

Campus to Congregation



November 2008

News for our companions in the Northern Great Lakes Synod

from the campus pastor's office at Finlandia University

“side by side . . . growing in faith toward God and love toward neighbor”

Walking

Some of us are in the habit of walking as part of our commitment to good health. Some of us walk as much as possible as a way to care for the environment, or out of necessity because of the rising cost of filling our gastanks! But how often do we take note of our walk with the Lord?

I have been thinking about walking recently because on October 5th the Campus Ministry Team recruited 14 people to participate in the Copper Country Crop Walk. For many years, Copper Country community members have participated in this Church World Service-sponsored effort for the advocacy and assistance of the hungry. The Campus Ministry Team solicited both participants and pledges for this event.

Participants are asked to raise pledges for a five mile walk. The walk is not merely a test of stamina or a gimmick to raise money, it is an act of solidarity. The Crop Walk's tagline is "we walk because they walk." While raising money for hunger is an act of offering assistance, walking is an act of advocacy as it draws attention to the millions of people who face hunger related issues such as walking long distances for water or firewood, or to a market at which they can sell their crops.

Perhaps you've participated in a Crop Walk in your area. But shouldn't we 'walk because they walk' every day? Shouldn't we walk in solidarity with those around the world who struggle for access to food and water? Perhaps, we might even ask what circumstances contribute to our easy access to affordable food and clean water. Is this what it means to do justice and to walk humbly with our God?

Students who participated in the Crop Walk learned about global hunger concerns. They participated in fighting hunger through their donations. And they learned through the slow, five-mile route that walking in faith is a demanding journey, made easier because it was a shared journey.

Highlights

Christine Flavin - Vanishing Horizons: An Interpretation of the Abandoned Mining Sites of the Upper Peninsula

For the past two years Christine Flavin has been researching the history of and photographing the abandoned iron and copper mining sites of the Upper Peninsula, along with the stamp mills and the barren ground they left behind. Her photos focus on the enormous cultural change spurred by the technological and millennial transitions the Upper Peninsula has experienced in the previous decades. Flavin took the exhibit photos with hand-built, zone plate and panoramic pinhole cameras – cameras without optical lenses. Her images are recorded on 4 x 5 black-and-white photo paper, or on medium format color roll film. The zone plate images are circular and similar to the Kodak camera photographs popular in the heyday of the mining industry. Her work will be exhibited at the Finlandia University Gallery, located in the Finnish American Heritage Center, Hancock, from October 20 to November 13, 2008. Please call 906-487-7500 for more information.

Campus Pastor's Corner

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

-Micah 6:8

-René Johnson, interim campus pastor and director of servant leadership

