



The Visitor

Vicksburg United Methodist Church

Volume 18, Issue 10

October 2011

Always Reforming

The Latin phrase, *Ecclesia semper reformanda est*, means “The church is always reforming”; implied is “And that’s good!”

Ongoing change and growth are important for individuals, too, but for many of us, change is hard. Use this prayer poem to embrace positive change, safe in the arms of our unchanging God.

Cradle to grave—
How shall my life flow?
Always the same,
Never daring to grow? Since
God is the same, always faithful and near,
I’m free to move forward in spite of my fear. So...
Naming the Lord as my Power through strife, I
Go forth braving newness—in faith and in life!
 ~Heidi Mann



-The Newsletter Newsletter, October 2011

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Church Staff

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 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

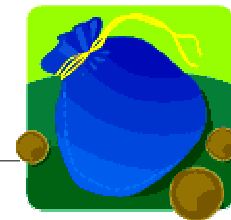
Newsletter Editor
 Trish VanTichelt

Almost Home

In *Lessons I Learned in the Dark* (Multnomah Books), Jennifer Rothschild describes the physical and spiritual impact of losing her sight as a teenager. During her first lesson with a mobility instructor, he pointed out some blooming hibiscus on the corner near her home. “When you smell the flowers, you know you’re almost home,” the instructor said.

Rothschild notes that the closer we get to our heavenly home, “any kind of darkness here on earth... will pale in comparison to the sweet aroma that will usher us into the presence of the One whose face we will clearly see. And when our eyes look into his face, we’ll realized that, compared to the surpassing excellence of seeing him, nothing else really mattered.”

-The Newsletter Newsletter, October 2011



“Your life is safe in the care of the LORD your God, secure in his treasure pouch!”

1 SAMUEL 25:29, NIV

From the Pastor's Pen

John and Sally had a problem in their relationship. John was very sociable and loved to be with people. He and Sally went out a lot, always to events where other people were present. They went to parties, they went out to dinner with friends, and they went to football games with other couples. Sally liked doing those things too, but it troubled her that they never spent any time alone with each other. There were always other people present. As much as she enjoyed all the fun things that they did together, eventually she began to wonder, "What's the matter with me that John never wants to spend any time with just me?"

For any close relationship to grow, we need to spend time with just that other person. This applies to our relationships with our spouse and our children, but it also applies to our relationship with God. In previous articles we have talked about the importance of worship and small groups in our spiritual lives, but it is also important that we spend some time alone with God every day. If you are a part of a Disciple Bible Study or some similar group, you already know the value of that daily period of scripture reading and prayer as part of your study. If you are not in a Disciple class, there are other resources that can assist you with this daily devotional time. Many people enjoy using *The Upper Room* or *Alive Now* or one of the other devotional resources available for purchase in the church narthex. Even if you don't use a published resource, you can develop your own program of daily Bible



reading by simply reading a chapter a day, perhaps beginning with one of the gospels. Remember to make prayer a regular part of your daily communion with God. Pray about the events of the day, pray for your church, pray about people you know, pray about events in the news. Remember also to give thanks to God and to ask forgiveness for the times you have not done what God wanted you to do.

Some people have their quiet time with God the first thing in the morning; others prefer to do it in the evening just before going to bed. Some people may find a time during the day when they are alone and the house is quiet. I have my personal time with God when I first arrive at the office in the morning. Whenever you do it, make sure that you carve out some time in the day to build your personal relationship with God. Remember the story of John and Sally. Worship and small

groups are vitally important, but they cannot take the place of our one-on-one time with God. For the sake of your spiritual health, find time for your personal encounter with God starting today!

Love in Christ,

Dr. Bufford Coe

Prayer

How often have we prayed something like, "O Lord, be with cousin Billy now in a special way"? Have we stopped to consider what it is we're requesting? Imagine that you are a parent who is preparing to leave your children with a babysitter. Would you dream of saying, "O Betsy, I ask you now that you would be with my children in a special way?" No way. You would say, "Betsy, the kids need to be in bed by 9 pm. They can have one snack before their baths, and please make sure they finish their homework. You can reach us at this number if there's any problem. Any questions before we go?" We are very specific with our requests and instructions for our babysitters. We want them to know specifics. It should be no different with prayer.

--David Jeremiah

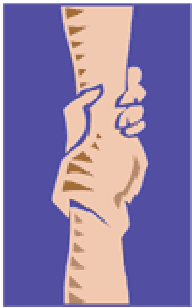
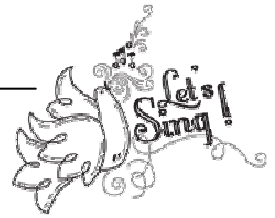
**Ask ...
Seek ...
Knock ...**



Mission Message

Greetings !

It is fall and time to turn our eyes to World Communion Sunday and the annual Great Gospel Sing Out.



It is also time to start thinking about warm clothing and gloves and hats for those who don't have the resources to keep themselves healthy.

Flood buckets will continue to be a pressing need at UMCOR depots around our nation. Travel size toiletries will be needed again to help out local shelters.

South County Community Services is letting me know that the Pantry is running VERY LOW on personal care items as well as laundry soap. Please think about them when you purchase BOGO's or you find great bargains. The economy is definitely not improving here in West Michigan and the requests for assistance are greater than ever.

*Help for Those
in Need*

I know it seems like I am forever asking for something else, but you never fail. If you are made aware of a need, you step up to the plate!

To that end, I am asking on a more selfish note. To date we have ONLY PAID two Ministry Shares. These need to be paid in full by December 31 in order for VUMC to be recognized as a 6 Lanes church. Please if you are able, add a little something to an offering envelope and mark it for Ministry Shares.

Thanks again for all you do.

Diana

Methodist Children's Home News

With 35 boys living in 4 of the 7 cottages on the campus of "The Methodist", there is never a dull moment. The boys range in age from 7 - 17. The boys are housed in the cottages with younger boys in one and older boys in others. While this used to be a place for boys that were orphaned, it has moved into the 21st century as not only a residential village, but a treatment facility as well. These boys come to us with some very serious health issues both mental and physical. MCHS is proud to be able to obtain and offer help for all of their needs.



Most of these boys headed off to attend Redford schools just like our children did after Labor Day. But with the history that some of these boys have acquired, an on-campus alternative school is used with every effort being made to work with the boys and the schools to get them back into a regular school setting.

Are you looking for a field trip? Why not check out the Methodist Children's Home Society's Village. There are scheduled tours or contact Shai James to schedule a special time. The link to MCHS's web-site is:

www.mchsmi.org. You can also like us on facebook and we twitter.

Celebrations of Life



Violet Owen passed away on July 12, 2011 at the age of 99. Violet was a member of VUMC since 1978.

Violet was the last of the original members of the Tuesday Morning Prayer Group. The group valued Violet’s participation so much, they even drove down to Riverview Nursing Home in Three Rivers once a month to visit and pray with Violet. Marian Zimmerman says, “Violet loved to pray for people. She wanted to go through the church’s list and pray not once, but at least twice”! Quite a prayer warrior!!

When any member talks about Violet, they always mention her sugar cookies. As long as she could still walk to church, her sugar cookies would show up at church events that many appreciated and looked forward to savoring. Violet was from the generation of ladies who would always demure and find something not quite perfect when complimented. Asking Nancy Harper what was so special about the cookies, she said, “I don’t know. I guess just because they were so home-made with love”!

Vera Walker captures the very essence of Violet, when she says, “she was a small petite woman, but oh so mighty!! And I miss her very much”.



Roger Hayward passed away on July 16, 2011 at the age of 102, soon to have been 103. Roger, at the time of his passing, was our oldest VUMC member.

Born before 1946, Roger was a member of what we term, “The Silent Generation”. And Roger was a quiet man, did not speak often, but when he did, he spoke with wisdom and conviction. Those who remember him speak of him with respect. He was a member of our church from the time his daughters were small and he was a faithful attendee, also belonging to the Friendly Forum from its inception.



A local successful farmer, he was a friend of Marge Vliek, farmer also, who remembers him and his wife, Ilah well. She says, “Roger always came to church scrubbed and polished. Yet, even when you ran across him in his farming clothes, he was always neat as a pin! In conversations with him, he would talk about his great respect and pride for VUMC. And, he wanted others to always feel and show the same for our church”.

Roger Hayward was a dignified man with a love for God and family. And you knew you could depend on him.



Winston (Win) Rice passed away on August 11, 2011 at the age of 95. Win owned the gas station/garage in Vicksburg for many years until his retirement in the space where Speedway is currently located. It was known as Phillips 66.



Win hired many young men from our area to work with himself and his head mechanic, Andy Engler. Have you ever heard the expression, “you do not really know a person until you have worked alongside them for a while”? Listen to what a former employee, John Fulton, has to say.

(continued on page 5...)

Celebrations of Life Continued

"I spent 3+ years working for Win & Andy while in high school. They were both good men; honest and great role models as well as good bosses. They treated all customers and employees with respect and honesty. In short order, I had broken the cash register, broken the garage door, and had a little fender bender in the station's truck after dropping off Dad Rice, father of Win. Win took it all in stride; no yelling, no harsh words, no firing, just patience. Hooked up the wrecker to the truck's bumper, straightened it a bit, a little glass on the door, and we never rang up another sale on that cash register (if just became a cash drawer). Win was a joker also. He loved to reach in and blow the horn just when you were intensely working under the hood of a car!

"I learned a lot about auto mechanics, but learned a lot about life too. Win treated his dad well, which was something else he modeled for me: how to take care of family. Every day, someone would go and pick up Dad Rice and bring him back to the station to stay as long as he wanted.

"Winston helped keep a consistent pattern of what it meant to be a man in front of me. He reinforced what my parents were instilling in me. There were other gas stations/garages and places I might have wound up working at in those formative years, but I think I wound up in the right place. Win, I will miss you, but will look you up in Heaven."



When you read the above, do you hear how to model your faith, every day, in every little think you say and do? Thanks Win.



WOW ...

Some changes are coming to our WOW (We're Open Wednesdays) program!

For one thing, WOW is moving to Thursday! This will allow members of our Bell Choir and Chancel Choir to participate in classes that are of interest to them. We are also shortening the number of sessions as well as the length of each session. WOW will meet for three consecutive Thursdays beginning January 26, 2012. The dinner will begin at 6:00 and the classes will meet from 6:30 until 7:30.

There are three ways you can help. First of all, we need a new name! We cannot continue to call this "We're Open Wednesdays" if we meet on Thursday! So what should we call it? Put on your thinking caps and help come up with a new name for this midweek ministry.

Second, we need people to prepare the meals. One family in the congregation has already volunteered to prepare the meal for one of the WOW nights. Are there other families or groups of friends who would like to take responsibility for one of the three meals? Please contact the church office if this is something you would like to do.

Third, you can help with the planning. Our next planning session for the Winter WOW nights is scheduled for Tuesday, October 25 at 6:00 p.m. in the church library. Come and be a part of the decisions being made about the future of WOW! We want to hear from you!

Newcomer Care

From the American College Dictionary...

volunteer-one who enters into any service of his own free will or who offers himself for any service or undertaking



Can you volunteer for God? Can you serve as a greeter or offer simple treats on a Sunday morning? Please call the office to undertake these opportunities to volunteer for God.

Christian Education

We have had a great start to our fall. The adult classes enjoyed their first morning back by holding class while enjoying pancakes served by the youth planning on attending the mission trips next summer.



We welcome back these teachers: Heather Fenwick and Katie Geiger working with the Pre-school children, Tamara Young as Kindergarten/First Grade lead learner, Lisa Coe in the castle room with the Second & Third grade classes, Mike Oswalt in the shed with the Middle Schoolers & Hank Stamm working with the High School students. We welcome back lead learners in the adult classes; Brad Hanson in the Adult Bible Study class (they are working on a book by Max Lucado), Rexalee Goecker and Jean Philport in the Friendly Forum (a PBS film and study group) and Don Dailey in the Connections class.

We would like to welcome new to Sunday School, but not to the church, Darcy Osborn. She will be leading the Fourth and Fifth grade aquanauts in the fish room this season.

***The Preschool & Elementary kids will be singing in place of the chancel choir on October 9th. ***

Member Inquiries

All adults and high school youth who are interested in joining Vicksburg United Methodist Church are invited to attend four orientation sessions that will be held at 10:00 a.m. beginning Sunday, October 2. 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, October 30. For more information, contact Pastor Buff.



Baptism



The sacrament of Holy Baptism will be celebrated in the worship services on Sunday, October 30. Parents who wish to present their children for baptism should contact Pastor Buff. On Wednesday, October 26 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.

Youth Ministries

RAW—We believe a high priority of a healthy youth ministry is to help teenagers become spiritually self-sufficient. Sure, we value creating fun environments for them to spend time with friends and caring adults while growing in the biblical purposes for their lives. But we know from experience that those who follow Christ after they graduate from the youth ministry are those who have learned to feed themselves spiritually. That’s why we believe in emphasizing **HABITS**, an acronym for six disciplines that can help students (and adults) grow spiritually on their own. These six are definitely not the only spiritual habits necessary for a self-feeding faith, but they are enough to get one started:

- WEEK 1:** Hang Out With God (Psalm 1)
- WEEK 2:** Accountable Friendships (Psalm 133)
- WEEK 3:** Bible Memorization (Psalm 119:11)
- WEEK 4:** Involvement Within the Church Body (Psalm 78:70-72)
- WEEK 5:** Tithing (Psalm 24:1)
- WEEK 6:** Studying Scripture (Psalm 119:25-32)

This series will help our students understand these **HABITS** and see them described in the book of Psalms and also provide them the opportunity to fall in love with the psalms. The book of Psalms consists of 150 psalms, each of which can be considered a song, poem, or chant. When the Bible was divided into chapters, each psalm was assigned its own chapter. Not all the psalms are works of David; 73 are credited to him, while the rest were written by other authors. Most of the psalms are devoted to expressing praise or thanksgiving or grief. Believers have been drawn to these writings for generations because of the heartfelt and honest emotions that are expressed.

SERIES OBJECTIVES

WHAT: The psalms are full of wisdom and guidance that can help us develop healthy **HABITS** for spiritual growth.

WHY: Our students will experience a lifetime of spiritual growth if they can learn to develop some spiritual **HABITS** as teenagers.

HOW: Students will be given practical tools for discovering and developing the **HABITS** in their lives.

HELIX—Middle School students already understand that life’s moments are better and more exciting when they have other people along for the ride. God’s plan for our students is that they would have other people to walk through life with! Sometimes we think of the church as the building we meet in, but the church truly is the people of God. And God’s plan for the church is that we would share life and faith together. Nobody wants to do it alone, and God doesn’t want us to try. Life really is better together!

Our first lesson examines the actions of some of the earliest Christians, who serve as our role models for how followers of Jesus can live. Our second lesson looks at the analogies of “body” and “family” as ways to think about the church. And our third lessons focus on love as the “glue” that holds us together.

- WEEK 1:** The First Church (Acts 2:42-47)
- WEEK 2:** You’re One of Many Pieces (Romans 12:3-5)
- WEEK 3:** A New Command (John 13:34-35)

SERIES OBJECTIVES

WHAT: God created the church to be a powerful, dynamic, living, ever-growing group of people who are following Jesus, serving one another, and sharing the message of Jesus with the world.

WHY: Followers of Jesus become healthier and more effective when united together with other Christians in love—in other words, we’re better together.

HOW: Students will be encouraged to commit to building solid friendships within the church through God-honoring attitudes and actions.

October United Methodist Women

Oct 6	12:30pm	United Methodist Women ~ Joy to the World ~ Rexalee Goecker
Oct 7		Church Women United
Oct 13	9:00 am	Merry Martha Circle
Oct 15		West Michigan UMW Annual Conference
Oct 16		Pricilla Ciircle Bake Sale
Oct 20	9:30am	Susanna Wesley Circle ~ Hostess, Betsy Myers & Lisa Coe @ Lisa Coes'
Oct 27	9:30am	Executive Team Meeting
Oct 27	6:30pm	All Sons Banquet—hosted by Priscilla Circle
Oct 30		Susanna Wesley Bake Sale



UMW Reading Program

Hi Ladies!

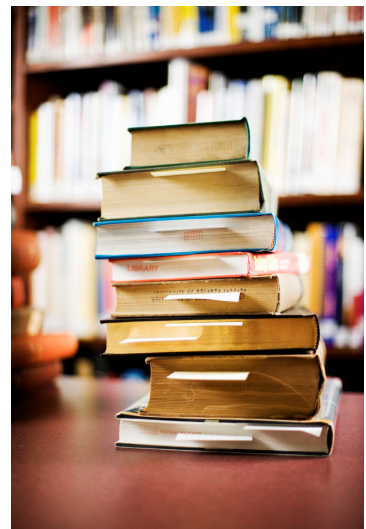
It is fall and time for all new programs to begin. This means that you are invited once again to read from the UMW Reading Program cart in the church library. We will be continuing with the Facebook reading circle. For those who are familiar with the challenges of Facebook, this is a closed group. So you must first be accepted as “my friend” then invited to join the group. For those who do not use Facebook, all you have to do is read a book from any category, write a paragraph about how the book affected you and then email it to me. I will then post it to Facebook. There are NO MEETINGS involved with this group. Just a nifty place to confer with other readers.

Congratulations are in order for the following ladies who completed the Level 1 PROGRAM: Barb Addis, Rachel Freeman, LaVerne Swinehart, JoAnn Cain, Linda Olenczuk, June Taylor and Julie Taylor.

A BIG CONGRATS goes to Glory Bragg who completed Level 4 of the program. This required reading 20 books from four different categories as well as consistently reading both New World outlook and Response magazines. Way to go Glory! :)

This past year we had a total of 23 women who read from our cart. Some only read a book or two, but that is marvelous! Many of these books will open your eyes to how well off we are here in the good old USA. So if you are interested, just start reading!

Thanks,
Diana Pomeroy,
Program Resources
Vicksburg UMW



141 Years!



Hurry... Tickets still available in the Main office through FRIDAY, SEPT. 30!!

Join us for VUMC's 141st birthday!

Celebrating that we are "Alive in Christ, And it Shows!"

Wednesday, October 5th at 6:00pm

Come for a delicious Ham & Scalloped Potato dinner

Cake Auction will follow, so be prepared to bid on the most scrumptious desserts!

(You are welcome to bring a cake to auction off as well—doesn't have to be fancy... just yummy! Questions contact Trish VanTichelt 649-9925 or

tvantich@vicksburgumc.org)

Last year's dinner raised \$700, Cake Auction raised a whopping \$980 (for cake!!) for the Building Fund!!!

Tickets: Adults = \$8, Kids (4-14yrs) = \$4, Family (2 adults, 2 kids) = \$20



A Note from Finance

2 Corinthians 9:10 Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

We are starting a NEW Stewardship Campaign. It is called "Extravagant Generosity". PLEASE start praying NOW to see what the Lord wants of you.

Don't forget about our fund raisers. One is the 2nd Annual Church's Birthday Dinner. It will be ham and scallop potatoes with dessert. We will also have a Cake Auction. It will be October 5th at 6pm. Tickets are on sale now! Please plan to come, remember this fundraiser helps pay down the FLC mortgage.



We have a few ongoing fund raisers. One is the recycling project and another, the tile project. Check out the Church's web site for what can be recycled and for a donation of \$50 or more you can get a tile and share your love of God, an event, or a loved one.

We have only paid 2 out of 12 ministry shares for 2011 and we still owe around \$1,000,000 on our FLC loan. We are also currently working out a 2012 Budget, and we are still enduring a spending freeze and spending on necessary items only. We need your help! If you have a good idea for a fundraiser or have any interest in heading a short/quick/long term/whatever-kind-of-fundraiser please contact the church staff. Remember we still have 999 more of a \$1000 or more to go to pay off our principal on the building loan.

Also why not sign up for electronic giving. It sure is an easy way for the church to get your tithe.

Please give FAITHFULLY! It is very important for the Church to continue to be a example of Christ's love for the community and it takes money to do this.

God Bless: The Finance Committee

Announcements

Our Holiday Progressive Dinner is booked for Saturday, December 10th - now all we need are our host homes for the following courses.....

Appetizers
Salads
Desserts

If you want to open your home for any one of these courses please give Betsy Myers a call at 679-4619 - we'll start taking reservations in November after our homes are all set! Come on and mark your calendars for a fun evening of great food and fellowship :-)



A VITAL CONGREGATION IS:

Growing, Engaging, Generous, Inviting, Missional, Equipped, and Inspired!

A Call to Action!

For clergy & laity in the Michigan Area,

Thursday, November 10, 2011

Two identical sessions;

Session One: 1:00 to 4:00 pm, Session Two: 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Location: Cornerstone United Methodist Church

1675, 84th Street SE, Caledonia, MI 49316

(Please preregister before November 1 by contacting your District Office)

The goal of The United Methodist Church Vital Congregations Project is to fulfill the mission of the United Methodist Church by equipping and empowering congregations to become vital and healthy congregations in their communities and in our world.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Bishop John Schol of the Baltimore-Washington Area, leader of the Vital Congregations Project, will introduce church leaders, both clergy and lay, to the opportunity our congregations have to set appropriate goals in an effort to grow vital congregations and make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. You will learn about setting appropriate goals, online resources to help your church, an online dashboard on which to enter your church's progress, online resource on which you can track your church's history, online resource to help interpret the 16 Drivers of Vitality, and articles and blogs to assist your church in becoming vital.

Mail Bag

Dear VUMC Scholarship Committee,

Thank you for the scholarship for my third year at WMU. I look forward to another year of learning thanks to your generosity!

Lauren Wolak

October Birthdays

- 10/1 Stanley Rolfe, Joan Bretz
- 10/3 Bill Manuszak, Lee Mortimer
- 10/4 Mina Willett
- 10/5 Lori Lash, Vance Johnson, Drew Geiger, Austin VanRiper
- 10/6 Kristy Herson, Alex Cannizzaro
- 10/7 Louise Haas, Ken Franklin, Breanna Dailey
- 10/8 Mary Ann Kudary, Mary Provost
- 10/9 Bradley Addis, Jeff Johnson
- 10/10 James Hulett, Ken Cron, Tiffany Manuszak, Charlie Cannizzaro, Lucas Cannizzaro, Elise Howard
- 10/11 Jeannine Morris
- 10/12 Majorie Thomas, Nellie Pierson, Mike Slancik
- 10/13 Joan Smola
- 10/14 Olivia Cannizzaro
- 10/15 Hilary Asher, Elin Oomen
- 10/17 Kathy Gehron
- 10/18 Mardi White, Tamara Janer, John Beams
- 10/19 Helen McCrumb
- 10/21 Brady Nimmo

- 10/23 Nancy Blanchard, Judy VanDenOever, Burt Heikes
- 10/24 Jeff Kudary
- 10/25 Hank Stamm
- 10/26 Thomas Holmes, Wil Emmert, Heather Fenwick, Bianca Agnone

10/27 Cynthia Field, Ronan Thompson

10/29 Kristen Hossink, Jeff Bladt

10/31 Denice Pauli



October Anniversaries



- 10/2 Tanya & Doug DeLong
- 10/4 Tiffany & Bill Manuszak
- 10/11 June & Paul French
- 10/12 Eloise & Wil Emmert
- 10/13 Kathryn & Marvin Starbuck
- 10/14 Pat & Tom Temple
- 10/15 Mary & Greg Burke
- 10/18 Jennifer & James Thompson
- 10/19 Elizabeth & Joseph Anderson
- 10/21 Pam & Mark Harrison
- 10/29 Sara & Justin Carrier



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

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
VICKSBURG MI
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

The Visitor

Volume 18, Issue 10

October 2011

Cartoon Corner



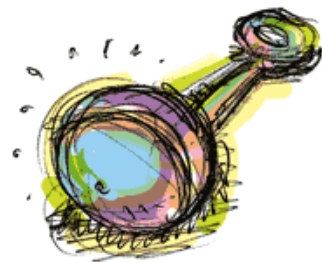
(See Matthew 14:14-21) 10-30-20

THAT DUDE TOTALLY GAVE ME FISH AND BREAD
AND SAID SOMETHING ABOUT THEM BEING MORE
VALUABLE THAN I KNOW!?!

Bible Quiz

Many new parents choose "Bible names" for their babies. Of the following names, which two (one boy's and one girl's) are not found in Scripture?

- A. Eunice
- B. Priscilla
- C. Judith
- D. Clara
- E. Derek
- F. Obed
- G. Reuben
- H. Joel



Answer: D and E