

A Look Ahead

- 🌀 **April 30: Alan Finke Scholarships Due**
(forms available outside youth room)
- 🌀 **May 1-3: Dinner Theater**
May 1: 7:00-10:00 p.m.
May 2: 6:00-10:00 p.m.
May 3: 1:30-4:30 p.m.
- 🌀 **May 9: Chamber Choir Concert, 7:00 p.m.**
- 🌀 **May 16: Safety Town, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon**
- 🌀 **May 17: Confirmation, 9:30 a.m. service**

Articles to be included in the May 13 *Spire* are due in the Church Office by Wednesday, May 6. You may also e-mail them to spire@fumcstcharles.org. Please put the word *Spire* in the subject line.

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The *Spire* is published twice monthly as the official publication of FUMC St. Charles.
Entered as a periodical at the Post Office, St. Charles, MO.

(USPS 863-540)

THE SPIRE
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Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
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Alleluia Hangover

By Rev. Robin Roderick

Welcome to life on this side of the resurrection! Our theme for Easter Sunday is a definition of our lives on a daily basis. As Pastor Jimmy said this past Sunday,

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A Look Ahead

we pity the folks who think Easter is something we celebrate once a year, rather than our state of being. I always find the glory and majesty of Easter hanging around in so many places and so many ways - I call it the Alleluia Hangover.

The enthusiasm, joy and wonder of the Easter tide, as it is called, washes over us, filling us again and again with refreshing life. Yes, we are also calling out to the birds in the trees and sneezing as they leaf out; yes, we are cutting a daffodil from the yard and putting it on the table; and yes the grass is greening - but all of that is the cycle of life and death.

Our Easter joy is that the very cycle which brings us such joy in the spring and perhaps less in the dead of winter has been broken in Christ. Death is no more! Where, oh Death, is thy victory? Where, oh death, is thy

sting? There is nothing natural about the resurrection. It breaks with all we know.

Life on this side of the resurrection breaks with all we know or at least it can if we will accept the gift of reconciliation to God, receive the power of the resurrection and allow the life and work of Jesus Christ to reframe our futures. Don't finish with Easter - instead live with that Alleluia Hangover!

SAFETY TOWN

Safety Town will be coming to FUMC on Saturday, May 16, 10 a.m. - noon. This is a free community event geared toward 2 - 5 year olds and their families. Children & parents will participate in activities such as Safetyville, where they will learn about traffic and pedestrian safety as they navigate mini streets on a tricycle.

Information and many other activities will be provided by St. Charles City Fire Department, St. Charles City Police Department, St. Charles County Department of Health and the Environment, SSM St. Charles Clinic Medical Group, Usborne Books, Missouri Department of Transportation, St. Charles Animal Control, and more!

We also need volunteers to help monitor tables and activities. If you want to help with this exciting new FUMC annual event contact Dawn Orndorff at (636) 947-0066 or Jane Harrer at (636) 441-6260.

Reverse Mission Trip

The congregation of First United Methodist Church of Blue Springs, Missouri, has a very creative way to

support missions. In 2007, FUMC of Blue Springs helped with financial support to bring a mission team from Costa Rica, who had come to the United States to help with the repair work after Hurricane Katrina hit. Now, the Blue Springs congregation is undertaking the next step in Christian mission by putting together a reverse mission trip from Costa Rica in 2010.

It is an all-church undertaking. They are raising money from within

their church, and many of their small groups are helping with the planning. They also received financial support from the Office of Creative ministries. The Costa Rica Reverse Mission Trip will provide an excellent opportunity for their church to unite with the team from Costa Rica again and to work on a local project through either Habitat for Humanity or one chosen by the church task force.

What a great way to keep their congregation

working together and externally focused on ways to engage and expand mission service projects, not only around the world, but at home.

Is there something like this that our congregation could do? Think about it!

For more information on the Reverse Mission project, contact Max Marble at Office of Creative Ministries at 573-474-7155 or via e-mail at marble@umocm.com.

VBS Volunteers Needed!

VBS registration will start May 3! We need to staff our Crocodile Dock Stations and have 25 Bayou Crew Leaders to be able to serve 150 children. Please prayerfully consider joining the team as we "rock the dock" and help these children shine God's light. No prior experience is necessary. What is required is a light heart that is ready to

have fun and share God's light.

Dates for VBS this year will be June 29 - July 3, 9 a.m. - noon. Areas of need: 3 year old room, Preschool games, Preschool Chadder Theater. For the elementary ages we need leaders for crafts, games, snacks, Bible Bayou, & Chadder Theater. Easy to follow guides are available

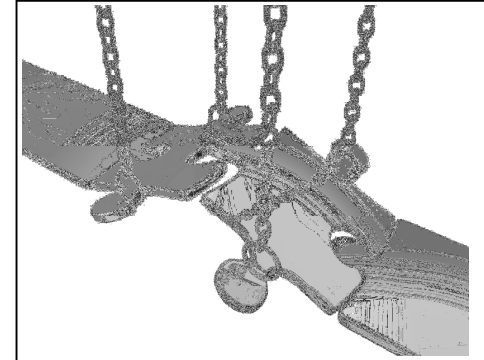
for all of these areas.

Crew leaders are also needed for preschool and elementary ages. A crew leader takes 5-6 children from station to station and enjoys the fun with the kids! Please sign up on the cards on the pew backs or contact Dawn Orndorff at 636 947-0066 or dawnorndorff@sbcglobal.net for more information.

New Church Members

We wish to congratulate the new members of First United Methodist Church who have joined in the past six months (October 2008 through March 2009) on joining our congregation! Children who have not yet been confirmed are listed in parentheses.

<u>Names</u>	<u>Date Joined</u>
Rosemary Alligood	November 23, 2008
Andy and Candy Anderson	December 7, 2008
Gary and Myra Bickel	February 15, 2009
Anne Brown	October 19, 2008
Erin Cooper (& Noah)	October 19, 2008
Floyd Decker	October 19, 2008
Mary Embry	October 12, 2008
Jane Grayson	November 23, 2008
Charles and Katherine Jeffords	October 19, 2008
Janita Knoph (& Lucas)	March 8, 2009
David and Britni Leitman	January 18, 2009
Dan and Sheila McPherson	February 15, 2009
Paula Morrill (& Jake)	March 15, 2009
Charles and Mary Parrish	March 15, 2009
Edward and Sharon Pierson	February 15, 2009
Brian and Kimberly Risko (& Brandon)	November 23, 2008
Dawn and Thomas Ryan (& Megan, Mackenzie, and Macie)	October 19, 2008
Tami Salzano (& Taylor and Sidney)	February 15, 2009
Lynn Schaefer	November 16, 2008
Roxianne Sheda (& Drew)	March 29, 2009
Robert Starr, Cindy Epperson, Luke and Samantha Starr	February 8, 2009
Celia Tilley	November 23, 2008
Doug and Christi Webster	November 16, 2008



STAYING connected

The Chamber Choir of FUMC will present a concert of classic choral masterpieces on Saturday, May 9th, at 7 p.m. This program will feature an Easter cantata by Bach, an Easter motet by Mozart, a Hallelujah Chorus by Beethoven, and a work by Brahms. The music is beautiful! Please come, and bring a friend or two. Admission is free. A reception will follow the performance.

Congratulations to Casey, Abigail, and Eliana Fitzhugh on the addition of the latest member of the family, Edwin Henry Fitzhugh, who was born on Good Friday, April 10, 2009.

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

*Georgia Cox, a member of this congregation, died April 17, 2009.

* Sarah Richardson, mother of Brian (Lisa) Richardson and grandmother of Brandon and Bailey Richardson, died on April 8, 2009.