

A Look Ahead

- September 27—Shining Stars (9:30 service) (1st—5th grade)
- October 10—UMM Meeting, 8:00 a.m., Wesley Hall
- October 11—Children's Sabbath
- October 18—Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes: Mission Possible
- 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 October 14 *Spire* are due in the Church Office by Wednesday, October 7. You may also e-mail them to spire@fumcstcharles.org. Please put the word *Spire* in the subject line.

Staff

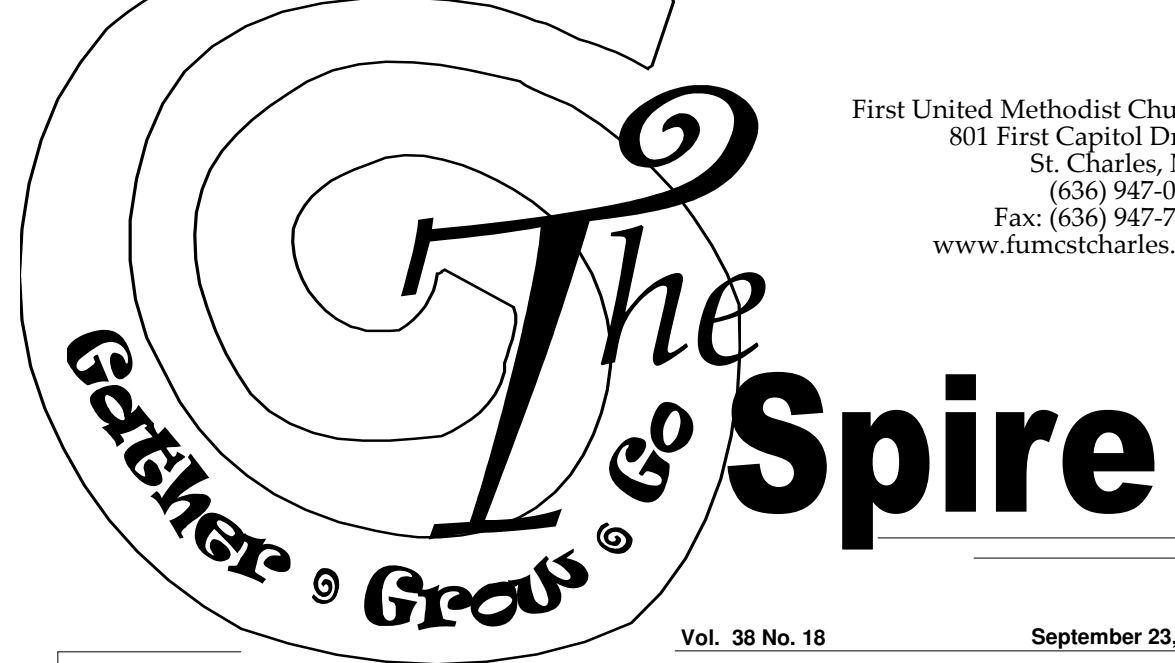
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Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church.



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Can Someone Translate?

By Rev. Robin Roderick

An interesting thing happened on the way to posting on my blog. I turned on the computer, signed in, and started typing the heading about seeing and hearing.

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A Look Ahead

The word would appear, and then be replaced by what looked like nothing more than squiggly lines to my untrained eyes. (Note - Robin's blog is located at <http://bit.ly/rrrblog> - Ed.)

I erased and then started again--same issue. Then I noticed that my blog editor was set up to type in Hindi! How did that happen? Not sure at all. Perhaps it was the result of a virus I was hit with last week.

It did give me pause to reflect on what it means to need translation. God is in the business of transformation. At times the Church seems in the business of translation. We learn, teach, reach and scramble to

understand with depth and maturity the faith and what it means not only for ourselves (sticking with a "me only" is a baby faith) but for the world.

It is translation when we are formed by the scriptures so that our thoughts, actions, and words are faithful in our current context.

It is translation when we choose at times to alter the way

हिन्दी

we do things so that it is more accessible to those who have no idea what the Christian insider ways or language may mean.

It is translation when we take God's call to the churches and apply that to our goals and mission for this church.

It is translation when we know what is unique about what United Methodism offers in hope to the world and live that in all its strengths and weaknesses.

When that translation is at its best, God then can use it to transform us so that we are no longer in need of milk, but ready for meat; so that our faith isn't a mile wide and an inch deep, but the center of our being, actions, and hope.

As we prepare to worship on the 27th of September, using a small portion of

World Communion Sunday

October 4 is World Communion Sunday. As part of our worship celebration that morning we are looking for people who would be willing to say the Lord's Prayer in languages besides English at our four worship services that Sunday.

If you know a foreign language and would like to participate in worship that day, please contact the church office.

our time to take a spiritual depth assessment, it will then be translated into ways to make our faith deeper, stronger, relevant, and life transforming. This tool will help us translate our needs into future programs, classes, emphasis and sermons. I hope all of you will make a great effort to be with us that day.

Harvest Hayday

Don't miss this fun, annual event for children! All kids (up through 5th grade) are invited to come join the fun with their parents. Kids are invited to come enjoy story time, trunk-or-treating, and an assortment of games!

A chili / hot dog dinner will be served from 4:30-5:30. Prices are \$5 for adults; \$3 for children ages 5-10; and for

children 4 and under, free. \$15 will be the maximum cost per family.

Each child is invited to come in costume (nothing too scary, please) and is asked to bring one canned food item to donate to the FISH Food Pantry. Pre-registration is not required, but please help us be good stewards of our food purchases and call 947-0066 for dinner reservations.

Big City Studios: Evan Almighty

How about a movie? At Big City Studios we have been "filming" the story of Noah. What is Big City Studios? It is worship....kid style...every Sunday morning at 10:45.

All families are welcome to join the Big City "crew" for a showing of "Evan Almighty" on

Sunday, September 27, at 5 p.m. in the MPR. Parents must attend with child. We will enjoy pizza and popcorn. Feel free to bring a blanket and even a pillow! Sign up by contacting Dawn Orndorff at 947-0066 or dawnorndorff@sbcglobal.net or by pew card.

Stewardship Luncheon

On behalf of First United Methodist Church, the Stewardship Team would like to thank you for your faithfulness, generosity and support. We also cordially invite you to attend our Celebration Luncheon on Sunday, October 4th at noon in Wesley and Asbury Hall.

Again, the purpose of this luncheon is to say "thank you" to you, the faithful members of First United Methodist Church, and to celebrate all that God

has done through us during 2009.

In order to ensure that we have enough food and adequate space to accommodate everyone who wants to come, please reserve your spot today by calling the church office at 947-0066 or completing the sign up form and dropping it in the offering plate.

Also, if you would like to help with set up or clean up for this luncheon, call the church office or indicate that on your sign up sheet as well.

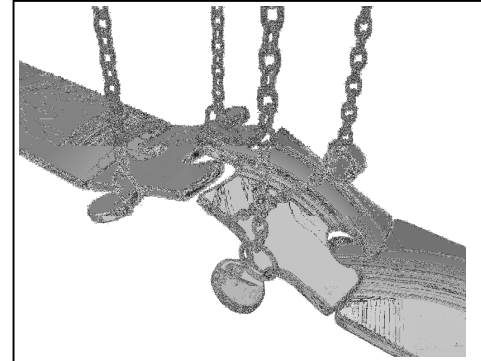
C.H.A.M.P.

C.H.A.M.P. (Citizens Helping American Military Personnel) was formed in March of 2003 at the beginning of the war in Iraq. The group's purpose is to show appreciation of overseas active military personnel, wherever they may be, with ties to St. Charles County by sending letters and care packages. It is hoped that these packages will bring a small piece of home and provide some comfort while distance

separates the military from family and friends.

Mission Possible! will be partnering with C.H.A.M.P. in November to assemble care packages and write letters. Please pick up a collection bag on October 18 with a list of items needed. Please return these bags on Sunday, October 25.

Mark your calendar for November 15 and plan to join Mission Possible as we come together as a church to support this mission.



STAYING connected

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

* Lori Jo Lamer, niece of Wanda and Dick Saip, died on September 5, 2009.

* Jerri Fry, aunt of Dianne Tweedy, died on September 5, 2009.

* Frank Krekeler, brother-in-law of Pattie (Dave) Raposo, died on September 9, 2009.

* Arthur Herweck, brother of Sondra Randolph, died on September 10, 2009

* Benny Woods, great-uncle of Hunter and Hanah Brazil, died on September 12, 2009.

* Corene Gieskieng, a member of our congregation, died on September 15, 2009.

New Babies

Congratulations to the following families on their newest additions!



* Danielle Nicole Braaten, born on August 26, 2009 to Tim and Dawn (Randolph) Braaten. Danielle is the granddaughter of Sondra Randolph.

* Brevon Cole Herbig, born on September 7, 2009 to Derek and Tasha (Tweedy) Herbig. Brevon is the grandson of Dianne Tweedy.

Kids' Backpacks

Our Elementary School Counselors sometimes have a need to send a child home with personal items, or a few cans of food. These are typically children from limited income homes. To help the School Counselors, we are collecting "gently used" backpacks. If you have any backpacks, in good condition, that you are finished with, please consider bringing them to church and dropping off at the desk or the collection barrel in the Atrium. Thank you.
- The Missions Team.



Small Group Scholarships

Just a friendly reminder regarding church small groups: if there is a cost listed this cost normally covers expenses related to books or other materials for that particular group. Your payment helps to cover such costs and assists us in offering financial assistance to those who wish to participate in such small groups but do not have

the financial means to do so.

If you are someone who would like to participate in one of our small groups and desires a financial scholarship, please contact Pastor Jimmy Cooper via phone (636) 947-0066 or email jcooper@fumcstcharles.org. All scholarship requests are kept confidential.

Cornerstone Employment Network

The Cornerstone Employment Network is a weekly Friday morning gathering of people who are looking for work or searching for a new career. This network provides emotional support and spiritual encouragement for individuals and their families who are between jobs or careers. Each meeting will focus on a relevant topic to those attending and a free breakfast will be provided.

Reservations are requested each week in order to prepare for the breakfast. Please contact the Cornerstone United Methodist Church at 636-379-5334 or go to www.umcornerstone.org for more information.

Who: Cornerstone Employment Network
When: Friday mornings at 8:00 a.m. beginning September 25.
Where: Cornerstone United Methodist Church, 1151 Tom Ginnever Avenue, O'Fallon, MO 63366

Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity & Generosity

Stress. Anxiety. Fear. These words capture well the state of mind of many of us in America today. We have witnessed dramatic market losses, the collapse of the world's largest insurance company, and many bankruptcies and mergers. Every day seems to bring another piece of economic uncertainty.

A recent survey found that over three in four Americans are stressed about the economy and their personal finances. Half were worried about providing for their family's basic needs. Over half of respondents reported feeling angry and irritable, and reported laying awake at night worried about this. The report concludes that, "The declining state of the nation's economy is taking a physical and emotional toll on people nationwide."

Join us in worship beginning on Sunday, October 4th for a sermon series entitled *Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity*. Our nation is experiencing what many have described as the "American Nightmare." Increasing consumer debt,

declines in savings, lower income growth, and a volatile stock market are all a part of our economic insecurity. We have lived in a society that tells us "you deserve it now," whether or not we can afford it or really even need it.

All of us have struggled with these issues at one time or another. They are important issues that we cannot ignore. This is why, over 6 weeks, we will be having a churchwide study and worship emphasis called *Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity*. During this time we will explore what the Bible teaches us about financial management through corporate worship and Sunday school/small group study. Stay tuned for more details about these opportunities. We'll hear expert advice and stories about what others have learned by working through financial chal-

"Eight Out of Ten Americans Stressed Because of Economy," by Madison Park, from CNN.com, October 7, 2008; <http://www.cnn.com/2008/HEALTH/conditions/10/07/economic.stress/index.html>

lenges. Each week we will provide you with some practical tools you can use to assess your financial situation and develop a financial plan with a Biblical foundation.

At the conclusion of the emphasis, we will have the opportunity to make personal commitments of our offerings to God through our church in the coming year. We will consecrate these commitments in the worship service. I hope that you will join us in the coming weeks as we look at how we can manage our financial resources and truly experience simplicity, generosity, and joy.

- Rev. Jimmy Cooper

1st Year List

To the right and below is a list of all persons for whom we have no record of attendance in the last two years. Please review the list and let us know if your name is on the list and we are in error. We recognize that errors can occur in tracking attendance.

Each person on the list has been sent a letter asking for clarification of their status with this church. They may choose to inform us that they now attend elsewhere, or that they wish to remain in fellowship with this church, or that they wish to be removed from the membership rolls. If you are a parent of an adult child that is on the list, the adult child should contact us if they wish to remain on the membership rolls.

Thank you for your help in this process.

- Mike Waller
Office Manager

Jean Adams
Michael Christian & Melissa Kaye Alexander
Mitchell Dennis & Emily Clark Allen
Jennifer Lorene Anderson
Robert A. & Joyce Anderson

David Andrew Armstrong
Ryan Gregory Arthur
Michael Shane & Nicole Baisch
Dakota Choice Barton
Jennifer Berendzen
Jessica Bischof
Fern Bittner
Mark W. & Gina Gail Boyd
Curt & Merinda Brayfield
Kristin McIntyre & Jonathan Bridegan
Michael Lynn & Nancy Broadfoot
Mitchell Robert Budde
Tammy Budde
William A. Burton
Pamela Ann & Tracy Caldwell
David Case
Michelle Cely
Kevin D. & Adele E. Coffman
Denise Danison
William T. & Janet Wagner Davis
Gene & Donna Deweese
Miranda Elizabeth Dick
Jerry & Connan Long Donaldson
Mark Samuel & Vicki Driscoll
Brenda & Scott Dümmer
Mike & Vanessa Fritsche
Jordan Michael Frye
Medric & LaVeta Gay
Krista Alger & Stephen Nord Grinstead
Richard & Susan Gutierrez
Kirstie Nicole Hamel
Regina Emily & Gary Harbison

Gary Ray & Marva Lorene Heggemeyer
Gene & Rita Hitt
Jason Daniel Holtgrewe
Brandon & Patty Horner
Amy Lynn Hotchkiss
Derek Thomas Huenecke
Adam Paul & Stacy Lynn Humphrey
Mark Humphrey
Paul & Deborah Humphrey
Robert Ryan Humphrey
Rachel Ann Huster
Kim & Charles Damian Jacobsen
John Charles Johnston
Anna Jones
Michael Joseph & Kerry Lee Kimme
Nancy Koch
Donna Lesley
Kyle Ray Lesley
Mr. & Mrs. Lesley
Heather Marcus
John Christopher & Lynne Marie Martin
John Allen Meissner
Jane Ellen Mikiska
John Mikiska
Jonathan Groff Mikiska
Rhonda Mikiska
Vicki Moriarty
Brandon Myers
Maggie Christine Myers
James & Lindsay Narsh
Kristen Nicole Ohlms
Kylee Nicole Paitz
Sally Parker
Andrew Thomas Patton
Michael & Tracie Linn Pillow
Tracie Linn Pillow

Stefanie Ann Pratt
James Aaron Ricketts
Michelle Diane Ridlen
Aaron Robertson Arthur & Mary-Ann Roedersheimer
Lauren Kitty Roedersheimer
Nicholas Arthur Roedersheimer
Gene Emmett & Carolyn Ann Roth
Donna Russell
Erin Schulte
Brian & Beverly Sigg
Marie Sloas
Mark & Cindy Slyman
Jeffrey Smith
Jennifer Smith
Kathleen Smith
Tom Smith
Cindi Spangler
Rose Stockmann
Brenden Sullivan
David & Karen Sullivan
Karolyn Nicole Sullivan
Kathryn Elayne Sullivan
Richard Thompson
Emily Anne Townsley
John & Susan Lynne Townsley
Steven Michael Townsley
Teresa Ella Underwood
Roe Ann Walker
Morgan Grace Watts
Ryne Watts
Stewart & Pamela Watts
Susan Weissinger
Leah Myriam West
Matthieu Glen West
Amy Lynn Wheeler
Cheri White
Darcy Ann Whitsett
Amy Christina & Patrick Garth Williams

Beverly Jean Williams
Don E. Williams
Nathan Williams

Susan E. Williams
Gerald L. & Janet Falk
Winter

Did You See? Have You Heard?

Did you see? The dumpster on Jackson. Full to the brim as our Neighborhood Action folks helped an elderly neighbor clean out her basement. Through the actions of the mission team to engage the area around the church, they identified the need, collaborated with the city for a dumpster, and helped make living easier for someone who could not do it themselves.

Did you know-Where do those pew pencils come from? For *22 years* a member has anonymously been donating the pencils in memory of her husband. Isn't that a faithfulness that inspires? A simple tool, but one we use over and over.

Have you heard? The Littlest Angels sang this past Sunday. Their first time some sang, some stared wide eyed at the congregation, some looked a little nervous. No one cried!! Our children's choirs sing the prelude the second and third Sundays. Take a moment to visit the 9:30 service or sneak in before you start your

Sunday School Classes. Have you heard? The Sunday School class on Evil: Sin, Satan, and Psychology taught by the author Cindy Epperson has a record turnout. Not only are many classes combining (way to model learning as our first choice rather than staying in our own little groups) but new folks are coming too. Way to go youth for modeling Christian behavior by moving your Sunday School classes to other areas of the building to accommodate the huge turnout. A great class. The church showing Christian behavior. What a win-win.

Did you know? The power of one--the additional giving of a dollar per person is helping us to maintain ministries and has added up to a couple hundred dollars to our offerings each week. It matters. Thank you for keeping your ones and bringing them to church! (and thanks to our counters for all those ones!)

- Rev. Robin Roderick