

A Look Ahead

- 🌀 Sept. 12: UMM Meeting, 8:00 a.m., Wesley Hall
- 🌀 Sept. 12: Neighborhood Mission, Church Parking Lot, 8:00 a.m.
- 🌀 Sept. 12: Mission Possible, Church, 10:00 a.m.
- 🌀 Sept. 16: Share an Hour Weekly Reading Program, 1:00 p.m., CC Room
- 🌀 Sept. 17-20: Emmaus Men's Walk
- 🌀 October 25: Flu Shots, seasonal (excludes H1N1) - more info in the future

The Festival of Sharing collection table will be in the Atrium until September 27. We are collecting four types of kits : Readin' & Writin' , Baby Bundle, Personal Hygiene, and Prison Pack. Pack descriptions and examples are available at the collection table.

Articles to be included in the September 23 *Spire* are due in the Church Office by Wednesday, September 16. 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
Periodicals
Postage Paid at
St. Charles, MO.

The Spire (USPS 863-540) is published twice monthly as the official publication of FUMC St. Charles, 801 First Capitol Drive, St. Charles, MO. Periodicals Postage Paid at St. Charles, MO.

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A Little Bit Easier to be Green

By Rev. Robin Roderick

The call on our lives is one of growth. Just as Jesus grew in wisdom, stature, and holiness, we are to do the same. But how do we know where we need to grow?

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A Look Ahead

The church year provides times especially for growth. These are called "ordinary days." This means we are between the High Holy times of Epiphany (the beginning of January), Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Advent, and Christmas. The color is green, to remind us we are to be 'growing' in our faith, reflecting on what it means to have come through a season of intense spiritual lessons, and now working those lessons into our ordinary days.

There are many ways we grow--and obstacles to that growth. Spiritual growth - intentional faith development - is an area where we can continue to go deeper, farther, wider literally until death. Even folks who suffer from memory problems often are stirred by a familiar hymn.

Knowing where to start can be a formidable obstacle-- there are so many books, tapes, conferences, studies! It almost gives a

person the invitation to throw up hands and say, "Too hard!"

The spiritual depth of the congregation is so vital that the Administrative Council has made it an ongoing goal for the church. So we are going to give you some help. Keep watching here, your bulletin, my blog, and Sunday School folders for information leading up to September 27th. In that slightly altered worship, we will take time as a congregation to access

our current spiritual state and look for areas where we can grow. Then resources for individuals, classes, etc. will be made available. The areas of greatest interest will help form sermon series in the future.

Information will go home with you that day. Congregational information will be disseminated during the month of November after all is tabulated. Your participation is vital to the spiritual direction of the church! Keep an eye open for upcoming information.

Name the Win

There are a number of wins to celebrate for the month of August!

- MDO and preschool enrollment are up!
- \$1000 was raised on Youth Mission night.
- Participation in the Mall Walk Bible Study group has doubled to 12 people.
- 65 attendees at the Back to School event.
- 120 attendees at the PowerHouse Concert on the Lawn.

Sanctuary Refurbishment

The Trustees are embarking on Phase 2 of a Sanctuary Refurbishment program that will improve accessibility for disabled persons and enhance the appearance of this house of worship.

This phase will consist of new carpeting, an entry ramp to replace steps on the entrance to the Sanctuary by the library, and pew cutouts on the outside of each front row to provide space for seating people requiring wheelchairs or motorized scooters. The total cost of this phase will be ~\$28,000. Funding is available to

complete this.

There are many additional needs to enhance the worship environment and experience in the Sanctuary including: new pew cushions, lighting and sound improvements in the chancel area, new window shades (including shades for the semi-circular side windows which currently are uncovered), sound system improvements, and eventually new, more energy-efficient windows. These needs await funding. We invite you to enhance the pace at which the additional improvements are

made by giving special gifts beyond your normal giving designated for the Sanctuary Refurbishment Fund.

It is significant that both this phase of Sanctuary Refurbishment and the earlier repainting that was done early in 2008 are being funded primarily through two estate gifts, with supplemental funding from memorial gifts given to honor members at the time of their death. These are outstanding examples of how the inclusion of FUMC in your estate planning can support our mission of Gathering People to Christ.

United Methodist Women Sunday

September 20 is United Methodist Women (UMW) Sunday. UMW is a fellowship of women that works to serve our community and the world in mission outreach. We invite all women to be a member of UMW and ask everyone to join us in the Atrium between services for fellowship and

information. Nancy Cooper, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, at First United Methodist will be our guest speaker at the services on this special Sunday.

We also invite you to join our outreach to missions by purchasing Candle Burning Minutes in honor or memory of a loved one. These

minutes will be sold in the Atrium on Sunday, September 13 and the proceeds will be used exclusively for mission outreach.

First United Methodist has several small groups (Circles) within our UMW unit and we welcome all women to join us in fellowship. We look forward to seeing you!

Spiritual Depth Assessment

The Church Council of FUMC is excited to tell you about the Spiritual Depth Assessment Survey that you will find in your bulletin on Sunday morning, September 27th.

Your participation in this survey will help us fulfill our mission of, "For the love of God by the power of the Holy Spirit, we gather people to Christ, grow in Christ, and go for Christ." Every person who takes the assessment is another Christian disciple who is challenged to consider how he or she is growing in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

More specifically, this

survey will offer a looking glass into what people would find beneficial to their own faith development. This short assessment is only 15 questions and is designed to help you identify where you are in your spiritual journey so that you can make better choices to guide your growth.

The survey is broken down into three sections: Knowing God, Loving God, and Serving God.

Your pastors and the Church Council of FUMC thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire, and we look forward to sharing the results with you in the weeks to come.

Charge Conference

At Charge Conference each year, the church reviews its records to identify those who may have fallen away from fellowship with our church. They may have moved away, found another church home without informing us, or be unable to attend due to circumstances beyond their control.

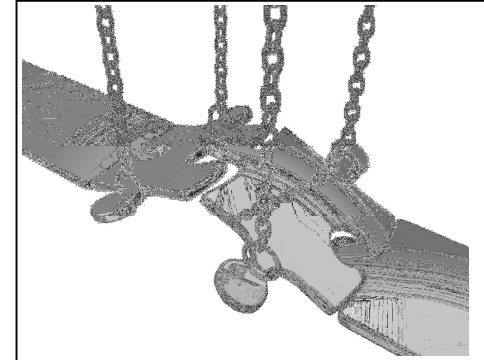
Printed to the right is a list of people for whom we have no record of attendance over the past two years nor have a valid address on file. Because not everyone signs into

worship, our records could be in error. If you have any information on how we might contact these individuals, please contact the office. Your help is appreciated.

- Mike Waller, Office Manager

1st Year List

Ryan Gregory Arthur
Jacob Bischof
Brenda & Scott Dümmer
Derek Thomas Huenecke
Jeffrey Smith
Tom Smith
Leah Myriam West
Matthieu Glen West
Darcy Ann Whitsett
Don E. Williams



STAYING connected



NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION

We will meet in the church parking lot at 8:00 a.m., this Saturday, September 12, to help one of our neighbors down the street. Juanita is an elderly, disabled person who needs to have her basement cleaned out. She has not been in the basement since 2001. There is much that needs to be removed and tossed, other items that can go to Goodwill, and other things to be re-organized and kept. She has no one else to help her.

Anyone interested in helping on this project is invited to join us. We are going to work, have fellowship, and rejoice in being able to reach out and touch the life of someone in need. Wear your blue church t-shirt. See you Saturday morning.

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

*Dorothy Rieckenberg, mother of Ruth Ann Steimel, who died on August 26, 2009.

*Jim Ramsey, uncle of Kerri (Bill) Johnson, who died September 2, 2009.