

## PEOPLE OF FAITH

### THE REV. JACK KRAAZ

**Age:** 66

**Residence:** Merrill, formerly of Ripon

**Family:** Wife, Sarah, and four grown daughters

**Church:** St. Stephen's United Church of Christ, Merrill

**Ministry:** Transitional interim minister

**Motivation:** "I was ordained in 1975 and worked in pastoral ministry for 38 years," he said. "It's a calling. I felt a call in my life that this is what I am to be doing. It just happens, you prepare yourself for any number of things and this is what shook out in my life. My calling is to be among people. I always believe God is for the little people, the poor, the lost, the marginalized. I found through the years people resonated with that."

Kraaz will be installed at the 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sept. 11 services as transitional interim minister at St. Stephen's U.C.C.



The Rev. Jack Kraaz

People of Faith appears on Fridays on the Community page. To suggest profiles of clergy members or lay people who are living their faith, send information to Jan Kuehlman at jkuehlma@wdhprint.com or PO Box 1286, Wausau, WI 54402-1286.

# Donors make FABFAN a success

The 13th annual Fill A Backpack Fill A Need, or FABFAN, event is in the books. Through this Workplace Volunteer Council project, 2,465 children received a colorful new backpack filled with basic school supplies.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a heart-felt thank you to some of our unsung FABFAN heroes. Without their assistance, the project would not be sustainable. Special thanks to WOW Logistics, J&D TubeBenders, UMR, Eastbay, Ministry Health Care, United Way of Marathon County, and Kleenex Systems. Each of these organizations is a WVC member and goes "above and beyond" for its endeavors.

Special thanks to Crystal Finishing, Wausau National Guard Armory,



KARLA ZYGOWICZ

our public donation sites too numerous to mention individually, the organizations that donated water, soda, food and snacks for our volunteers, Stuff the Bus, and all of the wonderful organizations and individuals who collected and delivered school supplies to us at the armory. Every effort, no matter how big or how small, makes an impact on this project. We are beyond grateful for your support.

Donations rise and fall, as does the economy. Corporate donations are harder to come by, but more individuals are stepping up to the plate. New organizations have stepped in to host events

on our behalf (Mickey's Billiards and Pizzeria, Texas Roadhouse, Thrivent Financial, Buska & Buska, to name a few) because they believe in what we are doing and wish to help. We find this all a little overwhelming but extremely gratifying.

I truly believe that one has to be present at the armory for more than dropping off supplies or volunteering a couple of hours to "get" what it is we do. For that one week, the armory becomes a shopping center. The armory becomes a "warehouse" of supplies that must be organized before we can get supply bags ready for the children who will arrive on Saturday. One cannot fathom 76,800 pencils, 6,400 boxes of crayons, 30,720 pens and 16,000 notebook and folder sets plus all of the other sup-

plies that go into each bag. Organized chaos at its finest!

The hardest thing we do for each FABFAN is to "guesstimate" how many of the qualified students will attend. We need that information to plan the amount of supplies needed and staff our time at the armory. We have kept statistics since 2004, which show that no matter how many students qualify, only 40 percent to 65 percent will attend.

We do what we can in working with the schools, the media and the community to publicize the date months in advance and strongly recommend it be a priority event for those who qualify. We hold FABFAN one day a year for a set number of hours and then it is gone. We have to believe that those who truly need our assistance made it a

priority and were served Aug. 20.

Our line went completely around the armory and east more than five blocks at one point. We saw firsthand the excitement in children's faces as they waited and the grateful thanks in the eyes of the parents.

The economy is struggling. Any one of us could find ourselves in a position of needing an extra hand. Our community is very giving. If you truly need the help and you are not too proud to ask, you shall find it.

The WVC motto is "Making A Difference in Our Community, One Project at a Time." We very much appreciate your support which allows us to do just that.

Karla Zygowicz is president of the Workplace Volunteer Council.

## RELIGION CALENDAR

### TODAY

**Fair Trade/SERRV Mission Bazaar**, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Monday, St. Paul's Community Center, 319 Fourth St., Wausau. 715 842-3733.

**Unity Group**, 1:30 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. Fridays, Universalist

## Making sure

