



UBC NEWS

University Baptist Church
1219 University Ave SE
Minneapolis MN 55414

Established 1850 at St. Anthony Falls, MN

JULY 2024

From the Pastor

Recovery and Discovery

I'm writing this on the 18th of June, the eve before my long-awaited and once-delayed surgery. I am confident that by the time you read this, I will be well into my second week of recovery and already imagining new ways I can get into some good trouble alongside all of you. As my body chemistry changes (as a result of the tumor no longer squeezing my pituitary gland), I'll likely have to learn and relearn how to relate to this old corpus. I guess that's part of the recovery. It's part recovery and part discovery.



I want to thank you all for your wisdom, patience, love and support extended to me and to my family.

When I see you again in late July, I look forward to your stories of your own discoveries over these many weeks. I may not have the energy to listen to them all, but know that I do want to hear them. For we are part of each other's lives and we miss out when we don't get together to celebrate the milestones and mourn the millstones. May we all live in health and wholeness.

You can follow my health journey on CaringBridge,
<https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/dougdonley>

Blessings and Peace,

Doug Donley

JULY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Joint Worship Services with First Congregational Church

At First Congregational Church
500 8th Ave SE

July 7

Preaching: Paula Moyer

July 14

Preaching: Maia Twedt

At UBC

July 21

Preaching: Chris Bohnhoff

July 28

Preaching: Chris Bohnhoff

Sanctuary flags photo by Chris Follett

Calendar for July

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4 ★	5	6
	11:15 a.m. Meals on Wheels	11:15 a.m. Meals on Wheels 5:30 p.m. Sacred Harp 7 p.m. Memoir Group	11:15 a.m. Meals on Wheels	9 a.m. Garden Team <i>Office closed</i>	11:15 a.m. Meals on Wheels	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10 a.m. Worship @ FCC Communion			10 a.m. Handcraft Group	9 a.m. Garden Team 6:30 p.m. Caregiver Support Group	6 p.m. Sacred Harp	9:30-3 p.m. Sacred Harp 1 p.m. Book Group
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10 a.m. Worship @ FCC 4 p.m. Sacred Harp	7 p.m. Knitting Group	5:30 p.m. Sacred Harp 7 p.m. Memoir Group		9 a.m. Garden Team		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10 a.m. Worship Joys & Concerns 11 a.m. Coffee 4 p.m. Sacred Harp		5:30 p.m. Sacred Harp		9 a.m. Garden Team <i>Newsletter deadline</i>		1 p.m. Card Club
28	29	30	31			
10 a.m. Worship Joys & Concerns 11 a.m. Coffee 4 p.m. Sacred Harp		7 p.m. Memoir Group				

*Trista's in-office hours are Tuesday 12-3 p.m., Wednesday 12-4 p.m., and Friday 12-5 p.m.
For time-sensitive needs, please text or call 608-343-0831.*



What's Going On

Sunday Morning Worship



July 7 & 14 at FCC, 500 8th Ave SE, Minneapolis 55414

9:30 a.m. – Coffee time

10 a.m. – Worship in the FCC sanctuary

The service bulletin is here: <https://firstchurchmn.org/worship/>

10 a.m. – Or join via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83928727469?pwd=WFhzWkJFQjBhTlp4UEUvdWRhS2lKdz09>

(No password should be needed, as it is embedded in the link. However, if you are asked for one, it is: 890967)

To dial in Zoom by phone call 1-312-626-6799. When prompted, enter 839 2872 7469#. Next, you will be prompted to enter your participant ID or to push #; simply push # again.

10 a.m. – Or join via livestream: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIKlzKsfXYsVuUG-unNAccQ>

11:15 a.m. – Coffee time



July 21 & 28 at UBC with FCC

10 a.m. – Worship in the UBC sanctuary

10 a.m. – Or join via livestream on the [UBC YouTube](#) page (search University Baptist Church Minneapolis MN).

When the livestream ends – Joys & Concerns (also on Zoom)

ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID 839 4725 7444 passcode 257750

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83947257444?pwd=cFZCWEdqUkR0RDgwT0JwT3hrQ3FpUT09>

Following Joys & Concerns – Coffee time in the lounge

GROUPS ON HAITUS UNTIL SEPTEMBER:

- Forums and Sunday School
- Saturday Bible Study
- Journeys Bible Study
- Choir
- Bells
- Every Meal

Pride flags decorate the UBC sanctuary. Thank you to Laura, Peter, and Andrew Justin and Randy Dement for hanging them!

Photo by Chris Follett



More of What's Going On



Meals on Wheels – July 1-3, 5. Meals are picked up around 11:15 a.m. and the route in SE Minneapolis usually takes less than two hours. We're always looking for substitute drivers. If you have any questions, please contact Marie LaFrance at marielafance46@gmail.com.

Sacred Harp Singing – July 2 & 16 (1st & 3rd Tuesdays), 5:30-7:30 p.m. and Sundays (except the first), 4-6 p.m. at UBC in Room 303. No experience or talent necessary!



Sacred Harp Singing Convention – July 12, 6-7:30 p.m. and July 13, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Adele Fadden Assembly Room at UBC. The group will be singing from the Shenandoah Harmony book.



Memoir Writing Group – July 2, 16 & 30 (every other Tuesday), 7 p.m.

Prompts include *Car Trips*, *First Apartments* or anything else you feel called to write about. If you have any questions, please contact Trish Donley at 612-386-2856 or patricia.donley63@gmail.com.

ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID: 831 4584 1908 Passcode: 313775

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83145841908?pwd=djhuSmMwZ1NESXZ5SExNOURXa2FNQT09>

Garden Team – Thursdays, 9 a.m. (including July 4!) Come help beautify our church gardens! We have tools available and will mostly work on weeding and pruning. Park in the Mormon lot next door, library lot, or behind the church. Feel free to join us whenever you're available! If you have any questions, please contact Betsy Kerr at 612-877-2018 or bjkerr@umn.edu.



UBC-FCC Daytime Handcraft Group – July 10 (usually 1st Wednesday), 10 a.m.

(note earlier start time) at First Congregational Church (500 8th Ave. SE) in the Parlor. Bring your craft project and lunch if you like. If you are interested and want to be on a distribution list, please let Marilyn Burns (from FCC) know at mbsnoobear@mac.com.

Caregiver Support Group – July 11 (usually 1st Thursday), 6:30 p.m. UBCers who have an elderly parent meet for support. If you have any questions, please contact Jean Lubke at lubk0001@umn.edu.



ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID 829 0006 6861 Passcode 942930

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82900066861?pwd=RUQ1eGhYN1RzWTJCR0VTNG1JNFVsUT09>

More of What's Going On



Grace in Contemporary Literature by Women Book Group – July 13 (2nd Saturday), 1 p.m. The book this month is *The Huntress* by Kate Quinn. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Follett at chrisf2828@yahoo.com.

ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID: 517 697 6753 Passcode: 602794
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5176976753?pwd=NG15ZlNlbnBDbWUeIzTWfmlzRyZm50QT09>

UBC-FCC Knitting Group – July 15 (3rd Monday), 7 p.m. at Debra Wensman's home. The group is made up of stitchers from UBC and First Congregational Church. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Follett at chrisf2828@yahoo.com.



Card Club – Saturday, July 27, 1 p.m. at Jean Lubke's home. This group meets monthly to learn card-making techniques, share ideas, and make beautiful greeting cards. Due to the limited space and the need to prepare materials, registration is needed for each month's session. If you are interested, please contact Jean at lubk0001@umn.edu or 651-295-7525.

COMING UP:

Anti-Racism Group, **August 6, 7 p.m.**
Loaves & Fishes, **August 30**

Project Minnesota-Léon (PML) Board

Two UBCers, Francisco Díaz (far left) and Deidre Druk (4th from left), are working with PML, Deidre as Board President and Francisco as board member. Other members are: Ralph Baumgartner, Kristie Henig, Eduardo Gomez, Deborah Allen, Emily Wallace-Jackson. Not pictured here: long-time executive director Elizabeth Moreira, Beth Gaede, and Doreen Kloehn.

Save the dates Project Minnesota-Léon

Summer Picnic

Sunday, August 18, 3–4:30 p.m.
Como Park West Picnic Shelter
Midway Pkwy near Hamline Ave, Saint Paul

FIESTA

Saturday, October 26, 2–4 p.m.
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
4901 Chowen Ave S, Minneapolis



Annual Meeting Recap

On June 2, the congregation met for its 173rd Annual Congregational Meeting. The congregation approved the new slate of leaders with the addition of volunteers Margot Garmers for the Church Life Co-coordinator, Karole Graham for the Outreach Co-coordinator, and Claire Mavity as the Building Maintenance Team Lead.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered to serve for next year. We also approved a budget for 2024-2025 with pledged income of over \$200K for the first time and a \$45K projected deficit that we are hoping will be reduced by budget underspending and potential additional income.

Betty Shaw suggested we have some congregational discussions to create a statement of our common understanding regarding land reparation (see page 11 for some insight on this topic.)

If you missed the meeting and would like a copy of the 2023-2024 Annual Report, please contact Trista in the church office, info@ubcm.org.

2024-25

CHURCH COUNCIL AND TEAM LEADERS

COUNCIL

President: Jean Lubke

Treasurer: Denise Roy

Church Clerk: John Medeiros

Pastor: Rev. Doug Donley

Church Life Coordinators: Margie Garmers & Betty Shaw

Outreach Coordinators: Karole Graham & Kim Donley

Property Coordinator: OPEN

Communications Coordinator: OPEN

CORE MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS

Building Maintenance: Claire Mavity

Building Use: Steve Schmidgall

Communion: Terri Wottrich

Financial Secretary: Chris Follett

Mission Giving: Howard Johnson

New Members' Orientation: Paula Moyer

Worship Planning: Karole Graham

Sunday School: Megan Dahlberg

Church Growth: OPEN



Meal Trains

As you know, **Doug Donley** had surgery June 19 to remove a tumor next to his pituitary gland. While Doug and Kim don't need a lot of meal support, here's a Meal Train link: <https://mealtrain.com/8r6w15>. They don't really have preferred day-of-the-week preferences, so feel free to reach out to them to arrange a day that works for you! View Doug's Caring Bridge [here](#).

Nancy Myers is also home from her quintuple bypass followed by a stay in a Transitional Care Unit. Here's the link to her Meal Train <https://mealtrain.com/no6z1d>.

If you have any difficulty working with Meal Trains, please reach out to Trish Donley at 612-386-2856 for assistance.

The Garden Team has been hard at work – what a difference!



It took a village to cut all the grapevines along the fence in the back parking lot. Chris (left), William (right), Betsy, Doug, Trish and Marie spent 2+ hours on June 13 cutting, raking, sweeping and bagging branches and leaves.

Photos by Betsy Kerr



Rev. Matty Strickler (above, left) was our guest preacher on June 23; and Rev. Anne Supplee preached on June 30, surrounded by Pride flags.

Photos by Chris Follett

Asylum Update



On June 14, Santos and Yonathan Urbina (pictured on left, with Doug) made a quick visit to Minnesota. The occasion was to attend their asylum hearing. Since they have moved to Texas, their case was continued. This means that they can stay in the country, have work permits and continue to live their lives with “legal” status. They have permission to live, go to school, and work in the United States until they have another hearing to adjudicate their asylum claim. They'll need to find an attorney in Texas as they await their trial. We're not sure how long it will take to get a new hearing date. Their initial hearing took almost four years from their filing asylum paperwork.

Yonathan especially wanted to make sure that we sent his thanks to the church for their care for him. He wishes to come back and settle in Minnesota when he graduates from high school. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.



Jesse Nitzschke (above, center), Doug Donley, and Deidre Druk attended the asylum hearing with Santos and Yonathan.

Photos by Jesse Nitzschke



Erik and Ivan, a Russian LGBTQ couple seeking asylum

As a member of the sanctuary coalition, UBC asks you to consider contributing to the following GoFundMe campaign. <https://www.gofundme.com/f/erik-and-ivan-a-russian-lgbtq-couple-seeking-asylum>

Mutual Visits with Mother St. James AME

Deidre Druk, Jesse Nitzschke and Doug Donley attended the Open Doors event at Mother St. James church on Saturday, May 18. We deepened budding friendships with this great congregation and we made some fine connections. Sister Joy was especially happy that we were there! (photo of Deidre, left, and Sister Joy, below)



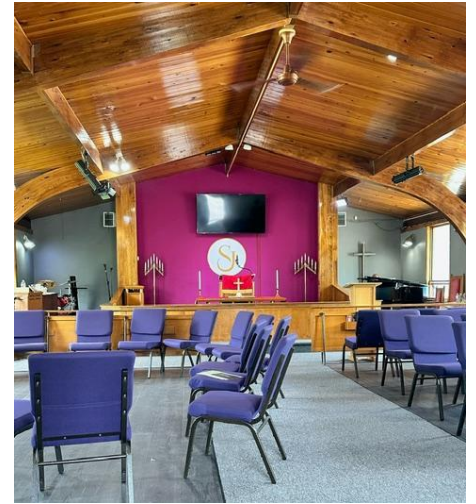
On the following Tuesday, we received a surprise visit at UBC from the new St. James AME Pastor, Chad Edwards. He gave Doug a note expressing thanks for our donation of waived rent for their anniversary celebration earlier this year (printed in the June newsletter.)

Doug and Denise Roy showed Pastor Edwards our discernment board in the lounge that mentioned visiting St. James. Pastor Edwards said there is an event happening in October that he will invite us to.

Doug gave him a tour of the church and Pastor Edwards mentioned that their church is growing and they don't have space for their children. They have some ideas about renovating and might need a place to worship while that work is being done. Doug told him that UBC has a long history of sharing our space with other

congregations and thought we could find a creative way to work things out if they need.

Doug said, "It was really great to meet Pastor Edwards and I'm excited about these possibilities. See, we're fulfilling discernment tasks one by one and it's not even June yet!"



- Deidre Druk

Discernment Activities Progress Update

Refocusing People Power

- Evaluated and re-wrote the position description for the Administrative Assistant
- Initial meeting to evaluate the software and systems used to find the best shareable solutions

Solving Building Issues

- Investigating the benefits, concerns, and process for obtaining National Historic Registry recognition; beginning work on first grant application

Opening Our Doors Within and Without

- Hosted our table at the Pride Festival for the first time in 5 years
- Signed an advertising agreement with Lavender magazine to be listed in the Community Connections Directory with listings in all 26 issues, and a 50+% discount on specific ads.
- Investigated costs of advertising in the online Minnesota Daily
- Connected via Open Streets Minneapolis with Mother St. James AME Church
- Welcoming new sanctuary tenants (from Russia) into our apartment

UBC PRIDE JUNE 29 & 30



Andrew and Peter Justin showed off their green hair for their day at the Pride Festival.

Photo by Laura Justin



Jonathan and Otto Lubke help staff the UBC tent.

Photos by Carrie Lubke



Thanks to all who set up (and took down) and staffed the UBC booth/tent! Special thanks to Betsy Kerr!



Acknowledging the land on which UBC stands

Acknowledgement of the Indigenous history of U.S. land has become a familiar part of civic life over the past few years. Often at public events—from plays at local theaters to sports events, commencements, and church services—a welcome will include a pause to acknowledge the land beneath the venue and the history of land stewardship, naming the Indigenous nations that lived and cared for a particular location in the past.

At UBC, lay worship leaders are most often the ones who open our services. This is a practice nearly 40 years old in which volunteers work with the pastor and music director to create the worship experience. Worship leaders choose hymns and select or write texts for various parts of the service including the welcome, call to worship, morning prayer, and an affirmation. In the past few years, they have often included land acknowledgments, too.

Because the practice of land acknowledgments has coincided with national and local discussions about reparations (particularly for the descendants of enslaved people) and restitution (to Indigenous peoples for the loss of their homelands in light of widespread dishonest methods of dispossession), land acknowledgments sometimes include the intention of a particular organization to take action.

Reparations and restitution have come up in discussion in many contexts at UBC—at forums, in meetings of the anti-racism and other groups, and during the ongoing discernment process. But at this time, UBC has made no decisions nor taken specific action for reparations or restitution. The Worship Planning Team and UBC Council members have heard

from a number of UBC members asking that we avoid suggesting otherwise in any land acknowledgments.

The Worship Team reviewed several land acknowledgments and asked the UBC Council for input. On June 9, the Council agreed on recommended language for a land acknowledgment, which we began using on June 16 (see below). Worship leaders are free to include it or not, and if they use another form, asked to avoid implying that the congregation has agreed upon action toward reparations or restitution.

Meanwhile, the Anti-Racism Group that meets monthly (“group” is a loose term—anyone can attend!) is discussing the Doctrine of Discovery. This doctrine dates to papal bulls that authorized various European powers to conquer the lands of non-Christians, such as the *Dum Diversas* of 1452. Paintings such as *Father Hennepin Discovers the Falls* here in Minnesota show Europeans conducting rites in accordance with the Doctrine of Discovery. It was introduced into U.S. law in 1823 by the Supreme Court in *Johnson v. McIntosh*. In recent years, some denominations, including the Roman Catholic Church, are beginning to disavow, refute, or apologize for this policy and their role in promoting it, permitting it to continue, or benefitting from its impact. Our UBC group is exploring what – if anything – the ABC-USA may be doing.

A forum in October will be devoted to discussing land acknowledgment and views of our members about language and potential actions we might take as a congregation.

—Gayla Marty, participant in the Anti-Racism group and the Worship Planning Team.

Land acknowledgment adapted from a statement used by Rev. Jane McBride at UBC on July 24, 2022:
Now would you please place your feet firmly on the ground, wherever you are, and let us acknowledge this land that is home and community and life, this land that is the sacred homeland of the Dakota people and also to the Ojibwe and Ho-chunk peoples. Together let us acknowledge the displacement that occurred, and let us ask the Spirit to guide us as we work to repair the harm it has caused and to create a future of greater justice.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Our 2023-24 fiscal year ended on June 30. We anticipate meeting our income goals; however, final numbers will not be available until later in July.



Property Manager Patrick Mavity does a great job renting out spaces that don't have a regular tenant. As a result, we have a small surplus in this category.

Most of our income (57%) comes from pledges made by members. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, pledges appear short this year due to some timing issues.

Other gifts and miscellaneous income provide 5% of our budget. We have had some generous donations this year.

Expected annual rental income is 21% of our budget.

The Foundation distribution is 17%, which includes \$33,399 for the property manager position.

Operating Income 2023-24	%	Budget	Expected	Received	Over (short)
Pledge Income	57	\$187,940	\$187,940	\$183,298	(\$4,642)
Rental Income	21	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$71,445	\$1,445
Misc income*	5	<u>\$15,000</u>	\$15,000	\$25,901	\$10,901
Subtotal		\$272,940	\$272,940	\$280,644	\$7,704
Foundation Contribution	17	<u>\$54,066</u>		-	
Total Operating Income	100	\$327,006			
Justice & Outreach		<u>\$15,000</u>		\$12,047	

*individual gifts, loose offering & miscellaneous income

The dedicated offering for May/June was for marginalized communities and we have received \$1,100 to date. We also received an additional \$250 for the Tai Shigaki Travel Fund. - Chris Follett, Financial Secretary



You can scan this QR code on your phone to be directed to our web page where there are a variety of causes to donate to.

UBC Wish List

These are items that don't fit in the budget but would be really nice to have. Please contact Chris Follett if you would like to donate toward these items.

1. A new church sign on University Ave. that faces oncoming traffic.
2. A big welcoming banner on the west side of the building visible to people driving or walking on University Ave.
3. Funds for a marketing communications consultant and/or graphic designer.
4. Funds for assistance migrating financial records from Money 2005 to QuickBooks Online.
5. Upgrade or replacement of our playground equipment.
6. Upgrade of our blue hymnal.

Volunteer Opportunities

Meals on Wheels

UBC has an opportunity to participate in Meals on Wheels on M-Th of the first full week of the month. Meals are picked up around 11:15 a.m. and the route usually takes 1-2 hours. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a ride-along, please contact Marie LaFrance at marielafrence46@gmail.com.

Little Free Pantry

We are looking for individuals to stock the pantry, as well as your donations of money and/or items such as:

- Toiletries (toothbrushes, deodorant, sample sized shampoo/body wash/hand sanitizer, razors, feminine hygiene products)
- Boxed mixes that only require water to prepare
- Bars/cracker packs
- Ramen/instant soup in a cup, mac & cheese
- Rice/pasta/quinoa/
- Tuna packets

If you would like to help, please contact Kim Donley or Karole Graham, Outreach coordinators.

UBC History Research

At the Minnesota History Center, UBC has 19 boxes of files and other materials. If you would like to join a team going over to the History Center sometime Wed-Sat, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 1-4 p.m., please contact Gayla Marty at gaylamarty@gmail.com

Looking for Volunteers

Coffee hosts – Sign up in the lounge

Communion prep – Contact Terri Wottrich

Sunday school teachers – Contact Megan Dahlberg

Ushers – Contact Chris Follett

Worship leaders – Contact Deidre Druk

Garden Team – Contact Betsy Kerr or show up at 9 a.m. on Thursdays

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR JULY

SE Minneapolis Programs

Our special mission offering for July will be to programs in our immediate area of Minneapolis. There are many organizations in our own backyard that support our neighbors in so many ways. In the past we have donated to Southeast Seniors, the University Area Sanctuary Coalition, Indian Food Shelf and others. Thank you for your support of these missions.

You can drop your offering in the offering plate, send a check to the church, designate a gift directly from your bank, or use our online portal for giving on the UBC website, www.UBCmn.org.

Thank you for your ongoing outreach support!!

Kim Donley & Karole Graham, Outreach Team Co-Coordinators

Contribution from the UBC Memoir Group

Minnesota Cabins

By Harriet Johnson

There is a certain mystique to those Minnesota cabins that are sprinkled throughout the north, around the lakes left by the glaciers and tucked in the woods that grew up again after the logging.

Whether the cabin is family-owned or rented by the same folks each summer, it has a history and is beloved by the city dwellers who gather there every year. They drive up from Iowa, Nebraska, Illinois, Wisconsin, or even farther. They may be able to stay only for a week of vacation; or they may be retired and spend the summer at their cabin; but all are convinced that their cabin is a bit of heaven for them.

Some of the cabin builders were originally from Scandinavia where the tradition of owning a cabin in the woods was common. You can identify those cabins built by Swedish immigrants by their dark red stain and white painted trim and by the fieldstone wall around the base of the building. This stone wall was the custom in Swedish cabins to keep any grass fires from burning down the entire structure.

Nowadays many of those smaller Minnesota cabins have been torn down and replaced by two story year-round homes that may cover most of their lot along the shore. But no matter the size, they all have porches or decks and lots of windows to enjoy the world of nature that surrounds them. They all have a dock stretching out like a finger into the lake. And they all have traditions and history.

Our family cabin was built over 100 years ago at the direction of the great grandparents who had come from southern Sweden as young people, met, married, and produced three children. They laid out the plans for their cabin on the three lots they had bought from the farmer who farmed the fields behind the wooded

lake shore. He sold off the lake shore lots on Battle Lake to 13 eager families, and the “lake cabin community” was formed as cabins sprang up. We understand from our abstract that this farmland had originally been legally owned by a Native American farmer, but we do not know how or why he decided to move. There's a story that has been lost.

It was a rough life for cabin owners at first. Each cabin had its own well; there was no electricity, and there was only an outhouse instead of a bathroom. When the telephone arrived, it was a party line, and you could listen in to your neighbors. The cooking was done in the “summer kitchen”, a separate little house with a wood burning stove so that the cabin could remain cool. Chickens had a special cage in the woods across the road, and a vegetable garden helped supply food for the family, too.

For more groceries the nearest store was in the small town of Clitherall which was two miles away.

In 1935, my husband Cork, who was then 7 or 8, would pedal along the dirt road for two miles on his bicycle to get milk for his mom, who spent the summer at the cabin without a car. His dad and other relatives would drive up from Minneapolis each week-end bringing supplies with them and also bringing their energy to do the work of improving and maintaining the cabin. With real pioneer spirit the 13 cabin owners along our beach cared for each other, had fun together, and built a spirit of community.

Those original 13 cabins for the most part were passed down through 3 or 4 generations. Sometimes they were added on; some were knocked down and rebuilt; and some occasionally changed hands. But
Continued on page 15



Cabin – continued

most retained the same family ownership, and the stories of adventures at the cabin were handed down with the cabin. The handing down of a beloved spot got very complicated as families grew and expanded; and deciding who got to inherit the cabin was sometimes difficult for families, when each member wanted to be the new owner for their generation.

My father-in-law, the grown son of the original owners, was managing our cottage when I came into the family in 1958. He was a builder and excellent carpenter, who spent his weekends working creatively on his own cabin, after working all week on someone else's property in the city. The day I arrived for the first time, he appeared at my bedroom with a door that he promptly installed in the empty door frame. "You need some privacy here", he explained, as he hammered in the hinge and checked the door handle. It had been Cork's bedroom growing up but nobody ever bothered to put in a door for the kid until he brought his new wife up to join him there.

Five years later, he built another addition on the cabin close to our bedroom. "This will be a bunkhouse", he told me. "Your two little boys need a space to call their own. I was going to make a second bathroom here but I guess we need a bedroom for them more than a new bathroom. We'll just have to get along with one".

I began to understand how the cabin had grown to now have 5 bedrooms. He had added additions, extended the walls, and changed the roof as he needed more space for the growing family.

The furniture in our cabin is a collection of used donations from each generation. The dining room table came from the original builders and probably dates back to 1890's but is covered with coats of fresh paint so no one knows its original look. There are chests of drawers from later generations, and a deck table and chairs from our time. It is a funky style of decoration and is often labeled a "family museum."

Some of us who have married into the family and its cabin have idle thoughts of how nice it could be to redo the place, but the males of the family seem determined to "keep it as it is" so changes come reluctantly.

Of course, it is the lake that is the big attraction for all generations and at all times of the year. The beach is a shallow one where little kids play safely; you must hike out quite a distance to really swim in deep water. For some, the fishing and boating are the big activities; for others just sitting on the dock and watching the birds fly by is enough action; but the variety of possibilities fills the days for every type of visitor.

In modern times the pattern of pontoon boats coming across the lake and anchoring on the sandy shallows four cabins down from us is a real detriment. They bring along a speaker system and blast out their music sending both ducks and nature lovers quickly away. But the rules say they must leave by sundown, and by Labor Day they are no longer coming across for their weekend party and the lake seems to breathe a sigh of relief. And the birds and nature lovers come out of hiding on weekends.

Lake cabins have changed in many ways since 1917 when ours was built. They are used and loved by many more folks than in the early days. Those old days—when the Native Americans paddled down the creeks from the north in their canoes and put up their tents on the beach and sold their wares to the people who lived in the tiny frontier town of Battle Lake—those days are long gone now with summer homes and cabins circling the whole lake. Fast speed boats, pontoons, sailboats, and paddle boards bob along on the waves of the lake, and the loons watch cautiously for speeders. But the visitors still love the lake, work to keep it clean, and enjoy and help their neighbors.

The community of summer people shares their love of the out-of-doors with the year-round citizens of the tourist town of Battle Lake. Both groups are guarding their treasured environment carefully. Both groups, like the early cabin builders, hope to pass down their special place to the generations coming after them.



Photo by Doug Donley



Josie Mavity and aunt Claire Mavity show off their finest Pride apparel at coffee time on June 30. Josie and her older sister Melissa are in Minnesota for the summer.

Photo by Randy Dement

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

July Birthdays

- 3 Ginny Gray, Camille Weinfurter
- 5 Howard Johnson
- 6 Andrew Lee
- 7 Tyler Wottrich
- 14 Doug Donley, Gene Velasco
- 16 Insook Lee
- 17 Tin Aye
- 24 Jim Williams
- 25 Theodore "Finn" Loch
- 28 Pete Dahlberg
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612-331-1768, info@ubcmn.org
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Rev. Douglas M. Donley, Pastor
Please send contributions by
the 25th of the month to
Chris Follett, Editor at
chrisf2828@yahoo.com