

A Look Ahead

- ☉ March 15-22: UMW Butter Braid Sales
- ☉ March 15: Crescendo Concert, 3:00 p.m. (\$15)
- ☉ March 16-19: Hymnal Handwriting, 8:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m. until complete.
- ☉ March 18, 25, and April 1: Lenten Lunches, 12:00-1:00 p.m.
- ☉ March 22: One Great Hour of Sharing, During normal service times. Mission Possible, 5:00-7:00 p.m.
- ☉ March 19-22: Men's Emmaus Walk
April 16-19: Women's Emmaus Walk
- ☉ April 5: Easter Egg Hunt, 12:00 p.m.

Articles to be included in the March 25 *Spire* are due in the Church Office by Wednesday, March 18. You may also e-mail them to spire@fumcstcharles.org. Please put the word *Spire* in the subject line.

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Let's Go Down to the River to Pray

By Reverend Robin Roderick

The words in the title of this column run through a beautiful folk song portraying the gathering for a baptism. Have you ever gone down to the river or to the pond

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and watched as someone waded into the waters? The pastor dips them backward and they rise from their baptismal waters, the drips and splashes caught in the sunlight as the family who have prayed and pleaded at times catches their breath. I remember some of those moments well from gathering on the banks near Mossy Head, Florida where, as they would say, "The Lord claimed another one for himself."

This past Sunday, a mother and son came down to the waters. The holiness and beauty of the moment was thick among us. While we didn't wade into the muddy creek, it seemed as if the waters were still mesmerizing for little Lucas. Standing at Baptismal font height, he placed his chin on the rim and gazed into the water--for a long, long time. After his baptism there remained one perfect drop in the middle of his

forehead.

Standing there I wondered if any of us had pondered the waters of our baptism lately. Have we taken a long, long look at the water--the way God controls the chaotic water, separates the water, brings the rain, water from the rock and washes us in the water of life--so we will never thirst again. When was the last time we thought we caught the feel of one perfect drop (cont. on page 2)

(cont. from page 1) centering us as one whom "God has claimed for his own"?

This Lenten season, let a little child lead us. Like Lucas, let us look long and longingly at the waters of our Baptism.



Crescendo Concert

The young organ virtuoso, Paul Jacobs, has selected the organ at First United Methodist Church for a concert on March 15. Paul is chairman of the organ department at Juilliard School of Music, and has performed internationally to great acclaim. This is a feature of the Crescendo Concert Series; tickets are \$15 (\$5 for students) and will be available at the door.

Advance purchase: call 636-724-2507 or 636-724-8270 for information. Group rates available. Concert time is 3 p.m., with a lecture at 2:30.

Show-Me Creation Care

If you care about making a difference in God's Creation, you may want to participate in the upcoming Show-Me Creation Care conference being held on April 24th and 25th, 2009 at the Community United Methodist Church in Columbia, Missouri. The deadline for registration is March 31st.

The mission of the conference is to inspire and enhance commitment to be faithful stewards of

God's resources in this world through increasing understanding and celebration of everything God has created. Remember: *The LORD God put the man in the Garden of Eden to take care of it and to look after it. Genesis 2:15.*

The conference starts on Friday with a Stream Team Clean-up at 4:00 and a concert by the Circle of Friends afterwards. Saturday's agenda includes key note

speakers and workshop sessions that will share information on global warming, how to be a green church, household conservation and recycling and many other interesting topics.

If interested, please contact the Office of Creative Ministries at 573-474-7155 or register online at <http://www.umocm.com/creationcare.htm>

As Pastor Robin would say, let's go!

Women of Faith Weekend

Women of Faith is coming to St. Louis on June 26 and June 27. If you've never had the opportunity to attend, it is a

fantastic event that will lead you into a deeper walk with Christ. The prices are \$79.00 for the standard tickets for the two days (including a box lunch each day) if we have 10 or more in our group from FUMC.

The speakers are all wonderful - this year there will be the usual group of Luci Swindoll, Patsy Clairmont, Marilyn Meberg, and Sheila

Walsh. This year will also feature Steven Curtis Chapman as both a speaker and performer, and Mandisa and Sandi Patti for musical performances. Those interested in learning more should visit www.womenoffaith.com.

Tickets will be ordered at the end of March, so please check your calendar and contact Terry Tate

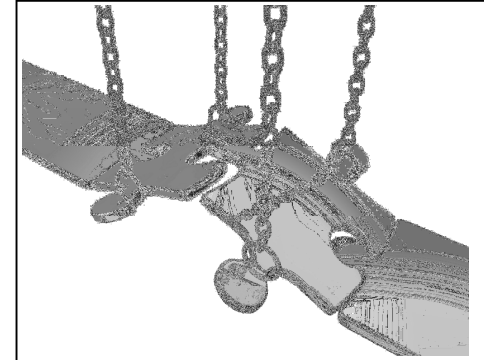
(636 397-1217, or terrychris@gmail.com) if you would like to be a part of our group from First Church.

Please note: the full 2 day program runs June 26th 10:00-3:30, with a few hours break, then returning 7-9:30 pm, and Sat June 27th 9:00am to 4:00 pm. If you work and cannot get off Friday, it is still well worth attending Friday evening and Saturday!

One Great Hour of Sharing

Each year the One Great Hour of Sharing offering enables the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to bring hope to countless survivors of both natural and people made disasters. This year the offering is scheduled for March 22. Special offering envelopes will be in the church bulletin.

Unlike most of our other general ministries, UMCOR receives no apportionment money. It depends upon this offering to carry out the amazing job of providing relief here at home and around the world. Please prayerfully consider making a contribution to this wonderful ministry.



STAYING connected



Walk to Emmaus

Missouri East Walk to Emmaus weekends for the development of Christian leadership will be held as follows: Men's Walk #121, March 19- 22, Pinecrest Camp, Fredericktown, MO, and Women's Walk #122, April 16 -19, also at Pinecrest Camp. Applications are available at www.moeastemmaus.org. For more information, call the Raposos at 636-284-9328 or 9329.

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

* Barbara Howard, a member of our congregation, who died March 9.

* Lester Bennett, father of Barry (Maralene) Bennett, died March 4.

* Kenneth Downard, brother-in-law of Charles Johnston and uncle of Judy (Carl) Frederick, died February 28.

* Sandra Stricker, aunt of Todd (Maria) Maul, died February 5.

Name The Win

The wins for February were:

- Big City Studios started off with 20 kids! Come see what this is all about at 10:45 on Sundays!
- 30 Hour Famine has raised \$1337 so far (as of March 9th)

Easter Egg Hunt Preparations

The 7th Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt and Lunch on April 5 at noon is just around the corner! Preparations are well under way. Donations of plastic eggs, candy, individual serving applesauce and chips are needed by March 22. Donations of hotdogs and buns are needed by

March 29. Mission Possible! will be stuffing eggs and lunch bags on Sunday, March 22, from 5 - 7 p.m. Join us for fun, fellowship, and pizza as we prepare to share the joy of the risen Lord with our community. Stop by the table in the Atrium for more information or contact Dawn Orndorff at (636) 947-0066.

Hymnal Handwriting Help

The 2008 General Conference made some revisions to the 2004 *Book of Discipline* that require minor wording changes to the Baptismal Covenants. We need some volunteers who have good handwriting to hand print these changes into the hymnals, as well as volunteers to bring the

hymnals into the area where our scribes will be working.

We will set up in the Catherine Collier Room from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. on March 16 through 19 for those who can help us. We welcome you for whatever time you can spend on this project. Pens, tea, and coffee will be provided. Thank you. - Mike Waller