



WELCOME TO *St. Stephen the Martyr, ELCA*

Service Times: Saturday - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday - 9:30 a.m.

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the MARTYR MONTHLY *St. Stephen the Martyr* *Lutheran Church, ELCA*

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OFFICE HOURS:

9-2 M-Th

9-12 F

SSM STAFF

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Bob Brownell, Maintenance

Bob De Frank, Sunday School

Superintendent

Janet Snyder, Organist

Celebrate Father's Day! June 17, 2007

A Father's Day Tribute...

In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed the third Sunday in June as Father's Day, the result of the gratitude that a daughter cherished for her beloved father who raised her after her mother died. President Nixon, in 1972, established a permanent national observance of Father's Day.

"Only God can make a Dad. He does it each and every time He puts into the heart of a father a special warmth and gentleness. Only God can make a Dad who shares his children's laughter, dries their tears, and always keeps loving." ~ Author Unknown

Wilhelm Busch is quoted as saying *"To become a father is not hard, to be a father is, however."* We pray for all our fathers - biological, emotional and spiritual. Let us thank God for our fathers each day and ask the Lord's blessing on the lives of those still with us.

Proverbs 23:24 says, *"The father of the righteous has great joy. Whoever fathers a wise child delights in him."*



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GOD IS WAY AHEAD OF US! A STORY OF A FAITHFUL FATHER...

Back in the 18th century, Samuel Wesley, a priest in the Church of England, was trying to pray. But he was being bothered by his two rambunctious sons who were running up and down the stairs.

To get some peace he said to his boys, "Go play somewhere else. I'm trying to pray for revival in the church and your noise is disturbing me!"

He didn't know at the time that his two energetic sons would become leaders of the reform and renewal of Christianity in England. They were John Wesley, the gifted charismatic preacher, and Charles Wesley, the brilliant hymn writer. They are credited with helping to bring new life to Christendom in England. The renewal, some

historians claim, may have helped to avert a revolution such as the one in France in the 19th century. Imagine! As Mr. Wesley prayed, the answer to his prayers were within earshot! God is always ahead of us. Trust Him, He is listening, guiding and answering!

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

DID YOU KNOW?

On Sunday, May 13 th the Sunday School, Senior Choir and various skit participants shared in the delightful and meaningful "**Assignment: Life**" - a resurrection musical. Director Stephanie Mayer and accompanist Kelly Sachse are to be commended for the wonderful production!

Summer worship at St. Stephen will be at 9:30 a.m. This will, hopefully, allow families time to make worship a Sunday morning summer habit. Children's sermons will be a part of worship two times a month.

Once again, an informal '**HYMN SING**' will begin about 10 minutes prior to Saturday and Sunday worship every other week during the summer, beginning June 9-10 th . Be ready to suggest your favorite hymn!

For several weeks, a mother was teaching her three-year old daughter the Lord's Prayer. She says: "Finally, Caitlin decided to go solo. I listened with pride as she carefully spoke each word right up to the end of the prayer: Lead us not into temptation," she prayed, "but deliver us some E-mail."

The **Wednesday morning Women's Bible Study** will meet three times over the summer: June 13, July 11, and August 8 at 10:15 in the Fellowship Hall. It's an informal opportunity to learn and share insights about the lessons for the coming weekend. Join us for fellowship, study, and coffee or juice!

There are **four interesting books on a table in the narthex (gathering area) for your reading pleasure**. Sign up to have one ordered for you (payment upon delivery) and indicate if you would like to discuss the book once or twice this summer. Pastor Gail will contact you!

Discipleship coach **Kevan Penvose** is eager to spend an hour at your home in the near future, sharing faith stories with you and your children. See Kevan at church or contact him via email or phone to schedule some meaningful conversation time. (see the back of this newsletter for contact info)

A confirmation student was asked to list the Ten Commandments in any order. His answer: "3, 6, 1, 9, 4, 5, 8, 10, 7, 2."

Our church library, **Shepherd's Corner**, can provide you and your kids great books, DVDs and videos for summer faith-building time and just plain fun. Check it out soon!

We have a wonderful **church website**, thanks to member **Tim Falksen**. Log on at www.ststephenthemartyr.com.

Sue Jarchow and Shellee Lubus will join me as Voting Members at the Greater Milwaukee Synod 2007 Assembly at Ascension Lutheran Church, Milwaukee. Please pray for us and others as we meet for plenary sessions, worship and Bible study June 1-2.

May you all have a refreshing and renewing summer, and may God be at the center of it.

See you at worship!

Pastor Gail Brodersen-Heins

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear St. Stephen the Martyr Family,

May flowers, budding trees, green grass. What beautiful sights each spring brings, as signs that the seasons are changing. Summer is just around the corner and hopefully opportunities will be bountiful to enjoy and praise God for the many blessings that he has showered us with. This is also a time here at St. Stephen that also signals change within the leadership of our church. The passing of Bill Gray this past February was truly a loss for our entire congregation. Bill's wisdom and guidance will be deeply missed. I pray that, with your encouragement and support, I can serve as your Council President in a manner that allows us to continue the good works of this church. We also will be saying good-bye to three other council members, Carole Ropel, Tim Falksen and Natalya Dodulik. Each of them in their own way has contributed to the vitality here at St. Stephen and helped us carry out our church's mission. I trust that they will remain active within the congregation, just in different capacities. With their departures, we welcome some new faces to the Council. Jane Miller (Finance), Suzette Larson (Youth and Family Ministry), and Kyle Giesenschlag (Youth Representative), are wonderful additions and I look forward to their contributions and insights.

It used to be that the summer months were considered "down time" for church activities. That is not the case here at SSM as you can see when reading through this newsletter and the weekly bulletin. We are an active, thriving church community carrying out the works of our Lord Jesus Christ. The success of these activities depends on each of us getting involved in some way, whether by volunteering to help at Vacation Bible Time, being a greeter during a weekend service, keeping up with your pledged offering over the summer, or praying for those involved in the activities in your prayers. I pray that each of you has a healthy and safe summer.

God's Blessings,

John Muroi

WOMEN OF ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR



"CREATED GOOD"**Pine Lake Women 's Retreat****August 17-19, 2007**

You are invited to join us at Pine Lake Camp, located in the northern woods near Waupaca , Wisconsin . It is truly God's country—a time for reflection, prayer, fellowship, fun and getting in touch with God. Some of the events for the weekend include Bible Study, worship/communion, sunset sing with meditation, Taize worship, fun, games and wonderful fellowship with other women. The pastor for the weekend is Pastor Kris Totzke of Martin Luther Church, Milwaukee . Enjoy the weekend away with a caring community of friends and enjoy the Pine Lake experience.

The weekend starts with a light supper on Friday and ends with lunch on Sunday. The cost for the weekend is \$81. A late fee will be assessed for registrations received after July 28. Registration forms can be found on the kiosk under Women of the ELCA. Scholarships to help defray the cost of attending camp are available. This form is also on the kiosk. Any questions...call Sue Jarchow, who is the Camp Dean for this event, at 414-421-9031 or Carole Ropel at 262-523-4130.

**Women's Wednesday Morning Bible Study
& Loose Ends Luncheon**

SSM women & friends, you are invited to join us for a Daytime Bible Study meeting once a month in the summer. The study is based on the reading for the following weekend's worship service. Come to discuss and share your thoughts on the most important, best-selling book of all time, the Holy Bible !
Join us the Second Wednesday of each month at 10:15 a.m.

After the Bible Study on the *second* Wednesday of each month, the Loose Ends ladies group meets to go to lunch. All SSM women are welcome to join us. A sign up sheet will be available the week prior on the bulletin board outside the office, and make a note if you want to carpool.

June Loose Ends Ladies Luncheon —

Where: Chili's at 6439 S. 27th St. in Franklin (by Home Depot). When: June 13 @ 11:45 a.m.

(meet at church at 11:30 if you want to carpool—let us know if you need a ride)

Call Sue Jarchow (414) 421-9031 for more info.

HUMAN CONCERNS

Mt. Meru Coffee Project

We have several kinds of Mt. Meru Coffee available in the narthex.

Try a bag soon and enjoy! The cost is \$8.00 per 12 oz. bag.

Doing Justice Never Tasted So Good!

Knit-Wits

Remember our Monday, June 4th meeting @ 6:30 pm. All are welcome to join us as we knit caps for cancer patients.

The Staff of Life

The SSM Food Pantry has given us wonderful opportunities to be saints on earth. We bring our offerings of food to feed the hungry, and God sees and smiles for God loves a cheerful giver!

We want to continue to be a blessing to others even during the summer months, because hunger is a year round issue, so we will be collecting food for Central City Food Pantry during the months of June and July and in August we will be taking our food donations to Bay View Community Center . Thank you all for your continued support for our Food Pantry. God is smiling down on you!

"For it is God who works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure." Phil. 2:13

OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE BRUNCH**Southwest Interfaith Fundraiser**

When: Sunday, June 24, 2007

Where: Outback on 7401 W. Barnard Ave. in Greenfield
(north of Southridge Mall)

Cost: \$12.50 (includes complete meal with a choice of chicken or steak)

Doors open at 10:30 am (Must be seated by 11:00 am)

Contact Shirley Devecka or Bob Lieske for tickets.

Come to the St. James Gathering

Please consider volunteering at the downtown Milwaukee Gathering breakfast at St. James Episcopal Church, 9th and Wisconsin Avenue . St. Stephen the Martyr members are currently

regulars at the *Gathering* dinner program served at S. 27th and National Avenue . There is an ongoing need in the mornings as well. A small group of us meet here in Greendale every Monday morning at 6:45 a.m. and drive together. After assisting the cooks to finish preparing the meal, we serve up to three hundred guests buffet style from 8:30 to 9:30, pour coffee and milk at the tables and then clean up the dining room before returning home about 10:00.

The *Gathering* is run by a dedicated small group of paid professionals with many volunteers from throughout the greater Milwaukee area. Sad but true: the numbers of people, young and old, black and white, who cannot pay to feed themselves is growing in our community. We are truly needed to make this critically important outreach program continue into the future after twenty-five years of serving all who come through the doors.

Call Mary Rockstad (414-421-4158) for more information or to come along for a trial run. You are not asked to sign on long term, but this experience just might get into your blood. As we so often say, "God loves a cheerful giver." - *Mary Rockstad*

We Care Dollars Help SSM

Shop & save at *Pick and Save Grocery Stores* - Not only will you save, but you can help St. Stephen by signing up for the "We Care" Program which gives a percentage to various charities, etc. St. Stephen the Martyr's number is #813560. Register today and help SSM!

FAMILY MINISTRIES

- Upcoming Youth Events**
- June 3, REVOLUTION!** To raise up our children to be disciples of Jesus, the church is a living partnership between our congregation and our home (see Tim Falksen's article, below). So, in an effort to make the church home and the home church, adult leaders of Family Ministries would like to visit with your family to coordinate our partnership. This meeting will produce 3 outcomes:
- June 17, REVOLUTION!**
- June 18 - 22, Help with Vacation Bible Time!**
- Guided conversation in sharing your family's stories of faith and hope;
 - Learning about Family Ministries at SSM;
 - Invitation for teens to create an annual covenant with their families and their congregation.

If our few adult leaders in Family Ministries would try to call each of our many families in our congregation, then it would be impossible to contact everyone. So, please do not delay in contacting us to set up a time for conversation with your family. You may either contact Kevan (see below) or see us at the sign-up display in the narthex on Sunday morning.

Remember : Now that re:FUEL is finished for this year, we will have REVOLUTION! twice each month this summer, from 6-8 pm on the first and third Sundays. Invite your friends and join the REVOLUTION!

Contact our Discipleship Coach, Kevan Penvose :
stillerz7@yahoo.com

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES!

Laura Barczak, Franklin HS
David Fredrich, Franklin HS
Kyle Gorecki, Oak Creek HS
Nathan Gruber, Greendale HS
Corbin Kosinski, Franklin HS
Derrick Mayer, Franklin HS
Jameson Miller, Franklin HS
Peter Muroi, Greendale HS
Michael Stawicki, Franklin HS
Melissa Stevens, Greenfield HS

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord ... plans to give you hope and a future.." Jeremiah 29:11

3-4-5 To Passing On The Faith

(from Frogs without legs Can't Hear by David W. Anderson & Paul Hill)

In our continuing series the next principle that we are going to look at is **that the Church is a living partnership between home and congregation**. As we read in Acts 2:42-47, the new community of Christians learn about what it means to follow Christ and share their faith. As we read this passage we see that they share with each other all the gifts that God has given them. In the same way, we

follow in their footsteps by helping those that need it, whether it is by the offering that we give, giving of our time or donating of the things that we have to those who are in need. Unfortunately there are many people in our area and the world who are in need of support. Even if all we can do is to pray for them, prayer itself is a powerful gift to share.

As we read further we see that as they continue learning with each other in the temple, or the congregation, by learning from the apostles and talking about the teaching that they have. And when they are not at the temple learning and teaching each other they are spending time with others in the congregation **at their homes** over a meal. As they spend time together in their homes, their hearts are glad of the offerings that they have given and the ability to share with others what they have first been given themselves. This is a way that we can bring church into the home, by sharing our time and resources with others in our community and congregation.

We can learn from those that have gone before us to share in the gifts that we have been given by God. I know I learned a lot about my faith and helping other by watching my parents and grandparent as we prayed together as a family. Sharing our time helping others, even if it is just a small task or job for us, to them it can mean the world. And by sharing of our meal with others around us. Offering up what we have to others to help them as much as we are able.

And as we start in a new area in our Family ministry, we strive to share our talents and resources with each other not only in the church, but also in our homes. We are now starting to work more in coordination with the families in our congregation, by going out and asking them what help they need to help raise up the church as a whole.

Until next time,

Tim Falksen

~Stop telling God how big your storm is. Instead, tell your storm how big your God is.~

Vacation Bible Time at SSM!



AVALANCHE RANCH

DATE: June 18-22, 2007

TIME: 4:45 p.m. to about 8:10 p.m.

COST: \$20 per child/\$40 per family

For ages 3-11 Dinner is included!

Station Helpers Wanted— Sign up on SCS Bulletin Board

Register Today!

EVANGELISM

We'd like to take this opportunity to share our congratulations with some of our SSM members. If you have a special story to share or have received honors or awards, we'd like to share them. Email your news to Erin Arneson at erina@wi.rr.com.

Congrats go out to Mike Winter —this past bowling season he bowled (2) 300 games! WOW!

Derrick Mayer —Gold medalist twice for Oak Creek golf team. Way to go!

Peter Muroni— Helping Greendale High win a large gold tournament this spring in Myrtle Beach S.C. Awesome!

MUSIC & WORSHIP

We are always looking for help as well as new members for the Music and Worship Committee. Please let me know if you would be interested!

Karen Rasmussen - Chair / Music and Worship

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, June 3rd --- **Trinity Sunday** (white), we will have one service at 9:30 a.m. and Sunday School classes will meet for the last time until Fall.

Sunday, June 10th begins the **Summer schedule**, with one Sunday service at 9:30 a.m. (*note the*

new time) along with the regular Saturday 5:00 p.m. service.

Hymn Sings will begin June 9 & 10 and continue through summer every other week. Please join us 10 minutes before those services for a good old-fashioned hymn sing! Let us know your favorite hymns!

NEW SERVICE MUSIC COMING THIS SUMMER!

Beginning this month at the 9:30 a.m. worship, we will start to learn an exciting new liturgy from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymn book. It is Holy Communion Setting #8, beginning on page 184 in the front part of the book.

The Kyrie is 'upbeat' and exciting with parts for the congregation and for a cantor. The two choices for the Hymn of Praise are beautiful and so are the Alleluia verse and the Holy, Holy, Holy during the communion liturgy. The Lamb of God sung during the communion is meditative and lovely!

We will learn this music slowly. It may be a little scary at first, but it is also exciting! This congregation has always embraced new music with enthusiasm. Consider how we've come to love the "Holden Evening Prayer" and the "Bread of Life" service.

During the pre-service 'hymn sing' every other Sunday (or more often if requested), beginning June 10th, we will also spend time learning this service. Plan to come 10 minutes early for some singing and some fun!

Pastor Gail Brodersen-Heins

Music Director Christopher Owen

NEW MEMBERS TO BE RECEIVED SUNDAY, JUNE 10TH

Those wishing to join St. Stephen the Martyr, coming from a Lutheran background or wishing to transfer from another Lutheran congregation should speak to Pastor Gail

ASAP. New members will be received at the 9:30 service on Sun., June 10th. An orientation session will be held on Sun., June 3rd at 10:40 (immediately following the service) in the Luther Room. Contact Pastor Gail in person or at 421-3543.

SUMMER Altar FLOWERS

SSM would welcome flowers from your gardens during the upcoming summertime. Call Karen Rasmussen (421-5170) or the church office if you are able to beautify the sanctuary in this way.

OTHER NEWS

Bible Study

Lessons for Life - Scripture Readings for the Month of June

Holy Trinity —June 3, 2007— READINGS Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31, Psalm 8, *Your glory is chanted above the heavens. (Ps. 8:1)*, Romans 5:1-5, John 16:12-15

Second SUNDAY After PENTECOST—June 10, 2007 — READINGS 1 Kings 17:17-24, Psalm 30, *My God, I cried out to you, and you restored me to health. (Ps. 30:2)*, Galatians 1:11-24, Luke 7:11-17

Third SUNDAY After PENTECOST—June 17, 2007 — READINGS 2 Samuel 11:26--12:10, 13-15, Psalm 32, *Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin. (Ps. 32:5)*, Galatians 2:15-21, Luke 7:36--8:3

Fourth SUNDAY After PENTECOST—June 24, 2007— READINGS Malachi 3:1-4, Psalm 141, *My eyes are turned to you, Lord God. (Ps. 141:8)*, Acts 13:13-26, Luke 1:57-67 [68-80]

Tuesday Night Bible Study

There will be NO Tuesday Night Bible Study during the summer months. The next class will start again, September 18th.

Letters of thanks ...

Dear Pastor Gail and the Congregation of St. Stephen the Martyr,

This letter is to thank the congregation for their support of the Smile for Vickie Fund.

It really meant a lot to me being a new member at St. Stephen's. I was impressed that people who don't really know me helped me out. It is nice to be part of such a friendly church. People at church have been asking me about my new teeth and have been very concerned about me. Thanks for the financial support. I couldn't have done it without the church.

Sincerely,

Vickie Lawrence

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Thank you for your sustaining prayers and support for our family. Since we joined this congregation,

we have been blessed by you in ways too numerous to count. Your collaborative ministry reminds us that we cannot out give our most generous God, who is eager to shower us with grace.

Recently, many of you have glorified God by giving anonymous donations so that we could purchase a new car following Kevan's accident. Since we do not know who most of these donors are (except those who have since volunteered their identity to us), we would like to share our gratitude with the whole congregation. Indeed, this gift is the product of a great team effort. We are fortunate to be able to use the car as a tool for ministry that helps Kevan to be more readily available to the youth and families of our congregation.

It is our privilege to be called to serve our Lord with all of you. Along with your gifts of cards, money, hugs and prayers came the grace of God's healing for all those involved in the accident. By the power of the Holy Spirit, our fellowship grew stronger once again by following Jesus through an otherwise trying time.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Shalom!

Kevan, Karen, Maya & Zeke Penvose

CONDENSED COUNCIL MINUTES

MAY 8 TH , 2007

All Members present except E. Arneson and N. Dodulik. New Council Members Present Were: Jane Miller, Finance Chairperson, Shelly Rosenstock, Fellowship Chairperson, Suzette Larson, Youth Chairperson and Kyle Giesenschlag, Youth Representative.

Approvals: The Secretary's Minutes from April 10 th , 2007 approved as written. Financial Secretary's Report from April was accepted. March Treasurer's Report distributed and discussed. John reported that M & I bank is paying 4 1/2% interest and he suggested that we transfer church funds from Franklin State Bank to M & I. After discussion, it was approved that John B. and Jane M. will explore all options to transfer church funds from Franklin State Bank to another bank and will report on their findings at next month's council meeting. The location of the church safety deposit box was also discussed. The box is at Layton State Bank; there is a \$15.00 annual fee. It was recommended to have the signature card updated for access to the safety box. J. Bugajski also suggested that the stewardship committee notify members on a quarterly basis where they are with their yearly pledge commitment.

Pastor's Time: Pastor thanked Eric Sanders and other members of the Nominating Committee for their good work and to John Muroi for his leadership in the special congregational meeting. She also welcomed the new Council members. Confirmation classes will meet for two more weeks and will have a field trip to Ascension Lutheran on May 19th at 7 PM. All are welcome to attend. New members will be received at the 9:30 AM service on June 10. There is a new member orientation scheduled for 10:40 AM on Sunday, June 3rd. Pastor presided at four baptisms for: Ezekiel Martin Penvose, Gregory Glen and Joseph Den Guiliani and Hannah Rose Lentz. She officiated at one wedding held on Saturday, May 5th for Tasha Ingold and Jeffrey Kopplin. Susan Jarchow and Shellee Lubus will attend the Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly June 1st and 2nd with Pastor Gail . During the summer months there will be an opportunity to study four different books, *Where God was Born; The Lord is My Shepherd, God's Politics and Bethlehem Besieged*.

Old Action Items: J. Arneson is still looking into the lock box to be put on the outside of the church for emergency access to the building. The lower parking lot will be resealed on Monday, June 4th & new handicap lines will be painted on the upper parking lot.

New Action Items : J. Muroi officially approved the council members & their positions for 2007-2008. The council unanimously approved J. Muroi as President; E. Sanders as Vice-President; S. Lubus as secretary and J. Bugajski as treasurer. S. Lieske & S. Larson were appointed to the Council. Their terms will be approved at the next congregational meeting. K. Giesenschlag was appointed for a one year term.

Committee Comments

C. Malinowski, **Stewardship**, said 2008 offering envelopes for both adults & children were ordered. Carol is also redoing the Simply Giving program.

K. Rasmussen, **Music/Worship**, noted that May 20th is the last Sunday for 8 AM services. Stating May 27th the summer service schedule will be one service at 9:30 AM. The new summer schedules for ushers/communion servers will be distributed soon.

S. Lieske, **Human Concerns**, reported there was a nice turnout for the Gathering, and a letter writing campaign will start for *Bread for the World*.

K. Penvose, **Youth**, reported that 13 members are attending the family camp/mission trip in August. He will be asking families with children in grades 7 th to 12th to meet with him for a family type conference between now & Father's Day. Kevan thanked all who contributed to the fund to help them replace the car they lost in the recent accident.

J. Arneson, **Property**, stated spring church cleaning was a success and he thanked the ushers for placing the cones in the fire lanes during service. *He is also going to take an inventory of all members who currently have keys to the church.* Jim is checking the church pews for those in need of corner moldings.

S. Lubus, **Fellowship**, stated plans are underway to have a speaker come to church to talk on internet safety to be scheduled in fall, so that the majority of the members can attend.

C. Ropel, **Women of ELCA**, reported that the Loose Ends Spring Luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, May 19th, and the Quilting group will have its first meeting on May 17 th at 7 PM and has already received \$100.00 in donations for the materials.

J. Bugajski, **Treasurer's Report**, stated there was a total of \$1100.00 raised from Easter breakfast offering & Thrivent matching funds. The money was divided between Vacation Bible Time and the Youth program.

E. Sanders, **Christian Education**, encouraged all to attend the special service planned for Mother's

Day, May 14 th , 2007. There will be a meeting for Vacation Bible Time after the May 20 th , 2007 church service.

K. Giesenschag, **Youth Representative**, talked about raising money so that the church could have a portable defibrillator on site. This may be a worthwhile project the youth could organize.

Rosy-Mursal Family Omar has passed driver's test. The family now qualifies for low-income housing and may be able to move to North Lawn and a three bedroom unit.

Adjournment: There being no further business, it was moved, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 PM. Pastor Gail led the closing prayer. The next Council meeting is June 12th, 2007.

Respectfully submitted: Shellee Lubus, Council Secretary

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