



# FIRST WORD

## Pastor's Corner

### New Board Structure Coming

It might sound trivial, but time really flies. We will start the election process for the coming year very soon. The Missouri UMC Conference recommends two things to us this year. First, we need to join the Small Church Initiative (which has already begun!) and have a group of church leaders trained by the conference beginning this September. The training will be done by the Conference Church Growth Team in conjunction with other church groups.

Second, we will have to restructure our church even more radically than we did last year. The new Board or Church Council will consist of no more than 9-12 members and will carry out administrative functions of the Trustees, SPRC, Finance, Lay Leadership Committees and Administrative Board/Council. (To carry out corporate functions, the Council must elect a Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary.) Church staff will consist of paid individuals and volunteers and will be accountable to the pastor. As such, hiring, supervision, assessment, and termination are the responsibility of the pastor. These tasks should be done in consultation with the Church Council. The staff's work will be assessed by the pastor based on performance goals established by the pastor.

The Council will be comprised of a council chair, lay leader, a lay representative to the annual conference, and six others. Two will have primary responsibility for SPRC (Staff – Pastor Relationship Committee) concerns, two for trustee concerns, and two for finance concerns. Two elected leaders for each case should be able to deal with any issue on their own without having to have a meeting with the whole council. The plenary council will address only those issues which the two designated members are unable to resolve.

As you see, the church structure is going to lighten up significantly. We spend too much time in meetings taking human resources, time, and energy away from real ministry. This new small board structure will allow us to release all our resources for hands-on ministry and mission.

To learn more about this coming change and get trained, join us for Tacos Tuesday in July from 5:30 – 7:30 PM for the Leadership Training. Pastor Lydia, Mike Gilmor and Scott Kiddle will open a new world of exciting leadership opportunities that are awaiting you in our church. Mike and Scott went through eight months of lay leadership training (LLD) and are equipped now to train others.



Are you planning to come? Let's follow the Scripture, then (1 Peter 4:10): "As each has received a gift, employ it in serving one another, as good managers of the grace of God in its various forms."

Pastor Lydia

## Vacation Bible School July 12-16

<b>Taco Tuesday Summer Leadership Training</b>	July 6	Refocusing: from inward to outward	Dinner begins at 5:30 pm. Come as you are able, session starts at 6:30 pm.
	July 13	Real Life Evangelists	
	July 20	Becoming real leaders at the mission field	If you need to arrive after 6:30 and want to eat let us know so we can save you a plate.
	July 27	God's Vision: Simple Church	

## Month in Review

June 6		
Attendance	48	
Visitors	00	
Deposit	2782.45	
June 13		
Attendance	58	
Visitors	08	
Deposit	5098.49	
June 20		
Attendance	75	
Visitors	10	
Deposit	785.63	
Rummage Sale	1718.49	
June 27		
Attendance	55	
Visitors	02	
Deposits	4438.00	

## Rummage Sale

The Rummage Sale is quite an undertaking. Books, clothes and furniture OH MY! We were wall to wall with items for anyone to buy. We are still counting .... as of this date, we have cleared \$1700 dollars and we think that is just great! Thank you, thank you for all your donations, treasures and time. Hope you can bring us your items next year . Thank you to all the shoppers, workers and friends. It was a success! It was great to fellowship together and work on this fundraiser for the Growth Team and Hope Kitchen. It is amazing what we can do when we all work together.



### July Birthdays!

2- Darlene Thurlo  
 2- Bob Sego  
 4- Dennis Smith  
 6- Crystal Bryant  
 24- Arlene Bunce  
 27- Sam Wegley  
 31- Mo Thurlo  
 31- Jean Denham

### BIRTHDAY CHALLENGE MICHAEL GILMOR

&

CAROL SMITH

have joined the Birthday Challenge in May and June. Thank you for your continued support.

Everyone is welcome to join when your birthday comes along.

Thank you, Sue Jones

This is the list of birthdays that we had listed, we apologize if we have missed yours this month. If we have missed yours please let us know.

## Summerfest

Thank you to all who helped with the Summerfest Church Booth. We appreciate all who prepared beforehand. Thank you to Bob Sego, Mike and Tammy Gilmor for all your hard work and dedication to this booth. It was a wild weather weekend. Thank you for not blowing away.

Special Thanks to: Judy Somers-hiser, Jean Denham, Adam Bryant, Mike, Kim and Alycia Fogliani, Alan Bozich, Rev. Lydia, Scott Kiddle, Clara Fisher, Dawn Wiseman, Nancy Passwater, and many others. Thank you to all who helped with the booth. Thank you!

## HOPE KITCHEN:

### Walk-Ins are Welcome!

First United Methodist Church in Raytown delivers and serves over 90 meals a week. We do not check IDs neither do we ask about your income. Come every Saturday at 3-4 PM and get a nutritious dinner for yourself and your family.

If your health does not allow you to leave the house call our office and request a delivery. We will put you on the list.  
 816-356-2027

## Youth Ministry Team

We are looking for adults who are interested in helping with teenagers. Parents and willing volunteers please come to a YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM meeting on July 7th at 6:30 pm in the Upper Room.

Meet Jessica Jarmon who has been hired to get our Youth Ministries up and running. Keep watching your July bulletin for more information to come! Come out July 7th at 6:30. Bring your ideas and your calendar.



## *Where do we want to see people go?*

### **Pastor Lydia**

Did you ever wonder about the purpose of your being? Did you ever wonder about the purpose of you being a Christian? Teaching Wesleyan principles of Holiness of Heart and Life to the Upper Room Sunday School class this month, I used Sondra Matthaei's book on faith formation in the Wesleyan tradition. Sandra was my professor at St. Paul School of Theology.

The task of the church, she concludes, is "In the context of communion with God and each other, the Church's task is to **NURTURE human response to God's initiative of grace through Jesus Christ – to make disciples.**" The church is us – people. So our task is to NURTURE other people's response to God's initiative.

The next question is HOW and WHERE can we nurture individual lives of faith? Small groups? Sunday school education? Helping others to find Christ in communion, we are also invited to "work our own salvation every day." Philippians 2:12-13. We do

not have luxury to relax. When we say, "Love your neighbor, as yourself," we finally get it. This kind of love calls for accountability and progress: the more intentional is our own faith growth, the better prepared we become to assist others in their growth. After twenty or thirty years in the church, we should expect some significant results. It is like constant movement forward and up. Did you ever try to measure where you are in your journey? What kinds of fruits your faith brings?

People usually are scared to join. There are two reasons for that. One, people think that they need to know the Bible to join a small group, and another is that people are afraid that everybody will want to know their personal business.

One great example of our successful fruit are the classes that have stood the time here at First United Methodist Church is the J.O.C class which stands for Jesus Our Companion. The J.O.C. class removes any fears. Patsy West has not just been teaching this

class for thirty years, but she has been able to build relationships. J.O.C. members are loyal to God and to their church, they are eager to grow deeper in their relationships with Christ and with each other. The J.O.C. class is the largest class in our church and it supports nurtures and encourages its members to grow. We can learn many wonderful qualities from J.O.C. class. One of them is shared leadership. Patsy West was able to pass her teacher's mantle to each member of the class: they take turns to teach - this is the most effective leadership model.

There is one thing that the J.O.C. class has not tried yet, though: multiplication. According to John Wesley, each small group should reproduce. He did not talk about simply dividing of the group into two or more sub-groups – that would not be good for J.O.C. class fellowship, but about commissioning one couple out of the group to start a new group. I believe in J.O.C. class' potential to become a champion in reproducing their own model to bring more people to Christ.



ARE YOU IN NEED OF A  
PASTORAL VISIT?

REV LYDIA HAS MADE 40 HOME  
VISITS SINCE JANUARY. IF YOU

ARE IN NEED OF A VISIT PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH  
OFFICE. **816-356-2027** WE LOVE YOU!

### *Sermon Series*

**What you Want and What you Get:**

**The Cost of Discipleship**

July 11<sup>th</sup>

*Surrendering the need to be Right* Phil 2:5-8

July 18<sup>th</sup>

*Self-Betrayal* Mat 20:27-28

July 25<sup>th</sup>

*Turn Your Inward focus outward* Luke 4:18

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### *How many can you answer?*

How many can you answer?

1. The "unpardonable sin" refers to the sin of \_\_\_\_\_?
2. What Oscar- winning musical of the 1960's told the story of the early life of an apprentice nun?
3. I lived 1823-1915 and was one of America's best known hymn writers. Blind from my childhood. I married a blind musician and wrote such hymns as "Blessed Assurance" and "To God Be the Glory." Who am I?
4. Which book of the bible claims it was delivered by an angel?
5. Where does the bible say that angels have wings?
6. How many wise men came to visit the baby Jesus?
7. Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu 1910-1997 is better know by what name?
8. The four weeks prior to Christmas are know as the season of \_\_\_\_\_.
9. When John Huss was burned at the stake as a martyr in the 1400's what phrase became famous? (Huss means goose in Czech language.)
10. In the Bible who is the "prince" of angels?

Answers will be in next months First Word and also on bulletin board in hall.

Submitted by Clara Fisher

## Vacation Bible School

A Cosmic Adventure Praising  
God!

July 12-16

9 am -11:30 am

Children

Preschool ages – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

VBS Kids will sing on July 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am  
at the worship service.

