

September 2016

Madison Wisconsin

## Arbor Covenant Newsletter

*In August, Joyce Boggess' brother Billy Johnson died. Pastor Rod Johnson was honored to be able to attend the service in Freeport, Illinois. Pastor Peter Morris was on vacation in Washington and decided to write a letter in honor of Mr. Johnson. Pastor Rod reported that this letter was the only one of the many tributes to be read aloud at the service. He suggested that we reprint it in the newsletter. Pastor Peter has graciously agreed to having it printed. Pastor Peter reminds us all of the ingredients of a life well lived and the promises of the resurrection.*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our congregation at Arbor Covenant Church has been praying for Brother Billy for months now giving thanks for his life of faith and asking God for His mercy and wholeness. Now that Billy has passed, our prayers continue tinged by the grief his loved ones feel, but still filled with thanksgiving for the life you gather to celebrate.

I was personally blessed to share fellowship and conversation with William Johnson on a number of occasions. Each time I was impressed and inspired by his easy confidence and matter-of-fact demeanor. What always impacted me most was the simple fact that Brother Billy always knew who he was and whose he was — a beloved child of God.

His life exuded the rich spiritual depth that only develops as a result of an ongoing relationship with our heavenly Father. He was aware of God's goodness and his life bore that out in his witness. Every moment spent with Billy indicated that God was present in his life, as a source of joy and hope, and it did not take long to notice. I will be eternally grateful for the grace, mercy, and righteousness his life so poignantly and powerfully demonstrated.

As we, the people touched by his life say goodbye, we mourn what has been lost. But the faith Brother Billy's life exemplified informs us that death has lost its sting and that resurrection hope always prevails. The glory he has entered — that we will all someday enter — is of a savior who promises to wipe away every tear and make all things new. It is the glory that tells us in the words of Romans 8, "that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Let us all rejoice in this hope, thankful for a life that demonstrated it so well.

On Behalf of my Church, with a Grateful Heart and Eternal Hope,

Rev. Peter J. Morris



## *Corrado Farewell*

### *September 11, 2016*

Sunday September 11 will be Susan's last Sunday at Arbor (until she comes back to visit!) During the worship service there will be a recognition of Susan's many contributions to the life of this church. After church, during the fellowship time, people will be given an opportunity to speak about Susan if they wish.

### *September 15, 2016*

Godspeed is our wish for Susan & Kevin Corrado as they leave Arbor Covenant and Madison for a new phase of their life in Minneapolis closer to family. It is a bittersweet moment for all of us who have been touched by their lives. So, let's gather for a celebration to send them on their way with memories and good wishes.

When: Thursday, September 15 at 5:30 pm  
 Where: The Patio & Community Room  
 Kevin & Susan's Apartment Complex  
 1924 Atwood Avenue  
 Bring: Food to grill & a salad, side dish or dessert to share  
 Beverages will be provided



We will be creating a scrapbook of memories for the Corrados. Either share your written memories and/or pictures with Jan Gietzel or Joyce Boggess before the gathering or bring them that evening. Questions? Contact Joyce (219-3673) or Jan (250-4645)

### *A NEW CHAPTER FOR SUSAN & KEVIN CORRADO*



As Susan and Kevin prepare for a new chapter in their lives that includes moving to Minneapolis and soon welcoming their first grandchild, we want to celebrate their presence here in the life of Arbor Covenant Church and in our hearts. When they returned to Madison in 1986 after a five-year absence, Kevin took a teaching position in the social work department at the University. They had two sons, Ethan (Megan) now 33, living in Madison with their two dogs and Colin (Allie) settled in Minneapolis with two cats and a soon-to-be-born child. Susan shared that this decision to move was inspired by Ken and Elrene Lund's and Lindsey, Hannah and Fabio's decision to live as an extended family within a block of each other in the same neighborhood of Madison.

In 2000 when Arbor became interested in supporting a new ministry developed by Meriter Hospital to incorporate parish nurses into church congregations, no one realized what a huge blessing it would become in the life of our church. God was at work when Susan interviewed one day with another church and when the fit didn't seem quite right, Rev. Dick Nystrom just happened to be interviewing someone else for the Arbor Parish Nurse position. Susan had the opportunity to interview with him also. Everything clicked when Susan met Dick and realized that our church was heavily involved in social ministries. In her work as our Parish Nurse, she was involved with our congregational members and friends but also with many in the neighborhood who did not have any connection with our church. Some, such as Terry and Matt, did become part of our congregation though many, like Betty, we did not meet. All were blessed to have Susan caring for their physical needs while sharing God's love for them. She was also credited with initiating the South Beltline Cluster Volunteer Program.

Because Susan and Kevin share a great concern for taking care of our environment by recycling, reducing use of fossil fuels and many other considerations, they, many years later, accepted positions at the Farley Center in the country outside of Verona and joined Gene Farley who devoted his life to peace, justice and sustainability. During their 3 years there, Kevin served as the director of the Natural Path Sanctuary, a green cemetery which lies within the nature preserve at the Farley Center and Susan

headed all other operations and development of the non-profit center. They had many unique experiences when meeting people from all avenues of life who valued the efforts in which the Farley Center was engaged. They feel blessed by the experience.

During her time as a Parish Nurse, Susan decided to make Arbor Covenant her spiritual home because of the loving attitude and embrace of everyone that she experienced here. No two worship services were ever the same and the church continued to be heavily involved in social justice missions. She feels that the music continues to be inspirational, that she continues to grow spiritually and that she will miss Pastor Peter's sermons immensely.

Susan and Kevin want all their friends at Arbor to know how very much they will miss them and that their prayer for the church is for us to continue to open our hearts to wherever God may lead.

Thank you, Susan & Kevin, for enriching our lives and being true examples of God's faithfulness and goodness.

(Written by Jan Gietzel)

Kris Brown would like to add a brief mention of the very significant role that Susan and Kevin played last year when we began occasional book discussions. Although our group was often small, Kevin and Susan always came prepared to discuss the books and often made truly significant contributions about how the book challenged us as Christians. Their absence will leave us diminished. The last book we read was The New Jim Crow. It was a book that was so disturbing and yet hard to convert into action, Susan came prepared to challenge Arbor to help someone who was coming out of prison to rejoin society. She had specific plans and literature to motivate us. My question is, can we do it? Susan believed in us—Do we? Thank you Kevin and Susan for all you did to make us a better more responsive community.

### *Letter from Susan*

*Dear Arborites:*

*I know there is an article about our move to Minneapolis elsewhere in this newsletter, but I wanted to personally say goodbye and let you know how much I will miss you all. You embraced me as a stranger and you became my other family. I have grown and deepened in my spiritual life because of the opportunities for learning, loving and serving that Arbor has provided. I fell in love with this little community of believers, and have been encouraged in my faith journey. I leave you with many fond memories and deepest prayers that Arbor Covenant will continue to be a place that reflects the life that Jesus has invited us to. We bought a condo with 2 bedrooms just so we can have visitors stay, so please feel free to come on up to Minneapolis! Our new address is: 3511 Grand Ave. S, Unit 1, Minneapolis, MN 55408. My cell# is (608)-217-4419.*

*In gratitude and love,*

*Susan Corrado*

## ***FALL ACTIVITIES***

### ***Sunday Morning Study Group***

The small group (maybe not so small) will be reading the Bible in a new way, a way that is more akin to what would have happened in the early church. In the early church, believers would have been gathering to hear readings of the gospels and letters read aloud. Many believers would not have been able to read, and copies of the letters and gospels very scarce as they were all hand copied. There would not have been the chapter and verse notations. And what order would they have read the materials in?

The small study group will be using copies of the New Testament like you've not seen before. Join us as we read aloud the Bible in this old way through the year starting September 11 and ending before Memorial Day. What will it say to you and how will you engage? For more details, contact Joyce Boggess.

As Pastor Rod Johnson said in his sermon this morning, "All are welcome and there is room at the table."

### ***Wednesday Small Group***

The Wednesday Small Group will resume meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> of September. They have switched to Wednesday nights and plan to take the second Wednesday off. They will meet at the Meyer home 1141 Elizabeth Street at 7:00 PM and ALL are welcome to join the group.

At the September 7 kickoff meeting, Dan will plan worship, there will be some prayer time, and then they'll pick the fall book. They will take September 14 off and meet September 21 and September 28. You are welcome to join this group.

### ***Children's Church Morphing to Sunday School***

Guess what? Children grow older and Arbor is circling back around to a new challenge that we've seen before, namely, how do we engage and work in education with children that are too old for Children's Church?

We don't have a game plan laid out as I write this brief article, but we'll be gathering as children's church teachers with Pastor Peter to discuss how to structure both children's church and a Sunday School class for children ages 8 to 11. Children in this older group may have a more extensive experience in our regular worship service or may meet before church during the same time period as the Sunday Morning Adult Study Group. Whatever the final game plan, we'll be starting up on September 11. Stay tuned for updates.

Mark Hanson

### ***Coming Attractions***

#### ***North Park Choir***

North Park University's Choir and Chamber Singers will be performing at Arbor on October 22.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend this wonderful concert. We will be feeding the group dinner before the concert and they depart for their next stop in Racine after the concert. More details to follow.

This would also be a wonderful opportunity to invite friends who might enjoy the music and fellowship

## 2016 Canoe Trip



### *How did the canoe trip go?*

This picture will give you a clue. See any frowns?

18 intrepid voyagers dipped their paddles in the clear and warm waters of the Wisconsin River. Theo Morris took the record as the youngest voyager, and Tamsin as the bravest. Lee gets the most enthusiastic award. I'm happy to report no mosquito bites from the island (maybe a few from the landing), no poison ivy (whose idea was it to go to the bathroom in those woods?), and some very good s'mores with marshmallows cooked to perfection over the fire.

And a chance to fellowship and give God thanks for the time as a church family.

The first weekend in August an amazing group of Arbor friends and families canoed the Wisconsin River from the Blackhawk Landing (South of Sauk City) to Arena. Children as young as 8 months (Theodore) joined in and enjoyed the experience.

Several people took pictures which are included below both to show you what went on and (perhaps) to encourage you to join in next summer. (pictures from Lissa Turner, Amanda Fledderjohann, and Mark Hanson)





*Reba and JD Turner were part of the group and shared these thoughts with the church.*

**JD:**

### **Arbor Canoe Trip**

**A-** Apple snacks at Ferry Bluff

**R-** Ride in canoe

**B-** Be Safe!

**O-** "Observed" Cranes

**R-** Ran on the Sandbar

**C-** Canoes and Camping

**A-** Awesome Swimming

**N-** Nice Sandbar

**O-** "Off to Iowa" said Stewart

**E-** Eagles

**T-** Toast (Jim made French toast for breakfast)

**R-** Ride with Glenn

**I-** In the water

**P-** Poked marshmallows with sticks (s'mores)

**Reba:**

It was an adventure on the canoe trip. For dinner we had chicken quinoa salad. At night we had s'mores and told scary stories. Jim told the best scary story. In the morning we had french toast and sausage. Then we hiked up Ferry Bluff. After we canoed, we had lunch at the drop off in Arena. My favorite part was swimming, camping with friends, and playing with Kayla and Lea.

### ***Good Neighbor Personal Essentials Pantry Announcement***

The PEPartnership, Inc (of which GNPEP is a member) has qualified for the Community Diaper Program. This program provides Cuties-brand diapers at affordable prices to nonprofit organizations that serve families in need. These are ordered through Jet, who has teamed up with the National Diaper Bank Network, "Funds for Change" initiative. In 2014, the poorest 20% of Americans with infants in diapers spent nearly 14% of their after-tax income on diapers. Not only does this allow for healthy environments for children, but helps adults who are forced to stay home with their children instead of working or going to school because they can't provide the diapers to their daycares.

Last week, GNPEP received our first boxes of diapers and at less than half of our wholesale cost!

### ***Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry Item of the Month***

The item of the month for September is dish soap (12 oz). If you can donate, please leave it in the bin in the foyer.



## The Life of the Church

*Billy G. Johnson*

Joyce Boggess' brother Billy Johnson passed away in Freeport, Illinois on August 20, 2016. He is survived by his wife Ethel and their son and daughter, three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren along with two brothers and four sisters. Our sympathies to Joyce and her extended family. *To read his obituary, follow this link:*

<http://tinyurl.com/h5449v5>

### More Babies

Dan and Debby Meyer were blessed to see their family grow when their children married in the last several years. Now the grandchildren are beginning to arrive and June 30 saw the arrival of Piper Evelyn Meyer, daughter of Jacob and Christina Meyer. Congratulations to all. May Piper's life be filled with love. Piper joins her cousins Joy and William, who live with their parents Seth and Laura in De Pere Wisconsin. Blessings abound for these young children who will grow up in the Meyer family.



### September Birthdays

9/2 Peter Morris  
 9/10 Joyce Boggess  
 9/17 Tiffany Goettler  
 9/21 Jennifer Johnson  
 9/24 Hannah Lund  
 9/24 Reese Simmons  
 9/25 Ardeth Lindgren

### September Anniversaries

9/5 Lowell and Trudy Nordling  
 9/24 Paul and Peggy Kent



### Volunteer Responsibilities

	<i>Host</i>	<i>Nursery</i>	<i>Children's Church</i>	<i>Lay Reader</i>	<i>Projector</i>
<b>September 4</b>	Susan Corrado & Charlie Volk	Debby Meyer	Ruth Hallblade	Mike Johnson	Michelle Stachowiak
<b>September 11</b>	Elrene and Ken Lund	Deb Levin	Mark Hanson	Ulrika Swanson	Debby Meyer
<b>September 18</b>	Michelle Stachowiak & Deb Levin	Ulrika Swanson	Fabio Mora	Kris Brown	Chuck Gietzel
<b>September 25</b>	Ruth and Dale Hallblade	Matthew Fledderjohann	Lissa Turner	Joyce Boggess	Chuck Gietzel

## September Calendar

				1	2 10:00 AM-1:00 PM Personal Essentials Pantry	3
4 10:25 AM Call to Worship 10:30 AM Worship Service Communion Deacon Offering	5 <b>Labor Day</b>	6	7 7:00 PM Wednesday Small Group	8 6:30 PM Leadership Team	9 10:00 AM-1:00 PM Personal Essentials Pantry	10
11 9:15-10:15 AM Adult Study Group 10:25 AM- Call to Worship 10:30 AM Worship Service Last Sunday for Corrado <i>(Worship and Fellowship)</i>	12	13	14	15 10:30 AM Community Meals at Luke House 5:30 PM Corrado Farewell Party 5:30-7:30 PM Personal Essentials Pantry	16 10:00 AM-1:00 PM Personal Essentials Pantry	17
18 9:15-10:15 AM Adult Study Group 10:25-AM Call to Worship 10:30 AM Worship Service	19	20	21 7:00 PM Wednesday Small Group	22	23 4:30 AM-7:00 AM Homeless Shelter at Grace Episcopal (D. Meyer, G. Hanson) 10:00 AM-1:00 PM Personal Essentials Pantry	24
25 9:15-10:15 AM Adult Study Group 10:25 AM Call to Worship 10:30 Worship Service	26	27	28 7:00 PM Wednesday Small Group	29	30 10:00 AM-1:00 PM Personal Essentials Pantry	