

# The Open Door Witness

May 2013

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## From the Director



WELCOME! This writing will be all about Welcomes! First, WELCOME Spring! For several impatient days I really wanted winter, snow, wind and blizzard conditions to be done. Knowing spring would eventually arrive didn't offer

me much peace of mind at the time. I should have trusted that spring would come in God's time, not my time. The children are currently enjoying all the nice weather and activities outside. We have even planted potatoes and peas in the garden.

All are WELCOME to attend our end of the year program/graduation, "Space Invasion," on May 23rd at 10:00 am at McCabe United Methodist Church, 1030 N 6th Street, Bismarck. We have been learning about the solar system, planets, astronauts, and space including some "alien" fun. You can hear the children sing some songs, offer lessons they have learned and display their personalities. Refreshments will be served (*continued on p. 6*)

## Memories of Open Door

Let me introduce myself: I am Rev. Dick Unkenholz. I was acquainted with the Open Door program from its inception. I think it was just in the planning stages when I moved from being pastor of Bismarck First United Methodist Church (now Legacy) in 1969. Sometime in the late '80's I came with four people from Fargo Calvary United Methodist Church to volunteer for a day and bring supplies that had been donated. My direct involvement with the program was from 1993 until 2002 when we moved from Bismarck to Prescott, Arizona.



A few months after I retired in July of 1993 and moved back to Bismarck I was asked by the Open Door Board to do an informal survey. I set out to contact teachers in the area of Open Door, other school officials, pastors, and social workers. There were also persons who had previously worked with the Open Door program. The purpose was to determine whether knowledgeable people thought Open Door should reopen following the flood that had made the original house inoperable. We want-

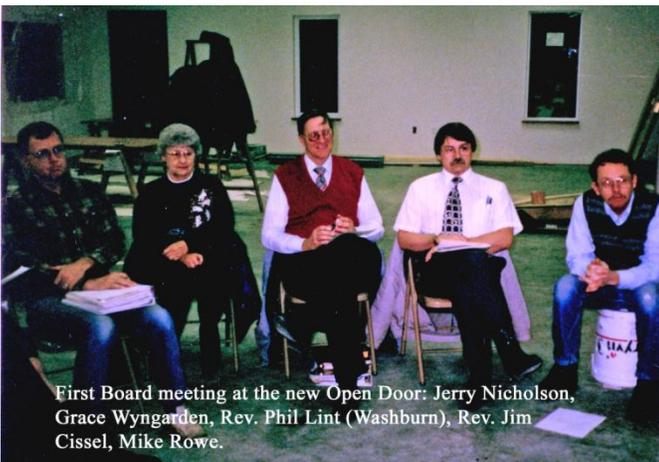
ed to know how important folks thought Open Door was to the community and what types of programs were most important.

Almost without exception the persons I talked with thought Open Door was needed. One area of concern was after school hours for elementary children in the nearby schools. Without Open Door it was felt that many “latch key” students would have no secure place to go and would probably gravitate to the mall and similar places with no supervision available. Summer Day Camp was also emphasized as being very important for children of single parents and working parents.

The United Methodist churches of Bismarck and Mandan were very supportive of plans to reopen. The decision was made to rebuild on property owned by McCabe United Methodist Church. I was delighted to take part in the ground breaking ceremony when the building was begun. Also in my memory is the day a group of volunteers braved wind and snow to move to the new building those items that had been kept in storage. After school activities were resumed for elementary school students, serving particularly those from Jeanette Myhre.

Somewhere along the way I became a member of the Board of Directors. Some meetings were held at Vye Elmer’s home in the evening so that she would not have to be out at night and so that those who worked days could attend. Loyal Board members were crucial to the development and continuation of Open Door’s ministry. Finding Jolene Puhalla as director of the program proved to be a great asset to the enterprise. Jolene’s training and experience, along with the energy and positive approach that she brings have been invaluable.

Open Door became a mission project of the North



First Board meeting at the new Open Door: Jerry Nicholson, Grace Wyngarden, Rev. Phil Lint (Washburn), Rev. Jim Cissel, Mike Rowe.



Barb Emery welcomes Pastor Francis and Cecelia Tannehill and Pastor Walter Larson to Open House.

Dakota and South Dakota United Methodist Conferences. Largely through the efforts of United Methodist Women a supportive network was developed. Contributions of supplies and money along with food labels helped provide materials for a growing program. Other groups and individuals also became loyal supporters.

Two Summer Day Camp sessions, each of four weeks duration, were held and usually were filled to capacity. Frequent field trips were highlights for the campers. As time went on, a Day Care program was offered during the day. Potluck meals involving families of the participating students were joined by Board members and other interested persons. When the United Methodist Annual Conference came to Bismarck those in attendance were invited to take their evening meal on one of the days at Open Door.

My fondest memories of Open Door are the afternoons when I became “Grandpa Dick” and spent an hour reading to the boys and girls who came to the afternoon sessions. The kids gathered around and I tried to turn the pictures in their direction as much as possible. One difficulty was finding stories that were of equal interest to the “little guys” and the “big” fourth and fifth graders. Some of the children seemed quite starved for attention, especially from a male figure. Of course, I also enjoyed snack time which was the first thing on the agenda as the pupils came in when classes at school were let out. The cooks and assistants who served on staff over the years were essential to Open Door’s life!

The needs and the program offerings have changed, but Open Door has been a great asset to the participants and the community.

## Preschool Graduation

Our preschoolers are excited about their upcoming graduation! The theme of the program, set for Thursday, **May 23 at 10:00 a.m.**, is "Space Invasion." The children will share their favorite songs, stories, Bible verses, and the excitement of the event. A video reviews for each child his or her classroom work and adventures, field trips, and special times over the entire year. Each family will receive a copy of the memorable video. Graduation, complete with caps, will follow the program.

Refreshments will be served after graduation, including Flying Saucer Hamburgers, Cosmic Fruit Salad, Alien Juice, Flying Saucer Chips, Alien Cupcakes, Milky Way bars, and Starburst candy. Your intent to attend ([opendoor@btinet.net](mailto:opendoor@btinet.net) or 222-3004) would be helpful to our planning, but it is not required.

Join us at Fellowship Hall (downstairs) at McCabe UMC, 1030 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street in Bismarck to celebrate the Open Door Graduation!

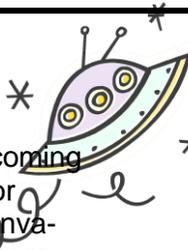
## Fall Registration Open

Registration is being accepted for the Open Door Fall Preschool for children who are 3, 4, and 5 years old. The program is on a full day basis, 8:15 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., which includes before and after school care. The Preschool begins August 26 and follows the Bismarck Public School schedule (See <http://www.bismarck.k12.nd.us/district/calendars/>.)

The Open Door was approved in March 2013 for continued multi-licensing by Burleigh County Social Services. This means that the facility meets all requirements to operate as a day care and a preschool. Fees for the Preschool Program are among the lowest in Burleigh County.

The Open Door provides Christian-based programming. Activities are developmentally appropriate and teach literacy and math readiness, science, communication, social, music, arts and creativity, and motor activities. The program is staffed by two licensed early childhood education teachers and numerous volunteers. A nutritious lunch and snacks are provided by the on-staff cook. Visit <http://www.opendoorbismarck.com/preschool.html> for further information.

To register or to obtain further information, please contact Jolene at 222-3004 or [opendoor@bti.net](mailto:opendoor@bti.net).



## Summer Day Camp

\*The Open Door is accepting registration for Summer Day Camp. The Day Camp is offering Christian-based services for preschool-aged children only. This includes children who will be going into kindergarten in the fall of 2013.

Each weekday will be packed full of many activities including crafts, water fun, field trips, Bible time, music, games, guest speakers, gardening, and special summer events. Academics will not be forgotten; staff will work to ensure that skills learned during the school year are maintained.

Vacation Bible School will be hosted at the Open Door by Century Baptist Church on June 3 – 6. They are providing 4-6 volunteers, snacks, curriculum and activities during this time.

The dates for Summer Day Camp are May 28 – August 16 (closed July 4, 5 in observance of the holiday). The cost of each of the three four-week sessions is \$400, due at the beginning of each four-week session. A \$100 deposit is required at enrollment to ensure a place in the Day Camp.

\*Lunch will be provided at the Open Door. Snacks are included over the entire time.

The hours of Summer Day Camp are from 8:15 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. each day. An additional fee is charged if the child needs to come at 7:30 a.m. To register for Summer Day Camp or to obtain further information, please call Jolene at 222-3004.

## Annual Conference BBQ

The Open Door will again host a dinner for the UMC Annual Conference. This year's barbecue will be on **Wednesday, June 5** at the Open Door, 1140 South 12<sup>th</sup> Street in Bismarck. Serving hours are **5 to 7 p.m.** The menu includes grilled hamburgers, baked beans, coleslaw, fresh fruit, and a wide array of delicious cookies and bars.

*Everyone is welcome to attend.* You do not need to be participating in the conference to join us for dinner. All church members and friends of the Open Door are invited for food and fellowship.



A free will offering will be taken, with proceeds going toward improvement of the parking lot.

## Staff Transitions



**Lilly Puhalla**, is volunteering 2-3 days a week to help fill in for Grandpa Kenneth Doepke who will be away from the Open Door for an indefinite period of time due to health reasons. Lilly will also be helping out during the summer.



**Bev Jackson** has returned to the Open Door as our cook, replacing Theresa Perkins who is now enjoying babysitting for her great granddaughter.

## Correction About Labels



Oops! Our last newsletter edition reported that the redemption program for Campbell's Soup Labels had been discontinued.

*Please note that this is incorrect.* The Open Door continues to be eligible to submit the UPC labels from soup cans for cash, early childhood equipment, and materials.

We encourage those individuals and groups who have faithfully clipped UPCs to continue this activity on behalf of the Open Door. Thanks to your efforts, the Open Door, over the years has been the recipient of cash and premiums worth thousands of dollars through this program. Please resume sending your UPC labels to Jolene at the Open Door.

The following have recently submitted UPC labels for our use: Legacy UMC, Bismarck, ND; Jamestown UMW, Jamestown, ND; Oakes UMC, Oakes, ND; and First UMC and UMW, Fargo, ND.

As correctly reported in the previous newsletter, the Open Door is no longer eligible for the Box Tops for Education redemption program.

## Volunteers Provide Support

Our volunteers are vital to the operation of the Open Door. Since 2009 when we began recording hours donated, volunteers have given **6740 hours** to enrich the lives of our children and their families. During 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2012 and 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2013, 276 and 134 hours, respectively, were recorded.

The range of activities carried out is varied, as evidenced from the following. **Carol Nelson**, a Legacy UMC Board representative, coordinates media center processing. **Marvia Boettcher** regularly offers reading time and has been our substitute teacher. Mrs. Music, **Gloria Knoll**, delivers music lessons to our children each month. **Linda Suko** and **Myrna Petermann** were responsible for lunch and snacks when the regular cook was away. **Jerry Suko** takes care of all lawn mowing on a regular schedule (and has for many years). **Marty Ketterling**, a Calvary Board representative enthusiastically takes care of many facility and grounds maintenance.

Our sincerest thank you to these Very Important Persons!

## SPURS Host Holiday Parties



The University of Mary SPURS service organization has faithfully supported the children of the Open Door by hosting holiday parties throughout the year. Recently they entertained our preschoolers at a Valentine's Day and an Easter celebration. Entertainment includes games, activities, songs, and treats. For Easter the SPURS brought a special treat – a beautifully decorated cake, seen here held by Sister Gerard, the advisor of the service group.

## What Are They Doing Now?

*Do you ever wonder where those who attended the Open Door are today and what they are doing? Director Jolene has, and delights when she sees their names in the newspaper. Here are some recent items.*

**Sarah Vadnais** (preschool 2003-5), a Pathfinders Team member at Wachter Middle School, Bismarck, was one of six students chosen as September 2012 Students of the Month. Students are selected for overall classroom performance including grades, respect, cooperation and classroom engagement.

**Jared Berg** (Summer Camp 1998, several years of after school program) is studying in South Africa spring semester 2013 through the Office for Education Abroad program, College of St. Joseph, MN in Collegeville, MN. Jared is a junior psychology major at SJU.

**Tommy and Trace Moravec** (Tommy-preschool 1999-2000; Trace preschool 2001-2), brothers, were featured in a February 13, 2013 Bismarck Tribune article about their wrestling careers at Century High School, Bismarck. Tommy is a three-time state placer and is the state's top-seeded Class A 220-pounder with a 34-2 record. Trace is seeded fifth at 195 pounds.

**Olivia LaMontagne** (preschool classes 1999-2001), a junior at Century High School, Bismarck, was a student writer of an article about early high school graduation in the January 28, 2013 edition of the Bismarck Tribune. Olivia, already a CNA, plans to go to UND to do something in the medical field and may work toward an RN.

**Ajay Brown** (preschool 2001-2), Bismarck High School, competed in the ND DECA Career Development Conference in March. He is one of six students who qualified to attend the DECA International Career Development Conference in Anaheim, CA, April 23-29.

**Taylor Peterson** (preschool class 1999-2000) The senior midfielder (in his third season on the varsity team) helped St. Mary's High School to state soccer title match in 2012. Last season he was an all-region selection and chosen for the all-tournament team.



Preschool authors show off their creations

## Preschool Focuses on Books

The Open Door includes literacy readiness in its curriculum not only to prepare children for academic learning but for enjoyment and recreational reading as well. In recent months, two projects have focused additional attention on literacy: Author Week and the Imagination Library.

April 2 – 5, designated as Author Week, provided an opportunity for our children to write and illustrate a four-page picture book. Each child chose the subject of his or her book. Topics included Batman, Popular Girls, Going to the Beach, Bulldozers Digging, Princess, Lula the Bunny, Tangled, Dog Getting Lost, Dad and Braden, and Woody. It was an exciting project that all enjoyed and benefited from.

The second activity involves Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Through the Missouri Slope Areawide United Way, the Open Door is now receiving a monthly book and sharing it with all the children. Director Jolene has been pleased with the titles provided, indicating that our preschoolers have enjoyed them very much. Recent books include "The Little Engine That Could," by Watty Piper; "My Little Blue Jays," by John Gerendt; and "Ladybug Girl and Bingo," by David Soman and Jacky Davis. Parents were encouraged to apply directly to the United Way to receive a personal copy of each book for their child.

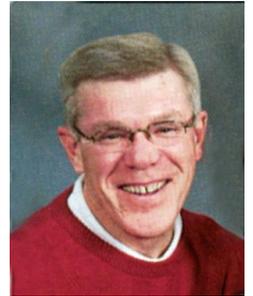
## Cowboy Kids Expo

Our preschoolers participated in the ND Cowboy Hall of Fame Kids Expo in Mandan on February 22. The event featured hands-on activities for children focusing on the areas of ranching, rodeo, Native American culture and western heritage. Some of the activities included coloring books about ranching and animals, matching games, "riding steers" and "clowning around."



flowers at a local hospital, helping a local school during lunch time, and assisting those who need a helping hand. Ken and his wife have three grown children and four grandchildren. Prior to retiring, Ken worked for the post office for over 41 years.

**Jerry Suko** is serving as Trustee Representative from McCabe UMC after being off the Board for a short time. He and Linda are strong supporters of the Open Door and give much time to the daily operation and maintenance of the facility.



*(Director continued from page 1)* following the graduation. It is always a great family time to be together in one room to celebrate another school year.

Everyone is WELCOME to attend the Open Door Conference Barbeque on Wednesday, June 5th from 5-7 pm at the Open Door, 1140 South 12th Street, Bismarck. The



Board of Directors and myself are eager to see friends from all over the conference. The picnic meal with a freewill offering will allow for food, fun and fellowship. We hope you will be able to stop at the Open Door while attending conference activities.

WELCOME to a new feature to the newsletter. With great pleasure I often hear or read some newsworthy accomplishment of a former student of the OD. I started compiling new items whenever I came across them with the thought of showing the scrapbook to perspective parents. In this edition of the newsletter I have included items I recently found. I am hoping to include this feature in each newsletter. It is fun to remember when the children were here and what they have grown to be.

A WELCOME is always extended for anyone to visit, volunteer and assist in whatever they would like to offer the children and families of the OD. The children love visitors and the volunteers who come to enhance the programs of the OD. We have trusted in His Holy Name. Psalm 33:21

Receiving God's blessings,  
Jolene Stading Puhalla, Director

## New Board of Directors Reps



Two new members have joined the Board of Directors as others have rotated off at the end of their three-year terms.

**Marvia Boettcher** is a representative of McCabe UMC in Bismarck. Marvia has been a regular volunteer at the Open

Door, reading to the children and occasionally serving as our substitute teacher. Prior to her retirement, Marvia was the Children's Librarian at the Bismarck Public Library (and Mother Goose to thousands of children over the years). Marvia is very active at McCabe, including choir and various committees. She has agreed to serve as the chair of the Open Door Board.

**Kenneth Hogue** is the new representative from Calvary UMC in Bismarck. Ken is well known for his extensive volunteer work which in addition to the Open Door includes among other things delivering



## Gifts

The Open Door has been blessed by many thoughtful people who support our mission with their prayers, presence, gifts, and services. These enrich our program and services, and help us to maintain our day to day operation and physical facility. Thank you very much for remembering us so generously. The following identifies contributors between November 1, 2012 and April 30, 2013.

The following persons and church groups contributed monetary gifts for unspecified purposes to the Open Door in memory or in honor of a loved one, or as a donation for general use.

Ashley UMW, Ashley, ND  
Bismarck UMC, Bismarck, ND  
Blessing Tree of McCabe UMC, Bismarck, ND  
Bowbells UMC, Bowbells, ND  
Bowbells UMW, Bowbells, ND  
Bowman UMC, Bowman, ND  
Chaseley UMC, Chaseley, ND  
Dakotas United Methodist Foundation, Mitchell, SD  
Dickinson UMC, Dickinson, ND  
Dickinson UMW, Dickinson, ND  
Faith UMC Women, Minot, ND  
First UMC and UMW, Fargo, ND  
Hazen UMC, Hazen, ND  
Jamestown First UMW, Jamestown, ND, in honor of our pastors Kenrad Pederson and Michelle Brennan and secretary Tamie Severance  
Kenmare UMW, Kenmare, ND  
Linton UMC, Linton, ND  
Mandan UMC and UMW, Mandan, ND  
McCabe UMW, Bismarck, ND  
McClusky UMW, McClusky, ND  
Methodist Ladies of Turtle Lake UMC, Turtle Lake  
Page UMC, Page, ND  
Rolla UMC, Rolla, ND  
Rolla UMW, Rolla, ND  
Streeter UMC, Streeter, ND  
Washburn UMC, Washburn, ND  
Washburn UMW, Washburn, ND  
Wishek UMC, Wishek, ND  
Women of UMC, Langdon, ND  
Wyndmere UMC and UMW, Wyndmere, ND  
Marvia Boettcher, Bismarck, ND  
Jay and Alfhild Ehrmantraut, Bismarck, ND, for Vern and Evelyn  
Doug and Debra Emerson, Bismarck, ND, in memory of Jean Berry  
Mavis J. Fuher, Bismarck, ND, in memory of Eugene Fuher  
Ed and Faye Hasche, Bismarck, ND

Roger and Vicki Griffin, Mandan, ND, in honor of our "little people" grandchildren Jadelynn, Lexie, Lily, Max, Sara, Joseph and Victoria  
Marilyn Johnson, Mandan, ND, in honor of Irene Reinhardt, Sterling, ND; Lillian Bentz, Underwood, ND; and Bud Werser, Eagan, MN (Legacy UMC's out of town shut-ins)  
Barbara and Daniel Kingsley, Hill City, MN, in memory of Anita Neumann  
G.L. and M. Knutson, Bismarck, ND, in honor of Georgia Kingsbury  
Connie Kotchman, Bismarck, ND  
LeAnn Lindteigen, Medina, ND  
Steve and Floramay Miller, Bismarck, ND  
Gerald and Jean Newborg, Bismarck, ND, in memory of Laureen Tausend-Morrissey  
Tom and Paula Redmann, Bismarck, ND, in celebration of family  
Shelley and Mike Rowe, Bismarck, ND  
Marilyn G. Smith, Bismarck, ND, to bless the children of Open Door  
Dick and Pat Unkenholz, Prescott, AZ  
Pastor Peggy Zerface, Fargo, ND

The following persons have donated materials to the Open Door.

Abacus, prisms, books-Jerry and Linda Suko, Bismarck, ND  
Roaster oven and 11 x 15" baking pan – Kevin and Beverly Jackson (our cook), Bismarck, ND



## Gardening at the Open Door

The Open Door has been invited and will participate in the 2013 Hunger Free ND Garden Project, sponsored by the ND Dept of Agriculture and Great Plains Food Bank. Through this project the Open Door, along with other individuals and groups, will donate garden produce to help ND families and individuals who most need them.

The produce will come from the Open Door's garden. Mr. Garden, Jim Unkenholz, has again volunteered to guide the preparation, planting, maintenance, and harvesting duties. The first planting (of peas and potatoes) occurred on Friday, May 10. Summer Day Camp children will be actively involved in tending the garden plot.





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### Open Door Community Center Mission

Through the Open Door Community Center, children and families receive Christian-based education and support services, enriching them to become responsible members of their families and community.

*The Witness is produced semi-annually by the Open Door Community Center. Editor: Jean Newborg; Layout: Jerry Newborg; Photocopy: McCabe UMC, Bismarck; Collation and Mailing: Marilyn Johnson; Website: Armour Interactive, Bismarck.*

### 2013 Board of Directors and Staff

#### McCabe UMC

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Carol Desper  
Jim Unkenholz  
Phil Sjursen, Secretary  
Jerry Suko, Trustee Rep.

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#### Calvary UMC

Pastor Perry Schnabel  
Martin Ketterling  
Kenneth Hogue

#### Mandan UMC

Pastor Bruce Adams

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