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Gather Grow Go

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Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church.



First United Methodist Church - 801 First Capitol Drive - St. Charles, MO 63301

A DAY OF NEW BEGINNINGS By Rev. Robin Roderick

July 1 marked the beginning of the new year for Clergy. How could we be starting our 7th year together? That seems hardly possible. Thank you for the wild and inspiring times of being the senior pastor at First United Methodist Church St. Charles.

Articles to be included in the July 27nd Spire are due in the Church Office by Wednesday, July 20th. You may also e-mail them to spire@fumcstcharles.org. Please put the word Spire in the subject line.

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Its also time for "Have you Heard?" and "Did you know?" Have you heard? Rev. Kalaba Chali joined us as our pastor of connections this July 3rd. His experience in small groups in a very large church and his love of the church will enrich us all. His first preaching Sunday will be the 17th of July with a welcome reception at noon.

Did you know? Our Vacation Bible School really shook it up with 200 kids and many many many wonderful volunteers.

Have you heard? Over \$6,000.00 in donations to Joplin's relief and mark your calendar for our first mission trip there November 13-16th. More information to follow.

Did you know? Its almost time to decide which fall classes will be offered during our "fall semester" your input is being gathered through a survey in the church bulletin or on-line for the first 100 to take the survey. Please let us know where you want to grow.
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Staff

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Staying Connected

Our deepest sympathies are extended to the families of those who have recently passed away.

Joe and Terry Lynett, at the death of Joe's sister, Sarah Anweiler, on 7/11/11.

Julia Richardson, long time member of this church, died on 7/1/2011.

Cont. from Pg. 1

Did you know? Three of the Families now, in membership classes heard about FUMC from the website. Two of the families that recently joined are from family and friends referrals. Continue to Gather Grow and Go out into the community. Another family in membership classes found us through our ad in the yellow pages. One family just saw our beautiful church and decided to visit and they are in membership class now.

Have you heard? This fall work begins on our new all church directory. Thanks to the 'team' who have begun. Pictures will be back before Christmas so they will make a great gift--and for each household unit that has a picture taken, we will receive a rebate to use for other ministries!

FUMC FAVORITIES CONCERT by Sharon Byers

On September 9th our organist, Sharon Byers will be presenting an anniversary concert performing some of our favorite organ/ piano pieces through the years. If you have a request or suggestion, please leave a message at (636)947-0007 or drop a written note in the church office (not church voice -mail, please!) Thanks for all in-put. Hopefully a CD with this repertoire will also be available.

A Look Ahead

- ▶ July 17th - Reception for Pastor Chali
- ▶ July 24th - Disruption at Church at 4p.m.
- ▶ July 28th - Mystery Mission Bible Study
- ▶ Aug. 6th - Back School/ Safety Town
- ▶ Aug. 7th - Israel's Journey @church
- ▶ Aug. 8th - SAM Luncheon
- ▶ Aug. 14th - Joplin VIM Mission Trip Meeting
- ▶ Aug. 14th - Youth Park & BBQ
- ▶ Sept. 9th - FUMC Favorites Concert
- ▶ Nov. 14th - Joplin VIM Mission Trip

WHERE HAVE ALL THE FLOWERS GONE?

By Peggy Booker



Have you ever wondered how the flowers get to the altar or what happens to them after service is over? A signup sheet is on the brick wall outside the Catherine Collier Room for those wishing to honor birthdays, anniversaries, or in memory of a loved one. The cost is \$30 for 2 bouquets. You are entitled to take those bouquets home after the 11:00 service. However, if you choose not to, or if you only want one bouquet, we have a group of dedicated individuals who deliver them to our member "shut-ins" in nursing homes, apartments or assisted living areas in the St. Charles area who are unable to come to church. A card is attached to the flowers saying they were present for our service and have been prayed over. These are SO welcomed by the people and brighten their day. They are always very grateful and appreciative. If you wish to have "Special" flowers for a Baptism, or an extra bouquet for a special occasion, you may call the church office and they will order them for you. That is your bouquet to take home for the occasion----- again, after the last service. That will NOT be delivered to shuts-ins unless you request it. Contact Ly Syin Lobster or Patti Adams in the office to order special flowers. Also contact the office for a baby's birth and a red rose will be placed on the altar--- also for you to take home. If you would like to sign up to help deliver flowers on Sunday afternoon or Monday mornings---- about once every 2-3 months, contact the church office (636)947-0066. Please consider the Altar Flower Ministry for your time or donation.

MUSIC NOTES

By Dan Fry

Chancel Choir will resume on August 17th in the choir room, 104, underneath the office area on the lower level. Come and try us out - no commitment, no audition, just a willingness to learn, grow, and try new things with others! We need singers of all voice types, male and female, and we perform a wide range of music, from spirituals, to more contemporary composers, to the staples of the traditional church choir repertoire. Chancel Choir sings most every Sunday at the 9:30 and 11 am services.



Celebration Singers, a smaller group of 12-16 singers, also welcomes new singers. This group sings a variety of repertoire, mostly of a praise nature, and currently rehearses on Sunday evenings at a time to be decided by the group. This past year it was at 7 pm. This group sings every 6 weeks or so. The 8 am choir meets at 7:30 Sunday morning in 104 to rehearse a hymn or simple anthem and is in need of additional singers. Please consider this group if you have limited time and would like to have an introduction to church choir singing.

Methusiasm is our youth choir and welcomes any middle school and high school singers to join them each Sunday for an hour rehearsal and sings about once a month during the 11 am service. This past year the rehearsal time was 5:30 p.m. High school age students are welcome to sing in either the Chancel Choir or Methusiasm.

Keep watching the newsletter for more information as Fall draws nearer. Please contact Daniel Fry at 636.947.0066 x 125 with any questions.

NGOMA
By Rev. Kalaba Chali

As I listened to the piano, the organ and the beautiful melodies sung by the Sanctuary choir on Sunday July 3, my heart was filled with joy. First, I did not move at all. Then I remembered the African instrument, Ngoma. Ngoma is the word used for African drum. Ngoma is used for musical enrichment and as a communication tool. Sometimes the rhythm produced by ngoma announces sad news; a member of the community dies. Other times it is good news; like 4th of July, celebration for independence. Then, I started moving my feet and slowly my whole body was making some moves. It was a rhythm of freedom. It's not only the freedom that we enjoy in this country, but more importantly freedom from every sin. It's freedom that comes with responsibility to do work of justice, mercy and peace in our community.

The rhythm of the ngoma determines how people should dance. On Sunday our rhythm and dances conveyed a message of joy that comes with freedom of a nation. But just as we celebrated, we know there are many people who do not celebrate the same freedom. We need to listen to their ngoma and the rhythm it produces. It may be a rhythm that conveys a message of sadness like the little girl from Florida, Caylee Anthony whose life was taken brutally. Or it may be a rhythm that conveys a message of hardship, a friend losing their job. We can't hear the ngoma and simply ignore its message.

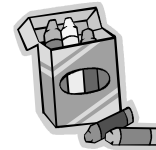
Let us listen to the ngoma being played in our community. As we are surprised with the cost of gas prices or finding a parking spot at the mall; we should pause for a moment and hear the rhythm of the ngoma that reminds us of those who can't afford to make a trip to the mall. If we listen to a particular tune of ngoma and dance with a different rhythm, we are out of tune. If we listen to the cry of the needy and ignore them, our ngoma speaks but does not move us. That's not the African ngoma. Are we willing to listen, move and dance to the rhythm of the African ngoma? Grace & peace!

We would like to extend a heartfelt welcome to *Reverend Kalaba Chali* as he begins his ministry here at First United Methodist. A **reception** in his honor will be held on **Sunday, July 17th.**



UPDATE FROM THE SEWING CLUB FOR MISSIONS
By Sue Boughton

What a great summer we're having. So far we have sent one box of summer clothes to the Tree of Life mission in South Dakota and have a second almost ready to go. The pillowcase dresses have turned out to be as cute as we thought they would be. Thanks for all the donations. We have one fully packed box of school book bags ready to go back to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Chatham, IL. and another box filling fast. They had sent us home from the March mission trip with bolts of their fabric for us to work with and with school not far ahead, we thought we need to get some completed bags back to them. If anyone is traveling up to Springfield, IL. and could stop at the Center to drop the boxes off, we would really appreciate it. If you haven't been to the Center, it is on the east frontage road just before you get to Springfield, easy to get to. Call (636)947-0066 or boughtstl@charter.net the church office if you think you might be going that way in July or early Aug.

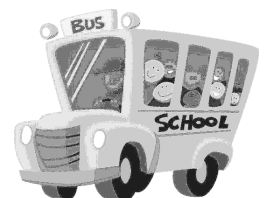


BACK TO SCHOOL PARTY FEATURING SAFETY TOWN
By Rev. Debby Bartley

The Back to School Party will take place on our front lawn. Children of all ages and their families will enjoy hotdog lunches, games, prizes, inflatables, snow cones, and more! All children will receive a free school supply kit. Safety Town will take place on the parking lot and in the atrium. Safety Town is geared for ages 2-5 and is a fun way for children to learn important safety fundamentals including pedestrian, bike, seat belt, stranger, and fire safety. A mini-town is the backdrop complete with traffic lights, buildings, streets, and signs. Children will walk and ride tricycles in Safetyville and learn the rules of the road. Parents will participate with their children and receive resource material.

To insure the success of this event, we need volunteers. We hope to do a lot of the set-up on Friday evening at 6:00 p.m. Set-up begins at 8:00 a.m. Saturday morning, and tear-down for Safetyville is at Noon and Back-to-School at 1:00 p.m. We especially need men and youth to help at these times since some of the items are large or heavy. Volunteers are also needed to help with registration, snacks, and monitor games and activities. Please contact Dee Dee Kassel (636) 896-0637 (Palmyra22@htomail.com) or Terry Tate (636) 734-7580 (terrychris@gmail.com) and let them know how you can help: 8:00-10:00 set-up; 10:00-11:30 or 11:30-1:00 work games and booths; 1:00-2:00 tear-down and clean-up.

This event is a wonderful opportunity to share Christ's love with our neighbors. Our church mission calls us to gather people to Christ. So what are we waiting for? Let's Go!



CALLED TO BE A DEACON

By Rev. Debby Bartley

The formal acknowledgement of my call to be a Deacon took place last month during our Missouri Annual Conference. At the Conference's ordination service on June 4th, four of us were ordained as Deacons, and twenty people were ordained as Elders. I realize there is some confusion about my ordination, and I hope I can shed some light on this and answer some of your questions.

Since 1996, there have been two ordained "Orders" within the United Methodist Church: Deacons and Elders. Here at FUMC, Rev. Robin and Rev. Chali are ordained Elders, and I am an ordained Deacon.

Deacons are called by God, authorized by the Church, and ordained by a bishop to a lifetime ministry of Word and Service to both the community and the congregation in a ministry that connects the two. Elders are called by God and ordained to a lifetime ministry of Word, Sacrament, Order and Service by leading the people of God in worship and prayer, leading persons to faith in Jesus Christ, exercising pastoral supervision, and ordering the life of the Church for service in mission and ministry. Thus, while the two orders are considered equal and serve side-by-side, our calls to ministry are different.

As a Deacon, I am called to be a servant leader and lead the whole people of God in its servant ministry. In other words, I am called to help the Church stay connected with its neighborhood, community and the world. Metaphorically, the proclaimer of the Word in worship, lights the fire within those worshipping, and the Deacon, as the bridge between church and community, carries lanterns containing the fire back and forth across the bridge. Expanding the bridge metaphor, the Deacon walks back and forth across the bridge, leading the church across the bridge and into the world, and leading the world across the bridge and into the church.

One noticeable difference between Deacons and Elders is their stoles. Other differences between the two Orders have to do with the sacraments and their employment.

Deacons' stoles are worn diagonally from the left shoulder across the body and joined together at the waistline, symbolizing the servanthood of Jesus as expressed through Jesus placing a towel around his waist as he washed the Disciples' feet. Elders' stoles are yoked at the back of the neck and hang straight down from the shoulders, symbolizing the priesthood of Jesus and that they are yoked to God).

Concerning the sacraments, Elders are called to administer the sacraments (Holy Communion and Baptism) through the consecration of the sacramental elements (the bread, juice and water). Deacons are called to assist Elders with the administration of the sacraments, such as preparing the table of Holy Communion and sharing the consecrated communion elements.

Elders offer themselves to be appointed and serve where the Bishop and Cabinet determine. In contrast, Deacons must find their place of employment. Deacons may serve within a local church, or they may serve outside the local church in an agency or mission-oriented setting. Once employed, with the Bishop's approval they are appointed to their place of ministry. Personally, my call is to serve within a local church, and I am employed by FUMC with the Bishop's approval as an appointed clergy person.

This may have been more information than you wanted or, perhaps, it raised more questions. I also realize there is a lot of "Methodism" in this article, and you may not be familiar with all that we are. Please feel free to give me a call, and I would be happy to sit down with you and talk further about my call, my ministry, or why I am a United Methodist.

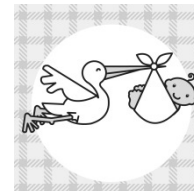
Perhaps you are feeling a call to ordained ministry and have questions, or want to know more about what it means to be a United Methodist. Please know that Rev. Robin, Rev. Chali, and I would all welcome an opportunity to talk with you! Just give us a call or drop us an email!



PASTOR'S COFFEE

By Rev. Kalabi Chali

Join us for the Pastor's Coffee on Saturday July 23, at 10:00am in the Parlor. If you have visited First UMC in the last three months, or if you have invited a friend, family member or your neighbor, please come with them to the Pastor's Coffee. This will be a time to get to know our pastors and for the pastors to get to know our guests. Here at First UMC guests are angels among us. There is an African proverb that says, "A house that does not receive guests is a dead house." Guess what? FUMC is alive because you are our guests! We look forward to seeing you. If you need childcare please contact the church office at (636)947-0066 or email fumc_stcharles@sbcglobal.net



New Baby

Faith Marie Hertel, daughter of Alex Marie Henderson and Corey David Hertel, granddaughter of Bryan and Chris Kratky, Ben Henderson, Charles and Pam Hertel, on July 6, 2011.