



The Link, July 2017

Summer's Here!

In this issue:

- Important reminders regarding the Detroit Mission Trip, Appreciative Inquiry process and more
- Summer calendar dates to remember

Next issue of *The Link* is in later August: fall program start-up reminders, summer activity photos and reports, and more

Summer office schedule: The office is staffed Monday–Thursday, 9 AM–3 PM, through the summer

Engaging Our Neighbors



Detroit Mission Trip
July 16–21

Light the City

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:5)

Come be a light, serving in Detroit this summer, Sunday, July 16 through Friday, July 21.

We'll work through the week on several service projects: the Fine Arts Camp at Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church; building a wheelchair ramp; partnering on projects with Central Detroit Christian; and working at Detroit Achievement Academy.

Come for all or part of the trip, commute from Ann Arbor or stay with us at Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church, support us with prayer, do prep work before the trip, or any other thing you are stirred to do. Sign up on the Mission bulletin board, in the fellowship hall entry. For more information, please contact Jennifer Young.



Summer Holiday Donation Drive: A Great Success

Many thanks to all who donated goods and money toward our donation drive helping provide household items for local immigrants. Four carloads of goods were delivered to Jewish Family Services over the course of the month-long drive.

Your donations also allowed us to purchase a much-needed and much-appreciated iPad for Sally, a young

Afghan emigre. With that vital tool for school work, she'll thrive, according to her teachers. Read below the story she wrote recently for a school assignment: Not only is it wonderfully imaginative, it also gives a glimpse into the soul of a young girl who has already seen much tragedy in her life (her father was killed in Afghanistan) and who feels as though she is a part of two separate worlds.

Melina the Dreamer

Hello – my name is Saleha and I'm going to tell you a story about a girl who is a dreamer. She dreams of going to the moon and staying there forever and getting everybody's attention by singing so loud that everyone can hear her. Her dearest name is Melina.

When she was three years old, her parents died by an accident. She stays with her aunt and uncle. It's pretty sad! Later, she realized that it was all a dream, but she wants it to come true, but she doesn't want her parents to die. Lastly, she got this power so she could fly and go to the moon.

Before she got this flying power, she painted the awesome moon on the walls. She did this because she loved to go to the exciting moon. As soon as she got her power, she just flew and flew till she was at the fabulous moon. When she arrived at the exciting place, she was so excited that she cried and right away she screamed so loud, but nobody could hear her! She felt so sad that her tears fell from the moon and Jesus gave her the power; then her voice was so

loud! And then she excitedly sang a song. Finally, her dream came true.

When she was on the moon, she smelled perfume as she entered and then fell asleep. The moon was super cold. Then a boy came and gave her his jacket and that made her wake up. She asked him his name and he didn't answer her. She waited and waited till he said a word.

"Hi," said the boy.

"What's your name?" Melina asked again.

"Austin," said the boy. "Where did you come from?" asked the boy.

"From Earth," said Melina.

"Wow," said the boy, his mouth dropped open. "I was born on the moon," Austin said.

"What!" said Melina. "I always dreamed of coming to the moon. I'm glad I met you," said Melina.

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“OK,” said Austin.

So, it was night. They slept in Austin’s tent.

“Do you have any blankets?” asked Melina. She was shivering.

“I’m used to this kind of weather,” said Austin. “Well, you could use my jacket as a blanket.”

“Aren’t you cold?” asked Melina.

“Told ya. I’m used to this kind of weather.”

“OK.”

Melina asked Austin if he had any parents or siblings.

“No,” said Austin, “they fell from the moon.”

“WHAT HAPPENED?” said Melina.

“When they were trying to make fun of me I pushed them from the moon but now I’m lonely.”

“OMG, I can’t believe you just pushed your family from the moon,” said Melina, frustrated.

“Well, I had to do that,” said Austin.

“No, you didn’t,” said Melina. Like this conversation took forever.

“Will you help me make a rap?” said Melina.

“Oh sure.” Said Austin. I’m a rapper.”

So, they both started making raps and then finally they made the rap. Both of them sung the rap from the highest thing in the whole wide world, did you guess it? —the moon – yay.

“Do you wanna go check out Earth?” said Melina.

“Sure, maybe my family will be alive,” said Austin.

“Let’s fly!” And then Melina showed him her family but the saddest thing is that Austin’s family was DEAD.

OK, I don’t wanna end this story sad. I wanted to be surprising to you guys. Melina and Austin became

a couple. YAY. And a couple of years later, Melina still had the jacket that Austin gave her on the night they met on the moon. They had to go to the moon once a year, because Austin’s emotions were on the moon.

Like when he got to the moon, it reminded him of when he was spending time with his family! He accepted Melina’s mom and dad as a step-mom and step-dad. Melina didn’t have any siblings. She was the only child. OK, if you guys are wondering, how did Melina and Austin get to the moon, now I’m gonna tell you. They made their own rocket.

The End

Our Life Together

Pastor Search News

Many of you are eager for news about our search for a new pastor. That endeavor is well underway as we recently completed the second of two extraordinary workshops on healthy church life.

The self study group has now resumed its work in earnest, and the Session is excited to announce the final phase in this prayerful and orderly process which began with the CAT survey last fall. “Appreciative Inquiry,” will give members the opportunity to directly express and contribute their hopes and visions for the future. Plan now to attend these congregational conversations on Sundays, August 27, and October 1, following worship (lunch provided).

Planning Our Budget

Following completion of the stewardship campaign, Session has approved a budget for our next fiscal year beginning July 1, projecting Donor Estimated Giving at \$393,286.

Building rental income is expected to increase and is budgeted at \$47,500. Total receipts are budgeted at \$490,536 with total expenses at \$498,508, resulting in an anticipated deficit of \$7,972. Any deficit will be covered by the Operating Contingency Reserve.

A more comprehensive report will be included in the August issue of The Link along with financial results from the current fiscal year that concludes on June 30.

Dates to Remember

Sunday worship each week at 11 AM

- Collection of fresh bread for Riverside Community Gathering on the 1st Sunday of each month
- Collection of non-perishable food and household items for Hope Clinic on the 3rd Sunday of each month

Sunday, July 2: Worship with Communion

Tuesday, July 4: Independence Day; church offices closed

Sunday, July 16–Friday, July 21: Detroit Mission Trip

Monday, July 31–Thursday, August 3: Youth Camping Trip

Sunday, August 6: Worship with Communion

Sunday, August 27: Appreciative Inquiry Congregational Conversation

Sunday, September 3: Worship with Communion

Monday, September 4: Labor Day; church offices closed

Riverside Community Gathering, every Wednesday, 4:45–5:45 PM

Learn and Grow in a Class or Small Group

SUNDAY MORNINGS:

Old Testament Bible Study meets at 9:30 AM in room 34 on the lower level. All are welcome, any time.

Healthy Congregations: A Deeper Look, provides presentations and discussions as follow-up to our recent workshops, in the fellowship hall. Meets at 9:30 AM in the fellowship hall.

THROUGH THE WEEK:

Mary Martha Small Group meets the first and third

Mondays of the month during the school year, 7–8:30 PM. New members are welcome; please contact Sharon Flynn.

Women's Bible Study meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, 1–2:30 PM. Please join us – contact Alice Chambers.

Thursday Book Group meets twice in the summer, July 6 and TBD. Please contact Sue Flynn for more information. All are welcome.

Westminster Teens Stay Active All Summer

Sunday school is every Sunday in the teen room, at 9:30 AM.

Detroit Mission Trip, July 16–21: a week of service projects, including leading an elementary school fine arts camp. Families are encouraged to share this experience together. RSVP to Linda Tyler Brown.

Camping Trip, Mon–Thurs, July 31–Aug 3: a week of outdoor camping fun, bonfires, swimming, games, crafts, laughter, looking for shooting stars and more. RSVP to Linda Tyler Brown.

Look for other events to be scheduled such as geocaching and Whirly Ball and A&W Road Trip!



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