



The Visitor

Vicksburg United Methodist Church

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Labor of Love

During Labor Day weekend worship, many congregations bless members of various occupations. From painting to parenting, from truck driving to teaching, from farming to pharmaceutical research, work is honored as holy.

Some might believe that certain jobs—pastor, missionary, bishop—are holier than others. But in his classic book *The Practice of the Presence of God*, Brother Lawrence tells of performing even the most common, tedious tasks as holy service to God: “I turn the cake that is frying on the pan for love of [God],” he wrote. “It is enough for me to pick up but a straw from the ground for the love of God.”



No matter your field of work, remember that any task done in God’s name and to his glory is holy.

-The Newsletter Newsletter, September 2011

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Someone Who Cares

It’s easy to become discouraged when we pause to consider the needs all around us. So many worthy causes and pressing concerns require action. What can one person with limited resources accomplish?

Theodor Geisel (a.k.a. Dr. Seuss) said, “unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.”

We’re most effective and fulfilled when we put our God-given talents and resources into areas he has uniquely shaped our hearts to be passionate for. Passion is the key. If you want to make a difference, find something you care a “whole awful lot” about and then dive in.



-The Newsletter Newsletter, September 2011

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Kids Hope USA Director

Barb Bladt

Youth Director

Hank Stamm

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From the Pastor's Pen

The scriptures are full of references to our need for loving relationships in our lives. Just after the creation of Adam, God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone" (Genesis 2:18a). The wisdom of Ecclesiastes reminds us, "Two are better than one . . . for if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help" (Ecclesiastes 4:9a, 10). Paul compares the members of the church to the parts of the body and talks about how the various parts of the body are all dependent on one another (I Corinthians 12:12-27). John Wesley organized the early Methodists into classes of twelve people each who met together weekly "to watch over one another in love."

Last month, I wrote about the importance of worship and the foundational role that it plays in our spiritual lives. Worship is vitally important, but worshiping with a congregation, many of whom we do not know well, does not satisfy our need for spiritual companions who will accompany us and encourage us on our journey of faith. To do that, we need to be a part of a small group of people who know us and care for us personally.

All summer long, we have heard each Sunday the testimony of people who have taken part in a Disciple Bible Study. I strongly recommend Disciple, but Disciple is not the only type of small group our congregation offers. We have Sunday School classes for all ages (including several adult classes), we have UMW circles, we have youth groups, we have musical ensembles, we have prayer groups, we have sewing groups, we have athletic activities, we have teams and committees that oversee various aspects of the work of the church, as well as a host of other short-term offerings.

I do not know which of these groups is best suited to you, but I encourage you to be a part of something! The fall is the ideal time to become a part of a new group because many of these groups are just getting organized at the beginning of the school year. Do not imagine that worship alone is enough to nourish your spiritual life. Become a part of a small group and watch your faith grow!

Love in Christ,



Dr. Bufford Coe

"Being Faithful in the Midst of Conflict"



KALAMAZOODISTRICT
West Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church

Please join us in South Haven on **Saturday, September 17, 2011** as we seek to engage each other in civil discourse examining our personal piety and how it plays out in our social action. This seminar will help participants to listen and to share with sisters and brothers of diverse viewpoints.

Presented by your West Michigan Conference Board of Church and Society this is part of the "**Whole Gospel for a Whole People Initiative.**" The cost of the day is \$10.00 (lunch included) and we will gather at 9:30 am and end at 4:00 pm (September is beautiful at Lake Michigan, so you might plan a walk on the beach before you drive home!).

Please email Rev. John Fisher to register: revjfisher@gmail.com.

For more information you may also contact: Ellen Brubaker johnellen5@comcast.net, Brad Brillhart theway-ofxp@gmail.com, or Corky Fisher corkyfisher@gmail.com. We hope you will prayerfully consider this opportunity to practice our faith as we seek to dialogue with those with whom we may not always agree.

Prayer

Spiritual leader Henri Nouwen identifies the western way of life as problematic. He says that we have become an impatient people. Doing is more important than praying. Whereas James said that faith without works is dead (James 2:14), Nouwen believed that action without prayer is futile. Prayer is the magnetic pull that moves one into intimacy with God. Nouwen's formula for developing a disciplined prayer life involved the following:

1. Do not run from the moment.
2. Listen carefully to people and observe events to discern the Spirit.
3. Keep mind and heart from being cluttered with what clamors for attention.
4. Intentionally create time to be alone with God and listen to the Spirit.

If one follows this formula, discernment and transformation are possible. When transformation occurs through the Spirit, people grow closer to one another. One's responsibility for others grows. Nouwen expresses this concept:

The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of peace and unity, and reconciliation, constantly reveals himself to us as the power through whom people from the most diverse social, political, economic, racial, and ethnic backgrounds are brought together as sisters and brothers of the same Christ and daughters and sons of the same Father.

Thus, the ongoing prayer is to embrace others as a part of us. Prayer is the conduit for the healing power of God's Spirit. It is in and through us that relationships are restored; people receive new hope and courage. It is in and through us, as we pray, that God's Spirit touches another with a healing presence. Let the following Scriptures speak to your soul.

Matthew 21:22—"Everything you ask for in prayer you will receive."

James 5:16—"The heartfelt prayer of a good man works very powerfully."

Matthew 5:44—"I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

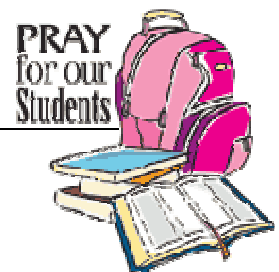
Luke 23:34—"Father, forgive them; they do not know what they are doing."

Henri Nouwen notes that God created humans in order to be in relationship with them. Our task in prayer is always to move toward community and reconciliation. Relationships are the means of healing—whether physical, personal, or social. The prayer life Nouwen prescribed leads to social activism for God. Prayer without action grows into powerless pietism, and action without prayer lacks depth and can degenerate into questionable manipulation. As prayer leads us into deeper unity with Christ, it can give rise to concrete acts of service.

Mary Kathryn Pearce

Annual Prayer Service

The Vicksburg Ministry Alliance is again sponsoring a prayer service at the Vicksburg Administration Building on Sunday, September 11 at 4:00 p.m. The Administration Building is located at 301 South Kalamazoo Street in Vicksburg. This thirty-minute outdoor service held at the beginning of the school year has become an annual tradition. It allows people from the churches in our community to come together and pray for the students, parents, teachers, administrators, and staff of our local schools. Everyone is invited. The churches that make up the Vicksburg Ministry Alliance are Chapman Memorial Church of the Nazarene, Lakeland Reformed Church, Lord of Life Lutheran Church, St. Martin's Catholic Church, Vicksburg Assembly of God, and Vicksburg United Methodist.



Methodist Children's Home Society



As most of you know, and for those that don't, Buff and I have served many years on the board of directors for the Children's Home located in Redford, Michigan. Buff was termed out after serving for 13 years and I am currently serving my 13th year. I chair one of the committees ~ the Marketing and Development committee. One of our struggles is keeping the Children's Home on the radar, especially here on the West side of the state. Michigan might be split into two conferences, but the Chil-

dren's Home serves the entire state as they serve as an adoption agency as well as serving as a Foster Care agency and residence village.

It occurred to me as I sat at our last committee meeting that one way of keeping Children's Home visible is if we as directors supply our church newsletters with articles from or about the village.

The Executive Director, Beth, was late in attending our meeting. When she finally surfaced she explained what she had been dealing with. The day before, one of the boys living in the village was due in court dealing with custody issues. Because his mother lived in Macomb county that was the court that he and his case worker appeared in. Mom (who has a new boyfriend and a baby by said boyfriend) no longer wants anything to do with her 13 year old son. Macomb county didn't want another youth in their case load so they threw it over to Wayne county (the county the Children's Home is in). Of course, Wayne county did not want financial responsibility of the youth either so they referred him back to the Home. The problem being - the Children's Home would have to take care of him pro bono. The case worker asked the DHS supervisor the next morning what the home could do. The DHS supervisor told the case worker to take him and leave him at the police station, and eventually child protective services would have to deal with him. The boy overheard this conversation and ran away. During our meeting the boy was found. He was found in his bedroom, behind his bed praying! The Children's Home **WILL** be caring for this child even without reimbursement.

Buff and I have/do serve & support this vital agency begun by a Methodist Woman over 95 years ago. For more info go to their website: <http://www.mchsmi.com>

Lisa Coe

Heart & Hands Preschool

A new year of Heart and Hands Preschool is getting underway! We will be combining the 3 and 4-year olds again this year with both ages meeting on Monday and Wednesday and just the 4s meeting on Fridays. We have a full classroom with 19-20 students. Our first day of school will be a parent and child orientation day on Friday, September 9th and our regular schedule will begin Monday, September 12th.

This year we are trying something new and asking for donations for some of the school supplies we use often and need to be regularly re-stocked. In the preschool hallway, I've hung a giving tree with apples listing needed supplies like crayons, markers and glue sticks. If you are itching to buy some of the brightly colored items displayed at stores all over the place right now be encouraged to pick an apple from the tree and turn in the donated items within a week.

We are also still looking for substitutes to put on our call list. If you or someone you know has at least 60 college credit hours and is first aid/CPR certified and is interested in being a sub, contact me at 649-2343 ext 106 or Jean Philport 649-3675.

Thank you so much and I appreciate your prayers as we start our new year!

Amber Morris
Teacher/Director



Vacation Bible School

It really was Pandamania around VUMC every morning the week of August 8 – 12. Children, youth and adults had a Wildly great time learning about God's never ending love for us. Through story time (Wild Bible Adventures) to Crazy Crafts, from Chadder's Theater to Wild Games, Party Time Singing scrumptious Treetop Treats and finally during our Rowdy Wrap-up ~ kids learned in many different ways about God's Wild love for us. We had a great turn out of participants and over 35 staff from Middle Schoolers, High Schoolers and Adults. A big Thank You to all of them for making this a phenomenal event! Below is a list of our staff that deserve a pat on the back. If you see any of them ~ give them a high "paw"!



...Next year ~ The "Sky's" the limit! ✈

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

Jean Philport ~ Wild Bible Adventures
 Aurelia Reed ~ Chadder's Movie Mania
 Dana & Beth Gray ~ Bamboo Blast Games
 Buff & Lisa ~ Party Time Sing & Play and Rowdy
 Wrap-up
 Lizi Tuinier ~ Red Panda Preschool Director
 Heather Fenwick, Marlie Hossink & Katie ~
 Orange Monkeys
 Tamara Young, Connor Polsinelli, Kaleb Miller &
 Tara Moberly ~ Spotted Leopards
 Registration ~ Aileen Greanya & Alex Oswald

Lori Ensing & Christine Mohr ~ Crazy Crafts
 Nina Cripps & Nellie Avis (With help from Marie Ketvirtis, Dona
 Nichols & Marilyn Schutter) ~ Treetop Treats
 Ken Cron ~ Audio/Visual Tech
 Abbey Oswald, Marissa Ervin, Lauren Burke & Anna Knowles ~
 Red Panda Preschool
 Melissa Wood, Zack Fenwick & Walker Polsinelli ~ Black &
 White Pandas
 Brianna VanCamp & Kacey ~ Golden Pheasants

Sunday School Start-Up



Curriculum has been ordered and the rooms are getting polished in anticipation of the start of our 2011-2012 Sunday School year.

The Preschool and Elementary classes will be following the lectionary this year with an updated curriculum, SeasonsEncore. This will help keep Sunday school lessons in line with worship services. The kids will be singing in the traditional worship service the second Sunday of each month beginning October 9th. We will change that to the third Sunday in January and April due to Christmas and Easter breaks.

The Middle school class will be using material from StudentLifeBible Study that we get on-line again this year.

One of our adult classes (there are 3 all together), Connections, has been sharing the book *The Help* this summer and some took in the opening of the movie. The class is planning a Field trip in early October to pack backpacks for Generous Hands.

There are classes for all ages but we are always looking for new classes that can be short term or long term. If you feel called to lead a class let Lisa Coe know at church_ladi@yahoo.com.

Kids Hope USA

HOW KIDS HOPE USA WORKS: KIDS HOPE USA is the catalyst for an expanding network of church/school partnerships. These partnerships take on the enormous challenge of kids at risk--One Child, One Hour, One Church, One School at a time--through one-on-one mentoring relationships.

ONE CHILD

An at-risk elementary school child who needs a relationship with a caring adult. There is a desperate need among America's at-risk children to be the "one-and-only" in the life of a caring adult. This need for love can only be met one child at a time. You can do something real and be that one caring adult. So when your Kids Hope child asks, "How many other children do you see at my school?" You can say, "I'm here, just for you." When kids feel loved and valued, they are better able to learn, grow and succeed.

ONE HOUR

Sixty Critical minutes each week when a trained mentor befriends a child and helps him or her acquire basic academic skills. How much is an hour worth? One educator seems to think an hour is worth a lot. Given the choice between \$100,000. for instructional materials or the love of Kids Hope mentors, she says, "I would choose the love." One hour a week, every week, is the most important hour many of these kids have. One hour of one-on-one attention, just for them.

ONE CHURCH

Takes ownership of a program with it's school and provides a trained mentor and a behind-the-scenes prayer partner for each child. Many church members today have a deep longing to do something to make a real difference in our world. Kids Hope gives churches the tools they need to tap into this energy and creates a meaningful, sustainable partnership with a school in their community. Kids Hope USA church/school partnerships offer churches and their members the opportunity to put their faith into action.

ONE SCHOOL

Welcomes this proven intervention to increase the academic skills of at-risk children, while incurring no additional expense. Our schools need help. Too many of their children face a world full of problems they didn't create, and can do nothing about. Principals and teachers recognize KHUSA mentors as an effective, proven intervention in the lives of their at-risk kids. They know how the one-on-one relationships fostered by a Kids Hope program help restore self-confidence and personal security, and encourages academic excellence in their school.

WHY IT MATTERS

To see the most devastating effects of our current economic stress, just look at the children of those families hardest hit. With higher unemployment, more homelessness, parents working multiple jobs and families struggling just to survive, their children's basic social and emotional needs often fall into the void. And this void erodes children's hope for the future, sometimes even rendering them physiologically incapable of learning until their needs can be met. The fact is, too many children were vulnerable even before the recession hit.

The children need someone who can be present at the critical time in their lives when values are formed, when self-esteem is developed, and when basic academic and problem-solving skills are acquired. Someone who won't let them down. You can be the one.

KIDS HOPE STORY



Nate repeats his mentor's words over and over again:

"Nate, I come to the school to see only you."

"Nate, I come to the school to see only you."

"Nate, I come to the school to see only you."

Serious emotional and social issues have made it impossible for this fifth grader to trust anyone or attach to them. Until now. Because Mr. Roberts is a faithful friend, coming to see him every week, Nate believes him when he says those special words.: "Nate, I come to the school to see only you."

COMING SOON!

There will be a new website for mentors and prayer partners! This site is specifically for Kids Hope USA volunteers and it will feature numerous resources for the mentoring hour and for further education and learning. This month Barb Bladt can help all those interested in this great new feature to register.



Youth

As the summer comes to an end, the air becomes cooler, and the leaves begin to change the VUMC Youth Ministry is heating up!

HELIX

HELIX has changed nights and times! Our Middle School ministry is now meeting from 6-8pm Thursday evenings. We have seen explosive growth in this ministry so we are also spreading out a bit in the church. Our large group meetings will be taking place in the Taylor Room, with small groups meeting in several rooms throughout the lower level of the church.

We are kicking off our 2011-2012 **HELIX** season with a series entitled "Who Is God?" Our focus is on the unique roles of the three persons of the Trinity—God the Father (Our Provider—Exodus 16:1-23), God the Son (Our Savior—John 1:1-14), and God the Holy Spirit (Our Counselor—John 16:5-15).

WHAT: Each of the three members of the Trinity works in the life of a Christ-follower to produce growth, maturity, and Christ-like character.

WHY: Teenagers are at a stage in life where they want to know more about who God is—one of the big questions of life.

HOW: Your students will examine biblical passages that reveal the unique work of the three members of the Trinity—the Father as provider, the Son as Savior, and the Holy Spirit as counselor.

RAW

RAW, our High School ministry, is clicking along nicely. We have added new members and have had great attendance in the past few months. We will continue to meet Right After Worship throughout the school year. Once VUMC returns to 2 services on the 11th we will be meeting until 1:30, until then we will be done by 12:30.

We are just wrapping up a series on the New Testament. In this four week series we looked at how the New Testament continues God's story of salvation that began in the Old Testament, this time including us (the church) as part of the cast of characters. The church is God's primary plan for showing and telling others about his love throughout the world. And our responsibility (as the church) is to focus on and follow the foundation of the church: Jesus Christ.

Because of the primacy of Jesus, we could teach teenagers for four years on the person, deity, humanity, life, miracles, messages, teachings, questions, and relationships of Jesus. Obviously, the centrality of our faith points to Jesus, but in this particular series we will only spend four weeks and focus on the birth, life, and resurrection of Jesus—key components of New Testament history, the heart and hub of the church, and the hope for our world.

WHAT: Developing Teenagers can discover a depth of biblical understanding by examining the birth, life, and resurrection of Jesus, and God's plan for the church.

WHY: Teenagers can play an important role in God's story.

HOW: Teenagers will take necessary actions to grow in their own faith and serve in their own church.

We will also be starting a new series entitled "Family Matters." In this series, we'll spend a couple weeks in the New Testament and one in the Old Testament, and all three lessons will offer hope and help for teenagers to grow as part of a family—even if it's just one small step at a time. While respecting authority is a priority in these lessons, we're also encouraging students to lead at home. If mom and dad or other caregivers won't lead spiritually, then teenagers have a unique opportunity and responsibility to boldly live for Jesus and model a life with Christ.

High School 2012 Mission Trip

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUTHWORKS - QUEENS, NY

WHO IS YOUTHWORKS? YouthWorks is a youth mission organization created to serve youth, communities and the Church. It is a multi-denominational ministry that provides youth with a life-changing experience by allowing them to be the hands and feet of Christ and to see God move in a new way. The mission trip opens their eyes to both



situations and relationships in different communities and allows them to serve side by side with their peers, learn from leaders and deepen their relationship with Jesus. For the last seventeen years, YouthWorks has partnered with thousands of churches to provide week-long mission trips to communities across the U.S., Mexico, Puerto Rico and Canada. In this last summer alone, over 37,000 youth and adult leaders from over 2,000 churches went on YouthWorks mission trips!

ABOUT QUEENS: Cross the East River from Manhattan and you'll discover Queens, New York on the western portion of Long Island. Queens was settled by the Dutch in the 1640's and was named after Catherine of Braganza, the queen of Charles II. Queens is geographically the largest borough in New York, and second largest in population with 2.2 million residents. Today, immigrants comprise over 47 percent of Queens' residents, and it is estimated that by 2010, a majority of its population will be foreign-born. Neighborhoods in eastern Queens have a relatively suburban look and feel, but its western and central sections are home to many urban neighborhoods. Queens has continued to be a magnet for immigrants and is a setting of racial and ethnic change. The neighborhoods of Queens are rapidly increasing in percentage of Hispanics, African Americans and Asian; more languages are spoken in the 109 square miles that make up Queens than anywhere else on the planet. Visitors to Queens can enjoy the Queens Museum of Art and the New York Hall of Science in Flushing Meadows Park or head north to Shea Stadium, home of the New York Mets baseball team. The Queens economy is based on tourism, industry and trade, but not all residents reap the rewards of these businesses. Twelve percent of the population lives below the poverty line, including over 16 percent of those under age 18 and 13 percent age 65 or over.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING A TYPICAL YOUTHWORKS DAY? Youth will assist in meal preparations, participate in personal devotion time, work at the various ministry sites, experience fun and cultural evening activities and engage in a "Club time" that includes worship, games, skits and a talk. The ministry work incorporates a variety of opportunities to minister to the diverse population of Queens, whether through serving at kid's programs, visiting the elderly, and assisting local ministry organizations.

WHO CAN GO

11-Youth: Senior High Students (Entering 9th grade in fall 2011 through current 12th graders)

3-Adults (Not including Hank)

- Male and female adult leaders are required if bringing students of both genders
- Adult leaders must be at least 20 years of age (not younger)

TRIP COSTS & DUE DATES	MANDATORY TRAINING SESSIONS
<p>Cost: \$290/person</p> <p>Deposit Due Sept. 2nd \$60</p> <p>2nd Payment Due Jan. 13th \$115</p> <p>Final Payment Due Mar. 9th \$115</p>	<p>SESSION 1: Teamwork Mar. 10th</p> <p>SESSION 2: Attitude of Love May 12th</p> <p>SESSION 3: Action June 9th</p> <p>Each session will last from 2 pm-5 pm</p>

Contact Hank Stamm if you have a Youth Interested to learn more about our trip. There is also a page on the YouthWorks website that has been created just for you! Go to www.youthworks.com and click on the "parents" tab to learn even more about YouthWorks.

Middle School 2012 Mission Trip

INFORMATION ABOUT KENTUCKY HEARTLAND OUTREACH (KHO)

WHO IS KHO?

Kentucky Heartland Outreach seeks to provide safe, warm and dry homes to homeowners who could otherwise not afford such needed home repairs. Over the past 10 years, KHO has participated in numerous projects covering the majority of south central Kentucky with the help of volunteers from all over the country, KHO is able to make these repairs at little or no cost to the homeowner. In addition to home repairs, KHO is also able to assist individuals and families in buying a new home.

Currently, KHO is able to assist in the following types of rehabilitation projects through volunteer labor and grants from numerous programs:

Roofing, Decking, Wheelchair Ramps, Painting, Steps/Handrails

DURING KHO SUMMER CAMPS 2010:

- 42 churches from across the country participated
- 11 states were represented: Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Illinois, Georgia, Michigan, Indiana, Tennessee, Florida, and Alabama
- 913 volunteers worked in completing 62 home repairs throughout Taylor, Green, Marion, Barren, and Warren County
- Over 72 decisions for salvation were made (12 of which were homeowners), with 30+ making dedications and responding to God's calling into ministry

WHO CAN GO

14-Youth: Middle School Students

- Entering 6th grade in fall 2011 through current 8th graders

6-Adults (Not including Hank)

- Male and female adult leaders are required if bringing students of both genders
- Adult leaders must be at least 19 years of age (not younger)

TRIP COSTS & DUE DATES

Cost: \$175/person

Deposit Due Sept. 30th \$50

2nd Payment Due Jan. 20th \$75

Final Payment Due Mar. 16th \$75



September United Methodist Women

Sept 1	12:30pm	UMW General Meeting & Potluck ~ Report on School of Christian Mission
Sept 2		Church Women United
Sept 8	9:00am	Merry Martha Circle
Sept 11-15		RUMMAGE SALE WEEK!
Sept 15	9:30am	Susanna Wesley Circle—Hostess—Janet Noel & Sharon Steinacker
Sept 22	9:30am	Executive Team Meeting
Sept 22	7:00pm	Priscilla Circle at the home of Jean Philport
Sept 24		Kalamazoo Annual UMW Meeting at Vicksburg UMC
Sept 25		Vicksburg UMW Sunday
Sept 25		Susanna Wesley Bake Sale



Get Ready... **The Fall RUMMAGE SALE is near!**

Wednesday, Sept. 14, 9-6 & Thursday, Sept. 15, 9-3.

On Thursday, unless marked otherwise, clothing is \$1/bag (6th bag free)! Other merchandise is 1/2 price! All money earned is used for mission programs.

We need usable, clean clothing, furniture, electronics, household items, books, tapes, toys, etc. and large paper grocery bags. Set up and drop off days for items are Monday 9/12 and Tuesday 9/13 with the deadline at noon on Tuesday. **Men and women: If you can help ANYTIME, please do!** If you would like to donate food for the workers, call Marie Ketvirtis (649-0230). Questions? Call Kitty Starbuck (649-1991) or Jo Ann Cain (649-2197). **AND - STOP BY AND SHOP THE SALE! LOTS OF GOOD STUFF! A FUN WAY TO SAVE \$\$\$!**

UMW **BIG** WEEKEND!

The Annual United Methodist Women Kalamazoo District will meet at our own Vicksburg United Methodist Church sanctuary on Saturday, September 24, 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM. There will be a guest speaker, special music and a scrumptious lunch will be served. All women are welcome to attend this rewarding event! Pre-registration is required. A registration form will be available at the church office. For Questions call Jean Philport (649-3675).

ANNUAL UMW SUNDAY (both services), Speaker: Lisa Coe

The organized unit of United Methodist Women (UMW) shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church. UMW celebrates an inclusive membership and welcomes all women who want to become members. Membership in The United Methodist Church is not required nor is there any age requirement! Each individual chooses the amount of involvement: attendance at meetings, intercessory prayer, participation in events, projects, issues, monetary, and/or leadership opportunities. We even have an email circle for those who cannot attending meetings! Monies raised from individual pledges, two highly successful rummage sales and bake sales are given to conference, district and the local community. **Come join us. This just might be what you've been looking for!**

THANKS TO SALAD MAKERS AND CAKE/DESSERT BAKERS

The Funeral Lunch Committee would like to thank all of you for being so faithful in delivering salads and desserts for the MANY funeral luncheons we have done lately. Without you we would not be able to provide this service to bereaved families. The last few weeks we have had a more than ordinary number of luncheons, and you have been up to the task. The money that families donate in appreciation of Funeral Luncheons is one of the ways UMW is able to meet our obligations to the many missions we support. Thanks for all of your help.

There are lots of dishes from these donations on the shelves above the "flower sink" in the room just off the old kitchen, under the Sanctuary. Don't forget to check for your dish.

A Note from Finance

Proverbs 21:26 the righteous gives and does not hold back.

This fall, consider signing up for electronic giving. VUMC relies on the financial support of the congregation and electronic giving offers an easy way to give on a recurring basis. Please contact Trish VanTichelt for details (649-2343 ext. 103 or tvantich@vicksburgumc.org). The forms are available in the pew books.

We have a couple of fundraisers going on. Bring your ink cartridges, toners, old cell phones and more to the church for recycling. A complete list of recyclable items is on the church's website. Also, for only a donation of \$50 or more you can share your love of God, remember an event or love one. You can also donate your loose change in the Yellow "Tokens for Tiles" envelopes for a tile to remember the past saints of the Church. Have you viewed the newest painted tiles in the Narthex??!! Check them out... they are beautiful!

We still need 999 more fundraisers of a \$1000 or more to be able to pay off the FLC mortgage. We can do it!! Watch for a list of Fundraiser ideas to come. We need people willing to take control and coordinate one. Do you have an idea? Talk to the staff and we can help get it started! Again we ask you to give faithfully because the Church needs to continue to be an example of Christ's love for the Community and we need money to do this. *God Bless: The Finance Committee.*

Okay... never mind, we only need 998 more fundraisers!!!

Mark your calendar for **Wednesday, October 5th at 6:00pm**

The Finance Committee is sponsoring a 2nd annual **VUMC Birthday Party & Dessert Auction**

Come for a delicious Ham & Scalloped Potato dinner, then make your finest dessert and bring it in to auction it off after dinner!

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

Tickets will be sold during Sundays and in the Church Office after Labor Day



Blood Drive 2011—Friday, Sept. 16, 11-4:45

Blood Drive time is here again for our church. We do the September and November drives in the Vicksburg community. If you can volunteer for any of the things listed below, it is truly appreciated. Almost all of us have received blood at one time or another and/or know somebody who has. It is truly the gift for life.



"Lying down on the job submitted by Beth Aitken."

Two women were stretched out on adjacent beds giving blood. The nurse congratulated one of them, a weary-looking young housewife, on contributing her eighth pint of blood. "Do you come here often?" asked the woman on the other bed. "Yes, I do," replied the tired looking one. "It's the only volunteer work I know of that I can do lying down."

Please consider volunteering while "lying down on the job!" Check your calendar to see if you can volunteer for any of the jobs, but also to give blood! Bring a friend, neighbor or relative. Thank you so much.

Please fill out this form and drop it in the offering plate, call June French, 649-3374, or Rexalee Goecker, 327-6332 or contact the church at 649-2343.

___ Unload truck: 9:00, about 45 minutes

___ Reload truck: 4:45 about 45 minutes

___ Shift #1, 10:45 - 2:00

___ Shift #2 1:45 - 5:00

The following foods are needed: 100% juice, cheese, crackers, breads, fruit, veggies and some sweets.

Indicate what you would like to donate:

Name: _____

Phone: _____



Announcements

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

BEGINS SEPTEMBER 11

Contemporary service—8:50
 Sunday School—10:00
 Traditional service—11:10



REGULAR OFFICE HOURS RESUME

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Monday—Thursday
 8:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m.
 1:30 p.m.—3:00 p.m.

Friday, 8:00 a.m.—12:00 noon

Ladies,

Just because the new books for the UMW Reading Program have not yet arrived, does not mean you can't get started for next year already. As soon as I have the complete list, I will post it on Facebook. Just pick at least 1 book from 4 of the 5 categories and start reading...

After you have finished, just post a comment on the Facebook page or, for those of you who do not use Facebook, shoot me an email with a comment or two on the book and how it affected you. Then move on to the next one.

This past year saw 11 ladies complete at least the first level of the reading program with many more who at least got started reading. Can't wait to see that number continue to grow.

Happy Reading, Diana



Kalamazoo District Presents Fall 2011 Lay Speaking Classes

Basic Course: Basic Lay Speaking

This course combines the United Methodist Heritage with Lay Speaking skill to create a primer for the person seeking to expand their walk with Christ. The class will be held on 3 consecutive Saturdays this autumn, culminating with a dedication service put on by the class members. Lay Speakers are called to serve in many capacities in the church, with pulpit fill being a small part of this calling.

When: Sept. 24, Oct. 1 and Oct. 8, 9 am to 3 pm

Where: Northwest UMC, 3140 N. 3rd St., Kalamazoo, MI 49009, 269-290-1312

Cost: Textbook- *Basic Lay Speaking Participant's Guide* by Brian Jackson and Sandy Zeigler Jackson (Jan 1, 2009)

Currently \$8.80 plus tax, shipping and handling from Cokesbury

Currently \$11.00 plus tax, shipping and handling from Amazon

Instructor: Cyndi Trobeck

Advanced Course: Lay Speakers Are Accountable

This course will discuss pastoral leadership in the Wesleyan tradition. Pastoral leadership is the ministry of caring for the household of God. Both laity and clergy are called to this ministry. Those who read and study this book will be invited to discover their own ministry as pastoral leaders.

When: Sept. 24 and Oct. 1, 9 am to 3 pm

Where: Northwest UMC, 3140 N. 3rd St., Kalamazoo, MI 49009, 269-290-1312

Cost: Textbook - *Accountable Discipleship: Living in God's Household* by Steven W. Manskar

Currently \$12 plus tax, shipping and handling from Cokesbury

Currently \$15 plus tax, shipping and handling from Amazon

Instructor: Pastor Sheila Baker

For more information and or to register, email: c.trobeck@hotmail.com



Mail Bag

A big thank you for all your care and concern during our difficult times this past year. With mom's passing we know she's in a better place and at home with her lord. Having a loving church family to surround you in time of need means a lot, thanks for all the calls, cards, flowers, food, prayers and hugs.

Richard and Betsy Myers

In The Mailbag



Dear VUMC Church Family,

Thank you for the scholarship. Your scholarships and support over the past four years has helped me greatly in my academic pursuits. I look forward to graduating from Kalamazoo College this spring, thanks to all of your help. Thanks again and God Bless.

Breanna Dailey

If you sent a card, made a phone call, came to visitation, made a donation, sent flowers, or attended the funeral, we appreciate it and thank you very much. A special thanks, too, for Pastor Buff and Dr. Walsworth.

Love, Char Rice & Family

We wish to thank the church for the lovely rose and great lunch they put on for Uncle Roger Hayward's funeral.

Thanks! Ron & Flo Hayward

Dear Church Family,

I would like to thank you for this generous scholarship. I am really enjoying my studies in Athletic Training and Kinesiology. This scholarship will help further my educational goal of earning a diploma from Michigan State University. I feel God wants me to serve his people through Athletic Training.

Sincerely, Alex Dailey

To Joe Gruber and Carl Pauli ~

Thank you for the wonderful help in getting the handicap signs finished.

Thank You! Ron Avis.

Dear Ms. Thomas,

Please know how very much all the hard work you and the other ladies who did the luncheon after my father's funeral is so sincerely appreciated. Community and church was very important to my parents as it obviously is to all of you.

Thank you for all you do! Ann Hayward

September Birthdays

9/1	Toby Hardy	9/16	Jake DeHaan, Nanci Linebaugh
9/2	Mark Rusk	9/17	Charles Walker
9/3	Carmen Moreno-Parsons, Ashley England, Wyatt Hardy	9/19	Alice Stephenson, Ron Avis, Harold Lash, Keith McClish, Tim Van Riper II, Ashley Dibble
9/5	Aurelia Reed, James Turner, Alyssa Van Riper	9/20	Robert Philipp, Millie Hackett, Jody Tuinier
9/6	Pat Temple, Dawn Jones	9/22	Lori Ensing
9/7	Nina Cripps	9/23	Symon Olenczuk, Julie Oswald
9/8	Megan Burke	9/24	Raymond Vliek, Michael Hoy
9/9	Carla Bland, Matthew Snyder	9/25	Cathy Johnson
9/10	Brad Hanson	9/26	Elizabeth Forsythe
9/11	Jim Nimmo, Todd Janer	9/27	James Barrett, Mary Burke, Tasha Van Riper
9/14	Ellen Bailey, Tamara Young, Paige Janer, Amanda Cain	9/28	Beverly Nimmo, Betsy Myers, Carl Pauli
9/15	Rodger Hughey, Cynda Buckallew, Susan Moberly-Hayes, Mandy Porter, Kourtney Moore	8/29	Taylor Oswald
		9/30	Kim Hardy, Morgan Wood



September Anniversaries

9/1	Kristen & Jeff Hossink	10 YEARS!	9/25	Carla & Robert Bland	35 YEARS!
9/1	Kris & Ryan Miller		9/25	Trish & Rob VanTichelt	
9/2	Carmen & Robert Parsons		9/29	Phyllis & James Barrett	
9/5	Cheryl Lee & Ronald Wolak		9/29	Becky & Greg Berndt	
9/7	Barbara & Rodger Hughey		9/30	Caryn & Daniel Zonyk	
9/9	Sharon & Robert Philipp				
9/9	Stacey & Christopher Emmert				
9/14	Denice & Carl Pauli	20 YEARS!			
9/16	Margaret & Clarence Haines	60 YEARS!			
9/18	Susan Moberly & Joe Hayes Sr.				





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
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VICKSBURG MI
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Sunday Worship:
10:00am Summer Combination Service

Alive in Christ, and it Shows!

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WWW.VICKSBURGUMC.ORG

The Visitor

Volume 18, Issue 9

September 2011

Cartoon Corner



(See Genesis 6-8)

07-25-2011

GLOBAL WARMING! GLOBAL WARMING!

Bible Quiz

At the outset of his reign as Israel's third king, Solomon saw the Lord in a dream. God invited Solomon to request anything he wanted. What did Solomon ask for?

- A. The ability to discern between good and evil
- B. Long life
- C. Riches
- D. Conquest over his enemies



Answer: A (See 1 Kings 3:4-14.)