



The Visitor

Vicksburg United Methodist Church

Volume 18, Issue 8

August 2011

Taming the Monsters

Children know a lot about monsters. Although opinion varies on what the creatures look like, consensus exists on several points. Monsters lurk under the bed, are nocturnal, are frightening beyond reason and disappear in the presence of light.

I think kids might be onto something. You see, grown ups have their own “monsters” to face. They don’t match up with childhood fears but can be just as terrifying. Ordinary problems that seem manageable during the daytime can become monstrous at night.

When fret and worry rob us of sleep, we can tell them we’re in no shape to deal with them. We can trust God to handle our concerns. He’s more than capable of dealing with the monsters under every bed.

-The Newsletter Newsletter, August 2011



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Church Staff

Pastor

Dr. Bufford Coe

Administrative Assistant

Kirsten Russell

Choir/Praise Band Director

Tamra Stamm

Custodians

Paul French & Mike Chapman

Financial Assistant/

Webmaster

Trish VanTichelt

Heart & Hands Teacher/

Director

Amber Morris

Kids Hope USA Director

Barb Bladt

Youth Director

Hank Stamm

Newsletter Editor

Trish VanTichelt

Save Me a Pew

The world’s largest Protestant Christian congregation is Yoido Full Gospel Church in Seoul, South Korea. Since its founding in 1958, the church has grown exponentially. By 1983, seven Sunday services weren’t enough to accommodate all the worshippers, so satellite churches were established.

The main church, located directly across from South Korea’s National Assembly, can seat 26,000. But membership is so large that people are told which week of the month they can attend worship. What an incredible witness in a country where only about 30 percent of the citizens are Christians!

What would it take for our church to have a similar “problem”? And what can you do about it?

-The Newsletter Newsletter, August 2011



From the Pastor's Pen

We live in a consumer-driven culture. Businesses thrive by providing their customers with what they want. If the customer is not satisfied with what one business provides to them, they simply look elsewhere.

Sometimes people apply this same consumer mindset to their spiritual lives. They pick and choose which spiritual activities most appeal to them. If a bible study appeals to them, they may join such a group, but they show no interest in personal devotions or service projects. Musicians may be attracted to the bell choir or the praise team, but they have no interest in being part of a study group.

To some extent, this is a good thing. We are all at different places in our spiritual journey and our church needs to provide a variety of activities that will appeal to persons at different points along the way. However, we cannot maintain a healthy spiritual life on a long-term basis by participating in only one spiritual activity any more than we can maintain our physical health by eating only one kind of food. Just as our bodies need a variety of nutrients to maintain good physical health, our spirits need a variety of spiritual food to maintain good spiritual health. We need to spend time alone with God, we need to have close relationships with other Christians, we need to be involved in some form of Christian service, and we need to worship as part of the body of Christ.



Being a Christian is not a solitary activity. When we become a Christian, we become part of a community of faith called the family of God. Every Sunday, that community gathers in many places all around the world to worship God together. When members of God's family are absent from worship, they are missed, just as we miss members of our human family who do not attend important family gatherings. There is a popular notion in our culture that you don't have to go to church to be a Christian. That may be true, just as it is true that you can be married to someone without living at the same address, but who would want to live like that? We expect that a married couple who love each other will want to live together, just as we expect that Christians who love each other will want to worship God together.

Worship is essential to our spiritual health. We were made to worship and we were made to worship together. A spiritual diet that does not include worshiping with other Christians is inadequate. It is like trying to sit on a chair with one of the legs missing. We may be able to keep our balance for a while, but eventually we will either topple over or just get up and walk away! We need to worship if we are going to keep our spiritual balance. I hope to see you in worship this Sunday!

Love in Christ,

Dr. Bufford Coe

Praying Twice


According to legend, the early Christian theologian St. Augustine of Hippo said, "He who sings prays twice." (The Latin wording is actually "He who sings **well** prays twice," but more on that in a moment.)

Singing, a common element of worship, is a handy way to help children pray.

My 6-year-old, who loves to sing, was surprised and delighted when I told him a praise song he'd just learned could also be his bedtime prayer. He sings off-key, forgets some words and doesn't want help from Mom; he just sings his little heart out.

But what of older churchgoers who stay silent during hymns, fearful that they don't sing well enough? Forget the Latin translation! Long before Augustine, a psalmist wrote, "Make a joyful **noise** unto the LORD, all ye lands!" (Psalm 100:1: emphasis added). Why not pray twice today?

~Heidi Mann



I will sing
and make
music with
all my soul.

Psalm 108:1, NIV

Newcomer Care

Fall is fast approaching and with it lots of opportunities for all of us to serve Christ in our own special way with talents God has given us. Please pray-fully consider what you can help with. A form is in the blue folders in each aisle and can be put in the offering plate. Take time to give time.



Caring Corner

As I look back over my last 5 years of ministry here at VUMC, I can't help but be amazed at what God has accomplished. I am humbled by all the multitude of volunteers who have answered God's call to service. I would like to take this, my last care corner, to say thank you to a few who have partnered with me so closely and given of their time so sacrificially. Nancy Fulton has been with me since the start and has served as chair of the member care committee and a member of it, faithfully arranging for Christmas and Easter flower delivery to our home bound folks all five years. Lois Myers and Laverne Swinehart have faithfully co-served as membership secretary all 5 years. Vicki Worthington became a new member and then jumped in as our member care secretary and my personal organizer! Kirsten Russell is the best administrative assistant that I have ever worked with. She is my "Radar", often knowing and doing what I ask for before I ask for it! Thank you Nancy, Lois, Laverne, Kirsten and Vicki for your dedication to this ministry of Caring.



Many people have served as newcomer care leaders. I especially wish to thank Kristen Hossink, Vera Walker and Chris Bush who continue to be faithful to this ministry of hospitality to our guests. I also wish to thank all who have been members of all the committees I have been privileged to serve including Tea party, member care, new comer care, WOW leadership, and the staff at VUMC. God bless you for your service and may you all continue to hear God's call and do as God asks.

My last official day on staff will be Sunday, July 31. I and my family will be busy all August preparing for the big and exciting transitions that we face this fall: both girls going away to school and my working full time between WMU and KVCC. David and I plan to dedicate our volunteering time this fall leading Sunday evening disciple short term classes at VUMC and serving in the Emmaus community.

Love you all loads!

Laurie L. Nic

August United Methodist Women

August 4	12:30pm	UMW General Meeting ~ Spiritual Growth ~ Adelle Paxson
August 18	7pm	Priscilla Circle at the home of Nila Nichols
August 25	9:30am	Executive Team Meeting—Planning Meeting for 2012





Pandamania is Almost Here!

We are very close to Pandamania around this place... August 8th is the start!! There is still plenty of time to get registered for this great outreach program. We can always use extra hands to make this outreach program run smoothly. Just let Lisa Coe know. Registrations can be filled out and delivered to Lisa's church mailbox. Or simply go on-line and register. Dates again are the 8th through the 12th of August and we begin at 9:00 and end at 11:45 a.m.. As in years past, we will hold the kids in the sanctuary for parents or specified adults to pick up children. We haven't lost any yet, and we don't want this year to be the first :)

These items are needed to help keep our VBS participants and staff happy with scrumptious treats each day. Each of the day's treats follows the theme of the day.

Items needed:

- 3 Boxes of Honey Nut Chex Cereal
- 3 Boxes of Lucky Charms Cereal with Stars and Moons marshmallows
- 3 Lg. Bags of Plain M&Ms
- 2 Lg. Pkgs. of Raisins
- 140 Unfrosted Cupcakes (or frosted with blue icing) (Can be brought in Monday of Bible School) ~ just let us know you are making them
- 10 Cans of White Frosting
- 2 Lg. Pkgs. of Cinnamon Imperials
- 4 Boxes of Ritz Crackers (27 serving size)
- 4 Lg. Bunches of Green Seedless Grapes (Can be brought in Tuesday Morning of Bible School) ~ just let us know you will be bringing them
- 5 Pkgs. of Pretzel RODS
- 3 pkgs of white Nestle morsels
- 5 shakers of cake decorator sprinkles - the little flowery kind
- 140 Sundae cups - to be brought in Thursday - just let us know you will be bringing them
- 4 CANS of whipped cream - like Redi-Whip
- 2 pkgs. of Mini Semi-Sweet Morsels
- 4 Lg. Cans of powdered lemonade



These items are on cards next to the office with VBS supplies. Take a look and see what you might be able to help with.

Heart & Hands Preschool



Heart and Hands preschool will be beginning a new school year in September. We have a lot of fun things planned including crafts, letters, numbers, field trips, science experiments, Bible stories, memory verses, social skills, gym time and so much more! The 4s class is filling up fast but we have a few openings left and we are looking for 3- year olds to round out our Tuesday/ Thursday class. If you know a family with a child who will be three by December 1st and is looking for a preschool, please pass on our information. If you have any questions about the class including potty training or general developmental requirements contact Amber Morris at 649-2343 ext 106 or heartandhands@vicksburgumc.org. Partial scholarships are available.

Also, Heart and Hands would like to add to our list of possible substitute teachers. If you are a sub or you know a registered sub let us know and we will add you. \$40 for a 4-hour morning! Contact Jean Philport or Amber Morris.

**S U B S
NEEDED**

Have You Heard?!?

Psssssssssst! Do you want to know a secret?

Sure you do we all like secrets, and of course we want to know the latest news, right? Well I am sure this one won't stay secret for long. **WE HAVE A HEALTHY AND VITAL YOUTH MINISTRY** here at Vicksburg United Methodist Church!

Have You Heard?

How do I know? Let me clue you in....

First of all, we recently returned from our annual Youth Summer Mission Trip, in Eubank, KY. We were able to take 6 Middle School students, 5 High School students, 3 College students, and 6 other adults from VUMC to serve for 1 week with Kentucky Heartland Outreach. Our tasks; roofing houses and building steps for people to get into their homes. We served alongside over 200 youth and adults from around the United States. During that week 8 homeowners made the choice to dedicate their lives to Christ, 2 students from VUMC choose to re-dedicate their lives to Christ, and many other students and adult leaders from other churches made similar decisions, including 1 of the KHO summer interns.

This trip was so successful for us that beginning in the summer of 2012 we will be having 2 separate Youth Mission trips, one for Middle School students and one for High School students.

Our Middle School students will be returning to Kentucky to serve with KHO, the cost will be \$175 per student, and the trip dates will be from Sunday June 10th through Saturday June 16th. An initial \$50 deposit is due for this trip **no later than Friday September 30th**.

Our High School students will be traveling to Queens, New York to serve with YouthWorks, the cost for this trip will be \$270 per student, and the trip will be from Sunday July 8th through Sunday July 15th. An initial deposit of \$60 is due **no later than Friday September 2nd**. YouthWorks limits the number of spaces available on their trips so we have space for only one male and one female adult chaperone on this trip, High School parents get first choice.

Our Youth Ministry here at VUMC is continuing to thrive and grow also. **HELIX**, our Middle School ministry, is moving from Wednesday to Thursday nights from 6-8 to accommodate the increased number of students we have been blessed with.

This increase in the number of students also means we need to increase our adult presence. The truth is nothing happens in our Youth Ministry that does not rely on volunteers. Saying volunteers are essential is an understatement. From **ARMs (Adults in Relational Ministry)** to logistics and everything in between, there is a place for all to take an active role in our ministry. Of course we don't want our ARMs to feel as if we are throwing them to the lions so curriculum and training are provided for all of these positions.

Please look at the Volunteer Opportunities of the particular needs we have now on the next page. If you feel any of these are of particular interest for you, please contact Hank Stamm, the Director of Youth Ministries, for a complete "job description" for the positions.

ARM (Adults in Relational Ministry)

ARM OPPORTUNITIES

RAW ARM: Adults willing to be present each week in our Sunday afternoon RAW meetings, from 12:15^{pm}-2:15^{pm}, to make sure every youth is welcomed when they enter, engaged in what we're doing, and participating in our activities. This includes facilitating small group discussions, leading games, taking attendance, and welcoming visitors.

We need adults willing to meet each week during the school year with 3-5 youth to help ensure our youth are known, loved, cared for, prayed for, supported, and held accountable.

HELIX ARM: Adults willing to be present each week in our Thursday evening HELIX meetings, from 5:45^{pm}-8:15^{pm}, to make sure every youth is welcomed when they enter, engaged in what we're doing, and participating in our activities. This includes facilitating small group discussions, leading games, taking attendance, and welcoming visitors.

We need adults willing to meet each week during the school year with 3-5 youth to help ensure our youth are known, loved, cared for, prayed for, supported, and held accountable.

HELIX MEAL COORDINATOR: An adult to coordinate the set up, service, and clean up for our Thursday evening HELIX meetings, and other HELIX events. Dinner is to be served from 6:00^{pm}-6:30^{pm} on Thursdays during the school year.

RAW MEAL COORDINATOR: An adult to coordinate the set up, service, and clean up for our Sunday afternoon meetings, and other RAW events. Lunch is to be served from 12:30^{pm}-1:00^{pm} on Sundays during the school year.

RETREAT, MISSION AND EVENT ARMS: Adults to chaperone youth events, Mission Trips and retreats; these events are occasionally overnight.

SHOPPERS: Adults to help by shopping for supplies for our programs from Meijer, Target, Wal-Mart, or similar places. We provide the money, you provide the shopping.

ATTENDANCE AND VISITOR FOLLOW-UP: Two adult volunteers to input attendance and follow up with visitors from scheduled youth activities.

FINANCIAL CONSULTANT: An adult volunteer to track budgets, expenses, and income in our Youth Ministry, this position will liaise between the Director of Youth Ministries and the VUMC Finance Committee.

I know that this list can seem daunting when you look at it as a whole, but we are not looking for just one person to fill all of these roles, we really only need a handful of people. Many people will look at this list and figure they aren't qualified to fill any of these roles. Someone much brighter and better versed than I once said "God doesn't call the qualified, he qualifies the called." God and I don't want people that don't want to be there, anymore than they want to be there, but if you can answer yes to these two simple questions we want you to at least consider it:

- Do you love Jesus?
- Do you at least like kids?

If you answered in the affirmative to both those questions please pray on it, and if God is calling you into youth ministry for the first time, or back for the 50th, please let us know!

Survey

Family Camp has traditionally taken place on Fathers' Day weekend but I am aware there are many who would like to participate but don't because of family celebration conflicts. The only alternative the Lake Michigan Camp Director can offer is 4th of July. I am not sure that is any better but I need your input. Anyone with any interest in camping should respond; the camp has platform tents available or you can use your own equipment (tents or RV's).



Who would be interested in attending Family Camp (Pentwater, MI) if it annually occurred on 1) Fathers' Day weekend and/or 2) on 4th of July weekend? Please give me a 'yes' or 'no' to both options.

Please send an e-mail with your input to me (chuckloismi@aol.com) or call 649-1591.

Lois Myers

Searching...

VUMC HISTORY/ARCHIVE is "SEARCHING"

Does anyone have any idea of what happened to the wall clock made by Deyo Beall, probably sometime in the late 1950's or early 1960's?

Any info, please contact Nancy Fulton, 649-1649

A Note From Finance

Luke 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.

We have paid another Ministry Share, Praise the Lord! We have now paid 2 of 12 for the year. Please remember we will need fund raisers to pay ALL the ministry shares. So if you have a good idea and are willing to help, contact the Church staff. The finance committee is looking at some fund raisers to do this fall which will include another anniversary dinner and cake auction for the FLC.

A couple of fund raisers we have ongoing are the tile project, ScripCents and the recycling program. Check out the church's web site to see what you can recycle or contact Trish VanTichelt. Don't forget that there are TONS of School Supply sales and ***you can use ScripCents cards to get school supplies!*** Purchase a gift card for Wal-Mart, Target, Walgreens, and more to buy your school supplies and help the church out!! You can find ScripCents order forms on our website and at the Welcome Center. Also for only a donation of \$50 or more you can remember a loved one, event or share your love of God and add a tile to our mosaic wall leading into the Family Life Center. Let's cover that wall with tiles! We are painting another batch in August, so if you've been thinking of putting in an order for a tile... NOW'S THE TIME!! We are trying to paint them quarterly.

Don't forget to sign up for electronic giving. What a easy way to tithe, There are forms in the pew books or contact Trish VanTichelt.

Please continue to give faithfully this summer. Remember the church doesn't go on vacation. We need to continue to be a Shinning Light of Christ's Love for the Community.

God Bless: The Finance Committee



Announcements

All of our church family is cordially invited to attend a classical piano recital given by our grandson, Ethan Holmes. He is the son of Ken & Barbara Holmes and also the grandson of Warren & Jackie Lawrence. The performance will be at Vicksburg High School Performing Arts Center on Saturday, August 20 at 2:00pm.

Ethan's interest in piano and violin began when he was a preschooler. He is currently a junior at Bob Jones University where he is majoring in Piano Performance with special emphasis on classical and religious music. He plans to earn his doctorate in this field and eventually teach at the college or university level.



We hope you will join us for this pleasurable afternoon. The recital will be about an hour in length and there is no charge.

Tom & Bonnie Holmes.

Mail Bag

Dearest Church Family, I really want to thank you for your continued love, support, and prayers, especially as I enter into my last year of college! I also want to express my gratitude for the scholarship that the church gave me... THANK YOU! This money will help a great deal for purchasing text books and paying tuition. Thank you for being such an important part of my life; thank you for guiding me, helping me, and teaching me about what it means to truly follow Christ.

It's amazingly wonderful to be a member of congregation that seeks to love God and neighbors in the way that you do... thanks be to God for you all.

Prayerfully looking forward, David Penning

Dear Church Family, I want to thank everyone who sent a card, made a phone call or said a prayer for me while I was in Bronson Hospital.

A very special thanks to Rev. Buff and Lisa for their visits, also to Steve Fryling who came the first time I was in. Thanks to Diana for her help getting me to the E.R., calling my children and staying with Win. Thanks to the UMW for the flowers, they are so bright and beautiful. They made my day. I am coming along fine.

Love to All, Char Rice

Church Friends & Family & the VUMC Scholarship Committee,

Thank you so much. Thank you for your support of my higher education with your scholarship. I am very lucky to have the love and encouragement that this church has provided me with over the years.

Thanks!
Yours in Christ, Kara Nic

To Violet Owen's Church Family, Violet's family would like to thank you for the cards sent over the last 4+ years. And also a thank you for bringing the prayer group to Riverview. Thank you Pastor Buff & Lisa for visiting her on the Friday before she passed away. We appreciated your support and kindness very much. Thank you so much for the "Rose" you sent for her service. Pastor Buff did a great service for her.

God Bless You All! The Family of Violet Owen

Dear Friends at UMC,
Thank you for all the love and support during my illness. I received many lovely cards and notes, phone calls and visits and I know your concern & prayers were there for me. I'm not out of the woods yet, but we are working on that. Thanks to all.

Love You, Dona N.

Dear Laurie, Many thanks to you and your committee for the beautiful Wedding tea party. Beautiful dresses, pictures, etc. & models—good lunch complete with wedding cake. These tea parties are wonderful and much to look forward to.

God Bless, Velda Hoehne

Thank you very much VUMC! The scholarship money will go towards my education at Olivet. Thank you again! Bless you all!

Love, Kourtney Moore

Thank you for the use of the tables and chairs! We had 70 family members from 5 generations for our reunion! Next year we're hosting again and plan to have a small church service at our place!

God is Good! Kris & Ryan

Note From UMCOR...

Dear Friends in Mission:

Thank you for your gift in support of the following UMCOR projects (US Spring Storms 2011, \$150 and Japan's Emergency, \$1821).

Because you gave, UMCOR is able to "Be There" and "Be Hope" on your behalf. UMCOR programs provide food for the hungry, help farmers grow plentiful and nutritious food, and support people left destitute by natural disasters and war. Your gifts go a long way to bring healing and hope to people in need. We give thanks for your generosity.

You can find out more about UMCOR's work by visiting our website at www.umcor.org. To receive weekly updates about UMCOR's work, sign up on our website for the UMCOR Hotline, a weekly email about the latest happenings at UMCOR. Please let us know if you have questions/concerns, as we welcome the opportunity to speak with you. The Gift Processing Unit can be reached at 212-870-3611. To learn more about The Advance, please visit www.advancinghope.org

This gift will bring hope to those who need it most.

Grace & Peace, Roland Fernandes (Gen. Treas. UMCOR) and Shawn Bakker (Associate Gen. Sec. The Advance)

August Birthdays

8/1	Michael Hillenbrand, Trace Slancik, Abby Hamilton	8/18	Doug Smith, Brady Young
8/2	Sharon Philipp, Nancy Herson	8/19	Nancy Fulton, Daniel Zonyk, Sally Kohler
8/3	Kyle Manuszak	8/20	Susan McClish, Leigh Ann Paylor
8/4	Vicki Worthington, Julie Herson, Nick Cron	8/21	Bonnie Holmes, Rexalee Goecker, Kara Nic
8/6	Martin Hoehne	8/22	Carol Lohman
8/7	Betty Witcher, Chris Bush	8/23	Ronald Blanchard, Ed Knapp, Brad Fenwick, Chelsea Nimmo, Jeremy Franklin, Marlie Hossink
8/8	Don Dailey, Jennifer Thompson, Austin Linebaugh	8/24	Mark Harrison
8/11	Jan Walsworth, Nona Mattheis, Elizabeth Page, Lorene Tichvon, Cheryl Lee	8/26	Lavon Dorrance
8/12	Iris McGahan	8/28	Jerry Fulton, Marlene Sherman
8/14	Pat Oswalt, Leslie Barton, Wayne Fitzgerald, Vicki Oomen, David Penning	8/29	Mike Hamilton
		8/31	Jo Ann Cain



August Anniversaries

8/4	Tasha & Tim Van Riper	10 Years	8/15	Noreen & Burt Heikes	
8/5	Janet & Vernon Noel		8/16	Gwen & Shawn Breece	
8/7	Lynne & Timothy Melvin	35 Years	8/17	Jennifer & David Polsinelli	10 Years
8/8	Lisa & Brad Beams	30 Years	8/20	Lori & Steven Ensing	
8/8	Kim & Tom Hardy		8/23	Dorothy & Doug Smith	35 Years
8/9	Jolene & Ken Cron		8/25	Tamara & Kip	Young—10 Years
8/9	Sharon & John Wagner	25 Years	8/28	JoDee & Fred Nelson	
8/11	Cande & David Vermeulen				
8/13	Jean & Lee Philport				
8/13	Charlene & Don Dailey				





Vicksburg United Methodist Church

Return Service Requested

217 S Main St
Vicksburg MI 49097

Phone: 269-649-2343
Fax: 269-649-2538
E-mail: reception@vicksburgumc.org

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Sunday Worship:
10:00am Summer Combination Service

Alive in Christ, and it Shows!

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

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The Visitor

Volume 18, Issue 8

August 2011

Cartoon Corner



Thanks to Mikel Rice

09-17

**HISTORICALLY, WHEN MY CUP RUNNETH OVER
IT'S BEEN A GOOD THING**

Bible Quiz

How many animals did God tell Noah to bring into the ark?

- A. Two of each kind
- B. Seven pairs of clean animals and one pair each of unclean animals
- C. Both A and B
- D. None of the above



Answer: C (See Genesis 6:19-20 and 7:2-3)