

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

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## Get Involved, Get Connected, Get Discipled

Most church members would tell you that theirs is a friendly congregation, eager to welcome visitors and new members into their midst; and First UMC is no different. Yet far too many of these same congregations have trouble translating this intention into action. Offering a friendly greeting to a new face is important, but it is only the first of many steps that congregations must take in order to turn visitors into members, and new members into committed disciples.

What are effective ways of assimilating newcomers? What is the meaning of membership? What are theologically sound reasons for reaching out to others and sharing the Gospel? How can local congregations mobilize to welcome and include persons into the ministry of Christ's church? In short, how may churches prepare effectively for the race of mission and evangelism as they move into a new century?

As we begin to talk about how to reach out to our community, we will need tools for the job.

A new resource to address these and other questions about the way churches may connect newcomers to Christ is written by Douglas T. Anderson (Executive Director of the Rueben Job Center for Leadership Development) and Bishop Michael Coyner (Dakotas Area). [The Race to Reach Out: Connecting Newcomers to Christ in a New Century](#) is available at the information table.

[The Race to Reach Out](#) is an engaging book that will help us address the nuts-and-bolts issues of assimilating new persons in the life of the church. Cultivating a passion for God and God's people is what this useful tool for ministry is about.

The authors state at the outset that the key to assimilating newcomers is teamwork. Using a metaphor from track and field, they share how making disciples is more like running a relay than a solo race. Assimilation is a process, and it requires the efforts of the whole church. Critical factors, therefore, are at work that will determine the success of the overall mission (e.g., speed, timing, skill, handoffs, practice). Miss one aspect of the training and the church misses the mark. Preparation is critical, teamwork essential.

The book is divided into seven chapters, with each chapter beginning with a short account of persons searching for a church home. The stories provide a helpful starting point for launching into the ways congregations may reflect on the practice of welcoming newcomers into the life of the church. Understanding that the true motivation in evangelism is to connect persons to God's love in Christ, the authors go on to note four key ways churches can attract newcomers to the church's mission: word of mouth, advertising, service evangelism, and invitation (p. 5). By opening the book with these insights, the authors provide practical insights into the process of assimilation. The pros and cons of each aspect of evangelism are treated succinctly and with care.

**52% of people who do not attend church say they would attend but they were never invited.**

*(Continued on page 2)*



**And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." - Mark 1:17**

## Rev. Steve Campbell

Dear Friends,

The last two weekends I have preached sermons which I would like to review here. If you were not present for one, or both of those, I encourage you to go to the First United Methodist Church web site and listen to them. The address is [www.firstumcbs.org](http://www.firstumcbs.org). It is not difficult to find past sermons there.

Two weeks ago, the weekend of January 17-18, I stated again we are in a new phase of our life and the emphasis is going to be on worship attendance, spiritual and numerical growth, and growing in our discipleship. In that sermon I shared two essential questions. It is our response to those questions which is crucial. If we are only talking about a temporary program emphasis, or our aim is simply bolstering the organization, we can predict now the minimal results which will come from this. The first question asks about your relationship with Jesus Christ. Is he the Savior of the world, and do you believe he is the Savior for your life? To proclaim Jesus as Savior has a variety of meanings. At the heart of it, to say Jesus is our Savior means he is the source of our forgiveness, the promise of everlasting life, and our sure guide to living this life joyfully and abundantly. Is he your Savior, or do you invite him to play a lesser role in your life? The second question concerns the Church. What do you believe about the Church? Is it another institution, perhaps a little more noble than some others, or a little more distinct in its activities? Do you want to know it is there to serve you when you want or need it to? Or, is the Church the unique creation of God meant to play an essential role in the salvation of the world? Is it God's holy instrument? Are we the Body of Christ? If Jesus is your Savior, and you are in a vital, growing relationship, and the Church is God's creation for the salvation of individuals and the world, then we will

have no problem at all with making decisions about attending worship, inviting others, and doing the things which help us grow in our faith and discipleship. Those two questions are at the heart of the matter!



Last weekend I stated that the Church has one reason to exist. We are in the world to manifest the love of God in Jesus Christ. That witness is what creates our activity and guides our actions. It is the "plumb line" for our life. Of course God has given us a variety of meaningful ways to manifest his love, and thus be God's instrument in saving the world. I reviewed some of those. Ultimately we are called to witness to our faith and invite others to the experience of God's grace. Witnessing to our faith and inviting others is intimidating for many of us. We wish God would just get someone else to do it, but we are all called to "fish for people." Start by picturing in your mind and heart that person or persons you might share with. Pray for them regularly. Pray that God will give you the right opportunity to have a conversation with them. Trust that when the moment presents itself, you will not be alone. God will be with you. And God will work through you. We cannot do this on our own, and we cannot disregard Christ's call.

This weekend I will address what I believe to be a third set of essential questions. My intent is that these three sermons become a foundation for our future direction. We will grow in attendance, numerically and spiritually, and in our discipleship. I hope you will be here. I know it is not always possible to be in worship. The question is, is it a priority for you to worship your Savior?

Grace and Peace to You

Steve Campbell

## Get Involved, Get Connected, Get Disciplined

*(Continued from page 1)*

The process Anderson and Coyner share throughout the book is clear. Seven critical steps comprise a comprehensive view of how we must work as a team to fulfill the church's disciple-making mission: attracting newcomers, welcoming newcomers (creating a climate of hospitality), identifying newcomers (recognizing the importance of names), responding to newcomers (understanding the importance of making personal contact in a timely fashion), listening to newcomers (making a personal visit), including newcomers (inviting people to participate in ministry), and including newcomers as members (making the decision to join). From the outset, the goal is to make disciples, not simply add more members to the church's rolls. Belonging, connecting, and being part of the church is the goal of assimilation (p. 95). Quoting Lyle Schaller, the authors reiterate how "systems produce the outcomes they are designed to produce" (p. 96). This is why the church must make the necessary changes to connect persons to Christ in meaningful ways.

You can be a part of re-thinking the way we welcome newcomers and engage disciples. Near the end of February we will be holding learning events on the subject of extending hospitality to our guests. Opportunities to sign up will be available on the Blue Card or you can email [office@firstumcbs.org](mailto:office@firstumcbs.org) or call the office at 229-8108. Come and find out what the Newcomers Team is all about and what you can do to make it successful. There are opportunities for every person in this church to participate.

**HEALTH CONCERNS**

Nancy Campbell	Inez Dexheimer
Lydon Drury	Wayne Dumas
Martha Farabee	Melissa Grey
Terry Hartwig	Wade LaDue
Ednabelle Menditto	Patrick Moore
Shawn Stark	Lenora Stoecklein
Shari Sullivan	Lola Tobiason
Ann York	Sheri Adams
Mary Derrington	Bernie Dietrich
Wilma Drigalla	Larry McMullin
Jean Moore	Bob Orndorff
Doris Rhodes	Bob Turner
Grace Wright	Louise Welden

Bill Marshall, Jim Dietrich's brother-in-law  
 Bob Sherrill, Susie Shearer's father  
 Dana Showers, Marcia Lesan's sister  
 Doug Jones, Becky Leath's son  
 Elizabeth Smith, Cheryl Leppert's grandmother  
 George White, Barbara Moore's brother-in-law  
 Ginger Moore, Barbara Moore's daughter-in-law  
 Grover James, Gary Baker's brother-in-law  
 John Self, Janice Patillo's brother  
 Joyce Brammer, Debbie Danner's mother  
 Leota Cossairt, Melody Garland's mother  
 Max Gumm, Cindy Laster's stepfather  
 Nicole Johnson, Kristi White's sister  
 Ron Lake, Lynn Rooney's brother

**OTHER CONCERNS**

Those affected by job loss, job stress, or other fallout from the economic downturn

Financial concerns of our church

Family Life Center building project

Ilda and Naftal Suzana of Mozambique (assisted our group while there) are attending Africa University in Zimbabwe. The situation there is bad. Prices are high, food is scarce and there is disease; life is hard.

**SYMPATHY**

to Beth and Gene Pacas on the death of Beth's sister, Deadre Alexander, on January 9.

to the family of Scott and Dawn Martin on the death of Scott's mother, Joyce Martin, on January 14.

to Ryan and Amanda Schaaf on the death of Amanda's father in Florida.

to Diana Griffiths and family on the death of her aunt, Catherine Kauffman, on January 23 and her uncle, Donnie Lyon, on January 22.

**JOYS**

Congratulations to Matthew Culpepper and Megen Miller who were united in marriage on January 10. They are both completing their PhD studies at KU. Matthew is the son of B.H. (Speck) and Susan Culpepper.

**Harvesters**

**Souper Bowl Weekend of Caring**  
**January 31, February 1**  
**Bring canned goods to**  
**church this 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 **Sunday, February 1, 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 Sunday, February 1, from 2:00-4:00pm.



## BABY, IT'S COLD OUTSIDE

Help those in need by donating an adult- or child-size blanket to Grace Circle. There will be a barrel in the narthex until February 15, so add to the pile of blankets. All donations will be taken to Grand Avenue Temple or Spofford Home. Thank you for helping those less fortunate.



**RECYCLE**  
MY CELL PHONE

Join the **United Methodist Men.**  
All men are welcome.

**Saturday, February 7**

**8:00am in room 112**



## Mission Opportunity: Sunday Lunch for reStart Shelter



If you are looking for an opportunity to literally "serve from your heart," this is it. Several times during this year, FUMC will provide Sunday lunch at the reStart Emergency Shelter. Dates for 2009 are February 8, April 12, June 14, August 9, October 11, and December 13. This is a great opportunity for individuals, families, Sunday School classes, or other small groups to reach out to someone in need by volunteering to prepare or serve a warm, comforting meal. Please call Carol Jo Hansen (229-8674) if you would like to volunteer for this rewarding ministry.

## Cancer Support Group

Cancer survivors and those currently experiencing cancer are invited to meet for one hour a week on **Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm in Room 100**. This will be an ongoing group with the goal of exploring ways to cope with the changes illness brings to our lives. Once a month caregivers and family members will be invited to join us. If you are interested in attending, please call the church office at 229-8108 or just come to a session. We are looking forward to a time of spiritual growth and mutual support.

## Electronic Newsletter and Pastor-gram

If you are interested in receiving the newsletter by email, you can sign up on the website. Just go to [www.firstumcbs.org/nwsltr.asp](http://www.firstumcbs.org/nwsltr.asp) and sign up there. You can also register to receive the weekly pastor-gram on the same page. Newsletters are emailed before the printed ones are finished so you can get it early. **Call the office if you receive the email and a printed newsletter or multiple copies. Also, let us know if you move or are going to be away for an extended period of time. We pay the postage for all returned newsletters.**

## Come to the Well—A Women's Retreat

We all come to God's well—whether it is to take something or to bring something. Whichever it is, God will and does provide. You are invited to "Come to the Well" for a time of refreshment and renewal as you join other women from the church at Wilderness Retreat Center in Lawson, MO. The cost is \$45 for the retreat, which begins on Friday, March 13, and will conclude Saturday afternoon, March 14. Registration begins this weekend.



## COSTA RICA MISSION TRIP – 2009

Once again this year a mission trip team from FUMC will travel to Costa Rica. For three years these trips to Costa Rica have been very successful and rewarding. The first meeting will be Sunday, February 8, at 7:00pm in room 112. You are invited to come and learn about the trip.

## Hearts and Hands January Project

Grand Avenue Temple's Sojourner program has a constant need for underwear (tee shirts and shorts) and socks. We hope you can help Hearts and Hands fill its barrel in the narthex during the month of January. Men's and women's items are needed and some extra-large and plus sizes would be very helpful.

# WINTER SINGLES DANCE

**FEBRUARY 7, 2009**

**8:00pm – MIDNIGHT**

**BLUE SPRINGS FIRST  
UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH**

**301 SW WOODS CHAPEL ROAD  
BLUE SPRINGS, MO**



**Admission: \$10 per person**

Light snacks and drinks (nonalcoholic) will be provided

**MUSIC PROVIDED BY DJ - BOBBY EDDY**

(For those who remember Pogo's back in the day, Bobby was the DJ)

**For questions contact Lucinda – 816-651-1704 or Mary – 816-588-7195**

## **The Bunco Group--Every Second Sunday at 3:00pm—Room 112**

What is Bunco--It is a game that you play with dice and a table of 4 friends. Difficulty level of 0 and all rules of play will be explained at the first meeting. This is a new group, so you will be getting in on the ground floor. No experience needed; just bring yourself and be prepared to have fun and yell BUNCO!!!!



## **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

UMW will meet on Friday, February 6, at 10:00am in room 112. Our program is a call to prayer and self-denial. The theme is Creating Communities Through Information Technology. We will have an offering for this mission program, which will fund grassroots projects that support local communities, with opportunities for computer literacy, information technology training for poor populations, physically challenged persons, and especially women. Luncheon will follow the program. A donation for this meal is requested at \$2. For questions or information, contact Donna Moore, 224-3179.

## **Help Deliver Visitor Gifts On Sunday After Church.**

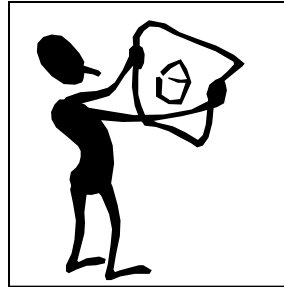
We are looking for a few folks to deliver mugs to first-time guests. Speak to a pastor or Reed Alberg for information.

# 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!

- 5:00-5:30pm Dinner
- 5:30-5:50pm Break into groups for fellowship
- 5:50-6:50pm Lessons and discussion
- 6:50pm Joys and concerns, offering, and benediction all together
- 7:00-7:30pm Games and recreation



**CALLING ALL  
YOUTH**

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.**

**SNOW ANGELS** - Sign up to scoop driveways after snow accumulations! Drivers/adults always needed- This is a winter-long opportunity!

**Senior High Youth plan time** will resume on Wednesday, February 4, from 6:30-7:30pm. Meet in the Senior High Youth room and help plan the Sunday night lessons!

## SOUPER BOWL OF CARING WEEKEND

Our youth and adult volunteers will be working on **Sunday, February 1, from 2:00-4:00pm** to help sort and repackage food at Harvesters in Kansas City. Volunteers are asked to bring a minimum of 10 canned goods (or \$10) per person. Meet at church at 1:00pm and return about 4:30pm.

**Prayer Bear Report-** 16 Prayer Bears have been taken to the Blue Springs Police Department! We have been rotating the bears about every two weeks through 4 classrooms. The bears have been well loved and blessed with many healing thoughts. Many bears have been donated by the congregation and we are very excited how well this program has taken off.

**Helping Hands needed-** The youth will be assisting with picking up trash and odds and ends around the new Family Life Center. Meet at 4:30pm before youth this Sunday to do a quick pickup, then head upstairs for supper! We will be doing this every couple of weeks. Many hands make the job fun and easy!

## The Stats: Year-end Summary

### Giving for 2008

General Fund .....	\$739,219
Total Pledges.....	\$518,913
Contributed to Pledges....	\$484,210
% of Pledges Received .....	93
Non-Pledged Giving .....	\$255,009
2008 Budget.....	\$868,115
% of Budget Received.....	85.2
2008 Actual Expenses ....	\$825,499
% of Budget Used.....	95.00
Designated Gifts .....	\$209,718

### Building Fund Campaign Summary

3-year Pledge .....	\$1,124,843
Total Received .....	\$1,011,116
% of Pledge Received .....	90.0

### Average Attendance 2008

Worship .....	539
Sunday School	
Children .....	63
Youth .....	22
Adults.....	104
Totals.....	190
Youth Events.....	31

Date	Time	Place
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**Sunday, February 1**

Disaster Relief Ministry Meeting	Noon	103
Youth to Harvesters	1:00pm	Off Site
No other youth evening activities		

**Monday, February 2**

Vesper Voices Rehearsal	7:00pm	150
Administrative Board Meeting	6:45	103
Staff Parish Relations Committee Mtg.	7:00	103

**Tuesday, February 3****Wednesday, February 4**

Bible Study with Rev. Jack Belton	10:00am	Belton Home
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**COME TO THE WELL**

Children's Chime Choir Rehearsal	6:30pm	Sanctuary
Serving from the Heart with Pastor Karen	6:30	012
Study of Exodus with Pastor Steve	6:30	112
Confirmation Class 2009	6:30	013
Bible Study for Single Moms	6:30	011
Cancer Support Group	6:30	100
Stephen Ministry Training	6:30	Office

**Thursday, February 5****Friday, February 6**

United Methodist Women Board Meeting	9:00am	103
United Methodist Women Meeting	10:00	112

**Saturday, February 7**

United Methodist Men's Breakfast	8:00am	112
Worship Service	5:30pm	Sanctuary
Independents Winter Dance	8:00	Sanctuary

**Sunday, February 8**

Independents Advisory Board Meeting	Noon	112
Bunco Group	3:00pm	112
Accepted Rehearsal	4:00	Sanctuary
Witness Chorale Rehearsal	7:15	150

**Monday, February 9**

Council On Ministries Committee Meeting	7:00	103
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**Tuesday, February 10**

Stephen Ministry Peer Group Meeting	7:00pm	Office
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**Wednesday, February 11**

Bible Study with Rev. Jack Belton	10:00am	Belton Home
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**COME TO THE WELL**

Power Praise Kids Rehearsal	6:30pm	115
Serving from the Heart with Pastor Karen	6:30	012
Study of Exodus with Pastor Steve	6:30	112
Confirmation Class 2009	6:30	013
Bible Study for Single Moms	6:30	011
Cancer Support Group	6:30	100
Stephen Ministry Training	6:30	Office

**Thursday, February 12**

Building Committee Meeting	7:00pm	011
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**Friday, February 13****Saturday, February 14**

Worship Service	5:30pm	Sanctuary
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**February 2009**

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

**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES****SUNDAY**

8:00, 9:15, 10:45am	Worship Services	Sanctuary
12:00 noon	Men of Praise	150
1:00pm	Psalm 150	150
3:00	Crossover Rehearsal	Sanctuary
5:00	Youth Dinner	Narthex
5:30	Youth Activities	Education

**MONDAY**

7:00pm	Antithesis Young Adults	011
7:00	Boy Scout Troop 332	112
7:00	Cub Scout Pack 332	102

**TUESDAY**

8:00am	Morning Prayer Group	100
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**WEDNESDAY**

8:00am	Pastors Lectionary Group	103
5:15pm	Wednesday Fellowship Dinner	Narthex
5:30	Glory Ringers Rehearsal	154
6:30	Youth Planning Session	014-016
6:30	Pastor's Study	112
6:30	Children's Bible Study and Craft	106
6:30	Children's Chime Choir (1st & 3rd)	Sanctuary
6:30	Power Praise Kids (2nd & 4th)	115
6:30	Spirit Ringers Rehearsal	154
7:00	Creative Crafts/Prayer Shawls	103
7:30	Rhapsody Ringers Rehearsal	154
7:30	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	150

**THURSDAY**

9:30am	Back Fence Bible Study	100
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**FRIDAY**

9:30am	Joy Ringers Handbell Rehearsal	154
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**SATURDAY**

5:30pm	Worship	Sanctuary
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### 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](mailto:office@firstumcbs.org)

Learning Ladder Preschool  
(816) 229-9949

Church Website - [www.firstumcbs.org](http://www.firstumcbs.org)

Blog—<http://fumcnews.blogspot.com>

*January 28, 2009*

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

**Return Service Requested**

### Join the "Block" Party!

The Building Committee is in need of volunteers to paint the base coat on the block walls in the new Family Life Center. All materials and equipment will be provided; what we need is just your labor in clothing that will probably change colors. This project may take more than one day and will most likely be done on Saturdays in February and/or March. If you would like to help, please call the church office at 816-229-8108 and leave your name and phone number and we will get back to you when a start date can be determined. Thank you for your willingness to help with this project!



**Ephesians 3:20**