

Pastor's Column

A backwards look!

As we start the year 2012 it is fitting to ask ourselves, "Have I been faithful to God through 2011?" If the answer is yes, the prospect of continuing to be faithful this year should be exciting. If the answer is no, we should resolve to be faithful this year. To ask God to help us, for The Word says: "Ask and it shall be given." Of course what we ask, must be according to God's Will. Surely there can be little doubt that God desires us to be faithful to His call on our lives.

As a pastor in the UMC, I am required to "look back" to reflect upon my faithfulness, and report to the District/Conference. In addition to my looking back; the Staff/Parish Relations Committee also is required to look back on the ministry of Macon UMC and report to the District. There is temptation to consider this just busy work, required by the church. Yet a serious reflection can reveal a lot about who we are. If possible I would require every member to look back on their lives through 2011, answering these questions:

- ◆ How have I been faithful to God and to His church in my prayer life?
- ◆ How have I been faithful to God and His Church, by my presence in Worship?
- ◆ How have I been faithful to God and His Church, with my tithe and offerings?
- ◆ How have I been faithful to God and to my service to the Body of Christ, through this church?
- ◆ How have I been faithful to God and His Church, with my witness of God to others?

As you can see each of these questions centers around the vow every member takes, when asked? Will you be loyal to the United Methodist Church and uphold it with your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness?

Pastor Julius

New Adult

Sunday School Study Begins

January 1, 2012 the adult Sunday School class meeting in the Cornerstone Room will begin a new study, "*When God's Spirit Moves.*" The DVD study by Pastor and bestselling author, Jim Cymbala, will explore the person of the Holy Spirit, how to make room and listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit and let the Spirit guide your life.

Sunday Evening Service

There will not be a Sunday evening worship service January 1st (New Year's Day).

Church Office Closed

The Church Office will be closed Monday, January 2nd to observe New Year's Holiday.

The Gift of Presence

Support Group

The Gift of Presence Support Group will meet Monday, January 2 and Monday, January 16 at 6:00 p.m. in the Library.

Children & Youth Team Meeting

The C & Y Team will meet Wednesday, January 4th at 6:30 p.m. in the Cornerstone Conference Room.

Men's Breakfast

The United Methodist Men will be meeting Sunday, January 8th at 7:15 a.m. in the multi-purpose building for breakfast.

Board of Trustees Meeting

The Board of Trustees will meet Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in the Library.

Serving Team

The Serving Team will meet Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in the Cornerstone Conference Room.

January Birthdays and Anniversaries

2 Edith Hearrold

3 Haley Johnson and Jon Kelly

4 Evie Nelson and Katie Nelson

5 Doug Hackman, Johnna Kelly and James & Valerie Ray Anniv.

6 Nic Hamilton and Emily Kohl

8 Betty Dwiggins and Sandy Luzader

10 Spencer Dwiggins and Shari Dye

11 Pauline Baird

12 Kayl Grant and Paige Hawkins

13 Lisa Hamilton and Dawn Masten

15 Scott Burdin, Ellie Jennings and James Ray

16 Mitchell Ray

18 Lynn Herndon and Bettie Wright

21 Ginny Webster

23 George Roth

24 Rick Tucker

25 Robert Mattingly and Ana Rucker

26 Sita Ferguson and Dakota Hyde

27 Linda Schroeter

28 Mary Ahlbom

29 McKenna Nelson and

George & Cleva Roth Anniv.

SPRC Meeting

The Staff/Parish Relations Committee will meet Wednesday, January 11th at 6:00 p.m. in the Library. Members of the committee are: Mark Truitt, Ernest Esry, Karen Shearer, Doug Wallace, Shirley Mangelsen, Betty Vancil, Stan Grant, Matthew Kauffman, Matt Burks.

Sharing Team

The Sharing Team will meet Wednesday, January 11th at 6:30 p.m. in the Cornerstone Conference Room.

Serving Saturday

Mark your calendars for the next Serving Saturday on January 14th from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. This is an opportunity for all to participate in local mission projects. We will gather in the Fellowship Center at 8:45 a.m. for prayer before dispersing to our work groups. Participants can opt to assist with light construction in the Macon public school, bake cookies or write thank you notes for the Vocational teachers, or sew baby blankets. Children and their adult assistants will be making crafts. Seamstresses, please bring your own sewing machine if you can. Contact Julie Burdin, Ginger Mattingly, Sue Wynne, or any member of the Serving Team for more info.

Commodities Distribution

Commodities Distribution will be held Tuesday, January 16th from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Volunteers needed mostly in the afternoon!

Ad Council Meeting

Ad Council will meet Wednesday, January 18th at 6:00 p.m. in the Cornerstone Conference Room.

JANUARY'S 5TH SUNDAY UNITY SERVICE

January's unity service will be held in the Sanctuary of the Macon UMC on January 29th, at 9:30 a.m. Prior to this time, the United Methodist Men will serve a breakfast to all starting at 7:30 a.m. and running up to 9:00 a.m. Please come in support of the UMM, but also in support of the "unity" of the Macon UMC. Your presence is important!

ELECTRONIC GIVING

The administrative council is looking into the possibilities of using an EFT (electronic funds transfer) system for our members to make their periodic contributions. Many churches across the country use an EFT system for their church members to make their contributions and it is a very safe, reliable and convenient service. We are in the process of investigating a company to use to provide this service but first we wanted to know how many of our members would have an interest in using this method for their contributions. We will provide an opportunity in the weekly signup sheet that is circulated during church services for you to indicate your interest in this. If you have any questions please call the church office. You may check in the sign-in booklet if interested.

COME TO YOUR CHURCH!

Mark your calendar for May 19, 2012, as this will hold the possibility of something new. It's going to be a day long time that will stir your soul and turn your eyes to God. Watch your calendar and listen for the news – OR it will come and go and you will be left in the shadows. ALL leaders and future leaders in the church are called upon to be present Saturday, May 19th; 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Macon UMC.

Banners

The banners in the Sanctuary and Multipurpose room are gifts to the Macon UMC from Carolyn and Pastor Julius. We decided neither of us were up to doing our traditional dinner for the church, so we opted for making the banners. Rather than attempt to explain their meaning, we invite you to take time to look them over. One is called the "The Life of Jesus," and the other is "I Am The Vine." There are various scenes taken from the Bible, and introduced to the banner. They are given with our gratitude and love and hope that all will enjoy them and find encouragement to follow Jesus.

Lois, Marilyn, Anne, Stan & Carla, Marilyn, Tricia and Rose Ann,

Thank you for your prayers on my behalf during my loss of my loved one. These are difficult times. With God's help things will get better with a lot of prayers.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Sara & Dan Bramer and Family (*loss of Sara's grandmother*)
Derald Butner (*Jon Butner's father, pneumonia*)
Sherry Dollins (*Jessica Ketsenburg's cousin, cancer and treatments*)
The Family of Lucille Gottman
Nation of Israel
Those in Joplin, MO
Dorothy Krue (*guidance*)
Law Enforcement
Martha McDowell & Family
Hubert Moehle
All our Military
Scott & Cindy Teter (*lost home in fire*)
Those in Prison
Jo Schnell (*LBD*)
The Family of Velma Vivian (*Kathy Vivian's mother-in-law*)

SAVE THIS DATE!

Saturday, March 31st
at Macon UMC
Easter Pageant by Sonlight
Players of Kansas City Area.

The Pageant will be hosted by
Macon United Methodist.

Want more information,
go to www.sonlightplayers.com.
Scroll down to Gallery, then click on
Videos and you can see some
samples of their ministry.

IN THE LIBRARY

For those who missed a session or were unable to attend the last Bible Study – When A Woman Says Yes To God by Lisa TerKuerst – the DVD is now in the Library for you to check out.

2012 Devotionals

2012 Devotionals are shared with you, to encourage everyone to continue or to begin a daily time with God in reading and studying of His Word, as found in the Bible. This time with God is a great way to encourage our spirits to reach up to God daily. It is our prayer they will be used daily.

Pastor Julius & Carolyn

NOTES OF SHARING

Thank you and God bless for your help with Rick's roof. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated.

Elsie Sagaser, New Cambria

A long over due thank you to everyone at my "town" church for all the prayers, cards and phone calls. My diagnosis of non-hodgkins lymphoma was quite a shocker. I have no symptoms as of yet—so no treatments, but will have periodic PET or CAT scans. I had a lump in my neck and it was removed and biopsied. That's how it was detected. Dr. Honeycutt in Columbia and Dr. Johnston at Mayo's both say you "live with this disease you don't die from it". Thank you also from my mom for prayers and concern, her abdominal aortic aneurism surgery was a success. Our daughter Lynn's husband continues chemo and radiation for cancer of the esophagus. Thank you and God bless each and everyone.

Pauline Baird

A great big hearty thank you to Julius and Carolyn for their beautiful Christmas gift to the church. The banners depicting Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection will adorn our places of worship for many years to come. Your gift is one of love and time, with hours and hours of tedious labor going into the making of these banners. Thank you, not only for this wonderful gift, but also for your dedicated ministry among us!

The People of the Macon United Methodist Church

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

We want to thank you for all you do and for blessing our center with the baby high chair, maternity clothes and baby bottles. Your gifts are greatly appreciated! Have a blessed Christmas!

Ray of Hope Pregnancy Care Ministries of Macon & Shelby Counties, Michele Jorgenson

Ad Council,

Thank you for the most generous gift present to Carolyn and I by Shane. It was indeed a great surprise as it was not expected. Your generosity is humbly received with thanks. The Christmas bonus was a wonderful surprise to receive Christmas time. Thank you also for thinking of the Staff and choosing to bless them also. To God be the Glory as we recognize Emmanuel through this season and hopefully through the year.

Thank you!

Carolyn and I would like to thank each of you, and the church, for your generous varied gifts through the season leading to Christmas. Our Thank You is extended to each of you.

Thank you to all who gave of themselves and shared the reading through the Advent season. Each of you stepping up to do this is of great value, as we all are drawn into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. Thank you to ALL who help make the Children's Christmas program and camping fund raiser a big success. Those who helped the children learn the parts and supported the effort, brought forth a great ministry of storytelling, centered upon the birth of Jesus. The meal too was excellent and we appreciate all who helped in any way. Thank you to the Uplifters and the ministry of song they presented in; "We all Bow Down." WOW, complete with interpretive dance, what a grand message and blend of talents and voices. Those who narrated brought excitement to the entire set. Thank you to the Praise dancers – who brought excitement and delight to both worship services. Thank to the readers, singers and communion helpers during the Christmas Eve service. The sharing of your time and talents is greatly appreciated. All of the above indicates a growing church, where Jesus is real and calling us into a deeper relationship with Him. Thank You!

Pastor Julius

Thanks to everyone for prayers during my mother-in-law's sickness. **Kathy Vivian**

The Sharing Team would like to thank everyone who donated cookies for the Uplifters Christmas concert on December 18th. It always amazes me at all the good baker we have in our church. I think everyone had a GREAT time and enjoyed everything. Thank You!

Jo Vaughn Kelly

M.U.M.Y. CONNECTION

By Karen Butner

SNOW DAY 2012

Snow Day is an amazing one-day event connecting students with God and one another. The event theme this year is "Elements." The Main Session and Breakout teachings will be focused on the challenges, choices, mission, and power of the Christian life. Students will experience dynamic worship, relevant Biblical teaching, and lots of fun activities!

DATE: Saturday, January 21, 2012

WHERE: Central Christian College of the Bible, Moberly, MO

REGISTRATION DUE: Sunday, January 15

COST: \$5

MAIN SPEAKER: Josh Henges

The facts about Josh: He has broken every single one of his fingers and toes. He's been on 5 National Squads for Judo & Submissive Grappling, Survived Professor Axton's classes. A Dynamic speaker. Most importantly: Josh has a passion for helping students fall in love with Jesus. He works with KidsTLC in Kansas City, MO, helping homeless youth get the help they need.

WORSHIP: Amber Element

Years of experience in both worship and youth ministry combined with a sincere desire to connect students with the heart of God, enable them to lead high-energy and heartfelt worship.

Kid stuff

By Rhonda Linsley

Ministry Mission Statement

*To teach the children to love God, love others and share that love to the world.
To teach the children to memorize scripture that will affect the way they live their lives.*



Bells Ringing on Christmas Morning!

What a delight to see so many children in the sanctuary at the 8:45 service on Christmas day!

K-5 Alive

K-5 Alive will resume January 4, and I am eager to jump right in with the Fitness Camp curriculum. We will start off learning about how important it is to fill our bodies with the right foods and how foods make us healthy or unhealthy. The children brought home a sheet of Bible scripture the Wednesday before Christmas. These are the verses we will all be memorizing:

- ◆ Whatever you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31)
- ◆ Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? (1 Corinthians 3:16)
- ◆ When the Holy Spirit controls our lives, He will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23)
- ◆ Be very careful then how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. (Ephesians 5:15-17)
- ◆ Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. (James 4:7)

January 11, we will spend time on our Food Pantry mission. We have a large supply of plastic bags to double up and fold. **Please continue to leave your plastic bags at Rhonda's office door.** She has a large box in her office for this collection. The food pantry serves hundreds of families each month and needs double bags for distributing the large amount of canned foods.

Hanging of the Greens



This Advent program took place on December 4 in the 8:45 worship service for children in Preschool through high school. Thank you to all who participated and made this event so special. It is such a blessing to watch the Sanctuary transform into Christmas beauty before our very eyes, as we focus on the true meaning of Christmas...the birth of our precious Lord and Savior.

Christmas Musical "A Lamb's Tale"



Christmas Musical "A Lamb's Tale" (continued)



What a blessing this musical was to our church and the many relatives who came to see it. The children worked very hard and truly brought glory to God. Thank you to Rhonda Smith and Rona Nelson for their hard work in this ministry. I have received numerous comments on the delicious meal, and I thank Sarge and Marietha for the best meatloaf I have ever eaten! Thanks to everyone who helped in any way with this evening meal and to everyone who came to support our camp ministries. The proceeds from our meal totaled \$564.51, which will greatly help our families with their out-of-pocket expenses for church camp. God's blessings to all!

Attendance and Offering Summary

Weekly Average for Dec.	2010	2011	Year To Date Average	2010	2011
Worship Attendance	<u>184</u>	<u>252</u>	Worship Attendance	<u>198</u>	<u>200</u>
Sunday School	<u>63</u>	<u>73</u>	Sunday School	<u>60</u>	<u>70</u>
Offering	<u>\$6,266.45</u>	<u>\$6,471.01</u>	Offering	<u>\$5,385.85</u>	<u>\$5,460.50</u>

I would like to thank everyone for remembering during Christmas with all gifts. I would like to especially thank the Ad Council for their generous gift. I feel so appreciated. I wish each one of you a Merry Christmas.

Dawn Masten

Thank you to all who contributed to Helping Hands at Christmas. Our church served 9 families with gifts of food, clothing, and New Testaments. Please continue to pray for those families as their need is likely to continue long after the holiday has passed.

The Mission Team, Julie Burdin

Caring for Members of our Congregation

As you may be aware, our church does not currently have a functional ministry team with a focus on caring for members of our congregation during a time of need. Many individuals are taking communion to shut-ins, providing transportation to doctor's appointments, and making hospital and nursing home visits. We would also like to have an organized plan for preparing and delivering meals to our families during illness, after surgery, during the postpartum period, etc. Please contact Julie Burdin if you are willing to assist in this ministry.

The Emergency Food Pantry is completely out of shampoo, jelly, dish and laundry detergent, paper towels, sugar, spaghetti, and toilet paper. The pantry is running low on canned beans, corn and peas. Monetary donations are also being taken to help with the processing fee for donated meat and to help purchase food that is needed for the pantry.

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; Annie Faught, Toddler Room Attendant Jeani Hall, Nursery.

Return Service Requested

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Macon, MO

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