



# EUCLID ANNOUNCER

**It's New! It's Great in 2008!**

Euclid Avenue United Methodist Church ♦ 405 S. Euclid Avenue ♦ Oak Park Illinois 60302

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**May 2008**

**Rev. Dr. Marti Scott, Pastor**

## **Included in this Issue:**

- “Pastor’s Paragraphs” by **Rev. Cossy Ksander**
- Administrative Council April 27<sup>th</sup> Summary
- Opportunities for Mission Giving in 2008
- Earth Day Celebration Held April 20<sup>th</sup>
- Membership Exploration Breakfast
- Church Camp Registration Time
- 1<sup>st</sup> Annual EUMC Flea Market/Garage Sale
- A Day in Our Village
- Euclid Spring Sprucing
- Rehab of Hassler Hall
- Euclid’s Women Advance
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- 2008 School of Christian Mission
- May Events
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## ***PASTOR’S PARAGRAPHS***

A labyrinth is a circular pattern with one entrance, one center, and a path connecting them. The path tends to be complicated, including anywhere from five to twenty circuits nested within each other. A person walks a labyrinth by beginning at the entrance and following the path to the center. Once in the center, the person turns around and walks back out by the same path. People sometimes become particularly aware of God’s presence while walking a labyrinth. Or they may report experiences of peace, healing, transformation. Or they may simply enjoy some restful moments away from the stresses of daily living.

Euclid Church will soon have its very own labyrinth in the floor of Hassler Hall, so a bit of history is appropriate. Labyrinths have been around for over 4,000 years in many places and many cultures. The earliest one appears in a cemetery in Sardinia, dated to 2500 years Before the Common Era. The earliest Christian labyrinth is likely at the fourth century Basilica of Reparatus in Orleansville, Algeria.

The current fashion in labyrinths in the United States began about 1993 when a group of Americans, who had been studying various prayer forms, journeyed to the cathedral at Chartres, France and discovered the labyrinth still there since the 1260, though covered by rows of chairs. They walked it and were so profoundly moved, that they returned determined to spread the word of their experiences.

As some of you have reported, labyrinths are popular with younger people who seem to have no use for church. Consequently, the labyrinth at Euclid could become a tool for intergenerational communication, inviting and including another group of people who need God’s love.

**Written by Rev. Cossy Ksander**

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# ***EUCLID NEWS***

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## ***ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL SUMMARY***

***April 27, 2008***

- Frank opened the meeting with a reflection on the Preamble and the Social Creed of the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church.
- Our next All-Church Community Meeting for reporting on actions to support the vision will be on Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, in conjunction with Rally Day, when we welcome everyone back from summer adventures!
- We reflected on the Earth Days celebration – things that went well, things we would do differently, things we have learned and implications for the future.
- Streamlining Task Force is exploring ways to streamline committee meeting time and thereby increase time for mission, study, and growth. Jim Knightwright reported that they have met and evaluated the existing meeting schedule as well as both models of scheduling meetings. They will continue to meet, seek input as needed, and prepare a recommendation by September for testing in the first quarter of 2009.
- Committees reported on their work and shared upcoming events. Highlights included the following:
  - UMW – Great salad luncheon, 100+ people present, raised > \$1,000 for mission.
  - Trustees – help needed on Hassler Hall work, researching roof replacement options; Clean-up Day = Sat., June 7<sup>th</sup>.
  - Finance – planning for church fundraiser – Flea Market – Sat., Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>
  - Staff – Parish – CJ Hawking will be ¼ time staff; committee working on staff recognition & performance evaluations.
- Christian Ed – great Earth Day children’s activities, will meet this week; worship service to recognize Church School teachers & graduates = Sun., June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Youth Council – Youth planning event for 2008-2009, Fri., May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6-8:30pm.
- Evangelism –A new three year initiative called “Everyone an Evangelist” was introduced by Pam Thompson. Its purpose is to allow us to reclaim the word evangelism and to use it to define our efforts to be intentionally inviting and inclusive, and to reach out to people in the area who are unserved by any church.
- Media/Communications – working on more effective options for sending press releases and web ministry presence.
- Church & World Concerns – Proposed that we encourage members to commit all or part of their “economic stimulus rebates” to mission. (Goal: \$20,000) It was unanimously passed and details will be addressed before the appeal is made.; Crop Walk, May 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Green Action Group – working on meeting with 7 Generations Ahead and collaboration with Interfaith Green groups.
- Reconciling Committee: Event for sharing prayer, joys & concerns in light of events at the General Conference of the UMC will be held Thursday, 5/1, at 6:30pm. All are welcome!

## ***OPPORTUNITIES FOR MISSION GIVING IN 2008***

The Church and World Concerns Committee encourages the practice of monthly mission giving. During the “Mission Moment” on the second Sunday of every month, a designated mission advocate will share

information about the mission project we will be giving to for that month. Any time during that month you are invited to give what you can to the designated mission. At the end of the month the total collected will be immediately forwarded to the targeted mission.

The Committee has chosen the following remaining mission projects for 2008:

May – Environmental Justice

June – Peace and Justice

July – United Voices for Children

August – Scholarships/Student Day

September – Missionary support

October – World Communion Sunday

November – PADS

December – World AIDS Day

### ***PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY***

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry has a new dimension. There is a website for making Prayer Shawls 4 Fallen Soldiers' families. You can go to the following websites for details:

<http://home.earthlink.net/~ps4fs/shawls>

or [Ps4fs@earthlink.net](mailto:Ps4fs@earthlink.net)

We would like to know if you decide to join this ministry so we can add your name to our list of knitters/crocheters. You can contact Marilyn Swieck at 708-484-2170 or email: [meswieck@sbcglobal.net](mailto:meswieck@sbcglobal.net).

### ***ATTENTION ALL KNITTERS, CROCHETERS AND THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING THESE CRAFTS***

Please contact Kathy Jordan-Baker if you are interested in getting together. I would like to form or join a group that meets at least once a month. We can work on prayer shawls or teach new folks how to knit and purl and crochet. My vision for this group is a low-stress, positive group where we can enjoy each others company and do some creating. I have extra yarn and needles to loan.

Let me know if you are interested and evenings/weekend days that you are

available. Thanks! Phone - 708-383-5914 or email at [kathyjordanbaker@gmail.com](mailto:kathyjordanbaker@gmail.com).

### ***PRAYER MINISTRY***

Our Prayer Ministry Team meets Wednesday mornings at 9:30 in the church parlor. We pray for:

- members and friends of Euclid
- all those who suffer and are in trouble
- the concerns of this local community, the world, its people
- the church universal—its leaders, its members, and its mission
- the hardworking committees of this church
- the communion of saints who have gone before and those who remain among us.

Please continue to use the “Lift Tickets” found in the attendance booklets. Please call in new requests during the week to **Rev. Dr. Pat Longabaugh** at 847-866-8183.

Current members of the Prayer Team are **Jayne Anderson, Susan Greenberg, Rev. Mary Knightwright, Rev. Pat Longabaugh, Joan Pelligrini, Marilyn Sweik, Rev. Dr. Marti Scott, LaVida Davis, and Felicia Zenz.**

### ***MIDWEEK COMMUNION SERVICE***

You are invited to celebrate the Eucharist every Wednesday morning at 7:30AM in the Parlor (between Wesley Hall and the Pastor's Office). This spoken liturgy last about 30 minutes.

### ***EARTH DAY CELEBRATION HELD APRIL 20TH***

The Earth Day Community Celebration held on April 20<sup>th</sup> was a great event. We had over 30 people participating in helping to prepare for and host the event, plus at least 5 community representatives that made presentations or hosted resource tables.

We started the Celebration with a bike parade from the High School to the church and a Blessing of the Bikes. The Worship

Service was “paperless,” and we took a pledge not to use polystyrene at church – it’s mugs from now on! The children’s activities were a highlight of the day with children’s green computer games, crafts in which children decorated recycling boxes and planted seeds and a demonstration on how to build an indoor composting worm bin. Frank was relentless in enlisting people to sign letters in support of green legislation and got over 150 letters signed! The event brought in a number of outside folks that saw the signs or heard about the event from one source or another. We ended with the drawing for great door prizes.

One idea for next year is that we might collaborate with other congregations and groups in the community and have a “progressive” Earth Day celebration in which participants walk, bike or carpool from one site to the next! We are limited only by our imaginations!

### ***MEMBERSHIP EXPLORATION BREAKFAST***

We will have a Membership Exploration Breakfast on May 4, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at the church. Along with breakfast, we will share information about Euclid Avenue United Methodist Church. Please R.S.V.P. the Church Office at 708-848-7360.

### ***CALLING ALL YOUTH!!! IT IS CHURCH CAMP REGISTRATION TIME***

Euclid United Methodist Women want to encourage the youngsters to go to church camp. Each year we offer a stipend to all church camp campers. So parents and older youth, let us know that you have registered yourself or your child for church camp so we can give you scholarship money.

**Of course, we are also looking for the rest of the church to help supply this fund with money to award. For anyone wishing to contribute to this scholarship fund, please write your check to Euclid UMW and write camp scholarship on the**

**memo line.** Give the check to Donna Stevens or put it in an envelope and put it in the UMW Treasurer mailbox near the office.

### ***FIRST ANNUAL EUCLID AVENUE FLEA MARKET GARAGE SALE***

A combination flea market/garage sale is being planned as a church fundraiser for Saturday, September 6. You can help in any of several ways:

- You can rent one of the spaces (it will be held in the church parking lot) for \$25 and sell your own items.
- You can donate your items to the church to sell. We are looking for large items, furniture, appliances etc. not toys, clothes or books.
- You can volunteer in any of several ways;
  - by providing space in which we can store items prior to the sale
  - by helping with set up, clean up, working the day of the sale, and/or
  - by transporting items that people are willing to donate to the sale or to a storage site.

Contact Jim Thompson at  
jthomp@uic.edu

Thank you! - The Finance Committee

### ***A DAY IN OUR VILLAGE Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>***

Each year, usually on the first Sunday in June, the Village of Oak Park sponsors A Day in Our Village, one of the premiere community events.

A Day in Our Village provides an opportunity for current and prospective residents to discover the diversity and variety of civic, cultural, social service, business, educational and religious organizations/groups in the Village. More than 100 Oak Park community or civic groups, including faith congregations, set up activity and information booths in Scoville Park near Lake Street and Oak park Avenue. Please sign up after Services on May 4 or

May 11 to help at EAUMC's display on June 1st. We have signs and posters -- we need volunteers!!

All are Welcome - and ALL MEANS ALL!  
(for more info: contact Jim Knightwright, 630-978-7850 or Susan King, 708-484-5707.)

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Saturday, June 7th**

**9am-2pm**

**EUCLID'S SPRING SPRUCING!**

**Join Us!**

**Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 9am – 2pm**

A variety of tasks both inside the building and outside on the church grounds need our energy and attention!! Those that prefer to work outside and have yard tools, please bring them with you. We will be removing bushes again this year as well as cleaning up the grounds.

Please plan on bringing your elbow grease and join the fun and fellowship as we Spruce Up Euclid!! Lunch will be provided.

**THE REHAB OF HASSLER HALL**

Starting Monday May 12th Hassler Hall and the basement will be closed for use as the Rehab swings into full gear. Flooring tiles will be removed and the Labyrinth will be installed with the new flooring. Ceiling tiles will be replaced and the walls will be washed and painted. We are relying on Volunteers to help with some tasks. Due to the work necessary in a construction zone, we ask that volunteers be 18 years of age or older. If you have time after work or on a day off, please contact Susan King at 708-484-5707.

**WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP**

All women of Euclid are invited to join our book group on a regular or sporadic basis. Our book for May is "*The History of Love*", by Nicole Krauss. We will meet on Tuesday, May 13th at 8:00 p.m. at the home of Kathy Fletcher.

**EUCLID WOMEN'S ADVANCE**

**(We Retreat No More)**

**May 16-18, 2008**

**Reserve Your Spot Now!**

The women of Euclid UMC are planning a time together at Black Oak Lodge in Mt. Morris, Wisconsin. The Theme for this year's "Advance" is *What If God Were One Of Us: Reflections on God in our everyday lives, Part 2*. This was so popular last year that we are continuing the discussion. We will be watching some episodes of *Joan of Arcadia* as starting points for dialogue on God's presence in our lives. (See page 9 for more details).

**UMW GOES GREEN**

**MAY 19<sup>TH</sup>**

**ALL ARE INVITED**

Marilyn Swieck will be our presenter of an ecological program. We will start the evening with fellowship and dinner at 6:30 pm followed by the program at 7:30 pm. If you would like to join us for dinner, reservations are needed by Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. The catered dinner is \$6. Childcare will be provided with advanced notice. Contact Susan Greenberg (708-788-9232) for more information or with your reservation. The caterer is paid for all reserved dinners, so please give your \$6 to Susan Greenberg for any missed dinner you reserved.

**2008 SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN**

**MISSION**

**July 17th – 20th**

**Registration is due in May!**

Each year the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries offers amazing courses of study. This year the theme is *Living the Sacred*. The courses of studies are *I Believe In Jesus*, *Giving Our Hearts Away: Native American Survival*, and *Israel/Palestine*. The School will be held at Judson University in Elgin. To read more, see the UMW Bulletin Board near the Wesley Room. Registration forms can be

picked up from Joan Pellegrini. (See page 10 for more details).

### ***AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE***

I just want others to have an opportunity share in my witness to a lovely bit of evangelism going on on the drive back from a day of lobbying for a civil union bill with Equality Illinois. On the bus ride back from Springfield, Mary Rinder spontaneously decided to organize a letter-writing campaign, and worked her way up the bus aisle speaking to each and every person about furthering the lobbying effort. And in so doing, she often spoke of Euclid Ave. United Methodist Church. In a most natural way, she gave that bus load of LGBT folks, PFLAG members (as was I) plus random supporters (as Mary was) the warmest of welcomes and invitations to join us in worship and fellowship!

Blair

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## ***OTHER ITEMS***

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### ***HELP FEED THE HOMELESS***

We are looking for volunteers to cook and serve a hot lunch during our summer lunch program. We are able to reimburse for the cost of the hot lunches through a special grant. The summer lunch program operates Monday-Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup> - August 31<sup>st</sup> at St. Eulalia Catholic Church: 1851 S. 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. Maywood.

**Volunteers are needed to cook and serve Mon., Tues., Wed., & Fri. throughout the summer, 10:30am – 1:30pm.** (Thursdays are covered)

**Volunteers are also needed to prepare sack dinners** that will be handed out to the guests who utilize the summer lunch program. Unfortunately, we are unable to reimburse for the cost of the sack dinners, so they must be donated. **Sack dinners are needed Mon.-Fri. June 1<sup>st</sup> – August 31st.**

If you are interested in getting involved in the summer lunch program, please contact: Heather Winquist  
Shelter Manager  
(708) 338-1724 ext. 228

[Shelter@westsuburbanpads.org](mailto:Shelter@westsuburbanpads.org)

### ***INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION: CHILDREN, POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL POLICIES***

Judy Stigger, LCSW, Director of International Adoption, the Cradle  
Saturday, May 10, 2008 10 AM – Brunch and Presentation

Concordia University KCC student center  
River Forest - \$16

Contact Frank Fletcher (708-524-9152) for more details and reservations by May 2

Why adopt internationally? How do the Olympics, Homeland Security and the international political climate affect adoptions? Come and learn about international adoptions from our own Judy Stigger at a brunch sponsored by the Oak Park Council on International Affairs (*we build Peace Corps Partnership schools overseas*) and Phi Delta Kappa (professional fraternity of educators).

### ***GREEN CORNER***

Thank you to all who organized, hosted, assisted, and most of all ATTENDED the Earth Day Fair. It was a success because of all of you. We hope you were informed about new opportunities, inspired by the possibilities for the future, and energized to take action and make changes! With support from each other, we CAN each choose a more intentional lifestyle that will help heal Mother Earth.

May brings another opportunity to grow further. The 2nd **Chicago Green Festival!** is on Sat., May 17 from 10a-8p & Sun., May 18 from 11a-6p, at Navy Pier. The Festival showcases more than 150 speakers, presentations, panels, how-to demonstrations, and 350 green businesses featuring sustainable, fair trade and eco-

friendly products. Arrive at class early-many reached standing room only last year. Other highlights are green films, organic food & drink, live music and the kids' zone. Take public trans., carpool or ride your bike(free bike valet & \$5 off registration fee). Or donate 3 or more books for \$5 off. Info at <http://www.greenfestivals.org/content/view/230/200/>. See your family there!

**SAVE THE DATE  
May 17, 2008**

*Archbishop Elias Chacour*  
Guest Speaker

*"The Future for Peace,  
A Model for Change"*

First Presbyterian Church  
715 North Carlton Avenue  
Wheaton, Illinois  
Stewart Hall  
Breakfast 8:30 AM  
Tickets: \$10.00  
Ticket information: 630-668-5147  
Sponsored by:  
Pilgrims of Ibillin  
A Mission of First Presbyterian  
Church/Wheaton  
Co-sponsor, Middle East Task Force,  
Chicago Presbytery  
"Peace begins on the tops of school desks".  
Fr. Elias Chacour  
founder, Mar Elias Educational Institutions

***THE SEVENTH ANNUAL WALK  
FOR A JUST PEACE IN ISRAEL  
AND PALESTINE***

Sunday, May 18, 2008  
Oak Park, Illinois

PROGRAM 1:00 pm  
Sanctuary  
First United Church of Oak Park  
848 Lake Street

WALK 2:00 pm  
a one-mile route through downtown Oak

Park in solidarity with the aspirations of  
Palestinians and Israelis for peace.

BUFFET/POTLUCK 2:45 pm  
Food, fellowship, and advocacy  
Centennial Hall  
First United Church of Oak Park  
848 Lake Street  
Information:  
[justpeace1@aol.com](mailto:justpeace1@aol.com)  
[www.cjpip.org](http://www.cjpip.org)  
312/427-2533 x18

***"SEEKING SIGNS OF NEW HOPE  
IN GUATEMALA"***

Please join the Chicago Metropolitan  
Sanctuary Alliance (CMSA) on Saturday,  
May 3, 6-9 pm for a beans and rice supper  
(suggested donation \$5.00), to hear from  
participants in CMSA's January 2008  
delegation to Guatemala. The event is  
scheduled @ Lake View Presbyterian  
Church, 706 W. Addison, Chicago (corner  
of Broadway and Addison). Parking is  
available behind the church, off Addison.  
Please respond to 773-293-3680.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**  
May Birthdays.....

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
Pam Thompson	2
Jonathan Zenz	3
Jayne Anderson	5
Andrew Smeltzer	6
Kyla Strickler	9
Silvia Nebel	10
Robin Pickard-Richardson	11
Zachary Snorden	12
Jean Maloney	14
Lucas Vriner	19
Daniel Schroeder	21
Dorothy Lambshead	22
Kim Starcher	26
Sarah Ramsey	28
Kathy Schroeder	30

## May Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Event
May 1	6:30p	Reconciling Witness
May 1	7:45p	Choir Rehearsal
May 4	9:00a	Membership Exploration Breakfast
May 4	9:00a	Adult Forum
May 4	10:30a	Worship Service
May 4	After Church	Reconciling Committee Meeting
May 4	6:30p	“Out in Scripture” - Parlor
May 7	7:30a	Communion
May 7	9:30a	Prayer Ministry
May 7	3p – 8p	Art Sessions
May 8	7:45p	Choir Rehearsal
May 10	10:00a	Phoenix Project
May 11	9:00a	Adult Forum
May 11	10:30a	Worship Service
May 11	After Church	Church & World Concerns Committee Meeting
May 11	After Church	Communications Committee Meeting
May 11	6:30p	“Out in Scripture” – Parlor
May 12	7:30p	Finance Committee Meeting
May 14	7:30a	Communion
May 14	9:30a	Prayer Ministry
May 14	3p – 8p	Art Sessions
May 14	7:00p	Trustees Meeting
May 15	7:45p	Choir Rehearsal
May 16	7:30p	Taize Service
May 18	9:00a	Adult Forum
May 18	10:30a	Worship Service
May 18	6:30p	“Out in Scripture” – Parlor
May 19	6:30p 7:30p	UMW Dinner “UMW Goes Green” Program
May 21	7:30a	Communion
May 21	9:30a	Prayer Ministry
May 21	3p – 8p	Art Sessions
May 22	7:45p	Choir Rehearsal
May 25	9:00a	Adult Forum
May 25	10:30a	Worship Service

May 25	6:30p	“Out in Scripture” – Parlor
May 26		<b>Memorial Day – Office Closed</b>
May 28	7:30a	Communion
May 28	9:30a	Prayer Ministry
May 28	3p-8p	Art Sessions
May 29	7:45p	Choir Rehearsal

# Healing Our Losses

(a gift from Jack Miller, Ph.D.)

Where: Euclid Avenue United Methodist Church, Hassler Hall

When: Saturday, May 10, 2008 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

You are cordially invited to attend this free workshop that enables people to begin to heal their unresolved grief and to make necessary changes in their lives.

Dr. Jack Miller gives this workshop out of gratitude for all that he has been given along the way. Dr. Miller is a former Catholic priest who founded The Center for Education on Death and Dying, Inc. and Cook County Hospital's Palliative Care Program. Dr. Miller also helped to establish Chicago House – the Midwest's first residence for people with A.I.D.S.

Dr. Miller, author of Healing Our Losses, has perfected a process, which enables people to resolve their grief. He calls this:

## The Phoenix Project

The Phoenix Project is an orchestrated rite of passage, which facilitates both emotional and spiritual growth. This journey has its origins in ancient tribal rites of initiation. Participation in this workshop is a prerequisite for accompanying Dr. Miller on this intense twelve-week journey.

Dr. Miller has developed a Ritual Elder Training Program for people who are interested in learning more about his method of healing wounds in the soul.

## ***EUCLID WOMEN'S ADVANCE***

***(We Retreat No More)***

***May 16-18, 2008***

***Reserve Your Spot Now!***

We especially encourage women new to Euclid to join in the fun and get to know your sisters better.

The women of Euclid UMC are planning a time together at Black Oak Lodge in Mt. Morris, Wisconsin. The Theme for this year's "Advance" is ***What If God Were One Of Us: Reflections on God in our everyday lives, Part 2***. This was so popular last year that we are continuing the discussion.

We will be watching some episodes of *Joan of Arcadia* as starting points for dialogue on God's presence in our lives.

Our program will be interspersed with time to relax and enjoy the beautiful surroundings of Mt Morris Camp and Conference Center that include wooded trails and a creek. The accommodations are less rugged than previous years and all rooms have private baths. The cost is \$100 per person for 2 nights lodging and 6 meals. Scholarship money is available to help with the cost if you need it. If you can afford it, please contribute a little extra for the scholarship

fund. We will leave Oak Park on Friday, carpooling based on when you can leave, starting our festivities in Mt Morris with a spaghetti dinner at 7 pm. This meal will be available whenever you arrive that night. We will return after lunch on Sunday. Mt Morris is about 4 ½ hours from Oak Park.

Register to hold your spot with Susan Greenberg. The lodge can hold from 15 to 25 of us so sign up soon. Susan will also take requests for scholarship assistance. We would like to have all the registrations completed immediately.

This is a great way to get to know each other. Every woman is welcome. If you want to know more, talk to a past participant: Susan King, Joan Pellegrini, Jeanne Stein, Sue Terry, or Susan Greenberg, (to name a few).

**2008 School of Christian Mission, July 17-20**  
**Registration is due in May!**

**Living the Sacred**

**2008 Schools of Christian Mission Theme**

Native American traditions teach us that creation includes all that comes from God and all that comes from the heart and mind of God is sacred. Native traditions call on its people to value life as God values life. To be a created people is to be relationally connected to all people everywhere, as well as to all God has created. As followers of Christ, as Christians in community, let us deepen our understanding of what it means to live in sacred harmony. Then, let us walk together in ways that lead to peace and reconciliation.

“The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it” (Psalm 24:1)

**2008 SPIRITUAL GROWTH STUDY**

***I Believe In Jesus***

The study deals with four key components, namely (a) the gift of faith in Jesus Christ, (b) the meaning of faith in Jesus, (c) whose faith counts and (d) faith in Jesus in a post-modern world. Intentional efforts to come to know the experience of God of persons from other living faiths of the world, however, affirm for us that God’s mercy and God’s mystery is beyond our understanding. The witness of Jesus, as someone who loved all persons, must be the model of our discipleship.

**2007 and 2008 GEOGRAPHIC STUDY**

***Israel/Palestine***

This study will help the participants to learn about the history and complexities of relationships between Israel and Palestine. We will explore and understand the concepts of security and freedom that dominate the lives of these people. This study will challenge participants to move through tolerance and respect to achieve a just peace.

**2008 and 2009 MISSION STUDY THEME**

***Giving Our Hearts Away: Native American Survival***

The purposes of this study is to learn about the inter-relatedness between the indigenous peoples and their land, to identify selected key issues affecting the Native Americans in the United States and to examine the root causes of these issues, to understand and appreciate the “Give Away” culture of the Native Americans in the areas of spirituality, ecology, language, story-telling, food, and to lead the participants to act as responsible US citizens and Christians in accompaniment and solidarity with Native Americans.