



THE FIRST WORD

News from the First United Methodist Church
of South Bend, Indiana

In the heart of the city since 1831

September 8, 2010

Issue #419

GROWTH

Do you remember having your parents mark your heights on the wall, as you were growing up or even doing it to your kids? Church growth is like a child's growth cycle. Sometimes there is significant growth and other times there is none. As a congregation, we are like the parents that mark their child's growth on the wall in that we track attendance and new members and as a church we have a responsibility to ensure that growth occurs.

Church growth is two fold. The first is internal growth, which is our individual and congregational spiritual growth. One of the ways to promote this type of growth is being a part of a Covenant Discipleship group. Being part of a Covenant Discipleship group strengthens our bond with God, which in turn helps us with the external growth.

Our external growth comes by all of us asking or inviting the people we interact with on a regular basis to church.

I know many of you are thinking to yourselves that you aren't comfortable asking people to church, but I assure you that it can be simple and painless. We all have opportunity in our daily lives to witness to others but don't readily seize it. Come to Kick Off Sunday September 12 to see how easy it really is to invite the people you know and care about to church.

Cathy Johnson

Worship Schedule

Worship, Chapel
9:00 a.m.

Worship, Sanctuary
10:30 a.m.

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
7:00 a.m. - Noon

12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday: 7:00 a.m. - Noon

Phone: (574) 233-9463

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First Staff

Mary L. Hubbard
Senior Pastor

Marsha Dollar
Administrative Assistant

Wishart Bell
Director of Music

Betty Woodland
Organist

LouAnne Wilson
Financial Manager

Diana Green
Coord. of Children's Ministries

David Frey
Coordinator of Youth Ministries

Ben Noell
Building Manager

John Jung-Zimmerman
Upper Room Director

Cathy Johnson
Church Growth Coordinator

**HAVE YOU REMEMBERED
FIRST CHURCH IN YOUR
WILL?**

**A GREETING FROM
THE CELTIC MUSICIANS**



*May your past be a pleasant memory,
Your future filled with delight and mystery,
Your now a glorious moment,
That fills your life with deep contentment.*

Please join us for Worship in the Chapel Sundays
at 9:00 a.m. and hear the Celtic Musicians play.

AUGUST MISSION TALLIES

Food Pantry: For the month of August, the Food Pantry served 450 families, representing 1,686 individuals. 34.48% of those served were new for the month of August.

Soup Kitchen: 696 people were served and 592 carry-out bags were given away for a total of 2,721 cups of soup served in August. **Remember the Soup Kitchen was closed two weeks in August.**

Upper Room: 13 residents at the end of August (11 men and 2 women)

FALL SCHEDULE FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL AND WORSHIP

9:00 a.m. - Early Service in the Chapel

9:50 to 10:25 a.m. - Coffee Time in Gathering Room (See note on next page)

10:30 a.m. - Second Service in the Sanctuary

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

The children will have their Sunday School time from **10:30 a.m. till 11:30 a.m.** during the second Worship Service.

JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH CLASSES

The junior and senior high youth will meet in the Fireside Room in the basement at **10:30 a.m.**, during the second Worship Service.

MERRIMATES

The Merrimates Class will meet at **9:00 a.m.** on Sunday mornings beginning on September 12. Anyone - singles, couples, younger and older are invited to share in the coffee hour as well as the class time. Kevin Ladd will be leading the first five class sessions. There will be a Bible Study that focuses on the "I Ams" of Jesus. Presenters throughout the year will include Pauline Medhurst, Pitner Traughber, David Kolda, Dave and Pam Stefancic, Beth McLaughlin, Lowell Peterson and Mary Hubbard.

This class also meets occasionally for social functions that supplement the lively fellowship of the weekly class sessions.

UPCOMING POTPOURRI CLASSES THIS FALL

Following is a listing of some of the topics for upcoming Potpourri Classes. Most of the dates have not been confirmed yet.

Remember - beginning September 12, we will be meeting at **9:15 a.m.** in the Parlor.

- Apostle Paul
- Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, & Joseph
- The Life of Buddha (Parts 3 & 4) on 9/19 & 9/26
- Selected Prayers of John & Charles Wesley

THIS AND THAT

This and That is a group of couples and families studying various topics and interpreting our everyday lives in a Christian context. This class will be meeting at **10:30 a.m.** in Room #22 on the second floor.

PRAYER LIST

Following is a prayer list. Please remember to include these people in your regular prayers:

Chris Dooley (Dolly Slack's Grandson) - Deployed to Afghanistan	Peggy Soderberg - Health concerns
Michael Pershell - In military service	Maxine Jones - Health concerns
Stephen Gramza - In military service	Andrea Wilgus - Health concerns
Jonathan Mayers - In military service	Marilyn Prue - Health concerns
Jeremy Martin - Special needs	Al Jones - Health concerns
Barbara Dobson - Health concerns	Maria Dattilo - Health concerns
Wayne Jackson - Health concerns	Nadine Corse - Health concerns
Mary Lou Gordon - Health concerns	Dylan Mayers - Health & Family concerns
David Case - Health concerns	

Also remember to pray for our members in long-term care, assisted living, and independent living:

Martha Abernethy	Betty Byers	Gene (Art) Snyder	Mary Etta Rees
Ruth Garen	Virginia O'Hair	Rich Daniels	JoAnn Ballard
Clem Gramza	Clarence Dickey	Ivan Biddle	Jo Perkey
Hugh & Lois Warren	Marian Wilson	Jim Borden	Betty Barnes
LaVergne Hagenbuch	Freda Mossman	Melvena Stenger	Betty Fisk
Hannah Messersmith	Al Aguirre	Thair Best	Jack Fassnacht
Mary Jo Beemer			

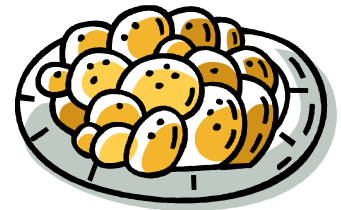
Additionally pray for:

Our Bishop Mike	Our Church	Our Pastor Mary
Our District Superintendent, Cindy Reynolds	Our Church Staff	



COFFEE TIME

Our new coffee time will give us all a chance to socialize, so stay a while after Early Service or come a little early for Second Service. Hope we can all take turns helping with this.



**PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE GATHERING ROOM
TO HOST THE COFFEE TIME.**



Marty Casteel, Education Chair
Deborah Mayers, Social Chair

KID'S NEWS!

News? News? News!!!! The BIG NEWS is that it is TIME! TIME for Sunday School at a NEW TIME!

The Promised Land will open its doors at 10:30 a.m. on September 12! All children will meet in Solomon's Temple for a fun day of Jacob and Esau Games.

The Pre-School class will meet in the Pre-School Room on the 1st floor. They will be learning about Old Testament people!

The Youth will meet in the Fireside Room! Your voice matters! Talk about when you will meet and what you will study!

Then MORE NEWS! After 10:30 worship, there is an Ice Cream Social! What a great way to start off our learning year! See you there!



The youth would like to thank everyone that donated their time, food, or gifts to their Community Fun Fair that was on Saturday, August 21, 2010. It was a huge success and even Pastor Mary had a good time getting dunked. The weather turned out beautiful and the crowd was steady. All had a good time. Thank you again for your support. Next time will be bigger and better!

WOMEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

Several ladies from Clay Church, a member church of our cluster, have invited the ladies from First United Methodist Church to join them in a prayer breakfast on September 18 from 8:30 to 10:00. The service will include group singing, Holy Communion, a prayer time, a continental breakfast and sharing as we gather around the table. We already have five ladies who are planning to attend. Get your reservation in to Pauline Medhurst (277-2726) or Helen Banas (277-2139) before September 13. There is no charge for the event but a reservation is necessary.

PRAYER LABYRINTH

The two Covenant Groups from our church are planning to go to Grace UMC and spend time learning about their prayer labyrinth. We will have a brown bag lunch on September 19, immediately after the second worship service. Right after we will carpool to Grace Church for an explanation about the labyrinth and how we can take advantage of their service. At the conclusion, approximately 2:00, we will come back to the church and go home.

All of our church men, women, and youth are invited to join us. However, we need your reservation by September 17. Please call Sue Church (247-0959) or Pauline Medhurst (277-2726). This will be an afternoon of fellowship, and an opportunity to talk with the covenant groups and find out what they are doing.

Let us join together for a time of meditation in our busy lives.

Maria Dattilo wants to share the following scripture with you:

Kind words are like honey - enjoyable and healthful.

Proverbs 16:24

FINDING YOUR REAL SELF?

In the middle of Jesus' story about the Prodigal Son, the boy is down in the pigpen eating bean pods with the hogs. At this point, he realizes that he has made a serious misjudgment with the direction of his life, and Jesus describes his turning point like this: "But when he came to himself he said, 'I will get up and go to my father'" (Luke 15:17-18).

What does this mean - "when he came to himself"? Was he not already at himself? Yes, he was at one part of himself, but not his real self. As the boy leaves home in the first part of the story, he is full of resentment and bitterness and rebellion. But when he finally *came to himself* at the low point of his life down in the pigpen, we find that he decides to become an altogether different kind of person.

And we find our real selves in the same way - by a decision to return to God. That is a great part of what we are doing each week when we worship God by giving our money to help God's causes. We are saying, "By myself, I am not enough. By myself, I wander into pigpens. Here, take this and use it to help me, and other people like me, to find our way home again."

Herb Miller



WHATEVER IT TAKES

I am attending a gathering of most of our active United Methodist bishops in the US (32 are present) and most of the senior pastors of the 100 largest UM congregations in the UMC (89 are present). It is quite a group and quite a gathering, initiated by Adam Hamilton who is senior pastor of The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection – our largest membership United Methodist church in America.

Our agenda: we are talking about how we can work together to help the UMC focus on the future in a way that increases our vitality, our capacity to make disciples, and our effectiveness in the world. This is not a “political” meeting, it is more like a revival, with a lot of personal sharing, offering “best practices” to one another, and praying together.

One theme I have heard over and over again from bishops and pastors alike could be summarized by this statement: “Whatever it takes, I want to see our United Methodist Church be more vital and alive and effective in our ministry.” One of the bishops said it this way, “Other than giving up my family and my faith, I would give up anything to help our church find renewal. I would give up being a bishop for life, I would give up the appointment power I have, I would give up ... anything if that sacrifice would make a difference.”

Such statements are being uttered in ways that convince me we are all sincere in our desire to see our beloved UMC find new life.

What about you? Are you willing to do anything it takes for your congregation to be more faithful and effective? Are you willing to change from a “preference” mentality (what’s in it for me?) to a “purpose” mentality of measuring everything in terms of accomplishing our purpose of making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world? Are you willing for your church to spend more time, effort, and resources beyond your church walls rather than inside? Are you willing to welcome newcomers even when they look and speak differently? Are you willing to change your favorite style of music or preaching or worship if it will better reach those outside your church? Are you willing to tithe and give generously to missions and outreach for others?

Or to put it even more simply, and in ways we have been talking together at this event, does it matter to you that people are “lost” and need the Lord in their life? That is really the basic passion and motivation question, isn’t it? Do we care about those outside and beyond our own Christian fellowship? Does it matter to us that people and our society are living in destructive patterns? Do we care? Do we want our United Methodist Church to make a difference in people’s lives? Are we willing to do “whatever it takes” to transform the world into the likeness of Christ?

Don’t answer those questions too quickly. Answer them prayerfully, because our answers will determine our future as United Methodists.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

BIBLE STUDY

Have you wondered how the Bible helps us learn about God, the Israelites and their lives, Jesus the Son of God, and the work of the Holy Spirit in the development of the early church? You will find out in the Bible Study Course, Disciple One. Each weekly session is two hours and 30 minutes long and meets for 30 sessions. This may seem like a long time but the course is very thorough and comprehensive - a great introduction to the scriptures.

A second course, Disciple 2, will be offered for those who have had the introductory course. This course focuses on Genesis, Exodus, Luke and John. It is also 30 sessions long.

When you sign up for one of the courses, we will also try to find times that will be suitable for all class members. These classes do have a brief recess over the holidays so that members may visit families, etc. Classes begin in early September so we need your enrollment very soon.

In addition, we are looking for teachers for each class. Please contact Pauline Medhurst, 277-2726, if you can help by being a co-teacher of several sessions, your effort will be greatly appreciated. As a teacher you are also learning a great deal.

We are offering these classes to other churches in our cluster so you will have an opportunity to know members from Clay, Grace, and Northwest churches.

Pauline hopes to hear from you very soon. Come join your friends in the study of the scriptures.