

# A Look Ahead

- 🌀 July 28-6:30 Middle School  
7:30 High School—Rm 316
- 🌀 Aug. 1-Communion Sunday
- 🌀 Aug. 7-8 a.m. UMM Golden Corral  
Restaurant
- 🌀 Aug. 7-10 a.m.-2 p.m. Back-to-School Party
- 🌀 Aug. 20-Incoming 6th and 9th Graders- Welcome  
to Youth Ministry-Rm 316
- 🌀 Aug. 22-Promotion Sunday
- 🌀 Aug. 22-T Shirt Sunday
- 🌀 Aug. 22-UMYF Fall Kick-off and Parent  
Meeting—Rm 316
- 🌀 Aug. 29-Children's Bible Sunday
- 🌀 Oct. 7-10-Kairos Weekend
- 🌀 Feb. 21, 2011-Trip to the Holy Land

Articles to be included in the August 11 *Spire* are due in the Church Office by Wednesday, August 4. You may also e-mail them to [spire@fumcstcharles.org](mailto:spire@fumcstcharles.org). Please put the word *Spire* in the subject line.

## 🌀 Staff

Rev. Robin Roderick  
Rev. Debby Bartley  
Rev. Adam Caldwell  
Rev. John Ray  
Daniel Fry  
Sharon K. Byers  
Geoff Walton  
Anne Brown  
Nancy Cooper  
Michael Waller  
Stacey Davis  
Jim Nichols  
Mike Menefee  
Patti Adams

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First United Methodist Church  
801 First Capitol Dr.  
St. Charles, MO 63301  
[www.fumcstcharles.org](http://www.fumcstcharles.org)

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



First United Methodist Church  
801 First Capitol Drive  
St. Charles, MO  
(636) 947-0066  
Fax: (636) 947-7478  
[www.fumcstcharles.org](http://www.fumcstcharles.org)

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JULY 28, 2010

## WHERE AM I GOING?

By Rev. Robin Roderick

**T**hank you for the well wishes and questions about my time away which begins after services on August 1st.

### In this issue

- PAGE 1  
Where am I going?
- PAGE 2  
Children's Bibles
- PAGE 3  
Annual Conference
- PAGE 4-5  
L.O.V.E. Club
- PAGE 6  
Kairos Prison Ministry  
Trip to the Holy Land
- PAGE 7  
Read Along with me  
Staying Connected  
UMYG

For the vacation time I will see family--and spend some deep time in rest and relaxation--as well as reflection on what it means to begin perhaps another five years at FUMC. The reflection is needed because I don't want to simply repeat years, but improve and remain connected to these ministries.

I will also volunteer a week of time with a new church start in Kansas City Ks--teaching on best practices and leadership. My best friend, Mic McGuire is the start pastor and I look forward to seeing his family as well.

As a novice fan of Frank Lloyd Wright Architecture I will tour some of his open structures near the places I will be traveling for study leave as well.

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During the Study time I will be attending the Willow Creek Global Leadership Summit in Barrington, IL. This is full of the best and brightest on Leadership for the Church.

Next I will travel to Dubuque, IA for an Alban institute Learning time on Proclamation.

A week of silence at a monastery or a retreat center for prayer and renewal is part of the study time. If at a monastery or convent I will keep the hours--praying in the chapel with the residents. If at a retreat center I keep my own praying of the hours as well as immersing in other devotional and bible study. You may laugh, but I find it so nourishing I can't do without this kind of time and am looking forward to an entire week.

Lastly I will travel to another leadership learning time in the Hudson Valley of New York. This will be interesting in that its focus is women and leadership-the unique issues around females, power, leadership etc.

While I'm doing all of this, you all will be experiencing 8 weeks of revival like preaching on being the church in this day and age and for tomorrow--we want to serve Christ with Passion and Excellence and this will help us.

Then in October myself and many of your church leaders will tie much together by spending a Thurs/Friday at Church of the Resurrection Leadership Institute. We want you to go with us. Go to [cor.org](http://cor.org) and find the 2010 Leadership Institute. Register and let Pastor Debby know so she can get hotel rooms etc. and arrange rides. If you need a scholarship money is available.

Don't you want to come too?  
Let's Go!

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## Children's Bibles by Rev. Debby Bartley

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All Kindergarten and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students will receive a Bible on Sunday, August 29, during the 9:30 worship service. Since we would like to personalize each child's Bible, please complete the sheet in the Preschool or K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade classrooms before August 22. If your child will not be able to attend the 9:30 service on August 29, the Bible will be given to your child the next time s/he attends Sunday School. Questions? Please see Rev. Debby.

If your grade-school age child is new to FUMC and does not have a Bible, please let Rev. Debby know so she can give your child a Bible.

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## Read Along With Me By Rev. Robin Roderick

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“Come and read along with me!”

In preparation for the events I will be attending during the August/ September vacation and study leave there is some required reading as well as self study materials I'm choosing. Read along with me:

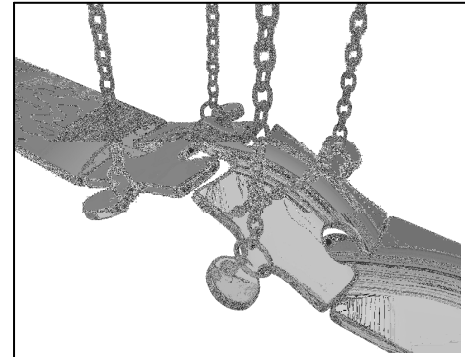
- Courageous Leadership by Bill Hybels C\*\*
- Leadership on the Line by Heifitz B\*
- Leadership Without Easy Answers B\*
  
- Tell It Like It is: Reclaiming the Practice of Testimony C\*\*
- This Odd and Wondrous Calling. The Public and Private Lives of Two Ministers (I've finished this one and if you want to know ministry from a minister's perspective read this!) C\*\*
- The True Story of the Whole World: Finding your Place in the Biblical Frame C\*\*
- Having Words with God: the bible as Conversation C\*\*
- Testimony: Talking Ourselves into Being Christian C\*\*
  
- How Exceptional Women Lead B\*
  
- Red Letter Christians C\*\*
- Jesus Mean and Wild. C\*\*
- Unchristian C\*\*

\*B means it is a business book

\*\*C means it is written for the Christian Market

Also I plan on re-reading the gospels in the Message version of the Bible. Looking at this list and knowing some is required pre-reading I better quite blogging and start reading. But let me encourage you to engage in the literature of church best practices and to plunder the Egyptians so to speak with Business books.

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## Staying connected



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

Eleanor Randall, member of this congregation, died 7/19/2010.  
John Young, Shower of Blessings participant, died 7/23/2010.

## UMYF By Nancy Cooper

Youth Group on Wednesday night will be a Guys Night/Girls Night. Both groups will meet from 6:30 – 9:00. Everyone meet in Wesley Hall for a light dinner and then we'll split up and go our separate ways!

Senior High Youth (ages 16 and over) interested in working on a Habitat House? We will be working on July 31<sup>st</sup>. If you are interested in helping, call Nancy Cooper 636-947-0066.

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## TOUCHING A LIFE IN NEED by Dave Raposo

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### KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY COMES TO POTOSI, MISSOURI, INMATES!!

This is your opportunity to be “fishers of men”...a chance for you to “step up” for God by responding to His command in Matthew 25:31-46 to visit those in prison and thereby make this world a better place in which to live. The very first Kairos weekend at the Potosi Correctional Center, Potosi, Missouri, will be held October 7-10, 2010.

Kairos Prison Ministry is similar to Walk to Emmaus, Cursillo, Via de Cristo, Tres Dias and Chrysalis. A team of well-organized and well-trained volunteers (lay and clergy) works with the prison chaplain to lead up to 42 carefully selected inmates through a short course in Christianity. Statistics have proven that about 75 percent of the inmates who attend a Kairos weekend make dramatic, lasting, and positive changes in their lives.

Both women and men may work with the ministry. In men’s units, men work on the inside team and both women and men work on the support team preparing meals. In women’s units, the situation is reversed with women only on the inside team.

If you want to see the Holy Spirit at work first hand, step out of your comfort zone and into deeper waters (Luke 5:4) by joining this upcoming Kairos. Additional ministry opportunities include: prayer, letter writing, making posters and placemats, and financial support. For more information, call Dave Raposo at (636) 284-9328.

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## TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND by Rev. Dr. John Ray

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Have a personal encounter with the biblical story. Join Dr. John Ray and his wife Ruth for your journey of a lifetime. Dr. Ray and Ruth are hosting a trip to the Holy Land. Imagine praying at the Garden of Gethsemane (beneath olive trees dating back to the time of Christ), visiting Bethlehem, Calvary, and the Garden Tomb, reaffirming your baptism at the Jordan river, and many other places you’ve read about. We will depart St. Louis Feb 21, 2011 for our 10 day journey. The cost from St. Louis is \$2296 per person. For more information contact Dr. Ray at the church office or phone 636-233-3573. An informational meeting will be held at the church Aug 8 at 5:00 pm. All members of the church, their families, and friends are invited.

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## ANNUAL CONFERENCE by Billy Collier

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On Saturday morning, the annual conference attendees had the pleasure of hearing Rev. Mike Slaughter share the story of the Ginghamburg United Methodist congregation and how they have “transformed” from a small country church in an economically challenged area of the country to one that has had significant impact on children halfway around the world in Darfur.

As Rev. Slaughter told the story of his church, a display of a clock with an hour, minute and second hand was projected onto a large screen, with a count of the number of children who were dying from either hunger (one child every four seconds) or dying from malaria (one every 30 seconds) in third world countries during his talk. He had used this same information in sermons at his church. After his congregation heard about this tragedy, they began to talk about how they should respond. They realigned their mission to “Live simply so others can simply live”. As a congregation, they prioritized their faith from being “all about me” to the reality of their faith being “all about God”.

Rev. Slaughter mesmerized us all with the stories of how first a few and then many and now all of the congregation have learned to “walk the talk” over the years through deliberate study of scripture lessons found throughout the Bible, but particularly in Isaiah 58:12 (invest time in places of vulnerability then the light of God will show through) and Isaiah 61:1-8 (if it’s not good news for the poor – it’s not God’s plan) and 1 Peter 4:10 (God has given us all of the gifts needed to accomplish the mission of our church). He pointed out that Jesus commanded the disciples to go build more disciples – not a church!

Rev. Slaughter shared that early in the “transformation” of Ginghamburg church, members decided that Christmas was not about how many gifts they received, but about using their gifts for others. They made the commitment to gift the same amount of money to the church at Christmas as they spent on themselves and their family and friends. Each year their Christmas fund has grown larger along with their congregation. These Christians decided to put funds to work outside the walls of their church. They decided to travel to Darfur to bring food, hope and the message of Jesus to the people of the Sudan.

Rev. Slaughter shared a video of members who have made several trips to Darfur. Each member had a story to tell about the difference being actively engaged in the mission of the church has made in their lives, their faith and that of those they have been privileged to help. It was exhilarating to hear the success of their part in “changing the world” as they brought food to support the physical needs and shared the blessings of God’s love for everyone. They learned that their faith grew as they looked for the true meaning in being a Christian.

How are we as a congregation growing in our faith and helping to “change the world”?  
More to come.....

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# HELP US GATHER, GROW, and GO !!!

## by Nancy Gongaware

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### The FUMC L.O.V.E. Club (Leave Our Vehicles Elsewhere)



We would like to free up 60 parking spaces by inviting interested members to park off-campus, but yet within easy walking distance of the church. Four of our neighbors have graciously opened up their parking lots to us on Sunday mornings: Enterprise Bank, National City, Conway Insurance Group and Alexander Insurance. Please see map (there will be a crossing guard)



1. Enterprise Bank - enter lot from Oak Street - 27 spaces
2. Alexander Insurance - enter from S 9<sup>th</sup>, then Madison - 10 spaces - must walk around and enter lot next door for sidewalk to First Capitol.
3. Conway Insurance - enter from S 9<sup>th</sup>, then Madison - 24 spaces
4. National City - enter from First Capitol - 25 spaces

"Heart" sign indicates location of Crossing Guard

Please DO NOT park at the veterinarian's office. We do not have permission to park there, nor does the church carry liability insurance for that lot. Currently, we only have permission and liability coverage for the four lots noted above.

We need members who:

- Drive their vehicle to church
- Are regular attendees during the 9 - 10:45 hour
- Are willing and able to walk about a block
- Are willing to commit to LOVE for one year

Interested in Joining the L.O.V.E. Club ??

Are you already parking off campus and have not notified me?

We need to know who is participating due to space limitations and we would also like to recognize you!!

Contact Nancy Gongaware [Gongaware@gmail.com](mailto:Gongaware@gmail.com)

636.278.9046 after 6 pm

