

SCATTERED SEEDS Report
Rochester Mennonite Church
May 2006 - May 2007

This year saw our congregation adjusting to the transition of nine active members to other places of work and study. Pastor David Brunner admonished us of attitudes we could choose and opportunities to be alert to, despite this change.

The pastor's transition to half-time status with RMC and half-time as Seasons Hospice chaplain, supported budget issues. The congregation was pleased this change did not affect his role at Sunday worship; his messages and music gifts were a constant. His leadership in community interfaith understanding activity continued.

Our ministry of hospitality for families of Mayo Clinic patients was appreciated. Our joy of congregational singing was taken to St. Mary's Hospital and Oak Center Folk Forum. We continued support of Salvation Army and the Twin Cities MCC Relief Sale. Members offered pet therapy (dog and llama) regularly.

Shalom Readers' Club was offered at the Public Library. The creation of an Advent booklet challenged and inspired members. Women's Bible Study took the form of *lectio divina* study. The new confidence and interest of youth in worship hymns and songs thrilled us. Knitting prayer shawls and basic quilting provided fellowship opportunities this year.

We began reconstruction of our website and anticipate a more useful and current publicity tool as we give it higher priority. We hope readers will note this.

A definite family spirit characterizes our congregation; each person is aware of their importance in the group. Related to this is a formal exercise of asset-mapping that our Church Council went through in preparation for leading the congregation in this activity.

We are presently studying HEALING HEALTHCARE, a study and action guide of Anabaptist Center for health care ethics, during Sunday School. Children and youth are taught with the GATHER 'ROUND curriculum.

We continually praise God for His blessings among us.

--Lois Ruth Kennel