

The First Connection

Leading people to an active faith in Jesus Christ

Volume 2 Issue 8

April 16, 2008

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Over 150 items of clothing were donated in the drive to support Grand Avenue Temple UMC's Sojourners program for the homeless in downtown Kansas City. The Lazarus Boutique at the church is open on weekends, allowing those in need to find sturdy, seasonal clothing. Hearts and Hands members sorted donated clothing, and other volunteers from the church delivered and helped prepare the boutique for the Sojourners' visits.



Grand Avenue Temple pastor, Ron Brooks, and his wife, Jan



Rev. Steve Campbell



Dear Friends,
Last weekend, April 12 and 13, we did something in worship which we had not done together before. I invited members of the

congregation to participate in the sermon by sharing their own insights. The question was about the meaning of "abundant life" as Jesus promises it to us. Well, the response was wonderful! What individuals shared was enlightening. And, in each service, there were several who chose to share their ideas. I can't really tell you the number of positive comments individuals shared on the way out of the sanctuary. We will do this again from time to time.

Every week as we worship, there

is a real sense in which we are "gathered around the word." Preaching is a conversation even when we cannot literally hear the words of all the participants. It is a conversation between worshipers, pastor, the Scripture, and the Holy Spirit. Of course, there are other participants in this conversation. There is liturgy, culture, current events, and more. I truly appreciated sharing this experience with you, in which we made that conversation a little more audible. We gathered around the word, opened our hearts and minds, and I believe the Holy Spirit opened the way for each of us to live more abundantly.

I am looking forward to next week. It is the weekend of April 19 and 20. If you want to be really prepared, you might read two passages of Scripture which will be read in the service. First is Acts

7:55-60, the stoning of Stephen, who was the first recorded Christian martyr. Second is I Peter 2:2-10, where the writer speaks of being built into a spiritual house. I am calling the sermon, "The Story of the Stones." I hope you will be in one of the worship services to share this experience. I think it will be special.

Rev. Karen and I are both aware of how much your prayers mean to us as we prepare for and lead in worship. I know that is true for our music department and liturgists too. If you want our worship to be deeper, richer, more joyful, more meaningful, one way to move that direction is with your regular prayers for those in leadership!

Grace and Peace to You,

Steve Campbell

In Case of Emergency...

The church office is open weekdays from 8:00am to 4:30pm. Of course, the Pastors are in and out of the office frequently on the weekends, but there is always the possibility on weekends and holidays that the office phone would not be answered. If you have an emergency and call the office, be sure you leave your message on Karen's extension, #120, or Steve's extension, #122. If you have a serious emergency and do not find someone in the office, please call Karen or Steve at home. The numbers are listed in the new Guidebook Directory.

Also, on a related topic, do you know that hospitals no longer notify your church or pastor when you are hospitalized? You, or a family member, will need to call the church to share that information! Also, when visitors go to the hospitals, it is necessary, due to HIPPA rules, to know the name under which you are registered! Without this accurate information, they cannot tell us a room number! Thank you for your help!

Blessing of the Bikes!

Saturday evening, May 17, will be the First Annual Blessing of The Bikes. It may be a bit premature to call it an annual event, but it could easily become one! Worship that evening will lift up the theme of giving thanks to God for all those leisure and recreational activities which bring us joy and renew our spirits. Then we will go outside where motorcycles, bicycles, tricycles and even Big Wheels will be parked in groups. A prayer will be offered and each bike, rider, and passenger will be blessed. And that is not all! The Independents had also set this day for their carnival, so there will be even more reason to stay after worship. The grill will be smoking on the back patio, cooking burgers and hot dogs for a donation. This is going to be fun! Invite bikers of all kinds to come join us for this special event. Come see the bikes, share the food, and enjoy the fun! There will be more details to come! Put it on your calendar!

HEALTH CONCERNS

Bill Barnes
 Bob Turner
 Dick Moore
 Dovie Lanos
 Grace Wright
 John Grecco
 Brian Griffiths
 Bernie Dietrich
 Virginia Barry
 Virginia Evans
 Angela Weigel
 Larry McMullin
 Bob Orndorff
 Sandra Meinershagen
 Gene Taylor, Jim Taylor's father
 Carrie Rodebush, Myrna Mardis' daughter-in-law
 Kyle Burgess, LeAnne Wilson's cousin
 Bill Marshall, Jim Dietrich's brother-in-law
 Kay Hayes, mother of Doug Hayes
 Aice Corbett, Mother of Sandi Wilhelmson
 Lucille Welden

**JOYS**

Congratulations to Michael and Tracy Sartain on the birth of a son, Nathan Harley on April 1. Big sister is Hannah. Proud Grandmother is Carol Sartain.

Congratulations to Nancy Shelley on the birth of a granddaughter, Violet Mae Shelley, on April 9. Parents are Todd and Emily Shelley. Big sister is Emma.

SYMPATHY

to Cora Marcks and family on the death of her sister, Wilma Saper, on April 9, in Oklahoma.

to Randy and Sherry Dewar, Jake and Heather Davis, Michael and Brooke Roskop on the death of Sherry's father, Wayde Seby, on April 10.

to the family of retired United Methodist pastor Rev. Kenny Brun, who passed away April 10.

A note from the family of Rev. Bill Crawford:

Dear First UMC,

I want to thank you so much for the floral arrangement you sent when Daddy died. That really meant a lot to us. I have such special memories of Blue Springs and the church.

Hope to see you May 3rd at the memorial service.

Thanks again!

Love Ruthie and Phillip and family



April Needs List 2008

Priority Needs:

- Diapers, Large sizes
- Towels
- Razors
- Pillows and Sheets (Twin preferred; any will do)
- Travel-size Soaps and Shampoos
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant (men's and women's)
- Coffee and Sugar
- Shampoo
- Bar Soap
- Adult-size Socks
- Combs and Brushes
- Laundry Soap
- Male and Female Underwear
- Shaving Cream
- Feminine Products
- Storage Bins
- Shower Shoes
- Digital Cameras
- Plastic Cups/tumblers
- Pocket Dictionaries
- Kitchen Aprons
- Shower Curtains
- Dishes (new or used)

Priority Needs for Youth Shelter

- Gift cards to movies, bowling, fast food, Target and Wal-Mart
- Teen-Friendly DVDs (PG-13)
- Games, Playing Cards
- Twin Sheets and Towels
- Mini First-Aid Kits
- Body Wash
- Men's Deodorant

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

This is just a reminder about the Garage Sale for the youth mission trips program. The sale will be Saturday, April 26, here at the church beginning at 8:00am. Used clothing, housewares, books, toys, games, and tools can be donated. You can bring your donations to the Education Wing on Friday, April 25, after lunch. **The Garage Sale cannot take exercise equipment, Christmas decorations, large furniture, computers, or guns.** 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, and bidding will close after the last service on Sunday, April 20.

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. All donations must be collected by Sunday, April 20. If you have questions, please contact Stephanie Marker at 220-9094 or fumcantithe-sis@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.

MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

The United Methodist Men will once again host the annual Mother's Day Brunch on Saturday, May 3, at 9:00am in the narthex. It is our way of showing our appreciation for those special ladies in our lives: mothers, wives, and daughters. We will share a catered brunch; the cost is \$7 per person. After the brunch, we will be inspired by a presentation from Rev. Sherri Wood-Powe, who is the first female pastor of Saint Paul AME Church in Olathe. Rev. Sherri comes highly recommended as she has held charges in Washington, DC and Georgia.

Before being appointed to her current charge, she served as pastor of Sterling church in Lee's Summit. Her husband, Dr. F. Douglas Powe Jr., is assistant professor of evangelism at St. Paul's School of Theology. Rev. Sherri is a dynamic and enthusiastic speaker and we are sure she will enlighten the day. We invite the men of the church to invite that someone special in our lives to this event. Reservations need to be made by April 23. Please call Gary Meinershagen, 228-5908, or email at sha-gen7577@sbcglobal.net to reserve your place and let us know how many will be attending.

BRIDGES is organizing a visit to "Bodies Revealed" at Union Station on May 7. If you would like to attend, please contact Bonnie Jorgenson at 228-6945 or Joyce Maggard at 229-1300, no later than April 30. Additional guests are also welcome. Tickets are \$19 per person, which is a savings of \$5 off the regular price. The group will meet at the church at noon, May 7, to carpool to the exhibit.

The Independents are sponsoring a roller-skating party for all families of the church at the Blue Springs Roller Rink on April 20 from 1:30 to 4:00pm. The cost will be \$6 and this includes skates. Contact Lucinda Armstrong at 886-6129 for more information.

SONG LEADERS

Are you interested in helping lead hymns and congregation singing at services? Please let one of the pastors or choir directors know that you are interested or speak to Reed if you have any questions.

HILLCREST WALK FOR THE HOMELESS

Hillcrest Walk for the Homeless is an annual spring event that raises awareness and funds to support Hillcrest in its mission to transition homeless families to self-sufficiency. Participating in the Saturday morning, May 17, Walk for the Homeless is an excellent way to show your support for Hillcrest and the families served. Getting pledges is encouraged, but if that is not your thing, your participation is still very much wanted. Although we are not officially forming a team, Jane Rosendahl has volunteered to organize carpooling from the church to the walk starting location near Independence Square. Contact her at 816-224-5660. Go online to register at <http://www.hillcresttransitionalhousing.org/>, click on Walk for the Homeless, then Eastern Jackson County Walk. You can also pick up a mail-in form from the Information Table in the narthex. If you have any questions about the walk itself, call Hillcrest at 816-461-0468.

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.

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 (4/20-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



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!

Youth Arts and Crafts Night

Rescheduled to
Wednesday, April 30
6:30 - 8:30pm.

Wear your old clothes - weather permitting, we will be outside.

The Stats: (4/12-13/2008)

Giving

General Fund.....\$12,023
(needed)\$16,695
2008 Budget\$868,115

Building Fund.....\$2,569
(needed to reach goal).....\$11,551

Designated Gifts\$4,854

General Fund given for year
.....\$213,269

Building Fund Campaign '06-'08
3-year Goal\$1,320,000
% of Goal Received62.1
% of Campaign Completed76.3

Attendance

Worship.....586

Sunday School

Children90

Youth30

Adults.....126

.....246

Youth Events23

**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!

CALENDAR

(See weekly activities for regularly scheduled events)

Sunday, April 20

Youth Mission Trip Stock Sales	8:00am	Narthex
Independents Advisory Board Meeting	Noon	112

Monday, April 21

Liturgist Committee Meeting	6:30pm	103
Vesper Voices Practice	7:00	150
Finance Committee	7:00	Office
Gospel Singers Practice	8:00	150

Tuesday, April 22**Wednesday, April 23**

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

Thursday, April 24

Hearts and Hands Circle	6:30pm	112
Relationship Rebuilding	7:00	011

Friday, April 25

Setup for Mission Trip Garage Sale	Noon	Ed. Wing
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Saturday, April 26

Youth Mission Trip Garage Sale	8:00am	Ed. Wing
Trustees Cleanup Day	8:00	
Volunteer Recognition Reception	6:30pm	Narthex

Sunday, April 27

Youth Mission Trip Stock Sales	8:00am	Narthex
Scott Osborne Eagle Court of Honor	2:00pm	Sanctuary
Witness Choral Practice	6:30	150

Monday, April 28

Susannah Circle Meeting	1:30pm	103
Inviting Ministries Meeting	7:00	103
Gospel Singers Practice	7:00	150
Trustees Committee Meeting	7:00	Office

Tuesday, April 29**Wednesday, April 30**

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

Thursday, May 1**Friday, May 2****Saturday, May 3**

UMM Mother's Day Brunch	9:00am	Narthex
District Meeting	12:30pm	103
Wayde Seby Memorial Service	1:30	Sanctuary
Rev. Bill Crawford Memorial Service	3:30	Sanctuary
Worship Service	5:30	Sanctuary

Youth Mission Trip Stock Sales—Each weekend in April

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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There will be a Liturgists' meeting on Monday, April 21, at 6:30, in room 103. Everyone is welcome and more readers are needed.

April 16, 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>

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Blue Springs MO 64015

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Return Service Requested

Deadline
for next newsletter
April 25



FUMC Hearts and Hands Circle
wishes to thank all who gave so gen-
erously to the clothing drive for
Grand Avenue Temple.

