

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

Volume 2 Issue 7

April 2 2008

INSIDE

Greetings from Pastor Steve Page 2
Adult Confirmation Page 2
Joys and Concerns Page 3

Ministry News Page 4
Ministry Opportunities Page 5
Youth News Page 6
Calendar Page 7

You seek
Jesus
of
Nazareth,
who was
crucified.

He has risen!



Mark 16:6

HEARTLAND NORTH DISTRICT "CONNECTIONAL LEARNING" APRIL 5, 9:00am to 2:00pm at FAITH UMC – GRAIN VALLEY

A new program of presentation and coaching in the leadership ministries of the local Church and the UMC Connection, including continuing educational opportunities for both clergy and laity.

A "Learning Lunch" and "Leaders Tool Kit" will be provided with registration fee.

Early Registration is encouraged [More info at www.firstumcbs.org](http://www.firstumcbs.org)

Rev. Steve Campbell



Dear Friends,

A generous member of the congregation recently gave me a copy of a book entitled *The Ragamuffin Gospel*, by Brennan Manning. It was a generous gift. In one section of the book, the author is writing about the significance of Jesus enjoying table fellowship with all kinds of people. He says, "Sadly the meaning of meal sharing is largely lost in the Christian community today. In the Near East, to share a meal with someone is a guarantee of peace, trust, fraternity, and forgiveness—the shared table symbolizes a shared life." These words come in the midst of a powerful statement of the radical nature of God's grace

shown to us in Jesus Christ. Christ ate with, shared fellowship, and showed love to all kinds of people.

This weekend we will celebrate Holy Communion in all four of our worship services. Sometimes we act as if this is simply a ritual act, important because it helps to keep a memory of Jesus alive. However, being invited to the Lord's Table is not simply symbolic. Nor is it simply a ritual. Communion is more than a reminder of the Last Supper when Jesus invited the disciples to share with him at the table. And, it is more than a foreshadowing of our invitation to the Heavenly Banquet at some future time. You and I are invited to his table here, now, in this time. Christ is here. Christ both invites and receives you at the Table. You are invited to begin, or to renew, your relationship with him. By inviting you, Christ is offering to share life with you.

As we gather for worship, the Scripture reading will be Luke 24:13-35. It is the Resurrection appearance to the disciples on the road to Emmaus. They walked and talked with him for several miles, but in the breaking of bread their eyes were opened. Then they knew it was Jesus.

Manning also comments, "In modern times it is scarcely possible to appreciate the scandal Jesus caused by his table fellowship with sinners." The Good News of the Gospel has not changed! God knows us and loves us. We are invited to the Lord's Table! Christ will share his life with us! Some invitations you receive ask for an R.S.V.P. This time there is no need. Just come.

Grace and Peace,
Steve Campbell

Looking Ahead:

Saturday, April 26:

Trustees Spring Cleanup Day—9:00am.

Youth Missions Garage Sale in the Education Wing—open at 8:00am

Volunteer Recognition/Celebration following the 5:30pm worship service

Saturday, May 3

United Methodist Men's Mother's Day Brunch—9:00am in the narthex

Service of Remembrance and Celebration—Rev. Bill Crawford—3:00pm

Saturday, May 10

Guest Time with the Pastors—10:00am.

Confirmation Celebration—5:30pm.

Saturday, May 17

Blessing of the Bikes (two wheel, three wheel, big wheel, motorized, or pedaled!)—5:30pm.

The Independents Carnival, Everyone Invited! 6:30-9:00pm.

Sunday, May 18

Scholarship Sunday and Graduate Recognition at 10:45am worship service

Adult Confirmation Class Forming

Are you interested in becoming a full member of First United Methodist but don't know how?

Maybe you would just like to learn a little more before taking that step.

There will be an adult Confirmation class beginning Wednesday, April 2, at 6:30pm in room 112. It will continue on Wednesday evenings through May 7. Participants from the youth Confirmation class will be received into membership at the special Confirmation Celebration on Saturday, May 10, at 5:30. Those who are members of the adult class may join then, or at a time of their choosing.

If you are already a member but want to learn more, you are welcome to join the adult Confirmation class! Call the office at 229-8108 or sign up on the "Blue Card" at worship.

HEALTH CONCERNS

Bill Barnes
 Bob Turner
 Dovie Lanos
 Grace Wright
 Jack Belton
 Bernie Dietrich
 Bob Orndorff
 Brian Griffiths
 Gerry Tisdale
 Dick Moore
 Virginia Barry
 Larry McMullin
 Lucille Welden
 Milt Hunt, Jan Harris' father
 Vida Hartley, Ron Hubbard's mother
 Joseph Gurera, Ron and Debbie Hubbard's grandson
 Howard and Betty Kaufman, Mike Kaufman's parents
 Grover James, Jr., Gary Baker's brother-in-law
 Linda Aber, Jack and Hazel Quinn's daughter
 Don Driggs, Zoe Soendker's brother
 Frances Higgins, Keith Higgins' mother
 Bill Marshall, Jim Dietrich's brother-in-law
 Nancy Ballew, Beckie Himes' mother
 Doug Jones, Becky Leath's son

**OTHER CONCERNS**

Matt Thompson—Electrical Systems Apprentice (U.S. Air Force)

SYMPATHY

to Jo Perrin on the death of her step-nephew, Larry Welch, on March 20.

to Terry and Betty Hartwig, Megan and Cara, on the death of Terry's father, Herman Hartwig, on March 23.

to the family of Bill Crawford on his death on March 25.

to Ken and Jan Land on the death of Ken's mother, Catherine Land, on March 27.

JOY

Congratulations to Emmert and Carol Jo Hansen on the birth of granddaughter, Margaret Sophia Hanson, on March 21. Parents are Andy and Kelli Hansen of Austin, TX.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Communion Offering

We will participate in One Great Hour of Sharing through our Communion Offering in April. This offering will benefit UMCOR (United

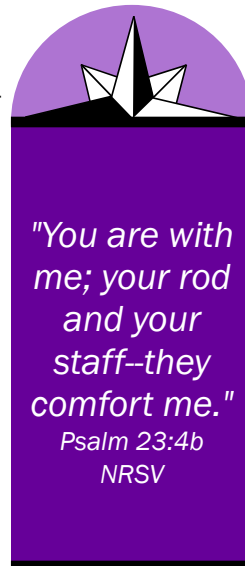
Methodist Committee on Relief) in providing assistance to the many needs in our world.



UMCOR brings relief when a catastrophe strikes. We rush to disaster areas all over the world with aid. But, along with food, clothing, shelter

and medical help, we stay to assist survivors rebuild lives. That's what United Methodists do in response to God's love. From re-educating soldiers to feeding schoolchildren to establishing medical clinics in remote villages, we are hope for millions in nearly 100 of the poorest countries in the world. Once a year, during One Great Hour of Sharing, you can join United Methodists worldwide by making a special offering to support this humanitarian aid. Please do your part by giving generously. Now, more than ever, the world needs you.

Every gift helps, but when you give all you can, your generosity is more meaningful. It is multiplied. It is a miracle. And it becomes enough. Please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing.



<http://gbgm-umc.org/umcor>

www.UMCGiving.org

<http://www.umcsgiving.org/content/sundays/onegreat.asp>

Building Committee Update:

As the Building Committee continues developing plans for a Family Life Center, the time for collecting final bids is near. Architect James Brown is now working on final drawings to send out for bids from subcontractors. The committee will be meeting on April 17 to review the final drawings and hopes to receive final bids back sometime around the end of April. The committee will hold several educational question-and-answer sessions in May for members of the congregation to review the plans and bids. If all goes to plan, the date for an all-church conference for a final vote would fall sometime around late May or early June.

The committee encourages each member to review the updated drawings now in the narthex. Please contact any of the following committee members with comments regarding the plans: Jim Osborne, Craig Singleton, Lori Adkins, Brand Eskew, Terry Hartwig, Bonnie Jorgenson, Don Kuhn, Stephanie Marker, Mike Moran, and Pastor Steve Campbell. The committee appreciates the congregation's comments and continued prayers on this project.

You Are Invited to our second annual

Volunteer Gala

Saturday, April 26

6:30pm in the Narthex

*Join us for dessert and a fun celebration of our volunteers.
Whether you volunteer weekly or occasionally, your ministry is
needed and appreciated.*

YOUTH MISSION TRIPS PROGRAM - 2008

April is **Youth Mission Trips Awareness** month. Our church has an excellent Youth Mission Trips Program. 2008 will be another outstanding year of trips for our youth. Youth mission trips are an excellent opportunity for youth to experience mission work when they serve God by serving others. Mission trip participants will be having fundraisers during April.

GARAGE SALE

It's time to start thinking about cleaning out some of your "stuff" and donating it to the annual Youth Mission Trips Garage Sale. The sale will be Saturday, April 26, here at the church. Start gathering your used clothing, housewares, books, toys and other items and save them for the Garage Sale. There will be more details in the next newsletter or you can call Jack Marker, 229-9510, if you have questions.

SILENT AUCTION

This year the Youth Mission Trips Program will have a silent auction. The auction will feature donations of craft items from church members. It will also have products, goods and services from local retailers. The auction items will be displayed in the narthex at Saturday and Sunday worship services beginning Sunday, April 6. Bidding will close after the last service on Sunday, April 20.

MOCK DISASTER RESPONSE TRAINING

On April 5, the Missouri United Methodist Disaster Response Team will organize a "mock disaster" training for a volunteer reception center. As you may know, in the event of a disaster in Missouri, SEMA will ask MUMDRT to organize all spontaneous volunteers, which will include volunteers to Red Cross, United Way, Salvation Army, and about 30 other organizations.

To train people to be ready and to smooth the networking between these agencies, we have annual simulations. The next one will be held at First Baptist Church of Raytown on Saturday, April 5, 2008, from 9:00am to noon. We need help from you and your church.

Check out the church website for additional information.

MISSION TRIPS STOCK SALE

The youth participating in this year's mission trips will be selling Mission Trip Stock in the narthex at all worship services in April. When you purchase Stock from the youth, you are supporting their mission work.

College Care Packages: We need your help!

Antithesis young adult small group is putting together care packages to send to college kids from our church. We need your help collecting items to put in the care packages. Stop by our table in the narthex the next two Sundays (April 6 and 13) to sign up to help. All donations must be collected by Sunday, April 20. If you have questions, please contact Stephanie Marker at 220-9094 or fumcantithesis@yahoo.com.

ADULT VIM UPDATES

Greensburg, Kansas

The Adult VIM team is planning a short trip to Greensburg, KS, in the fall. We plan to leave early Friday, October 3, and return Sunday, October 5. The cost is nominal. We will be helping build and repair the tornado damage of last spring. We need to know if you are interested in this so we can make our reservation ASAP. Please call or email Kathy Duddridge if you wish to be a part of this team effort.

Thank you. Kathy 224-3029 or physti@hotmail.com.

Saturdays in KC area

The Adult VIM team is also in the process of planning some Saturday-only missions in the KC area. Again please email or call Kathy Duddridge if you wish to join this effort. Thank you. Kathy 224-3029 or physti@hotmail.com.

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 and sign up there. You can also register to receive the weekly pastor-gram on the same page. Newsletters are emailed in full color so you get an added benefit and get it early.

MP3" and save it to your hard drive and listen at your leisure. What a great way to hear the word if you miss church or want to listen again.

The ministry to college-age members is getting started. Antithesis will be coordinating the mailing of Care Packages around Finals time. Remember, this ministry aims to include everyone in this age group, so be sure the church has contact information by going to the website at www.firstumcbs.org/Forms.asp. Also, be sure to see the article from Antithesis in this edition of First Connection!

One suggestion from Discovery '08 was a ministry offering "handyman" assistance to members who can no longer complete these tasks themselves. There are probably many volunteers out there who can be recruited when a leader volunteers!

Through Epiphany and Lent we experimented with having an individual lead singing in the 9:15 worship service. It has been well received and proven to be very helpful. Would you be willing to help lead singing in any of the four worship services? We are looking for volunteers! Call or email one of the pastors, choir directors, or Reed Alberg.

FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

We are approaching the end of the current 3-year capital campaign, "Building on the Rock," which ends December 31, 2008. I encourage you to be aware of your building fund contributions for this current campaign. I would also like to share some building fund statistics as of February 29, 2008:

- We have collected 57.32% of the total pledges, but we have completed 72.22% of the 3-year pledge period.
- The average annual amount collected over the past 5 years was \$381,695.
- The average annual amount collected over the past 2 years, 2006 and 2007, was \$359,671.
- It takes \$22,000 per month, or \$264,000 per year to make our current mortgage payments. For the year 2008, we collected \$37,302 through February 29, 2008, and the mortgage payments totaled \$44,000.

Soon you will be receiving your first-quarter contribution statements and I hope you will prayerfully consider your Building Fund pledge. If you have any questions or comments, please contact any member of the Finance Committee or the church office. Elaine Buchholz, Church Treasurer, can give you information about your commitment and your contributions to date toward "Building on the Rock."

Thanks you so much for your support of our church.

Lori Adkins
Finance Chair

More from Discovery '08!

If you are interested in hearing sermons at a time other than during worship, you can visit the church website at www.firstumcbs.org/sermon2.asp and listen to the sermon there with Real Player or you can right click on the "Download

MP3" and save it to your hard drive and listen at your leisure. What a great way to hear the word if you miss church or want to listen again.

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. All activities will be paid for on the day of the event.

Sunday Night Youth!

- 5:00-5:30pm Dinner (4/6-Pizza, 4/13-Hot Dogs, 4/20-Pasta, 4/27-Chinese)
- 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

Wednesday Night Youth Bible Study

6:30-7:30pm Come for mid-week fellowship in a small group

Confirmation Class

6:30-8:00pm in room 013



Brigades Game



Join us for some arena football on April 19. Tickets are \$20 if we have a group of 10 or more. Signup and pre-payment due by April 6. If we don't have 10 people—we will not go.

Arts 'N Crafts Night

Join us for this year's final

Arts 'N Crafts Night

Wednesday, April 23

6:30-8:00pm

Food, Fellowship, and Crafts provided!

Sunday Night Prep Hour

Interested in helping lead Sunday night youth? If you are a Sr. High Youth member, meet with us from 6:30-7:30 on Wednesday night to help plan and lead Sunday night youth!

Come help with games, lessons, worship and songs for Sunday night!

Something fun for everyone Team WordPlay!

June 14

Team WordPlay is a comedy/drama ministry team formed by Ryan O'Quinn and Chris Woolsey who are Los Angeles-based professional, working actors. When not appearing in films, TV shows or commercials, they are committed to traveling around the country providing top-quality, Biblically-driven skits and improv to churches and youth groups! They will be here in the sanctuary on June 14. Tickets will be \$5 in advance or \$7 at the door. Put it on your calendar NOW!

The Stats:

(3/29-30/2008)

Giving

General Fund.....\$9,701
(needed)\$16,695
2008 Budget\$868,115

Building Fund.....\$27,082
(needed to reach goal).....\$11,551

Designated Gifts\$4,242

General Fund given for year
.....\$179,163

Building Fund Campaign '06-'08
3-year Goal\$1,320,000
% of Goal Received60.6
% of Campaign Completed75.0

Attendance

Worship.....548

Sunday School

Children60

Youth34

Adults.....96

.....190

Youth Events21

CALENDAR

(See weekly activities for regularly scheduled events)

Sunday, April 6

Youth Mission Trip Stock Sales	8:00am	Narthex
Costa Rica Mission Trip Meeting	7:00pm	112

Monday, April 7

Vesper Voices Practice	7:00pm	150
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Tuesday, April 8

Stephen Ministers Peer Group	7:00pm	Office
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Wednesday, April 9

Pastors Lectionary Group	8:00am	103
Youth Confirmation Class	6:30pm	013
Basic Methodism/Adult Confirmation	6:30	112

Thursday, April 10

Altar Guild	2:00pm	Office
Relationship Rebuilding	7:00	011

Friday, April 11

Happy Birthday—Rev. Steve Campbell

Saturday, April 12

Sunday, April 13

Disaster Relief Ministry	Noon	103
Independents Advisory Board	Noon	112
Witness Choral Practice	6:30pm	150

Monday, April 14

Pink Ribbon Ladies Luncheon	11:30am	Off Site
Council on Ministries	7:00pm	103

Tuesday, April 15

United Methodist Men's Lunch	Noon	112
MOPS Meeting	6:30pm	112
Wesleyan Women Circle Meeting	7:30	103

Wednesday, April 16

Pastors Lectionary Group	8:00am	103
Youth Confirmation Class	6:30pm	013
Basic Methodism/Adult Confirmation	6:30	112

Thursday, April 17

Relationship Rebuilding Class	7:00pm	011
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Friday, April 18

Women's Retreat	9:00am	Off Site
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Saturday, April 19

Women's Retreat	9:00am	Off Site
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Youth Mission Trip Stock Sales—All month in the narthex

April 2008

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			

Weekly Activities

Sunday

8:00, 9:15, 10:45am	Worship Services	Sanctuary
12:00 noon	Men of Praise	150
1:00pm	Psalm 150	150
5:00	Youth Dinner	Narthex
5:30	Youth Activities	Education
5:30	Jesus In the Gospels	103

Monday

7:00pm	Antithesis	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

5:15pm	Fellowship Dinner	Narthex
5:30	Glory Ringers	154
6:30	Spirit Ringers	154
6:30	Youth Bible Study	014
7:00	Creative Crafts/Prayer Shawl	103
7:30	Chancel Choir	150
7:30	Rhapsody Ringers	154

Thursday

9:30am	Back Fence Bible Study	100
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Friday

9:30am	Joy Ringers Handbell Practice	154
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Saturday

5:30pm	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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Widows Support Group will meet on Wednesday, April 16, at 11:30am at the Chinatown Buffet for lunch. Please call Carol Sartain for information and reservations at 229-9753.

April 2, 2008

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>

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

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Blue Springs, MO 64015

PERMIT No. 21

Return Service Requested



**"to provide appropriate mobility for
all of God's children in need"**



Over \$1,000 was collected in this weekend's "Flood Buckets for Missions" fifth Sunday offering. Thanks to all who went the extra mile to enable us to purchase 4 PETs for people in need. If you are still interested in making a donation, just mark it for "The PET Project" and we'll make sure it gets added to the total that will be presented at Annual Conference.

