



THE FIRST WORD

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

In the heart of the city since 1831

June 8, 2011

Issue #436

This is the section of the First Word ordinarily written by Pastor Mary in a spiritual and inspirational manner. Instead, this note comes from your Lay Leader and Chair of the Stewardship Committee. “Oh-oh”, you say, “here comes another plea for more money.” I have asked to usurp this space not to ask for more money, but simply to ask that all of us in the First Church family check to make certain that our promised (or pledged) giving is up to date. (Or even a little ahead would be just fine.)

As Mary points out in her article, later in this issue, our church is alive with great programs, all of which are more than adequately financially supported, if we all keep up with our giving. When we “go to sleep” during the summer by falling behind on our giving, our wonderful church and its programs suffer cash flow problems.

Our church has “tightened its belt” by cutting the budget as far as it can be cut. Our spending is responsible and appropriate. Should we meet our expenses by accelerating our giving through the summer, programming will be affected.

The good news is: if we all assure that our giving is up to date, or even a bit ahead, this exciting time to be a part of our church, which is so very active, and touches so many lives, will prosper.

Worship Schedule

Worship, Leeper Park
9:00 a.m.

Sunday School
10:00 a.m.

Worship, Sanctuary
11:00 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
Fax: (574) 233-9478

First Staff

- Mary L. Hubbard
Senior Pastor
- Robert Lewis
Associate Pastor
- Marsha Dollar
Administrative Assistant
- Wishart Bell
Director of Music
- T.B.A.
Organist
- Lou Anne Wilson
Financial Manager
- David Frey
Coordinator of Youth Ministries
- Ben Noell
Building Manager
- John Jung-Zimmerman
Upper Room Director

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

WHAT CONTROLS YOUR LIFE?

Sovereign: One who possesses and exercises supreme authority over an individual or a group; an acknowledged leader; a controlling influence. It all begins there. It begins with you and with me saying, ‘God is sovereign.’

If you study the lives of great men and women for God, you will find that every one of them settled that issue in their life before they became effective for God. I’m going to quote two of them....

C. S. Lewis, in his book *Mere Christianity*: ‘In God you come up against something that in every respect is immeasurably superior to yourself. Unless you know God as that and therefore know yourself as nothing in comparison, you do not really know God at all.’

E. Stanley Jones: ‘I saw in a flash that all man-made kingdoms are shakable. The kingdom of Communism is shakable. They have to hold it together by purges and force, and they cannot relax that force or it will fall apart.

‘The kingdom of capitalism is shakable. The daily fluctuation of the stock market on account of the course of events shows that the kingdom of capitalism can also fall.

‘And the kingdom of self is shakable. Center yourself on yourself as the center of yourself, and your kingdom and yourself will sour and go to pieces.

‘The kingdom of health is shakable.’...Radio and TV blare constantly about supposed health remedies to hold this physical life together, but in the end the grim reaper gets us all....

‘Everything is shakable except one—the Kingdom of God. It is the one unshakable kingdom.’

You and I will never settle any issues and will never amount to much in our spiritual development until we settle the fact that God is the owner and controller and sovereign of everything in our life.

[*What is Lordship?*, John Maxwell, audio tape]

FIFTY (50) OR MORE

The Welcome Team is interested in honoring anyone who has been a member of First United Methodist Church for fifty or more years. If you fall into this category, please let us know. Please write down your full name, how long you have been a member and the date you became a member. You can either drop it off at the Church Office or mail it if you prefer. The mailing address is:

FUMC, 333 N. Main St., South Bend, IN 46614

MAY 2011 MISSION TALLIES

- Food Pantry:** For the month of May, the Food Pantry served 486 families, representing 1,872 individuals. 31% of those served were new for the month of May.
- Soup Kitchen:** 971 people were served and 764 carry-out bags were given away for a total of 3,618 cups of soup given out in May. Remember the Soup Kitchen was closed on Memorial Day or the counts would have been even higher for the month.
- Upper Room:** 15 residents at the end of May (15 men and 0 women).
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MORE DETAILED EXPLANATION OF THE BACKGROUND CHECKS

There is some confusion on who needs to complete a Background Check and why. The Federal Government requires all volunteers who work with children, youth, and elderly individuals to undergo a Background Check in order to safeguard the agency itself if something should happen. Additionally, our new insurance company requires proof that the church has performed a background check on any individual that volunteers in any of our children or youth programs, as well as anyone who visits our shut-ins on a regular basis (this includes all members of our Visit Team). Of course all staff members, including the Senior Pastor and Associate Pastor are required to have a Background Check every year, as well.

Remember you **must** submit this to continue working with the children, youth, or elderly, in relationship with FUMC. However, you do not have to complete one just to attend here.

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter; and we apologize to anyone who is upset about it. Obviously, it really is out of our control, if we want to continue having insurance coverage here at the church.

OPERATION UPGRADE 2011

The Trustees are in urgent need of your support of Operation Upgrade 2011 so we can make plans for building maintenance. As of the first of June we have only received a few cards. It is understood there are many other things on your mind, however, please take a few minutes and fill out your commitment card so it can be placed in the collection plate next Sunday. The Trustees appreciate your continued support.



**PLEASE WELCOME
BOB LEWIS
AS OUR NEW
ASSOCIATE PASTOR**

Bob is an ordained Baptist minister who previously served as a pastor, exhorter, and local preacher in the AME Zion Church. His professional career was as a university administrator responsible for budget and planning. He worked at several universities and retired (1997) from the University of Notre Dame as the Associate Director of the Consortium for Graduate Degrees in Engineering for Minorities. He had a management consulting firm and served as the Executive Director of the Council On Aging for Elkhart County . Since June 2008 he has been an active community volunteer as a CASA, an Executive Board and Executive Committee member with the LaSalle Council (B.S.A.) and served as a mentor, reader and tutor in the South Bend Community School Corporation.

Bob received a bachelor of social science degree *magna cum laude* from the Capital College of Penn State University, a master's degree in political science from Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, and did his doctoral work in higher education administration in Syracuse University's Graduate School of Education.

Bob's wife Margaret is retiring this year as principal of Muessel Primary Center and was runner-up for corporation Teacher of the Year in 1997 in the South Bend Community School Corporation. She holds a B.S. from Bennett College (Greensboro, NC) plus an M.S. degree and administrative certification from Indiana University South Bend.

Bob's daughter, Cherai Marie, holds a B.S. from the University of Virginia and is a National Sales Manager with Projection Presentations Technology in Chicago.

Bob's oldest son, Brian, holds a B.S. from the University of Notre Dame and an M.S. from Syracuse University's Newhouse School of Communications. Brian studied at the Tantur Ecumenical Institute in Jerusalem and was a Peace Corps volunteer in the Kyrgyz Republic. He is leaving this month to serve as instructor of English in Manzhouli, China.

Bob's youngest son, Jeffrey, has a B.S. from Ball State, an M.S. from I. U. Bloomington and is a Records Manager at the Food and Drug Administration for Caelum Research Corporation.

WELCOME BOB! WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE HERE!!

IT'S ALIVE!

I associate the title of this piece with one of my favorite points in monster films – when the supposedly dead thing either comes to life, or comes back to life. Some obliging soul screams or shouts, “It’s ALIVE!”. And it normally means *bad news*.

In contrast, this living thing is good news!

During the summer, our church does not sleep. It is here, it is *alive*!

Adult learning opportunities continue – a new men’s group is just getting going, starting early,, early on Wednesday mornings – it is called *The Quest for Authentic Manhood*, and meets at 6:00 until 7:30, in the Parlor. On Sundays, our Smorgasbord of opportunities happens in the Parlor, with the most intriguing topics offered that I have yet seen in our church. Bible Study on Sunday mornings continues unabated, thanks to Doc Rushing.

Our kids continue, with the Youth group meeting – just less frequently than in the school year.

Kid’s Praise is coming up toward the end of July.

Our missions continue – the largest Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry in St. Joseph county is right here at First Church, the Upper Room houses bunches of people who are in recovery from substance abuse, and our partnerships with Memorial Hospital, health support groups, the Actors’ Ensemble, and South Bend Civic Theater continue unabated.

Our Worship shifts into a different gear, with our wonderful Celtic Music offered at the east side of Leeper Park (including on the upcoming Leeper Park Art Fair weekend!), and special music is offered in the second service each Sunday.

We have not gone to sleep – nor are we dead. People who are aware of what is going on here, summer and winter, should scream, “It’s ALIVE!”, and run – straight into First United Methodist Church.



Mary L. Hubbard

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	
Elijah Jones - In military service	Peggy Soderberg - Health concerns
Michael Pershell - In military service	Marilyn Prue - Health concerns
Stephen Gramza - In military service	Carol Goodhew - Health concerns
Jonathan Mayers - In military service	Margaret Grant - Health concerns
Jeremy Martin - Special needs	David Case - Health concerns
Dylan Mayers - Family concern	Darlene Wiley - Health concern
Ron Florey - Health concerns	Virginia O'Hair - Health concerns
Glenn Chesnut - Health concerns	Mary Jo Beemer - Health concerns
Mary Lou Gordon - Health concerns	Betty J. Byers - Health concerns
Miriam Olsen - Health concerns	

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

Martha Abernethy	Betty Byers	Mary Jo Beemer	Mary Etta Rees
Ruth Garen	Virginia O'Hair	Rich Daniels	JoAnn Ballard
Clem Gramza	Hannah Messersmith	Jo Perkey	Betty Barnes
Hugh & Lois Warren	Marian Wilson	Jim Borden	Thair Best
Melvena Stenger	Betty Fisk	Jeanette Koehler	Margaret Wickizer

Additionally pray for:

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

VIEW YOUR JOB WITH THE EYES OF JESUS

By Debbie Simler-Goff of *Faith In The Workplace*

In a recent training meeting, everyone wearing eyeglasses was asked to exchange theirs with someone else. At first, we thought the facilitator was joking; but she wasn't. So twenty of us wearing glasses hesitantly offered our extra set of eyes to our neighbor.

"Now," the facilitator continued, "we will take turns reading aloud from the training manual."

My vision was so blurred I had to hold the book within six inches of my face to read anything. So did the person wearing my glasses. The point was clear. How we see things isn't always how our co-worker sees things. We need to learn to look at every situation through each other's eyes.

The exercise resonated with me far beyond the board room. I wondered, what if Jesus had been in that meeting and exchanged glasses with me? What would he see through my eyes? And more importantly, what would I see through his?

My physical eyes are nearsighted. The clinical term is Myopia. I can see quite clearly up close, but anything beyond a few feet is a blur. If someone is walking towards me and I don't have my glasses on, I cannot make out their face until they are almost on top of me.

My prescription glasses have concave lenses which compensate for my blurred vision and move the far away images back onto the retina so I can see things better, and for the most part they do a pretty good job.

But what I really need is spiritual glasses to see my world like Jesus does because sometimes spiritually, I'm just as nearsighted. Without the corrective lenses of God's word, I focus on the things that irritate me—like my husband's dirty socks on the floor or unreturned phone calls or an unfair workload at the office. My spiritual myopia kicks in, and suddenly my vision is skewed.

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I see unfair treatment and a lack of recognition for my hard work.

But God sees an opportunity for me to shine as His servant. God sees a chance for my humble attitude to soften hearts. God sees a chance to prove that I work for his glory not mine.

The Apostle Paul must have known something about spiritual myopia because he offered an appropriate anecdote to the Colossian church.

"Set your affection on things above, and not on things of the earth." ([Colossians 3:2](#))

In essence, Paul was saying, keep your eyes on Jesus. Don't get bogged down with day-to-day life. Learn to look at your circumstances in light of God's kingdom.

Another translation of this same scripture confirms this:

"So if you're serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, act like it. Pursue the things over which Christ presides. Don't shuffle along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you. Look up, and be alert to what is going on around Christ—that's where the action is. See things from his perspective." ([Colossians 3:1-2](#), The Message)

So what do you do if you find yourself struggling with spiritual myopia?

Ask Jesus for help.

That's what the man from Bethsaida did in [Mark chapter 8](#). He was blind, and Jesus spit on his eyes and asked him if he could see. But the man said he saw something that looked like trees walking around. He could have just lived with nearsightedness. After all, it is a significant improvement over complete blindness. But instead he told Jesus about his faulty vision, and [Mark 8:22](#) records the results:

"After that Jesus put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly."

Oh that God would help us to see every person clearly - their heart, their eternal destiny - as God sees them. Then we would be empowered to love more, and grumble less.

May be you have areas of spiritual near-sightedness in your life, too. Have you asked Jesus for help?

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

The Administrative Assistant (Marsha) will be on vacation beginning at 4:00 p.m. on June 9. She will be back in the office on Monday, June 20. Please be extra nice to the volunteers that will be answering the phones and covering the office for her! Thank you!!

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Remember to bring your plastic grocery bags to the Food Pantry; your used printer cartridges to the office for recycling, and your Goodwill donations to the church.

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The deadline for submissions for the next *First Word* is 12:00 Noon on June 24. It will be published and mailed on June 29.

The First Word is published bi-monthly by:

First United Methodist Church

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Check out the website:

www.firstumcsb.org

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A GREETING FROM THE CELTIC MUSICIANS



*Ireland, it's the one place on earth
that heaven has kissed
with melody, mirth,
and meadow and mist.*

**Join us for Worship in the Chapel Sundays
at 9:00 a.m. and hear the Celtic Musicians**



Kids' Praise Musical Camp presents

L. O. L. (Love Ot Loud)

The camp will be held at First Church August 1-7! It's open to those who've completed Kindergarten through High School. This year's theme will delve into ways we can be the hands and feet of Christ in service to one another, challenging us all to hear our call and reply like the hymn "*Here I Am, Lord*". But wait - There's More! One of the new twists this year is updating and communicating via the web! Not only will the church's website offer updates, but Markus Jamison is working on a Kids' Praise Facebook page! KOOEL!