

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Web Site: www.fumchurch.com

**DISABILITY
AWARENESS SUNDAY
IS JANUARY 27!**

January 20th is ...

Psalm 150



... a time of praise and
testimony.

See page 12 for more information.

GIVING WINGS TO THE GOSPEL

WELCOME ~ INVITE ~ NURTURE ~ GROW ~ SEND

January 27th is ...



... a **celebration**
of the lives and witness of
those with disabilities.

... a **challenge**
to inclusion and
accessibility for those with
any disability –
physical or mental.

... an **opportunity**
to raise awareness and find solutions
to barriers to worship, spiritual education,
fellowship, and service for those with disabilities.

See pages 14-15 for more information.



FIRST NEWS FIRST

January 2008

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Volume 8, Issue 1

Dates to Remember

January 4-5 — Confirmation
Retreat

January 20 — Psalm 150

January 27 — Disability
Awareness
Sunday

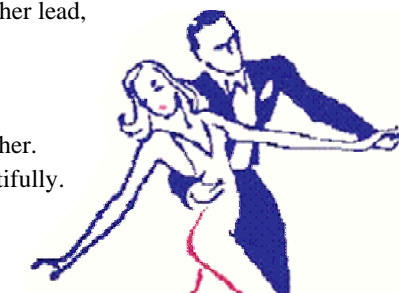
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From the Pastor

AS WE ENTER A NEW YEAR, perhaps the following testimony will help get you started on the right foot:

When I meditated on the word “GUIDANCE,” I kept seeing “dance” at the end of the word. I remember reading that doing God’s will is a lot like dancing. When two people try to lead, nothing feels right. The movement doesn’t flow with the music, and everything is quite uncomfortable and jerky. When one person realizes that, and lets the other lead, both bodies begin to flow with the music. One gives gentle cues, perhaps with a nudge to the back or by pressing lightly in one direction or another. It’s as if two become one body, moving beautifully. The dance takes surrender, willingness, and attentiveness from one person and gentle guidance and skill from the other.



**“DOING GOD’S WILL IS
A LOT LIKE DANCING.”**

My eyes drew back to the word “GUIDANCE.” When I saw “G” I thought of God, followed by “u” and “i.” “God,” “u” and “i” dance.

GOD, YOU AND I DANCE.

As I lowered my head, I became willing to trust that I would get guidance about my life. Once again, I became willing to let God lead. My prayer for you today is that God’s blessings and mercies be upon you. May you abide in God as God abides in you. Dance together with God, trusting God to lead and guide you through each season of your life.

(Author Unknown)

*Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I’ll lead you all wherever you may be,
and I’ll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

(“Lord of the Dance,” United Methodist Hymnal, number 261)

~Mike Minnix

CHURCH STAFF

PASTOR: Michael Minnix
(218-0860)

ASSISTANT PASTOR: Lucretia Browning

PARISH VISITOR: Don Ciampa

LAY LEADER: Bob Wertz

CONGREGATIONAL CARE COORDINATOR: Tina Eaton

DIRECTOR OF ADULT EDUCATION: Juanita Guise

CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR: Kim Vensel

YOUTH DIRECTOR: Samantha Mariano

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC, ORGANIST & SANCTUARY CHOIR: John Devorick

ORGANISTS: Bill Ingraham
Tom Mullikin

BELL CHOIRS: Kathie Bittenbender

SOUNDS OF WORSHIP & CHILDREN'S CHOIRS: Flossie Ryder

JR. & YOUTH CHOIRS: Nadine Ogden

INVOCATION DIRECTOR: Allison Ometz

FACILITIES COORDINATOR: Charlie Ryder

OFFICE MANAGER: Michelle Strawser

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: April Prather

FINANCE DIRECTOR: Nancy Robinson

MISSIONARIES:

COORDINATOR OF THE AVIATION RESOURCE DEPT. FOR GBGM: Mr. & Mrs. Steven Quigg

M^CCURDY SCHOOL: Mr. & Mrs. Matt Nichols

Home for reassignment: Chris & Martha Stockwell-Goering

FIRST NEWS FIRST

EDITORS:
April Prather
Michelle Strawser

The deadline for the February 2008 newsletter is

**TUESDAY,
January 15.**

Please submit your articles and/or information prior to this date to April in the church office or email to office@fumchurch.com.

Financial Report — Through November 30, 2007 (92% of year)

Unified Budget	
Income (82 % of budget)	\$ 820,326
Expenses	\$ 825,759
Current shortfall	\$ -5,433
Estimated Year end revenue shortfall	\$ -75,000
Building Fund	\$ 55,718
Holy Grounds	\$ 1,415

Since General Fund collections during 2007 have been substantially lower than we expected, planned support for various ministries, external missions and principal

Stewardship Thought

WHAT IS CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP? Clarence Stoughton said, "*Stewardship is everything you do after you say, 'Yes' to Jesus.*" Stewardship is a lifestyle choice that recognizes that everything is a gift from God. Our responsibility as Christian stewards is to manage all the gifts that we have received from God. God is the true owner of all that we have in life. Jesus consistently taught that our responsibility as his disciples is to recognize that God is the provider of all that we possess and that our call is to be generous givers of our financial resources. A Christian steward contributes his or her time, talent, prayers, and financial resources with a willing and joyful spirit. Being a generous giver is a spiritual response to God's goodness.

Ringling in the News!

AS WE TAKE A SHORT BREATH after the busyness of the Christmas Season, the handbells continue to stay active in January. You might not see us playing much this month, but we'll stay busy behind the scenes!

We have two more Hoss's Community Days we'd like you to mark on your calendars: Tuesday, January 22, and Tuesday, March 11. We very much appreciate your support on these days, and it's fun seeing so many people we know at Hoss's!

payments have been reduced during this year. We must reduce spending by the level of the year end revenue shortfall.

The 2008 budget, found elsewhere in this newsletter, has been reduced to be more in line with giving trends, forcing us to make dramatic reductions in some items. The largest reduction is in mission support. If total General Fund income exceeds the budget amount, the extra will be devoted to missions.

We appreciate the level of giving of many in our church family, but the spirit of sacrificial giving must spread to the entire congregation for us to fully support all the ministries we have envisioned.

We are also going to sell pies again in February. This time you may order cherry or apple pies, crumb topping or double crust, baked or frozen. We had many good comments about our Thanksgiving pies – we thank you! There really was no secret ingredient, just loving hands making pies. See or call one of us to order your pies.

We start this month to officially practice for the International Symposium. We're excited that we'll be ringing with 1000 other people from 7 different countries. Please keep us in your prayers as we begin this exciting adventure!

January 6

USHERS: (8:15) Eric King, James Alderman, Thomas Helm, Ralph Harkins, Roy Miller, Harry Woods, Winslow Brown; (10:45) Rick Kauffman, Brian Vogl, Rodney Cook, Ed Johnson, Chuck Kershner, Wayde Leister, Mike Ogden, Cephas Zimmerman

MEDIA: Bob Bittenbender & Ron Nichols

ACOLYTE: David Nesmith (8:15), Josh Herring (10:45)

CHILDCARE GREETER: Mary Wagner (8:15), Tracy Holliday (10:45)

TODDLERS: Patti Yeager, Shannon O'Leary, Katarina Maylock (8:15), Patti Herring, Julie & Deb Lehmer (10:45)

CRIB ROOM: Beth Herbster (8:15), Sue Daum, Sue Brady (10:45)

WEE WORSHIP: Rob & Gerri Nuss, Elisabeth Herring

KIDS WORSHIP: Tracy Wertz, Deb & Phoebe Noss

January 20

USHERS: (8:15) Gerry Sheely, Elvin Hess, Bill Seig, Bob Shannon, Roger Miller; (10:45) Larry Buddenbaum, Rick Kauffman, Bob Bittenbender, Barry Eaton, Mark Rouch, Rose Rohlmeier, Jake Sunday, Cephas Zimmerman

MEDIA: Ken Rapp & Jeff Snyder

ACOLYTE: David Nesmith (8:15), Alexandra Rebman (10:45)

CHILDCARE GREETER: Sharon Hayes (8:15), Angie Britcher (10:45)

TODDLERS: Denise Swank, Kelly King, Megan Koontz (8:15), Shelli Spencer, Rebecca Buddenbaum, Becca Geiger (10:45)

CRIB ROOM: Marilyn Knott (8:15), Amy Erno, Lauren Kenes (10:45)

WEE WORSHIP: Lynn Grant, Tracy McHale, Emma Geiger

KIDS WORSHIP: Tracy Wertz, Scott & Helene Briggs

January 13

USHERS: Youth Department

MEDIA: Fred Espenshade & Roger Walton

ACOLYTE: Josh Eaton (8:15), Matthew Canonizado (10:45)

CHILDCARE GREETER: Jackie Murdough (8:15), Susanna Brill (10:45)

TODDLERS: Kathleen & Rodney Clark, Abby Vensel, Matt Ober (8:15), Rod & Billie Jo Snyder, Brienne Wickenheiser (10:45)

CRIB ROOM: Sandy Walton (8:15), Jill Rahal, Sandy Downey (10:45)

WEE WORSHIP: Katie Hammaker, Rose Rohlmeier, Paige Snyder

KIDS WORSHIP: Tracy Wertz, Kathy Wagner, Bonnie Campbell, Kristi Quave

January 27

USHERS: (8:15) Tom Helm, Charles Glessner, Ben Miller, Ron Nichols, Jim Van Kirk; (10:45) Brian Vogl, Larry Buddenbaum, John Clendenien, Stuart Diehl, Ken Guise, Mike Lehmer, Mike McHale, Rose Rohlmeier

MEDIA: Eric Dewalt & Steve Morgan

ACOLYTE: Rebekah Vensel (8:15), Ryan Eaton (10:45)

CHILDCARE GREETER: Rhonda Heiges (8:15), Sandy Leister (10:45)

TODDLERS: Karen & Jean Adams, Kallie Heiges (8:15), Mary Alice Rebman, Jill Yother, Jen & Amanda Hilbish (10:45)

CRIB ROOM: Margaret Eckrote (8:15), Janet & Janelle Almond, Amy Dively (10:45)

WEE WORSHIP: Brandi Zimmerman, Chris Grant, Megan Leister

KIDS WORSHIP: Tracy Wertz, Janet & Greg Fennell, Katie Snyder

Volunteers for Coffee

Coffee Set-up Schedule — contact Don Karns or Charlie Ryder for scheduling or supplies. Swap with another volunteer if you have a conflict.

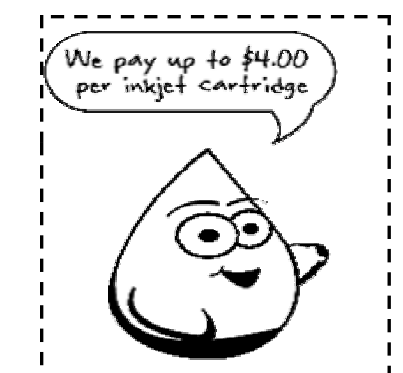


Bill & Sue Higgins	Jan. 6
Dale Glatfelter	Jan. 13
Dick Snyder	Jan. 20
Matt Holliday	Jan. 27
Don Karns	Feb. 3
Dean Otto	Feb. 10
Charlie Ryder	Feb. 17

First Church Wants Your Empty Printer Cartridges!

The next time you have an empty printer cartridge, don't throw it away! Bring it to the church office! First Church recycles those empty cartridges for cash and receives up to \$4.00 per cartridge.

Proceeds from this fundraiser are deposited to the Family Assistance Fund.





**STILL
NEEDED!!
PERSONAL
DEVOTIONALS
FOR
"FIRST
CHURCH
DAILY
DEVOTIONAL"
FOR LENT**

WRITTEN CONTRIBUTIONS are still needed for a First Church Daily Devotional for the season of Lent. Would you be interested in writing a brief, personal devotional for inclusion in this "in house" daily devotional booklet?

The format of your personal devotional should include:

1. **Brief title:**
2. **Scripture verse:**
3. **Written narrative:**
(no more than 275 words)
4. **Sentence prayer:**
5. **Your name:**

If possible, please e-mail your devotional as a Word document to the First Church office at office@fumchurch.com. If you do not have access to e-mail, put your devotional in an envelope, marked "Devotional for Lent" and give to the church office.

DEADLINE: extended to January 6

This may seem early, but remember that Lent begins on February 6 in 2008. We welcome your participation with gratitude. Any questions, please contact Juanita Guise at 766-2466 or jguise@comcast.net.

Special December Birthdays

William Henschke	January 1
Paul Brandt	January 2
Kathryn Nailor	January 5
Winnie Prowell	January 7
Jesse Gunder	January 13
Ruth Reed	January 15
Charles Glessner	January 16
Ida Bardell	January 21
Mark Grosz	January 21
David Richards	January 23
Maye Carmany	January 30

Addresses of these members, who are 80-plus years of age, may be found in the Church Directory. If we have missed your name, please contact the church office.

Love & Sympathy to ...

the Kain family upon the death of Grace Kain on December 17, 2007.

the Alvey family upon the death of Dave's mother on December 19, 2007.

Worship Childcare Workers Needed

Looking for a place to be in ministry? Enjoy getting to know our young children while serving in our worship childcare ministry. Safe Sanctuary clearances are required. Contact Kim Vensel at 766-4611,x102, or by email at kidscount@fumchurch.com to volunteer, or for assistance in completing the clearance process.

Thank You ...

THANK YOU to the entire church, as well as all the Pastors. Words cannot possibly express our gratitude for the overwhelming amount of cards, prayers, sympathy, and love that we have received. Our church "family" has given us so much support and that, along with our faith, has helped us to begin the healing process. It is a true blessing to be part of such a caring "family." You will never know how much you have helped us.

The Buddenbaum and Spencer families

ALSO A THANK YOU to the Pastors for their visits to my father while he was in the hospital and nursing home — he is now recovering at home. And a special thank you to the carolers — what a pleasant surprise.

Judi & Larry & Judi's father, Don Stover



MANY THANKS for the phone calls, emails, and the gorgeous flower arrangement from the members and pastors of First Church. Thank you for prayers that surrounded me with peace, during my recent surgery and recovery.

Thankfully, Kathryn Salon

Weddings

CONGRATULATIONS TO

*Heather Erno &
Mark Supanick,
married November 17, 2007*

CONGRATULATIONS TO

*Katie Barr &
Brandon Baughman,
married November 17, 2007.*

Lessons from Living: Juniper Tree Counseling Center

I AM AWARE that as I begin each New Year, I have deep sadness over the lack of peace in our world ... as well as the joyful undying hope that the coming year will experience more lives that are dedicated to peace. Scott Balsitis, molecular biologist and my beloved nephew of the heart, recently said to me, "Lucretia, I don't think that peace is the absence of conflict, but rather peace is the presence of goodness" in our lives. He is right. We live in such a violent world, and we need to make it a priority to seek the presence of goodness. It will not just happen ... we have to work at experiencing God's goodness and living out that goodness.

I encourage our church families to focus on making this commitment at the beginning of this year. As a family, take

Family Pledge of Nonviolence

MAKING PEACE must start within ourselves and in our family. Each of us, members of the _____ family, commit ourselves, as best we can, to become nonviolent and peaceable people.

TO RESPECT SELF AND OTHERS — To respect myself, to affirm others and to avoid uncaring criticism, hateful words, physical attacks and self-destructive behavior.

TO COMMUNICATE BETTER — To share my feelings honestly, to look for safe ways to express my anger, and to work at solving problems peacefully.

TO LISTEN — To listen carefully to one another, especially those who disagree with me, and to consider others' feelings and needs rather than insist on having my own way.

TO FORGIVE — To apologize and make amends when I have hurt another, to forgive others, and to keep from holding grudges.

the Family Pledge of Nonviolence. "Oh, we don't hit each other in my family", you may say. Well ... are we always drawing forth goodness from each other ... do we always bring our own goodness to family life ... or, instead, do we bring leftovers, shortness, harsh words, impatience, subtle putdowns?

As you enter the New Year, look at this pledge, adapt it to fit your own family, then sign it, and stick it on your fridge ... as your own commitment to bring your goodness to your most precious relationships.

Blessings in your living all the days of this New Year,

~Lucretia



"We [as families] have to work at experiencing God's goodness and living out that goodness."



**U-TURN CONTEMPORARY
WORSHIP SERVICE**

Sunday Evenings at 7:00*

*Except for the 3rd Sunday of the month, which is the "Psalm 150" service.

Institute for Peace and Justice
475 East Lockwood Ave., St. Louis, MO 63119
Phone: (314) 918-2630 Email: ppjn@aol.com ---
Web site: www.ipj-ppj.org

Ladies Prayer Breakfast



Saturday,
February 2, 2008
10:00 – 11:00 AM

Circle Happenings

The Deborah Circle will hold its January meeting on Tuesday, January 15, at 7:00 PM in B006. A yoga instructor will be joining us to help us start the new year flexible and stress free. All women of the church are invited to attend.

Circle Leaders

- CO-PRESIDENT**
Lori Hoffnagle 732-6430
- CO-PRESIDENT**
Pat Sheely 766-3151
- DEBORAH**
Becky Bubb 691-7680
- ELIZABETH**
Patti Herring 795-9721
- MARTHA**
Marley Ann Schmick 697-2233
- RACHEL**
Leta Rohlmeier 432-3488
- RUTH**
Gwen Hollinger 790-0265

Ladies Prayer Breakfast

WE WELCOME ALL WOMEN of FUMC to attend this informal service on Saturday, February 2, from 10:00 – 11:00 am. This will be a time of prayer and fellowship as we kick-off the new year. Those attending will reflect on the meaning of Christian discipleship through prayer and sharing. A prayer and self-denial offering will be taken. The service will be held in the Adult Sunday School room with a light breakfast offered.

Mark Your 2008 Calendar!

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
Saturday, Feb. 2	Ladies Prayer Breakfast	Adult SS Room
Saturday, May 10	Mother/Daughter Banquet	Fellowship Hall
Fri./Sat., Aug. 15-16	Second-Hand Sale	Multipurpose Room
TBD	World Thank Offering and Mission Meal	Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall
Saturday, Dec. 6	Advent Fellowship	Fellowship Hall

Library News

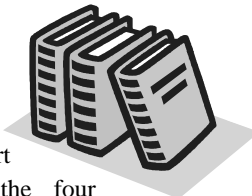
WE ALL ENJOYED this fall's sermon series on scripture that changed the world. One of the sermons was about Fannie Crosby and how her music impacted others. The stories behind many of our favorite hymns are fascinating and many times are soul-touching.

The library has four books that tell the history of hymns. Their titles are **101 HYMN STORIES**, **101 MORE HYMN STORIES**, **STORIES OF HYMNS WE LOVE**, and **THE TREASURY OF THE GREAT HYMNS AND THEIR STORIES**. Not only are each of these books filled with facts, but also they are easy reads. Because each

Bless You!

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'" "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'" Matthew 25:37-40.

THANK YOU to all who support the United Methodist Women through giving of monetary gifts, time and energy, as well as donated Second-Hand sale items. In 2007, your efforts enabled us to give more than \$2,265 to local organizations such as: Mission Central, United Methodist Children's Home, Domestic Violence Shelter of Cumberland and Perry Counties, New Hope Ministries, Neighborhood Center and New Life for Girls. Through the Prayer/Self-Denial and World Thank Offerings, you gave more than \$2,065 to support UMW missions worldwide. Again, thanks to your generous gifts, we make a difference both here in our local community and around the world.



hymn is like a short story, each of the four books can be read in short bursts. They are also good material for devotional readings. After you read the background story on a particular hymn, you will be amazed at how much more you enjoy the hymn itself and how much more alive and meaningful worship can be.

But if this isn't your venue, come in to the library for the latest in contemporary fiction, mystery and romance. New books are added every month. See you in the library!

~Donna, Pam & Fran

Building Use Information

GOD HAS BLESSED US with a wonderful facility for ministry. Along with that blessing comes the responsibility to care for the facility and the challenge of scheduling various events. Over the past year, we have experienced an increase in requests for use of our facility. The majority of the requests we receive are for church-related events; however, we also receive requests from outside organizations and non-profit groups, as well as, requests from church members who wish to use the facility for family events (showers, birthday parties and other family gatherings). For non church-related events, there are building use fees and custodial fees that may apply. The following is provided as a general overview of the building use fee and custodial fees:

BUILDING USE FEE: This is a rental fee charged for the actual use of the facility. Outside organizations are charged a rental fee; however, rental fees are generally waived for family events of church members (e.g. showers, birthday parties, etc.) and non-profit events (e.g. Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, New Hope Ministries, etc.).

CUSTODIAL FEES: Some churches employ a staff member(s) to care for their set-up, tear-down and overall custodial needs. First Church does not operate under that approach. Rather, our facility is cleaned and maintained by a private custodial contractor, Specialty Cleaners, and that contract specifically covers set-up, tear-down and overall custodial services in

support of church-related events and activities. The contract further stipulates that fees for non church-related events are negotiated on a case-by-case basis. The amount of that contract is negotiated annually between the Board of Trustees and the contractor and included in our budgeting process which occurs in the Fall of each year. Again, that budgeted amount covers custodial services in support of church-related events and activities.

When a church member schedules a non church-related event (e.g. family gatherings), custodial fees may apply for set-up (\$100 per area), tear-down (\$100 per area), and clean-up (\$100 per area) of the facility depending upon the size and scope of the event. These fees are charged by the custodial contractor, Specialty Cleaners, for services rendered. Since those charges have not been budgeted for under First Church's custodial services contract, we must collect the fees from those who use the facility for non church-related events.

Every request we receive for use of the building is unique; hence, the information provided above is not intended to cover every possible scenario. If you are planning a non church-related event and have questions about applicable fees, please feel free to contact Charlie Ryder, Facilities Coordinator, at 766-4611, x111 or Michelle Strawser, Office Manager, at 766-4611, x101. We'll be glad to discuss the details with you and advise you of the fee after consulting with the custodial contractor.

Indoor Floor Hockey

Indoor Floor Hockey begins Thursday January 10, 2008. We are planning a ten week session on Thursday nights in the multi-purpose room from 7:30 to 8:30PM, concluding on March 13. Boys and girls in grades 5 through 9 are invited to participate. We will start everyone out with basic fundamentals and drills and then play pick-up games each week. Bring your sneakers and some energy — all other equipment supplied. Contact Nancy or Mark Rouch at 258-8954 or via email at mwrner@aol.com with questions, or if you are interested in helping out and/or providing some additional adult supervision.



"God has blessed us with a wonderful facility for ministry. Along with that blessing comes the responsibility to care for the facility..."

WIDOWS/WIDOWERS GROUP

Reservations have been made for dinner at Scotties Beef N Reef on Tuesday, January 8, at 6:00 p.m. Please call Bonnie Guyer at 766-0145 if you plan on attending.

Floor Hockey

for kids in 5th—9th Grade.
Jan. 10th thru March 13th —
Thursdays 7:30-8:30 pm





Recipe for a Happy New Year. . .

Take twelve fine, full-grown months; see that these are thoroughly free from old memories of bitterness, rancor and hate, cleanse them completely from every clinging spite; pick off all specks of pettiness and littleness; in short, see that these months are freed from all the past—have them fresh and clean as when they first came from the great storehouse of Time. Cut these months into thirty or thirty-one equal parts. Do not attempt to make up the whole batch at one time (so many persons spoil the entire lot this way) but prepare one day at a time.

Into each day put equal parts of faith, patience, courage, work (some people omit this ingredient and so spoil the flavor of the rest), hope, fidelity, liberality, kindness, rest (leaving this out is like leaving the oil out of the salad dressing— don't do it), prayer, meditation, and one well-selected resolution. Put in about one teaspoonful of good spirits, a dash of fun, a pinch of folly, a sprinkling of play, and a heaping cupful of good humor.

Anonymous



All Married and Engaged Couples!

IF ONE OF YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS is to spend more time together, then I recommend that you give yourselves a "Weekend to Remember" marriage conference at Hershey Lodge (February 15 — 17) sponsored by FamilyLife. It's a wonderful get-a-way for you and your special loved one. A time of growth, romance and anticipation.

Plan now to spend Valentine's Day together strengthening your marriage. Think of it — a Valentine's weekend in Hershey (the chocolate capital of the world) and a date night to boot — all with God's blessing!

Many fresh discoveries about your spouse are awaiting you! Come to this three-day marriage conference, and rediscover the one you fell in love with.

The *Weekend to Remember* touches on the issues central to your marriage — threats to your relationship, resolving conflict, and creating oneness with your spouse. This insightful weekend will encourage communication and intimacy.

During the weekend, you will gain valuable insights to help your marriage go

SPRC Report

(Continued from page 15)

Additionally, I'd like to thank all of you, the congregation, for your patience, continued love, support and prayers during this past year. It is never easy to change, but I believe that God has led and will continue to lead us to spread our "WINGS" to soar!

In closing, I would like to remind you that I am committed to help resolve any issue that may arise over the course of the 2008 year. I invite you to contact me at home at 766-9583 if you have any joys or concerns regarding our ministry staff.

the distance. Marriage experts will present practical biblical principles through professional materials, projects, and great personal stories with which couples can identify. You will talk, laugh, learn, and reconnect.

Whether your marriage needs hope for the future, practical skills for daily living, or simply a time of refreshment, this one weekend will make a positive difference. It is a great investment in your marriage for years to come!

1. Check your calendar now for the weekend of February 15 - 17 [Don't wait! — Do it today!]
2. Look for the brochures at church for more information and contact Steve Noss 697-5982 with questions.
3. Call 1-800-FL-TODAY (1-800-358-6329) before January 24th using the group code number 13615 and receive a discount on the conference fees.
4. Book your hotel rooms early.

Romans 12:4-6a. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us.

~Dan DeLong

In God We (Still) Trust, by Sue Chapman

WE HAVE ALL HEARD many things said about the value of a penny. It isn't worth much, you can't use it for anything, etc. Well, I have always loved pennies. When you add them up they finally can be used for anything. We, at First Church, have saved many pennies for wells in Sierra Leone. At my old church in Ohio, we saved our pennies to help our building fund.

Over the past too many years, I have always said that when I find a penny, it is a blessing from God. After all, they do say "In God We Trust". Several years ago, I took a bible study entitled "Experiencing God" and in that study I learned that we experience God in many different ways, we just don't always give God the credit. We call it coincidence — I learned to call it God.

I remember six years ago, when we were preparing to move to Ohio and I was very upset to be leaving this wonderful church family. I had a terrible week and it seemed that everything possible was going wrong. On my usual journey around town running errands, I pulled into the parking lot at George's Dry Cleaners. I had been crying off and on all week. I got out of the car and there on the ground was a penny. I picked up and said, "Thank you God." I took a couple of steps and there was another penny and it was shiny. I picked it up and said, "Thank you God, it is so nice to know that you are paying attention. Another penny and this one is shiny. I know

that I can make it through now that you have let me know that you care!"

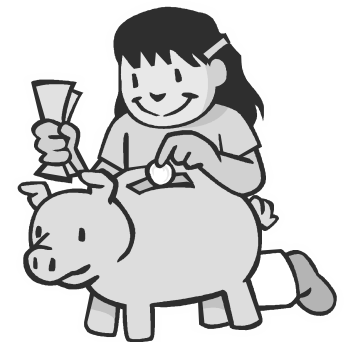
I have told this story many times when teaching, mainly to illustrate how much God loves us and tells us to ask Him and He will supply. When we moved back to Mechanicsburg this summer, we actually found five pennies in and around our brand new house. We decided that God had really answered our prayers and these pennies were indeed gifts from Him to remind us of who is in charge of our lives.

I recently used the penny story with the class I teach at the Daron Center. One of the children was very overactive and had a hard time sitting down. I really didn't think that he was paying attention to what I was saying. But the next week in he bounced with a big smile on his face. "Guess what, Mrs. C?" he said with his usual burst of energy. I replied that I had no idea and he dug deep into his pocket and pulled out a penny. "I found this!" he exclaimed. "Oh, how wonderful that God blessed you this week," I answered. "You should keep that forever." He looked at me with excitement and said, "Oh no, Mrs. C., this one is for you!" With tears in my eyes and a lump in my throat, I replied that God was blessing us twice. Once for you and once for me. What a wonderful gift!

We need to watch for those pennies and other small and large blessings. We need to remember that in all the areas of our lives we can STILL trust God.

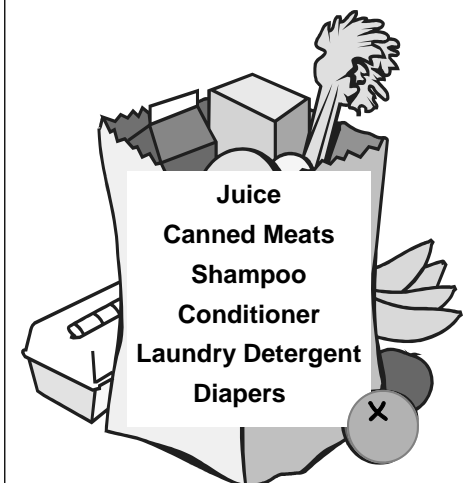
New Hope Ministries

Thank you to everyone who supported New Hope Ministries so generously in 2007. Your donations made it possible to provide Thanksgiving baskets to 86 families, Christmas baskets/personal care kits/gifts to over 200 families and replenished a very depleted food pantry just to name a few. Thank you for all you do to support the needs of the poor in our community!!



"We need to watch for those pennies and other small and large blessings."

New Hope Grocery List



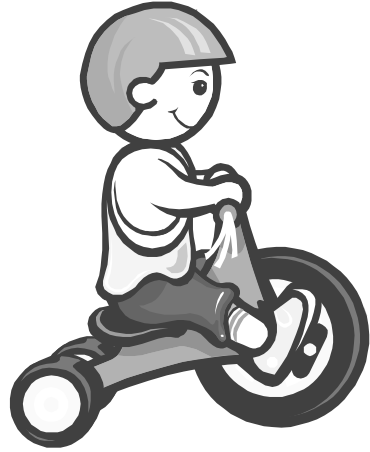
Juice
Canned Meats
Shampoo
Conditioner
Laundry Detergent
Diapers

Penny Report

There were 4,778 pennies contributed this past month for a total to date of \$7,227.01. The church would like to thank all those who continue to support the African Well Project.



Romp & Stomp



COME IN FROM THE COLD!!

ROMP & STOMP returns! We invite you to Romp and Stomp with your Pre-schoolers in the FUMC gym this winter.

WHAT IS IT?

Indoor playtime with balls, mats, and ride-on toys. Feel free to bring along any favorite 'outdoor' toys from your garage!

WHO IS IT FOR?

Pre-schoolers and their families. All are welcome whether or not you are a member at First Church. Invite your neighbors and friends!

WHEN IS ROMP AND STOMP?

Friday mornings 10:30-noon— January 4th - March 28th. (No Romp & Stomp on 1/25 or 2/22.)

QUESTIONS? Contact Janice Bowen - 796-0809 jjgbowen@yahoo.com

Through the Eyes of a 16-year old — New Orleans in 2007

SUNDAY AM — before beginning the work of the day, we attended a black Southern Baptist Church. It was an uplifting experience and just what we needed to approach the huge job before us. **PM** — we met up with a 53 foot truck that came from Central Pennsylvania loaded with items collected for and by the KAREN Project. We had police protection — some of the people cut in line. They also become frustrated as items became unavailable.

MONDAY AM — A portion of our group went to work on a church called Mt. Zion United Methodist. There, we scraped the paint with the plan to repaint everything the next day. **PM** — we went to Walmart and discovered that after two years, the storm still impacts supplies. Almost everything on the shelves was gone and the store no longer stayed open for 24 hours. This particular Wal-Mart was the only one that served the area. After picking up what we could, we still needed food and tools for the next day. We had to travel out to the Metairie area to locate another Walmart.

TUESDAY AM — we returned to Mount Zion. The second group went to a house in another area to place sheet rock on all the walls so that the family can return to their home. A homeless man stayed there for the owner so that no one would break in — people break into homes that are being worked on to steal items for their own destitute residences. The man slept on the floor, had all his worldly belongings on a pile, and was eating a can of cat food for his dinner. Seeing his need, we packed him a lunch everyday and provided him with necessities that had been out of the question for him. He was very thankful and could not believe that we cared about him.

WEDNESDAY AM —“Uncle Dave” provided us with a personal tour of New Orleans. He not only showed us the sites, but gave us an excellent history lesson on the area. Our last stop was the Ninth Ward. Last year, the destroyed buildings were still “standing” — they have since been

removed and nothing but weeds has replaced them. Seeing the lack of positive progress was disheartening.

THURSDAY AM — we went into a housing area that experiences violence on a daily basis. The Military Police patrol the area around the clock. We were to gut the right side of the home of Kelly and nine family members who survived the flood, but returned to find that only the grandparent’s home was still standing. Currently, all 10 are living in 2 FEMA trailers in the yard. The family plans to repair both sides and eventually make it into a single residence. We spent the entire day taking down plaster and removing nails. We found mold when we removed the walls in the bathroom. We also removed ceilings that were salvageable. As we were packing to leave, we were approached by a resident. He asked, “When y’all leaving?” When we replied, “Soon”, his comeback was a warning. “Y’all better get outta here fast. The ‘weather’ changes around here when it’s dark out.” We worked as quickly as we could in order to leave. **PM** — we traveled to a United Methodist Home for Children. It was here that I experienced the most heartwarming of memories — I was able to place 45 basketballs and 25 baby dolls into the hands of these precious, yet lonely, children. The Home is located in a horribly violent area. Sneakers hanging from electrical wires signified there were drugs available at these locations — we actually intercepted a drug deal on the walkie-talkies we were using to communicate between vehicles. Once inside the Home, my fears were overshadowed by the thankfulness and gratitude of the children. They simply could not believe that they could keep their own personal toy. In addition to the toys, I hope I gave them a feeling that there are people who care. After delivering the toys and visiting with the children, we took blankets to the homeless who are now living in an area named “Red Tent City”. Located directly

(Continued on page 11)

An Invitation to Serve on disABILITY AWARENESS Sunday

DISABILITY AWARENESS SUNDAY is coming to First Church on Sunday, January 27! You are invited to attend all that is offered ... and you are invited to serve. If you and/or your family live with, or have been especially touched by, disability please consider serving on this special Sunday. We are looking for individuals or families willing to fill greeting, ushering, acolyting, and other needs. Please contact Lisa Wickenheiser at 975-0225 or wicks7@peoplepc.com.

Lunch With Friends ... Old and New

PLAN TO ATTEND LUNCH in Fellowship Hall after the second service on Sunday, January 27.

Rev. Timothy Sheetz and his wife and ministry partner, Kathy, along with Mr. Milt Stoltzfus and the Friendship Community Worship Team have been invited to share lunch with us before they return to Lancaster County. They will have left their homes by 6:45 am and will have spent a full morning with us, ministering and worshipping. Please plan to thank them, get to know them better, and fellowship with them after the second service. Please bring a covered dish to share. More details will be forthcoming.

SPRC Report

AS MANY OF YOU ARE AWARE, Juanita Guise has accepted the Director of Adult Education position. Juanita is not only a familiar face to many of us, but has touched many lives in our church family by inspiring spiritual living. I personally have been blessed by attending her Sunday school class, and being part of a Small Group with her and Ken. I have witnessed her passion for Christ, and undeniable excellence for leading people spiritually. I look forward to watching her expand the Adult Ministry program.

I want to extend my sincere thanks to Pastor Mike Minnix and all who have served on the SPRC for all that you have done this year serving unselfishly to this committee. Our combined efforts have taken on the addition of six new Staff members, retiring two positions, and creating four new Staff positions. Simultaneously, cutting the staff budget by over \$24,000.00, while still recommending a 3% salary increase to each staff member. You have successfully demonstrated to our staff

(Continued on page 16)

the statement "You Belong Here" by creating a protocol for transitioning staff members.

Over the past 12 months, you have provided an opportunity for each Key Staff member to come in, and share their ministries, discussing current status, challenges and visions they face. In addition, you have continued to provide a trust filled environment where the staff can come in and meet their vast potential as opposed to our limited expectation. You have introduced a vision for our education curriculum to reach all ages of First United Methodist Church. Together we have witnessed a few challenges and sensitive moments, but have also shared much joy, laughter, and unity. Your gifts, services and contributions to this committee are truly amazing and I thank God that each of you sit on this committee. I am truly blessed to be surrounded by such wonderful leaders and I look forward to working with all of you in the 2008 Year again.

The next ACCESS Ministry meeting is Tuesday, January 8, at 7:00 pm in Room 207. Anyone interested in this ministry is invited to attend.



U-Turn Toward disABILITIES AWARENESS!

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27, is your opportunity to make a U-Turn toward disABILITY AWARENESS. Plan to attend the 7:00 pm U-Turn service where an introduction and overview of ACCESS Ministry will be presented. We would like to draw from the life experiences of families within our congregation who live with...or who have been touched by disability. If you feel led to share in this way, please contact Lisa Wickenheiser at 975-0225 or wicks7@peoplepc.com. Don't miss this very special service. Plan to attend!



Rev. Timothy D. Sheetz,
Founder and Director of
Handi*Vangelism Ministries
International will preach
at First Church on
Sunday, January 27!

I PRAISE YOU
BECAUSE I AM
fearfully
AND
wonderfully
MADE.

PSALM 139:14



Plan to Attend!!

IN 1973, TIM AND KATHY SHEETZ, having ministered for nearly seven years at a residential Christian school for people with disabilities, joined Bible Club Movement International to begin a ministry to people with disabilities. The initial vision was to present to churches the need to include people with disabilities in the life of the church and to offer training and resources that would equip them to do this. The ministry was named Handi*Vangelism.

From 1973 to 2004, Handi*Vangelism established ten distinct ministries of compassion. Each ministry seemed to grow out of a need seen in a previously established Handi*Vangelism ministry. Disability Training, Sharing Hope (hospital and rehabilitation center ministry), PIP (Parents in Progress, a support ministry for parents who have children with disabilities), and Minds Renewed (for people who have mental illness) are just a few of the

Friendship Community Worship Team Leads Worship at First Church!

THE FRIENDSHIP SINGERS and the Creative Movement Team of Friendship Community will present a very special program of worship during the Sunday school hour on Sunday, January 27. This is a group of adults who have developmental disabilities and who are associated with Friendship Community, a Christian-based service provider from Lancaster County.

The Friendship Singers, a choral group, enjoy singing hymns, gospel songs, and praise choruses. The Creative Movement Team performs a combination of interpretive dance and sign language to re-

outreach ministries established by Handi*Vangelism.

In 2004, Handi*Vangelism became an independent mission agency with a missionary staff, Handi*Vangelism Ministries International. They continue to conduct the same ministry outreaches and are committed to building the Kingdom through these endeavors.

Rev. Timothy Sheetz will deliver the message at both the 8:15 and the 10:45 services on Sunday, January 27. Plan to attend and to welcome this very special guest, as Rev. Sheetz shares the love of our Lord Jesus Christ with First Church! Plan to attend as Rev. Sheetz inspires and motivates our church family to share the love of Jesus with people who have disabilities so that they, too, may become growing, serving, and valued members of the body of Christ! Plan to attend!

corded music. Both of these groups use their talents to express worship to God.

Over the past few years, this team has performed an average of twenty programs per year and has traveled to western PA and to Virginia.

Plan to attend this combined Sunday school program as we welcome this terrific team! Plan to attend as they lead us in worship! Plan to attend as the team blesses First Church by sharing their gifts and expressing their heart-felt love for our Lord Jesus Christ! Plan to attend!

ACCESS Ministry Mission Statement:

...supporting individuals with disabilities, and their families, by providing access to spiritual education, worship, fellowship, and opportunities to serve.

Vacation Bible School 2008

YOU ARE INVITED to go *Surfin' Through the Scriptures* June 23 -27, 2008, from 9:00 am - 12:00 noon.

The Surf's up in June when we kick off our VBS Beach Party. We will learn the basics of surfing, ride the wave of God's love, and go home with a new "Beach-Be-Attitude." Be obedient, be kind, be forgiving, be bold, and believe are the essential "Beach-Be-Attitudes" that, through surfin' scripture teachings will be the basis of our VBS Beach outing.

"Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action." - 1 John 3:18

Vacation Bible School is a huge outreach event to children and their families in our community. Adult and youth volunteers are needed in all areas. Consider how you can use your gifts and talents to make VBS 2008 a blast. Teachers and helpers are needed for all ages and in Recreation, Craft, Music, and Snack. Contact Kim Vensel to join the VBS Beach Party, kidscount@fumchurch.com.

Tween Fellowship - 4, 5, & 6 Grades

First Church is eager to welcome you and your child to Tween Fellowship. Tween Fellowship is designed to support kids and strengthen their Christian values. During fellowship, there is time to be with friends and get to know new friends; there is time to play, to pray, to learn, to serve, and to grow together as a community of faith. Tween Fellowship includes fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students and meets the second and fourth Sundays of the month from 5:00 - 6:30 PM in the gym.

Plan on joining us on January 13 and January 27.

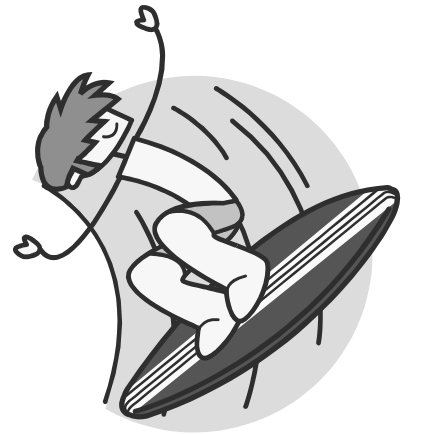
Children's Ministry Idea Sharing Meeting

All are invited to join us for a Children's Ministry idea sharing meeting. If you are a Parent Representative, active in leadership, passionate about kids, a parent, have questions, want to learn more, or just curious please come on January 15 at 7PM. Please contact Kim Vensel with questions. Childcare is available.

Camping in January???

YES, I SAID CAMPING!! It is definitely not too early to think about summer camps for your children and you -especially since the Conference plans on having camp dates and specifics about each camp on their website coming up this month already!! The new brochure as well as descriptions of each available camp event will be at your fingertips and you will be able to register on-line as well. It'll be great to have exact dates to easily plan for the summer right now instead of waiting until March to get our camping weeks on the calendar. So—go to www.cpcumcamps.org and browse awhile till you find the camp that suits your needs. More info will be forthcoming in the next few months and there are bound to be questions -so stay tuned to the web site for any other new changes in the camping registration process. Come join the world of camping and see why we are such die-hards for this unique way of communing with the Lord!

Your Camping Co-ordinator,
Deb Noss
697-5982
sdppp@msn.com



Surf's up in June
when we kick off our
VBS Beach Party.



Mark your calendar!!
**FUM All-Church Family
Roller Skating**

Saturday, February 2, 2008
from 4:30 - 6:30

Olympic Skating Center,
60 Shady Lane, Enola

Admission is FREE —
skate rental is available.

Guess What I Learned in Sunday School!

THE CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT is eager to welcome you and your children to Sunday School. Sunday School classes are available for all children and adults. Sunday School gives everyone the opportunity to fellowship and learn more about God in a small group setting.

The Sunday School hour begins at 9:30 AM and ends at 10:30 AM.

JANUARY 6, 2008

Three years – 5th Grade

Wise Men Visit Jesus, *Matthew 2:1-12*, The wise men knew that Jesus was a special child. We praise God for Jesus, God's gift to the world. God sent Jesus to bring peace to all peoples and all nations.

6th grade - Tweens in Transition

Sixth grade is an important Sunday school year as we prepare for confirmation to start in seventh grade. Sixth grade will be reviewing the major Bible Stories and themes from the book of Genesis.

Prayer: *Dear God, we know that we can only have true peace on earth through your Son Jesus and his sacrifice. May all people come to know Jesus. Amen.*

JANUARY 13, 2008

Three years – Fifth Grade

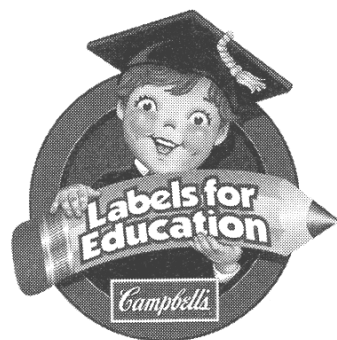
The Good Samaritan, *Luke 10:25-37*, Jesus told a story about showing love to others. We show that we love God when we help others. Jesus teaches us to love God and to love one another.

Prayer: *Dear God, teach us to love you with all our hearts. Help us to love others, even when it is not easy. Amen*

Campbell's Labels

To help the United Methodist Neighborhood Center in Harrisburg, please save the UPC bar code, including the little Campbell's Kid picture, on all Campbell's canned products and Pepperidge Farm products. For Prego, V-8 and V-8 Splash, save the lids. The collection container is located in the Gathering Area.

Labels collected to date have purchased two vans for the Neighborhood Center to transport kids.



Save your soup
labels —
help the
Neighborhood
Center!

JANUARY 20, 2008

Three years – Fifth Grade

The Lost Sheep, *Luke 15:1-10; Matthew 18:10-14*, Jesus told a story about a shepherd who found a lost sheep. God is like a shepherd who loves us and will take care of us. Jesus teaches us that God loves each one of us. God never gives up on us.

Prayer: *Dear God, you love us and take care of us. You never give up on us, even when we give up on ourselves. Thank you that you have a purpose and destiny for each of us. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

JANUARY 27, 2008

Three years – Fifth Grade

The Mustard Seed, *Matthew 13:31-32*, When we love God, we become Christians who share God's love with others. By sharing God's love with others, we help God's family to grow. Jesus teaches us that even the smallest acts can help God's kingdom grow. Through faith, God's kingdom will continue to grow.

Prayer: *Dear Lord, we desire to share your love with people, so that your family continues to grow, and souls come to know Jesus. Amen.*

40 DAYS OF COMMUNITY — “Better Together”

IT'S COMING! MARCH 29 — MAY 18

First Church will be embracing the *40 Days of Community* campaign immediately after Easter. Previously, during the *40 Days of Purpose* campaign, we focused on the question “What on earth am I here for?” During the *40 Days of Community* this focus will be expanded as we explore “What on earth are we here for?” God wants to use you to bless others and to understand that a life of purpose is not meant to be lived alone. Therefore, embarking together, we will discover how we can be better together through Unity of Community.

ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN

The *40 Days of Community* campaign is based on the book **BETTER TOGETHER**. Edited by Rick Warren, the overall focus is on deepening our own church relationships by reaching out to the needs of our local and/or global community. Through short daily devotions and journals, we will examine how we can fellowship, grow, serve, worship, and reach out in order to be better together.

Adult Education (Continued from page 12)

Additional Adult Education opportunities for the Winter Quarter include:

JAN 6 — COLLEGE GIRLS DARE TO SHARE. Several of our First Church alumnae girls have been led to share their hearts with us about their journeys at college and the role First Church has played in preparing them for college. Parents of children of all ages are encouraged to come, hear their hearts, and learn from their experiences. (Fellowship Hall)

JAN. 20 — JANUARY BOOK DISCUSSION. New Year calls for new perspectives. Max Lucado has a gift of providing a new perspective to many familiar passages from the Bible. Pick up any Max Lucado book to read and then join us for a time of

HOW IT WILL WORK

A *40 Days of Community* kickoff event is scheduled for Saturday, March 29. This opening event will be followed by six weeks of activities that include:

- ♦ Daily Reading of a brief devotion from the book, **BETTER TOGETHER**
- ♦ Weekly Sermons designed to complement the reading and theme
- ♦ Small Group gatherings where community can be built and experienced
- ♦ Mission Projects developed to outreach and service opportunities

We will conclude the campaign with a celebration service on Sunday morning, May 18. It is our goal and prayer that First Church and community members will have the opportunity to participate in this campaign. Additional information will be coming soon. Mark your calendar now for this exciting experience that will bring unity to our First Church community.

sharing some new insights for a fresh start for a new year. Discussion leader is Marge Snyder. (Library)

JAN. 27 — DISABILITIES AWARENESS SUNDAY. See newsletter article for details.

FEB – HEALTH & WELLNESS – HEALTHY HEART – Dr. Jeff Fugate. February 10 (Multi-Purpose Room).

FEB 10 & 24 — 40 DAYS OF COMMUNITY. Opportunity to view the kick-off video for the upcoming church-wide *40 Days of Community*. See article above for more information. (10th—Fellowship Hall, 24th—Multi-Purpose Room)

FEB 17 – FEBRUARY BOOK DISCUSSION. To Be Announced – Look for information in bulletins. (Library)

“To Know Christ”

Philippians 3:10

Join Pastor Mike on Wednesday Night

Join Rev. Mike Minnix in an ongoing Wednesday evening Bible study in room 207. Currently, the beautiful and unique *Gospel of John* is being discussed. This time of spiritual growth and fellowship with our Senior pastor and believers will refresh you and enlighten your spirit. You are welcome to join at any time.

Winter 2008 Bible Study

DISCERNING THE VOICE OF GOD: HOW TO RECOGNIZE WHEN GOD SPEAKS

- By popular Christian author and speaker Priscilla Shirer
- Thursday Mornings 9-11 AM
- Thursday Evenings 6:45-8:45 PM
- January 17-February 28

Having a hard time knowing what God is saying versus what others are saying? This Bible study from author and speaker Priscilla Shirer is designed to help participants know the voice of God: His language, character, and tone of voice. By growing closer to God through His Word, participants will be able to discern God's voice from the voice of strangers. There are 30 minutes of at-home personal study for five days each week. Sign-up in Narthex or see Juanita Guise and Lori Hoffnagle.

"To Know Christ"

Philippians 3:10

Psalm 150



Sunday,
January 20,
2008

7:00 PM

*"Shout for
joy to the
LORD,
all the earth,
burst into jubilant
song with music"
Psalm 98:4*

Let us celebrate with music and personal sharing from a First Church member, as we remember God's goodness to us.

*Team Rehearsal 5:30 PM
You are welcome to join our team!
Just come.*

Baby Sitting provided.

**Christian Classics
Book Club**

Begins Monday, January 14 at 7:00PM. (library)

Deepen your understanding of your Christian faith by reading and discussing together the great spiritual and devotional writings that have shaped the way Christians have thought and lived. This is a new opportunity for reflecting on your faith, challenging your spiritual growth, and fellowshiping with believers. Sign up in Narthex or contact Mike Ogden (697-5045) or Juanita Guise (766-2466) or kguise@comcast.net

Winter Adult Education

HAPPY NEW YEAR, EVERYONE. Add attending Adult Sunday School to your list of New Year's resolutions. There are many study opportunities this Winter Quarter.

SOCIAL PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (Begins 1/20) What position does the UMC take on gambling, the environment, politics, military service and many more social issues? How does that make a difference to us as a community? Contacts are Darryl Ober and Margaret Eckrote. (Room 207)

PETER, PAUL AND ME (Continues) Study letters penned by two men who loved the church, Peter and Paul. Paul writes to Timothy with advice for running a church. Peter writes words of hope and encouragement to those who are suffering. Chapter by chapter discussion of I Timothy, and I Peter led by a variety of individuals including Marge Snyder, Eric King, Juanita and Ken Guise. (Downstairs - Center of Fellowship Hall)

SPIRITUAL FORMATION GROUP - Living the Questions (Begins 1/6) - A 12-week DVD small group study exploring beyond the traditions and rote theologies in which so many people and local churches seem to be stuck. Ideal for Christian invitation, initiation, and spiritual formation, Living the Questions will help seekers in discovering the significance of Christianity in the 21st Century. Facilitator is Rev. Betty Fribance. (Room 204)

STRATEGIC PLANNING PRESENTATIONS (Jan 6, 13, 20, 27) Make plans to attend one of the Strategic Planning Sessions to receive updates on the vision and future direction for FUMC. Contact Gary Shuey for more details. (Multi-Purpose Room)

FIRST CLASS - Discussion and study group for college, post college, young twenty-something adults led by Steve and Glenda Norris. (Room B-006)

SECOND CLASS - RUMORS OF ANOTHER WORLD by Philip Yancey. Yancey investigates the natural world and discovers the supernatural hiding in plain view. He grapples with why God made the world and what our role truly is. Discussion and study group for "older" young adults who are in the working world - led by Kevin and Jennifer Long. (Classroom downstairs below the Frederick St. Entrance.)

ADULT QUARTERLY:

GOD'S CALL TO THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY - Explore the Gospel of Luke

- God's Call at Christmas and Beyond
- To Elizabeth, Zechariah, Mary, the Shepherds and Simeon
- The Awareness of God's Instruction
- To Learn, Love, Pray and Trust
- God Summons Us to Respond
- To Labor, Repent, Serve and be Dedicated

(Offered in a variety of class settings - Began 12/2)

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP - (All stages and ages) Room 125E, above the library

F. S. COULTER CLASS - (Men's Group) Center classroom below the balcony.

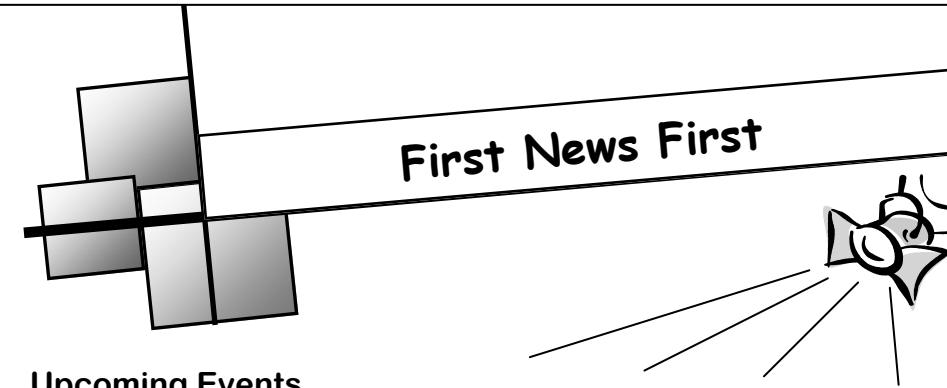
GUYER CLASS - (Large Mixed Group) Classroom inside the library entrance to the Sunday School wing.

HELPING HANDS - (Small Mixed Group) Room 105

MAE FETROW CLASS - (Women's Group) Classroom under the balcony near the Frederick St Entrance.

SEMPER FIDELIS - (Women's Small Group Study) Room 103.

(Continued on page 13)



Upcoming Events

- ◆ Souper Bowl of Caring Feb. 3. Combined YF Super Bowl Party 3:00-4:00 Choir 4:00-5:00
- ◆ Chrysalis Feb. 8-10
- ◆ 30 Hour Famine Feb. 22-23



- ◆ Jan 6 SH YF 5-6:30
- ◆ No JH
- ◆ Jan 13 JH YF SH Bible Study 5-6:30
- ◆ Jan 20 JH Pastors Groups & SH YF 5-6:30
- ◆ Jan 27 Combined YF Tubing @ Roundtop from 7-9



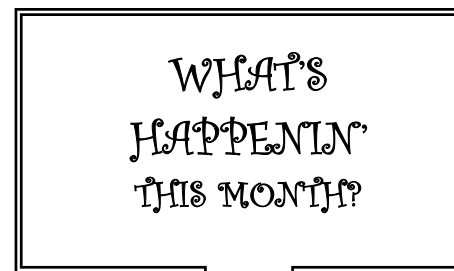
Youth Spotlight

Jon Snyder - selected for District Band 1st Oboe 2nd Chair.

Kaitlyn Mariano and Jon Snyder - for their invitation to County Band.

Thank You

Thank you to the Hollidays for opening their home to many youth every Monday night for 3 months. We had a blast!!! We are blessed to have you in our lives and as friends in Christ!



- ◆ Jan 4-5 Confirmation Retreat
- ◆ Jan 20 Psalm 150
- ◆ Jan 27 Tubing @ Roundtop from 7-9. Forms available in the lounge. Cost \$17 per person for adults and non-FUM youth. Due Jan 20.

Snow Cancellation Procedure

The need to cancel events taking place at First Church can "fall" upon us at any time. Though there are other things that can necessitate the cancellation of an event, weather is by far the most common cause. First Church has a cancellation process to assist leaders with determining if cancellation is necessary, coordinating with other event leaders, and communicating the information. Here are the steps to take if you are leading an event that you believe may need to be cancelled:

Call the Church Office at 766-4611 and ask to speak to one of the Pastors or an available staff member to determine the best course of action. In order to have sufficient time to communicate the cancellation, please consider any need to cancel at least three hours before the event is scheduled to start. For example, if an event is scheduled to begin at 7:00 pm, a discussion and decision to cancel should occur no later than 4:00 pm.

Discuss and decide, in cooperation with the pastor or staff member, how leaders of other events taking place at the church that day will be notified of the cancellation.

A staff member will be responsible for broadcasting the cancellation via the FUMC Website and on the following TV and Radio stations:

TV Stations:
WHP CBS 21, CW 15, Channel 27

Radio Stations:
BOB 94.9 FM, WHP 580 AM, KISS 99.3 FM, The River 97.3 FM, WLAN 96.9 FM, WLAN 1390 AM



“Created by God was a blessing for our family. It created and fostered an increased comfort level in communication between us and our daughter about ANY subject. She feels safe in asking US (mom and dad) any and all questions and/or concerns she may be having regarding human sexuality and relationships.” — parent

“It was pretty good. There is a high level of detail but you have to know it sooner or later, and this is a fun way!” — 10 year-old male participant

Created By God Event Registration

Student's Name: _____ Age _____ Grade _____

Name(s) of Participating Parent(s) or Parent(s) or Other Responsible Adult(s): _____

Address: _____

Daytime phone: _____ Evening phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Please attach check for registration fee (\$30) payable to: First United Methodist Church, Space is limited.

Created by God

CREATED BY GOD: Parents and Church Partnering to Prepare Preteens with a Healthy, Faithful Understanding of Human Sexuality. Dates: February 14-17, 2008.

We are blessed to have Dr. Jim Ritchie coming to First Church to lead *Created by God*, which brings together fifth and sixth graders, their parents, and adult leaders for a faith-filled, comprehensive study of human sexuality. Jim Ritchie developed this study for Abingdon Press and has been teaching it across the country for more than 15 years.

Jim Ritchie has led this program at First Church for the last two years. It has been extremely well received. Don't expect your son or daughter to be doing back-flips when you approach them about participating. Expect their resistance, but don't give in to it. Explain it, as something needed by both parents and their growing children to improve both understanding and communication.

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF CREATED BY GOD:

1. *Faith-based and church-sponsored.* God and values form the very foundation for our understanding of sexuality as people of faith. In the church, unlike in other settings, those values need not be avoided. Created by God begins with the assumption that our sexuality is God's idea and is therefore, like the whole of God's creation, very good.

2. *Understands and is sensitive to preteens/young adolescents.* Created by God is active, engages all learning styles/intelligences, acknowledges that preteens are ready to deal with issues regarding their sexuality—even more willing to do so than teens, and recognizes that they need to be equipped with accurate, faithful information in order to process (and often counteract) what they are already getting elsewhere.

3. *Incorporates parents into the experience.* Parents are prepared for what their sons and daughters will experience in the course of the study, introduced to a common vocabulary and provided with common experiences to facilitate communication within the family, and given an opportunity to practice communication skills. Time after time, parents report how general lines of communication are opened in the home and conversation on any subject is facilitated.

4. *Comprehensive.* Created by God provides a solid foundation upon which young persons can develop a healthy and Godly understanding of their sexuality and prepare to respond in a responsible manner. It is a holistic approach, dealing with sexual anatomy and growth and development, relationships and the true meaning of intimacy, reproduction, attitudes, responsible behaviors, and all other crucial issues — those raised by the students and their parents as well as the study leaders.

5. *Explores the meaning of intimacy and contrasts intimacy and sexual activity.* Created by God starts with the assumption that God's desire for us is intimacy with God and intimacy with one another. Intimacy is taught *experientially*—students and leaders sitting together on the floor, close together, without the barriers of tables and chairs, talking together openly about important, sometimes difficult subjects. Created by God teaches intimacy *dramatically*, involving students in skits that help them grasp the meaning of intimacy in a concrete fashion, relating it to real life preteen situations. Created by God clearly differentiates between intimacy as deep friendship and the common notion that intimacy represents sexual contact.

6. *Responds to all questions.* Participants (both parents and kids) are free to ask any question, either publicly or anonymously. Every question posed receives a response. When preteens are placed in a setting

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where they feel safe, comfortable, and respected — a setting like *Created by God* — they will ask absolutely *anything*.

7. *Girls and boys remain together for the entire event.* The barriers we have historically placed between males and females when doing sexuality education are both artificial and unnecessary. Sensitivity toward, understanding of, and respect for the other gender has to begin somewhere, and at a time when these very attitudes are being shaped seems the appropriate “somewhere” to begin.

Through the Eyes of a 16-year old — New Orleans in 2007

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across from the City Hall, this area is currently inhabited by families who believed Mayor Nagin when he said that everything in New Orleans was fine and came back to absolutely nothing. Red tents were donated to these families and placed in the city park directly outside City Hall where the Mayor sees them from his office window every day. The number of homeless has grown to the extent that there are currently not enough tents. Many are sleeping on mattresses that are open to the night air. The temperature that evening was dropping fast and they were obviously very cold. Many were already in their tents, but when word spread that we were handing out blankets, more and more people came up to thank us for thinking of them. A news man who had just finished packing up called out to a man he called “Jesse” to protect us. He said he would lead us safely through the area. I was able to give him the new blanket that I had brought. Another member of our team gave him the extra shirt that he was wearing.

FRIDAY AM — we finished Kelly's house and went out to lunch with Treschere who works for the United Methodist Conference

All sessions are held at First United Methodist Church, Mechanicsburg. The fee for the event is \$30.00 (scholarships available), covering the cost of a book, meals, snacks, and supplies. If you plan to participate, please complete the form on page 10 and return it with the registration fee, as soon as possible. Space is limited!

If you have questions, please contact the Event Coordinator, Kim Vensel, at 766-4611 or kidscount@fumchurch.com. This event is open to all who are interested in a church-based study of sexuality — friends, neighbors, other family members, or persons from the community. They may call for registration information.

in the New Orleans area. She was so touched by the work that our group did that last year she made it a point to meet us. Ever since, she has truly been an amazing friend. She was the one who set up the trip to the Children's Home. During this visit, I found out that Treschere's mother had left her at that very home when she was a little girl. She was there until her grandparents located her. As we left the Children's Home she touched the painted birds on the wall, the same birds that were there 40 years ago, and began to cry. She commented that this was a chapter in her life. My mom replied that it is those very chapters that make us the extraordinary people we are today. I will always remember my mom's response as an inspiration that even the worst moments serve to shape us into good and decent people.

New Orleans in 2007 is not very different from the New Orleans I discovered in 2006. The only differences are negative — more weeds, fewer homes, more violence, and more and more people becoming restless and desperate. It appears that the only ones helping in the recovery are the churches. We need to encourage our government to become more involved. New Orleans and its people should not be forgotten.

~Taylor Saraiva

“Created by God” Schedule

THURSDAY	Parent Session	7:00-9:00 pm
FRIDAY	Student Session 1	7:00-9:00 pm
SATURDAY	Student Session 2	9:00-12:00 am
	Lunch and Recreation	12:00-1:00 pm
	Student Session 3	1:00-3:00 pm
SUNDAY	Student Session 4	1:00-4:00 pm
	Gather Together	4:00-4:30 pm
	Student/Parent Session	4:30-6:30 pm



“I would say I had a good experience and became more relaxed about what we were talking about by the end.” — 11 year-old female participant

“Very positive experience, brought son and parents closer together and I'm fairly confident we will continue talking about sex and intimacy in the future. I'm glad I pushed for my boy to take the class and we stuck to our guns.” — parent