



The Beacon Newsletter

New McKendree
United Methodist Church
One Church - Two Locations
November 19, 2008

Hanging of the Greens At High Street

Our Worship Committee invites everyone to come help decorate the High Street Sanctuary this Sunday, Nov. 23, at 2:00 pm. We've got a tree to trim, garlands and wreaths to hang, and plenty of good fellowship to enjoy. Plus, our Worship Coordinator, Laura Jo Smith, will serve us homemade soup and chili in the Fellowship Hall once we're finished. Please come and join us!

Advent Study Begins Dec. 3

Pastor John Rice will lead an Advent Study entitled, "What Do You Want for Christmas?" beginning Wednesday, Dec. 3, at 6:30 pm in the Friendship Classroom at High Street. The three week study will explore the question of what people *really* want for Christmas, and which only Christmas can give: peace, joy, love, and forgiveness. Study guides for the class will be available at worship this weekend.

Commemorative Ornaments Now Available

This weekend, our Worship Committee will begin offering beautiful ornaments commemorating the 100th anniversary of the opening of the High Street Sanctuary. The ornaments cost \$12 and can be purchased at the information desk at High Street, or by calling the church office.

Fund Raisers Support Ministries

The Trivia Night & Auction on Nov. 9 raised \$1,355 for Summer Church Camp scholarships. Our thanks go to the Education Committee for organizing the event, and lots of local businesses which contributed goods and gift certificates for the auction. A great time was enjoyed by everyone who attended - most certainly by our Trivia contest winners: Christian Mutts (1st place), Team Dumey (2nd) and Team America (3rd).

Our Pizza Sales this month raised over \$1,800. All of these funds will go toward New McKendree's apportionment ministry. Our thanks go to Kathy Devor, Pastor Jimmie, the Outreach Committee, and volunteers.

The Mission Auction October 18 raised over \$1,900 for apportionments. Again we thank the Outreach Committee, Ralph Shelton (auction coordinator), Pastor Jimmie, and everyone who contributed items for sale.

A Note From Pastor John

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Dear Friends, I'm in the third day of what feels like the flu, and I want to apologize right now for not being more sympathetic to those of you who have already suffered through this miserable stuff. Yet I remain ambulatory and able to fulfill most of my obligations to life and to the Lord, and that is something to be thankful for.

Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday of the year; I suppose because it means a couple of days off and a bountiful table to enjoy with my family. It is also a time to reflect upon God's providential care for each one of us without holding a grudge about things that haven't been to our liking. Gratitude can help put things in perspective by reminding us that we are all in God's good hands, after all, even when it hurts sometimes.

Thank God, Anyway

Most of us know that our Pilgrim mothers and fathers celebrated the first thanksgiving feast at the conclusion of a year in which many of their colony perished from disease and malnutrition. Their hardships notwithstanding, the Pilgrims found enough reasons to give thanks to God. Likewise, Thanksgiving was formally instituted as a national holiday by a proclamation from President Abraham Lincoln in the midst of a bloody awful Civil War.

So I'm trundling toward Thanksgiving with congestion and fever that makes me feel less than human, and a heart that still mourns for my mom. Yet I am also mindful that Old Abe and our Pilgrim parents gave God thanks anyway, and I am preparing my heart to do the same.

Thank Early and Thank Often

This weekend, I'm going to begin thanking God early with a pledge of my tithe and offerings in 2009 to help support the ministry of the church I love. I am grateful for what I see God doing among us, and what New McKendree has come to mean to people in this community. I am grateful for what God is doing in my own life.

I will make my pledge mindful of what we've learned during our study of Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations. I am particularly moved by something I read in our devotional guide during the week we focused on Extravagant Generosity: "*Fruitful congregations thrive because of extraordinary sharing, willing sacrifice, and joyous giving out of love for God and neighbor.*"

I deeply hope for our church to thrive, rather than just survive. That means an outpouring of extraordinary sharing and willing sacrifice from all of us. Why? Because we are grateful. Because we love God. Because we love one another, and our neighbor, too. God bless you all!

Pastor John Rice

Stewardship Services This Saturday & Sunday
Please bring your pledge cards for 2009 to worship.

CALENDAR

Christmas Program Rehearsal is every Sunday at 3:00 pm in the choir room at South High Street.

Men's Fraternity Meeting is every Thursday at 6:30 am at the South Campus.

Tae Kwon Do Classes are Mondays and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. at South Campus.

Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting is Monday, November 24 at 6:30 pm in the church parlor.

Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting is Monday, December 1 at 6:30 pm in the church parlor.

Church Council Meeting has been cancelled for November and will meet instead on Tuesday, December 2 at 6:30 pm in the Cox Conference Room.

UMW General Meeting is Tuesday, December 2 at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Emmaus Gathering is Thursday, December 4 at 6:30 pm at the South Campus.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Hospitalized this week:

Isaac Pursley—St. John's Hospital in St. Louis

David Ludwig—Southeast Hospital—surgery Dec. 1

Kristy Carr—St. Francis Hospital—surgery Nov. 20

Immediate Prayer Request: Tony Kern, Parker Elfrink (Mark & Shari Elfrink's nephew), Orville Tedford (Cynthia Kothe's father)

Under Doctors Care: Benny Hinton, David Steen (Larry Smith's nephew), Lauren Hillin (great niece of Mark Haas), Katelyn Dunnenmueller, Bob Turner (Paul & Hester Turner's son), Joyce Penny, Carol Colvis, Ambrose Peters (Mike Kasten's father-in-law), Brenda Hardin (Lucy Fowler's daughter)

Prayer Requests: Joshua Johnson, Patricia Holloway (Ivan Holloway's mother), Robin White (friend of June & Bill Engel), Jessica Kell, Edith Prater (Paula Johnston's mother), Georgia Golden, Norman Craig (friend of King & Kaye Bradshaw), Kathy Hahs (friend of Kathy Haas), April Rice (friend of Rick Skinner), Betty Haas (Mark Haas' mother), Christina Bosco (friend of Janet Skinner), Grace Shaner (Bob Bonney's grandmother), Shirley Englehart (Dean Jones' sister), Carol Hulshoff (Joshua Statler's mother-in-law), Michelle Clippard (Linda Morton's niece), Polly Rodriguez (friend of Stephanie Rohlfs), Hughes Davault

OTHER NEWS

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry Program is one of caring and sharing. Prayer shawls are symbols of God's unconditional love. They wrap, enfold, comfort, cover, give solace, hug, shelter, and beautify.

Those who have received these shawls have been uplifted and affirmed, as if given wings to fly above their trouble.

We have given away a total of 37 shawls. Our first dedication was on May 6, 2007. A second group of shawls were dedicated on November 9, 2008.

Please know that if you have someone in need of a prayer shawl, we ask you to fill out a request from and we will get you one.

We are meeting on Monday nights at 6:30 pm in the church parlor. If you are interested, please come to our meetings. We will be glad to help you in any way to get you started making shawls. We have different patterns for crocheting and knitting.

Persons that have made prayer shawls are Della Abernathy, Joyce Clifton, Elwanda Corbin, Margie Crites, Bernice Chastain, Eglenna Davis, Pat Holloway, Kathy Haas, Evelyn Nelson, Patty Lynn, Violet Reynolds, Martha Smith, Linda Thompson, Wilma Wilcoxson, Vickie Welker, and some people have contributed money to buy supplies. We ant to say thanks to all that have helped in any way. We have received several thank you notes and a lot of thank you's from many persons.

Elwanda Corbin

THANK YOU

Dear Pastor John,

Thank you for your assistance in making New McKendree United Methodist Church a vital role in our Veteran's Day Patriotic Ceremony.

On behalf of the American Legion Post 158 and VFW Post 10495 of Jackson, we appreciate your special efforts to host the ceremony following the parade. This ceremony is very special to our community in honoring veterans and their great dedication to our country.

It is important to always remember all veterans who risked their lives to protect the freedoms of this wonderful country.

Your help and Linda Thompson's beautiful hymns helped to inspire the audience with great patriotism. Once again, thank you very much.

David Ludwig, American Legion Post 158

Checking Our Vital Signs

Week 46

Budget Needed to Date \$534,934

Received to Date \$460,477

Deficit \$- 74,457

All bills are current and paid except apportionments.

Last Year to Date— \$450,166

Mortgage Retirement Reserve—\$14,623.22

S. High St. Properties Renovation Reserve—\$35,414.28

Mortgage Payment—\$16,356.17

Worship Attendance YTD—409

Sunday School YTD—125

UMW Chicken and Dressing Dinner Sunday, December 14, 11:30 am—1:00 pm Fellowship Hall

The United Methodist Women will serve a dinner of chicken and dressing, glazed carrots, green beans, slaw, homemade bread, cake, tea, and coffee on Sunday, December 14th. Serving will be from 11:30 am until 1:00 pm. The cost is \$7.00 for adults, children 10 years to 5 years \$3.00 and under 5 is free. The proceeds will be used to pay on apportionments.

OTHER NEWS

Hope Circle Upscale Bake Sale Sunday, December 14

South Campus and High Street Locations

The Hope Circle ladies will have their *upscale bake sale* on Sunday, December 14th at High Street and South Campus before and after all services and also before and after the Christmas program at South Campus that evening.

You will not find just ordinary cookies, candies, or desserts at this bake sale. The Hope Circle ladies will be offering you more upscale variety of home made goodies that will not only taste great but will also be beautifully wrapped in case you would like to give them as a gift!

Financial Peace University

Comes to a Close, and a New Beginning!

New McKendree's personal finance class, Financial Peace University, has been a great success! Many people have attended and found the classes to be an invaluable help in planning for a better financial future so that they can live like no one else! Among the topics taught are budgeting, beating debt, savings, insurance, investments, retirement, and relating with your spouse and family to work together on a financial plan.

New McKendree is going to continue to offer this course with a new 13-week session beginning on January 6, 2009. The new session will be on Tuesdays from 6:30—8:30 pm at South Campus, with childcare available. Harriet Weger and Cindy Gjerstad will again be coordinators for the course. To learn more or to register for the upcoming class, please call Cindy Gjerstad at 243-1499. You can also find information about the class and our schedule at www.daveramsey.com.

For the new session, we are offering "scholarships" to persons who could greatly benefit from this course but do not have the ability to pay for the membership kit (approximately \$100). Some current students have generously stepped forward to sponsor a member. We are inviting all persons from New McKendree to help make this course available to others by giving a free membership. If you would like to help others in this way, please call Cindy at 243-1499.

Jackson Ministerial Alliance Appeals for Help

The Jackson Ministerial Alliance (JMA) wants to remind everyone that the Boy Scout food drive is this Saturday. The scouts will be picking up bags left at our doors last week. Please give as generously as you can. The JMA food pantry is experiencing increased demand from needy families, 160+. With the economy being the way it is, the Alliance fears donations will be down from last year. Whether your gift is large or small, it all adds up. If everyone contributes, we all are blessed. If you did not receive a bag, you may bring your donations to the Welcome Center at both locations or the church office.

We are also needing volunteers to help with the Boy Scout Food Drive this Saturday from 10:00—1:00 in the Fellowship Hall at High Street. If you could help, it would be greatly appreciated. Thanks!!!

Have You Seen Me?

Susan Statler is missing a glass platter that was used at the AARP Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Seminar that was held at the South Campus in October. If you have seen this platter, please call the church office at 243-8487. Thanks!

YOUTH NEWS

Trivia Night and Dessert Auction Raises Over \$1,300

Sunday night, November 9, nine trivia teams vied for the coveted title of New McKendree UMC Trivia Night Champions. Desserts and merchandise in live and silent auctions raised \$715, and registration fees brought the total money raised for summer camp expenses to **\$1,355!**

On behalf of the youth who attended summer camp and their families, **THANK YOU** to everyone who donated desserts, bid on desserts, merchandise, and gift certificates, and participated in the Trivia Night! Special thanks Sandy Hastings, Richard "Alex Trebek" Hastings, Tara Dameron, and Julie Hecht along with all of the summer camp kids present for their hard work.

The event had *wonderful* support from community vendors, and we would like to express our gratefulness to the following for adding to the special nature of the evening by donating items to be used as door prizes, auction items, and awards: Applebee's, Edible Arrangements, Arena Park Golf, Gordonville Grill, Barnes and Noble, Health Point Fitness, Beef O'Brady's, McAlister's Deli, Bella Bambino Photography, My Daddy's Cheesecake, Bent Creek Golf Course, Outback Steakhouse, Buffalo Wild Wings, Pizza Pro, Cape Cine 14, Ross Furniture, Cheekwood Studios, Sweetheart Florist, Dalton's Florist, TanFastiks, Dexter Bar-B-Que, The Branding Iron, Tractor's Classic American Grill, and ServPro of Cape Girardeau and Scott Counties.

YES Group Going "Underground" this Saturday

This week's YES group (Young Enthusiastic Spirits, our youth group for grades 4-5) meeting will be on Saturday instead of Sunday—meet in the Youth Activity Center (upstairs in Cox Hall at the High St. Campus) from 6:30-9:00 PM to get in on the fun and learning of our favorite game, Underground Church!

Mission Possible

The Jr./Sr. High Bible Study is sponsoring an outreach project called "Mission Possible". A group of local volunteers is going on a mission to Mexico to build a church, and you can participate by helping put together kits for adults and children in one of two ways. 1) Purchase items (lists are available in the church office and at the information centers at both sites) to be put into the kits and place the items in designated boxes at the information centers at both sites on or before November 23. 2) Donate \$10, and we'll do your shopping for you! Questions? Call Debra Bradshaw at 204-8018.

WOW Conference Registration Forms Due December 17

This year's WOW Conference (Winter Outreach Weekend, a statewide Methodist youth conference for grades 6-12) is scheduled for January 24-25 at the Springfield Expo Center (Springfield, MO). Registration forms are available at the information centers at both campuses. Registrations received on or before December 17 qualify for the early bird rate of \$50. After December 17, registration is \$65. If you have any questions, you can go to the WOW website (<http://www.umyf.net/~wow/>) or call Mark (W: 243-8487, H: 651-1762).