

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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ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORTS

Bob McDonald, Lay Member to Annual Conference

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of First United Methodist Church of Blue Springs for allowing me to represent the congregation at the 2009 Annual Conference in Springfield, MO. It was a moving experience and I feel that I have benefited greatly from attending the conference. The theme of this year's conference was: Somewhere Out There. The main objective was to assist churches to become an "Outwardly Focused Congregation." One challenge put forth by Bishop Schnase was for each of the delegates to ask the following question: "Would our church be a growing church or a dying church if every member made the same efforts that I do to reach out to others in our community?" I think that this is a question that each member of First United Methodist Church should also ask of their self. We have many opportunities to invite others to become a part of our church. We must not feel that we really do not need to reach out to others because that is someone else's responsibility. The Bishop stated that United Methodists have lost our "go to" instinct and have come to accept a "come to" mentality. Our pastors have been encouraging each of us to find a person or family to invite to our church and for every person to make an effort to greet any new face that we may see. I would challenge each of you to find someone that is looking for a church and invite them to become an active member of First United Methodist Church of Blue Springs. Once again, my sincere thanks for allowing me to represent you at the Annual Conference.



Pastors Steve Campbell and Karen Taylor were reappointed for another year with our congregation.

Janice Bauch, Lay Member to Annual Conference

Home from the 2009 Missouri Annual Conference and once again filled with hope and excitement for the future of our church and the world. This year's message, "Somewhere Out There," continues our goal to connect ourselves and others to God in Jesus Christ.

A couple of points made (and there were many):

1. If everyone in our church offered the same kind of invitation (witness) as YOU do, would our church be growing or dying? This doesn't mean hitting someone over the head with a bible, but simply sharing your faith story or listening to what's happening in someone's life. It can take place anywhere "out there"...in the grocery store line, at the rental car counter...Be aware of the opportunities where God "places" you. You never know whom you may be connecting with Jesus Christ.
2. Remember grace is God's love for us and the world. Grace is a gift FROM God TO you on its WAY to someone else. We are here to serve, not to be served.

Our goal continues to be making disciples for Jesus Christ. It is not just the pastors' job. It is our job, too. I encourage each of you to stretch and reach out to others and support our pastors in doing the same.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve our church as a lay member to annual conference.

Rev. Steve Campbell

Dear Friends,

After our return from the Annual Conference Session, Bob McDonald, Janice Bauch, Rev. Karen Taylor, and I had a conversation about our experience at the Conference. Each of us came home from Conference with a renewed perspective on the work of the Annual Conference. Janice said, "Going to Annual Conference, you see that we are not just sitting here by ourselves. We are supporting a structure which also supports us and the bigger picture of our ministries. Together we accomplish things we could never do alone. It is not just about us." Bob added, "I have a greater understanding and appreciation for what we do as the United Methodist Church. Our apportionments support ministries locally, statewide, and around the world." Karen and I both echo those sentiments. I hope many more of you have the opportunity to serve as a Lay Member of the Annual Conference. It changes one's perspective on what it means to be a United Methodist and to support our apportionment system.

Each of us who attended are impressed by more than one aspect of the ministry of the Annual Conference. Bob, who spent his career as a teacher and administrator in the public schools, points out the significant accomplishments of Central Methodist University. In recent years enrollment has increased, degree programs have expanded, and a number of new centers have been established around the state. The campus is always being improved and there is a new emphasis on making it possible for Missouri United Methodist students to attend CMU. Right now an active United Methodist student receives a 50% reduction in tuition costs. There are a number of CMU graduates in our congregation.

I appreciate the fact that we have a strong system for educating, training, and supervising those who are entering the United Methodist Ministry. The emphasis on "an educated clergy among us" goes back to John Wesley's time. We have an excellent group of seminaries, Course of Study Schools and a system for assigning and supervising clergy.

Janice was touched by the presentation from Socorro De Anda, the President of Lydia Patterson Institute in El Paso, Texas. Sitting right on the border with Mexico, Lydia Patterson has changed the lives of thousands of individuals with safe shelter and quality educational programs.



Rev. Karen Taylor lifts up the work of our Office of Creative Ministries. The Office of Creative Ministries was established in Missouri a number of years ago and has been an example for other Annual Conferences. There are just too many ministries enabled by OCM to name them all. The P.E.T. project is one. Training and support for Volunteer in Mission programs comes from OCM. The highly successful program, "Nothing But Nets," was coordinated by OCM. Disaster response within the state is supported and coordinated by personnel from the Office of Creative Ministries, and there is the Festival of Sharing which happens every year.

Well, I hope you will have the opportunity to attend an Annual Conference at some point in the future. It is inspiring. The things we have highlighted are all important, but they are not nearly the whole story. Even if we had talked about Camps and Conferences, Campus Ministry, WOW, and support for local ministries across the state, it would still be only a portion of all we do together!

Paying our Annual Conference apportionments may not sound very exciting. A few might even ask if it matters. But, once we understand what the United Methodist Church does in the world, paying apportionments becomes a different matter. Right now the financial situation of the church is difficult. We hope to pay our apportionments in full because this is our fair share, and these ministries and programs are important! Individuals or groups within the congregation are invited to "Adopt an Apportionment" and donate the amount to pay one of these items. If your class, group, or family would be interested in knowing more about this possibility, please speak to Rev. Karen or to me. There is a way you can help!

Grace and Peace to You,
Steve Campbell

Date	Time	Place
Sunday, June 21		
High School Mission Trip	Amarillo, TX	
No Other Youth Activities		
Monday, June 22		
Trustees Committee Meeting	7:00pm	Office
Gospel Singers Rehearsal	7:00	150
Tuesday, June 23		
Independents Singles Volleyball	7:00pm	MPR
Finance Committee Meeting	7:00	Office
Wednesday, June 24		
Pastors Lectionary Group	8:00am	103
Creative Crafts—Prayer Shawls	7:00	103
Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7:30	150
Thursday, June 25		
Open Gym	7:00pm	MPR
Friday, June 26		
Harrison/Martin Wedding Rehearsal	6:00pm	Sanctuary
Harrison/Martin Rehearsal Dinner	7:00	112
Adult Volleyball	7:00	MPR
Saturday, June 27		
Harrison/Martin Wedding	3:00pm	Sanctuary
Worship Service	5:30	Sanctuary
Sunday, June 28		
Independents Picnic	10:00am	Office Patio
Youth Dinner	5:00pm	117
Evening Youth Activities	5:30	Education Wing
Monday, June 29		
Tuesday, June 30		
Independents Singles Volleyball	7:00pm	MPR
Wednesday, July 1		
Pastors Lectionary Group	8:00am	103
Creative Crafts—Prayer Shawls	7:00pm	103
Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7:30	150
Thursday, July 2		
Open Gym	7:00pm	MPR
Friday, July 3		
Adult Volleyball	7:00pm	MPR
Saturday, July 4		
Worship Service	5:30pm	Sanctuary

HEALTH CONCERNS

Nancy Ballew
 Jeff Buckner
 Jean Doll
 Jenny Floyd
 Larry McMullin
 Robert Orndorff
 Bob Turner
 Lucille Welden
 Dorothy Nixon, Lynn Rooney's friend
 Doug Jones, Becky Leath's son
 Ellie White, Gary and Kathe White's granddaughter
 Helen Fitzhugh, Shirley Bennett's mother
 Joan Amy, Tom Mardis' sister
 John Whipple, Mary Derrington's father
 Joyce Brammer, Debbie Danner's mother
 Norma Ruhs, Carol Jo Hansen's mother
 Sallie Turner, Bob Turner's mother
 Skylor Grubb, Fred and Roma Troxel's grandson
 Vernon Yanney, Brenda Yanney's father
 Ann Hudson, wife of retired pastor Rev. Herman Hudson

Adam Bartlett
 Bernie Dietrich
 Dorothy Dumas
 Rev. Marvin Fortel
 Alan Michelson
 Shari Sullivan
 Grace Wright

OTHER CONCERNS

28 FUMC youth and adults on mission trip to Amarillo, TX

Those struggling with finances and job loss
 Leaders/teachers for Youth Sunday School—immediately and for the fall

SYMPATHY

To Aaron and Jenni Stacy, Ryan, Amber and Conner on the death of Jenni's grandmother, Marie Richardson, on June 8.

JOYS

Congratulations to Gary and Kathe White on the birth of a new grandson, Tiernan Michael Sullivan, on June 1. He joins big brother Carrick. Parents are Ted and Janee (White) Sullivan. Joy that our pastors and lay representatives had safe travel last week to Annual Conference and that the pastors are ours for the next year.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY		
12:00 noon	Men of Praise	150
3:00	Crossover Rehearsal	Sanctuary
MONDAY		
TUESDAY		
8:00am	Morning Prayer Group	100
WEDNESDAY		
5:30pm	Glory Ringers Off Until 8/26	
6:30	Spirit Ringers Off Until 8/26	
7:30	Rhapsody Ringers Off Until 8/26	
THURSDAY		
9:30am	Back Fence Bible Study	100
FRIDAY		
9:30am	Joy Ringers Handbell Rehearsal	154
SATURDAY		

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 27 - July 31, 2009

**TIME:**

9:30am -

12:30pm

**AGES 4 -
GRADE 4**

**More Info on
the church
website**

Ministers

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



June 17, 2009

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

Non-Profit Organization
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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>

Cancer Support Network

The Cancer Support Network will not meet during the summer months. We will resume monthly meetings in the fall. Watch the newsletter for announcements regarding meeting times and locations. If you would like someone to contact you about the Cancer Support Network and our plans for the future, please call the church office.

GROUNDS CARE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you enjoy working outside? If so, FUMC could use a few more volunteers to help with grounds care. We can offer you a chance to contribute to God's Kingdom while still enjoying the beautiful outdoors around our church. Call John Rosendahl at 224-5660 if you are interested in helping.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you have been receiving offering envelopes in the mail, your next set of envelopes is available to pick up in the narthex. You may use the envelopes either weekly or monthly, as best meets your needs. When you get to your last, or second to last, envelope, you MUST turn in the reorder card that came with your envelopes, email or call the church office to request more. New envelopes may be picked up at the Information Table the next week.



June 13-14, 2009

Giving

General Fund \$16,579
(needed) \$16,535
2009 Budget \$859,783
Giving to date \$340,005
% of budget Received 39.5

Building Fund

Building Fund \$6,614
(needed) \$6,812
3-year Goal \$1,062,703
% of Goal Received 16.1
% of Campaign Complete 14.7

Designated Giving \$11,484

Worship Attendance

Worship 469
Sunday School
Children 34
Youth 13
Adults 116
Totals 163
Youth Mission Trip 28