

# The Timothy Fellowship

*"You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others."*

2 Timothy 2:2 (The New Living Translation)

The Timothy Fellowship is a two-year internship designed to mentor young men and women considering a career in ministry by providing them with an opportunity to work in a congregational setting as they discern their call from God.

Every good leader has mentors – other leaders just ahead of where we are in our growth and our journey. And every leader also needs to be mentoring the next generation of leaders. This is the only way for discipleship to take on the multi-generational nature described by Paul in 2 Timothy 2:2.

Timothy was the Apostle Paul's apprentice in ministry. Theirs was a relationship that matured over time in three distinct phases:

## **Phase One: Parenting**

In Paul's first letter to Timothy, he addresses him as *"my true son in the faith."* (1 Tim. 1:2, NLT). We first meet Timothy in Acts 16 when Paul is heading out on his second missionary journey: he stops in Lystra to pick up the young disciple who accompanies him, assists him, and serves as a Ministry Intern under him. Timothy's biological father was Greek, but no evidence is ever given that he was a Christian. So Paul filled the shoes of a spiritual parent to Timothy.

The Parenting phase will include a series of guided courses designed to deepen the Timothy Fellow's faith and to expand his or her knowledge of the Bible and of church ministry, and the completion of a specific project of interest to the Timothy Fellow and of benefit to the congregation.

## **Phase Two: Pacesetting**

Pacesetting means being the example of what mature ministry looks like. In Paul's second letter to Timothy, he points out that, *"you know what I teach, and how I live, and what my purpose in life is. You know my faith, my patience, my love, and my endurance..."* (2 Tim. 3:10-11, NLT) Paul sets the pace with his own life and challenges Timothy to learn by keeping up and emulating Paul's lifestyle.

In the Pacesetting phase, the Timothy Fellow will gain practical experience in four areas of congregational life: Worship, Christian Education, Mission, and Pastoral Care.

## **Phase Three: Partnering**

In the book of Romans, Paul makes a reference to Timothy: *"Timothy, my fellow worker, sends you his greetings"* (16:21). Timothy has gone from being a son to a student and now to being a colleague and a co-laborer. We spend plenty of time desiring and praying for more laborers, but perhaps not enough time investing in those with the potential to become our partners in the mission.

During the Partnering phase, the Timothy Fellow will be expected to discern his or her call to ministry through conversations, readings, and contact with our denominations and theological schools. The hope is that the Timothy Fellow will pursue further education or training (under care of our congregation), and become a full partner in ministry, actively serving Christ's church wherever he/she feels called by God.

We are excited to have Jordan Schiefert joining us as our first Timothy Fellow on or about June 1, 2015. Jordan is a recent graduate of Fergus Falls High School, and has been a faithful member of our worshipping community for several years and a key player in our praise band.

Funding for the Timothy Fellowship is provided by a grant from the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys (PCUSA), a New Initiatives Grant from the Minnesota Conference (UCC), and by support from the Phoebe Loomer Fund.

## Greetings from Don & Maryjane Westra in Honduras!

Dear Friends at Federated:

Greetings from sunny warm Honduras. The next few months are the hottest time of the year and then comes the first rainy season in May. The second comes in November and December. A few weeks ago the surrounding mountains were green from the December rains but in just a few short weeks they have turned brown. The trees have been harvested so the mountains have no way of holding water. They have reforestation projects but illegal harvesting continues at a faster rate than reforestation.

Backing up: Don and I left Zimbabwe in 2013 when our visas (permission to work in the country, not the credit card) expired and were not renewed. We were sad to leave but welcomed a new work site in the same hemisphere as our family. We worked for a year and a half with gang youth in Tegucigalpa. In January 2015, we relocated to the community of Yoro in the Honduras state of Yoro. Yoro, Yoro. It translates as "I cry. I cry." I did cry at the thought of moving again, but it turned out to be a good move. (When will I stop trying to fight the Grand Plan?)

We are working in a vocational training center that trains students in automobile mechanics, industrial machining, welding, woodworking, culinary arts and soon a beauty school. They also teach basic education since many of the students have not graduated from high school. We have students as young as 14 years old and as old as 30. The school is a partnership between the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Honduran government, neither of which have money! We have dedicated teachers and energetic students, mostly boys. We have a lovely setting and adequate space on a lovely campus surrounded by mountains. Our challenge is getting the classes adequately supplied so the students have a fighting chance to develop work skills. For example, the machine shop equipment is old and broken. Parts are difficult or impossible to find. There are few hand tools. Same story in the auto mechanic shop and wood shop. The Culinary Arts School has a lovely new building donated by a generous restaurateur in New Hampshire but we are challenged to have enough paying students to sustain it.

Don is painting and maintaining machine tools while at the same time writing proposals like crazy. I have been working on communications, web pages and organizing the opening of the beauty school which will be named Maria Jose Alvaro after the slain Miss Honduras of 2014.

In addition, we are challenged with opening a clinic in a small indigenous village. The clinic was established a number of years ago but was closed in 2011 for lack of funds. It is the only clinic for many miles. There are a few midwives in the village but the one we interviewed is very old and unable to read and write, so she can't pass a proficiency test now required by the government. The clinic is in need of visiting medical teams and medicines.

Don and I want to thank our wonderful church family for all the prayers and support you have given us these past five years in Zimbabwe and Honduras. We still don't know what our future holds but we do feel we have more work to do. We will be in Minnesota for the month of August and are anxious to see all of you! Honduras is in the neighborhood. We welcome visitors. We are especially in need of medical personnel and a team that would paint and clean a clinic and the beauty school in preparation to open its door. You will love the food served by the students of the culinary school.

In Christ,  
Don and Maryjane Westra





Don & Maryjane



Subirana Clinic



New paint in the  
Culinary Arts School

