



# The Visitor

Vicksburg United Methodist Church

Volume 19, Issue 1

January 2012

## Less is More

What if we took our lengthy lists of changes we want to make in the new year and narrowed them down – way down? Rather than making a half dozen or more commitments that we're unlikely to keep, how about zeroing in on a single word that captures the essence of what we want to achieve or become?

North Carolina pastor Mike Ashcraft encouraged church members to each find one word that points to or describes a characteristic or vision they wanted to achieve in the year ahead. The experiment turned into a movement, with ideas and testimonials available at [myoneword.org](http://myoneword.org).

What would your one-word resolution be?

*-The Newsletter Newsletter, January 2012*



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## Waiting to Blossom

A 1979 song called "The Rose" (written by Amanda McBroom and made popular by Bette Midler) encourages listeners to keep the faith, even when the source of our hope isn't visible.



In the depths of winter, we especially need the reminder that beneath mounds of snow lie seeds already being prepared to burst forth "with the sun's love" into springtime flowers.

When you're in the cold depths of despair, grief, illness or other struggles, remember the deeply buried seed. Beyond your view, God's love is already tending that seed, readying it to blossom into healing, new friendship, joy and life.

*-The Newsletter Newsletter, January 2012*

### 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

## From the Pastor's Pen

Tom and George were close friends from the time they were children. There was no mistaking their devotion to each other. Tom often said that George was the best friend he ever had.

When George graduated from high school, there was a big party but Tom was not there because of a schedule conflict. Tom was sure George would understand and that George would know how much Tom loved him even if he wasn't at the party. Besides, a lot of the people at the party didn't even know George very well and certainly didn't have any contact with him in their daily lives.

George had a lot of other friends with whom he enjoyed spending time. They went to sporting events, they went out to dinner, they went to movies and concerts and plays, or sometimes they just hung out together at each other's homes. George always invited Tom to be a part of these gatherings, but Tom seldom participated. He always had something else to do or he had been out late the night before or he just didn't enjoy what they planned on doing. Tom didn't care for the kind of music that some of George's other friends liked. He sometimes complained to other people that he didn't really get much out of it when he spent time with George and his other friends.

Of course, there was another big party when George graduated from college, but once again, Tom was not there. That sort of thing happened a lot over the years. Sometimes it was a special event such as a birthday or some accomplishment George had achieved. Other times it was just an informal gathering of George and his friends for no special occasion. Tom was always invited but he seldom came. Tom didn't even attend George's wedding.

One day, Tom happened to meet a woman named Susan. As they talked, Tom realized that Susan was also one of George's friends. Susan was surprised that Tom and George even knew each other. Susan was almost always present when George got together with his friends, but she didn't remember Tom ever being there.

Every Sunday, at Vicksburg United Methodist Church, some of Jesus' friends hold a celebration in his honor. As one of Jesus' friends, you are invited to be there.

Love in Christ,



Dr. Bufford Coe



What a  
Friend  
we have  
in JESUS

## Member Inquiries & Baptisms



All adults and high school youth who are interested in joining Vicksburg United Methodist Church are invited to attend the orientation sessions now being offered on Tuesday afternoons from 2:00 until 4:00 p.m. The final session will be held on January 3. These classes will prepare persons to become members of our church family and the global United Methodist Church, but persons may choose at the end of the classes whether or not they wish to join. The classes may also be of interest to persons who are already members but want to learn more about The United Methodist Church or our local congregation. Our new members will be welcomed into the congregation during the worship services on Sunday, January 8. For more information, contact Pastor Buff.

The sacrament of Holy Baptism will be celebrated in the worship services on Sunday, January 8. Parents who wish to present their children for baptism should contact Pastor Buff. On Wednesday, January 4 at 7:00 p.m., there will be a meeting for the parents of children to be baptized. At this session, we will discuss the meaning of baptism and review the baptismal liturgy. The meeting will last about an hour.



## New Year's Prayer

Lord, this year I want to change,  
and I've said that in the past,  
but now my prayer is different  
'cause I understand at last.

I wanted my own way before,  
I ignored your loving plans.  
But now I'm putting everything  
into your nail-scarred hands.

I promise to obey you  
out of gratitude and love.  
I won't be giving orders  
to my Father up above.

I finally realize the truth  
and so I've changed my prayer.  
The safest place for me to be  
is in your gently care.

Please be my shepherd, Jesus,  
that's all I ask of you.  
In good times and in bad this year,  
take my hand and lead me through.

Amen.

--Jack Zavada



## Mission Moment

Welcome to 2012!

This past year has been one of incredible blessing. Even though the economy in the country has been challenging and down right horrible for some, you have shown many folks both locally and globally what Jesus' face looks like. With the many donations of flood buckets, lap blankets, sheets and blankets and a myriad of other "things" you have served domestically after disasters and just plain hard times. With all of the incredible donations of cash you have helped places around the globe to recover from natural disasters, famine, disease and violence. Thanks for all of this amazing work.

### A New Year of Giving



2012 will be no different in that we will address many issues in many diverse ways. We will continue to support missionaries in both the Red Bird, KY area and in the U.P. of Michigan. We will continue to help provide clean water in many places of the Caribbean. We will heavily support the efforts of local organizations to help those who are struggling right here in our own back yards.

This year we are also going to work on a HUGE project through Heifer International... They are an amazing organization that teaches self sufficiency through agriculture. Watch for more information as the year progresses.

Global Missions is looking for folks to join our team for short term projects as well as long range planning...if you are interested, please let me know.

God Bless you, church family, as we charge boldly to the "Ninevehs" of our lives, and serve wherever and whenever God directs us.  
~Diana

## Coming up...

<p>New Year's Day Sunday, January 1 One service--10:00 a.m.</p>
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### "UNHANGING OF THE GREENS"

Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2 - 4 pm

(snacks of leftover Christmas cookies and new year cheese-balls will be provided!)



Removing of the Greens

## Caring Corner

In October we welcomed a few new members to our congregation. Next time you are in church be sure to say 'hi'!



Above left: James Tarnier & Rissa Loc  
Left: Gary, Tina, Gary & Emily Corsaut

Above right: Greg & Becky Berndt & baby



Below:  
Alex Oswald & family



Above: Alex Ensing & parents

Left: Sherry Shane



## Welcoming Center



We are in need of 8 people/couples who are willing to meet and greet at the doors or welcome center on Sunday morning. I would like to see a commitment of one Sunday per month; 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th . This would be a 5 month commitment.

This requires being 1/2 hour early (10:40) for the late service, 8:40 for early service. Please pray-fully consider this and let me know if this is a service your family could do.

Vera Walker 327-4869

## UMW Pledge 2012

The first UMW General Meeting for 2012 will not be held until March 1, 2012. Because of our shortened meeting schedule, we will not be having a Pledge Service this year.

We are making the Pledge Form available in the Visitor. Please find it inserted or attached (for those of you who receive The Visitor electronically). Please prayerfully consider UMW Pledge for 2012. Fill out the form and mail to Penny Sult, 14268 S. 24th St., Vicksburg MI 49097. Or, you can drop it in the offering plate marked UMW, OR leave it with Kirsten in the Main Office.



***In 2011 UMW gave over \$11,000 to local and national missions. We are sure that you will want to be a part of this AMAZING outreach in 2012!***

## Kids Hope USA



"Wow! This is what I've always wanted!" This is a quote from one of our students at the Kids Hope Christmas party. No, we were not giving out ponies, deluxe video games, or mega gift certificates to Toys-R-Us. This was in response to a stocking gift. It was a tiny spiral notebook. It might have been insignificant to many, but to him it was a treasure. It is a good analogy for our mentoring program. Sixty minutes a week may not be a big deal for some folks, easily squandered and wasted. But, to a child who is starving for positive attention it is a lifeline. That time that is just for them. That relationship that is just for them. Sure brightly wrapped packages with large bows are fun and exciting, but kids at-risk are thankful for the little things that are consistent, and long lasting. Like the gifts of time and of self. The holidays may be over, but it is not too late to be a gift. January is a great time to start tutoring and when you show up at a classroom to pick up your student that child is going to be thinking, Wow! This is what I've always wanted!"



## Youth Missions



Please remember if you or your youth is going on either the Middle Scholl Youth Mission or High Scholl Youth Mission trip this summer that the second payment is due this month. High School payments of \$115 are due **no later** than January 13<sup>th</sup>. Middle School payments of \$75 are due **no later** than January 20<sup>th</sup>.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Due to a conflict with the annual Vicksburg Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> grade Cedar Point trip. The date of the Middle School trip to Eubanks, Kentucky has been changed to June 17<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>. We apologize for any inconvenience that this has caused, but we want all of our students to be able to participate in community rites of passage, as well as church events.

## 2012 Confirmation



Any Middle School students who wish to be confirmed in the spring of 2012 should contact Pastor Buff as soon as possible. Confirmation is the process through which middle school students make their personal profession of faith and are received as professing members of the church, whether they were baptized as young children or not. Each of the students will be matched with an adult mentor who will guide their student through their confirmation preparation. The students will be confirmed on the morning of Sunday, May 20. For more information, contact Pastor Buff.

## Youth Ministries

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### RAW

We are starting off the New Year with a perfect example of what we should strive to be in the New Year. Using the Book of Luke we will be studying the life of Jesus, and how we can practice living like Jesus.

The book of Luke is one of four New Testament accounts of the life of Jesus, called the Gospels. It is one of three, along with Matthew and Mark, to share similar accounts from different points of view. The Gospel of Luke presents a very personal and human look at Jesus' life and relationships, while recounting events from his public ministry.

Luke is a companion book to another New Testament volume, the book of Acts, which is sometimes called The Acts of the Apostles. Luke is known to have accompanied the Apostle Paul on his missionary journeys. Luke addresses both of his writings to Theophilus, saying he had written this account "so you can be certain of the truth of everything you were taught" (Luke 1:4). In other words, Luke wanted to provide as many details about Jesus' life as possible, so that current and future followers would have an accurate account. It's clear in reading this book that Luke took joy in recalling the details of Jesus' life.

### ***TABLE OF CONTENTS***

**WEEK 1:** Just Like Me? (Luke 2:41-52)

**WEEK 2:** Risky Business (Luke 4:14-30)

**WEEK 3:** Finders Keepers (Luke 15)

**WEEK 4:** Powerful Prayers (Luke 22:42-44)

### ***OBJECTIVES***

**WHAT:** The Gospel of Luke contains powerful presentations about the person, teaching, and purpose of Jesus.

**WHY:** Jesus' life relates to our own experiences in the 21st century.

**HOW:** Students will be encouraged to develop a deeper understanding and sense of Jesus' purpose and to allow his life to shape theirs.

### HELIX

Our Middle School students will be working on a three week series entitled Family Matters. Family Matters is a three-week small group study that gives teenagers some tools for effectively handling some of the challenges of family life. The first week focuses on helping students exercise self-control in order to build healthy relationships with their brothers and sisters. Week two focuses on a teenager's responsibility to show love to their parents by honoring them, obeying them, and accepting the boundaries that parents set. Week three focuses on the ways a teenager can handle the difficulties of divorce by finding strength in God and in trusted friends—and how a teenager can be a source of support and encouragement for any friend whose family is experiencing the pain of divorce.

### ***TABLE OF CONTENTS***

**WEEK 1:** Practicing Self-Control With Brothers and Sisters (James 3:1-12)

**WEEK 2:** Getting Along With Parents (Proverbs 15:5)

**WEEK 3:** Handling the Pain of Divorce (Isaiah 43:2)

### ***SERIES OBJECTIVES***

**WHAT:** Teenagers live in a community called family, and God desires harmony within our families as a way to reflect his character.

**WHY:** To build healthy relationships within their community, teenagers need to react to situations in ways that build unity instead of conflict.

**HOW:** Students will consider Christ-like ways to respond to specific challenges of being in a family.

## WOOT is Coming!

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What is WOOT? WOOT stands for "We're Open on Thursday." It is the new version of our midweek program that used to be called "We're Open Wednesdays" (WOW). There is much about WOOT that is the same as WOW, but there are some important differences.

So what is new about WOOT?

- As the name implies, WOOT meets on Thursday night rather than Wednesday.
- WOOT meets for only three weeks rather than the 6-8 weeks that were typical of WOW.
- WOOT will meet for only ninety minutes, from 6:00 until 7:30, rather than the two-hour schedule used by WOW.

However, the basic style of WOOT will be very similar to that of WOW.

- The evening begins with a warm, nutritious meal.
- Classes are offered for children from preschool through the fifth grade.
- Middle school students will meet for HELIX.
- Each of the children's classes and HELIX will have a designated time in the gym. (However, there will not be open gym time during the meal.)
- A variety of classes will be offered for high school students and adults. These include a Bible Study led by Pastor Buff, courses on technology (digital cameras, iphones, ipads, ipods, etc.), courses on scams and home security, a class on environmentally safe cleaning supplies, and one on cookie decorating.

The first night of WOOT is scheduled for Thursday, January 26 from 6:00 until 7:30. The second and third sessions are planned for February 2 and 9. (February 16 is being held in reserve as a snow date.)

Look for more information about WOOT during the month of January. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Buff, Chris Bush, Rexalee Goecker, Aileen Greanya, or Hank Stamm. We look forward to seeing you on January 26 for the first night of WOOT!

## News from Finance

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***Malachi 3:10 "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the Lord of hosts, "if I will not open for you the window of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows."***

As we start the New Year you need to keep the Finances of the Church in your prayers. Winter months always bring more expenses. Ministry Shares and the FLC loan need to be paid. So please continue to give faithfully. A great way to give is through electronic giving... no matter the weather, vacations or illness the Church still gets your tithe. The forms are in the pew books or contact Trish VanTichelt.

We still have time to pay the rest of our ministry shares for 2011. We have paid 7 so far and still have 5 more to go. We have until Jan 15th so if you would like to donate any extra for this just mark an envelope Ministry Shares.

For the new year we still need fundraisers to help pay the Ministry Shares and the FLC loan. So if you have a good idea and can help please contact the Church Staff. We do have some ongoing fund raisers. One is the Tile Wall. For a donation of \$50 or more you can have a tile painted and share your Love of God. Don't forget to check out the wall. It looks great with the new Christmas additions! We also have the gadget recycling project. Recycle your printer ink cartridges, toners, cell phones, and MORE. You can also buy many gift cards through ScripCents where the church makes a percentage off what is sold. For questions on any of these ongoing fundraisers, please contact Trish VanTichelt (269-649-2343 ext. 103 or tvantich@vicksburgumc.org). Forms for ordering a tile and forms for the ScripCents gift cards can be printed off of our website (www.vicksburgumc.org) as well!

Please remember to pray for the Church and her finances for the New Year. We need to continue to be a SHINING LIGHT for CHRIST in the community. We have a great Church and thank you all for giving faithfully with your prayers, time and money.

**God Bless: The Finance Committee**

## 2012 District Leadership Conference

### Being the Vital Church

Cost is FREE!

Saturday, January 14, 2012

9:30 am - 3:00 pm

Stevensville UMC

5506 Ridge Rd, Stevensville, MI 49127

Worship led by the Stevensville UMC Praise Band and Otsego/Plainwell UMCs Praise Band

Keynote: **Vital Church Initiative**, Rev. Benton Heisler, Conference Director of Connectional Ministries

**Soup & salad lunch provided by the Wesley Foundation of Kalamazoo! Free-will donations will support Spring Break trips to Nicaragua & Atlanta.**

For workshop descriptions and to REGISTER go ONLINE [www.kazoodistumc.org](http://www.kazoodistumc.org)

#### WORKSHOP CHOICES (choose 2):

- SPRC Basics
- Don't Let the Devil Ride: Dealing with Conflict for SPRC Members
- Changing Lives 1. Camper at a Time: Strengthening Yr Church's Camping Prgm
- Get Out of the Pew and On the Path
- Stress-Free Church Renovation
- The Heart of the Journey: Soul Work in Busy Times
- Attractional AND Missional Churches
- The 2012 General Conference: Decisions and Challenges
- Abuse Prevention Training

## Wesley Foundation Building Project Update

Greetings and an exciting update on the Wesley Foundation building project!

On Sunday, November 27th, the Board of Directors at the Wesley Foundation of Kalamazoo voted on a multi-phase building project.

Phase I: First of three intentional living facilities that will house twelve students to live in Christian community. Ground breaking scheduled for February 29th, 2012. Grand opening August 15th, 2012

Phase II: Student ministry center. Ground breaking to be determined by fundraising.

Phase III: Second and third intentional living centers based on demand for this type of residence.

This vote came after many conversations with lenders and developers. No monies raised in the Widening the Welcome Capital campaign will be used to build the residential living centers. These projects will be self-funded, partially by monies from the sale of the current building and partially by rent from residents. Lenders have informed the Board that 100% of monies for the student center must be pledged or given before ground breaking can take place. The Board of Directors is committed to raising the 1.3 million dollars to make this happen!

I would welcome any questions, input, and prayers!

Lisa Batten, Campus Pastor  
Wesley Foundation of Kalamazoo



## January Birthdays



1/1	Joan Peterson, John Cleveland	1/17	Linda Cleveland, Melissa Beams, Loretta Brundige, Nicola Hosner
1/3	Barbara Adams	1/19	Aileen Greanya, Reed Bretz
1/5	Vera Walker, James Freeman	1/20	Deb Sponseller, Wyatt Thompson
1/6	Lois Myers, Therisa Hiemstra, Stacy Cron	1/22	Betty Thomas
1/7	Robert Parsons	1/23	Greg White
1/9	Melissa Wood	1/24	Brianna Moberly
1/10	George Parsons, James Thompson	1/25	Kyle Stevens
1/11	Marilyn Durham	1/26	Ken George, Phyllis Barrett, Kelsey Stevens
1/12	Kevin Moore	1/27	Varge Frisbie, Justin Carrier, Vance Provost
1/13	Greg Berndt, Elizabeth Heikes	1/28	Janet Zang
1/15	Jim Worthington	1/29	Lynn Griner, Charlene Dailey, Katie Geiger, Dawnara Rollins, Orin VanTichelt
		1/30	Robert Richardson, James Smola, David Nic
		1/31	Mike Hardy, Dolores Morton, Steven Ensing

## January Anniversaries

1/19	Judy & Timothy VanDenOever	
1/20	Linda & John Cleveland	
<b>1/21</b>	<b>Vicki &amp; Jim Worthington</b>	<b>45 years!</b>
1/26	Dee Dee & Thomas Hoy	
1/29	Janet & Eugene Zang	



## Mail Bag

Lisa and I want to thank the members of the congregation for their generous Christmas gift. It is certainly gratifying to live and serve among a group of people who so openly show their appreciation. Thank you for all the wonderful ways you demonstrate your love for us. We look forward to another fruitful year of ministry with you in 2012.

Pastor Buff Coe

The Vicksburg United Methodist Women would like to take this opportunity to thank the support staff of our church. The work they do goes above and beyond their job description at all times and they do it with a smile on their face and a happy attitude. It is because of their efficiency that everything stays organized and helps make this church what it is. Thank you again from the bottom of our hearts.

### THANK YOU!

I would like to give a most heartfelt thank you to all of you who contributed to our congregations Christmas gift to Tamra and me. We truly appreciate it more than words can say. It went a long way to making Christmas less stressful.

I would also like to thank Penny Sult and the UMW for their gift as well. Again, it made the Holidays less stressful, and was very appreciated.

**Hank Stamm**



## Vicksburg United Methodist Church

**\*Return Service Requested\***

217 S Main St  
Vicksburg MI 49097

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

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
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PERMIT NO 41

### Sunday Worship:

8:50am Contemporary Service  
10:00am Sunday School for all ages  
11:10am Traditional Service

**Alive in Christ, and it Shows!**

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**

**[WWW.VICKSBURGUMC.ORG](http://WWW.VICKSBURGUMC.ORG)**

# The Visitor

Volume 19, Issue 1

January 2012

## Cartoon Corner



LET'S START TODAY'S SERVICE OFF WITH OUR ANNUAL POST-HOLIDAY BREATHING EXERCISES

## Bible Quiz

In the book of Judges, a cycle is repeated many times: The Israelites do "what is evil in the sight of the LORD," God hands them over to an enemy nation, they cry out to the Lord and he appoints a judge, or political/military leader, for them. Under the judge's leadership, the Israelites conquer their adversary and prosper – until they start doing "what is evil in the sight of the LORD" all over again.

Who was *not* one of these judges?

- A. Deborah
- B. Ehud
- C. Esau
- D. Shamgar



Answer: C (See Judges 3-5)