

## **Celebrating 10 years with Rev. David Bard**

On Sunday, June 21, 2015 we celebrated with Reverend Dr. David A. Bard his tenth year as pastor of First United Methodist Church (the Coppertop) in Duluth. He gave his first sermon here on Sunday, June 22, 2005.

Pastor Bard is a Duluth native. He received his bachelor's degree from University of MN, Duluth in Psychology and Philosophy, Master's Degree from United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, and PhD from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX in Christian Ethics and Religious Studies.

Bard has planted many seeds during his ten years at The Coppertop Church. One seed is helping bring Ruby's Pantry to the Coppertop. This program started in August 2010 and distributes excess food donated by businesses to people who want to stretch their food dollars.

Initially, nearly 800 families each month received the food, which is distributed completely by volunteers. After nearly five years an additional eight Duluth area distribution sites have been developed: Brookston, Cloquet, Duluth-Morgan Park, Eveleth, Hermantown, Moose Lake, Silver Bay, and Superior, WI. Some 33, 000 families have participated. Distribution continues at Ruby's Pantry Coppertop on the third Thursday of every month. Ruby's Pantry Coppertop recently received a plaque in recognition of this service from Duluth Mayor Don Ness.

Bard was also very instrumental in a merger with Chester Park United Methodist three years ago. He played a pivotal role in the sale of the church building by working with the city council on to adjust zoning for the site in efforts to support the purchaser of the building.

The merge of the churches brought another community-spirited event to the hill as the Coppertop Church now hosts a semi annual roast beef dinner. This brings many faces of the community together to share in fellowship and support.

Pastor Bard's other recent community involvements include teaching at the College of St. Scholastica, writing a monthly column for the Duluth Budgeteer News, and serving on the boards of the Arrowhead Jail Chaplaincy, Heading Home St Louis County, and Citizens in Action. A former member of the Lifehouse Board and Seaport Ministry, he also supports the Clayton Jackson McGhie Memorial in downtown Duluth. The doors at the Coppertop have also been open for various community events like the annual Martin Luther King breakfast and many CHUM (Central Hillside United Ministries) events that Bard is involved in.

This May Pastor Bard was endorsed to episcopacy by members of the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church to the office of bishop.

A United Methodist bishop's responsibility, according to the denomination's *Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*, is to lead and oversee the spiritual and temporal affairs of the United Methodist Church. The nomination will be forwarded to the North Central Jurisdictional Conference, to take place July 13-16, 2016 in Illinois.