

A Look Ahead

- 🌀 October 20: Called Charge Conference - 7:00 p.m.
- 🌀 October 25: Harvest Hayday, 3:00-5:30 p.m.
- 🌀 October 25: Flu Shots, seasonal (excludes H1N1) - 9:30-12:30
- 🌀 November 7 - 8:00 a.m., United Methodist Men Meeting
- 🌀 November 8 - Cluster Charge Conference, Faith UMC, 2:00 p.m.

Articles to be included in the October 28 *Spire* are due in the Church Office by October 21. You may also e-mail them to spire@fumcstcharles.org. Please put the word *Spire* in the subject line.

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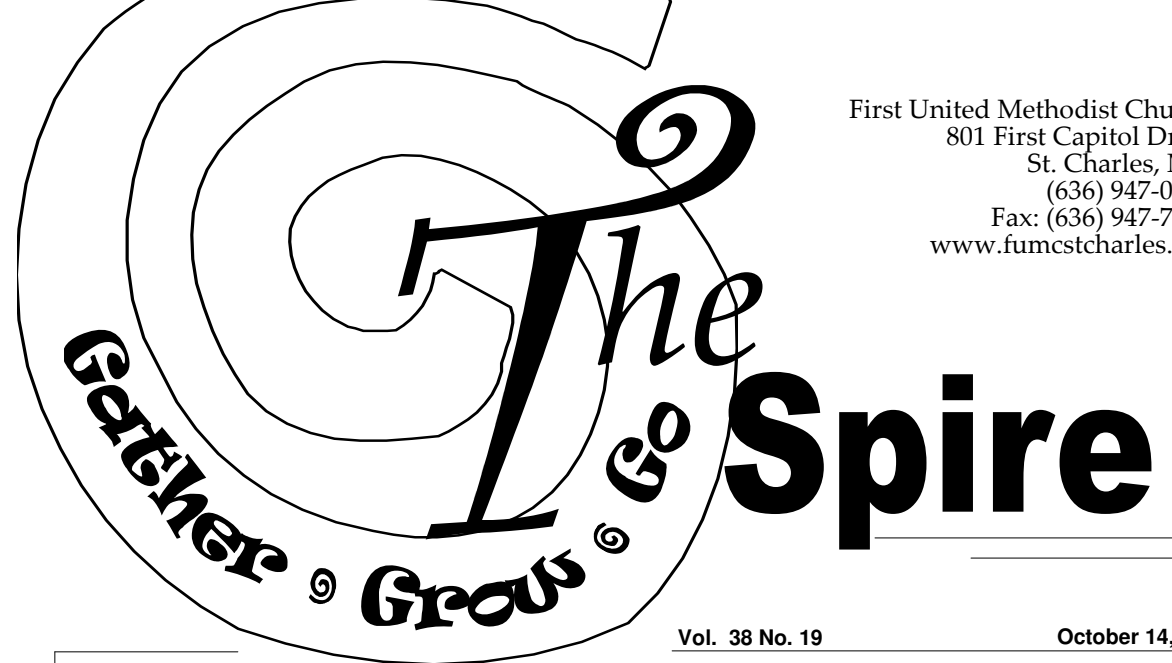
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801 First Capitol Dr.
St. Charles, MO 63301

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
SECOND CLASS
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ST. CHARLES, MO

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



Enough— 2009 Stewardship Campaign

By Reverend Robin Roderick

Sometimes when we think of stewardship in the church, it's negatively perceived as "begging" the congregation for money. Sometimes it is seen as a business matter—

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raising or pledging a budget. Sometimes we get it right.

We get it right when we teach on principles of the faith that lead to gratitude, extravagant generosity, faithfulness and freedom. One church is doing their 2009 Stewardship Campaign on "After the Fire." It is a cautionary tale that once we come through the fire of this current economic malaise that we will try to go back to life as it was--often a life of excess, a life of unfaithful stewardship.

As part of this, they interviewed two economic professors at a secular school of management. Each said what we need is the values and teachings the church used to give us--about greed, lust, gluttony, pride, jealousy, etc.

We have been lifting these principles

up already. This fall our Enough Stewardship teaching is a whole life faithfulness journey--ways to live a godly life with our 'stuff'. It will work toward funding ministries etc. with the pledge drive, but more importantly it will remind us again of God's plan for our lives--not just our stuff.

Festival of Sharing

Thank you to all who donated to the Festival of Sharing. We received well over 200 kits, \$920 in cash donations, and a beautiful quilt donated for the quilt auction by the Friends & Fabric Embroidery Group. On October 16, Nancy Cooper will be leading a group of our youth to the Festival at Sedalia, Missouri, to participate in YouthFest, worshiping, working, and celebrating God's presence in all of our lives.

Neighborhood Action

Our goal is to be a church that "makes a difference" in our community. What better time to celebrate that goal than on October 24, National Make-a-Difference Day? The City of St. Charles is having a clean-up day that will cover the riverfront, Frenchtown, and North End Neighborhoods. The hours are 8:30 a.m. to noon.

If you would like to participate, please e-mail Paul Boughton (boughtstl@charter.com) for more information.

Winter Clothing for Homeless

Winter is fast approaching and the need for warm clothing for those who come to FUMC's Showers of Blessing is growing. Some of the items needed are winter jackets (M-LG-XL), bed rolls/sleeping blankets, backpacks, men's work boot style shoes (sizes 8 1/2 - 12), men's jeans (waist 32-38 with lengths of 32 - 34), ladies socks and underwear (sizes

M-L), men's (M- L-XL) and women's (M-L) sweatshirt/pant sets.

All used clothing donated should be clean and in good condition. If cash is donated, please indicate on the donation envelope that the proceeds are for Showers of Blessing. Clothing donated should also be designated for Showers of Blessing.

Every week this ministry is providing

service to an average of sixteen people. FUMC is a place where these folks not only get the opportunity to shower, but to find a few hours of fellowship with those who donate their time and energy each week showing God's love to those who most often feel unloved. Thank you all for your continued support this ministry.

Flu Shots

FUMC will be giving flu shots through the Visiting Nurses Assn., here at the church on Sunday, Oct. 25 from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in the choir annex room. Peggy Booker will be the nurse directing the program. Other nurses will be available to help with signups. In order to more quickly accommodate those wishing to get a shot that day, and to help avoid lines, you will be able to sign up in the Atrium between services on Oct. 11, and 18th.

Because of the paperwork that is

necessary, approximately 20 shots will be given per hour. You *must have all of your insurance cards* with you, or no shot can be given. Medicare Part B and Medicare HMO's and PPO's cover the cost of the shots. Other insurances, though not all, also are covered.

You may pay by cash or check if your insurance doesn't cover shots. The cost is \$30.00. You will receive a receipt that can be sent to your own insurance co. for payment if yours is

not covered by VNA. Walk-ins are welcome, but will be accommodated so as to not interfere with appointment times of others.

Also, please understand that we CANNOT do everyone's shots between services. We are here for three hours, and many have to be given during Sunday School and church services. There is an early service available when no shots will be given, if you wish to have your morning worship uninterrupted.

Cemetery Maintenance Volunteers

Many of our members may not realize that we have a cemetery on Boonslick Road a short distance from the traffic circle adjacent to First Capitol Drive. This cemetery was established by a German Methodist Episcopal Congregation in the 19th century and many of the old tombstones have German inscriptions.

Following dissolution of this congregation in the 1950's, responsibility for management of the cemetery and a fund to help maintain it were transferred to our congregation. Several members of our congregation have since been interred in this cemetery including former Pastor Paul Metcalf and his wife Daleva. The current wooden signpost refers to it as United Methodist (Wesleyan) Cemetery.

The cost for maintenance of the cemetery has been supported largely by the income from the special cemetery portion of the endowment fund which has a balance of approximately

\$32,000, supplemented by the modest income from the sale of cemetery lots. For many years, Ray Carlson has provided administrative oversight and countless hours of labor for the operation of the cemetery. The Trustees are most appreciative of Ray's long-standing efforts. If you are interested in purchasing cemetery lots, please contact Ray directly or call Mike Waller, Office Manager.

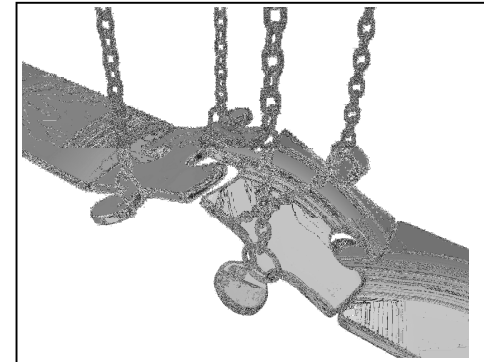
For the past two years a modest amount of money has been dedicated by Trustees in their annual capitol improvement budget to support efforts by a dedicated group of volunteers who have worked diligently to improve the appearance of the cemetery.

This enthusiastic group, led by Les Peters and including Bob Nygaard, Bob Koetter, Doug Kinslow, Larry Spencer, Jerry Jones, Gary Bickel and Bill Hagen has done an outstanding job of sprucing up the cemetery. The Trustees are grateful for these efforts and the crew could probably make very good use of additional help.

Spiritual Assessment

Thank you, everyone, for your willingness to participate in the Personal Spiritual Assessment which was distributed during the church services on September 27. We are busy tabulating the responses and will be

sharing the results with you soon. While we are certainly interested in the collective response, our main hope is that the assessment will serve as a tool to help each person move forward in their own *personal* faith journey.



STAYING connected

Bell Banner

The Bell Banner is in the Atrium in preparation for All Saints Sunday on November 1. If you wish to honor a special person who is no longer with us, please take one of the bells from the basket, tie it on one of the banner's golden cords, and register the name of the person. On November 1, the banner will be brought in at the beginning of each worship service to celebrate the lives of those who have influenced our lives.

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

* Ernie Smith, cousin of Sharon (Al) Mercer, died September 14, 2009.

* John Baier, father of Kate Waller and Stephen Baier, died October 7, 2009.

* Dorothy VanMeter, mother of Alice (Dave) Eckhoff and grandmother of Erin and Alysia Eckhoff, died October 1, 2009.

* Beatriz Martell, grandmother of Stephen (Michelle) Powers, died September 2009.