



First United Methodist Church of Raytown

*Rooting deeper in Christ, Growing closer to each other,
Extending Gods love to our community and to the world with enthusiasm.*

Small Church Initiative

A "must meeting"

"God doesn't call people who are qualified. He calls people who are willing, and then qualifies them."

Richard Parker

Small Church Initiative is designed by the MO Conference to help local churches to grow not only in numbers but also in excellence. If we are in God's business, we need to do it the best we can.

The Conference SCI Team will visit us on February 7-8, 2012. The interviews will take place on the first day from 12-6 pm. The pastor will be interviewed from Noon till 12:30 pm. The leaders will be interviewed after that, and then we will all meet for dinner at 6 pm and a workshop.

Small Church Initiative invites us to face the future without fear. Yes,

change comes with losses and the consultation process will help us to define what are we willing to lose or not lose.

The SCI teaches us -to be proud of the past, and our church has lots to remember -to be transparent: we tell you everything we know. Understanding is more important than agreement

-to remove excuses to hold on to the past -understand and accept that a feeling of loss is natural and necessary -how to prepare the church for transition

After the workshop the consultant will write a report identifying the church's top 3 strengths, top 3 concerns, and 3 prescriptions to address those areas of concern.

In about a month after this workshop our congregation will join for a Town Hall meeting with our District Superintendent.

Tuesday February 7th All Church Potluck 6 pm

Bring a side to share
meat provided

Small Church Initiative Workshop 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Because of the election
Evening events will be in
Fellowship Hall.

You may park in the back
parking lot to avoid stairs.

Please plan to attend this
most important gathering.
If you need a ride to the
church please call a day in
advance.

Wednesday Night Alive Returns

We have a vibrant group that meets for dinner and discussions each Wednesday Night. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun. New Study:

Mary Poppins Returns:
culture and religion

We will start back
February 15th at 6 p.m.
in the Upper Room.

Dinner will be provided.
Bring \$2 per person.

Can't come right at 6 pm?
Let Pastor Lydia know
and we will save you some
dinner and you can eat as
soon as you can get here.

Need a ride? Please call
the church office a day in
advance and we can try
and help coordinate a
ride.

Everyone is invited to join
in. Questions??
See Scott Kiddle

Ash Wednesday Services February 22nd 6:30 p.m.

Family Movie Night

February 11th

6 pm

Upper Room



*Condolences
to the family of
Dorothy Stanley.
She passed away in
January.
Her service was held
in the church.
She will be dearly
missed by the entire
church family.*

Pastors Corner

It's in the upper 60's, and this is January. I have not seen a single snowflake this winter yet.

God surprises us sometimes with gifts like this. Remembering last winter, it makes me thankful.

The whole attitude of drivers is much better without the ice on the roads and piles of dirty snow. 60 degrees and this is January.

I think of the Small Church Initiative as of warm weather in the

midst of winter: we prepared ourselves for membership decline, downsizing and suddenly we realize that we don't have to be

stressed out. We get a chance to rethink our future before the "snowfall" and hopefully even prevent it. Or at least be equipped to remove all the obstacle to stability if not to growth.

The Small Church Initiative that our church started two years ago comes to its final stage - Consultation process - with church leaders interviews and the pre-

scription for change after that. The Conference Team will work with our congregation in February.

It is like going to the doctor to get a diagnosis first, and then medicine to get better. Our job will be to think about this prescription and make a decision either to take it or not.

Let's continue enjoying this warm weather and prepare ourselves for making a decision.

God bless,
Pastor Lydia

Lighthouse Kids

The boys and girls in Lighthouse have created many fleece projects, including; 2 prayer blankets give with lots of love and 6 scarves that were donated to Della Lamb over the Christmas holidays. We will soon begin work on a new prayer blanket and are considering creating some pocket prayer reminders. We have been

studying from the book "10 Minute devotion" and have completed all the activities. We began new study journals that we will write in each Sunday. We always try to end our time together with a fun game or craft. All the children are welcome to join us and we look forward to spending time together each week.

Valentines Day Party



Valentines Day

Bingo Party!

February 14th

2 pm – 4 pm

Bring yourself,
a white elephant gift,
and a snack to share.
Friends are welcome!

We will have some snacks, play a little bingo, win some prizes and have a good time. Please call the church office in advance if you need a ride. 356-2027

Boy Scout Sunday February 12th

On Sunday February 12th we will welcome the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts to our worship services.



Following church service the Boy scouts will be putting on a loaded baked potato

bar for lunch. Please make plans to participate in the Baked Potato Bar. Sounds good already. See you there!

Birthdays and Birthday Challenge

February Birthdays

- 4- Pat Lowe
- 10- Lloyd West
- 11- Becky Hefflinger
- 14- George Hanson
- 22- Nancy Passwater
- 23 -Annette Rathbun
- 24 -Terresa McKinney



A big THANK YOU to DAVE PROBST who joined the birthday challenge for his January birthday. You, too, can join when your special day comes around. Just write a check for the amount of your age, and we'll take care of the rest, including putting your name in the newsletter.

Make sure you mark the memo "birthday challenge." Thank you for your continued support
-Sue Jones

"The Love of the God is like an ocean; you can see from where it comes, but you can never see where it ends."

United Methodist Women in Mission Work

The UMW ladies met after church service on January 22, 2012. There were 16 in attendance. All enjoyed delicious lunch of salads, finger foods, and desserts. The meeting was opened by our new President Nancy Johnson.

The annual '49 and Under Retreat will be held February 24th and 25th in Independence. We

hope to have two from our group in attendance.

Please remember to bring your Best Choice/Campbell's labels. Containers are provided in the lobby.

We also collect "Boxtops for Education" labels and give to the Spofford Home.

You did a great job with this in 2011, please bring them as you have them so they can be counted and batched.

The next UMW meeting is Sunday March 25th.

Blessing's to a new year!,

Kim Fogliani
Secretary/Sunshine



**Truman Heritage
Habitat for Humanity
will start accepting
donations for the Habitat
ReStore in Independence**

Habitat for Humanity's mission seeks to put God's love into action by bringing people together to build decent, affordable homes for those that qualify. The Truman Heritage offices have moved to 505 North Dodgion in Independence and they are building their inventory to open the ReStore soon!

ReStore resale outlets accept donated home improvement and decorating goods which are sold to the general public at a fraction of the retail price. The proceeds help fund the construction of Habitat homes within the community. Please join us in this exciting new way to spread hope in our community!

If you have usable building materials, appliances, cabinets, lighting fixtures, or other home furnishings you would like to donate please contact Jennifer at 816-461-6551 to schedule a drop-off or pick up time.

Agape News

Nursery News

There are 2 new babies in the nursery, and both have siblings already in the center. Welcome K'liyah and Haydon.

Toddler News

The Toddler Room also welcomed two new additions. Ryleigh has graduated from the nursery and Javion has just started at Agape. The children are encouraged to use new words like "up" and "more."



2's News

The two year olds are learning all about snow.

We asked some of the children
"What color is God's hair?"

Russel said, "It's Orange!"
Geremie was sure it yellow. Carter said, "just black," but Christian thought green was right. Alex insisted "red was better", but Solai said, "his hair must be pink!" (Because it is her favorite color.)

Information from around the center

3's News

Ms. Judy's Class

The Children in Ms. Judy's class are busy learning to recognize and write letters up to M. They have just gotten a mailbox to send letters to Jesus.



Ms. Kiesha's class

Ms. Keisha's classroom is working hard on numbers, trying to count and recognize new numbers, and the ones they are already familiar with.

We asked the three's

"What do you like best about Jesus?"

Lauren: He died on the cross for our sins

Jackson: He keeps us safe, Jesus is the light

Alyssa: I like Jesus because he is good.

Matthew: Because of Jesus we give presents on Christmas

Brianna: He loves babies and little boys and girls.

Jessica: We get presents because Jesus loves us.

Adly: He is so awesome!



Pre-K News

Ms. Shonda's classroom works hard, but try to have fun every day.

We asked them:

"What does God mean to you?"

Anthony said, "he's nice and gives us food. Addison said, "he's everything and everywhere." Zuriyah said, "he loves me with all his heart." Michael said, "he keeps me safe and gives me food," Jordon added, "I'm so glad he loves me!"

School Age News

The school agers were asked:

"What does God mean to you?"

Noah: He is our King and I love him.

Mason: He is my healer and my King.

Kyle: God mean helpfulness

Ilyssa: I can talk to him

David: I love him and I'm thankful for him, I would do anything for Him.

Tamiyah: He is love.

Paige: He loves me.

Jocelyn: He died on the cross to save our lives.

By Roving Reporters:

Noelle and Taylor

FEBRUARY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship			1	2	3	4
			8	9	10	11
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			