

The First Connection

Leading People to an Active Faith in Jesus Christ
Blue Springs First United Methodist Church

Friends,

I have invited Rev. Sally Haynes to write a letter for this issue of the First Connection. This is the final edition before the official beginning of her appointment as Senior Pastor at First UMC on July 1. She has graciously consented to do that. I welcome Sally's appointment here and will continually pray for her, all the staff, and the congregation.

Thank you to everyone who had a hand in planning my Retirement Celebration on June 13. It was much more than I feel I deserve! I can only imagine all the work which went into planning such an event! There were so many warm wishes expressed in cards and notes. So many persons attended; I was overwhelmed. The generosity of your gift to us was humbling. Words are not easy to find! It was such a wonderful event; scenes from the day will play in my memory for a long time. So, again, thank you so much for all that made this a special celebration.

It has been a joy to serve with you these last three years. This is a great church, and to have served here will always stand out as one of the highlights of my ministry. My prayers and love are yours in the days ahead. I trust that one of the great periods in the long history of this congregation lies just ahead!

I will be preaching at all four services this weekend. My sermon title will be "Looking to Jesus." I feel like this sermon is a positive and meaningful final word from the pulpit. I hope to see you in worship this week. My final day before retirement is June 30.

Your new pastors will be here officially as of July 1. That is also the day our new elected lay officials take office. The first weekend, and first worship services, for the new pastors will be the Fourth of July weekend. It is probably not the weekend of the highest worship attendance. I know many of you will be away. Please, make every effort to be present; and if you cannot be here, remember the church, the new leaders, and the new pastors and family members in your prayers.

Grace and Peace to you!

Steve Campbell



June 23, 2010

Volume 4, Issue 12

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Dear First Friends,

I want to thank Steve Campbell for his generosity in allowing me to "move in" to this space a week before I'm technically here. Steve has been outstanding throughout this transition and, like you, I am deeply grateful for his leadership.

I am excited about the privilege of serving as your pastor! The more that I have learned about this congregation and this community, the more excited I am about the ways that God has been and will be at work. I find it a special joy to be coming to a place that proclaims a vision of "connecting people to what matters most." First Church's heritage as a leader in the Blue Springs community, combined with this vision and passion for people beyond our doors, indicates that this church has made and continues to make a difference in our world. We have a great future ahead of us.

In these earliest days, we all want to get to know each other as much as possible. Please know that I have been praying for you daily since I learned that I would be coming to First Church. You'll read elsewhere in this newsletter about the "Getting to Know You" sermon series, beginning on the weekend of July 3-4. In the meantime, there are a few other ways we can get to know each other better, thanks to the internet. You can reach me via email at shaynes@firstumcbs.org. I am on Facebook, for those of you who use that method of networking. I even have a blog that you can find at www.sallienceineachday.blogspot.com.

Most of all, I look forward to meeting you in person, and for the chance to work with Rev. Choong-Ho Kwon in ministry together. Andy and I can't wait to get to Blue Springs. See you soon! Blessings, Sally

Youth S.O.S.

Summer of Service

We will be going to a variety of places to serve others in a variety of ways. We will not be having normal Sunday night youth but will be having an occasional Open Gym Night to come hang out and play games with other teens.

Below is a list of dates and activities. We will need adult help with driving and sponsoring the youth S.O.S. activities. There are limits on how many can participate and it will be on a sign-up basis, so let Linda Kaufman know ASAP which projects you want to be a part of!

SUMMER OF SERVICE 2010

Operation International Children that was scheduled for June 24 as a Youth SOS activity has been cancelled.

June 27- Youth Open Gym Night
6:00-8:00pm

July 1- Kansas City Community Kitchen
11:00am- 4:00pm serving a meal and meal preparation. 10 total volunteers are needed.
Sign up by June 30.

Joys and Concerns

HEALTH CONCERNS

Lucinda Armstrong Alice Atkinson
Mark Batulis Bernie Dietrich
Virginia Evans Rev. Marvin Fortel
Jim Hoel Chet Landes
Alice Lenning George Mesik
Dick Moore Ed Norgren
Irene Ray Bob Turner
Harold Witte Jim and Jenny Floyd
Boyce and Marcia Curts
Don Plaster, Brian Sloan's uncle
Edith, Bill Mooney's sister
Grayce Sebby, Sherry Dewar's mother
John Whipple, Mary Stone's father
Hazel, Marti Dietrich's aunt
Laurine Davis, Glen Davis' mother
Leroy Gilbert, Lee Gilbert's father
Milt Hunt, Jan Harris' father
Valerie Dodge, Steve Dodge's mother
Wilma Martens, Sharon McMullin's mother

OTHER CONCERNS

Drew Kerber, Paul and Joyce Kerber's grandson, as he leaves June 23 to enroll at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs.

Prayers for those on the high school mission trip to Ridgely, Tennessee this week.

Prayers for Rev. Sally and Andy Haynes as they prepare to move to FUMC.

Prayers for Rev. Choong-Ho Kwon and Bu-Sung Youn, Samuel and Stephen, for their move to FUMC.

Prayers for Pastor Steve and Pastor Karen in their new endeavors.

Prayers for all those dealing with job loss, financial concerns and health issues.

JOYS

Rev. Marvin and Harriet Fortel celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary on June 14.

Keith and Gwen Wheeler celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last week.

Brand and Teresa Eskew celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary last week.

SYMPATHY

To the family and friends of Sarah Means who died June 21.

H.E.R.O.E.S.

FUMC has been approved as an "Outpost" for a new caring ministry for the families of our military that have been left behind when their loved ones are deployed for service to defend our county. This program name is: H.E.R.O.E.S. Homefront Enabling Relationships, Opportunities, and Empowerment through Support.

This is a new program to provide Hometown Support Volunteers (HSV) through a Stephen Ministry congregation. FUMC has four HSV personnel at this time. The first requirement is for a person to receive Stephen Ministry training, then an additional eight hours of training to serve as an HSV.

Prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve and minister to our families at FUMC and others in the metro-Kansas City area. A training class will begin this fall. Applications are available at the Information Table and from Bill Wood, Janice Patillo and Jo Perrin.

PICKLEBALL

The Independents are hosting Pickleball in the Family Life Center and all adults are invited to participate. Pickleball is a combination of Ping-Pong, tennis, and badminton and has been enjoyed by people of all ages. It was a hit at the Missouri Senior Games this past weekend. <http://www.columbiainmissourian.com/stories/2010/06/13/unique-sport-serves-lot-fun/> Join us on Tuesdays from 7:00-9:30pm during June, July, and August.

We have extra paddles for beginners to use so you can experience the game without any investment.

We can set up three courts on Tuesday and will set aside one court for beginners the first hour.

Played on a badminton-size court with two players on each side.

Hard rackets about the size of racquetball rackets are used.

The ball is a hard whiffle ball.

Not much running involved so it is easier on the joints and muscles than tennis.

There is no charge for this recreational outreach program of the church, but we will accept donations to help us purchase additional equipment and supplies.

No Tuesday night volleyball for June, July, August.

WOMEN of FAITH *"Imagine"* weekend November 5 and 6, 2010 Sprint Center

Come join us for a weekend of spiritual growth, music, fellowship and fun. Our church has 28 seats reserved for this wonderful event. Get online at gps.womenoffaith.com, check out this 'happening' and order your ticket. More information will be at the Information Table.

Ticket cost: \$89

Fri., Nov. 5 10:00am – 3:30pm (mini session included in cost)

7:00pm – 9:30pm

Sat., Nov. 6 9:00am – 4:00pm

Box lunch and bottled water are included for each day in this price. Our seats are assigned and we sit together as a group. Tickets can be paid for by charge or check. You can pay a little at a time if necessary. Tickets must be totally paid for 10 weeks before the event (by August).

The FUMC Job Club meets at 7:00pm on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Contact Randy Williams at randygws@att.net or by phone at 229-9584 for additional information.


BE A HERO LIVING LIKE JESUS— SUMMER CAMP 2010

Time to sign up for summer camp in all 4 Methodist-sponsored camps in Missouri. Every camper who signs up from First receives \$25 toward the cost of camp.

For more information, visit www.mocamps.org or see Michelle Mueller for camp descriptions and time.

reStart Liaison

The Missions Steering Committee is looking for someone to be the liaison between our congregation and reStart. In the past, the liaison has primarily coordinated persons serving Sunday meals throughout the year. This person would keep the congregation informed about other volunteer opportunities and needs of reStart. If you are interested, or know someone who would be a good liaison, contact Myrna Mardis at 229-3465 or Lori Adkins at 246-4171.



JULY 2010

Date	Time	Place
Sunday, June 27		
Men of Praise Rehearsal	Noon	150
Youth Open Gym	6:00pm	FLC
High School Mission Trip—Ridgely, TN		
Monday, June 28		
Trustees Committee Meeting	7:00pm	Office
Tuesday, June 29		
Morning Walk Group	7:45am	FLC
Independents Host Pickleball	7:00pm	FLC
Wednesday, June 30		
Morning Walk Group	7:45am	FLC
Pastors Lectionary Group	8:00	103
Wesley Covenant Group	4:30pm	100
Crossover Rehearsal	6:30	Sanctuary
Crafts/Prayer Shawls	7:00	103
Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7:30	150
Thursday, July 1		
S.O.S Community Kitchen	11:00am	Off Site
Open Gym	7:00pm	FLC
Friday, July 2		
Morning Walk Group	7:45am	FLC
Joy Ringers Handbell Rehearsal	9:30	154
Adult Volleyball	7:00pm	FLC
Saturday, July 3		
Methodist Men's Breakfast	8:00am	112
Disaster Relief Ministry Meeting	9:30	Office
Worship Service	5:30pm	Sanctuary
Sunday, July 4		
4th of July Holiday		
Monday, July 5		
4th of July Holiday-Office Closed		
Gospel Singers Rehearsal	7:00pm	150
Staff Parish Relations Committee Meeting	7:00	103
Praise Band Rehearsal	8:00	150
Tuesday, July 6		
Morning Walk Group	7:45am	FLC
Prayer Group	8:00	100
Romeo Men's Lunch Group	11:30	Off Site
Independents Host Pickleball	7:00pm	FLC
Wednesday, July 7		
Morning Walk Group	7:45am	FLC
Wesley Covenant Group	4:30pm	100
Crossover Rehearsal	6:30	Sanctuary
Cancer Support Group	6:30	100
Crafts/Prayer Shawls	7:00	103
Thursday, July 8		
Back Fence Bible Study	9:30am	100
SOS Harvesters	5:00pm	Off Site
Open Gym	7:00	FLC
Friday, July 9		
Morning Walk Group	7:45am	FLC
Joy Ringers Handbell Practice	9:30	154
Adult Volleyball	7:00pm	FLC
Saturday, July 10		
Worship Service	5:30pm	Sanctuary

Support is needed for **Reverse Costa Rican Mission Trip**. We are seeking gently used or new twin sheet sets with pillow case and twin blankets for the Costa Ricans to use while they are staying at our church. Please contact Shelly Anderson at 224-2240 for inquiries or donations.

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	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

8:00am	Worship Service with Communion	Sanctuary
9:15	Worship Service with Praise Band	Sanctuary
10:45	Worship Service—Traditional	Sanctuary
Noon	Men Of Praise	150

MONDAY

TUESDAY

7:45am	Morning Walk Group	FLC
8:00	Morning Prayer Group	100

WEDNESDAY

7:45am	Morning Walk Group	FLC
8:00	Pastors Lectionary Group	103
6:30pm	Crossover Rehearsal	150
7:00	Creative Crafts - Prayer Shawls	103
7:30	Chancel Choir	150

THURSDAY

9:30am	Back Fence Bible Study	100
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FRIDAY

7:45am	Morning Walk Group	FLC
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SATURDAY

5:30pm	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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"Getting to Know You" Sermon Series

As we begin our ministry together, these sermons will help you know your pastors. Who are they? What is their faith journey? If they could preach only one sermon, what would it be? As you hear their stories, expect to see your own faith journey more clearly and come to a new understanding of how God is at work in your own life. Together, with each other and with God, we can do great things!

July 3/4 "The First Sermon" Ephesians 2:8-10

July 10/11 "Why I Am a Christian" John 6:66-69

July 17/18 "Why I Am a United Methodist Christian" Matthew 16:13-23

July 24/25 "Why I Am a Christian"

July 31/August 1 "Why I Am a Pastor"

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

Learning Ladder Preschool
(816) 229-9949

Church Website -
www.firstumcbs.org

Blog—
<http://fumcnews.blogspot.com>

June 23, 2010

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

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Blue Springs, MO 64015

Address Service Requested

Dear Friends,

What a wonderful celebration this past weekend. Thank you to all who worked, planned, and contributed to my farewell gathering. There was so much I wanted to say, but emotion prevented me from speaking all that was in my heart, so I appreciate the opportunity to share some of my thoughts here.

It has been an honor and privilege to be one of your pastors these past six years. As I think about our time together, there is much for which I am grateful.

I have loved worshiping here. Of course there is the great preaching, and the outstanding music. We have shared joys in baptisms, confirmations, commissioning, and sharing at the Lord's Table. We have shared sorrows at the death of loved ones, sickness, and other concerns. We have prayed for each other, and we have lifted each other up. I have loved the sense of community as we gather together and have been inspired and blessed.

I want to thank the lay leadership who whom I have had the privilege of working. Our leadership on the Administrative Board, the Council on Ministries, and Staff Parish are exemplary. I have loved the passion of those who work with Missions, including our Volunteer in Mission efforts, Disaster Relief Ministry, and the agencies we support. I give thanks for the dedication of those who serve in caring ministries, through Stephen Ministry, the prayer shawl ministry, homebound ministries—just to name a few. I admire the dedication of the leadership with the Independents, and those who have worked to develop the women's ministries.

I also want to say thanks to our support staff, Elaine, Marty, Rosemary, Nancy, and our newest member, Andrea. They are always willing to help as needed to keep the office running. Their support and hard work has been a blessing to me.

Thanks also to Reed and Michelle. Most people have no idea how tirelessly and how passionately they serve for the benefit of this ministry. They are amazing servants who have supported my ministry in significant ways.

I am grateful for the opportunity to work with two excellent senior pastors. Six years ago, Mark Williams welcomed me to Blue Springs. It was a joy and honor to work with him and learn from him. Three years ago, I helped welcome Steve to Blue Springs. I cannot begin to tell you how much it has meant to work with Steve. He has been a mentor and a wonderful colleague.

I want to thank my husband, Jim, and my son, Jonathan, for their support. They have often sacrificed in my ministry here. They are my biggest cheerleaders and the joy of my life.

As I set aside my role as one of the pastors of this congregation, I do so first of all with gratitude for and confidence in the pastors who will follow, knowing they will lead you and that they will love and care for you in significant ways. I also do so with gratitude for the gift of my time here. My heart is indeed full. May God bless you richly as you move into the future. Blessings—Karen Taylor

