

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 10

May 14, 2008

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## "A DAY OF JOY AND WELCOME!"

Pictured here is Karen Warmund, Confirmation Coordinator of FUMC, with the eighteen members of the 2008 Confirmation Class. 256 worshipers gathered at the 5:30 Saturday evening service to celebrate the reception of twenty new members!

### 2008 CONFIRMATION CLASS

Connor Bahr  
 Ryan De Witt  
 Ryan Laster  
 Ryan Mathewson

Calli Bales  
 Claire Dodge  
 Andrew Lyttle  
 Caitlynn Redman  
 Taylor Stamos

Clay Cook  
 Jason Glascock  
 Dana McLain  
 Casey Redman  
 Jack Taylor

Chandler Costigan  
 Michael Keefe  
 Valorie McKenna  
 Caley Smith



## Rev. Steve Campbell



Dear Friends,

We are now in the season of Pentecost. It is the longest season of the church year. It is often referred to as Ordinary Time, and lasts from the Day of Pentecost clear until the beginning of Advent. Just like every season of the Christian year, this season lifts up for special emphasis something which is true all year long. The theme of the Pentecost Season is that the Church is dependent upon the gift of the Holy Spirit to truly be the Church of Jesus Christ. It is God, in the gift of the Holy Spirit, who creates, empowers, equips, directs and sustains the Church for mission and ministry. As I said in the sermon over the weekend, "This is the key ingredient which makes it Church." (consider that I preached

the same sermon four times. You may have heard a slight variation on that quote).

It is not simply that the Church is dependent upon the activity of the Holy Spirit. There is a very personal, practical dimension to this. God is present in our everyday lives. God gives us life, offers us assurance, bestows spiritual gifts, and gives us guidance. I am not speaking of anything strange or outside the realm of human experience. God is at work in our lives! God gives us grace, calls us to service, corrects us, inspires us, and uses us to spread the love of God to others.

How important is it for you as an individual believer to consciously open your heart to the presence and direction of the Holy Spirit? You will never make a more important decision. How important is it for us, as the Church, to consciously open our selves to the presence and direction of the Holy Spirit? Well, of

course the answer to that question depends on your vision of the Church and your hopes for First United Methodist Church.

God can fill us with life and enthusiasm. God can heal any wounds which need healing. God can provide any resource which seems to be lacking. God can increase our love for one another and for the mission of spreading the Good News. God can provide everything we need to be the Church God calls us to be.

This is going to be the theme lifted up over the next few weeks. I am going to ask you, more than once, to open the doors of your heart and the windows of your spirit to receive the gift of God. Will you join me in praying for new manifestations of the power of God's Spirit?

Grace and Peace,  
Steve Campbell

## *High School Senior Recognition*

*We would like to celebrate with you  
and honor your accomplishment by  
hosting a reception in your honor.*

*Sunday, May 18, 10:45am worship  
followed by reception in the narthex.*

## **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**

Bud Heronimus	Vi Manlove
Vern Hinkle	Alisa Kavanaugh
Marilyn Snelling	Kelly Weigel
Gladys Clayton	Bob Turner
Nancy Ballew	Dick Moore
Wilma Drigalla	Virginia Barry
Dovie Lanos	Grace Wright
John Grecco	Bernie Dietrich
Virginia Evans	Lucille Welden
Larry McMullin	Bob Orndorff

Frank Rick, Rob Rick's father  
 Norma Ruhs, Carol Jo Hansen's mother  
 Barbara Totten, Dave Totten's mother  
 Violet Shelley, Nancy Shelley's granddaughter  
 Glen Jenkins, Jennifer Redman's uncle  
 Zack Himes, Becky Himes' son  
 John and Grace Whipple, Mary Derrington's parents  
 Bill Marshall, Jim Dietrich's brother-in-law  
 Frances Higgins, Keith Higgins' mother  
 Lavern Harmon, Sue King's father  
 Gladys Swenson, Gloria Kniffen's aunt  
 Allison Maggard, Joyce Maggard's daughter-in-law  
 Sophia Maggard, Joyce Maggard's granddaughter  
 Grover James Jr., Gary Baker's brother-in-law

**OTHER CONCERNS**

Steve Thomas, Linda Mathewson's brother.

Those affected by the cyclone in Myanmar, the earthquake in China, and the many tornadoes in the U.S.

**SYMPATHY**

To Cecil Lowe and family on the death of his wife, Erlene, on May 11.

**JOYS**

Congratulations to Alan and Judy Michelson on the birth of a granddaughter, Jenna Mae Flax, on May 1. Parents are Kelly and Deana Flax. Proud big brother is Jordan Sloan.

Congratulations to Joyce Maggard on the birth of granddaughter, Sophia Maggard, on May 6. Parents are Joyce's son, Richard, and wife, Allison Maggard. Ronda and Todd Brewer are the proud aunt and uncle.

Congratulations to Casey Parker and Michael Turney on the birth of a daughter Mackenzie Renee Turney, on May 8. Proud grandparents are Mike and Denise Parker. Proud great grandmother is Donna Parker. Proud great-aunts are Lori Parker and Patty Lamb.

**BAPTISM CELEBRATION**

We celebrate the Baptism of Parker Isaac Blaine on May 4. Parker is the son of Ryan and Marti Blaine and the grandson of Rob and Kay Blaine.

**WELCOME**

We welcome Marty and Jennifer Redman into membership along with children Caitlynn, Casey, and Jayden.



## May 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  
Shower Shoes  
Digital Cameras  
Plastic Cups/tumblers  
Pocket Dictionaries  
Shower Curtains  
Dishes (new or used)  
**50+ chairs for the dining room**

### 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

### WESLEYAN WOMEN

We're scheduled to meet at Jan Moran's home on Tuesday evening, May 20, at 7:30pm. Carol Jo Hansen is presenting our program and Darlene Mobley will present devotions. Darlene is also co-hostess. The ingathering at our meeting is for Della Lamb and below are items they're requesting for back-to-school needs. The items below are needed by July 31 to support Operation Back-to-School 2008. If you can assist us by donating some of these items, call 842-8040.

Rulers	3-Ring Notebook Paper	Box Kleenex
Backpacks	3-Ring Notebooks	Toothpaste
Fat Pencils	Combination Locks	Toothbrush
#2 Pencils	Geometry Compasses	Bath Soap
24-Pack Crayons	Geometry Protractors	Shampoo
Blunt Scissors	New Underwear/3-pr	Deodorant
Sharp Scissors	New Socks/3-pr	Big Chief Tablets
	New Sweatsuit	

### RUTH CIRCLE and COMMUNITY SERVICES LEAGUE FOOD PANTRY

Summer is a period when food pantries are typically at their lowest in relation to contributions, but the need is still high among patrons. Consider this shopping list when you are at the grocery store and pick up some items for CSL. Bring the items to the church and we will make sure they are delivered.

Toilet tissue	*Bisquick	Chili
Bar soap	*Pancake mix	Stew, hash
Dishwashing liquid	*Cake mix	Spam, ham, chicken
*Laundry soap	*Canned peaches	Rice and noodle mixes
Shampoo	*Pears	Pastas
Toothpaste	Peanut butter	Instant potatoes
Cornbread mix	*Spaghetti sauce	Helper meals
Stuffing mix	Mac and cheese	* items preferred

## Charity Thrift Store

Benefiting reStart Inc.

Located in Independence

Just off 40 Hwy on Noland Rd.

4541 S. Noland Rd., Independence, MO

Clothing, furniture, housewares and other items

**Donations Welcomed**

## Building Committee Report: Church Conference—June 1 at 2:00pm

The plans for the proposed Family Life Center have been sent out for bids from subcontractors. The Building Committee will review these bids at their meeting on May 15. Please join members of the Building Committee on the weekends of May 17 and 18, or May 24 and 25, after each worship service for informational sessions to learn about the proposed addition and ask your questions prior to the Church Conference. Because of ongoing activities and space limitations, these meetings will be held: in the sanctuary following the 5:30pm and 10:45am worship services; in the choir room, 150, following the 8:00am service; and in room 103 following the 9:15am service. Your presence is encouraged at any of these meetings.

**On Sunday, June 1, at 2:00pm there will be a Church Conference to consider a recommendation from the Building Committee.**

The Building Committee who has been working on this proposal are: 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 continued support and prayers for this project.

## FUMC CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF UMM

The United Methodist Men's 100-year Anniversary Celebration will be held on Saturday, May 31, starting at 5:00pm. The celebration begins with a cookout followed by our Saturday worship service starting at 6:00pm (**please note this changes the usual Saturday worship service start time of 5:30pm.**) All church members and guests are invited to come and join in the Celebration. Our Methodist Men will be providing worship leadership for much of the service this evening. Please call the church office or send an email to [methodistmen@firstumcbs.org](mailto:methodistmen@firstumcbs.org) to let us know if you will be attending the cookout prior to the service. While it is not required to attend, it will help with our planning.

## Serving From the Heart!

The next offering of our Gifts Discovery workshop, "**Serving from the Heart**," will begin on May 28 at 6:30pm in room 112. We will meet for four two-hour sessions beginning May 28 and continuing for three more Wednesday evenings. Steve Campbell and Ken Landes will provide leadership for the group. The invitation is extended to all to come discover your gifts and God's plan for how to use them in the life of faith. In this Pentecost Season we lift up the theme of "The Church in the Power of the Spirit." One of the principal manifestations of the Spirit's power is in the gifts God gives the people for service!

## MISSION COMMITTEE MEETING

The Missions Ministry Committee is scheduled to meet on Monday, May 19, at 7:00pm in Room 103.

## UNITED METHODIST MEN'S LUNCH

The United Methodist Men's Lunch is scheduled for Tuesday, May 20, at noon in Room 112. All are welcome.

## WIDOWS SUPPORT GROUP

The Widows Support Group will meet for lunch at 11:30 on Wednesday, May 21, at Culvers in Blue Springs. For more information call Joyce Maggard or Carol Sartain.

## YARD SIGNS

Look for the yard signs in the narthex in the next couple of weeks. They can be taken home and used in your yard as an invitation to others. Keep it for a few weeks, and then bring it back for someone else.



This picture shows the new sign on an old frame. Thanks to Mike Parker for making new frames.

## 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 in full color, so you get an added benefit and get it early.



## CALENDAR

(See weekly activities for regularly scheduled events)

### Sunday, May 18

Scholarship Sunday/Senior Recognition 10:45am Sanctuary

### Monday, May 19

Susannah Circle 1:30pm 103  
 Vesper Voices Practice 7:00 150  
 Missions Committee Meeting 7:00 103  
 Finance Committee Meeting 7:00 Office  
 Gospel Singers Practice 8:00 150

### Tuesday, May 20

District Clergy Event—Bob Farr 9:00am 112  
 United Methodist Men's Lunch Noon 112  
 MOPS Meeting 6:30pm 112

### Wednesday, May 21

Pastors Lectionary Group 8:00am 103

### Thursday, May 22

### Friday, May 23

Radford/Chapman Wedding Rehearsal 6:00pm Sanctuary

### Saturday, May 24

Jason Driskell Graduation Party 1:00pm Office Patio  
 Radford/Chapman Wedding 2:30 Sanctuary  
 Worship Service 5:30 Sanctuary

### Sunday, May 25

Witness Choral Practice 6:30pm 150

### Monday, May 26

MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY Office Closed

### Tuesday, May 27

### Wednesday, May 28

Pastors Lectionary Group 8:00am 103

### Thursday, May 29

Church Conference 7:00pm Sanctuary

### Friday, May 30

### Saturday, May 31

UMM 100-Year Celebration Cookout 5:00pm Patio  
 Worship Service 6:00 Sanctuary

## May 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	31

## 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

### 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

### 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

### Friday

9:30am Joy Ringers Handbell Practice 154

### Saturday

5:30pm Worship Service Sanctuary

## CHURCH CONFERENCE

There will be a Church Conference on Thursday, May 29. Rev. Susan Cox-Johnson, our District Superintendent, will preside over our annual meeting to elect lay leadership for the coming year. We will also consider recommending Curt Wilhelmsen as a candidate for ministry. The Church Conference will convene at 7:00pm in the sanctuary.

## 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.

May 14, 2008

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>

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Blue Springs MO 64015

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Deadline  
for next newsletter  
May 23



#### SPRING GIFT BAGS FOR WOMEN AT NEWHOUSE

Wanting to show support for the women who are making changes in their lives by going through the program at Newhouse, members of Hearts and Hands bought, assembled and delivered 31 Spring Gift Bags to the domestic violence shelter. When seeing the colorful bags with the full-size shower gels, scrubbies, lotions, hair care products and other cosmetics and toiletries, Julie Cogley, VP of Development, said, "Oh, these bags will nourish both the women's bodies and their souls. They LOVE getting special gifts." Since the bags were similar but no two were alike, Penny Brooks, Lead Advocate, added that the residents would have lots of fun trading items. All women will receive the gift bags over Mother's Day weekend.