

Connecting
People . . .

to Each
Other

to the
World's
Needs

to God
in
Jesus Christ

The First Connection

Leading people to an active faith in Jesus Christ

BLUE SPRINGS FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

INSIDE

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"THE ENVELOPE"

Here's my story of the envelope.....

First and foremost, Brian and I need to say thank you to the generous person who found it in their heart to make the lives of total strangers brighter. Initially, I thought that this would be a piece of cake, but boy was I wrong. I wish that I had a million envelopes to give!!

I had this envelope in my purse for a few weeks and everywhere I went, I looked for just the right person or persons. I drove by Laundromats, bus stops and thrift stores on my lunch hours at work. I had this idea in my mind that I would get to really sit and talk to this individual but that wasn't how it happened.

This envelope, I believe, was as much of a blessing to me as what I feel that it was to the person really paying more attention to people on the street, around me on a daily basis. People that I probably eye contact with or exchange a pleasantry with be- world. Probably a little bit of both... Speaking to peo- ple the same time as where I was and striking up conver- sations with total strangers, was what this



bleasing to me as what I feel that it was to the person really paying more attention to people on the street, around me on a daily basis. People that I probably eye contact with or exchange a pleasantry with be- world. Probably a little bit of both... Speaking to peo- ple the same time as where I was and striking up conver- sations with total strangers, was what this

The person that I ended up giving it to was a man that works at the Sonic that I frequent on my morning commute to work. I pulled in there after the big snow storm on January 7 and got my car stuck. I wasn't going anywhere. A gentleman that I have never met before came running out in the freezing temperatures after he saw me struggling to make no headway at all. He single handedly pushed for quite some time and finally got me going. I was really feeling bad about how hard he was working to get me moving. The fact that he selflessly came to my rescue made up my mind that this was the person that I was going to give it to. I, unfortunately, didn't get a chance to ask his name but explained the story behind 'the envelope.' (I didn't tell him what was in it or wait for him to open it but told him that an anonymous member of our church had given it from their heart to pay it forward.) For his giving heart to be led to help a stranger in need was indeed a blessing.

When we went our separate ways, I said, "God bless you for being you" and he said, "God bless you too." This wasn't the scenario that I had imagined when praying about who he/she might be but it warmed my heart to know that this gentleman's good deed was not going to go unnoticed. I am hopeful that I might see him again to tell him "thank you." But even if I don't, I have a feeling that he is going to be thinking about today and our crossing paths, as I will. I'm also hopeful that when he tells the story to friends and family they too will make a conscious effort to notice others as they come across them in the future.

Thank you, thank you, thank you kind person for giving the gift of 'the envelope' to bless me because I feel like I got a great gift as well.
Blessings, Cyndi Sloan

Rev. Steve Campbell

Dear Friends,

Right now we find ourselves in the midst of a series of readings from the New Testament focusing on Spiritual Gifts, the nature of the Body of Christ, and the greatest of the Spiritual Gifts. The message is clear. The ministry of Christ goes forward when individuals identify, claim, nurture, and use the gifts of the Spirit. That means it is an error to name the professional clergy as "The Ministers" of the church. The ministry of the church is much more than what is provided by pastoral leaders. Of course, pastoral ministry and leadership is important, but let's keep in mind that we are all called to ministry! My prayer is that as we continue to move through this series you will engage the question of your own spiritual gifts, and therefore, the part you have in the saving work of Christ.

There are no limits on the potential for ministry in the church. God is at work to save the world and will supply all the resources we need to do what God calls us to do. Think about that statement. We are so accustomed to thinking in terms of limited resources and scarcity we scale



down our vision of what is possible. If we are doing what God calls us to, and using our spiritual gifts as God directs, there are no limits! Limits are the result of withholding the use of our gifts, or of scaling down our vision! The abundance of God's resources are available to us, and the

plenty of God's Spirit is at work among us.

I believe God is speaking to us in worship during these weeks. The Spirit is speaking in ways we need to hear with clarity! You may recall on Epiphany I reminded you that the message of this season is "Manifestation." First, we celebrate the manifestation of God with us. Second, we recognize that as the Body of Christ we have one purpose, to manifest the love of God in this world. The divine plan for how we do that is shared with us. God gives each of us gifts, and in their practice, the mission of the church moves forward. Do you know your gifts? Are you using them as God intends?

Let me remind you, I, as one of your pastors, write you, the ministers of Christ.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Steve

Won't You Donate an Item (or Two) for FUMC's Fabulous February Auction?

In February, our church is planning a BIG fundraising auction in the Family Life Center, with live and silent auction action, to raise funds for the Costa Rica Reverse Mission Trip you've been hearing so much about. The task force is already at work and has made great progress on getting exciting donations from local businesses, including some much sought-after autographed sports memorabilia.

But we know you may have some items gathering dust in a closet or you may have connections to an area business that might be willing to help us out. If you'd like to help, let us know:

- Do you have a brand-new item of some value you would like to donate?
- Do you have any gift cards or gift certificates sitting around that you probably won't use?
- Do you have any collectibles you would be willing to part with?
- Does your employer have a product or service he or she would be willing to donate?
- Would you like to take a territory in or around Blue Springs and ask businesses for donations?

Please contact Jack Marker, 229-9510, or Ken Landes, 229-5712, to volunteer or to share your ideas or donations.

HEALTH CONCERNS

| | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Lucinda Armstrong | Alice Atkinson |
| Nancy Ballew | Keith Barker |
| Rhonda Barrow | Mark Batulis |
| Bernie Dietrich | Ardith Dorris |
| Virginia Evans | Dovie Lanos |
| Barbara Moore | Edie Moore |
| Eula Parsons | Hasselteen Rumbo |
| Norm Runge | Shari Sullivan |
| Bob Swisher | Bob Turner |
| Harold Witte | Grace Wright |
| Jim and Jenny Floyd | Ann Bales, Bryan Bales' mother |
| Betty Nelson, Steve Gribble's mother | |
| Bob Milner, Shelly Anderson's father | |
| Edith Wise, Annette Hoel's sister | |
| Floyd Ford, Chuck Ford's father | |
| Jacob Bowers, Judy and Stan Simmons' grandson | |
| Jess Hicks, Cyndi Sloan's uncle | |
| Jim Shearer, Sr., Jim Shearer's father | |
| John Blosser, Marty Roberts' brother | |
| Julia Taylor, Jim Taylor's mother | |
| Kody Logan, Kathy Bozarth's grandson | |
| Marianne Litterick, Lynn Splittorff's mother | |
| Mike Petty, Joan Petty's son | |
| Rex Lesan, Brett Lesan's father | |
| Roy Davis, Glen Davis' father | |
| Sue Grinlinton, Kris Allen's sister | |
| Sylvia Brown, Heather Mangan's grandmother | |

OTHER CONCERNS

Prayers for those affected by the earthquake in Haiti.

Prayers for all those dealing with job loss, financial concerns and health issues.

Prayers of comfort especially this time of year for those in broken relationships and for those who have lost loved ones.

SYMPATHY

to Brian and Cyndi Sloan on the death of Cyndi's uncle, Ronald Lewis, on January 8.

The Rev. Sam Dixon, executive officer of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), died before he could be rescued from the rubble of a hotel in Haiti.

The Rev. Clinton Rabb, who was the head of the Office of Mission Volunteers for the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church, died of earthquake-related injuries.

JOYS

Congratulations to Ann Wilkerson on the birth of a grandson, Mikkel John Tait Bjorensen, on January 8. Parents are Dawn Beck and Mikkel Bjorensen.

**Harvesters**

**Souper Bowl Weekend of Caring
February 6 and 7**

**Bring canned goods to church
every weekend for the food
drive!**

Let's transform our nation's biggest weekend of football into its largest weekend of giving. Souper Bowl Weekend of Caring is a national movement to mobilize individuals and groups to fight hunger and poverty in their local communities. Help us reach our goal of hosting **1,200 volunteers and collecting 15,000 pounds of food**. We are hosting a food drive to help the youth with this project. As a winter mission project for the youth, we will once again be part of a big weekend with Harvesters. Our youth and adult volunteers will be working on **Saturday, February 6, from 2:00-4:00pm** to help sort and repackage food. Volunteers are asked to bring a minimum of 10 canned goods (or \$10) per person.

Not only will we be working - **we will be collecting food church-wide** starting January 17! Bring a canned good every time you come to church or youth! Let's see how much we can collect!

Our goal is 40 volunteers...can you help? Adult sponsors and drivers are needed to help the youth on Saturday, February 6, from 2:00-4:00pm.





Christmas Tool Drive

Thank you for your support of this year's "Habitat Christmas Tool Tree." We received nearly \$900 worth of tools and gift cards that will be used to furnish work crews during the coming months. Truman Heritage Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit Christian housing ministry seeking to eliminate poverty housing and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action.

Pickleball

You will feel like a winner and a champion playing this exciting paddle game called Pickleball. Now you and your friends can join thousands of other people playing this net court game. This mini-tennis game is played by 2 or 4 people on a badminton-sized court using wood paddle racquets and a plastic, poly baseball with holes. Pickleball is a combination of Ping-Pong, tennis, and badminton and has been enjoyed for over 20 years by people of all ages. **Join us to play every Thursday at 7:00pm.**



In response to God's love, Truman Heritage Habitat for Humanity will expand its housing ministry by building forty homes in the next five years, strengthening community through partnerships that mobilize land, financial, and human resources.

"Building Homes, Building Hope"

MOMS FIRST

The next meeting of Moms First will be on Sunday, February 7, at noon in room 117. Please bring an appetizer to share for Super Bowl Sunday! The topic of discussion will be Parenting Tips.

Moms First is a new group created for the purpose of support and inspiration of moms with children at home. Contact Ronda Brewer or the church office for more information.

Winter Classes on Wednesday Night at the WELL

Rev. Karen will begin a "Gifts Discovery" class at 6:30pm in room 112. In four two-hour sessions, participants will work through the exercises in "Serving from the Heart."

Rev. Steve will begin a disciple class on "Invitation to Psalms." You can make a deeper connection to the world of the Psalms so that these well-known scriptures can help you give voice to all aspects of our human experience—joy, faith, uncertainty and sorrow. This class will be held in room 117 at 6:30pm.

FUMC Job Club Meets



The group meets at 7:00pm on the first and third Tuesday of each month in room 103.

2010 Pledge Cards

It is truly beneficial when the office receives a financial pledge card from every member of the congregation. Planning by the volunteers on the Budget Committee is made easier. Resources for ministries and obligations can be equitably allocated. If you have not filled out a financial commitment card for 2010, please pick one up at the Information Table or on the web site, <http://www.firstumcbs.org/forms/2010pledge.pdf>.



Save the Planet, Get your Groceries, Support FUMC Outreach

Reusable shopping bags are available for \$5 each. The bags are 12"w x 13"h x 8"d with a sturdy carrying handle. The bags have an FUMC logo printed on both sides. Each bag you purchase allows us to give one to our weekend visitors.

WOMEN'S GAME NIGHT

All women of all ages are invited to another game night at the church in room 117 on Friday, January 22, from 6:30 to 9:30pm.

Bring a finger food or snack. Meet new friends, bring a friend, enjoy a relaxing evening of fun and great Christian fellowship. See you there. Please call the office at 229-8108 with any questions.

**Tired of the Day-to-Day Rat Race?
Weary of the Endless Appointments and Schedule?
Do You Have a Full Schedule, But an Empty Life?**

Isn't it time to take a deep breath and relax? Come join an inspirational workshop learning how to remove yourself from over-extension and the draining day-to-day fatigue. You'll learn valuable tips on how to break the bond of the overbooked calendar. Spend three hours discovering life-enhancing techniques to empower you to take back your life. Uncover the Five A's that will awaken your spirit and renew your self-empowerment. Learn how to live a life full of contentment, peace and harmony instead of stress, exhaustion and anxiety.

If you are seriously interested in living a calmer, more satisfying and fulfilling life, this is a must-attend event. Join seasoned professional speaker and life coach, Kay Kotan, as she leads you through the step-by-step process on how to reclaim your life. This dynamic speaker creates a safe place to challenge today's busy-ness and reconsider society's beliefs.



**Mark Your Calendar Today
Saturday, February 13
9:00am to Noon
First United Methodist Church
Admission is Only \$25**

Proceeds for this invaluable event benefit the ministries of First United Methodist Church.

Purchase your tickets today at the Information Table in the church narthex or on-line at:

<http://tinyurl.com/1stMethodistBlueSpgs>.

Make the decision today to invest in yourself and your family.

Bring a friend to share in this memorable journey.

HEARTS AND HANDS CIRCLE

Hearts and Hands January Project - Newhouse Shelter for Women and Children. Newhouse has a continuing need for twin sheets and pillowcases. With the capacity to accommodate more than 80 women and children, there is an ongoing need for sheets and pillowcases. Perhaps you have some gently used ones or can take advantage of the January white sales and help us fill the Hearts and Hands bin in the coatroom. Thanks for your generosity.



Newhouse is a Kansas City area shelter for victims of domestic violence that served 943 women and children in 2009. Our mission is to break the cycle of domestic violence by providing the tools that allow women to make positive choices and lead self-sufficient lives.

Needs:

Van: Newhouse is looking for a dependable van--without one, we have no transportation to offer our clients

Cash Donations

Blankets, twin sheets and plastic mattress covers (with zipper)

New crib mattresses, crib sheets and blankets

Personal care products (full-size lotion, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant)

Cleaning supplies (disinfectant wipes and sprays, bleach)

Diapers (Large-Size 5)

Shower totes (plastic tubs), Shower shoes (flip-flops)

Snowsuits for babies and snow boots for kids of all ages

Join the United Methodist Men.

All men are welcome.

Saturday, February 6

8:00am in room 112



YOUTH EVENTS

You must be signed up for all activities ahead of time. This is to ensure we have enough transportation. Friends are always welcome, but everyone must have a consent form on file or filled out to participate.

Sunday Night Youth!

- 5:30-5:45pm Dinner
- 5:45-6:15pm Team meetings
- 6:15-7:00pm Mid-high and Senior high groups meet
- 7:00-7:30pm Games and fellowship

FUMC Youth has a group on Facebook. If you want to be connected via Facebook regarding youth activities, events, photos, etc., please join the group called FUMC YOUTH GROUP.

January Youth Dinner Menu

January 24—NO YOUTH - W.O.W. Conference

January 31—Spaghetti

SNOW ANGELS

Calling all snow angels! It's time to sign up for our 2009 snow angel team. All you need is a shovel and time during a snow day to help scoop for people who can't! Sign up and we will e-mail or call when the snow starts to accumulate! Adult drivers/sponsors needed!

W.O.W. Youth Conference

January 23-24

Springfield, MO

Registered youth should meet at the church at 7:45am on Saturday. Pack light! Need money for snacks and optional purchases. \$45 remaining fee due when we leave.

January 16/17, 2010

Giving

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| General Fund | \$8,504 |
| (needed) | \$16,611 |
| Giving to date | \$43,177 |
| Budget to date | \$49,833 |
| 2009 Budget..... | \$863,789 |
| % of Budget Received | 5.0 |

Building Fund

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Building Fund | \$2,312 |
| (needed) | \$6,812 |
| 3-year Goal | \$1,062,703 |
| % of Goal Received | 35.0 |
| % of Campaign Complete | 35.3 |
| Designated Giving..... | \$3,259 |

Worship Attendance

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Worship | 522 |
| Sunday School | |
| Children | 68 |
| Youth | 24 |
| Adults..... | 95 |
| Totals | 187 |
| Sunday Evening Youth | 32 |



**CALLING ALL
YOUTH**

The church will have an auction on Saturday, February 20. The auction is a fundraiser for the Costa Rica Reverse Mission Trip in August this year.

At all worship services the first two weekends in February, some of the auction items will be displayed in the narthex at church.

Jack Marker is seeking help selling tickets to the auction on those weekends. If you would like to earn some credit toward your mission trip fee, Jack would welcome your help at the ticket table. You'll get \$2 credit for every \$8 dollar ticket you sell.

You don't have to sign up. Just show up at either the 5:30pm Saturday evening worship or at any of the worship services on Sunday morning. Questions? Contact Jack Marker at 229-9510.

Missouri Mavericks Faith and Family Event

March 7, 2:00-7:30pm
Christian Concert following the hockey match.

\$18 ticket includes game and concert.

Tickets must be paid for by February 21.

Sign up now and turn your money in on the 21st!!!

Friends are invited! Adults too!!!



| Date | Time | Place |
|---|---------------|------------|
| Sunday, January 24 | | |
| Children's Puppets | 10:45am | 102 |
| Independents Advisory Board Meeting | Noon | 112 |
| 2010 Confirmation Class | 7:00pm | 012 |
| Youth at WOW Conference—No Other Evening Youth Activities | | |
| Monday, January 25 | | |
| Susannah Circle Meeting | 1:30pm | 103 |
| Trustees Committee Meeting | 7:00 | Off Site |
| Gospel Singers Rehearsal | 7:00 | 150 |
| Tuesday, January 26 | | |
| Independents Singles Volleyball | 7:00pm | MPR |
| Wednesday, January 27 | | |
| Pastors Lectionary Group | 8:00am | 103 |
| Wednesday Fellowship Dinner | 5:15pm | 117 |
| Glory Ringers Handbell Rehearsal | 5:30 | 154 |
| Spirit Ringers Handbell Rehearsal | 6:30 | 154 |
| Invitation to Psalms with Rev. Steve | 6:30 | 117 |
| Gifts Discovery with Rev. Karen | 6:30 | 112 |
| Crafts/Prayer Shawls | 7:00 | 103 |
| Chancel Choir Rehearsal | 7:30 | 150 |
| Rhapsody Ringers Handbell Rehearsal | 7:30 | 154 |
| Thursday, January 28 | | |
| Hearts and Hands Circle Meeting | 6:30pm | 112 |
| Open Gym | 7:00 | MPR |
| Friday, January 29 | | |
| Adult Volleyball | 7:00pm | MPR |
| Saturday, January 30 | | |
| Disaster Relief Ministry Meeting | 9:30am | Office |
| Worship Service | 5:30pm | Sanctuary |
| Sunday, January 31 | | |
| Children's Chime Choir | 10:45am | 154 |
| Youth Dinner | 5:30pm | 117 |
| Evening Youth Activities | 5:45 | 013 |
| 2010 Confirmation Class | 7:00 | 012 |
| Monday, February 1 | | |
| Gospel Singers Rehearsal | 7:00pm | 150 |
| Staff/Parish Relations Committee Mtg. | 7:00 | 103 |
| Tuesday, February 2 | | |
| Independents Singles Volleyball | 7:00pm | MPR |
| Job Club | 7:00 | 103 |
| Wednesday, February 3 | | |
| Pastors Lectionary Group | 8:00am | 103 |
| Wednesday Fellowship Dinner | 5:15pm | 117 |
| Glory Ringers Handbell Rehearsal | 5:30 | 154 |
| Spirit Ringers Handbell Rehearsal | 6:30 | 154 |
| Invitation to Psalms with Rev. Steve | 6:30 | 117 |
| Gifts Discovery with Rev. Karen | 6:30 | 112 |
| Crafts/Prayer Shawls | 7:00 | 103 |
| Chancel Choir Rehearsal | 7:30 | 150 |
| Rhapsody Ringers Handbell Rehearsal | 7:30 | 154 |
| Thursday, February 4 | | |
| Open Gym | 7:00pm | MPR |
| Friday, February 5 | | |
| Adult Volleyball | 7:00pm | MPR |
| Saturday, February 6 | | |
| Methodist Men's Breakfast | 8:00am | 112 |
| Leadership Institute—The Journey | 9:00 | 117 |
| Youth to Harvesters | 1:30pm | Off Site |
| Worship Service | 5:30 | Sanctuary |

January 2010

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

| SUNDAY | | |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Noon | Men Of Praise Choir Rehearsal | 150 |
| 1:00pm | Psalm 150 Jazz Band Rehearsal | 150 |
| 3:00 | Crossover Rehearsal | Sanctuary |
| 5:30 | Youth Dinner | 117 |
| 5:45 | Youth Team Meetings | 015/016 |
| 6:15 | Youth Breakout Meetings | 015/016 |
| 7:00 | Youth Games and Fellowship | MPR |
| MONDAY | | |
| TUESDAY | | |
| 8:00am | Morning Prayer Group | 100 |
| 7:00pm | Single Adult Volleyball | MPR |
| WEDNESDAY | | |
| 8:00am | Pastors Lectionary Group | 103 |
| 5:15pm | Wednesday Fellowship Dinner | 117 |
| 5:30 | Glory Ringers | 154 |
| 6:30 | Spirit Ringers | 154 |
| 6:30 | Invitation to Psalms—Rev. Steve | 117 |
| 6:30 | Serving from the Heart—Rev. Karen | 112 |
| 7:00 | Creative Crafts - Prayer Shawls | 103 |
| 7:30 | Rhapsody Ringers | 154 |
| 7:30 | Chancel Choir | 150 |
| THURSDAY | | |
| 9:30am | Back Fence Bible Study | 100 |

Ministers

All members who have pledged to uphold First UMC with their prayers, presence, service, gifts, and witness.



Pastors

Rev. Steve Campbell
Rev. Karen Taylor

Worship

Saturday, 5:30pm
Sunday, 8:00, 9:15, and 10:45am

Office Hours

8:00am—4:30pm Monday-Friday

Church Office: (816) 229-8108

Church fax: (816) 229-6705

E-mail: office@firstumcbs.org

Learning Ladder Preschool
(816) 229-9949

Church Website - www.firstumcbs.org

Blog—<http://fumcnews.blogspot.com>

January 20, 2010

First United Methodist Church
of Blue Springs
301 SW Woods Chapel Road
Blue Springs MO 64015

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage

PAID

Blue Springs, MO 64015

PERMIT No. 21

Address Service Requested

Haiti Relief Donations

UMCOR has established an advance special number to accept donations to respond to this earthquake. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/umcorhaiti> to donate on-line or send checks payable to the Missouri Annual Conference with **Advance Special #418325** "Haiti Emergency" noted. The Office of Creative Ministries is working to coordinate with UMCOR regarding other supply needs, but financial assistance is the most critical at this time. Donations may also be sent to the church office. Mark your check "Haiti Relief."

Calling all cooks and bakers!

Here's your chance to shine by providing delectable hors d'oeuvres or desserts for our auction guests. The best offerings may even become auction items! We need donations of appetizers and desserts that can sit at room temperature for a while. With that in mind, pull out the old recipe box and call Elizabeth Braden at 229-2794, to donate.



Mission Trips Auction Fundraiser— Saturday, February 20

Silent Auction: 6:30pm – Live Auction: 8:00pm -
Tickets are \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door

It's coming, and you need to be there! Enjoy snacking on hors d'oeuvres and desserts while browsing and bidding on hundreds of exciting silent auction items donated by local businesses. The excitement ramps up at 8:00pm with a live auction for the big ticket donations like a weekend stay at Lake of the Ozarks, wine tastings, furniture, beauty treatments, fine art and more. Get your tickets early. They'll be on sale in the narthex February 6-7 and 13-14.

SPORTS FANS TAKE NOTE: We have also been blessed with several dozen highly collectible professional sports memorabilia items, many of which are signed. Bring your checkbooks and bring your sports-fanatic friends! Watch for details.