



# MACON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MESSENGER

208 Pearl Street ♦ Macon, Missouri 63552-1516 ♦ 660-385-2156 ♦ Web Site: [www.maconumc.org](http://www.maconumc.org)  
August 4, 2011 Monthly Newsletter

***Our Mission --**  
The Mission of the Macon  
United Methodist Church is  
to share the love of Christ.*

## **WORSHIP SERVICES**

*We offer two worship  
opportunities on Sunday.  
Each service has its own  
special character.*

**Traditional**  
**at 8:45 a.m. in the  
Sanctuary...**is a full  
traditional service using  
hymns and liturgy.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
**9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
for all Ages**

**Contemporary**  
**at 10:45 a.m. in the  
Multi-Purpose Room....**is a  
contemporary service where  
praise songs are led by the  
Uplifters praise band and  
singers. Multimedia supports  
the entire service. Children's  
Church is available for  
children ages 4 through third  
grade during the sermon.

***Every 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
is a Unity Service  
at 9:30 a.m.***



## **Sunday School Promotion/ Youth Sunday**

**August 21<sup>st</sup> during the 10:45 a.m.  
Worship Service  
in the Multi-Purpose Room**

## **Men's Breakfast**

The United Methodist Men will be meeting this coming Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 a.m. in the multi-purpose building for breakfast.

## **New Adult Study Begins**

The Cornerstone School Class will begin a new study which invites you to take another look at the Lord you thought you knew so well! Based on the challenging and insightful bestseller "*The Jesus I Never Knew*" by Philip Yancey, this 6-session DVD study leads you through an examination of Christ in the Gospels. A study of scriptures will provide insight into the biblical teachings that challenges our understanding of Jesus and calls us to a deeper life of discipleship.

## **Sharing Team Meeting**

The Sharing Team will meet Wednesday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Cornerstone Conference Room.

## **Need Help Stocking Shelves**

August is Macon UMC's month to help stock and organize the commodity warehouse. We need about 10 - 15 people on Thursday August 11<sup>th</sup> from about 4:00 - 6:30 p.m. If you would help with this please contact Matt Kauffman.

## **Gift of Presence**

The "Gift of Presence" Support Group will meet Monday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Cornerstone Conference Room.

## **Commodities Distribution**

Commodities Distribution will be held Tuesday, August 16<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Volunteers needed!

## **Ad Council Meeting**

Ad Council will meet Wednesday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Cornerstone Conference Room.

## **Clarence Methodist Men's Annual Fish Fry**

The Clarence United Methodist Men's ANNUAL FISH FRY will be held Saturday, August 28<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5:00 p.m. in the Clarence United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Proceeds to benefit the Children & Youth Church Camp fees.

## **Church Office Closed**

The Church Office will be closed Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup> to observe Labor Day.

## **C&Y Team Meeting**

The Children & Youth Team will meet Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Cornerstone Conference Room.

## *Pastor's Column*

### **Malnourished**

We see it all the time, usually on TV. It's a picture of a child in another country who is malnourished. It is a sad situation, when there is so much food in the world, and yet children are starving. It isn't only children and it's not only in other countries. Right here in our nation, our state, even our city, there are people hungry. Still the subject for consideration is spiritual malnourishment. As pastor I've heard it said, "I just wasn't being fed." The reference is usually why someone isn't attending a local church. This too is a sad state of malnourishment to one's spiritual life. One pastor writes: "The crisis facing The Church today isn't what people are getting fed on Sundays. It's what they're not feeding themselves the rest of the week. It matters little if one is offered milk or meat in the form of the sermon on Sunday, if that's the only meal you have all week."

Another said: "So you had filet mignon on Sunday and learned about the mystical union of Christ and The Church as it relates to the rapture and the design of the tabernacle in relation to the Levitical dietary laws. Good for you! Have fun now starving yourself the rest of the week and letting your pastor read the Bible so you don't have to."

I'm sure some will consider this too critical of a "pastoral article." Well, I'm putting it out there because I'm concerned about the spiritual body, as much as the physical body. Jesus said; "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give as an exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:26)

*Pastor Julius*

## **Life Line Screening**

Macon United Methodist Church will host a preventive health screening event on Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup> for residents in and around your community. These screenings are recommended for anyone 50 and older, or 40 and over with cardiovascular risk factors. They are non-invasive, painless, and take 60-90 minutes to complete. The results, which are mailed directly to you, will help you and your doctor protect your health. Stroke, Vascular and Heart Rhythm Packages range from \$129.00 to \$159.00. Call 1-888-653-6441 or visit [www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners) to schedule your appointment.

## **"Living Proof" Simulcast Event**

A Special Simulcast of Beth Moore presenting the "Living Proof" will be held at the Macon First Baptist Church September 10<sup>th</sup>. Beth Moore's life-transforming Bible study challenges and inspires women of every age, everywhere. Joining Beth at this weekend event is acclaimed worship leader Travis Cottrell and the Praise Team. Beth's focus will be on the scripture that God lays on her heart for each individual Living Proof Live event—no two are the same. As she explores the Bible and how it applies to real life, you'll be amazed by her own experiences as a believer, and you'll be inspired to magnify and strengthen your own relationship with God. The simulcast will begin with registration and a lite breakfast at 8:30 a.m. and begin promptly at 9:30 a.m. All seats are general admission and are \$20 per person through August 24<sup>th</sup> (\$25 each after August 24<sup>th</sup> through September 4<sup>th</sup>). Tickets may be purchased online at [www.hopeformacon.com](http://www.hopeformacon.com). Seating is limited. If you have questions, email at [office@fbcmacon.net](mailto:office@fbcmacon.net) or call 660-385-3714.

## **August Birthdays and Anniversaries**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 2 George Peyton Jr. and Sarah & Jonathan Vieker Anniv.                               | 15 Jeannie Foster and Chris & Rona Nelson Anniv.                                       |
| 3 Susan Abeln, Trent DeSpain and Taryn Mohn  | 16 Connie Foster   |
| 4 Sara Kidd  | 17 Kathy Nelson  |
| 5 George Peyton Sr.  | 18 Sharon Trumper  |
| 6 Levi Butner and Allison Herndon  | 19 Jack Hearrold, Dick Jones, Cleva Roth and Stan & Carla Grant Anniv.                 |
| 7 Galen Gabriel, Tanya Schmidt and Travis & Jennifer Barr Anniv.                     | 20 Tyler Robertson, Arthur & Geneva Eymann Anniv. and Robert & Ginger Mattingly Anniv. |
| 8 Dan & Patty Halley Anniv.  | 21 Cleo Faught, Janice Snyder and Bill & Becky Figg Anniv.                             |
| 9 Amiya Brown and Louise DeLine  | 22 Teresa Farmer, Becca Maddox, Ellen Pogue and Michael & Sharon Trumper Anniv.        |
| 10 Josh Fink, Pastor Julius Ketsenburg, Lexi Whitaker and Allen & Ruth Murphy Anniv. | 23 Taylor Brucks   |
| 11 Jamie Baker, Lauren Baker and Kenny & Lindsay Lawrence Anniv.                     | 26 Cooper Lucas  |
| 12 Isaac Kauffman, Bailey Nickerson, Jeremy Webster Jeff & Rhonda Linsley Anniv.     | 27 Ryan DeSpain  |
| 13 Vicki Buster  | 31 Sandy Gabriel, Don & Sherry Robertson Anniv. and Duane & Janice Snyder Anniv.       |
| 14 Sofia Burks, Hilary Lemon and Deborah Neff  |  |

## Financial Peace University

Consideration for a Financial Peace Class is in the works. If you are interested please call the church office. This will be a cost effective course that nearly anyone can afford, but a commitment to be present is required. Thank you!

## Women's Bible Study Starting in September

Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m.

What if you could wake up every morning with a sense of anticipation? What if everyday moments in your life could be transformed into extraordinary ones? Our new study is: What Happens When Women Say Yes To God, by Lysa TerKeurst. She will share how to experience God in unexpected ways, learn to discern His voice and make your faith come alive. This study will equip and empower you to:

- ◆ Build personal, two-way conversations with God
- ◆ Develop a hunger for getting into God's Word every day and applying its truths
- ◆ Enjoy blessing others by seeing inconveniences as opportunities
- ◆ Reduce controlling fear by placing your deepest desires into His hands
- ◆ Get involved in the unique adventure God has created for you

Child care will be offered during the evening session if there is interest for it. The cost for the workbook is: \$8.00. The book is available for an additional \$6.00 (payable to Macon UMC). Please let Carolyn or the office know if you are planning on attending.

## United Methodist News

If you've read the UM Reporter you no doubt read the article on UM Clergy vowing to wed same sex couples. I've been a pastor for nearly 28 years, and this issue has been in front of us every year, and every four years at General Conference. I believe things are coming to a boiling point and some decision will have to be made. What really bothers me more than anything is not the attempt of sinners to change the stand of the church, but rather the lack of leadership for more than 28 years to stand up and say "enough." Still like sin in the local church that isn't dealt with; the problem grows. In this case the issue has moved beyond homosexuality and is now about accountability within the denomination, fidelity to our ordination vows and current UMC discipline. Now there are 900 "pastors" (I call them that sadly) vowing to wed same sex couples. They are challenging the Discipline as never before, and even have some bishops support of the effort. The Good News is that non-American delegates are increasing at General Conference, and they will not support the change of Discipline. The bad news is that proponents of this sin, know this and want to change from a world UMC to a United States UMC and a "third world UMC."

I don't see the Conference amending our current position in the Discipline. So the question is "how these who are disobedient to our Discipline are dealt. Which will determine the future of our denomination?" What many will not admit to; is every denomination is struggling with the same issue. Many just refuse to admit it, in the same way the Catholic leadership refused to accept the inappropriate actions within the priesthood. The same way that fist fights on issues broke out on the floor of the Baptist Convention. Bottom line is, sin is sin, and what we must deal with more than homosexually here at Macon UMC is our own sin and refusal to conform to the policy of this church, as set by the Ad Council and the UMC at large. 900 "pastors" acting in defiant opposition to the church's doctrine and Biblical teaching, that is outrageous. But no more outrageous, than those who stand defiant of the church on other issues that are likewise Biblical. Those who refuse to accept the UMC policy on homosexuality need to receive the same message as anyone not accepting the policy of the UMC. If it appeals to ones reason that our stand is wrong, move to that which agrees with you. So far no "authority" has been willing to stand up and say this .. so the problem persists, and the church fights (locally and at large) while souls God desires to save are lost. The bottom line for the UMC has not changed in all the years of General Conference. Our statement is; "The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore self-avowed practicing homosexual are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church." (Par 304.3)

## **PRAYER CONCERNS**

Collin Campbell (*Sue Wynne's grandson, bad broken arm*)

The Family of Dick DeWitt (*Betty DeWitt's father*)

Tony DiVarmo (*friend of Duane Snyder, thyroid surgery*)

Jeanette Haefner (*Rhonda Linsley's mother, recovery from hernia surgery*)

Nation of Israel

Those in Joplin, MO

Dan Kealey (*Colleen Ganske's father, battling cancer*)

Law Enforcement

All our Military

Libby Schrader (*friend of Brenda Cole, cancer*)

Don Scott (*Cherryl Medina's dad, eye surgery*)

Frank Smith (*Annie Faught's father, health issues*)

Dorothy VonLienen (*friend of Jessie Shackelford, battling cancer*)

Carolyn Williams (*Shari Dye's mother, leukemia*)

Thank you, Pastor Julius

## Caring Connection

Caring Connection was created last Charge Conference in hopes of creating interest for congregational care. The purpose of Caring Connection has been to “look after” members and visitors to Macon UMC. Betty Vancil and I have worked pretty hard to involve people and create a team who would regularly make visits to shut-ins, nursing homes, hospital as well as notice those facing tests, procedures, and etc. As chair of this team, my feeling is that we have failed, it is not working. While training for visits, and serving communion has been held, only a very small number (3-4) have shown interest. As pastor I don't believe in showing a team at Charge Conference that isn't functioning. Names on paper do not create an active team. I have asked the Ad Council to pray about this matter. I will be talking to the Lay Leadership and as pastor and chair, that Caring Connection be discontinued, if we cannot turn things around.

However, that doesn't diminish the need for caring of the congregation. For this reason I'm suggesting that each team take note of the needs of its members and act upon them. Betty and I will still do what we've been doing with visits and serving of Holy Communion to those unable to attend. The needs of the total congregation are larger than any one or two people can fulfill. Having teams look to the needs of their members seems like a workable plan. Who will know better what's going on, than the teams themselves? Should there be something I as pastor can help with, I invite the team chair to inform me, as I will be more than happy to do what I can.

## FACEBOOK AND TEENS & CHILDREN

**Every parent should want to know where and what their teens & children are doing.**

In this age of technology it becomes even more necessary than ever. The good news is we can access the world. The bad news is; “we can access the world.” Young minds love the challenge of exploring the world. While this is good, everything accessible is not good. Wall Street Journal technology guru Walt Mossberg has a review link below of a new subscription service (monthly \$2 or annually \$20) that allows parents to monitor Facebook activity without being “friends” of their teen/child. Here's the link:

<http://allthingsd.com/20110727/monitor-kids-on-facebook-without-being-their-friend/>

## Charge Conference

Before we know it Charge Conference will be upon us. This is a very important time in the church, as persons are prayerfully considered for ministry for the coming year. I would encourage your prayers as we approach this time. Additionally, if you feel the call of God upon your life to a particular area of ministry, please let me know. Too many times in the United Methodist Church, calling persons to ministry is taken very lightly. In one church where I was pastor, I overheard someone from the lay leadership team, say to another person, “oh you don't have to do anything, we just need a name in this slot.” I talked to each person and assured them, this was not the case. We did not need a name, we needed willing hands, who would work for the cause of Jesus Christ.

All teams will be reviewed as we prepare for Charge Conference. Some folks will cycle off having completed their years of service. Others will be asked to join a team and help Macon UMC bring people to the saving knowledge and growth in Jesus Christ. Please pray for the Lay Leadership Team and the ministry God has given this church.

## EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED!

The Emergency Food Pantry is in need of canned meats, canned carrots, canned spinach, canned potatoes, saltine crackers, canned chicken noodle soups, Hamburger Helper and sweetened cereals.

## Emergency Food Pantry Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to be on call one day a week (Tuesdays and Fridays especially) to help the needy get food from the Emergency Food Pantry. All that is required is meet the needy family at the Emergency Food Pantry and let them get their food. If you have an interest in this ministry, please contact Dawn at 660-385-2156.

## NOTES OF SHARING

Thank you for all the prayers and well wishes on my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. **Ruth Murphy**

My sincere appreciation for all the calls, cards and e-mails I have received. A special thanks to Rev. Ketsenburg. We are so fortunate to have such a wonderful minister. Clarimae, Carlene (our daughter) and Herman, her husband are taking great care of me. Am feeling great, just love taking it easy. God Bless each of you. **Carl Wood**

# Kidstuff

By Rhonda Linsley

## **BETHLEHEM VILLAGE VBS – What a blessing!**

Thank you to everyone who helped with VBS this year. We had an amazing 78 adults and youth involved in this ministry, and a high for us here at Macon UMC of 88 children in attendance . Though a VBS program can be a bit overwhelming at times, the outcome of leading children into a stronger spiritual relationship with God is well-worth the efforts. Every person involved is crucial to the success of a VBS program, and I'm proud of how everyone stepped up to the plate to do what needed to be done to pull off a fun and uplifting experience for all involved. Job well done good and faithful servants! Enjoy the pictures!



**Asher Tribe during Worship.**



**Children at the Dye Shop.**



**Gad Tribe signing the census.**



**Wisemen discussing their gifts for the baby Jesus.**



**Roman Guard returning money to Shopkeepers.**



**All the children on stage on Friday.**



## **VBS FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION**

Lucille Long was excited to see Rhonda and three helpers come into the Food Pantry on August 3 with all the food and laundry detergent that was collected during our VBS week. We have tremendously helped replenish the food pantry after being hit hard in March, April and May. They averaged 40 families per month during these three months. Thank you to everyone who contributed, and thank you to Emily, Kattie and Trever for helping transport the boxes to the pantry and putting the items on the shelf.

## **ELEMENTARY SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS FOR THE 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR**

Can you believe September is just around the corner, and we will be starting a new school year. It's that time also to set up my Sunday School classrooms with teachers for each quarter. I encourage everyone to continually pray for our children and youth ministries, and seek God's wisdom and guidance in providing educational opportunities where our children can learn to love God, love others and learn to serve the world! If God is leading you toward working with our children, please come in and talk to Rhonda about where we can use your spiritual gifts, and which quarter works best for you. Our current teachers like the Buzz Curriculum, where everything you need to teach is "in the box." We will continue using Buzz for the upcoming school year and will have three elementary classrooms: Preschool-Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, and 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade. Sunday School meets from 9:45 – 10:35 AM each Sunday, except for those fifth Sunday's when we have a Unity Service.

## **NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

We will be sending Kari Truitt off to college this month, and will truly miss her here at Macon UMC. Thank you, Kari, for your service to God while you were here. You did an incredible job ministering to our young children, and you will be greatly missed.

It is unfortunate that we have not been able to secure a qualified applicant to take Kari's place, so we will be using adult volunteers to serve in the nursery during the 10:45 contemporary service. We are down to just three adults currently rotating in the nursery and could use a couple more to add to the rotation. Please contact Rhonda Linsley if you would like to help in the nursery on Sunday mornings. Safe Sanctuaries Certification is required and is readily available online at [www.moumethodist.org](http://www.moumethodist.org).

## **K-5 ALIVE REGISTRATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE**

Our Wednesday After-School Program will begin October 5 and run through April 25, from 3:30-5:00 p.m. This program is for children in Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade. Registration Forms and Policies & Procedures are available in the church office. Please submit the required registration form at your earliest convenience. Transportation will be the responsibility of the parents, as it was last year. We understand that some parents are not able to bring their children, but through coordination with other parents and grandparents, transportation can be arranged. We are currently researching curriculum so don't yet have details on the material that will be used. However, we will use a similar lay-out to what has worked well in the past. We will start with a game or exercise-type activity to stimulate mood, memory and learning, and allow everyone to arrive. An after-school snack will be provided and the program will include music, crafts, Bible Story, Scripture learning and Outreach Missions Projects.

One of our mission projects will be having the children bring in plastic bags each week and visiting the Food Pantry once a month to help them double up the bags and flatten them for easy carry out of groceries.

## **VBS 2012**

Yes, believe it or not I am putting thought into next year's VBS. We will be doing "Hometown Nazareth – Where Jesus Was a Kid." So I will be involving the congregation throughout the year to prepare for next year's marketplace in Nazareth. For any of you garage saler's....please be on the lookout for king size flat sheets in whites or tans to use as canopy covers, artificial greenery or anything Biblical looking for decorating. I know we might possibly have a carpentry shop, Bead Bazaar, Synagogue School, Olive Oil Shop, Dye Shop, Wool Shop, Rock Quarry, Farmer's Field or Food Market. I will also be needing about 15 more tree branches to create more individual shops. These need to be 8 feet long and about 2 inches in diameter. Please talk to Rhonda for more details.

## **VBS Binders**

If you have a VBS binder of Bethlehem Village, please return them to Rhonda Linsley. Thank you.

## PARENTING SEMINAR IN OUR AREA!

Here is information about a parenting seminar that is well worth consideration. For more information about the National Center for Biblical Parenting, go to [www.biblicalparenting.org](http://www.biblicalparenting.org).

*Cooperation, Consequences, and Keeping Your Sanity* Presented by Rick Martin

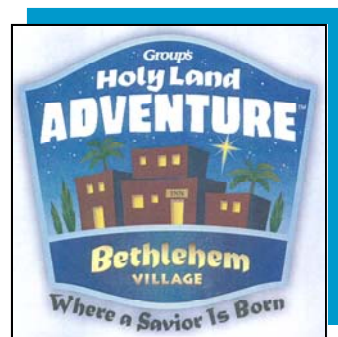
Saturday, October 15 from 9:00 am to 2:30 p.m.

Cornerstone Church of Marion, 414 S Breckenridge, Palmyra, MO 63461

The cost is \$30 per adult. Sign up online at [biblicalparenting.org](http://biblicalparenting.org) or call (573) 769-0183 or email [churchoffice@marktwain.net](mailto:churchoffice@marktwain.net). You will learn practical ways to move from a behavior modification approach to a heart-based approach to parenting. It's amazing how children change the way they live when parents adjust the way they work with them. This seminar is provided by the National Center for Biblical Parenting and is a practical, biblical approach to parenting. You'll be so grateful you attended because you'll be able to use the material right away.

## M.U.M.Y. CONNECTION

By Karen Butner



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

I want to say a great big **THANK YOU!!!!** to all the youth who volunteered during our Bethlehem Village VBS last week. You guys are **AWESOME** & we really appreciate all your hard work in music, crafts, tribe helpers, shopkeepers & games!!



## SUMMER FUN CONCERT WITH NEVER BLUE AVENUE

Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup>

8:00 to 10:00 p.m.

FREE ADMISSION for Youth in 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades

## 2011 CAMP JO OTA YOUTH RALLY

Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup> & Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>

Early Bird Registration deadline: Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup>

Early Bird Registration price: \$20 for the first student in the family/\$10 per additional student in the same family.

Registration price is \$40 per student after Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup>.

## Attendance and Offering Summary

Weekly Average for July	2010	2011	Year To Date Average	2010	2011
Worship Attendance	182	192	Worship Attendance	202	194
Sunday School	57	67	Sunday School	62	75
Offering	\$5,383.13	\$5,873.77	Offering	\$5,354.09	\$5,316.83



### New Member

We welcome John Strange into the membership of the Macon United Methodist Church. John comes to us from Knox City UMC and works in the meat department of C&R Grocery. Be sure to welcome John!

### NOTES OF SHARING CONTINUED...

#### Dear Christian Friends,

Thank you so much for your prayers, kind thoughts and concerns. I am doing better. PRAISE GOD. Love in Christ, Jean Ray, Bevier, MO



## Help Needed for Loch Haven Garden

Help is needed at the Loch Haven Special Care garden with watering plants. If you have an hour or so to spare and would like to help, please contact Kathy Vivian at 385-7494.

Macon UMC Staff: Julius Ketsenburg, Pastor; Dawn Masten, Administrative Assistant; Rhonda Linsley, Director of Children's Ministries; Karen Butner, Director of Youth Ministries; Beth Dixon, Organist; Kari Truitt, Nursery Attendant; Annie Faught, Toddler Room Attendant.

*Return Service Requested*

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